



SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU  
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# Fast Facts

## WELCOME TO SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

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South Padre Island is a 34-mile long subtropical Island located on the Gulf Coast of Texas, 25 miles north of the Mexican border. The Island is a half-mile wide at its widest point. Only the Island's southernmost five miles are developed. More than 5,000 residents call South Padre Island home, with approximately one million overnighing visitors each year. The Island is on the same latitude as Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

## MAIN DRAWS

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- 34 miles of white sandy beaches and blue water
- Texas' top-rated beach
- Ideal climate year-round
- Abundant wildlife, including renowned birding and fishing
- Unique nature tourism attractions
- Variety of family attractions

## RANKINGS & ACCOLADES

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- Named one of the best 10 U.S. beaches for families by Family Vacation Critic.
- Named one of America's Top 10 Winter Beach Escapes by International Business Times.
- South Padre Island has been named a Best Affordable U.S. Vacation and a Best Family Beach Vacation in U.S. News & World Report's first-ever Best Vacations.
- World's Top 30 Island Beaches, Conde Nast Traveler magazine.
- Top 10 U.S. beaches, Men's Fitness and Women's Day magazines.

## YEAR-ROUND WEATHER

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South Padre Island is famous for its subtropical climate and year-round moderate temperatures. Mild, semi-arid weather means lots of sunny days, with an average annual temperature of 74 degrees. Here's a look at average water and air temperatures throughout the year (all temperatures are in Fahrenheit):

- **January:** average air temps in the 60s and 70s; surf water in mid- 50s.
- **February:** average temps in the 60s and 70s; surf water near 60.
- **March:** average temperatures in 70s; surf water in the 60s.
- **April:** average air temps in 70s; surf water in the low 70s.
- **May:** average air temps in upper 70s; surf water in the mid 70s.
- **June:** average air temps in 80s; surf temps around 80.
- **July:** average air temps in high 80s; surf temps near 80.
- **August:** average air temps in high 80s; surf temp around 80.
- **September:** average air temps around 80; surf temp around 80.
- **October:** average air temps in 80s; surf temp high 70s.
- **November:** average air temps in 70s; surf water in the 70s.
- **December:** average air temps in the 60s and 70s; surf water from mid-50s to 60s.

## GETTING HERE

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At the subtropical southern tip of Texas, South Padre Island is accessible by land, air and sea.

### By land:

- From **Austin** 340 miles
- From **Dallas** 531 miles
- From **Houston** 367 miles
- From **San Antonio** 285 miles
- From **El Paso** 815 miles
- From **Mexico City** 666 miles
- From **Monterrey** 225 miles

### By air:

Three airports in the Rio Grande Valley provide air access to South Padre Island. All three offer a variety of ground transportation options including car rentals, taxi and shuttles.

- Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport (a 30-minute drive from the Island). Served by American Airlines and United Airlines.  
[www.flybrownsville.com](http://www.flybrownsville.com)
- Valley International Airport in Harlingen (50 minutes from the Island). Served by Southwest, Delta and United Airlines.  
[www.flythevalley.com](http://www.flythevalley.com)
- McAllen International Airport in McAllen (a 1.5-hour drive from the Island). Served by Aeromar, American, United Airlines and Delta Airlines..  
[www.mcallenairport.com](http://www.mcallenairport.com)

### By Sea:

- The Intracoastal Waterway provides access to boats of all sizes. Contact the Port Isabel/San Benito Navigation District, (956) 943-7826, for regulations and additional information.

## GETTING AROUND THE ISLAND

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South Padre Island's WAVE Shuttle offers free transportation to Island beaches, hotels, restaurants and shopping. Regularly scheduled routes also run from the Island to Port Isabel and connect with the Rio Gulf Coast Express, providing transportation to destinations in Brownsville including the Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport. There is a fee for travel to Brownsville.

From Valley International Airport, the South Padre Island Shuttle will take people to their destination on South Padre Island. There is a fee for this service. Also there are rental cars and taxi services from all airports.

## STAYING HERE

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The Island offers more than 4,000 guest rooms and condominiums. Lodging options include full-service resort hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts. Public and private campgrounds are also available.

## MEETING HERE

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Located on 30 acres on the Laguna Madre Bay, the South Padre Island Convention Centre features 45,000 square feet of meeting space, with facilities that can accommodate intimate gatherings or events up to 3,000 people. The centre includes 22,500 square feet of exhibit hall space for concerts, trade shows, large meetings and sporting events; a 2,633 square foot media/conference auditorium that seats up to 300; and 9,000 square feet of meeting rooms.

## SOUTH PADRE ISLAND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### January

South Padre Island Polar Bear Dip  
Longest Causeway Run & Wellness Walk  
Taste of the Island

### February

SPI Kite Fest  
Winter Texan Adopt A Beach Clean-Up  
S.P.I.C.E. Chili Cook-off

### March

Texas Week Spring Break

### MUSIC EVENTS

Heat Wave Sound Off and Car Show

### April

South Texas Kiteboarding Roundup  
Sandcrab Run  
Beach-N-Biker Fest  
Spring Adopt a Beach Clean Up & Restoration

### May

SPI Windsurf Blowout  
Pedal To Padre Bicycle Tour  
Annual Memorial Weekend Fireworks Over the Bay  
SPI Beach Volleyball Tournament

### July

4th of July Fireworks Over the Bay  
Beachcombers Art Show  
Children's Surf Challenge

### August

TIFT Texas International Fishing Tournament  
LKT Ladies Kingfish Tournament  
Labor Day Week-end Fireworks Over the Bay

### September

Ruff Rider Regatta  
Labor Day Beach Volleyball Tournament  
Dive Week

### October

Sand Castle Days  
SPI Bikefest™ Motorcycle Rally

### November

NCAA Div. 1 Men's Basketball Tournament  
World Championship Shrimp Cook Off

### December

Island Of Lights Parade  
New Year's Eve Fireworks