

QUALITY OF LIFE

Few places in the country offer a combination of the wide range of leisure activities and easy lifestyle of the Texas Coastal Bend. Where else can young professionals knock off in the middle of the work week to watch or crew for sailboat races within sight of downtown? Other leisure-time activities include art festivals, rodeos, a marathon relay, ballgames or one of the largest free jazz festivals in the state. Residents can go for a swim, skate, surf, bike, bird-watch, kayak, fish, play tennis, or golf every month of the year, and our after-work traffic is described as a “rush minute.”

Warm humid climate

The Coastal Bend’s warm climate is among the things people list when describing what they like about living in the region, although many others cite heat and humidity as among the things they dislike here. The area’s mild winters attract thousands of winter Texans each year.

Lots to do

Corpus Christi has been ranked the “5th most desirable city for relocating families,” according to Worldwide ERC and Primacy Relocation. Popular public gathering places include the Corpus Christi Seawall, Cole Park (including KidsPlace and Corpus Christi Skate Park), Corpus Christi Beach (formerly known as North Beach), McGee Beach and the beaches on Padre and Mustang islands. A plan is under way to provide a more pedestrian-friendly gathering area along Shoreline Boulevard north of Interstate Highway 37.

Water enthusiasts enjoy sailing on Corpus Christi Bay and the Laguna Madre, sailboarding and kite-surfing at North Cole Park and Bird Island Basin (part of Padre Island National Seashore) and using personalized watercraft on the Laguna Madre and other areas. The Corpus Christi area is popular with anglers, hunters, tourists and birders. Corpus Christi has been named

the “Birdiest City in America” six years in a row by the Audubon Society.

Popular tourist destination

The city is the sixth most popular tourist destination in the state according to the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corp. Popular tourist attractions include:

- Britton Evans Centennial House
- Corpus Christi Municipal Marina
- Heritage Park and Cultural Center
- King Ranch
- Mustang Island State Park
- Mustang Riding Stables
- Port Aransas, Mustang and Padre island beaches
- Texas State Aquarium
- USS Lexington—aircraft carrier museum
- Whataburger Field

Other Coastal Bend attractions include:

Annual events/festivals

- Bayfest
- Beach to Bay Relay Marathon
- Buccaneer Days and PRCA Rodeo
- Cinco de Mayo
- Classic Brew
- Deep Sea Roundup
- Feria de Las Flores
- Festival of the Arts
- Nueces County Junior Livestock Show
- Old Fiddlers’ Festival
- Oysterfest
- Renaissance Fair
- Rockport Art Festival
- Round-Up Days
- Shrimporee
- Texas Jazz Festival
- U.S. Wind & Water Open
- Windfest

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Golf courses

- Corpus Christi Country Club
- Gabe Lozano, Sr., Golf Course
- Kings Crossing Country Club
- Northshore Country Club
- Oso Beach Golf Course
- Padre Isles Country Club
- Pharaohs Country Club
- River Hills Country Club
- Rockport Country Club
- Sinton Municipal Golf Course
- The Golf Course at Dune Crest

Museums

- Art Museum of South Texas
- Asian Cultures Museum and Education Center
- Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History
- King Ranch Museum
- Texas Maritime Museum (Rockport)
- Texas Surf Museum
- The Selena Museum

Music & arts organizations/venues

- American Bank Center
- Art Center of Corpus Christi
- Bartlett Theater (Del Mar College)
- Cole Park Amphitheatre
- Concrete Street Amphitheatre
- Corpus Christi Ballet
- Corpus Christi Concert Ballet
- Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra
- Harbor Playhouse
- Richardson Performance Hall (Del Mar College)
- Selena Auditorium
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Performing Arts Center
- Weil Gallery (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

Nature attractions

- Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
- Blucher Park
- Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge
- Hawk Watch/Hazel Bazemore Park
- Kemp's ridley sea turtles
- Padre Island National Seashore
- South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Nature & Hiking Trail
- University of Texas Marine Science Institute
- Welder Wildlife Refuge

Shopping

- Moore Plaza
- La Palmera (formerly Padre-Staples Mall)
- Sunrise Mall
- Various shopping centers

Recreational & spectator sports

- Al Kruse Tennis Center
- AMF Saratoga Lanes
- Cabaniss Field
- Conquer the Coast Bicycle Ride
- Corpus Christi Beach Dawgs
- Corpus Christi Hammerheads
- Corpus Christi Hooks (Houston Astros AA affiliate)
- Corpus Christi IceRayz, Central Hockey League
- Corpus Christi Sharks (Arena Football League)
- Great Texas Birding Classic
- H-E-B Tennis Center
- Natatorium
- Nueces County Fairgrounds
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi athletics

Questions We Need to Consider

1. How do we provide adequate activities and leisure venues to serve our present citizenry?
2. How do we fund and maintain them?
3. Could we enhance the economy or educational climate with more leisure opportunities?