

SPECIAL SOUVENIRS

Save room in your suitcase! South Padre Island has a variety of hidden gems to please the pickiest of shopaholics. For home décor, check out **Sisters Interiors** for coastal living pieces and upscale accents. For jewelry and art connoisseurs, be sure to visit **Seas the Day**, a local shop that boasts jewelry made by resident jewelers on-site and unique offerings in art, pottery and sculptures. And, for women's fashion on trend, be sure to visit **Cactus Flower**, **Barbara's** and **Annabelle's** to secure your spot on the Island's best-dressed list.



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FIRST-TIMERS GUIDE TO SOUTH PADRE ISLAND.



CHECK IN TO SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

What's your vacation style? Choose from a wide selection of beach and bayside hotels and vacation rentals, all perfectly situated to help you explore the Island's activities and attractions.

FOR THE FAMILY

Located right next to the beach with its own inland surfing attraction, uphill water coasters, and more fun than should be allowed, families can make a splash on one of South Padre Island's biggest attractions, **Beach Park at Isla Blanca**.

FOR THE LUXE

With a blend of tropical flair and socialite elegance, **The Sapphire South Padre** is a beach-front luxury property, featuring condos loaded with amenities and every unit offering both beach and bay views. Relax and unwind at the full-service **Sapphire Spa**, or enjoy the lush and beautifully landscaped grounds while lounging in a private bungalow by the pool.



FOR THE ROMANTICS

Nestled between the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the tranquil Laguna Madre, you'll find a peaceful yet vibrant seaside resort community known as **The Shores**. This exclusive enclave offers residents and guests an unhurried lifestyle of tranquility and privacy, while providing ample opportunities for more active endeavors such as boating, horseback riding, swimming and bike riding to name just a few.

FOR THE EASY GOING

Located on the bayside of the Island's main boulevard, Padre Boulevard, the **Lighthouse Inn** boasts a variety of room sizes, scenic grounds, bayside access and plenty of outdoor spots to enjoy a perfect Texas sunrise or sunset.

FOR THE TRENDSETTER

Named one of the best resorts in Texas, see and be seen at **Isla Grand Beach Resort**, a two-story building offering cabana rooms and condos with views of tropical foliage, pools and beach views. Centrally located with dining and shopping within walking distance, you might find it hard to leave the resort. Make sure to check out the Quarterdeck Lounge for live entertainment.

Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark Photographer: Mikie Farias

FLAVORS TO SAVOR

Experience the bold, tropical flavors of South Padre Island at one of more than 40 local dining and live venue spots. Casual, take out, fine dining, beach and bayside views – the Island has it all.

BEACHSIDE ELEGANCE

With an unobstructed and breathtaking view of the beach, **Café on the Beach** is a hidden gem nestled in the dunes. Their menu offers a wide variety of breakfast choices to sandwiches, salads and entrees like Blackened Mahi Mahi. Try the Red Snapper Sandwich with cilantro-lime tartar sauce or the creamy seafood bisque, complete with salmon, shrimp, Red Snapper and crab!

SUNSET VIEWS

One of the Island's newest bayfront restaurant, **The Painted Marlin Grille** serves up fresh seafood paired with a relaxed atmosphere and gorgeous views of the sunset over the Laguna Madre Bay. Live music by local talent completes the ambiance most days of the week, and visitors are encouraged to try one of their fabulously fruity cocktails and enjoy the ceviche or catch of the day. If nothing else, go for the view — it's breathtaking every time.

FINE DINING

Sea Ranch Restaurant and Bar is the Island's destination for the finest and freshest seafood available, hand-cut Angus steaks, spectacular pastas and delicious desserts. Begin your experience in the lounge and enjoy a signature Sea Ranch Swirl Margarita or any beverage from the full-service bar. The spectacular view of the Marina and sunsets over the bay can only be matched by the restaurant's fantastic food and service.

COOK YOUR CATCH

If you're looking to enjoy the freshest seafood available then South Padre Island has got you covered. Many of the restaurants offer cook your catch where tourists who love to fish can bring in their catch to a restaurant and they will cook it for you in whatever style you want. The flavor of your meal will be elevated by the fact that you worked hard catch your own dinner and know it's being cooked by seafood experts.

SIGNATURE ATTRACTIONS

Swim, snorkel and explore the barrier island. Take a kiteboarding lesson and catch a wave. Reel in a big fish, then have your catch cooked for you at a local restaurant. Dance to the beat of live, local music and experience the beauty of bay and beachside fireworks.

NATURE TOURISM

The Island is a habitat for the endangered Kemp's Ridley species, and **Sea Turtle, Inc.** offers visitors an up-close look at these creatures as the only educational, rehabilitation and rescue facility on the Island.

As the Rio Grande Valley's premier destination for birdwatching, The **South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center** is an ideal place to observe the birds, butterflies and natural wildlife in coastal South Texas. Walk the bayfront boardwalks, take a birding tour and explore the nature center. Glass-bottom boat rides and dolphin watch tours give visitors close encounters with the Island's myriad marine life.

BEACH TIME

Book a sandcastle lesson with one of the Island's many talented master sand sculptors to learn the building basics up to advanced sculpting skills. As the **Sandcastle Capital of the World**, your lesson will be second to none and an experience unforgettable.

There is no better way to end your day than to watch fireworks reflect off the bay or beach! Fireworks take place weekends during the summer.

COUNTRY CLUB FOR A DAY

Take a break from the beach, but not the breathtaking views, and enjoy a scenic round of golf at the Island's world-class golf course, the **South Padre Island Golf Club**. Play a leisurely front nine or take an individual or group lesson from a local pro to improve your swing, your score and your bragging rights.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Come face to face with exotic marine wildlife in the Laguna Madre Bay as you snorkel through its clear, shallow waters. Or, if you're looking for more of a deep dive experience, book a lesson for scuba diving with **American Diving** and learn how to navigate the open waters of the Texas Gulf Coast. Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy inshore and deep sea fishing, book a fishing excursion or try surf casting. After reeling in a big one, have one of the Island's local spots cook your catch – a fantastic option for first time visitors.

