

Mississippi Gulf Coast's Observer



- HOME
- Casino Fun
- Bars & Nightclubs
- Local Bands
- Contactus



By Erica Fox



Gautier, MS--There is a place that you can get to by land or by water, both ways are well-known, and the paths are well-worn. It's called Huck's Cove, and most people that have been around South Mississippi for any length of time can describe in detail exactly what the famous "Huck's Burger" tastes like, and who to talk to when you get there.



What started out as a small inconspicuous bait shop is now a property with multiple buildings (complete with separate restroom quarters, reminiscent of a modernized outhouse) and plenty of parking, which is a necessity these days for the establishment.

"We've got a certain ambiance here, and a breathtaking view of the water," says Zack Giron, general manager and major fan of the place. "We offer award winning food with our excellent dishes, great entertainment and a family friendly atmosphere."

Giron says that although Huck's Cove can get down with the best of them and serve the beverages up right, they are a restaurant with a bar, and that's how they want to be known. That fact is obvious as one peruses the outdoor dining area on the back deck, sprawling wood floors with a covered long table in the middle for larger groups.



Children are comfortable here, to check out the back bay sights and enjoy the menu items made just for them. If they can get close enough, the restaurants 'mascot', a sweet but timid calico cat named Gator Tail will make them feel right at home.

Companies are welcome here too, a perfect place to discuss business or kick back and forget about it for a little while, both circumstances are common at Huck's Cove, and word of mouth keeps more and more groups coming back to book small parties.

The head chef at Huck's, Jessie, says that the place is always jumping, especially for lunch during the week and those dinner crowds that keep coming back, both on weekdays and weekends.

As a very experienced gourmet chef who has been in some of Louisiana and Mississippi's most well-known eating establishments, he brings that rare ability to Huck's. Though he may not be wearing a crisp tall white chef hat anymore, he takes his cooking seriously, and it only takes a bite of the filet steak sandwich or variety of burgers to know it.

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Winning a Coast Observer Covey Award last year, the Huck's Burger is only one of the many items on the surprisingly extensive menu, complete with choice cuts of gator (tail only!) that can be served fried, grilled, or blackened. If one was to try gator for the first time, this would be the place to do it, simply because they won't get gator like this anywhere else.

When the sun sets and the weekend transcends onto Gautier, well-known local and regional bands and musical acts take the stage, one that is an excellent set up for bands both big and small. Groups including Brandywine, Mojo Roux, Lightning Strikes, Coconut Dave, and many more have graced the stage there more than once, and will again. One can get the latest info on what to expect at Huck's on their website, www.huckscove.com.

Their hours are Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday from 11am to 10pm with food service until 9pm, and Friday and Saturday from 11am to midnight with food service until 10pm. They are closed on Monday to take a breath and start the week out all over again, with fresh fish, cuts of meat and everything in between, which coincidentally are all cooked to order. Talk about personal service!

Aside from providing outstanding food and the perfect South Mississippi waterfront atmosphere, Huck's Cove also tries to give back as much as possible, with heavy involvement in the Jackson County Coalition, an organization dedicated to helping abused children. They play host to many other charities and non-profit events as well, and are always available to discuss scheduling a party or event of any sort.

If you go by land, take the Gautier exit # 61 off of Interstate 10, take a left on Highway 90 and a left on Oak right before the bridge, you can't miss it. If you decide to enjoy the water route, just hop on the Singing River, and start looking for Huck's on the West bank right around the Highway 90 overpass. Or, just ask anyone from South Mississippi. And don't be surprised if they start talking about their experience there. It's kind of addictive.

Huck's Cove is located at 3000 Oak Street, Gautier, MS. Call them at 228-497-5309, and don't forget to say 'hey' to Zack and Jessie. And Gator Bite, if you can catch her.



**Executive Chef Jesse,
General Manager Zach,
and Wonder Cook Darlene**

