



The Concierge Guide

WHERE TO EAT IN PORT ARANSAS

Two themed houses, three blocks from the Gulf — and a whole island of places to eat between beach days. This is the list we actually hand our guests: the waterfront tables worth timing around sunset, the flip-flop spots after the boat comes in, and the quiet rooms for the night the crew takes the kids. Organized by the night you're having, not by the alphabet.

RTDC VACATION RENTALS · PORT ARANSAS, TEXAS

START HERE

THE SHORT LIST

Five places we stand behind and send our own guests to, season after season. If you only have a handful of dinners on the island, spend them here.

01

ROOSEVELT'S AT THE TARPON INN

The island's most storied dining room — seafood and steaks served inside a Port Aransas landmark. The room locals quietly save for the meals that matter.

BEST FOR · A PROPER NIGHT OUT

02

BLUE WATER COWBOY

Gulf views, a full bar, and that third-story sportfishing energy. As much an evening as a meal — go for the sunset, stay for the deck.

BEST FOR · DRINKS WITH A VIEW

03

CRAZY CAJUN

Boiled crawfish, crab legs and shrimp dumped straight onto butcher paper. Loud, communal, and exactly what a big group wants after a beach day.

BEST FOR · THE WHOLE CREW, HANDS-ON

04

LELO'S ISLAND BAR

Tiki drinks, an easy island mood, and burgers that punch above the room. A local favorite for the unhurried after-beach dinner.

BEST FOR · THE LAID-BACK EVENING

05

SEAFOOD & SPAGHETTI WORKS

A 30-year island institution — fresh fish and house-made pasta on the same menu, which is how you feed twelve people who can't agree on anything.

BEST FOR · FEEDING A FULL HOUSE

BY VIBE

WATERFRONT & *sunset*

Dinner near the water is half the vacation here. Time it right and the boats, the breeze, and the light all show up at once. These fill fast at golden hour — see the tips below.

HARBOR · ICONIC

Virginia's On The Bay

MARINA · POLISHED

Trout Street Grill & Bar

One of the island's signature harborside rooms — easy atmosphere, fresh seafood, and some of the best sunsets in town.

BEST FOR **Sunset dinners**

A marina mainstay that runs a touch more refined than the average island spot, without losing the coastal ease. Seafood and steaks.

BEST FOR **A nicer waterfront dinner**

HARBOR • CASUAL

Fins Grill & Icehouse

A breezy deck over the harbor, cold drinks, and fresh seafood. The natural landing spot when the boat ties up.

BEST FOR **After the boat comes in**

BEACHFRONT

Port A Beach Lodge

The rare restaurant right on the sand — walk up from the beach, order, and let the view do the work.

BEST FOR **Straight off the beach**

WATERFRONT

The Phoenix Restaurant & Bar

A reliable waterfront option when the marquee rooms have a wait — same coastal mood, a little more breathing room.

BEST FOR **Sunset without the wait**

BY VIBE

CASUAL & *flip-flop friendly*

No one dresses for dinner in Port A. Show up sandy and sun-tired — these spots were built for exactly that.

HARBOR • EASY

Grumble's Seafood

LIVELY • BIG MENU

Stingray's Taphouse & Grill

Big portions, a generous patio over the marina, and a relaxed crowd of locals and visitors. Order seafood, watch the boats.

BEST FOR Casual seafood, boat-watching

Energetic, outdoor seating, a menu long enough to satisfy a divided group, and the game on. A solid group default.

BEST FOR Groups and game day

CLASSIC SEAFOOD

Castaways

Fried and grilled seafood done the island way, in a room that feels exactly like Port A is supposed to feel.

BEST FOR Flavorful, no-fuss seafood

BEER HALL

Port A Bierhaus

An easygoing spot for a cold pour and casual bites when the plan is "nothing fancy."

BEST FOR Low-key drinks and food

BY VIBE

DATE NIGHT & *special occasions*

When the group splits off and two of you slip away — these are the slower, better-dressed rooms for the night that's meant to feel like one.

WATERFRONT · UPGRADE

Lisabella's Bistro & Bar

A stylish waterfront kitchen turning out seafood, pasta and steaks — a step up in polish while keeping the island calm.

BEST FOR Celebrations and romance

PALMILLA · REFINED

Black Marlin Bar & Grill

A polished, seafood-forward room out by the golf course. The choice when you want refined but still unmistakably coastal.

BEST FOR A dressed-up dinner

ITALIAN

Venetian Hot Plate

COASTAL · ELEVATED

Stout's at the Shore

House-made pastas and classic Italian — a cozy, welcome change of pace after a few days of fish.

BEST FOR An Italian date night

An elevated coastal option for a quieter, lingering dinner when you want the evening to slow down.

BEST FOR A slow, lingering meal

BY VIBE

FAMILY & *easy with kids*

The right family spot is relaxed, fast enough, and has something everyone will actually eat. These clear the bar.

MEXICAN

San Juan Mexican Restaurant

Generous portions, an easy room, and a menu broad enough that nobody leaves hungry or complaining.

BEST FOR Easy family dinners

PIZZA · CINNAMON SHORE

Dylan's Coal Oven Pizzeria

Coal-fired pizzas in a relaxed setting with lawn space for the kids to burn off the last of the day.

