

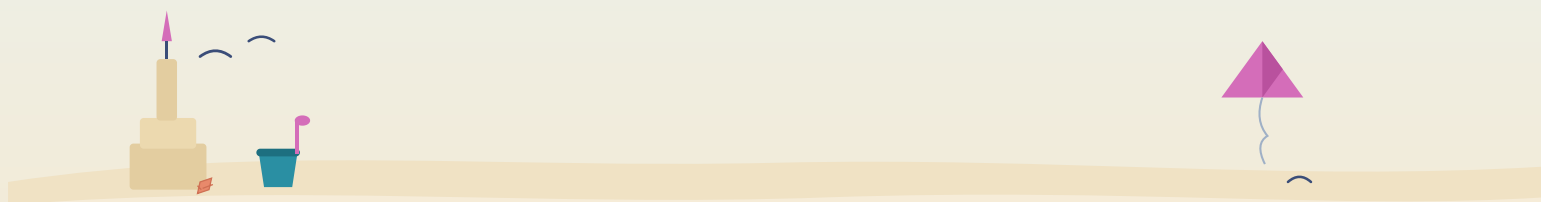


The Family Guide

THINGS TO DO IN PORT ARANSAS

The good stuff — beyond the beach towel. Sandcastles and dolphins, golf-cart cruises and ghost-crab hunts, plus a rainy-day backup plan. Everything here is kid-tested and easy to reach from the house.

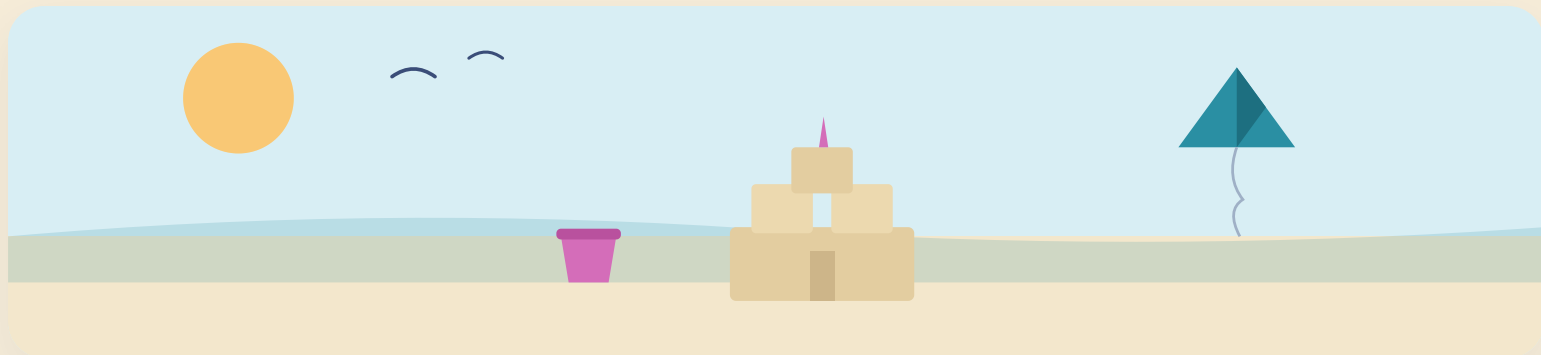
A FAMILY GUIDE · RTDC VACATION RENTALS



RIGHT OUT THE DOOR

ON THE SAND

You're three blocks from the Gulf, so the beach is the easy default — and there's more to it than swimming.



- **Build a sandcastle kingdom**

Port A's sand packs perfectly for digging and sculpting. Freestyle it with buckets and molds, or book a real sandcastle lesson and go full architect.

- **Fly a kite**

There's almost always a Gulf breeze, which makes kites the easiest entertainment going. Forgot one? Grab a kite at a local shop in town.

- **Hunt ghost crabs after dark**

Take flashlights and a net down to the sand at night and go on a crab hunt. Equal parts silly and thrilling, and a guaranteed kid highlight.

- **Sunrise shell hunt**

If you've got early risers, this is your moment. Hit the waterline at low tide before the crowds — it's a treasure hunt and the quietest hour on the island.

