



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. 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.

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, Jalufka-Govatos House, Ward-McCampbell House, Lawrence House, Steamboat House, Grande-Grossman House, Littles-Martin House, Sidbury House, Merriman-Bobys House, S. Julius Lichenstein House, Simon Gugenheim House, and Galvan House, which serves as the Cultural Center. Many of these houses are recorded Texas Historical Landmarks. Britton Evans Centennial House was built in 1849 and is the oldest structure in Corpus Christi; during the Civil War, it served as a Confederate hospital.

The Performing Arts Center at Texas A&M Corpus Christi is the principal performance venue for the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, Corpus Christi Chorale, and Corpus Christi Live!, 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. Old Concrete Street Amphitheater is an outdoor concert venue. Other venues include the Richardson Performance Hall at Del Mar College and the American Bank Center Selena Auditorium.

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, which is near the Christus Spohn Shoreline and Christus Spohn Memorial hospitals.

The Hewitt 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. The Doctors Regional division of Corpus Christi Medical Center is located near this neighborhood.

In the Southside, the Bent Tree and Kings Crossing subdivisions feature large contemporary and traditional style homes built in the 1990s. Some lots are available for new construction. Other Southside options include brick ranch-style homes, apartment complexes, and town homes. Christus Spohn South and Corpus Christi Medical Center Bay Area and Heart Hospital are located in the Southside.

The Calallen neighborhood is home to Corpus Christi Medical Center Northwest Regional, which focuses on emergency and behavioral health care. Calallen was once an independent town but was annexed by Corpus Christi in 1966. Homes in the River Rock area near the hospital 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 196 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 bird watching 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 showcases colorful, exotic floral exhibits 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), Corpus Christi Icerays (ice hockey), Corpus Christi Fury (indoor football), and Corpus Christi Mermaids (women's football).

EDUCATION

Corpus Christi Independent School District is the largest public school district in the region and educates over 39,000 students in 37 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 7 high schools, and 4 special schools. Other districts in the city include Flour Bluff, Calallen, Tuloso-Midway, and West Oso. Together, these five districts have an enrollment of approximately 53,000 students.

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 has two campuses and two education centers and offers associate's degrees and certificates. South Texas Vo-Tech provides technical and vocational training in selected fields.

HEALTH CARE

Corpus Christi is served by two health systems, Christus Spohn Health System and Corpus Christi Medical Center, which have almost 1,600 acute-care beds. In addition, there is a dedicated pediatric hospital. The area is also served by two long-term acute care facilities.

CITY STATS

2012

City Population	312,195
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	437,109
Per Capita Personal Income, Corpus Christi, TX (MSA)	\$40,796