SEO Template for new content

Target keywords: things to do in south padre island

Page title

• Optimal title length: **55 characters**

• Add at least one of your target keywords to your <title> tag, don't use each target keyword more than 1 time: **things to do in south padre island**

Meta description

• Optimal meta length: **160 characters**

H1

• Add all your target keywords at least one time: **things to do in south padre island**

Text

• Try to acquire backlinks from the following domains: [badiadesign.net](http://badiadesign.net), [sitesinformation.com](http://sitesinformation.com), [musketiermusic.com](http://musketiermusic.com), [worldnewzinfo.com](http://worldnewzinfo.com), [chrisphillips.dev](http://chrisphillips.dev), [touriago.com](http://touriago.com), [ipetclean.com](http://ipetclean.com), [famousaz.com](http://famousaz.com), [zeekly.com](http://zeekly.com), [destinationspi.com](http://destinationspi.com), [ndtgov.com](http://ndtgov.com), [watch28wear.com](http://watch28wear.com), [earnca.com](http://earnca.com), [bestappsfinder.com](http://bestappsfinder.com), [bingj.com](http://bingj.com), [openbar.jp](http://openbar.jp), [troveseattle.com](http://troveseattle.com), [allteacherjobs.com](http://allteacherjobs.com), [amplewallet.com](http://amplewallet.com), [keywordresearchinc.com](http://keywordresearchinc.com)

• Enrich your text with the following semantically related words: **dolphin watching, port isabel lighthouse, orcas off the gulf of mexico, south padre island birding, south padre island convention, united states, runs from the south padre, padre island convention center, 106 w marlin st south padre island, gravity park, state park rd 100 south padre island, laguna madre bay, laguna madre nature trail, beach park at isla blanca, sea life, jet skis, open 24 hours a day, south padre island adventure, wyland and the wyland foundation, 7355 padre blvd south padre island**

• Focus on creating more informative content. Recommended text length: **1837.0**

• Make sure that your text is easy to read with the Flesch-Kincaid readability test. The readability score should be: **71.04840350647899**

• Add at least one of your target keywords: **things to do in south padre island**

When your content has been published, [launch a SEO Ideas](https://www.semrush.com/features/seo-ideas/?utm-source=sct&utm-medium=template) campaign to check if your content complies with all on-page SEO factors and discover what else can be done to give your content a SEO boost.

Analyzed top-10-ranking rivals for your target keywords

things to do in south padre island

1. <https://www.sopadre.com/experiences/things-to-do/>

2. <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g56691-Activities-South_Padre_Island_Texas.html>

3. <https://www.busytourist.com/things-to-do-in-south-padre-island-tx/>

4. <https://www.planetware.com/texas/top-rated-things-to-do-on-south-padre-island-us-tx-187.htm>

5. <https://vacationidea.com/destinations/best-in-south-padre-island.html>

6. <https://www.dangerous-business.com/south-padre-island-to-do-list/>

7. <https://oceansbeyondpiracy.org/15-things-to-do-in-south-padre-island-tx/>

8. <https://travel.usnews.com/South_Padre_Island_TX/Things_To_Do/>

9. <https://www.hotels.com/go/usa/best-things-to-do-south-padre-island>

10. <https://www.crazyfamilyadventure.com/things-to-do-in-south-padre-island-texas/>

See how competitors write about targeted keywords:

**things to do in south padre island**

**1.** <https://www.sopadre.com/experiences/things-to-do/>

Things to Do
SHARE
So Memorable. So Padre.
Fun happens here. Beach lovers know it. Kiteboarders and windsurfers know it. Little kids and big kids know it.
Sun worshippers and sandcastle builders know it. South Padre Island is so fun. And, so perfect. Catch the wind and ride the waves.
Birdwatch on the bayside. And, check out our local dining and nightlife scene. Make it yours.

**2.** <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g56691-Activities-South_Padre_Island_Texas.html>

Nice spot with refreshing breeze
It was very hot day. After the dinner we've decided to take a walk. We've picked the Pier because of great refreshing breeze coming off the water. It helped us "to stay alive" after really hot day. We saw many people with fishing sticks. There were also people cleaning big fish caught far off the shore. We had very nice time. We took a walk for an hour going from one end to the other of the pier.
I recommend this place.

