



Tour: Texas Island Adventure
Destination: South Padre Island, Texas
Specialization: Marine Science, Physics, Teambuilding, Culture
Itinerary: 5-days / 4-nights

Texas Island Adventure - South Padre Island				
Day	Morning	Afternoon		Evening
1	Fly to Harlingen, Texas; transfer to Hotel		VIE Welcome & Safety	Welcome Dinner at Resort
2	University of Texas Coastal Science Laboratory: 2-hour Cruise on the Ridley Floating Classroom + Lunch Break + Guided Beach Ecology Walk + Dogfish Shark Dissection			Dinner Evening Crab Safari
3	Schlitterbahn Beach (Indoor) Waterpark Day + 1-hour Aqua Lab Master Class			Dinner Go Carts & Mini-Golf
4	Sea Turtle Presentation & Rescue Facility Tour	Beach Time & Volunteer Beach Clean-Up Project	Sandcastle Team Building Beach Workshop - 2hrs	Farewell Beach Dinner
5	Free time until departure Transfer to airport, depart South Padre Island for home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Discover south Texas' stunning shoreline on South Padre Island. Watch the gulls and pelicans fish the waters while teaching your students about coastal habitats and having some serious fun while teambuilding on the beach. Great for Science and Class trips alike, this trip is the perfect end-of-year experience.

This trip is available year-round but please know that many of the planned activities are outdoor and therefore, weather dependent.

Day 1 – Welcome to Texas!

Welcome Dinner

South Padre Island...

South Padre Island is a tropical oasis located off the southern tip of Texas. This barrier island offers the unsurpassed beauty of the Laguna Madre Bay and the Gulf of Mexico and is the ideal year-round destination for visitors seeking a getaway from the daily grind.

The moment you cross the Queen Isabella Causeway, you feel like you've left all your cares behind – you're now on South Padre Island time and free to experience your own tropical getaway. With 34 miles of beautiful white sand and clear emerald water, South Padre Island is one of the world's most exquisite barrier islands – and the only Island in Texas. Calm weather and water and more than 300 days of sunshine make South Padre Island a great place to visit all year. If you're visiting in the summertime, the cool breezes blowing in your hair will refresh you as you sip an icy drink; in the winter, the warm sun will melt away your cares as you stroll down the beach in shorts and sandals. You can close your eyes, breathe deeply, and let go of all the worries you left behind when your trip to South Padre began.



Padre Island Fun Facts

- ✚ **South Padre Island is known for ecotourism and is a hot spot for Sea Turtle Rescue.** Winter birdwatching and turtle rescue are important draws to the island. When you make a visit to the aptly named Sea Turtle Inc., you'll not only learn more about sea turtles and their increasingly uphill battle, but you can volunteer to help rescue and rehabilitate them.
- ✚ **It's a tropical Island.** Never been to South Padre Island? Need a point of reference? South Padre island latitude (26.111) is roughly the same as Nassau, Bahamas (25.048). Average daily temperature in November is approximately 78 degrees.
- ✚ **South Padre Island is a city, not an island.** South Padre Island is a city on the southern tip of Padre



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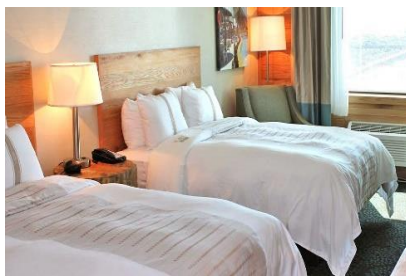
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Island, the world's longest barrier island, which boasts an area of more than 200 square miles. Of course, not a lot of people call this "city" home. It has just 2,800 or so permanent residents, which is fewer than some of the high-rise condo buildings in the bigger Texas cities.

