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Fall Into Island Time: South Padre Island Packs the Season with Festivals, Fitness, Food and Fun

From Sandcastle Days and Wine for Wishes to Live Music, Nature and Halloween Fun, Fall is a Great Time for an Island Getaway

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas, September 28, 2026 — Summer may be over, but South Padre Island is just getting started. With beautiful weather, warm Gulf waters, fewer crowds, off peak lodging rates and a packed calendar of special events, fall is one of the best times to plan a getaway to Texas' best island.

From world-class sand sculptures and scenic races to wildlife, wine, live music and Halloween fun, October and November bring something different nearly every weekend to South Padre Island. And between events, visitors can slow down and enjoy the beach, get out on the water, catch a sunset over the Laguna Madre, and sample the Island's many restaurants, such as the newly opened [Cactus Brew Coffee Co.](#) Also Clayton's Pier has been extended and now offers an even more spectacular way to view South Padre Island's famous beach, shimmering water and to do a little fishing.

"Fall is one of those times when South Padre Island really shines," said Kelly deSchaun, Chief Executive Officer of Visit South Padre Island. "The weather is beautiful, the pace is a little more relaxed, and there is an incredible variety of events and activities happening across the Island. With shoulder season rates available this time of year, it's a great opportunity to come for an event, make a weekend of it, and enjoy everything South Padre Island has to offer."

Here's a look at what's happening this fall:

[38th Annual Sandcastle Days, October 1-4, Clayton's Beach Bar & Grill](#)

The Island's signature celebration of sand and creativity returns as talented sand sculptors transform the beach into an outdoor gallery of intricate works of art. The four-day event showcases why South Padre Island has earned a reputation as a premier destination for sandcastle building.

[Drone Show Over the Gulf, October 3, Clayton's Beach Bar & Grill](#)

Held at the conclusion of Sandcastle Days events at 7:45 PM, this spectacular drone show will feature illuminated island-inspired shapes, including a sandcastle, sea turtle, seashell and rolling ocean waves.

[Ride for Rotary - Queen Isabella Causeway Cross, October 4 | Finish at Beach Waterpark](#)

Cyclists take in spectacular coastal views on 33- and 50-mile routes beginning in Brownsville and culminating with a ride across the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway to South Padre Island, all while supporting Rotary community programs.

[Annual Walk for Women, October 4, South Padre Island Convention Center](#)

The community comes together to raise awareness and support for women affected by breast cancer during this annual South Padre Island tradition.

[Tip O' Texas Comic Con, October 8-12, Isla Grand Beach Resort/South Padre Island Convention Center](#)

Geeky beach parties, concerts, tournaments, raves and more with cast members from X-Men '97 and the gaming extravaganza Marvel Rivals.

[South Padre Pride, October 9-12, Upper Deck Hotel & Bar](#)

Celebrate love, diversity and community during a multi-day Island celebration featuring entertainment, drag performances and plenty of opportunities to gather with friends old and new.

[Fall Big Sit - A Habitat Drive for World Migratory Bird Day, October 10, South Padre Island Birding, Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary](#)

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day at one of the Island's premier nature attractions and discover some of the remarkable birdlife passing through South Padre Island during fall migration.

[Blind Fest SPI 2026, October 16-18](#)

Blind Fest brings together blind and visually impaired guests, along with their families and friends, for a weekend of accessible recreation, sports, arts, and entertainment. The community is invited to join the White Cane Walk on the 17th.

[3rd Annual Wine for Wishes by the Bay, October 17, The Shores Polo Field](#)

Raise a glass for a great cause at Make-A-Wish Rio Grande Valley's annual evening of wine, food and entertainment benefiting wishes for children with critical illnesses.

[8th Annual SPI Muzicians Run, October 24, Beach Waterpark](#)

Runners and walkers hit the Island course accompanied by live mariachis and musicians along the route before celebrating at a lively finish-line fiesta.

[Hallowings Across South Padre, October 25, South Padre Island Birding, Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary](#)

Join in this monarch butterfly migration celebration. The fun includes a butterfly habitat tour, native plant sale, face painting, live music and more.

[Spooky Sunset on the Boardwalk, October, October 28, South Padre Island Birding, Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary](#)

Enjoy Halloween fun against the backdrop of a beautiful Laguna Madre sunset during this special evening on the center's boardwalk.

[South Padre Island Half Marathon Weekend, November 13-15, Isla Blanca Park](#)

Lace up for a weekend of running by the sea, including a one-mile fun run, Turtle Trot 5K and the signature 13.1-mile South Padre Island Half Marathon.

[The Island Life Festival, November 21, Cameron County Amphitheater](#)

Close out the fall season with live entertainment and Island vibes at the Cameron County Amphitheater—the perfect excuse for one more coastal getaway before the holidays.

Additional activities and restaurant and accommodation information can be found at:
www.visitsouthpadreisland.com.

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About South Padre Island

With miles of pristine shoreline and clear emerald water, South Padre Island is Texas' only tropical island paradise and uncontested best beach. Calm weather and more than 300 days of sunshine make South Padre Island a year-round destination offering a variety of nature tourism attractions, water sports, and activities for the entire family. For more information, visit

www.visitsouthpadreisland.com.