

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX



ABOUT THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Corpus Christi, TX is a major deep-water port and one of Texas' most popular seacoast playground cities. The city began as a frontier trading post in 1839. Its population today is approximately 275,000. The city features a seawall, with steps to the water, that was built in the late 1930s as part of a major landfill that created Shoreline Boulevard and the popular "T" head docks for pleasure boats. Corpus Christi's Water Garden at Bayfront Arts and Science Park sparkles for visitors who see, hear, and touch the garden's water. Some 150 fountains form the nucleus of the park, which is lighted at night.

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM:

Enter through a cascade of water above a glass-enclosed tunnel. See close-up views of the wonders of the Gulf of Mexico, the "Wonderful World of Sherman's Lagoon," a variety of water turtles, river otters and the only albino alligator in captivity. Observe dive shows, feeding demonstrations and have a "hands-on" experience with sharks and stingrays.



CORPUS CHRISTI BOTANICAL GARDENS:

This is a 180-acre site along the Oso Creek and features Orchid House, Exhibit House, exotic Plumeria collection, a sensory garden, shaded butterfly and bird trail, a wetlands trail, and Palapa Grande on Gator Lake. It contains more than 2500 orchids, 70 brilliantly colored hibiscus, 300 breathtaking roses and much more.



CORPUS CHRISTI GREYHOUND RACE TRACK:



There is year-round racing here on a 60-acre facility, as well as simulcast races from other tracks. Visitors can see greyhounds in their handling pens in 18 on-premises kennels.

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE:

110 mile-long Padre Island offers one of the last natural seashores in the nation. Each end of the narrow sand island is developed with parks and resorts, but in between lies the 80-mile stretch of unblemished seashore. It is the largest undeveloped barrier island in the continental United States. Beachcombers may collect seashells, driftwood, and many other interesting items washed ashore by the tides.



U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION:



Located on the peninsula at the southeastern edge of the city, this is the home of the U.S. Navy's Air Training Command. Headquartered here are five training air wings, 16 training squadrons, over 14,000 Navy and civilian personnel, the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Naval Aviation Schools Command and the National Museum of Naval Aviation.

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USS LEXINGTON MUSEUM:

The USS Lexington was commissioned in 1943 and served longer and set more records than any carrier in Navy. During WWII she saw action from Tarawa to Tokyo and was the first U.S. carrier to enter Tokyo Bay after the treaty was signed with Japan in 1945. This floating naval museum features tours of the hangar deck, foc'sle, commanding officer/admiral quarters, sick bay, galley, flight deck, bridge, and much more. This is one of the top ten attractions in the state.



CAPTAIN CLARK'S SIGHT-SEEING TOUR:

Captain Clark's Flagship is a 400 passenger paddlewheeler in the downtown Corpus Christi marina. Since 1982 it has been one of the most popular attractions in Corpus Christi. The narrated sight-seeing cruise on Corpus Christi Bay takes you along the downtown bay front, passing the USS Lexington aircraft carrier and the Texas State Aquarium into the Port of Corpus Christi, the fifth largest port in American.



KING RANCH:

Founded in 1853 by Capt. Richard King, this 825,000 acre ranch is larger than the state of Rhode Island. It is one of the largest working ranches in the world, but is more than just a cattle ranch today. King's Ranch has diversified and grown into a major agribusiness corporation. A tour of the ranch will include a guide from the ranch and lunch served in the Cowboy Camphouse.



POINTS OF INTEREST IN CORPUS CHRISTI



Corpus Christi Marina— Called the "T-heads" by locals, this scenic bayfront area is bustling with activity—private yachts, water sport rentals and waterside restaurants. Buy fresh shrimp right off the shrimp boats and don't miss the colorful sailboat regatta every Wednesday evening.

Downtown Seawall— Impressive waterfront wall and promenade. Striking Miradores del Mar provide visitors with shady rest spots along the way. The special Mirador del Flor includes a pavilion and statue dedicated to the late Tejano singing star Selena.

Harbor Bridge— The second tallest bridge in Texas spans the port and connects Corpus Christi Beach to the downtown area.

Ocean Drive— A seven-mile scenic waterfront drive lined with stately homes, parks and walking paths.

The Watergarden— A scenic rest area with dancing fountains on the grounds of the Bayfront Convention Center.

CORPUS CHRISTI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY:

A treasure house of collections that preserve the natural and cultural history of the area. On display are artifacts, pictures, documents, weapons and memorabilia the colorful past of South Texas. View the treasures of the world famous 1554 Spanish Shipwreck and the spectacular Smithsonian Institution exhibit "Seeds of Change." Discover the elegance of the "Gallery of Cultural Encounters" featuring an authentic 16th Century carved dome ceiling, originally from Castile, Spain. You can also take a tour of the replicas of the Spanish ships the Santa Maria and the Pinta on the Ship's Plaza.

