

corpus

cool & casual, corpus christi

christi

beach
& bay
GUIDE

Dance on the beach for the first time. Run in the surf. Make a splash in tropically sunny, cool and casual Corpus Christi, Texas! There are miles of beaches for fishing, boating and floating. Family attractions like the aircraft carrier USS Lexington and the Texas State Aquarium are waiting to be explored. Art festivals, music festivals and sporting events continue year 'round.



stay a while The rhythm of the waves transports you to another place. Lose yourself to the beat. Linger over dinner. Fresh air. Fresh seafood. Kick back. Coast. Stroll through a historical square and wonder about the families who once lived there. Cool your heels in the watergardens in front of a spectacular art museum. After all, this is casual, cool and so close by Corpus Christi, Texas.

For Special Travel Packages, check:
www.corpuschristicvb.com


Corpus Christi
PADRE LAND MUSTANG ISLANDS
Convention & Visitors Bureau

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location Located on the Gulf of Mexico, about halfway between Houston and the U.S. Mexico border, Corpus Christi shares the same latitude as Tampa, Florida. Nestled on a bay and surrounded by islands and hundreds of miles of beaches, Corpus Christi is a popular spot for family vacations and provides endless recreational opportunities.

driving time and distance

DEPARTURE CITY	MILES	HOURS
San Antonio	143 mi.	~ 2 hrs
Houston	207 mi.	~ 3.5 hrs
Austin	192 mi.	~ 3 hrs
Dallas/Ft. Worth	377 mi.	~ 6 hrs
Mexico via		
•Brownsville	159 mi.	~ 2.75 hrs
•Laredo	141 mi.	~ 2 hrs



- 1 Corpus Christi Beach
- 2 Texas State Aquarium
- 3 USS Lexington Museum on the Bay
- 4 Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History and Ships of Christopher Columbus
- 5 Port of Corpus Christi Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center
- 6 Watergarden
- 7 Harbor Bridge
- 8 American Bank Center and Selena Auditorium
- 9 South Texas Institute for the Arts Art Museum of South Texas
- 10 Heritage Park
- 11 Harbor Playhouse
- 12 Asian Cultures Museum
- 13 Corpus Christi Marina
- 14 Mirador del Flor (Selena Memorial)
- 15 Art Center
- 16 Memorial Coliseum
- 17 Cole Park
- 18 Del Mar Junior College
- 19 Corpus Christi Greyhound Racetrack
- 20 Whataburger Field
- 21 Texas Sky Festival Park
- 22 Funtrackers
- 23 Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens & Nature Center
- 24 Kingsville -Conner Museum, King Ranch & King Ranch Museum
- 25 Hans Suter Wildlife Area
- 26 Texas A&M University -Corpus Christi
- 27 Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi Army Depot
- 28 Padre Island National Seashore
- 29 Padre Balli Park (Bob Hall Pier)
- 30 J.P. Luby Surf Park
- 31 Mustang Island State Park
- 32 Mustang Riding Stables
- 33 Naval Station Ingleside
- 34 Port Aransas Ferry (Free 24 hour automobile srv.)
- 35 Fulton Mansion
- 36 Goose Island State Park
- 37 Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
- 38 Texas Treasure Casino Cruise

PORT ARANSAS

Beautiful beaches, vibrant views, and relaxing retreats make Port Aransas the perfect place to spend a weekend, week or all winter. Soak in the sun, fish the bays, shop coastal stores, birdwatch, charter a boat, and dine out.

Port Aransas is the deep sea fishing capital of Texas. Gulf waters are full of red snapper, king, mackerel and pompano. Tournaments are held throughout the summer. You can fish the jetties, the bays or the surf.

Pack your binoculars! Port Aransas is home to hundreds of permanent and visiting species of birds. The annual "A Celebration of the Whooping Crane and Other Birds" is in February.

Unusual shops abound in Port Aransas for anything from

surfing and fishing gear to jewelry and art. Visit a seafood shop and load up on fresh shrimp, or dine on unique cuisine in our restaurants.

A diverse variety of accommodations are available. From ocean view condos to cottages, scenic RV parks to beach front camping, there's something to suit everyone's tastes.

Whether making a day trip or staying a while, take a ferry ride over and watch dolphins frolic in the ship channel.



PADRE ISLAND

Padre Island is truly a natural wonder. 113 miles of rolling waves, powdery dunes, breezy sea oats and fascinating birding. Golfers can birdie and bogie on Padre Island at the spectacular 18-hole golf course at Padre Isles Country Club. Rent a wave runner or hang out and hang ten at the J.P. Luby Surf Pier. Or just kick back and cast a line from Bob Hall Pier. Down the road is Malaquite Beach, part of the Padre Island National Seashore. At over 80 miles, it's

the largest undeveloped barrier island in the continental United States. Hundreds of thousands of tourists visit the park each year to play in the sand or chase the surf.

Padre Island is one of only a handful of places in the world where the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles nest. In 2000, more than 1,000 of the endangered turtle's eggs were found on North and South Padre Island.

KINGSVILLE

Texas is cattle country, and no city captures the spirit of the old west like Kingsville. Just due south of Corpus Christi, Kingsville is the city that grew up around a ranch...the famous King Ranch. Bigger than the state of Rhode Island, the King Ranch is one of the largest (825,000 acres) and oldest working cattle ranches in the world. Be sure

and take the King Ranch guided tour. Mosey along and learn about the early days of ranching at the King Ranch Museum and the Conner Museum (Texas A&M University-Kingsville). While you're out and about, browse through quaint shops downtown. Be sure to take time for a big Texas beef steak or spicy Mexican food.

ROCKPORT/FULTON

Rockport-Fulton, Texas is said to be "The Charm of the Texas Coast." A short 40 minute drive from downtown Corpus Christi, Rockport-Fulton is located on the edge of beautiful Aransas Bay.