**3.** <https://www.busytourist.com/things-to-do-in-south-padre-island-tx/>

October 26, 2022
121 shares
South Padre Island is a delightful oasis of tropical climate, white sand beaches, and crystal clear waters.
This barrier island is known for its impeccably stunning beauty and its vistas of the Gulf of Mexico and the Laguna Madre Bay.
People come here all year round to leave their worries behind and relax on 34 miles of beach and exquisite serene recreation.
No matter what time of year you visit, you’ll be able to enjoy calm weather, sunshine most days of the year, and tranquil waters.
South Padre Island is conveniently designed with tourists in mind.
It’s an especially big hit with anglers, birders, and wildlife enthusiasts.
This is due to the multitude of fauna that thrives perfectly in its ecosystem.
The island is also well-known for exciting offerings for recreation, like theme parks and watersports.
Regardless, there are tons to enjoy!
How can you choose?
Here are the 28 best and fun things to do in South Padre Island, Texas.
Things To Do In South Padre Island
1. Isla Blanca Park
CrackerClips Stock Media / Shutterstock
Isla Blanca Park is a county park and one of the most popular South Padre Island attractions.
It’s situated on the far south of the island and is surrounded by the lovely waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the Brazos Santiago Pass, and even the Laguna Madre.
Visitors to Texas love taking road trips to this decadent natural spot.
It’s also one of the nicest free things to do in the area!
The park is equipped with many facilities for modern sensibilities.
Bathroom facilities are well-maintained, and a large RV camp, big parking areas, and paved trails with wide, generous space make the experience all the more enjoyable.
There are jetties for fishing (with fish bait shops!), surfing, and people-watching as ships travel in and out while dolphins swim by.
The main trail of Isla Blanca Park runs for about one and a half miles around the park’s perimeter.
It’s ideal for jogging, walking, and even biking.
There’s a playground, some boating facilities, and a lot more possibilities for activities.
Don’t forget to visit the iconic statue of El Cristo de Los Pescadores at Isla Blanca Park.
Translated as “Christ of the Fisherman,” this huge, much-loved attraction is stunning to behold!
Address: 33174 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
2. South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center
Hundley Photography / Shutterstock
South Padre Island is home to one of the very top hotspots for birdwatching in all of the Rio Grande Valley.
This is a great place to observe South Texas’ coastal natural wildlife, including butterflies that live in the center’s beautiful garden.
Nature-lovers wondering what to do to entrench themselves in their passions will also enjoy the center.
Birding tours are a great way to ensure that you see all the best spots for the activity at South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center .
You can also explore on your own by walking through the boardwalk path.
The butterfly garden, of course, is also a lovely option, and summer to late fall is the most ideal time for this, as the Monarch butterflies come fluttering in!
Among the birds you can spot at the Birding & Nature Center are orioles, warblers, hummingbirds, egrets, herons, blackbirds, ibis, and more.
Most of these birds are only here seasonally as they stop during their flight paths, but there are some that live here all year round!
Address: 6801 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
3. Sea Turtle, Inc.
David Carbo / Shutterstock
Sea Turtle, Inc. was founded in 1977 as an institution dedicated to the protection, rehabilitation, and preservation of marine turtles of all species.
On South Padre Island, Texas, it’s one of the key places to visit for animal lovers who want to support the conservation of these great reptiles.
There’s lots to see and do at Sea Turtle, Inc.
You can learn to identify different turtle species or watch some baby turtles get released into the ocean.
You can pay to “adopt” some baby nests or turtles to help the facility continue to fund their work.
It’s always great to get up close and personal with these great creatures!
You can learn even more while at Sea Turtle, Inc. by sitting in at a conservation presentation, which is an engaging and educational way to learn about the institute’s efforts and what you can do to support the cause.
If you’re here with family, kids will love the fun activities, like scavenger hunts and classes.
Address: 6617 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
4. Laguna Madre Nature Trail
Texas Sea Grant / flickr
The stretching expanse of the boardwalk of the Laguna Madre Nature Trail is one of the best places to visit and one of the best free things to see in this part of Texas.
The boardwalk runs all the way from Laguna Madre’s wetlands itself up to the South Padre Island Convention Center.
It’s open all day long, 24 hours, and is a great sightseeing venue.
The Laguna Madre Nature Trail gives you the chance to spot over 300 different bird species, a number of alligators, and lots of diverse fauna.
The Laguna Madre itself is very unique, as it is one of the few six lagoons worldwide that is saltier than the whole ocean!
Address: 7355 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
5. Beach Park At Isla Blanca
While you’re in Isla Blanca, another one of the things to do in South Padre Island is not to be missed here – especially if you’re traveling with family!
Beach Park At Isla Blanca is a fun, 25-acre waterpark that is the most popular of its kind in this part of Texas.
There are a whopping 13 different slides and numerous floating river systems.
There are more in-depth ways to enjoy Beach Park At Isla Blanca during your trip this weekend.
Lots of dining establishments ensure you can easily eat your fill.
Great beaches connect to the park or are near enough to it to be easy to directly visit.
Lodging at the resort of Beach Park is luxurious and relaxing, too.
South Padre Island may be full of ways to experience real water, but something a little bit of a controlled environment isn’t a bad thing.
Keep your kids entertained on the huge sandcastle playground or the surfing machine, and the adults can lounge at the hot tub bar.
Address: 33261 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
6. Southern Wave Sailing Charters
Southern Wave Sailing Charters
If you’re looking for stuff to do on the water in South Padre Island, one of the best companies to get such an experience with is Southern Wave Sailing Charters .
They use a stunning 48-foot Catamaran that is custom-built for maximum safety and enjoyment, allowing you to really immerse yourself in the beauty of coastal Texas.
Southern Wave Sailing Charters also offers a number of additional programs.
There are rentals for paddleboards, kayaks, and paddleboats, as well as great 4-hour snorkeling trips urs that bring you to the most opportune diving locations.
Their dinner cruises are also pretty impressive!
All relevant trips come with provided gear and some even have a meal served with them.
Address: 205 W Palm St, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
7. South Padre Island Adventure Park
If you’re looking for fun things to do in Texas , South Padre Island Adventure Park is a great family-owned establishment that is packed with various activities.
It’s one of the places to go for everything from horseback riding to adrenaline-seeking action in this part of Texas.
The admission fee covers virtually all of the possible things to get done here at this 40-acre wonderland!
The main draw of the adventure park is the horseback riding excursions.
The 90-minute riding tour gives you the chance to sightsee along the shoreline while viewing the different plants that grow along its stretch.
Different tours at different times have something different to offer!
Then, there’s the awesome zipline course, where you can zoom over the park at a speed of your choice.
A modern transition system allows you to actually pick how quickly the circuit runs.
After that, you can go for a swim or head to the beach for a hayride.
You’ll also love the petting barn filled with cute animals.
Finally, kick back and relax that evening while eating luau food in front of a bonfire on the beach!
Address: 21040 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
8. UTRGV Coastal Studies Lab
UTRGV Coastal Studies Lab
The UTRGV Coastal Studies Lab was created in 1973 and is a great resource to learn about South Padre Island and the South Texas portion of the Gulf of Mexico.
It’s a community outreach and research center with engaging programs. This is one of the top ways to learn about coastal concerns.
The UTRGV Coastal Studies Lab showcases a number of different nature videos during its public opening hours.
Self-guided tours are fascinating, and there’s also a fun touch tank where you can get up close with cool marine life!
You’ll learn about invertebrates and view a neat shell collection.
This is also one of the free things to do in the area, so it’s definitely not to be missed if you have some time to spare!
Address: 100 Marine Lab Dr, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
9. Padre Island National Seashore
Cheri Alguire / Shutterstock
Looking for more places to visit near South Padre Island for a short getaway this weekend?
Travel to Padre Island National Seashore , the world’s biggest stretch of undeveloped barrier island.
It separates the Laguna Madre from the Gulf of Mexico and is made up of a shocking 66 miles of dunes, prairies, flats, and more.
There are so many ways to enjoy Padre Island National Seashore!
The beach has space for all sorts of activities, like fishing, beachcombing, swimming, and camping.
There’s more fishing, as well as windsurfing and boating, to be done in the Laguna Madre.
The laguna is one of the planet’s saltiest bodies of water and is a mere three feet in depth.
You can also drive down the island, take part in programs for all ages, go birdwatching and simply thoroughly enjoy the natural location.
Padre Island National Seashore is the home of more than 380 species of birds and is also a safe haven for sea turtles to nest.
There’s a fair bit of history to the location, too, with Spanish shipwrecks visible within its expanse, dating back to 1554.
All in all, this storied site is well worth a trip!
Address: 20301 Park Rd 22, Corpus Christi, TX 78418, United States
Looking for more thrill? How about visiting Austin, Dallas, and El Paso? If you plan the trip, here are some of the best things to do in Austin , some fun things to do in Dallas , and some top things to do in El Paso !
10. Sand Castle Lessons
Kris Wiktor / Shutterstock
It sounds strange, but one of the most fun South Padre Island attractions is more of a thing that you can do!
Sand castle lessons are some of the most unique activities that this lovely Texas location offers, with numerous lesson providers and businesses throughout South Padre Island.
Believe it or not, there are professional sand sculptors, and many of them call this island their home ground for their work and their teaching.
Most teachers offer beginner, intermediate, and advanced lessons and most will happily meet you on the beach you prefer.
Equipment is typically provided, and you’ll be surprised by how much goes into a proper sand sculpture!
If you’re here at the right time, you may even be able to catch a sandcastle building competition.
You’ll watch both the masters and the newcomers at work with their impressive, jaw-dropping creations.
Your mind will be opened to the possibilities of sand-made art!
Address: 3000 Gulf Boulevard, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
11. Gravity Park
Are you seeking some excitement as you ponder what to do in South Padre Island, Texas?
Gravity Park is a thrilling location that fits the bill!
Close to the beach, this amusement park is jam-packed with a mix of exciting and enjoyable attractions that will fill your time and are perfect for all ages.
Among the activities at Gravity Park is a go-karting course, set on a wooden track with multiple levels.
There are double cars for young kids to ride with adults, too!
There’s also a lovely mini-golf course that’s simple and sweet, an arcade for great games, a climbing wall to challenge yourself, and a relaxing 60-foot-tall Ferris wheel.
For people who want something a little more exciting in South Padre Island, there’s the rushing Skycoaster, a trampoline experience, and of course, the world’s tallest reverse bungee, the Rocket.
That might be where Gravity Park gets its name from!
Address: 106 W Marlin St, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
12. Osprey Cruises
Osprey Cruises
If you’re seeking the very best romantic things to do in South Padre Island, board one of the luxury pleasure boats at Osprey Cruises .
With a total of six different boats that each offer something unique, as well as custom charters available, the company brings you out onto the ocean for the tour of your choice.
You can go on group charters or book a private experience, as you prefer!
Of the five tour types available, the Dinner Cruise is likely the most romantic.
This occurs on the Osprey Luxury Sightseeing Cruise ship and is a mix of a dolphin-watching experience, eco-tour, and delicious nighttime meal.
Service is top-tier, with yummy food like bacon-wrapped shrimp and shrimp skewers, chicken kebabs, sirloin steak, fresh seasonal veggies and fruits, and more.
There are also good drinks to sip on the way.
Another popular option is the pirate ship cruise, called the Black Dragon Pirate Ship.
Staff dress as pirates to entertain you while you drift along the marine hatchery of the Laguna Madre.
You’ll even hunt for treasure, learn to speak and fight like a pirate, and eat great grog while you’re on board!
There’s also the Sea Life Safari Cruise, which is a dolphin-watching nature tour.
You’ll learn a lot about the ecology of this part of Texas on a narrated eco-tour on a 70-foot passenger vessel with surprising luxury.
Finally, try one of Osprey Cruises’ fishing trips.
There’s Deep Sea Fishing on the Osprey Fishing Charter, perfect for bottom fishing and drift fishing.
You’ll catch amberjack, kingfish, dorado, grouper, shark, and red snapper here.
The second kind is the Bay Fishing trip on the Bay King and Buccaneer, a first-class 50-foot boat with highly modern navigation, safety, and fish-locating technology!
Address: 501 E Maxan St, Port Isabel, TX 78578, United States
13. Wyland’s Whaling Wall
Wyland’s Whaling Wall
Wyland’s Whaling Wall is a huge, life-sized mural lovingly painted onto the side of the South Padre Island Convention Center.
The enormous work of art was made as a part of the Wyland’s Walls campaigns, which is the work of well-known artist Wyland and the Wyland Foundation.
The goal of the campaign was to finish a total of 100 different marine murals in public spaces, each one life-sized.
This goal was accomplished in 2008 and took 27 years to finish, spanning 5 continents, 17 countries, and 79 cities.