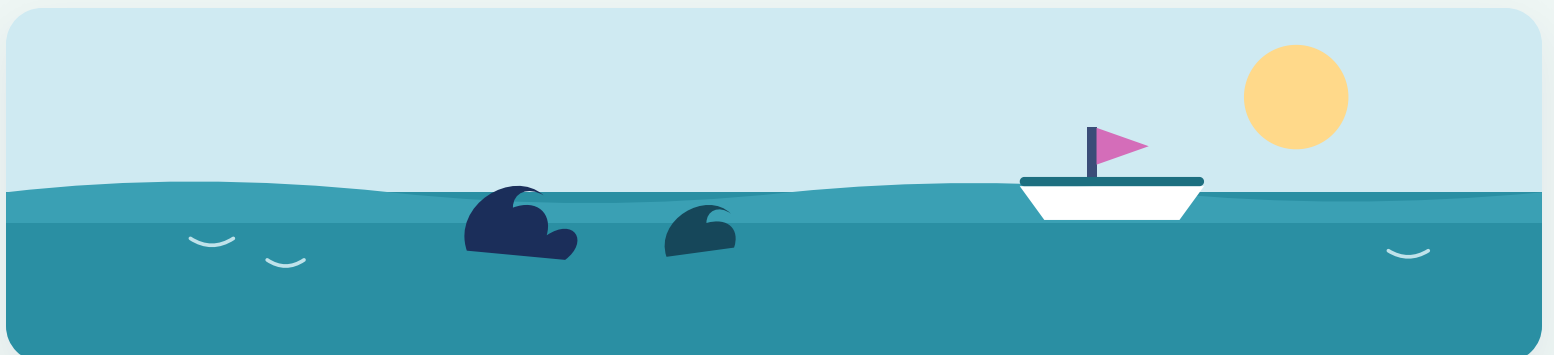
- **Beach campfire & s'mores**

The city allows small beach fires unless there's a burn ban, so grab wood and marshmallows. Add glow sticks for the kids — and fill in the pit when you're done.

OUT PAST THE SAND

ON THE WATER

The harbor is the gateway to the best of Port A — dolphins, fish, and a private island most visitors never reach.



- **Dolphin-watch cruise**

Short, easy, and a near-guaranteed hit with kids — dolphins surface right alongside the boat. The simplest "wow" of the whole trip. We'll point you to the right captain.

- **Day trip to San Jose Island**

Catch the jetty boat from Fisherman's Wharf to a privately owned, undeveloped island — miles of empty sand and the island's best shelling. Pack everything: there's no shade or restroom out there, just beach.

- **Surf & kitesurf lessons**

The gentle Gulf waves are forgiving for first-time surfers, and teens love the kitesurf rush. Camps and lessons run through local outfitters all season.

- **Go fishing**

Half-day bay trips are perfect for first-timers; offshore runs are for the serious anglers in the group. The captains supply the gear — you bring the snacks and the bragging rights.

- **Kayak or paddleboard**

Glassy bay water and marsh trails make for an easy paddle, even for beginners. Rentals and lessons are simple to line up — ask and we'll handle it.

- **Parasail over the Gulf**

The best view of the island, hands down — the whole coastline from a few hundred feet up. Worth booking ahead in peak season.

CART KEYS, PLEASE

AROUND THE ISLAND

Half the fun of Port A is just cruising it. Slow down, take the long way, and let the kids think the golf cart was their idea.



- **Cruise in the golf cart**

To you it's transportation; to the kids it's the whole vacation. Salt air, a speaker, and the island at cart speed. Carts run on the beach and most streets — just not Hwy 361. We'll help you reserve one.

- **Roberts Point Park**

An underrated gem: dolphin spotting off the jetty rocks, a great playground, a fishing pier, and wide-open green space. No admission, easy win.

- **Community park & pool**

Splash pad, water slides, lap lanes, a skate park, dog park and trails. Your house has its own pool, but the splash pad is a kid magnet on a hot afternoon.

- **Bike the town**

Flat, small, and made for beach cruisers. A nostalgic, low-key way to explore — bring bikes or grab rentals in town.

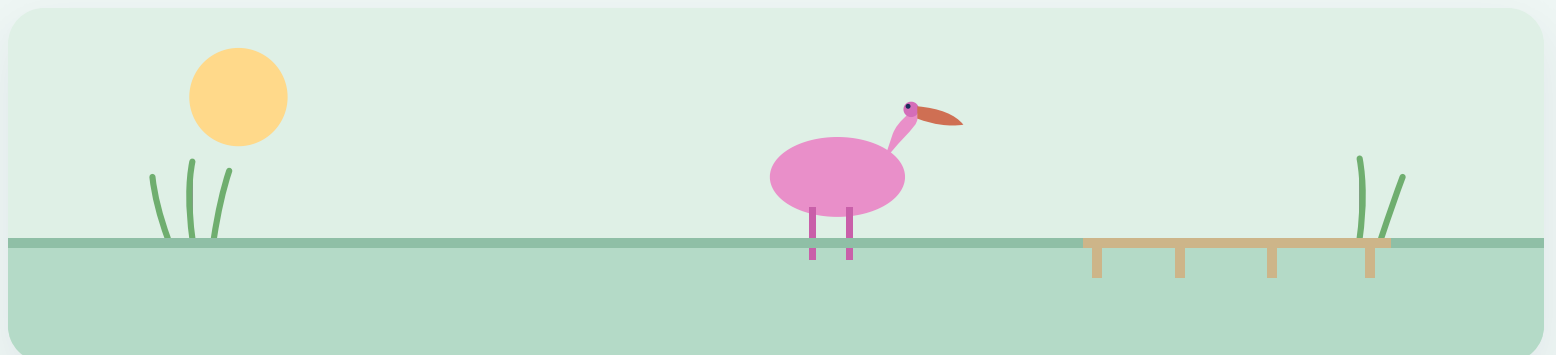
- **Shops & an ice cream stop**

Browse the surf and souvenir shops downtown, then reset everyone's mood with a scoop. It works every single time.

