

# BEACH

*Trippin'*

HIT THE ROAD AND HEAD FOR THE BEACH

In need of a quick getaway? Texas has you covered! Grab your sunscreen and get ready for some fun at the beach! Only a short distance away from Central Texas, you'll find beautiful beaches dotting the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

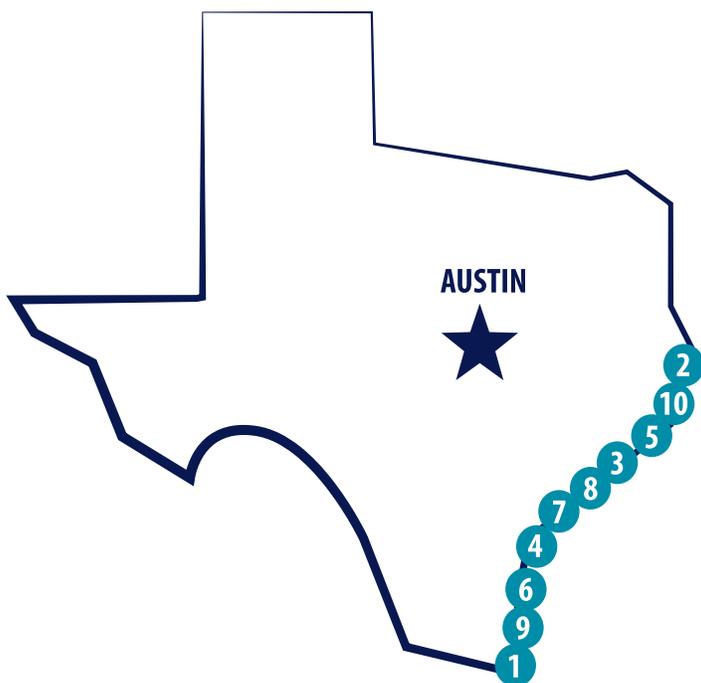
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# TOP 10 TEXAS BEACH DESTINATIONS

Texas features about 400 miles of beautiful coastline offering all kinds of beaches for sunbathing, swimming, boating, kayaking, canoeing, surfing, fishing, etc. The variety of recreational options for Texas beaches is as huge as the variety of destinations to choose from, which include rivers, natural lakes, and man-made reservoirs. The ten recommended beaches listed below are a few of our Gulf of Mexico coastline favorites.



## 1 Boca Chica Beach

**Drive from Austin:** 6 hours

Located on Boca Chica Blvd. in Brownsville, Texas

Nestled along the southernmost tip of Texas and quite literally a stone's throw from Mexico, Boca Chica Beach offers unbridled views on a beach untouched by most tourists. This 8-mile stretch of beach is protected by both state and federal authorities as part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, this gloriously empty stretch of shore calls to anyone wanting to give civilization the slip.

## 2 Crystal Beach

**Drive from Austin:** 4.5 hours

Located on the Bolivar Peninsula

Accessible from the east or by an easy ferry ride directly from Galveston, Crystal Beach is family oriented resort community and is often described as being the less crowded and quieter counterpart to the bustling city of Galveston.

## 3 Magnolia Beach

**Drive from Austin:** 3 hours

Located in Port Lavaca, Texas

Replete with a playground, covered picnic areas, and a volleyball court, Magnolia Beach has all of the makings for a dreamy day trip as kid-approved as it is relaxing for you, too. The sand is hard-packed and there's a lot of crushed shell in it, so it's easy to drive on. The driveable turf makes Magnolia Beach a great place to primitive RV camping.

## 4 Mustang Island

**Drive from Austin:** 4.5 hours

Located in Port Aransas, Texas

An 18-mile expanse of sandy shore perfect for seashell-collecting, swimming, and even bird watching. The island originally got its name from the large number of wild mustangs that used to trot freely across the island before development took over. These days, the island is a designated state park where you can camp, kayak, and perhaps catch a view of the Kemp's Ridley turtles.

## 5 North Beach

**Drive from Austin:** 3.5 hours

Located in Corpus Christi, Texas

A perfect place for a quick trip without preparations with all the necessary beach amenities. The long convenient sidewalk along the shore that is close to the water, allows you to be on the beach and keep your shoes away from the sand at the same time. What's most captivating about North Beach is its proximity to some of Corpus Christi's coolest attractions.

## 6 Padre Island National Seashore

**Drive from Austin:** 4 hours

Located about 30 miles southeast of Corpus Christi, Texas

Enjoy 70 miles of beaches, dunes and tidal flats. Visitors can camp, kayak, windsurf and swim in this protected area. The soft and wide shoreline – the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world – is ideal for long walks.

## 7 Rockport Beach

**Drive from Austin:** 3.5 hours

Located in Rockport, Texas

Rockport Beach was the first in Texas to garner a Blue Wave Beach designation - a label given only to beaches that maintain high standards of environmental care. As such, you'll find Rockport to be a clean, suitable place to lay your weary head on a warm June afternoon. As a bonus, Rockport is also a designated bird sanctuary.

## 8 San José Island

**Drive from Austin:** 4 hours + a ferry ride

Located a short distance away from Port Aransas, Texas

Boasting 21 miles of undisturbed golden sand, the privately owned San José Island is a collector's resource for beautiful and unique seashells, bird watching, and fishing. The chance to immerse yourself in unruffled Texas nature is just a short ferry ride away from Fisherman's Wharf in Port Aransas.

## 9 South Padre Island

**Drive from Austin:** 6 hours

Located on the barrier island of South Padre Island

Consistently rated on of the best expanse of beaches in Texas, this popular tourist destination provides enough entertainment to a last an entire week. South Padre Island is home to a collection of 30+ sand sculptures called the Sandcastle Trail, sculpted by professional sand artists. While the island is known for being a hot spot for spring breakers, the area has seen a rebirth as a popular family vacation destination. That's because South Padre, or SPI, delivers with wide sandy beaches, sparkling blue water and a mixture of fun activities for all age groups.

## 10 Surfside Beach

**Drive from Austin:** 3.5 hours

Located in the city of Surfside Beach near Freeport

Because of the unusually deep water found close to the shore, Surfside Beach is the perfect location for surfing off the coast of Texas (hence the name). These deep waters lend themselves to some really unique fishing, too. You can catch fish that are normally only found much farther into the ocean without ever leaving the comfort of the shore.

# Your BEACH BAG PACKING LIST

### Essentials:

- Sunscreen
- First Aid Kit
- Bug Spray
- Beach Towels
- Snacks
- Water Bottles

### Clothing:

- Swimsuits
- Rash guard / Cover-up
- Sunglasses
- Brimmed Hat
- Water Shoes

### Comfort Items:

- Beach Chairs
- Beach Blanket
- Shade Tent or Umbrella
- Cooler / Insulated Bag
- Folding Snack Table
- Collapsible Utility Wagon

### Fun Items:

- Goggles
- Snorkles & Masks
- Swim Fins
- Floatables - rafts, tubes, etc.
- Life Jackets
- Waterproof Camera
- Waterproof Phone Case
- Portable Waterproof Speaker
- Bucket & Shovel / Sand Toys
- Frisbee
- Kite
- Sports Balls
- Beach Boccee Set

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