- ✚ **You'll float better.** The Laguna Madre Bay is a "hyper-saline" bay meaning the salt content is higher than the rest of the ocean. It is one of only six hyper-saline bays in the world. This makes it extremely important for Gulf of Mexico sea life including dolphins and sea turtles which migrate to the Laguna Madre to hatch or raise their young. The only saltier body of water in the USA is the Great Salt Lake in Utah.
- ✚ **You'll have a chance to discover gold and silver.** South Padre Island is home to several shipwrecks. During the 1500's, Spain used South Padre Island to export resources from Mexico to Spain. The 'Wreck of the 300' in 1554 lost millions of dollars in silver. Treasure hunters still flock to the area looking for lost treasure.
- ✚ **It might make you stronger.** The first residents of the island were the Karankawa Indians. Local legend claims they were taller and stronger than the average man. They protected their island with massive bows and large arrows that most men could not draw back.
- ✚ **Experience lifestyles of the rich and famous.** During the roaring 20's, South Padre Island was popular with the rich and famous and the Port Isabel Yacht Club provided a premier yachting destination during the time of prohibition. It's said to have been frequented by Amelia Earhart, Al Capone, President Eisenhower, and Charles Lindberg. The Yacht Club is still open as a hotel and restaurant.

Upon arrival, we'll get checked into our hotel, have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting, and then set off for dinner. If you arrive early and have extra time, we'll roll out some fun games and ice-breaker activities.

Sample Hotel: Beach Resort at South Padre Island – Be at the beach and stay at the beach! Located next to Schlitterbahn Waterpark, the resort hotel offers 216 rooms and suites to accommodate your group with full-service food locations on site. Standard rooms feature two queen-sized beds to accommodate up to 4 students. All units have a coffeemaker with Wolfgang Puck coffee, microwave, mini-fridge, TV with 60 plus stations, WiFi, hairdryer, iron/ironing board and room safes. Bedding is soft and comfortable! Groups will have 1-day admission to the waterpark included in your package; additional days may be purchased if desired.



Day 2 – Coastal Sciences

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Texas! Today we'll dip into Marine Bio and conservation to learn about this area, the local animals and their habitats.



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University of Texas Coastal Sciences Laboratory – The Coastal Studies Laboratory located on South Padre Island was established in 1973, and is dedicated to providing educational opportunities, enhancing research, engaging in public service, and providing community outreach related to coastal and marine concerns in the Gulf of Mexico with special emphasis on the South Texas region.

Groups will participate in a full day of research and learning today. Dependent upon the size of your group, if over 24 people, you may be split into 2 groups for various activities. Groups will incorporate 3 activities into their day with a break for lunch.

2-hour Cruise on the Ridley Floating Classroom - Students will board the R/V Ridley for a 2-hour discovery cruise through the Laguna Madre and ship channels that border South Padre Island. The Ridley is a 57-foot marine vessel fully equipped for research and learning. The students will use plankton nets, trawls, water and sediment samplers, and test kits to gain an understanding in the research of marine biology, ecology, and human impacts on the marine environment. Onboard touch tanks and microscopes allow the students to closely observe and learn about adaptations and taxonomy in lessons led by the Floating Classroom's educator-naturalists. In addition to the hands-on learning experience offered on the Ridley, sightings of bottlenose dolphins, sea turtles, and brown pelicans are common in the Laguna Madre. The goal is to enhance the understanding of this unique marine environment and inspire stewardship of our coastal natural resources in students of all ages.

- ✓ Use plankton nets, trawls, sediment samplers, and water quality probes to collect specimens and gain an understanding of marine biology research
- ✓ Onboard touch tank
- ✓ Digital microscope and monitor for viewing plankton and invertebrates
- ✓ Onboard presentations about the Laguna Madre and its wildlife will be led by experienced educator-naturalists

Guided Beach Ecology Hike - Walk along the beach with a naturalist from the Coastal Studies Lab to the South Padre Island jetties while learning about the dunes, pollinators, coastal wildlife, and marine habitats. After, tour the center's lab, invertebrate specimen touch tank, scavenger hunt/dichotomous key exercise.

Dogfish Shark Dissection - Learn about the anatomy and physiology of the Dogfish Shark through a hands-on dissection. For larger groups, additional activities may include a marine debris presentation, and watershed model review.

In the evening, we'll have dinner locally and then save time for an **evening beach stroll to look for crabs**. Make sure to bring your flashlight!

Day 3 – Waterpark fun!

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning South Padre! Spend the day at the Schlitterbahn Waterpark for some serious fun! Please be aware though, dependent upon your season of travel, the outdoor waterpark may not be open. In these periods, the indoor waterpark is open on the weekends to enjoy.