BEYOND THE BEACH

WILDLIFE & QUIET

When you need a slower gear — or the little ones need to wander without sand in everything — this is where Port A shines.



- **Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center**

Don't skip it for the name. Boardwalks over the wetlands, turtles below, the occasional gator, and bright-pink roseate spoonbills. Stroller-friendly and quietly adventurous.

- **Hike the Nature Preserve**

Miles of easy, flat trails through the preserve for wildlife spotting or an early-morning walk before the heat sets in.

- **Catch a sea turtle release**

When the local rescue (the ARK) releases rehabilitated turtles or coastal birds, it's open to watch from the beach — an only-here memory if your dates line up. Ask us and we'll keep an eye on the schedule.

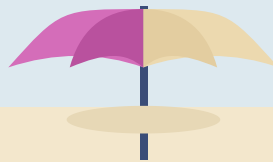
- **Chapel on the Dunes**

A tiny white chapel hiding hand-painted walls inside — a five-minute stop with a real surprise and a photographer's favorite. Tours run through the museum.

PLAN B

RAINY OR TOO-HOT DAY

Because sometimes it rains at the beach — or it's just blazing. A few easy resets that keep everyone happy indoors.



- **Texas State Aquarium**

About 40 minutes away in Corpus Christi — sharks, sea turtles, and tanks the kids will press their faces against. The go-to indoor reset, and an easy day trip.

- **Paint at Fire It! Ceramics**

Pick a piece, bring snacks, and spend a hot afternoon painting pottery. Most pieces are ready to pick up in a few days — an instant souvenir.

- **Pool day at the house**

Honestly, the best rain-day move is sometimes your own pool, popsicles, and a card game. No agenda, no driving, everyone happy.

- **Port Aransas Museum**

Small, kid-friendly island history with photos and hands-on exhibits. A quick, easy hour when you need to be out of the weather.

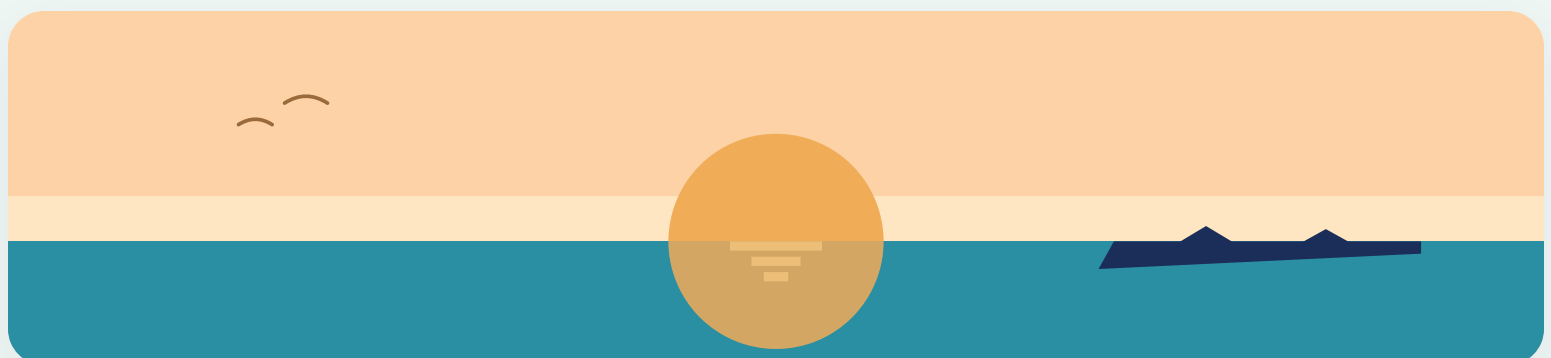
- **Art Center & theatre**

Browse local artists' work (they run classes too), or catch a show or family movie at the community theatre.

BOOKENDS OF THE DAY

SUNRISE & SUNSET

The cheapest, prettiest entertainment on the island. Worth one early alarm and one slow evening.



- **Sunrise at the jetty**

Worth setting one alarm for. The sun coming up over the Gulf at the south jetty is the photo of the trip — grab donuts on the way and make it a picnic.

- **Sunset over the bay**

For the wide-open bay sunset, head to Roberts Point Park or Charlie's Pasture in the Nature Preserve. Bring the cart, a cold drink, and a camera.

- **Sunset beach walk**

Kick off your shoes and walk the waterline as everyone else packs up. The quiet half of the day, and the easiest tradition to start.

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Activities, tours, hours and beach conditions change with the season and weather, and tours are operated by third parties. Please confirm current details and check posted beach, surf and burn-ban advisories before you go.