



SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
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SOUTH PADRE ISLAND BLENDS WHITE SAND, BLUE WATER WITH YEAR-ROUND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas – With white sandy beaches and blue water, South Padre Island may seem more like a Caribbean getaway than part of the Texas Gulf Coast.

The island's location on the tropical tip of Texas, just 25 miles north of Mexico, provides a year-round beach getaway that draws visitors from all over the United States.

More and more beach lovers are discovering this resort town of 5,000 inhabitants. In fact, South Padre was named to TripAdvisor's List of Top 25 Beaches in the U.S., based on opinions of millions of travelers. It also was named one of the top 10 U.S. beaches for families by Family Vacation Critic, one of the world's top 30 island beaches by Condé Nast Traveler magazine and a top 10 beach by Men's Fitness and Women's Day magazines.

Miles of sugary, clean beaches are the main attraction. The Island's other offerings, including abundant wildlife, activities, family attractions and modern resort amenities, make it a top destination for more than one million overnighting visitors each year.

ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

The Island is rich in wildlife viewing opportunities. More than 300 species of migratory birds stop here each year during spring and fall migrations, making South Padre one of the best birding locations in the Western Hemisphere. The Island's wetlands provide a refuge for shorebirds and waterfowl.

The South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center offers exhibits on birding and other natural features of the Island, along with a five-story viewing tower, viewing blinds and boardwalk nature trails. For other birding opportunities, visitors can choose a guided tour or visit one of the Island's dedicated birding areas.

Giant sea turtles also call South Padre Island home, including the Kemp's Ridley, the world's most endangered sea turtle. The turtles nest in the Island's beaches, laying eggs in the

spring that hatch in the fall. Islanders keep a close eye on the nests to protect and preserve the species. Visitors can see these appealing creatures up-close at Sea Turtle, Inc., a facility dedicated to rescuing and protecting marine turtles.

Dolphin families live year-round in the waters off of the Island. The Island's dolphin viewing tour providers boast a sighting success rate of nearly 100 percent due to the high number of dolphins in the Island's waters.

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

The Island lets visitors be as active as they want to be. On the western shore, the Laguna Madre Bay's shallow, calm waters make it one of the safest places in the United States to learn to kiteboard or windsurf. Parasailing, snorkeling and unique deep sea diving opportunities also keep active travelers busy.

With more than 600 different fish species inhabiting the Island's waters, sport fishing is a favorite activity, from surfcasting to deep sea fishing. Nearly 2,000 anglers convene on the Island each August for two popular annual events, the Texas International Fishing Tournament and the Ladies Kingfish Tournament.

The Island is a favorite for families. Attractions such as Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark provide thrilling rides and access to marine life. Black Dragon Cruises offers plenty of family-friendly entertainment while educating guests on the ecological treasures of the area. Kids of all ages can take sand castle sculpting lessons from one of the island's master sand castle sculptors.

Special events offer excitement throughout the year, from beach volleyball tournaments to Sand Castle Days, an annual competition every October that draws hundreds of amateur and professional sculptors to the Island's beaches. As the official "Fireworks Capital of Texas," the Island sets off a dazzling display over the bay every Friday night during summer, with additional shows on summer holidays.

No resort getaway would be complete without golfing, shopping and spa offerings. The South Padre Island Golf Club is only 15 minutes away. Specialty shops and boutiques boast unique offerings, while other stores offer vacation staples such as groceries, souvenirs and beach gear. The Island's day spas pamper guests with therapies including massages, reiki, seaweed wraps and yoga.

LODGING AND DINING ON THE ISLAND

Accommodations on the Island offer options to suit any traveler's plans. A vast selection of rental condos and homes are available, ideal for longer stays. National lodging chains and unique independent hotels and motels have a presence on the Island as well. Smaller bed-and-breakfast style properties offer a unique and elegant Island experience.

The Island boasts restaurants from casual to upscale, all with a diverse range of offerings, but seafood is the town's top specialty. Wild Texas Gulf shrimp are harvested in the region, and with the Island's abundant sport fishing, many restaurants will cook an angler's catch to order.

South Padre Island plays many roles: family vacation destination, romantic island getaway, subtropical winter haven and spring break escape. The Island provides guests with everything they need to tailor their own custom beach vacation experience. For more information, visit www.sopadre.com.

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