Wyland’s Whaling Wall here in this part of Texas is number 53 of the bunch, titled “Orcas Off The Gulf Of Mexico”.
Today, it’s one of the more unique and fun things to see, truly one-of-a-kind in the world!
Address: 7355 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
14. Blackbeards’ Restaurant
Wondering what things to do in South Padre Island are good for food?
You can’t go wrong with Blackbeards’ Restaurant !
The establishment was opened in 1978 inside a 2/2 beach renovated and remodeled with a deck.
Its goal was simple: to serve cold beer and good burgers.
It opened with merely 24 chairs and stools.
Today, Blackbeards’ Restaurant of South Padre Island, Texas has gone through many changes to grow into its final form.
The menu has swelled, going from simple fares like sandwiches, burgers, and salads to much more complex meals for all diners.
You’ll find scrumptious offerings like Tenderloin Filet, Ginger Teriyaki Tuna Steak, Bourbon Strip Steak, Seafood Platter Supreme, and Crab Cakes.
Regardless of what you order, you can trust that they’re fresh – everything from the onion rings to the tarter sauce and from chicken steak to crab cakes, are made daily.
Blackbeards’ Restaurant also has a full-service bar that serves margaritas and 32 varieties of beer for the thirsty!
Address: 103 E Saturn Ln, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
15. The Original Dolphin Watch
The Original Dolphin Watch
The Original Dolphin Watch , as its name suggests, is one of the most fun South Padre Island attractions.
It offers an incredible way to see the waters of Texas while catching a glimpse of the highly intelligent, playful dolphins that inhabit the waters.
There are pods of spinner dolphins and bottlenose dolphins that permanently live around the area, ensuring a guaranteed sighting.
The Original Dolphin Watch uses a 60-foot cruise boat and serves a number of good light refreshments, bringing you to Devil’s Elbow to see the sights.
There are also some cool snorkeling trips to the six-foot-deep Laguna Madre Estuary that you can try!
For a more unique, immersive time, try the Dolphin Watch Evening Tour so you can enjoy your time as the sun sets.
Address: 33256 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
16. Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier
Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier
Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier is in Cameron County, right on the southernmost side of South Padre Island, Texas!
This old fishing pier was used as a causeway until the early 1970s when its purpose was fulfilled by a new bridge.
Today, the central portion of the causeway was taken out, and now the portion on the side of the island is the Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier.
This is one of the best sites for fishermen to catch the likes of croaker, speckled trout, sheepshead, and sand trout.
If you don’t have your own gear, you can rent or buy some at stores and stalls waiting for you.
And, when you get tired of fishing, you can rest and relax with some serene, chill fun in the surrounding 1-acre park.
Address: 501 E Maxan St, South Padre Island, TX 78578, United States
Planning a trip to Fort Worth and Fredericksburg? If you do plan the trip, here are some fun things to do in Fort Worth and some of the best things to do in Fredericksburg !
17. Museums of Port Isabel
Richard J Roberts / Shutterstock
One of the best places to visit that is right near South Padre Island, Texas is Port Isabel.
It’s just about 9 minutes away.
History buffs will especially enjoy the Museums of Port Isabel: three immensely loved historic locations.
You can visit all of them at a discounted rate if you like!
The most popular of this group is likely the Port Isabel Lighthouse , which dates back to 1852.
Once upon a time, it was an important beacon to guide water vessels through the Brazos Santiago Pass.
You can climb up to the lighthouse or visit the cottage of the groundskeeper.
Next, head to the Port Isabel Historical Museum , which is just to the lighthouse’s south.
It contains one of the world’s biggest collections of Mexican-American War artifacts.
For some entertainment, it even has a theater!
Finally, go to the Treasures of the Gulf Museum, a great sight for families.
You can climb onto a ship dating back to the 16th century and view some of the amazing treasures that the Gulf has held and concealed in Spanish shipwrecks from the 1500s.
18. Andy Bowie County Park
Valerie Johnson / Shutterstock
The Andy Bowie County Park is situated right across from the South Padre Island Convention Center in the island’s north area.
This Texas park is primarily a beach park, boasting an impressive 20 miles of sand that is hard-packed and very much loved by off-road drivers.
If you’re an off-roader, this is one of the top sites to really enjoy that activity!
There are also other fun things to enjoy if you’re here this weekend.
Rent stuff for the beach to make your enjoyment even better.
Swim, fish, have a picnic, do some barbeque, and chow down on concessions.
If you have extra dough to spend, you can even stay at the flagship hotel!
Address: 7300 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
19. Fins to Feathers
rachael hansen / Shutterstock
Fins to Feathers is one of the things to do in South Padre Island, Texas for a good tour of Laguna Madre Bay.
As its name suggests, the company makes it easy for you to view dolphins and birds alike.
Each tour is run by the impressive, highly knowledgeable Captain Ford Locket, who has been doing similar ventures since 1997.
Dolphin tours at Fins to Feathers are truly special.
Dolphins are familiar with the boat used by Fins and Feathers and will eagerly come to play with the captain.
Bird watchers will also delight in the careful, very slow approach of the vessel, so you can see the wildlife of South Padre Island undisturbed.
Captain Locket also gives his guests information about the history and nature of the area.
You’ll learn more about the importance of protecting and conserving wild, natural areas!
Address: South Padre Island, TX, United States
20. Largest Outdoor Sandcastle in the USA
Largest Outdoor Sandcastle in the USA
We’ve already talked about how central South Padre Island, Texas is to the world of professional sand sculpting.
It’s no surprise, then, that the Largest Outdoor Sandcastle in the USA is among South Padre Island attractions.
It’s not just a work of art, either – it’s a fantastic tourist information center, too.
This unique attraction is an ongoing project, first created in 2013.
It’s amazingly detailed, and it’s the centerpiece of the larger South Padre Island Sandcastle Trail.
The trail has an impressive 30 castles along the entire walk!
Photographers will love the Largest Outdoor Sandcastle in the USA because every angle looks different.
Pose with all the sides and you’ll feel like you’re seeing a brand new castle every time.
Address: 610 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
21. Isla Tours
Isla Tours
Isla Tours is a great touring company that uses an amusingly named party yacht named Murphy’s Law.
The company is most known for its amazing nighttime party cruises, where you’ll see the sunset and dance the night away to the music of a DJ with drinks in your hand.
If you’re here from Memorial Day to October and aren’t sure what to do, Isla Tours is a great option.
This is because each Friday and Saturday evening, South Padre Island is decorated with fireworks.
Isla Tours offers a fantastic view of this jaw-dropping spectacle.
The captain anchors you there so that you can really appreciate those fireworks at night.
Not much for nighttime parties?
Isla Tours has more to offer.
There are respectable deep sea fishing trips, lots of eco-tours, and interesting tours of the Port of Brownsville area.
Address: 33256 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
Planning a road trip around Texas? Why not check out Galveston, Houston, and New Braunfels? If you do plan the trip, here are some top things to do in Galveston , some fun things to do in Houston , and some of the best things to do in New Braunsfel !
22. Sea Ranch
Sea Ranch
Sea Ranch is one of the key places to visit if you want super fresh seafood on South Padre Island, Texas.
For over 35 years, the establishment has served its guests locally caught seafood, freshly prepared from the Gulf of Mexico.
The seasonal menu rotates depending on what can be caught at the time, so you know it’s really fresh!
Among the popular dishes at Sea Ranch are the Live Maine Lobster, Red Snapper, King Crab Legs, Gulf Coast Shrimp, and Seafood Enchiladas.
Appetizers include the likes of Oysters or Shrimp Rockefeller and a selection of salads and soups.
Children aged 12 and below can order off the special kids’ menu!
Sea Ranch also offers a large selection of classy wines that will suit most people’s tastes.
The lounge, meanwhile, has carefully crafted cocktails and drinks that are well worth a sip as you lean back and relax.
Address: 33330 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
23. Air Padre Kiteboarding
KarepaStock / Shutterstock
Air Padre Kiteboarding is one of the most fun ways to see all the different things to see on South Padre Island.
This watersports facility, as its name suggests, is most known for its kiteboarding experiences.
You’ll be given the right equipment, with good advice if it’s your first time that will help you get the most out of the activity.
There are also other options at Air Padre Kiteboarding.
Slower-paced options are renting paddleboards, jet skis, or kayaks.
It’s a great workout and a calming way to see all that the island has to offer.
Address: 5709 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
24. Bobz World
karenfoleyphotography / Shutterstock
Bobz World is both one of the most exciting and most unique things to do in South Padre Island.
The big and bold amusement park brings together recreation, nature, and even history into one neat package that’s fun for people of all ages.
What draws people to Bobz World the most is this: it is home to the biggest arena for laser tag in all of the state of Texas.
If that’s not up your alley, you can play some mini-golf lit only by black lights or go to the video arcade that boasts a whopping 50 or more games.
There is also a really beautiful botanical garden and a fairly interesting museum with 20 exhibits.
The garden is themed after Jurassic dinosaurs and spans one acre, boasting flora interspersed with sculpted animals and dinos and the odd waterfall or two.
If you get hungry, head to Tidal Wave Cafe.
Here, they serve burgers, pizza, and a rather impressive 32 different flavors of ice cream.
Don’t forget to start by the gift shop for souvenirs, too.
Address: 36451 TX-100, Los Fresnos, TX 78566, United States
25. SpaceX Rocket Launch
Evgeniyqw / Shutterstock
Some of the most fascinating tourist attractions in this part of Texas are the SpaceX Rocket Launches .
You’ve likely already heard about them, as the internet has been abuzz with all sorts of excitement and opinion regarding these launches.
Check the schedule for launches, and if you’re around at the right time, you can travel across the island and out past the bay to head to Boca Chica where one of these launch sites is for a front-row seat.
SpaceX Rocket Launch, despite its controversies, is certainly making history.
This is where some of the planet’s most advanced technology in rockets and rocket science are tested and displayed.
Do note that launches depend on the weather and can be canceled due to equipment failure.
It’s not uncommon for launches to move, so be ready for that possibility!
Still, with just 5 miles to travel from South Padre, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience not to be missed.
26. South Padre Island Watersports
Dudarev Mikhail / Shutterstock
South Padre Island Watersports , as its name suggests, is one of the best companies to use for fun watersports action!
If you’ve always wanted to try one of these sports but haven’t had the chance to, this is a great time to try.
Instructors at the business are very experienced and knowledgable, and they have a lot of respect for the preferred pace of their customers.
They’re known to be very patient with those who make many mistakes and they’re happy to work with your availability and schedule.
They also prioritize safety, ensuring that your watersports experience is a positive one!
Among the watersports you can try here are surfing, kayaking, skimboarding, flyboarding, boogie boarding, paddle boarding and stand-up paddleboarding, and kiteboarding.
All equipment is rentable and training is easy to understand.
The company also uses a private ramp to ensure that you can have a calm experience on a channel that is protected and private.
Address: 5709 A Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
27. Crystal Flats Guide Service
TeodorLazarev / Shutterstock
Need help finding all the places to go in South Padre Island for the most opportune fishing?
Tourists and anglers will love the chance to fish in the right locations, led by expert captains.
Crystal Flats Guide Service is led by Captain Fleming, who knows his stuff very well!
He and his crew will keep you feeling catered to during your charter on the 22-foot vessel you’ll be using.
You’ll fish in sites like Port Mansfield, Ports Brownsville, Lower Language Madre Bay, and close to the main island shore.
These charters are all customizable, too!
Address: 103 S Manautou St #1701, Port Isabel, TX 78578, United States
28. Eh Brah SUP
Eh Brah SUP
Eh Brah SUP might have a rather fun and amusing name, but that doesn’t stop it from being one of the top locations for watersports on South Padre Island.
You can easily go looking for dolphins and turtles while using paddleboards or surfboards.
If you’ve never used either of these vessels before, don’t worry!
Eh Brah SUP has lots of great, experienced guides who can show you the ropes.
And if you’re an experienced boarder, you can head into the Gulf of Mexico and fight the rougher waters there.
Eh Brah SUP also provides all sorts of equipment for those who take tours or rent their equipment.
There are life preservers, booties, sunscreen, and water offered.
If you opt for tours, these last one hour and a half and are even dog-friendly, meaning your pup can come along!
Address: 5009 Padre Blvd STE 16, South Padre Island, TX 78597, United States
Looking for more fun? Why not check out San Antonio and Waco? If you do plan the trip, here are some of the best things to do in San Antonio and some top things to do in Waco !
Start Planning Your Trip To South Padre Island
South Padre Island is a beautiful barrier island with lots to offer to its guests.
From natural environments teeming with wildlife to exciting amusement locations where you can test your skills and entertain yourself, there’s tons to do here.
Good, fresh food and historic locations are also well worth a trip, too.
Simply put, there’s a lot you can get into on this island.
Hopefully, this list has helped you decide on what you’ll be doing here at South Padre Island, Texas!
Happy travels.

