

GET TO KNOW



CORPUS CHRISTI

OUTDOOR GUIDE



CURATED GUIDE TO THE COAST

Discover the beauty of the coast through unique outdoor activities.



OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Spend time in nature with various parks, trails, and coastal camping spots.

Welcome to Corpus Christi, where the great outdoors beckons with abundant sunshine, miles of sandy shores, nature trails, and more. With so many adventures to choose from, connecting with nature is a breeze, whether you're a seasoned adventurer or nature enthusiast. Read on for more information on camping, nature trails, beaches, and other great activities here on the coast.





CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to all the contributors who made this outdoor field guide possible. Your collaboration has transformed this project into a valuable resource for all who share a passion for nature.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kathryn Hyatt

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Danielle Galindo

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Kylie Marchitello

Hannah Ryan

COPYWRITER

Jacqueline Gonzalez

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

Savannah Garza

PHOTO CONTRIBUTORS

@thebluecar2.0 @garrett_hughes

@glowrowllc @downtowncorpuschristi

@blueshorepedallounge @maryrylander

@jasonheritage @misskellyblack

@chadmotology @the.scenicdetour

@rollintideboilco @loveshacktikihut

@cityofcc @txsurfcamp @goddessnoble

Texas Parks & Wildlife @verronukka_



TABLE OF CONTENTS

7

NATURE LOVER

Outdoor hotspots in the Gulf Coast Capital.

8

SERENITY SEEKER

Relax and unwind on your coastal getaway.

10

SOCIAL URBANITE

Dive into Corpus Christi's social scene.

12

FEARLESS ADVENTURER

Discover bold coastal outdoor adventures.

15

OUTDOOR MAP

Explore your guide to the outdoors.

17

CAMPING ESCAPADES

Experience beachfront camping under the wide open sky and spacious coastlines.

19

PARKS & TRAILS

Take a scenic journey through outdoor wonders on the coast.

21

BEACH ACTIVITIES

Enhance your beach experience with unparalleled coastal activities.

23

ANNUAL OUTDOOR EVENTS

Enjoy sunny weather and exhilarating competitions on the coast.

NATURE LOVER

EMBRACE THE NATURAL WONDERS OF THE GULF COAST CAPITAL

For nature lovers, Corpus Christi unfolds as a breathtaking canvas painted with the hues of clear skies, sunny beaches, and lush landscapes. This coastal paradise beckons with a rich tapestry of ecosystems to explore, making every moment a memorable experience in nature.

If you're downtown, visit **Cole Park** and take a scenic walk with bay views, then head down to **Cole Park Pier** for a great spot to enjoy fishing or bird watching. For more stunning views, head down **Corpus Christi Bay Trail** for 8 miles of diverse natural habitat and wildlife.

Then, on the Southside, you can enjoy 4 miles of scenic trails at **Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve** and 1.25 miles of trails at **Schanen Hike and Bike Trail**.





Known as the “Birdiest City in America,” you can’t explore nature in Corpus Christi without a little birdwatching. Grab a pair of binoculars and stop by **Hazel Bazemore Park** for a great view from the Hawk Watch Platform or explore an iconic haven for birdwatching at **Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge**.



**PADRE ISLAND
NATIONAL SEASHORE**



**BOTANICAL GARDENS
& NATURE CENTER**



Other locations to explore are **Bird Island Basin** at **Padre Island National Seashore**, where you can also enjoy the beach, and **South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center** where natural wetlands, native habitat, reptiles, exotic parrots, and more await.

SERENITY SEEKER

RELAX AND UNWIND IN BLISS ON YOUR BEACHSIDE COASTAL GETAWAY

With its laid-back atmosphere, beautiful beaches, and sunny weather, Corpus Christi is a great spot for a slow, relaxing getaway.