There is a myriad of unique, one of a kind experiences that offer visitors great memories year round. Rockport-Fulton is home to countless artists who get their inspiration from this tranquil environment. Explore the endless number of art galleries and shops, and take home a memory that will fit any budget.

The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is nearby and winter home to the mighty Whooping Crane and 374 other species during the year, making it a birders paradise. The waters that surround the Rockport area are famous throughout Texas for record catches of a wide variety of sport fish. Wet a line and come home with a trophy.

Tour the historic Fulton Mansion that dates back to the 1870s. Dine on delectable seafood that simply doesn't get any fresher. See a record size 1000-year-old oak tree, and play inspired golf on one of the coast's best courses.

Rockport-Fulton is a state of mind as much as it is a place. It's a place where you can let your cares vanish over the horizon.



special events

january

- JAN 6-7 Boars Head Yule Tide Festival, Corpus Christi**
• 361/854-3044

february

- FEB 2 Stage Door Canteen, USS Lexington**
• 361/888-4873 or 800/LADY LEX, Corpus Christi Musical revue and variety show. Dancing to Big Band Orchestra.

- FEB 5-10 So. Texas Ranching Heritage Festival**
• 361/593-2810, Kingsville
Demonstrations, Cowboy storytellers, ranch cooks and a Ranching Symposium.

- FEB 23-25 Celebration of Whooping Cranes & Other Birds**
• 800/45-COAST, Port Aransas
Boat trips to view whooping cranes, demonstrations, trade show, renowned speakers and more.

march

- MARCH 1-4 Oysterfest**
• 361/729-2388, Fulton
Salute to the oyster industry. Plenty of food, entertainment, arts & crafts.

- MARCH 20 - April 1 Texas Sand Fest**
• 361/749-2500, Port Aransas
Master and amateur sand sculptors from around the world.

april

- APRIL 15-22 Texas Great Birding Classic**
• 800/766-BEACH, Corpus Christi
Longest running competitive birding tournament in the U.S. Call Texas Parks & Wildlife 888/892-4737

- APRIL 25-MAY 7 Buccaneer Days and APRIL 25-28 PRCA Rodeo**
• 361/882-3242, Corpus Christi
Twenty-three days of rodeo, parades, fireworks, carnival, sporting and athletic events. www.buckdays.com

- APRIL 26-29 2007 Texas International Boat Show**
• 954/461-3272, Corpus Christi www.txintlboatshow.com

- APRIL Windfest**
• 361/643-2475, Portland
Carnival, parade, arts & crafts, food, children's area, entertainment, beauty pageant, tournaments, and chili/bean/rib cook off. www.windfest.org

may

- MAY 3 Water Street Market Music & Art Fest**
• 361/882-2364, Corpus Christi

- MAY 19 Beach to Bay Relay Marathon**
• 361/881-6166, Corpus Christi www.beachtobayrelay.com

- MAY 11-14 Velocity Games / U.S. Open Windsurfing & Kiteboarding Championships**
• 361/888-7500, Corpus Christi
Four days of racing at Oleandar Point, South Cole Park. Top racers compete. Great music, food and drink, daily giveaways and more. www.velocitygames.us

- MAY 18 Round Up Days**
• 361/776-2906, Ingleside
Country western parade and festival at Live Oak Park.

june

- JUNE Shrimporee**
• 361/758-2750 or 800/633-3028, Aransas Pass
Fun, food, arts & crafts, music. www.aransaspas.org

- JUNE 9C-101 C-Sculptures**
• 361/289-0111, Padre Island
Sand sculpting, sand volleyball, live music and cash prizes.

july

- JULY 7-8 Rockport Art Festival**
• 361/729-5519, Rockport
Juried fine arts. Pottery, watercolor, woodcarving and more.

- JULY Deep Sea Roundup**
• 1-800-45-COAST, Port Aransas
Largest fishing tournament on the Gulf. Bay and offshore divisions, Piggy Perch contest, fish fry, dance.

september

- SEPT Fiesta En La Playa**
• 361/729-6445, Rockport

- SEPT 13-15 Hummer/Bird Celebration**
• 361/729-6445, Rockport
Informative programs on migrating hummingbirds and other birds.

- SEPT. 27-30 Celebration of Flight Hawk Watch**
• 361/241-2617, Corpus Christi

- SEPT. 28-30 Conquer the Coast**
• 361/881-1800, Corpus Christi

- SEPT. 28-30 Bayfest**
• 361/854-8492, Corpus Christi
Family festival with arts & crafts, carnival, food and live music.
www.bayfesttexas.com

october

- OCT 5-7 Rockport Seafair**
• 361/729-6445, Rockport
Fresh seafood, live entertainment, arts & crafts and crab races.

- OCT 6-7 Czech Fest**
• 361/387-1312, Corpus Christi

- OCT 19-21 Texas Jazz Festival**
• 361/883-4500, Corpus Christi
World-class jazz festivals featuring jazz artists from across the country.
www.texasjazz-fest.org

november

- NOV 3 Georgewest Storyfest**
• 888/600-3121, Georgewest Storytelling, music, craft demonstrations, and food.

- NOV 17 King Ranch Ranch Hand Breakfast**
• 800/333-5032, Kingsville
Authentic ranch breakfast cooked and served outdoors on King Ranch.

december

- DEC 1 La Posada De Kingsville**
• 800/333-5032, Kingsville

- DEC 1 Harbor Lights Festival & Boat Parade**
• 361/985-1555, Corpus Christi
Illuminated boat parade, fireworks, entertainment, and Santa.

- DEC 8-9 Renaissance Faire**
• 361/776-2906, Ingleside