**4.** <https://www.planetware.com/texas/top-rated-things-to-do-on-south-padre-island-us-tx-187.htm>

17 Top-Rated Things to Do on South Padre Island, TX
We may earn a commission from affiliate links (
)
Slather on the SPF, head to SPI, and launch your SUP! Translation: Stay safe in the sun as you make your way to South Padre Island to splash in the surf with your stand up paddleboard.
Let's face it, "South - Padre - Island" is a mouthful. There's so much to do here – including the relax portion of your stay – that you'll start saying SPI and sound like one of the 2,800 full-time islanders in no time. But first you need to cross Laguna Madre Bay on the scenic 2.5-mile Queen Isabella Causeway that ends at the southern tip of South Padre Island.
Beach on South Padre Island | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Place names are often a good tipoff to travelers about where they are headed for their next adventure. Padre Island and Laguna Madre (father island and mother lake) make it sound like the perfect place for families or a second honeymoon for parents. Each year, this part of the "Texas Riviera" attracts almost 4.5 million tourists, including families on summer vacation , migrating snowbirds (aka Winter Texans), and restless college students during spring break . Be forewarned that causeway access to the island will feel more like a long parking lot during peak times of traveling tourists.
The 113-mile Padre Island is the second-longest island in the contiguous United States, but here's a travel advisory to SPI newbies: Port Mansfield Channel divides South Padre Island from the northern section known as the Padre Island National Seashore. Set GPS coordinates to "South Padre Island," and enjoy a smooth ride.
End of the road on SPI | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
When landing in a new destination, you always wonder where you should go first. SPI makes this a simple decision because it's a destination best known for its beach – miles and miles of fine, white sandy beach as far as the eye can see. And when you think you've got to the end of the horizon, there's more . . . you guessed it . . . BEACH!
As amazing as unlimited sand and surf sound, our list of best attractions and things to do will convince you that life on South Padre Island is a beach with considerable benefits.
1. Drive on the Beach
Driving the beach road | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Your drive to South Padre Island will be pleasant, but driving your own car on the SPI beach is a thrill of a lifetime. Driving on the sand alongside crashing surf gives you a sense of freedom. There are many points of legal access to bring your personal vehicle onto the beach from the road. To avoid getting stuck, and the cost of a tow truck to extract you from the sand, you may prefer to remain on the road instead of taking the beach route.
One of the first things to do once you cross Queen Isabella Causeway is drive north for 10 miles until the road dead-ends. For more than half of this straightaway, you'll experience the feeling of driving through sand dunes without ever leaving the pavement. From here, you can continue on the beach by foot or bike for hours because SPI is 34 miles long. Winter Texans from the wintry north feel nostalgic when they see earthmovers clearing snow-white sand drifts from the shoulders of the road.
Dune travel on State Road 100 | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Want a different set of wheels (or hooves) to explore the beach? Rent a fat tire bike from one of many gear-rental shops or join a posse on horseback with The Stables at the SPI Equestrian and Events Centre.
Wherever you roam on the beach, here are a few tips:
Rules for driving on the beach are the same as rules on the road: Only licensed road vehicles are allowed (no OHVs or ATVs).
Observe speed limits (10 to 15 miles per hour).
If you plan to drive a long distance, make sure you go with a companion vehicle. If there's a breakdown, it could be a long walk back to civilization.
Watch out for sea turtles while driving on the beach, especially during nesting season between April and August.
Tempted by a sudden jolt of Mad Max madness to drive on the dunes? Don't! Dunes and the vegetation that grows on them serve as a natural barrier to protect SPI from seasonal hurricanes. Avoid the expense of a violation ticket, and stick to the road or beach.
2. Enjoy Birding and Wildlife Photography
Redhead ducks take flight near Laguna Madre. | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Research and nature centers – along with a thriving flotilla of tour operators – provide ample opportunities for safe, comfortable, and exciting encounters with SPI's wildlife. Like you, nature and its creatures schedule their arrival on South Padre Island. If you're flexible, follow the annual migration of your favorite birds to SPI. Their digs are not far from where you'll be staying and dining out.
Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge across the water on the mainland is an immense nature preserve of almost 40,000 hectares. That's the size of almost seven Manhattan islands strung together. SPI's backyard is a favorite place for resident birds and their snowbird cousins, fish, mammals, amphibians, and countless insects.
SPI migrations at sunset | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Whether you are a birder, wildlife photographer, paddler, or nature lover, you'll enjoy endless opportunities to appreciate the natural bounty that the Rio Grande Valley and SPI have in store for you: Herons, pelicans, Mexican eagles (aka crested caracara), and flamboyant roseate spoonbills are among the more than 300 species that frequent this area. This is the only place north of the Mexican border where you can admire the impressive plumage of green jays in the wild.
3. Befriend Wildlife at South Padre Island Birding, Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary
Boardwalks and bird blinds at SPI Birding and Nature Center
Surrounded by water, island residents treasure and protect the ecological chain of diversity that attracts and feeds birds, reptiles, and marine mammals. Want to strengthen the chain and get a closer look? Grab your binoculars, camera, and water bottle, and stop by South Padre Island Birding, Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary. Be sure to register for one of the highly rated birding tours with a naturalist educator.
Home to a five-story viewing tower and more than half a mile of raised boardwalks and bird blinds, this center is your ticket to experience 50 acres of protected wetlands and the critters that live here. Not only will you see the vibrant colors and varying sizes of tropical birds, you can also check out alligators, tortoises, and other reptiles.
Brown pelicans sweep across the surf. | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Near the center is the popular mile-long public boardwalk loop, the Laguna Madre Nature Trail. Research, conservation, and public awareness are priorities here, including the protection of an endangered species you'll see in the butterfly garden: the monarch.
4. Learn about Dolphins at South Padre Island Nature Center
Bottlenose dolphins off South Padre Island
Cool fact: Bottlenose dolphins can sleep with one side of their brain while the other side is wide awake and keeping an eye out for sharks (and tourists!)
You can find dolphins the world over, and SPI is a great destination to improve your chances of spotting a pod of them. Some of these smart, curious, and vocal swimmers are permanent inshore residents in the Laguna Madre. Because dolphins are highly sensitive to human marine traffic, it's best to learn more about them if you're heading out on the water.
Education is key to how the South Padre Island Dolphin Research & Sealife Nature Center introduces you to the local "tribe" of bottlenose dolphins. Before setting out on a tour by boat, your ticket to ride includes a visit to its nature center beside the Port Isabel Lighthouse. Center staff provide information, and let you connect physically with sea life in touch tanks.
Fin to Feathers is another popular eco-friendly tour operator. Focused on the conservation of dolphins and specializing in dolphin and birding tours, Fin to Feathers tours depart from South Point Marina in Port Isabel.
5. Get Up to Speed with Turtles at Sea Turtle, Inc.
Tagging a turtle at Sea Turtle, Inc. | madame.furie / photo modified
The plight of sea turtles and their recovery may tug at your heart strings. Sea Turtle, Inc. helps visitors like you turn these emotions into action with its year-round visitor and rehabilitation center for rescued sea turtles, most commonly the endangered Kemp's Ridley species. In addition to helping patients recover before release, it provides a home for resident turtles that will never be placed back into the wild.
One such resident is Allison – a turtle fitted with a prosthesis that enables her to swim with the assistance of human lifeguards and entertain visiting admirers from the comforts of her own tank. Her story may inspire you to return to Sea Turtle, Inc. as a valued member of its team of volunteers. With a focus on conservation, rehabilitation, and public education, the center – located four miles north of the Queen Isabella Causeway – provides an informative self-guided waterfront experience with hourly "Turtle Talks."
6. Find Your Beacon of Hope at Port Isabel Lighthouse
Port Isabel Lighthouse
Where there is open water along a coastline populated with ocean-going vessels, you are sure to find a lighthouse that helps direct sailors on their journey. For this reason, lighthouses are often considered beacons of hope. Built as a navigational aid in 1852, the 72-foot-high Port Isabel Lighthouse has guided mariners of commercial and fishing boats to safe harbor.
Today, it stands as a symbol – not only of hope – but also of SPI's rich maritime history. This state historic site is the only lighthouse in Texas that is open to the public, along with its museum and reconstructed lighthouse keeper's cottage below the tower.
7. Zip along and Saddle Up at South Padre Island Adventure Park
Horses on the South Padre Island beach | DRAMOS19 / photo modified
If your idea of leisure is being active, you will want to visit South Padre Island Adventure Park, where Park Road 100 ends and the fun begins. On 40 acres with access to the beach, the Island Adventure Park is a permanent home for rescue animals and tourists looking for a temporary escape from the rat race.
For one price, you can zipline non-stop for 45 minutes, ride horseback on the beach in an ocean wilderness for an hour, and hang out at the petting zoo. The same family-owned company operates the Island Fun Park in town, where you can get behind the wheel of a go-kart or play a round of mini-golf.
8. Pamper Yourself at Sapphire Spa
Reading on the beach | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Relaxation can be deep and soothing, as well as revitalizing. With a self-guided SPI spa treatment, you start by untethering yourself from electronic devices, eating healthy and fresh food, taking long barefoot walks on the beach, and lazing under a sun umbrella with long-awaited pleasure reads.
Revel in this self-indulgence and go one step further: Book a Sapphire Spa massage at the Pearl South Padre Resort
. Select from an extensive menu of massage and body treatments, which can be booked online to reserve a spot with your preferred therapist.
9. Cool Off at Beach Park at Isla Blanca
Summer fun at a water park
Children, youth, and the young at heart can easily spend most of the day soaking in active water play at Beach Park at Isla Blanca. In cooler weather, Beach Park has an indoor water park to extend summertime fun every month of the year.
What kind of water excitement appeals to you? Thrill seekers head with boogie boards to the Surf Rider. Atmospheric adventurers track the Storm Chaser. Swimmers – who like to go with the flow – float down the chute at Aqua Blanca.
10. Take a Front-Row Seat for a SpaceX Starship Launch
Boca Chica launch facility | Steve Jurvetson / photo modified
South of SPI is Starbase, the Boca Chica launch facility and landing pad for the SpaceX Starship. Experience the history of spaceflight in real time by setting up your beach chair in the best location to capture rocket launches and landings. Take a drive out to Boca Chica Village to see the area that might become the futuristic community of Starbase.
11. Defy Gravity at Gravity Park
Riding the Skycoaster
Look no further than Gravity Park for outside evening entertainment. While mini-golf and the arcade are fun, take control of a go-kart to pick up the pace. While a 60-foot Ferris wheel goes round and round, you can really get into the swing of things on the Skycoaster.
The Rocket is the tallest reverse-bungee in the world that flings you into the sky and lets gravity bring you back to Earth. While this ride won't take you as far as a SpaceX projectile, you are slung into orbit within seconds. Ready, set, go . . . SCREAM!!
12. See America's Largest Outdoor Sandcastle and take Sandcastle Lessons
Shoreside sandcastle fit for royalty
South Padre Island elevates the fun of making sandcastles in the sun to an art college level. Follow the self-guided hike along the South Padre Island Sandcastle Trail of 30 castles to the "largest outdoor sandcastle in the USA" beside the Tourist Information Center.
Inspired by this monument of sand, you'll be ready to sign up to become a sandcastle pro. Head over to Sandcastle Lessons, where you can learn and apprentice with a master. By the time you're a graduate, you'll have a castle to call your own.
13. Go Boarding at South Padre Island Company
Fun on the water for man and his best friend
If lying on the beach and swimming bore you, it's time to jump on board: Surfboarding, boogie boarding, wakeboarding, sailboarding, kiteboarding, flyboarding, and stand up paddleboarding. A kayak or Jet Ski rental may also float your boat.
With so many options to get you on the water, you might need a guide to get started. In addition to gear rentals and surf shops, you'll find certified and experienced instructors to make your water adventures safe and satisfying. If you've always longed to catch a wave on a surfboard, link up with an entire family of surfers: South Padre Surf Company on the southern tip of SPI in Isla Blanca Beach Park.
14. Dive Below the Surface with American Diving
Green turtle in seagrass
Beauty might be only skin deep – unless you're a skin diver. If you dip below the surface of the waters surrounding South Padre Island, you enter a world that feels like it's yet to be discovered. Like the human body, most of what SPI has to offer is comprised of water.
The protective intertidal zone of the Laguna Madre is where sea life gets its start in water that is only three to six feet deep. Snorkeling in the shallows and seagrass allows you to see an abundance of fish such as catfish, spotted seatrout, black drum, and redfish. You might also see hermit crabs and the occasional sea turtle. Contact a local tour operator for conditions on water visibility and a guide to bring you to the best places to visit for snorkeling.
If you are certified for deep sea adventures or want to pursue scuba diving certification, SPI-based American Diving can help you aboard and serve as your guide to offshore artificial reefs.
15. Cast into the Surf or Go Deep Sea Fishing
Surf fishing on South Padre Island
The hook for many visitors to South Padre Island is a day out in the sun with a fishing rod and a bucket of bait. Shore casting from the Jetties at Isla Blanca Park is sure to snag something for dinner. Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier next to the causeway is another favorite location for this popular pastime.
Not another fishy story: SPI is one of the top areas in Texas for deep sea fishing .
16. Swing from Gulf to Golf at South Padre Island Golf Club
Putter's delight
Aside from a few putts of mini-golf, there's no golf course on SPI. Within sight of the island, however, is South Padre Island Golf Club on the other side of Laguna Madre in nearby Port Isabel. With almost 7,000 yards from the first tee to the 18th hole, this course will help enhance your level of play with its sumptuous surroundings and onshore breezes.
17. Play with Your Dog on the Beach
Dog flies during fetch | Photo Copyright: Colin J. McMechan
Bailey, Bella, and Buddy are all welcome to join you on your SPI holiday. This community also offers top activities and adventures for your favorite pet. When you sign up for a stand up paddleboard or surf lesson, make sure you arrange lessons for your dog at the same time. Eh Brah SUP and South Padre Surf Company offer guides to teach your dog how to mount a board, get a grip, and hang 10 on the next wave.
Subscribe to our Newsletter
Discover destinations, find outdoor adventures, follow the journeys of our travel writers around the world, and be inspired.
More on Texas