BEST PLACES TO CATCH A SUNRISE/SUNSET



SUNSET ISLAND AT MARKER 37

13312 S Padre Island Dr.

HARRISON'S LANDING

108 Peoples St. T-Head

DOWNTOWN SEAWALL

1590 N. Shoreline Blvd.

BEACHES

Padre Balli Park

J.P. Luby/North Packery Beach

Whitecap Beach

Mustand Island State Park

Padre Island National Seashore

North Beach

McGee Beach

Enjoy a relaxing moment in **Downtown Corpus Christi** with a stroll along the seawall, where you can enjoy the Gulf breeze while watching sailboat races, or head down to the People's Street T-Head and hop aboard the **Texas Tease**, a 74 foot party boat, for a cruise around the **Corpus Christi Bay**.



CORPUS CHRISTI BAY





Your relaxing getaway would be incomplete without a visit to the beach. With **over 100 miles of sandy shores**, you can drive up and park effortlessly, claim your spot, and spread out on the plush sand. Whether you seek a tranquil retreat or an adventurous day by the sea, our **9 beautiful beaches** offer endless possibilities.

Experience the magic of the night sky while stargazing at the **Night Sky Observatory** at **Padre Island National Seashore**. The best backdrops are created on the darkest nights with clear skies or once the sun has set below the horizon. Coupled with the gulf breeze and the sounds of the waves hitting the shoreline, it can be quite the relaxing experience.



**PADRE ISLAND
NATIONAL SEASHORE**



SOCIAL URBANITE

NAVIGATING CORPUS CHRISTI'S VIBRANT SOCIAL SCENE

Corpus Christi is a canvas of adventure, blending modern amenities with the laid-back coastal lifestyle that defines the Gulf Coast Capital.



For a unique shopping moment, find local goods at the **Farmer's Markets** held throughout the city. Operating on different days, each one delivers a unique atmosphere with live music and various food options, and you can find locally grown ingredients, handmade goods, flowers, and more. Choose from **Southside**, **Downtown Grow Local**, **Water Street**, and **Padre Island Markets** for the best selections.

Experience the magic of the city where large groups come together to have fun in bold ways. Take a scenic ride through the city with **Glow in the Dark Bike Ride Tour**, complete with tour guides and one-of-a-kind plasma LED lights for an illuminating adventure.



**GLOW IN THE DARK
BIKE RIDE TOUR**





**BLUE SHORE
PEDAL PUB**

Larger groups can coast over to **Blue Shore Pedal Pub**, a BYOB pedal lounge bar bike that is powered by you and your group.



For breathtaking views of the bay, coast over to the **1.5-mile seawall**, stretching from the **Art Museum of South Texas** to **McGee Beach**. From the **Miradores** and the **Selena statue** to the Wednesday Night Regatta sailboat races and motorized scooter rentals, there are plenty of fun things to do along the way. With the great weather, enjoy a walk, run, bike ride, or catch a sunrise/sunset to take in the allure of the coast.



**DOWNTOWN
SEAWALL**



FEARLESS ADVENTURER

FIND THE BEST ADVENTURES ON THE COAST

When you visit the coast, spending time outdoors is a natural state of being. For the fearless at heart, Corpus Christi unfolds as a backdrop for daring escapades, calling all adrenaline enthusiasts to explore the beauty of the South Texas coast.

WINDSURFING



Breathtaking scenery and shallow waters make **Bird Island Basin** the ideal spot to learn how to windsurf. Recognized as one of the top three destinations for windsurfing in North America, **Worldwinds Windsurfing** offers classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Sailing is a way of life on the Texas coast. From sailing in your personal boat as you feel the spray of the water on your skin, or taking lessons with **Learn to Sail Texas**, the Gulf Coast Capital waters offer a memorable sailing experience.

SAILING





SURFING

Grab a surfboard and head out on a sunny day with choppy surf for prime surfing conditions on the coast. Before hitting the waves, take a crash course on basic surfing safety and sign up for private lessons, full-day courses, or multi-day camps with the pros at **Padre Island Surf Camp**.

