



## Travel Guide:

# GULF STATES



## NATIONAL SEASHORES

Pristine beaches free of development, soothe the soul with the trifecta of sand, salt water, and sun.

- 1 Padre Island National Seashore, Texas
- 2 Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi



## BEACH TOWNS

Gentle seas most of the year and white sand beaches abound on the gorgeous Gulf Coast in this must-see beach town.

- 3 Gulf Shores, Alabama
- 4 Orange Beach, Alabama
- 5 Dauphin Island, Alabama
- 6 South Padre Island, Texas
- 7 Galveston, Texas



## FISHING SPOTS

Whether you're angling for Texas snook, largemouth bass, trout, or catfish, fresh and salt waters in the Gulf States deliver a bounty.

- 8 Abita Springs, Louisiana
- 9 Matagorda Island, Texas
- 10 Brownsville, Texas



## WILD WETLANDS & SWAMPS

Alligators, wading birds, nutria, and other denizens roam the swamps and wetlands of the Gulf States.

- 11 Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana
- 12 Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas
- 13 Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana



## BOAT TRIPS

Any day on the water is a good one in this part of the country loaded with rivers, bayous, and coastline.

- 14 Bayou tours in New Orleans, Louisiana
- 15 Mississippi River cruise, Mississippi
- 16 Airboat tours in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Alabama
- 17 Dolphin tours in South Padre Island, Texas



**Gulf States:**  
Alabama,  
Louisiana,  
Mississippi,  
Texas



## RCI Travel Tip:

"Try one of the local tea rooms for high tea or a rooftop pool and spa under the New Orleans balmy night."

— PHYLLIS,  
RCI TRAVEL GUIDE

## What To Eat

étouffée, jambalaya, beignets, blue crab, Gulf oysters, Gulf shrimp, Po'boys, Mississippi Mud Pie, pulled pork, fried catfish, collard greens, tacos, king cake, gumbo, muffuletta, boudin

## Activities By Season

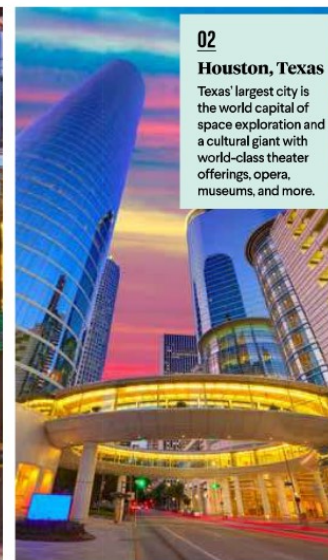
**SPRING:** fishing, birding, golf  
**SUMMER:** beach, snorkeling, boating  
**FALL:** hiking, canoeing/kayaking  
**WINTER:** museums, hiking, golf

## TOP 5 GREAT CITIES



### 01 New Orleans, Louisiana

Jazz, the French Quarter, festivals, and seriously fine food await in Louisiana's beautiful heart.



### 02 Houston, Texas

Texas' largest city is the world capital of space exploration and a cultural giant with world-class theater offerings, opera, museums, and more.

### 03

#### Austin, Texas

Come for the tacos and live music at every turn in Texas' state capital — the Alamo is about an hour away, in San Antonio.

### 04

#### Birmingham, Alabama

In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Alabama's largest city has botanical gardens and vibrant neighborhoods galore.

### 05

#### Jackson, Mississippi

The Mississippi State Capitol Building, Mississippi Museum of Art, and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum are among the highlights in the state's capital town.

## ROAD TRIP INSPIRATION

### 3-DAY JAUNT:

#### Coastal Alabama, Mississippi & Louisiana

- Day 1: Take in some golf, beach time, or zip lining in Gulf Shores, AL, then find some local Gulf Coast shrimp.
- Day 2: Drive roughly 2 hours to Biloxi, MS, for casinos and a Mississippi riverboat cruise.
- Day 3: Drive 1½ hours to New Orleans, LA, for a wonderful day and night exploring the French Quarter and Garden District delights.

### 5-DAY JOURNEY:

#### New Orleans, Abita Springs & Gulf

- Day 1: Kick things off in New Orleans, LA, eating your way through favorite dishes like beignets at Café du Monde.
- Day 2: Head out on a bayou boat tour or visit the French Quarter and Garden District.
- Day 3: Drive north 1 hour to Abita Springs, LA, to try the famous local beer and go fishing for largemouth bass.

### Day 4: Drive roughly 3 hours east to Orange Beach, AL, in time to fit in a round of golf, making a casino stop along the way in Gulfport, MS.

Day 5: Spend the day enjoying Orange Beach, AL, and visit the Orange Beach Indian and Sea Museum.

### 7-DAY ADVENTURE:

#### Texas' Coast to New Orleans

- Day 1: Begin at the beach on South Padre Island, TX, or head into the Gulf of Mexico on a dolphin cruise.
- Day 2: Enjoy the beaches around South Padre Island, TX.
- Day 3: Drive roughly 3 hours north to Corpus Christi, TX, for surf fishing and miles of white sand beach along Padre Island National Seashore.
- Day 4: Spend another day enjoying all Corpus Christi, TX, and find time for a round of golf.

### Day 5: Drive 4 hours to Galveston, TX, and visit Galveston Island Pleasure Pier or head out on a fishing charter.

- Day 6: Spend the morning at the beach in Galveston or visit the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum then drive east to New Orleans.
- Day 7: Spend the day eating your way through New Orleans, making time for a Hurricane Cocktail along Bourbon Street and some live jazz.

Destinations and travel times are subject to availability and confirmed on first come, first served basis.