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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cool, Casual, Close by Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi Offers Sun + Fun and So Much More for Families this Summer

(July 2, 2008 – Corpus Christi, TX) Cool off this summer and head south to close by Corpus Christi, voted as the ‘Top Coastal Destination’ for the last seven years by *San Antonio Express-News* readers and one of the ‘Best Latino Beaches in the USA’ by *Latina Magazine*. This sun-drenched city has something for everyone- even your pocketbook can relax. Climb aboard the USS Lexington with your family and explore the five self-guided tours that wind through the 33,000 ton national treasure with 11 decks. Find 19 vintage military aircrafts on the must-see flight deck and fly an F/A-18 Hornet with the whole family in the simulator. If the crew is still thirsty for adventure, take an enchanting journey from the shores of the Gulf to the deep depths of the sea at the 700,000-gallon wonder world- the Texas State Aquarium. Take the time to stop by Dolphin Bay and the Hawn Wild Flight Theater to see the animals in action.

After splashing around at the Texas State Aquarium, board the new Harbor Ferry that provides convenient, sight-seeing transportation from Corpus Christi Beach to the downtown museum district and a variety of eateries. While downtown, treat your taste buds to fresh seafood with a jalapeño kick at the famous Water Street Seafood Co. and the Water Street Oyster Bar. Next door, venture to the one and only Texas Surf Museum, currently exhibiting, “Texas Women. Texas Waves.” that sets the record straight about female surfers who conquered records on the coast. Stroll along the picturesque seawall and stop in at the Corpus Christi Marina to gaze at hundreds of vessels of all shapes and sizes.

Be sure to take your “maties” for an eye-opening discovery at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History to see the replica ships of the Christopher Columbus Fleet and the oldest scientifically discovered artifacts of a shipwreck found in the Western Hemisphere. Meet ancient Japanese warriors next door, gaze at the artistry of the Chinese or admire the beauty of India at the Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures- one of the only five of its kind in the United States. And if that’s not enough to quench the family’s thirst for a thrill, head out to Padre Island National Seashore for an afternoon of exploration and relaxation that spans over a hundred miles for soaking up the sun, kitesurfing, fishing, beach-combing and much more. For a romantic touch to the trip, reserve a horseback ride at sunset along the beach or head to Snoopy’s for a sunset dinner, serving up fresh seafood on their outside deck.

Bring the binoculars along- as the ‘Birdiest City in America’ each year since 2003, Corpus Christi is the ideal destination to see hundreds of species of birds year round. Stop in at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center for a tour of one of the largest Plumeria exhibits this side of Hawaii, now in full bloom and don’t miss the 2,000-speciman Orchid House. Explore over 180-acres of natural habitat for a glimpse at more than just birds- maybe you’ll see a bobcat or wild boar. Enjoy the great outdoors in Corpus Christi and rent a kayak at one of the convenient outfitters along the beach or reserve a dolphin watch excursion in nearby Port Aransas.

Corpus Christi, now the largest coastal city in the state may be known for its fresh seafood and hundred of miles of beaches, but art enthusiasts alike will be amazed at the world-renowned art Corpus Christi displays along the beautiful bayfront and inside a variety of the finest venues. Drop in at the Art Museum of South Texas and see hundreds of works in their traveling exhibits and over 1,300 pieces in their permanent collection. And if that’s not enough, venture out for a public art tour that includes some 40 sculptures, over a dozen public murals and several galleries.

This delightful, seaside city has so much to offer families- get it all right here in close by Corpus Christi this summer.

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The Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau's mission is "to drive overnight visitor\$ to the Corpus Christi Area". For more information about the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau or to plan your next trip to Corpus Christi, visit www.corpuschristicvb.com or call 1-800-678-6232.