**5.** <https://vacationidea.com/destinations/best-in-south-padre-island.html>

25 Best Things to Do on South Padre Island, Texas
By VacationIdea Staff on January 2, 2023 - Updated
Courtesy of philipus - Fotolia.com
South Padre Island is nestled on the Gulf of Mexico, near Brownsville, at the southeastern-most tip of Texas. Because the island is only a half a mile wide, you can see beaches from nearly any vantage point on the island. There are ecological tours, dolphin sightings and peaceful walks along the sand. South Padre Island, TX is a choice destination for honeymooners, couples and families.
We recommend that you call the attractions and restaurants ahead of your visit to confirm current opening times.
1. Sea Turtle Inc, South Padre Island, Texas
© Courtesy of Vladlens Studios - Fotolia.com
Sea Turtle Inc. was formed to protect and recover an endangered sea turtle species. Since then the mission has expanded into three: Education, Conservation and Rehabilitation. Donations keep the doors open, the turtles cared for, and the educational programs afloat. Even without any government assistance, 1/5thof the income is used to fund conservation projects involving sea turtles worldwide.
Sea Turtle Inc. provides college scholarships and a summer internship program for biology students. It rescues, aids, and releases injured sea turtles and assists with conservation efforts for all marine turtle species, all while endeavoring to educate the public.
6617 Padre Blvd. South Padre Island, TX 78597, Phone: 956-761-4511
2.South Padre Island Dolphin Research & Sea Life Nature Center, South Padre Island, TX
© Courtesy of geraldmarella - Fotolia.com
The family-friendly Life Center offers boat tours to see bottleneck dolphins, field trips, and a hands-on experience which lets guests become familiar with creatures they may have never met before including: fish, crabs, octopi, snails.
Guests even have the opportunity to touch starfish. Staff and volunteers are on hand to show you how to feed the rescued giant turtles and to demonstrate how seahorses are fed. Meet all the rescued animals and learn how to become ecofriendly. Boat tours give a unique insight into the lives of the dolphins in the wild.
10 N. Garcia St., Port Isabel, Texas 78578, Phone: 956-299-1957
3.The South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center, South Padre Island, Texas
© Courtesy of nataba - Fotolia.com
This is Rio Grande Valley's top destination for birdwatching, and an ideal place to observe butterflies and natural wildlife in coastal South Texas. You can walk down the boardwalks; take a birding tour; and experience the nature center. The butterfly garden is full of fluttering visitors from summer to late fall, when the Monarchs arrive.
Any number of varieties of warblers arrive in the Spring. Orioles and numerous species of hummingbirds and other species are forced to land here because of severe weather during their migration routes. Experience the wonderful views of the Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, the Wood Stork and countless warblers. Brown Pelicans, White Ibis, Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Red-winged Blackbirds, and many other species of birds reside here year round.
6801 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island,TX 78597, Phone: 956-761-6801
-- You are reading "25 Best Things to Do on South Padre Island, Texas" Back to Top
4.Padre Island National Seashore, South Padre Island, Texas
© Courtesy of philipus - Fotolia.com
South Beach begins where the paved road ends. This national park has 60 miles of beach you can drive on. South Beach ends at the Port Mansfield Channel. Texas beaches are public highways, so all traffic laws apply, and all vehicles traveling on Padre Island National Seashore must be street legal and licensed, including ATVs because The National Seashore uses ATVs to patrol for nesting sea turtles in the park.
The driving conditions at the beach are constantly changing due to the currents, winds, and tides. Toilets and cold-water showers can be found at Malaquite Pavilion. Enjoy birds, turtles and other beach wonders without distractions.
P.O. Box 181300, Corpus Christi, TX 78480, Phone: 361-949-8068
5.Southern Wave Sailing Charters of South Padre Island
© Southern Wave Sailing Charters
Southern Wave's 48’ custom-built Catamaran is a safe way to experience state-of-the-art sailing while enjoying the beauty of South Padre Island and the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to Dinner Cruises and Snorkeling trips Southern Wave rents out Kayaks, Paddle Boats and Paddle Boards. Catamarans have a double hull construction and flotation devices which make them almost unsinkable.
Our experienced personnel help rookies and the experts alike on the snorkeling trip. All snorkeling gear is provided for the 4 hour snorkeling trip, as well as a delicious lunch. Enjoy a memorable day of sailing, an afternoon of dolphin watching, or an evening of beautiful sunsets on one of the famous dinner cruises.
PO Box 833, Port Isabel Texas, 78578, Phone: 866-704-7245
Expert opinion: Where should I go this weekend for fun? FL , CA , Myrtle Beach , OR , New England weekend , Charlotte , Williamsburg , LA , PA
-- You are reading "What to Do on South Padre Island, Texas this Weekend" Back to Top
6.Isla Blanca Park, South Padre Island, Texas
© Courtesy of CrackerClips - Fotolia.com
Isla Blanca Park is a state park, surrounded by the Gulf of Mexico, the Brazos Santiago Pass and the Laguna Madre. For day trips, there is ample parking and excellent bathroom facilities. For longer stays, it offers over 500 RV spots. Walk out on the jetties to see surfers, shrimp boats, cargo ships, dolphins, and the enormous Cristo De Los Pescadores statue.
Sea shells abound for collecting. Three restaurants are within walking distance from the park. The park features a fishing area and a bait shop. It is a clean, well maintained park with a wide paved trail around the 1 ½ mile perimeter of the park which is perfect for walking, jogging or biking.
33174 State Park Road 100 South Padre Island, TX 78597, Phone: 956-761-5494
7.Laguna Madre Nature Trail, South Padre Island, TX
© NPS Photo
The Laguna Madre Nature Trail is a boardwalk that runs from the South Padre Island Convention Center to the Laguna Madre wetlands. This is a great place to see almost 300 species of birds. The Laguna Madre Nature Trail is open 24 hours a day and there is no charge.
Visitors rave about the diverse amount of animals they were able to see on the Laguna Madre Trail, especially all the alligators and the different varieties of birds. The Laguna Madre is a hyper saline lagoon. It is saltier than the ocean, one of only 6 such lagoons in the world. It is the nesting area and home of many creatures found nowhere else.
7355 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, TX 78597, Phone: 956-761-3000
8.Beach Park At Isla Blanca, South Padre Island, Texas
© Beach Park At Isla Blanca
Experience the most popular waterpark, a 25 acre attraction, in the Rio Grande Valley. Enjoy the best waterpark attraction in the Texas Gulfcoast region. Roar down 13 amazing indoor and outdoor water slides, or float down one of the river systems.
The resort includes lodging, great Gulf beaches, wonderful dining experiences, and unlimited use of both the indoor and outdoor water features. Seasonal packages are available for the whole family. Plan a weekend getaway. Enjoy a fun filled day; then stay the night in a room just steps away from the beach with the best indoor water attractions in the area.
33261 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, TX 78597, 956-772-7873
9.Things to Do on South Padre Island, Texas: South Padre Island Adventure Park
© South Padre Island Adventure Park
Ride horses, enjoy the Zip-lines and the petting barn. Take a hayride on the beach, swim in the ocean, then end the day on the beach with a luau menu and a bonfire. Birthday parties are a specialty, with ponies and barn animals, hotdogs and refreshments. This park specializes in special events and parties, just tell them what you want, and it will be organized for you.
Groups of all sizes are welcomed. With the state-of-the-art quick zip-line transition system, you will be able to go around the circuit as fast, or as slow as you want to. There are several horseback riding opportunities available.
P.O. Box 3633,South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-415-0546
-- "Best Things to Do on South Padre Island, Texas for Locals & Tourists - Restaurants, Hotels" Back to Top
10.Coastal Studies Laboratory, South Padre Island, Texas
© Coastal Studies Laboratory
The Coastal Studies Laboratory located on South Padre Island was established in 1973, and provides educational opportunities, research and community outreach about coastal concerns in the Gulf of Mexico with an emphasis on the South Texas region. The Coastal Studies Lab is open to the public Monday - Friday 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm for self-guided tours, to see marine aquaria with local fish and invertebrate species. There is a touch tank, as well as sea shell collections featuring shells found locally and elsewhere around the world.
There are nature videos and a gift shop. No admission is charged, but donations are accepted. School groups can arrange to visit the Coastal Studies Lab. The group sponsor should visit www.utrgv.edu/csl for details and pricing on guided tours.
100 Marine Lab Drive, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-761-2644
11.What to Do in South Padre Island: Osprey Cruises
© Osprey Cruises
A great way to enjoy South Padre Island from the water is to board one of the six boats in the Osprey Cruises fleet. Each boat offers a different adventure. The luxury passenger cruiser will take you on a leisurely dinner cruise and serve fresh seafood and excellent drinks while the sun is setting. You can go sightseeing and dolphin watching, while learning about the ecology of the Texas Gulf Coast.
Spectacular Black Dragon sailboat will show you how pirates lived, fought, and looked for treasure. The Thriller speedboat will take you on an adrenaline-pumping trip around the local fun spots at 50 mph, while dolphins ride the Thriller’s wake – they love speed too. All boats leave from Pier 19.
1 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-761-6655
12.Sand Castle Lessons, South Padre Island, Texas
© Courtesy of emmeci74 - Fotolia.com
South Padre Island, Texas is one of the rare places in the United States where you can learn how to make a great sand castle. The magnificent beaches of South Padre Island have a number of professional sand sculptors who have decided to help people have more fun on the beach by offering lessons in sandcastle building.
There are beginners, intermediate, and advanced classes. The instructors meet you on the beach of your choice and bring all the equipment – there is more to it than just a plastic bucket. The classes last from one to three hours, and you are guaranteed to have fun and learn a few tricks about working with sand. You will never be embarrassed by your sand castles again.
Phone: 956-433-9948
13.Fins to Feathers, South Padre Island, Texas
© Fins to Feathers
Fins to Feathers offer small group tours of Laguna Madre Bay aboard their vessel Laguna Skimmer. The tours are run and narrated by Captain Ford Locket, who has been sharing his love of all things wild with guests since 1997. His dolphin tours are very special experiences because the dolphins know his boat and literally come to play with him, much to the delight of those watching.
When taking tours with bird watchers, the boat approaches the birds’ habitats slowly and quietly so that the birds are not disturbed and continue with their natural behavior. The captain will share his knowledge of South Padre nature and history with you, and after the trip with Fins to Feathers you will understand more about the need for conservation and protection of the wild places.
South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-299-0629
14.Things to Do on South Padre Island, TX: Skydive South Padre Island
© Skydive South Padre Island
There is probably no greater adrenaline rush than jumping from a perfectly good airplane flyint at 11,000 feet. The views of South Padre island and the ocean are certainly spectacular, but once you jump, for about 60 seconds you are falling at speeds of almost 150 miles per hour and you do not have the time to take in the view.
Then at 5,500 feet your parachute opens and you cruise for about seven minutes over the island. You can look out on the sea and feel a sense of total exhilaration as you soak up the sights you cannot get in any other way, until you land on the sand. Skydives are done in tandem, and you will be harnessed to an experienced skydiver who has taken thousands of jumps, so there is no training necessary and you will feel perfectly safe.
2500 Padre Blvd #5, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-744-5867
Free points of interest close to me: Renton , Friday Harbor , Burien
15.Gravity Park, South Padre Island, Texas
© Gravity Park
When the kids, or you, get enough of sun, sand, and swimming, head to Gravity Park. Located just a few steps from the beach in the heart of the entertainment district of South Padre Island, Gravity Park is a local amusement and adventure park with a range of fun attractions for the whole family.
Their reverse-bungee called the Rocket is considered the tallest in the world. There is also a Skycoaster, a roller coaster that will show you the best view of the island, unless you jump out of a plane. There are go-carts for adults and for kids, mini-golf, an arcade, a trampoline, and a climbing wall.
106 W Marlin St, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-761-8588
Near me on a budget: Clemson , Dunedin
-- You are reading "25 Best Things to Do on South Padre Island, Texas" Back to Top or Amazing things to do around me
16.Isla Tours, South Padre Island, Texas
© Isla Tours
Every Friday and Saturday night, from Memorial Day to the end of October, fireworks light up the night on South Padre Island. The best place to watch them is aboard of Isla Tours’ party yacht Murphy's Law. Their party cruise starts with a dolphin watch, after which you enjoy the glorious sunset. After the sun goes down, the party really heats up.
The captain turns on the party lights, a live DJ pumps up the volume, and you can dance to your heart’s content. Then the captain anchors the boat so you can watch the fireworks exploding all over the night sky. Isla Tours also offers eco-tours, Port of Brownville tours, and deep sea fishing trips.
33256 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-761-4752
17.The Original Dolphin Watch, South Padre Island, TX
© The Original Dolphin Watch
Seeing dolphins while on South Padre Island is a must, as it is one of the rare places where you can get close enough to them. There are few pods of bottlenose and spinner dolphins that live permanently in the area, and when you’re aboard the 60’ cruise boat the Double Sunshine with experienced guides like those with the Original Dolphin Watch, you can watch them play and feed as they follow the boat. Dolphin Watch offers light refreshment and a well-prepared presentation about dolphins while you are cruising to Devil’s Elbow.
Dolphin Watch also organizes snorkeling trips to the Laguna Madre Estuary where crystal clear water from three to six feet deep is perfect for any ages and abilities.
33256 Park Road 100 Sute 104, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-761-4243
18.Blackbeards'
© Blackbeards'
Late in the Spring of 1978, an idea was conceived to serve delicious burgers, ice-cold beers, and to do enough business to live in an awesome beach town. This gave way to the very first Blackbeards’ and paved the road to the Blackbeards’ that South Padre Island residents know and love today. The restaurant is best known for its burgers and seafood offerings, which are sure to delight any diner’s tastebuds and have them coming back for more. Try menu offerings like Blackbeards Seafood Platter Supreme, the Ginger Teriyaki Tuna Steak, or their freshly made Crab Cakes. For meat lovers, the Rib Eye, Tenderloin Filet, and Bourbon Strip Steak certainly won’t disappoint.
103 East Saturn Lane, South Padre, Texas 78597; Phone: 956-761-2962
19.Wyland Whaling Wall Number 53, South Padre Island, TX
© Wyland Whaling Wall Number 53
The magnificent, enormous, life-size paintings of orca whales on South Padre Island Convention Center are part of the worldwide campaign Wyland’s Walls, organized by the renowned painter Wyland and the Wyland Foundation, who had the goal of completing 100 life-size marine murals in public places around the world. They completed their goal in 2008 after 27 years.
The murals are meant to encourage greater understanding of and appreciation for aquatic habitats and the aquatic life. The life-size paintings are supposed to change people’s attitudes about marine conservation worldwide. With its Wyland Whaling Wall #53 “Orcas off the Gulf of Mexico,” South Padre Island is proud to be one of the 79 cities in 17 countries and 5 continents to raise its voice for marine conservation in this unique way.
7355 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 800-995-2630
-- You are reading "25 Best Things to Do on South Padre Island, Texas" Back to Top
20.Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier, South Padre Island, Texas
© Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier
Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier is located in the park in Cameron County on the southern side of South Padre Island. The crowning glory of the lovely one-acre beach park is an old fishing pier, which used to serve as a causeway that stretched across the bay until the new bridge was constructed in the early 1970s.
A central part of the original causeway has been removed, and the portion of the causeway on South Padre Island has been named the Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier. It became a part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which turned it into a fishing pier where fishermen can catch sand trout, speckled trout, croaker, sheepshead and other fish.
501 E Maxan St, South Padre Island, Texas 78578, Phone: 956-943-7437
21.What to Do in South Padre Island: Andy Bowie County Park
© Courtesy of pixelliebe - Fotolia.com
Andy Bowie Park, located just across from the South Padre Island Convention Center on the north side of South Padre Island, is a lovely beach park with 20 miles of hard packed sand that is popular among off-road drivers – driving on the beach is permitted.
It is stretched along the Gulf of Mexico and has two large picnic pavilions on the beach side, food concessions, BBQ areas, RV sites, beach equipment rental concessions, a swimming area, a fishing area, restrooms, and showers. You will also find a flagship hotel and a number of condo developments all around it. Andy Bowie County Park is only about five miles from Isla Blanca.
7300 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island, Texas 78597, Phone: 956-761-3704
22.Eh Brah SUP, South Padre Island, TX
© Eh Brah SUP
A fun way of exploring Laguna Madre and watching for turtles or dolphins is on top of a paddleboard. Even if you have never done it, count on the experienced guides of Eh Brah to show you the ropes and take you on an adventure on the calm, warm waters of South Padre’s Laguna Madre. Or, if you are an experienced paddleboarder, you might want to try the rougher waters of the Gulf of Mexico.
You can go in the morning with a bunch of friends or family or watch a stunning sunset from your board. Your guides provide everything: life preservers, booties, bottled water, and even sunscreen. The tours take about an hour and a half, and you can bring your dog aboard. Eh Brah also offers surfboarding lessons and sells boards and other equipment.
South Padre Island, Texas, Phone: 956-433-9116

