

**Inaugural Galveston Mardi Gras Marathon  
Galveston, TX  
Sunday, February 20, 2011  
7:30 AM**

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I begin by stating the end! I had neither recovered fully from a stubborn left calf injury nor done sufficient long distance runs since mid December to feel adequately trained to run a marathon. I ran the first half in 2:12:20 (10:06 pace) and crossed the finish line in 4:35:44 (10:31 pace). It was neither fast nor pretty. Nevertheless, I ran it, did not walk any, and was pleased with my efforts. It was marathon #80 for me.

Located in Galveston Island, about 45 miles southeast of downtown Houston, the City of Galveston was named in honor of Bernardon de Gálvez (a Spanish colonial administrator).

The inaugural Galveston Mardi Gras Marathon was well organized. Each runner received a technical long-sleeved shirt and a pair of running gloves. The finisher medallion was nice. We ran the same 13.1-mile loop twice and shared the first loop with the half marathoners. It felt as if we circled the city twice. The course was flat, fairly scenic, coned well, and monitored professionally. If the weather cooperates, it can be a PR course. The water/sports drink stations were approximately located at every 1.5 mile. There were sports gels and fruits in a few of the aid stations. The race was chip-timed. The mile markers were easily visible. There were pace groups. There was some sporadic crowd support. Due to dense fog, the air felt fairly cool during the first half. The second half was a different story as the sun was out and heat and humidity kept increasing. There were plenty of recovery drinks and food items at the finish.

There were 148 finishers (95 males, 53 females) in the average finish time of 4:31:36. The winning times were 2:56:36 (overall male), 3:37:06 (overall female), 3:10:16 (masters male), and 3:48:18 (masters female). There were hundreds of half marathoners, and the winning times were 1:09:59 (overall male), 1:29:36 (overall female), 1:29:31 (masters male), and 1:36:15 (masters female).

This is a good marathon and I hope the running community will support it.