



Corpus Christi, TX



Corpus Christi, Texas, is a seaport located at the mouth of the Nueces River on the west end of Corpus Christi Bay. The first successful European settlement was established by Colonel Henry Lawrence Kinney in 1839. By the mid-1840s the growing town assumed the name Corpus Christi. The name traces back to the bay's discovery on the Roman Catholic Feast Day of Corpus Christi in 1519 by Spanish explorer Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda.

Museums in Corpus Christi include the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, which showcases 500 years of South Texas history and various science exhibits. The Art Center of Corpus Christi promotes an awareness and appreciation of local and regional artists. The Art Museum of South Texas is affiliated with the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and focuses on art of the Americas and the region. Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures contains artifacts from many countries. The Selena Museum was built by the Quintanilla family as a memorial for Selena and displays many of her stage costumes, collections, and memorabilia, including her red Porsche. Exhibits at the Texas Surf Museum are devoted to surf culture, surf music, and the birth and growth of the sport along the Texas coast. Six rooms in the Tejano Civil Rights Museum are filled with artifacts, including historic maps, photos, and art, with a collection from a Hispanic artist featured each month.

The USS Lexington is the nation's longest serving and most historically significant Essex Class aircraft carrier and operates as a naval aviation museum.

Twelve Victorian homes comprise Heritage Park: Britton Evans Centennial House (the oldest structure in Corpus Christi); Jalufka-Govatos House; Ward-McCampbell House; Lawrence House; Steamboat House; Grande-Grossman House; Littles-Martin House; Sidbury House; Merriman-Bobys House; Simon Gugenheim Housi Galvan House, which serves as the Cultural Center; and the S. Julius Lichenstein House, which is home to Instituto de Cultura Hispanica de Corpus Christi. Many of these houses are recorded Texas Historical Landmarks.

Texas Maritime Museum, King Ranch Museum, Fulton Mansion, and Port Aransas Museum are located in nearby communities.

The Performing Arts Center at Texas A&M Corpus Christi is the principal performance venue for the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra and Corpus Christi Chorale, as well as for university music students, music festivals, and concerts. The Harbor Playhouse is recognized as one of the oldest community theaters in Texas. Concrete Street Amphitheater is an outdoor concert venue. Other venues include the Richardson Performance Hall at Del Mar College and the American Bank Center.

Neighborhoods

Downtown Corpus Christi has residential options that range from historic homes to condominiums in recently renovated buildings. Near downtown, the Del Mar neighborhood features large homes that were primarily built before 1960 as does the Ocean Drive area. Condominiums, town homes, and apartments are also available in this neighborhood.

The Hewit Drive area in the Bay Area neighborhood features large, brick, ranch-style homes on large lots. Most of the homes were built in the 1950s and 1960s.

In the Southside, the Bent Tree and Kings Crossing subdivisions feature large homes in contemporary and traditional styles built in the 1990s. Some lots are available for new construction. Other Southside options include brick ranch-style homes, apartment complexes, and town homes.

The Calallen neighborhood was once an independent town but was annexed by Corpus Christi in 1966. Homes in the River Rock area were built in the 1990s in contemporary ranch and two-story styles. New, contemporary-styled, two-story homes have been built in Wood Estates near the River Hills Country Club.

Parks and Recreation

Corpus Christi has 191 parks with amenities that include tennis centers, sports fields, a skate park, full-service municipal golf courses, recreation centers, senior centers, beaches, gyms, and indoor and outdoor pools.

Corpus Christi has repeatedly been ranked as the "Birdiest City" in a national competition. Popular birdwatching locations are Blucher Park, Hans & Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge, Oso Bay Park, and Hazel Bazemore Park Hawk Watch International Raptor Migration Site.

One of four beaches in Corpus Christi, Padre Island National Seashore separates the Gulf of Mexico from the Laguna Madre. Park activities include picnicking, fishing, hiking, extreme biking, camping, and windsurfing. The park is a safe nesting ground for the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, a haven for 380 bird species, and protects 70 miles of coastline, dunes, prairies, and wind tidal flats.

The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center exhibits colorful, exotic flowers blended with vast conserved areas of native habitat and natural wetlands.

Texas State Aquarium is located on Corpus Christi Beach and promotes environmental conservation and rehabilitation of the wildlife of the Gulf of Mexico.

Amusement parks include Funtrackers Amusement Park and Hurricane Alley Waterpark.

Professional sports teams in Corpus Christi include the Corpus Christi Hooks (baseball) and Corpus Christi IceCrawls (ice hockey).

Education

Corpus Christi Independent School District is the largest public school district in the region and educates over 38,000 students in 37 elementary schools, 12 middle schools, 8 high schools, and 3 special schools.

Higher education is available at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, which offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs. The Texas A&M Health Science Center Coastal Bend Health Education Center offers educational opportunities to physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals. Del Mar College is a comprehensive community college with two campuses that offers associate's degrees and certificates. Southern Careers Institute's Corpus Christi Campus, South Texas Vocational Technical Institute, and Brightwood College-Corpus Christi Campus provide technical and vocational training in selected fields.

Health Care

Corpus Christi is served by the following health care facilities:

- Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi: 314 licensed beds
- Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi Shoreline: 584 licensed beds
- Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi South: 153 licensed beds
- Corpus Christi Rehabilitation Hospital: 35 licensed beds
- Driscoll Children's Hospital: 189 licensed beds
- Pam Rehabilitation Hospital of Corpus Christi: 40 licensed beds
- Pam Specialty Hospital of Corpus Christi Bayfront: 19 licensed beds
- Pam Specialty Hospital of Corpus Christi North: 22 licensed beds
- Pam Specialty Hospital of Corpus Christi South: 74 licensed beds
- South Texas Surgical Hospital: 31 licensed beds
- The Corpus Christi Medical Center-Bay Area: 154 licensed beds
- The Corpus Christi Medical Center-Doctors Regional: 250 licensed beds
- The Corpus Christi Medical Center-Northwest: 89 licensed beds
- The Corpus Christi Medical Center-The Heart Hospital: 72 licensed beds

City Stats

	2016
City Population	325,763
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	454,726
Per Capita Personal Income, Corpus Christi, TX (MSA)	\$41,052