**6.** <https://www.dangerous-business.com/south-padre-island-to-do-list/>

10 Awesome Things to Do on South Padre Island in Texas
Last updated on:
Home » United States » Texas » 10 Awesome Things to Do on South Padre Island in Texas
This post was written by Amanda Williams
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Some posts on this site contain affiliate links, meaning if you book or buy something through one of these links, I may earn a small commission. Read the full disclosure policy here .
South Padre Island in Texas tends to have a bit of a reputation – a reputation of being a party-happy Spring Break destination.
But before you assume that visiting South Padre Island is bound to resemble
a rowdy movie about the American college experience, know that there's plenty to do on SPI that have nothing to do with partying. Things like dolphin cruises and paddleboarding and horseback riding and even a sea turtle rescue center.
SPI has tranquil spots like this, too.
So even though I don't party (I don't even drink that much!), I said yes to a trip to South Padre Island with Texas Tourism. Because one of the things I love most about what I do is being able to dispel misconceptions and set the record straight about destinations that have a lot more to offer than people assume.
South Padre Island is definitely one of those destinations.
After spending four days there, I concluded that not only is it a great destination for people who love the heat and the outdoors, but it's also a year-round destination that can appeal to everyone from Spring Breakers to families with kids.
South Padre Island
How cool is this sandcastle?
Take a moment to read my SPI to-do list and discover what there is to do on South Padre Island OTHER than hang out on the beach and drink.
10 things to do on South Padre Island
1. Rent a paddleboard
I'm so happy that paddleboarding has taken off and become as popular as it has. Not only is it a great way to be out on the water, but paddleboarding can be a great workout, too!
There are quite a few rental options when it comes to getting a board and heading out to explore South Padre's canals and Laguna Madre, but my pick is Air Padre . They are more well-known for their kiteboarding lessons, but they also rent paddleboards, kayaks, jet skis, and more.
Paddleboarding around South Padre Island
What I liked about renting from them was the fact that they have big plastic paddleboards that are almost like sit-atop kayaks – meaning that they are super stable for standing on!
We rented boards for two hours and enjoyed paddling around in the Laguna.
Forget paddleboard yoga – I'm pioneering paddleboard gymnastics!
Tip: I would go paddleboarding early in the morning, as it can start to get really hot (and sometimes windy) in the afternoon.
2. Go horseback riding on the beach
Another great morning activity is a horseback riding tour with Island Adventure Park . To get there, you have to leave the town and drive down South Padre Road 100, a road surrounded on both sides by sand dunes, which in itself is pretty cool.
Once you get there, you're paired up with a horse and are ready to ride in no time.
The riding tour lasts about 90 minutes, and has you riding along the quiet beach and up into the dunes.
Horseback riding on the beach
I LOVE horses and horseback riding a lot, and this was therefore one of my favorite things I did on South Padre Island.
It doesn't get much better than this.
Island Adventure has a lot of horses to choose from, and the guides will match you up with one that fits your riding experience. This is something that's suitable for the whole family, too, as prior riding experience is not required. (Their minimum age requirement is 6, though.)
3. Explore the island in a scootcoupe
It may look a bit weird, but driving around in a little scooter car called a scootcoupe was another of my favorite activities on South Padre Island.
These tiny little cars may look a little ridiculous sharing the road with huge pickup trucks, but I assure you that they are SO fun to drive – and they can actually go more than 40 mph!
Ours even looked like a lady bug!
While most people visiting SPI probably have a vehicle, spending an afternoon zipping around in one of these is still worth it simply because it's so fun and unique.
Several of the companies on the island that rent out golf carts and bikes also rent scootcoupes (some places call them “mini cars”). Check out SPI Fun Rentals and Wheels on Padre to see if they have any available to rent.
(You do drive these on the road like a regular car, so a valid driver's license is required.)
4. Learn about turtles at Sea Turtle Inc.
While driving around in our scootcoupes, we made sure to stop at Sea Turtle Inc. , a facility on the Laguna Madre that aims to rescue, rehabilitate, and release injured sea turtles. They also protect sea turtle eggs and release hatchlings back into the wild.
Visiting the facility, you can see some of the turtles currently in rehab, as well as a few permanent residents that can't be released because of amputations and other disabilities.
Allison the turtle, who uses a prosthesis
Perhaps the most famous resident is Allison, who lost three of her four flippers to a predator attack in 2005 and spent years unable to do anything other than swim in circles. In 2009, though, an intern designed a prosthetic “rudder” for Allison, and she is the first sea turtle in the world to successfully use a prosthesis.
This is a great place for anyone – kid or adult – who is interested in learning more about sea turtles. It's one of the top South Padre Island attractions for a reason!
5. Look for birds on the boardwalk
Want to go on a nice walk that doesn't include sand? Head over to the Laguna Madre Nature Trail near the South Padre Island Convention Center.
This 1500-foot boardwalk criss-crosses marshland near the Laguna Madre, and is a great place to spot lots of different bird species. It's also an incredibly beautiful and peaceful place for a walk.
Boardwalk on the Laguna Madre Nature Trail
6. Cook your own catch
For the fishermen (and women) among you, South Padre Island offers up many opportunities to fish for trout and redfish in the Laguna Madre.
If you go out in the morning, you can bring your catch back, clean it, and then take the fish to a couple of different restaurants to get it cooked up for lunch.
The Grille at Jim's Pier
I didn't go fishing myself, but Craig from Stay Adventurous did and brought back a bunch of fish that we got cooked up at a new restaurant at Jim's Pier. It doesn't get much fresher!
Delicious fresh fish
You can book a bay fishing group tour like this one , or book a private fishing tour for your family or group.
Note: In order to go fishing, you'll need a valid Texas Saltwater Fishing License. You can get one online in advance from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
7. Take to the skies in a parasail
Parasailing is really fun, and just the right amount of adventure for many people. We went parasailing with Breakaway Cruises, which was a great way to see South Padre and the Laguna from above.
Check out the video here:
I did the tandem parasailing option, which I think is actually more fun than going solo since you can share the experience with a friend or loved one.
The views from up in the air are pretty amazing!
Look how much fun we're having!
>> Book your own parasailing adventure here . <<
8. Go on a dolphin-watching cruise
One of the most popular family-friendly activities on South Padre Island is going on a dolphin-watching cruise . The cool part is that you don't have to go far at all – there are hundreds of bottlenose dolphins that call the Laguna Madre home.
This also means that you're almost guaranteed to see some dolphins on your cruise, which makes it great value.
Bottlenose dolphin in the Laguna Madre
While out with Osprey Cruises, we also learned that the Laguna Madre is one of just six hypersaline (i.e. saltier than the ocean) lagoons in the world. What a fun fact!
>> Book your own dolphin eco-cruise here . <<
9. See the sun set at Pier 19
Looking for a good place to eat that's also a great sunset spot? Look no further than Pier 19, which is definitely both.
The quirky restaurant complex spreads out along the pier (I love it because no two sections look the same), and the actual pier portion at the end is a great spot for watching the sun set.
Inside Pier 19
I had the seafood pasta (delicious), and also tried the calamari and ceviche (also delicious).
10. Watch fireworks at Louie's Backyard
Lastly, if you're visiting South Padre during the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day), you can catch fireworks over the Laguna Madre every Thursday and Friday night at 9:15 p.m. at Louie's Backyard.
This restaurant/sports bar complex is the perfect place to have dinner and watch the fireworks. Louie's is known for its seafood buffet, and is also a popular spot for music and nightlife later in the evening.
Fireworks from Louie's Backyard
And look at that: not one mention of drinking or laying on the beach! There are even more things to do on South Padre, too, from taking a sandcastle-building class (yes, for real!) to renting a jet ski to shopping to of course just hanging out on the beach.
It's totally possible to plan a vacation to this little slice of Texas and never get bored.
Where to stay on South Padre Island
Looking for suggestions on where to stay on South Padre? Here are my top picks:

**7.** <https://oceansbeyondpiracy.org/15-things-to-do-in-south-padre-island-tx/>

15 Things To Do In South Padre Island, TX With Family & Friends
Email
South Padre Island is located on the Gulf of Mexico, at the southeastern-most tip of Texas.
Because the island is only half a mile wide, you can see beaches from nearly any vantage point on the island.
Texas is mainly known for its tough ranching exterior; South Padre Island has long distinguished itself by revolving around pure, unadulterated pleasure.
As the only tropical island in Texas, there’s no surprise that there are plenty of fun things to do in South Padre Island! Here are 15 things to do in South Padre Island .
15 things to do in South Padre Island
1. South Padre Island Birding And Nature Center
A view above the Bird Blinds at South Padre Island | Shutterstock
Rating: 4.5 ★
Location: 6801 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island.
The entry fees: $8 for adults, $7 for students (13-18) and seniors, $5 for children (4-12), and free for children under 4.
South Padre Birding and Nature Center is Rio Grande Valley’s best destination for birdwatching and a perfect place to observe butterflies and natural wildlife in coastal South Texas.
You can stroll down the boardwalks; take a birding tour, and revel in the nature center.
The center offers a five-story viewing tower and an auditorium showing short documentary movies.
Why you should go:
Experience the beautiful views of the Buff-bellied Hummingbirds , the Wood Stork, and countless singers. Many bird species reside in the center year-round, like White Ibis, Brown Pelicans, Great Egrets, Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, and many more.
Things to do:
The Birding and Nature Center is where the birds that call the Rio Grande Valley home for a few days on their migration north and south.
Meander alongside the 3,300+ feet of boardwalk, stopping alongside the way to read the informative signs and peer into the leaves, searching for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.
Surprisingly, the highlight of most visitors South Padre Island birding walk isn’t a bird at all.
It is the 12-foot alligator they spot soaking up the sun on the banks of the marshland.
2. Sea Life Center Dolphin Educational Boat Tours
This is Pip, he survived dragging fikshingline and hooks from 2weeks old on | Facebook
Rating: 4.3 ★
Location: 110 N Garcia St, Port Isabel.
The entry fees: $3 per person, which is used to help feed and care for the animals.
The family-friendly Center offers boat tours to see bottleneck dolphins, field trips, and a hands-on experience that lets guests become familiar with creatures they may have never met before, including fish, crabs, octopi, snails.
You can even touch a starfish.
Why you should go:
Education is fundamental to how the South Padre Island Dolphin Research & Sea life Nature Center introduces you to the bottlenose dolphins and different sea creatures.
Things to do:
Meet all the rescued sea creatures and animals and learn how to become eco-friendly.
For an extra fee (about $25 per person), you can hop on a boat for a 90-minute Dolphin Tour and observe the animals living in the Laguna Madre Bay .
Boat tours give an extraordinary insight into the lives of the dolphins in the wild and a visit to the nature center beside the Port Isabel Lighthouse (described below).
Also if you are big fan of dolphins so you can find best places to swim with dolphins in Florida , as summer is the best timing for such a thing.
3. Sea Turtle, Inc.
Little cute Sea Turtle at Sea Turtle, Inc. | Shutterstock
Rating: 4.7 ★
Location: 6617 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island.
The entry fees: $10 for adults; $6 for seniors; $ 4 for children 4 – 12 years, and free for children under 4.
At Sea Turtle, Inc., their mission is to rehabilitate, rescue, and release hurt sea turtles while educating the public and assisting with conservation efforts for all marine turtle species.
Why you should go:
Sea Turtle Inc. is the primary place in the world to rehab injured sea turtles.
The plight of sea turtles and their healing may tug at your heartstrings.
Sea Turtle, Inc. allows visitors like you to turn those feelings into motion with its rehabilitation center for rescued sea turtles, most generally the endangered Kemp’s Ridley species.
In addition to supporting patients’ recovery earlier than release, it offers a home for resident turtles that will never be placed again into the wild.
Things to do:
Sea Turtle Inc offers a very informative educational show that spreads awareness of how fragile marina life is and how people are sometimes careless.
The resident turtles are amazing to watch and read about their stories.
The entry fees and any souvenirs purchased in the gift shop go towards the care of these adorable residents.
A must-visit while in checking amazing things to do in South Padre Island! The place is Dog friendly, and the staff is very welcoming and helpful; they also treat the turtles with so much care and love.
4. Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site
By www.thc.texas.gov
Rating: 4.5 ★
Location: 421 E Queen Isabella Blvd, Port Isabel.
The entry fees: $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, and $3 for children 4 – 12 yrs.
If you need a break from the beach or are interested in learning more about the area, consider planning visits to the Museums of Port Isabel.
Take your pick between three popular historical sites: the Port Isabel Lighthouse , the Port Isabel Historical Museum, and Treasures of the Gulf Museum .
You can visit each individually or for special admission price allows access to all three sites and are within walking distance of each other.
The lighthouse was constructed in 1852 to help guide ships through Brazos Santiago Pass.
Now it’s the only one in the area that’s open to the public – visitors are also invited to explore the ground’s keeper’s cottage.
Why you should go:
Today, the lighthouse symbolizes hope and is undoubtedly considered among South Padre Island’s rich maritime history.
This ancient state site is the only lighthouse in Texas open to the public, alongside its museum and reconstructed lighthouse keeper’s cottage underneath the tower.
Things to do:
Port Isabel Lighthouse is a popular site for visitors and photographers.
If you climb the Lighthouses’ 75 winding stairs and three short ladders, you will have exceptional views of South Padre Island and its beaches.
5. Port Isabel Historical Museum
It was great visiting the Port Isabel Event and Cultural Center today with the Dec. 9 U.S.-Mexico War of 1846-1848 Conference Planning Committee. Check out next door the Port Isabel Historical Museum | By Salomon Torres | Facebook
Rating: 4.5 ★
Location: 317 E Railroad Ave, Port Isabel.
The entry fees: $4 for adults, $3 for seniors. $2 for students and free for children under 5.
Port Isabel Historical Museum is an elaborate facility built as a dry goods store and residence in 1899; it now houses two exhibit levels, a theater, and a gift shop.
Why you should go:
Port Isabel Historical Museum is home to one of the most significant Mexican artifacts from the U.S.-Mexican War.
The façade features the famous fish mural painted in 1906 by a local fisherman.
Things to do:
Suppose you are interested in knowing more about the fun things to do in South Padre Island’s history; you should consider visiting this historical museum to check out its incredible exhibits and buy some souvenirs from its gift shop.
6. Treasures of the Gulf Museum
By Foursquare.com
Rating: 4.5 ★
Location: 317 E Railroad Ave, Port Isabel
The entry fees: $4 for adults, $3 for seniors. $2 for students and free for children under 5.
Treasures of the Gulf Museum highlights the story of three 1554 Spanish shipwrecks .
Meeting their destiny just 30 miles north of Port Isabel, the shipwrecks are introduced to life with murals, artifacts, and hands-on activities are used to explain this fascinating event.
Why you should go:
Next door to the South Padre Historical Museum, this museum examines the three Spanish fleets shipwrecked in 1554.
Wreck artifacts range from silver coins to ship cannons.
The museum explains nautical advances and recounts the interaction between explorers and Native Americans.
Things to do:
The Treasures of the Gulf Museum is a must-see if you’re traveling with kids.
Here they can learn all about what life was like aboard a 16th-century ship and get a good look at some of the treasure found beneath the waters of the Gulf.
7. Laguna Madre Nature Trail
Is this a Western Sandpiper? Laguna Madre Nature Trail | By Peter Hinow | Facebook
Rating: 4.6 ★
Location: 7355 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island.
According to many visitors over various years, the best way to experience South Padre’s wildlife is to stroll along the Laguna Madre Nature Trail .
This boardwalk runs from the South Padre Island Convention Centre out to the Laguna Madre wetlands.
Why you should go:
The Laguna Madre Nature Trail is a 1.1 miles loop trail on a 1,500-foot boardwalk that crosses 4 acres of marshland.
It offers scenic schenes of the lagoon and is also used for nature walks and birding.
Bird watchers can view many coastal, migratory birds and many others attracted to the berries on the bushes alongside the trail.
More than 300 species of birds pass through the South Padre Island region throughout the year.
Things to do:
A stroll on the Laguna Madre Natural Trail is one of the best ways to experience South Padre Island’s pristine and natural wetlands.
The access to the trail is complimentary and open 24 hours a day.
8. Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier
By padreislandbeach.com
Location: 501 E Maxan St, Port Isabel.
The Queen Isabella Fishing Pier is a famous spot for fishing from the island.
The pier is the original causeway that linked South Padre Island to the mainland before a new bridge was built withinside the 1970s.
Why you should go:
The central part of the original causeway was removed, and the causeway on South Padre Island became the Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier .
It has become part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which became a fishing pier where anglers can trap sand trout, speckled trout, croaker, sheepshead, and different fish.
Things to do:
You can stroll alongside the pier, watch the fishermen, or attempt to catch your fish.
There is a small tackle shop at the dock in which you can rent tools and buy bait.
The pier is free to stroll alongside; however, you have to pay a small fee if you are fishing.
9. Isla Blanca Park
By myrgv.com at Isla Blanca Park
Rating: 4.4 ★
Location: 33174 State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island.
The entry fees: $6 for adults, $5 for students, and $3 for children.
If you are planning to try out some maritime activities, rentals will cost extra.
Isla Blanca Park is located at the southernmost tip of South Padre Island and is the crown jewel of the park’s system.
Within the park, there’s over a mile of pristine seashore alongside the Gulf of Mexico.
Also inside the park are many recreation activities available for a wide variety of outdoor activities.
Why you should go:
There are massive beachfront pavilions, a strolling trail, surf fishing, fishing jetties, cabana rentals, a water park, a boat ramp, restrooms/shower facilities, and shaded picnic areas.
And you don’t need to bring your meals as there are onsite restaurants.
Things to do:
Isla Blanca Park is a beachfront park like no other, along the Gulf of Mexico seashore; Isla Blanca is a park the likes of which you will never see anywhere else in Texas.
The park has an equipment rental for diverse activities (e.g., diving, snorkeling, jet skis, parasailing, etc.).
Visitors also can go to the El Cristo de Los Pescadores memorial, which translates to “Christ of the Fishermen,” placed on the Isla Blanca Park.
Around the bottom of the statue of Jesus is an inscription that reads, “Father! Receive the souls of those courageous fishermen who have sailed through this pass and by no means returned.”
10. South Padre Island Sandcastle Trail
Our newest sculptor – Rebecca Ramos at work, By Sandcastle Island, Inc. | Facebook
Rating: 4.5 ★
Location: 310 Padre Blvd.
If you did not know, South Padre Island is the unofficial sandcastle capital of the world; the South Padre Island Sand Sculpture Trail is the only one of its kind, a series of semi-permanent outdoor sand sculptures that have been available for viewing by the public for over two years.
Why you should go:
South Padre Island, Texas, is one of the infrequent locations in the United States where you can learn how to make a magnificent sandcastle.
The dazzling beaches of South Padre Island have numerous professional sand sculptors who have decided to help people have more fun at the beach by offering classes in the sandcastle building.
Things to do:
Follow the self-guided hike alongside the South Padre Island Sandcastle Trail of 30 castles sculpted by expert sand artists, a few local, and some from around the world to the giant outdoor sandcastle withinside the United States besides the Tourist Information Center.
Inspired by this monument of sand, you may be ready to join up to become a sandcastle expert. Head over to Sandcastle Lessons, in which you can learn and apprentice with a master.
By the time you are a graduate, you may have a castle to name your own.
11. South Padre Island Adventure Park
South Padre Island Adventure Park | Facebook
Rating: 4.6 ★
Location: 21040 North State Park Rd 100, South Padre Island.
If your idea of leisure is active, You will want to go to South Padre Island Adventure Park , where the amusement begins. On 40 acres with access to the seashore, the Island Adventure Park is an everlasting home for rescue animals and tourists searching for an amusing adventure.
Why you should go:
For one price, you could ride horseback on the seashore in an ocean wilderness for an hour, zipline non-stop for 45 minutes, and hang out at the petting zoo.
The same family-owned organization operates the Island Fun Park in town, where you could drive a go-kart or play a round of mini-golf.
Things to do:
Ride horses or enjoy the Zip-lines and the petting barn.
Take a hayride at the seashore, swim in the ocean, then end the day at the seashore with a Hawaiian luau menu and a bonfire.
12. Gravity Park
Location: 106 W Marlin St, South Padre Island.
The entry fees: Entrance is entirely free; rides are priced a la carte.
When you get enough of sand, sun, and swimming, head to South Padre Island’s Gravity Park .
Gravity Park is a local amusement park with a variety of fun sights for the entire family, located only a few steps from the beach in the heart of South Padre Island.
Why you should go:
Look no further than Gravity Park for outdoor leisure. While mini-golfing and the arcade are amusing, take control of a go-kart to pick up the pace.
Ride the 60-foot Ferris wheel, or you can get into the swing of things on the Skycoaster.
Things to do:
Their reverse-bungee known as the Rocket is considered the tallest withinside the world.
A roller coaster is also known as the Skycoaster that will show you the island’s exceptional views.
There are go-carts for adults and kids, mini-golfing, an arcade, a trampoline, and a hiking wall.
13. Wyland Whaling Wall
Rating: 4 ★
Location: 7355 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island.
The spectacular, gigantic, life-size paintings of orca whales on South Padre Island Convention Center are part of Wyland’s Walls’ worldwide campaign, organized by the renowned painter Wyland and the Wyland Foundation.
Wyland had the goal of completing 100 life-size marine murals in public places worldwide to raise awareness of the dangers these marine mammals face.
After 27, they achieved their goal in 2008.
Why you should go:
The title of Wyland’s Whaling Wall #53 at South Padre Island is “Orcas off the Gulf of Mexico’. The murals are intended to encourage greater understanding of and appreciation for aquatic habitats and aquatic life.
These life-size artworks are supposed to change people’s attitudes about marine conservation worldwide.
Things to do:
The Wyland Whaling Wall is neat to drive by, through the parking lot of the convention center, try to get out and take a picture with it.
The wall fits the motif and vibes of South Padre Island; it definitely should be one of the things to see while visiting the Island!
14. Southern Wave Sailing Charters
Nothing like a South Padre sunset | Facebook
Rating: 4.7 ★
Location: 205 W Palm St, South Padre Island.
The entry fees: $63 for in-site ticket purchases, $59 for adults, and $49 for children (4-10 yrs) when tickets are purchased online.
A visit to South Padre Island or the Rio Grande Valley would not be whole without a cruise on The Southern Wave.
The Southern Wave is a large, stable, and comfortable cruising Catamaran ideal for a leisurely day’s sail, a thrilling afternoon of dolphin watching, or experiences a night watching the breathtaking South Padre Island sunset over the water.
It’s the ideal way to spend your day and to start your evening.
Why you should go:
While on The Southern Wave Cruise, you can swim in the warm waters and sun yourself on one of their spacious trampolines, or feel free to relax on the covered and comfortable sundeck.
Things to do:
Since the sunsets on South Padre Island are breathtaking, book the Original Sunset Dinner Cruise or the Moonlight Dinner Cruise for two hours of relaxing cruising along the bayfront with delicious food, water, and Sunset views.
Note: Don’t miss up our suggestions of top Caribbean cruises deals , updated content.
The chef grills an all-you-can-eat beef and chicken fajita dinner with the trimmings, picnic-style, jumbo grilled shrimp as an appetizer, grilled fish, fresh fruit, and all you can drink bottled water and sodas.
The musicians will keep you entertained with fabulous music.
15. Skydive South Padre Island
Taken By skydivingsource.com
Location: 2812 Padre Blvd suite a, South Padre Island
The entry fees: $220 per person and an additional $99 for video.
There is probably no more tremendous adrenaline rush than jumping from a perfect airplane flying at 11,000 feet.
The South Padre Island and the ocean’s views are undoubtedly spectacular.
Why you should go:
At 5,500 feet, your parachute will open, and you cruise for approximately seven minutes over the island.
You can look out on the ocean and experience a feeling of overall exhilaration as you absorb the sights you cannot get in another way; you will have plenty of time to appreciate the island’s views and capture your new social media profile photo.
Video is also available and highly recommended. Your skydive can be charged on an edited video together with 30-60 digital images.
Things to do:
This is a must-do for all thrill-seekers and adrenaline enthusiasts or every person who desires the best views of South Padre Island.
Here’s your chance to peer the whole coastline blur into the horizon as you bounce out of an airplane at 11,000 feet.
As you are heading to Texas we suggest you to check things to do in McKinney we believe you will find it fun.

**8.** <https://travel.usnews.com/South_Padre_Island_TX/Things_To_Do/>

**9.** <https://www.hotels.com/go/usa/best-things-to-do-south-padre-island>

We have no data for this page, because it isn't accessible for our crawler.