KAYAKING



Experience the coast by kayak with a course from the pros at **Coastal Bend Kayaking**. Choose from the various level paddles for a safe and fun experience. At night, book an illuminated kayak with **Glow Row** and enjoy the view on the water in the moonlight.

Embrace the water on paddleboard with one of many classes at **Water Dog Floating Yoga**. Choose from Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) yoga, community SUP classes, SUP Pilates, and SUP Fit classes, offering a unique blend of fitness, relaxation, and connection with the scenic beauty of the coast.

PADDLEBOARDING



YOUR GUIDE TO *The Outdoors*

BEACHES

- 1 Padre Balli Park
- 2 North Packery Beach
- 3 Whitecap Beach
- 4 Mustang Island State Park
- 5 Padre Island National Seashore
- 6 Bird Island Basin Campground
- 7 North Beach
- 8 McGee Beach

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- 9 Worldwinds Windsurfing
- 10 Harrison's Landing
- 11 Japonica Boat Tour
- 12 Coastal Bend Kayaking
- 13 Glow Row
- 14 Water Dog Floating Yoga
- 15 Glow in the Dark Bike Ride
- 16 Blue Shore Pedal Pub
- 17 Padre Island Surf Camp

Rockport

20



7

North
Beach



Northwest

Catalien

19



PARKS

- 18 Cole Park
- 19 Hazel Bazemore
- 20 Goose Island State Park
- 21 Padre Balli County Park
- 22 Mustang Island State Park

TRAILS

- 23 Corpus Christi Bay Trail
- 24 Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve
- 25 Schanen Hike & Bike Trail
- 26 Hans and Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge
- 27 South Texas Botanical Gardens
- 28 Mary Hope Brennecke Nature Trail
- 29 Oso Creek Loop
- 30 Grasslands Nature Trail

CAMPING ESCAPADES

RELAX BENEATH THE OPEN SKY ALONG THE SANDY SHORES OF THE TEXAS GULF COAST

Pack up your gear and head to year-round camping sites where mild temperatures meet ample space and beautiful views. From public-use sites on **Padre Island National Seashore** to bayside views at **Goose Island State Park**, find the spot that suits your style – whether you prefer to go on your own in a primitive campsite or prefer the comforts of water and electricity hookups at your site.



PADRE BALLI COUNTY PARK

15820 Park Rd 22, Corpus Christi, TX

Located on **Padre Island**, this camping location features a large tent area with both water and electric hookups, three ADA-accessible campsites, public restrooms, and pay-per-use showers.

GOOSE ISLAND STATE PARK

202 S Palmetto St, Rockport, TX

Featuring campsites along the bay and beneath trees, each camping loop at **Goose Island** has a restroom with showers, and all sites have access to water and electricity, including walk-in sites without electricity.



PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

20420 Park Road 22, Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Campers interested in pitching a tent at this first-come, first-served location, require a beach permit. Come prepared, as the nearest amenities are roughly 12 miles away.



MUSTANG ISLAND STATE PARK

9394 TX-361, Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Choose primitive campsites along 1.5 miles of beach and gain access to a bathhouse at the park and permission to make ground fires or choose water and electric campsites behind the dunes with grills, picnic tables, and nearby restrooms.



Scan the QR Code
for our camping guide

A JOURNEY OF OUTDOOR WONDERS

EXPLORE CORPUS CHRISTI'S NATURAL BEAUTY
THROUGH PARKS AND SCENIC TRAILS



COLE PARK



Coast over to this spacious, family-friendly park on Ocean Dr., and enjoy a waterfront playground, an amphitheater, a new pier, and a walking/cycling trail.



HAZEL BAZEMORE PARK



Explore this serene trail, ideal for walking, fishing, biking, and birding, and witness the highest concentration of migrating raptors from the **Hawk Watch Platform**.