Schlitterbahn Waterpark – Tube in miles of rivers, get a rush on award winning uphill water coasters, test your skill on the Boogie Bahn Surfing wave, ride the endless wave rivers, or relax all day in shaded picnic areas. The beach inspired theme park has turned island lounging into a way of life! Schlitterbahn South Padre Island has two sections - Outdoor and Indoor. Featuring the "Transportainment" river system, the attractions in the Outdoor water park are almost all connected by a single river. You can enter the Rio Aventura from one of several



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beaches within the park and then choose your own water adventure from there. With the help of the “Aquaveyer”, you do not have to leave your tube to float the day away at Schlitterbahn. The Indoor park is open throughout the year and connects to the Outdoor park by a short walkway. With playgrounds, slides, and water coasters, you’ll enjoy the beach at Schlitterbahn South Padre Island.



Aqua Lab Master Class – This hands-on science & physics class lets students get first-hand, behind the scenes knowledge on how things in a waterpark actually work. Approximately 1-hour, students learn how the pumps and filters work, the amount of computers required to make certain ride features operate, how water is made to flow uphill, and more.

This evening, after dinner in town, we'll have some fun with go carts and mini-golf!



Gravity Park – Get your game on! Gravity Park is an adventure and amusement park with all kinds of attractions. Our groups will participate in Go Carts and Mini-Golf with their package, plus added activities (at extra cost) may



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include the Tallest Reverse-Bungee in the world (The Rocket), a Skycoaster (Swing) with a view of the whole island, a Trampoline, an Arcade, and a Climbing Wall!

Day 4 – Sea Turtles & Conservation

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Fall in love with turtles today as we embark on a very special visit to the local rescue facility.

Sea Turtle, Inc. - Sea Turtle, Inc. was founded in 1977 to aid in the protection and recovery of the endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle. Their mission has since expanded into three parts: Education, Rehabilitation and Conservation. Sea Turtle Inc.'s goal is to educate the public about endangered sea turtles and their marine environments. An essential part of endangered species conservation is simply to help people understand the species and their importance not only to their habitat, but to our lives as well. Our groups will participate in a "Turtle Talk" and an educational program. [The Turtle Lady](#)



Volunteer Beach Clean-Up Project – This afternoon, we'll have free time on the beach but also a mission – beach clean-up. For conservation and preservation efforts, keeping an area clean is the single most important thing we can contribute to our environment. Bags are supplied to us by the city of South Padre Island for a bit of beach clean-up to help protect the coastal environment.



Sandcastle Team Building Beach Workshop - Working together for a common goal is a desirable outcome -- especially when it happens on the beach! If you want to build something BIG, this is the activity for you. Our expert will meet you on the beach with a cart full of shovels, buckets and other goodies and help you build something amazing - including a well-designed message, name or logo if you so desire. Larger groups may choose to break into smaller teams if preferred. Have a design in mind? Bring it!



This evening we'll have our farewell dinner and toast the sunset!

Day 5 – Goodbye!

Breakfast, lunch & dinner on own

After breakfast at our hotel, we'll check-out, load our bags into the coach and set off for the regional airport. If you're lucky enough to get a later flight, enjoy your last morning on the beach or shopping in town! We sincerely hope you enjoy your time with us!



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TEXAS ISLAND ADVENTURE

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What's Included:

Roundtrip flights OR motorcoach transportation
4-nights' accommodation in South Padre Island
SPI airport transfers (a free local trolley is available to get around town once there)
Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on your night of arrival and ending with breakfast on your day of departure
University of Texas Coastal Science Laboratory with:
- 2-hour cruise on the Ridley Floating Classroom Marine Research Vessel
- Guided Beach Ecology Walk
- Dogfish Shark Dissection Lab
Evening Crab Hunt (bring your flashlight)
Schlitterbahn Waterpark Day
Go Carts & Mini-Golf at Gravity Park
AquaLab Master Class at Schlitterbahn
Beach Clean-Up Volunteer Project
Sandcastle Teambuilding Project
Personal Tour Ambassador
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Airport transfers in your home area
Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Lunch, snacks and extra beverages in destination
Transportation other than airport transfers (groups use free island trolley to get around)
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Additional sightseeing & entertainment options
Hotel incidental bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.
Personal expenditures
Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, tour ambassador
Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or service charges levied by the governments or our suppliers
Luggage handling

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming.
If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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