**10.** <https://www.crazyfamilyadventure.com/things-to-do-in-south-padre-island-texas/>

23+ Fun Things To Do In South Padre Island, Texas
January 3, 2023
by Bryanna
We planned to come to South Padre Island for 3 weeks and ended up coming back and staying for over 3 months! There are so many fun things to do in South Padre Island from amazing beaches and surfing, a fun nightlife, attractions for the whole family and an awesome vibe. When you come you won’t want to leave!
Below we share our list of the top things to do when you visit South Padre Island, Texas. Along with where to eat and where to stay!
Table of Contents
Logistics
Go Surfing!!
South Padre Island is the perfect place to learn how to surf. The waves aren’t too crazy (most days) and there are awesome surf instructors on the island! Our kids took lessons from SPI Sessions and they can legit surf now.
The instructor were great with the kids and adults and teach you all the basics so you can get out on your own. If you are here for a week you can also rent boards to use throughout your stay.
I would recommend doing a private or semi-private (2-3 people in the group) for the first 2 lessons. After that you could opt for more group lessons since it becomes more about practicing and working on consistently getting up on the board.
With SPI Sessions they provided wetsuits (for all ages) and boards. They had a variety of boards from bigger boards – way easier to surf on – to smaller boards once they kids learned more what they were doing.
When you come to SPI surfing is a must! Be sure to add it to your list of fun activities to do in SPI ! Check out the SPI Sessions website for more info!
Also be sure to check out their site for their summer camps, science classes, skateboarding classes and more!
Tips:
Bring water for your kids – even though they are in the water they will get thirsty!
If it is hot try to schedule in the morning or later in the day.
Be prepared for your kids to love it and want to do it more than once!
Bring a towel and rinse off at the showers by the beach when you are done.
Rent a Catamaran
5 families rented a catamaran with a captain for 2 hours and we went out in the Bay. It was so much fun! Since there is a captain you don’t have to worry about knowing how to work the boat and instead can bring your own drinks and food and just enjoy being on the water.
They have speakers on board and play music for you and even stopped (per our request) so the kids could get out and swim in the middle of the bay!
When we got back everyone said they couldn’t wait to do it again! They also have the option of doing a sunset cruise or on any cruise you can pay extra to have a bartender and/or food on the boat.
Check their site for prices. They are really reasonable.
You also load and unload at Longboards so plan to stay for dinner there when you get back!
Tips:
Weather can be crazy in SPI so if possible check the weather first and have a backup day if the weather starts to look bad.
Bring your own cooler filled with drinks – so much cheaper and you can be sure to have what you want!
Pack snacks too – there is a great place to lounge around and eat snacks while you are cruising on the bay.
Sand Castle Building
We did a sand castle building class with my Mom, sister and her kids, me and my kids and 2 of the kids friends. Andy the instructor taught us all how to build the base and then showed us all the awesome tools to use to create an unbelievable looking sand castle.
Seriously I never would have thought we could build something like this! The session lasted for 3 hours and by the end we had an beautiful sand castle – with an arch – that my Mom requested.
Granted the kids only lasted about 90 minutes and after that came and went with helping. But that was fine with us. They played around with the tools and built some of their own things. Ran and played in the ocean. And headed up to one of the beach hotel restaurants to grab some kiddie cocktails.
All in all it was a great time and since then my Mom and the kids have built their own sand castles out on the beach. When you leave the class you do get all of the hand tools and you can either buy a bucket from them or head to Sutherlands in Port Isabel to pick up some buckets and create your own creations!
Learn more on their site: Sand Castle Lessons.
Tips:
Bring a hat and a t-shirt – you are out in the sun for a long time doing this.
Bring water and snacks with you.
Assume your kids may want to go in the water so maybe have them wear their suits there.
There is a beach restaurant right behind where he holds the session so bring money for that.
Paddle Boarding
We also did a few Paddle Boarding sessions with SPI Sessions and they were amazing! Our kids went and did a 3+ mile paddle in the bay (starting at the KOA boat launch and going right for 3 miles along the coast) and they loved it.
Next up they crossed from the Isla Blanca Campground over to Boca Chica beach. That was a workout but quite an experience for them. They packed a lunch and head snacks over on Boca Chica beach before heading back.
Our 3rd trip included the kids and adults where we went out on the bay to do a sunset paddle. It was epic as we watched the sun melt into the ocean while out on our paddle boards.
It is so great that South Padre Island has the ocean – with crazy waves that are fun to play in. Plus the bay side where the water is calmer and you can do boating, paddleboarding and jetskiing.
Tips:
Watch the weather. Our paddle boarding experiences were always better when the water in the Bay was super calm.
Be aware of the currents. A strong current could it make it a much harder trip!
Sea Turtle Hospital
The Sea Turtle hospital is doing a lot of great things in South Padre Island! You can go to the hospital to check out the sea turtles they are currently rehabilitating or see their in house residence who were injured and can never go back out in the wild.
Definitely a must for anyone that loves turtles!
Tips:
You could include this with multiple other things like the Birding Center.
Dolphin Watch
If you are looking to get out on the water again the Dolphin Watch is a great way to do that. The tickets are really reasonable and you get to go out on a boat. Plus they pull in a catch from their net where they show you all sorts of sea creatures that they pulled up from the sand under the boat.
It adds an educational element as well and teaches the kids about sea life in the area!
Learn more at their site: The Original Dolphin Watch.
Tips:
You are on a boat for a couple hours – kids can get restless.
We always brought suckers and snacks with when our kids were little to help them sit still for a stretch.
Horse Back Riding
If horse back riding on the beach is on your bucket list you won’t want to miss this! They also offer sunset horseback riding.
Kids as young as 5 were able to go out on their own horse too – always check with them to confirm this before you go.
Learn more here: South Padre Island Adventures
South Padre Island Birding Center
Birding is a thing in South Padre since so many migrating birds stop in South Padre for a break before moving on!
It was really crazy the random birds we would see for a day or 2 and then they were gone.
The Birding center has a nice educational area, along with talks and a chance to hold an alligator or a snake!
Once done there you can walk the boardwalk trails through the birding area and try to spot as many birds as you can. Since these are wild birds it can be hit or miss on how many birds you see. If you are looking for a particular time I would research and see when they are migrating through the area.
Tips:
The walk on the trail is all outside in the sun. Bring a hat and water.
Laguna Madre Nature Trail
This is a short free trail that you can do from the convention center. It is a similar trail that you walk on at the birding center just shorten and you don’t have to pay for it.
It is also a great spot to look for birds.
Tips:
I would combine this with the Turtle Hospital and the Birding Center.
Beach Park at Isla Blanca
Beach Park is an outdoor water park and top water park to visit in Texas ! At the time we were there it was not open so I did not get a chance to check it out. Our friends did and they said it was small but fun.
They also said the Lazy River is the best one they have been in!
The waterpark is only open Memorial Day to Labor Day.
If you love water parks be sure to check out our post: Top 7 Amazing Indoor Water Park Texas You’ll Want To Check Out!
Port Isabel Lighthouse
This is a historic lighthouse. It was also closed when we were there. I am hoping when we go back we can explore the lighthouse!
Jet Skiing
If you have a need for speed you can look to rent jet skis and head out on the bay! We saw people doing it on the ocean side . . . but I wouldn’t recommend it. There are a lot of kite surfers and surfers out there and it isn’t a good combination . . .
Sea Turtle/Sand Castle Trail
Looking to spend the day exploring the island? Make sure to stop in the visitors center to grab a map of the sea turtle and sand castle trail! There are a ton of sea turtles to check out. Each one is named with a barcode you can scan to learn more about them. There are a also a ton of sand castles. Just be prepared that some do get ruined by people or the weather. But keep looking you will find some good ones!
Tip:
Rent a golf cart and drive around the island finding all of the sea turtles and sand castles! It makes for a fun day out.
SpaceX
If you can time your visit when there is a launch do it! Unfortunately this is easier said then done since launches get canceled or moved all the time. But if possible you want to see one!
You are literally just 5 miles from the launch pad and can see it take off and land. You can feel the vibrations and hear them shortly after. I am telling you it is an experience!
Also if you want to take the 60 minute drive you can get about 100 yards from the rocket. Be sure to check launch dates and road closures – since there are times you can’t get over there. How cool is that?!
Tip:
If you REALLY want to see a launch make sure you have the ability to stay for 1-2 months. The launches are so unpredictable.
Also know it will take over your day. They will say they are launching at 8am but at 7:30 will push it back by an hour and keep doing that all day long. And may not even launch.
Also note the park gets crazy busy! This is not a day to leave to go grocery shopping or to do laundry since you may not get back into the park in time!
We also noticed on days when the launch had a high chance of happening there were a ton of people at the park. This was always an indicator to us that it really might happen that day!
Beach Day
Make sure to set aside multiple beach days in South Padre to each these Texas beaches on the Gulf of Mexico. The surf is fun for the kids to play in (keep an eye on the flags and rip currents). Plus the beach area is large so plenty of room for football games and sand castle building.
We prefer the Isla Blanca County Park beach (listed as one of the best beaches for families in Texas! ). You do have to pay for entry but the beach is nice and there is a pavilion with shade and bathrooms. It is also pet friendly if you want to bring your dog with.
Tip:
We noticed that the north pavilion beach area at Isla blanca beach was normally less busy compared to the south pavilion (one closes to Boca Chica and the Jetty).
Kite Surfing
We took the first lesson with Kite Surfing with SPI Sessions – which meant we didn’t even get in the water. But the kids loved it!! If you are going to be in SPI for a week and want to learn to Kite Surf this is the place to do it.
We had heard that the Bay is the best place in the country to learn Kite Surfing!
You can contact SPI Sessions to find out about their kite surfing lessons.
Farmers Market
South Padre has a really nice farmers market. It isn’t huge but it is definitely worth a stop for some yummy kettle corn and the family cilantro sauce! Plus there are multiple other unique shops and multiple fruit and veggie stands.
Bike Trail
Go on a twisty, turny bike trail! For some reason up the island they made this wacky bike trail that could have gone in a straight line but it doesn’t. Instead it is all curvy!
Fishing Charter
If you are looking to get out and go fishing there are plenty of options on the island. You can do deep sea fishing or stay closer in the bay.
If you don’t want to go out on a boat you can just fish from the Jetty at Isla Blanca County Park. Just be sure to have your Texas fishing license.
Fireworks at Claytons
Claytons does free fireworks on Friday and Saturday night! It can be windy in South Padre so just keep checking their Facebook page. But if they can they will light them off! They are super close and you can watch right from the beach. It was quite the show!
Rent a Golf Cart
It is a thing on South Padre Island to rent a golf cart and take it around the island. We did it one day and it was fun! Be aware you are also on the road with cars that are going 35-40 miles per hour . . .
If you want to rent a golf cart be sure to talk to the rental place to see if you can get a deal. There are so many rental places on the island!
Gravity Park
Gravity park has a variety of things to do!
Go Carts
Head over to Gravity Park to go go carting! It is a multi level wooden track. Kids can drive their own if they are the right height. Or else they can go with an adult in the double cars. It can get busy so get here right when they open!
Ferris Wheel
Take a ride on the ferris wheel! I never went up but my kids did and they loved it. You have to buy tickets at the ticket booth and head over to get in line to get on the ferris wheel. It can also get busy – especially on the weekends.
Mini Golf
If you enjoy mini golf check out the course. It isn’t anything special but it was fun. You also have to buy tickets for this at the same ticket booth as the go carts and ferris wheel.
Tip for Gravity Park:
Plan ahead what you want to do so when you get there you can buy all your tickets at the booth.
There can be a long line so we recommend getting here about 15 minutes before they open.
Check out their site for more info: Gravity Park.
Where To Eat
There are a ton of options of places to eat on the Island. We always opted for places that had a nice view and were outside on the water. Below we list our favorites.
Mahi Nicks
This was one of our favorite restaurants to eat at. They had these huge burgers called the Big Chief that are kids loved – they are huge but our 13 year old could eat the whole thing.
They also had really good fish tacos. Plus they make their fries from potatoes everyday so they are huge and fresh.
We also really liked the owners – they were always so welcoming!
Tequila Sunset
The food here was OK but the setting and the ambiance was great! You are right on the bay and the sunsets were amazing. Plus they had live music like every night. It was always one of our favorite places to go out for the night.
Long Boards
Similar to Tequila Sunset where you can sit on the Bay and have a gorgeous view of the sunset. They also have a big dance floor and have live music everyday as well.
Louie’s Backyard
A huge restaurant area with a dance club upstairs. They also had buffet specials and a regular menu. Also along the bay with awesome views and an amazing sunset.
Bar Louie
This one is on the ocean side. They have a nice indoor seated restaurant with a unique menu or an outdoor bar seating area with live music and a smaller menu. There is also a volleyball court on the beach.
Claytons
What we called the Spring Break restaurant! Also right on the beach. A fun scene plus they do fireworks – nightly in the summer (assuming it isn’t too windy).
Pier 19
\*\*Note – sadly Pier 19 burned down – I am not sure what their plans are for rebuilding\*\*
Pier 19 is known for its Breakfast! Unfortunately we didn’t get there early enough for breakfast – we are late risers! But we heard from others that did and they said it was great!
Where To Stay:
RV – Isla Blanca County Park
We stayed at the Isla Blanca County RV Park and we loved it! The campground is a little bit run down and a little bit odd how they have the sites setup. BUT you are right on the beach. And Isla Blanca park is a great place to hang out!
The monthly cost to stay is so reasonable and we loved that we could walk to the beach everyday plus see the SpaceX rocket launches!
This has become one of our favorite campgrounds.
There is also a KOA up the road – but we would always recommend the county park!
Be aware that checkin takes forever. And their systems are pretty old school. But once you have a site and you are in it is great!
Learn more at their site.
Hotel
One night we rented a room at the Isla Grand Beach Resort hotel spent a day at the pool. It was a fun getaway and we really liked the location!
They have multiple restaurants and snack bars. The kids loved getting a kiddie cocktail and sipping it pool side.
We also heard the Hilton Garden Inn is nice – but we have not been. Check out this post about South Padre Island hotels for more ideas!
Vacation Rental
Check out this gorgeous and big vacation rental: Zula Siesta ! The location is great plus the house is gorgeous and check out the private pool and hot tub!
Zula Del Mar – this one sleeps 22 and is a 2 minute walk to the beach. Check out the pool and hot tub!
We also have a whole post on the: 15 Best VRBO South Padre Island Vacation Rentals!
Logistics
There is a grocery store on the island. It is well stocked but can be expensive. Across the bridge there is a Walmart and a larger grocery store.
There are gas stations on the island.
There are also fast food restaurants on the island.
They have a TON of souvenir shops if you are looking to pick up a t-shirt.
The bridge can get really backed up on weekends with cars coming and going so plan accordingly!
We loved the vibe of South Padre Island and how relaxed it was – it isn’t always easy to find a vibe like this in the United States. Be aware the weather can be really windy and stormy. But that is usually followed with beautiful weather. Be sure to catch multiple sunsets over the bay and set yourself up for a nice and relaxing trip to the island!
Looking for more things to do in Texas? Check out this great post on the best Texas State Parks ! Or check out Corpus Christi !
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