



Contact: Amie Hacker,
Communications Manager
Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau
361-881-1870 office
361-290-5244 cell
361-888-4998 fax
amieh@cctexas.org

Not Just Another Pretty Beach Destination

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX - One might assume that Corpus Christi/North Padre Island is just another sunny, sleepy beach destination nestled along the Texas Coast, but nothing could be further from the truth. This slice of paradise is now the largest coastal city in the state with plenty of activities to choose from year round. Visitors can explore over 120 miles of the Padre Island National Seashore, shake fins with the bottlenose dolphins at the Texas State Aquarium, or catch a glimpse of the past and tour the replicas of the Christopher Columbus fleet at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History. Nature lovers can enjoy bird-watching and botanical hikes at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center or learn the ancient art of origami at the Texas State Asian Cultures Museum. Millions of visitors step aboard one of the most famous aircraft carriers in U.S. Naval history each year in Corpus Christi and watch a movie in the MEGA Theater or fly an F/A-18 Hornet in a simulator at the U.S.S. Lexington Museum by the Bay.

With so much to see in Corpus Christi, it's no wonder visitors work up an appetite and venture out to some of the finest restaurants in the state. The Corpus Christi coast is known for its fresh "catches of the day" on most local menus, but the area also offers mesquite-grilled entrées and smoky barbecue. With a close proximity to Mexico, many find the 'Tex Mex' native menu of Mexican food somewhat adventurous. Seafood enchiladas, shrimp tacos, sushi with a jalapeño kick and a good ol' Texas steak cooked to perfection are some of the most popular features on the menu.

Beachside relaxation meets city energy in Corpus Christi with a growing downtown entertainment district conveniently located near the Corpus Christi Municipal Marina, various restaurants and major attractions. Chill like a surfer at the Executive Surf Club in Water Street Market with 30 cold drafts from around the world, lounge at Katz 21 Spirits, spice it up with live music at the Havana Club or hang at Cassidy's Street Pub. Get your groove on at Brewster Street Icehouse under the big Texas stars at the largest party deck in South Texas or catch a Corpus Christi Hooks baseball game at Whataburger Field with some 70 home games from April to June. Catch a special event or live concert at the American Bank Center Arena or Concrete Street Amphitheater.

It's no wonder why almost half of the visitors that flock to Corpus Christi are seeking outdoor opportunities. Corpus Christi is also one of the prime locations in the nation to breeze across the water under sail with prevailing winds that average 15-25 knots year round. Thrill seekers are encouraged to join the thousands of visitors from around the world for the ultimate experience of windsurfing, kite boarding and parasailing. You will find that if it has a sail on it and it belongs in the water, you are sure to find it on the Corpus Christi Bay. Several windsurfing and kiteboarding shops in the area give lessons and provide convenient equipment rentals for visitors year round. If visitors want to get around while they are enjoying the sites in downtown Corpus Christi and North Beach, they can jump aboard the new Harbor Ferry boat that will begin taking scheduled trips in late April 2008. The special craft will seat up to 49 passengers with restrooms and a snack bar.

Corpus Christi is also located in the ideal spot for migrating birds to stop for rest and fuel before taking the road south where most of them winter, and the city has been named the "Birdiest City in the Nation" consistently since 2003 by the San Diego Audubon Society. The Coastal Bend Region provides some 150 nature sites for outdoor lovers to hike, tour, explore and watch wildlife.

Add to these facts that Corpus Christi has an average of 288 sun-filled days with competitive hotel rates year round, and you'll discover that Corpus Christi/ North Padre Island is an attractive beach destination plus an incredible site to enjoy diverse natural experiences, water and wind sports, exceptional dining, professional sports, heritage, arts, entertainment offerings and so much more.