BEST FOR Pizza night with room to roam

PIZZA · GROUP

Port A Pizzeria

Buffet, takeout or delivery — the path of least resistance when everyone's hungry at once.

BEST FOR Simple group dinners

YARD · DRINKS

Port A Sip Yard

An open, casual yard where the adults get a proper drink and the kids have space. Easy all around.

BEST FOR Relaxed evenings, all ages

BY VIBE

COFFEE & *slow mornings*

Mornings start early here — fishing, beach walks, or just the first cup on the porch. Here's where to begin the day.

COFFEE SHOP

Barefoot Beans

A cozy neighborhood coffee shop with a real welcome and breakfast to go with the cup. The slow-morning standby.

BEST FOR *Unhurried mornings*

COFFEE · TREATS

Coffee Waves

A popular morning stop for good coffee and sweet things — and gelato later if the day calls for it.

BEST FOR *Coffee runs*

DONUTS

The Donut Palace

Grab a box on the way to the beach. A reliable kid-pleaser and an easy win before a long day outside.

BEST FOR *Quick breakfast on the go*

SIT-DOWN

Island Cafe

A longtime island breakfast room for hearty, full sit-down plates when you want to actually sit down.

BEST FOR *A proper breakfast*

QUICK

Coach's Island Grill

Fast and casual for breakfast or an early lunch before you head out for the day.

BEST FOR *Food fast, then gone*

BY VIBE

SWEETS & *ice cream*

After a hot day on the sand, something cold and sweet is practically part of the itinerary.

ICE CREAM

Desserted Island Ice Cream

Sundaes, splits and scoops — the family cool-down after a long day in the sun. Worth keeping a little cash on hand.

BEST FOR The after-dinner scoop

CANDY · FUDGE

Winton's Island Candy

An island classic for handmade fudge, saltwater taffy and candy by the pound. A small shop with big flavor.

BEST FOR A sweet souvenir

CREAMERY

Port A Creamery

Another easy stop when the line at one scoop shop is long and the kids are not negotiating.

BEST FOR Plan B for ice cream

BY VIBE

QUICK TAKEOUT — *back to the house*

Some nights the best dinner is one you eat by your own pool. Grab and go, then back to Chillin' the Most or Cuban Breeze.

DELI · GRAB-AND-GO

Miss K's Bistro & Catering

Sandwiches, snacks and quick meals built for exactly this — pick up on the way home and skip the dishes.

BEST FOR Easy dinner by the pool

PIZZA · TAKEOUT

Jackfish Rentals & Pizza

A casual pizza grab when nobody wants to leave the house twice. Quick and uncomplicated.

BEST FOR Takeout pizza night

PIZZA · GROUP

Port A Pizzeria

Delivery and takeout that feeds a full house without anyone changing out of swimsuits.

BEST FOR Feeding twelve, fast



BOOKED BOTH HOUSES

THE WHOLE COMPOUND

Family reunion, big group, both pools going — feeding everyone at once.

Seafood & Spaghetti Works

Crazy Cajun

Stingray's Taphouse & Grill

Port A Pizzeria (or delivery in)

COUPLES GETAWAY

The slower, better dinners worth dressing for.

Roosevelt's at the Tarpon Inn

Black Marlin Bar & Grill

Venetian Hot Plate

Lisabella's Bistro & Bar

FISHING TRIP

Walk in hungry, straight off the water.

Fins Grill & Icehouse

Grumble's Seafood

Blue Water Cowboy

Castaways

GIRLS' WEEKEND

Good drinks, great views, lively after dark.

Blue Water Cowboy

Lisabella's Bistro & Bar

FAMILY BEACH WEEK

Relaxed, fast enough, something for everyone.

San Juan Mexican Restaurant

Lelo's Island Bar

Stout's at the Shore

Dylan's Coal Oven Pizzeria

Port A Sip Yard

Virginia's On The Bay

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

A FEW ISLAND DINING NOTES

▪ PEAK WAITS ARE REAL

Spring break, summer weekends and holidays can mean 30–90 minute waits at the popular rooms. With a big group, go early or call ahead.

▪ MANY DON'T TAKE RESERVATIONS

Most spots run first-come, first-served. If a table matters for your group, call ahead earlier in the day.

▪ CASUAL IS THE STANDARD

Almost everywhere is flip-flop friendly. Sandy and sun-tired is the local dress code.

▪ SUNSET FILLS UP

Waterfront patios go fast at golden hour. Aim to arrive 45–60 minutes before sunset for an outside table.

▪ KEEP SOME CASH

A handful of island spots are cash-only. Carry a little so dessert or that hole-in-the-wall lunch isn't a problem.

▪ HOURS SHIFT FAST

This is a beach town — kitchens close earlier than you'd expect and seasons change the schedule. A quick call confirms it.

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info@rtdcrentals.com · www.rtdcrentals.com

Paradise Awaits Management

RTDC VACATION RENTALS · PORT ARANSAS, TEXAS

Recommendations reflect our own experience on the island and are offered as a courtesy to our guests — we have no affiliation with the restaurants listed.

Hours, openings and policies change; please call ahead to confirm.