Enjoy watching diverse bird species at the **Brennecke Nature Trail** and the **Oso Creek Loop Trail**, located at the **South Texas Botanical Gardens**.



BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER





OSO BAY WETLANDS PRESERVE



Start your day with a walk down **Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve** and catch every moment on this 162-acre nature preserve offering 2 miles of scenic trails.



GRASSLANDS NATURE TRAIL



Navigate a two-mile trail teeming with wildlife through the dunes at **Padre Island National Seashore** and immerse yourself in the view of native grasslands and marshes.



CORPUS CHRISTI BAY TRAIL



Soak up the sun while coasting down 8 miles of diverse natural habitat. This trail also links 6 parks along Ocean Dr. and is a well-known area for many outdoor family- and pet-friendly outdoor activities.



Scan the QR Code
for more outdoor ideas

ADVENTURES ON THE BEACH

ELEVATE YOUR BEACH EXPERIENCE WITH THESE UNIQUE COASTAL ACTIVITIES

Corpus Christi's beautiful beaches are the heart and soul of the Gulf Coast Capital. With abundant sunshine and miles of sandy shores, they are the perfect playground for unique activities to make the most of your stay on the coast.

For a relaxing vibe, enjoy a luxury pop-up customizable picnic experience with **Pretty Picnics** or test your art skills with **Paint and Picnic** while dining on locally made treats from French restaurant **Bien Mérité**.



PRETTY
PICNICS



PAINT &
PICNIC



Scan the QR Code
for beach information

Elevate your beach experience with a private shrimp boil and all the trimmings from **Rollin' Tide Boil and Co.**, while you relax with your toes in the sand, or party into the night with a full-day tiki hut rental from **Love Shack Tiki Hut** with margaritas, hammocks, lights, and more.



**ROLLIN' TIDE
BOIL & CO.**



**LOVE SHACK
TIKI HUT**



**HORSES ON
THE BEACH**



**SAND
SCULPTING**



Looking for more adventure? Learn the art of sand sculpting with award winning sculptor, **DC Sandman**, and create your own sand sculpture or take a ride on horseback with **Horses on the Beach** for a unique beach experience.

FROM START TO FINISH

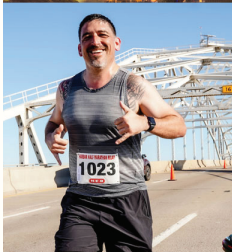
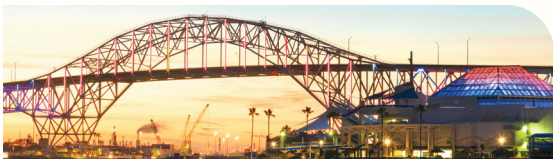
OUTDOOR RUNNING AND CYCLING EVENTS IN THE GULF COAST CAPITAL

Enjoy sunny weather and outdoor enthusiasts at annual competitions for all skill levels in Corpus Christi.



BEACH TO BAY | MAY

Join over 15,000 runners to conquer the **26.2-mile-long relay race** and enjoy a picture-perfect view from **Padre Island to Shoreline Blvd.** Held on Armed Forces Day, you can honor those who have served, and at the end of the race, enjoy a commemorative craft beer.



HARBOR HALF | NOVEMBER

Over 700 participants lace up their shoes for this **half marathon & relay/5K/10K**.

This fundraising event benefits Junior Achievement, an organization that prepares young students for the workforce by teaching workplace readiness and financial literacy.



CONQUER THE COAST | SEPTEMBER

Cyclers from Texas and beyond compete in one of the most unique rides in Texas. Participants can choose from 66-, 21-, and 10-mile rides for a **cycling experience** that delivers an unforgettable journey through scenic routes and a rewarding experience for riders of all skill levels.

Scan for the
Digital Guide



@VISITCORPUSCHRISTI

309 N Water St. D, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
(361) 561-2000 | VisitCorpusChristi.com