

Corpus Christi Bay fun in the sun

Sun, sand and sea - year round - sums up the essence of Corpus Christi.

With the Gulf of Mexico and the long slender islands of Padre and Mustang on one side, Spring Breakers from across the country will be arriving in the Corpus Christi Bay area from late February through the end of March.

An average temperature of 72 degrees invites visitors to enjoy outdoor sports 12 months out of the year. At Cole Park's southern end is Oleander Point, one of the hotspots for Windsurfing which has become one of the city's most popular sports, thanks to the ever-present sea breeze.

Most Spring Breakers stay in the many hotels and condominiums on the northern tip of Padre Island or in Port Aransas, a small town 20 miles north of Corpus Christi located on Mustang Island.

Padre Island Drive aptly describes the route to the endless beaches called Padre Island. County parks occupy this northern tip of the island. Fishermen regularly reel in big ones on Bob Hall Pier, stretching more than 1200 feet into the Gulf of Mexico. But, it's a pier without a top decking, to create the waves for surfing, that attracts surfers to the J.P. Luby Youth Park.

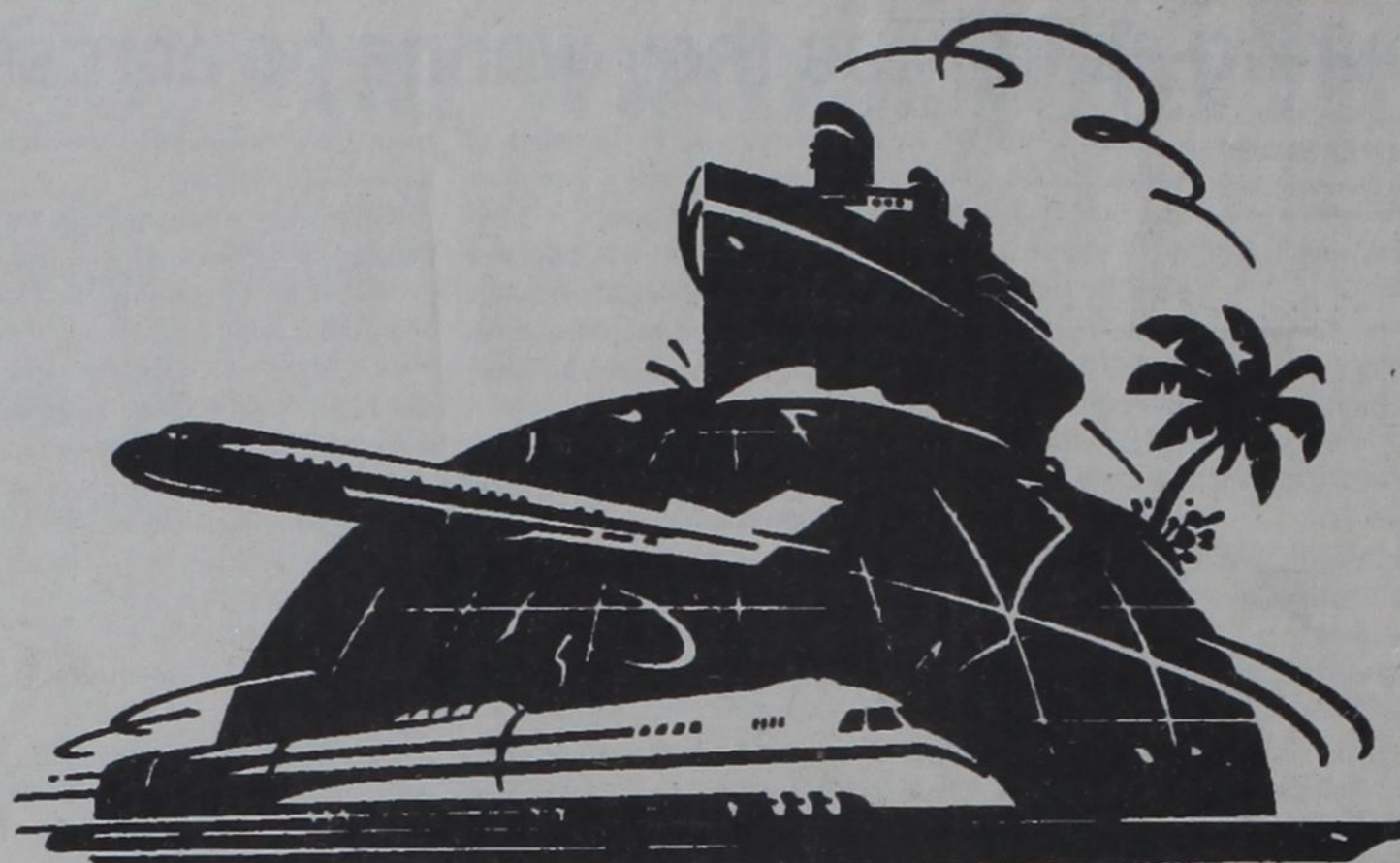
The Padre Island National Seashore, one of only 11 national seashores in the nation, protects the middle part of the 110-mile island which is the barrier island

between the Texas mainland and the Gulf of Mexico. Malaquite Beach is different from most on the island since no traffic is allowed, plus there's a pavilion, bathhouse and convenience store. To venture much farther down Padre Island, it's a must to take a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

Padre Island and Mustang Island are almost indistinguishable. Mustang got its name from the wild horses that once roamed the island. Mustang Island State Park, the state's second most popular park covering 3700 acres on the beach, marks the beginning of development that dots the island with highrise, luxury condominiums.

Undisputed as the deep-sea fishing capital of Texas, Port Aransas has private charter boats or the big party boats for half-day or full day trips offshore into the Gulf. Quaint eateries right on the water and weather-beaten cottages add to the fishing village charm. But, it's the ferries - carrying cars filled with vacationers to and fro between Port Aransas and the road north - that is the ultimate charmer. The ferries operate around the clock and passengers can catch a glimpse of the dolphins which frolic alongside.

There are plenty of Spring Break activities planned for the Corpus Christi Bay Area in 1992 according to the Director of Beach Services for Nueces County Chris Lawrence. Anyone interested in detailed information can call 512-949-7023.



SPRING BREAK adventures

New Mexico ski adventure

ANGEL FIRE (25 miles east of Taos): Daily operation through March 28. Lifts: 4 quad chairs, 2 triple chairs. Lift prices: full-day adult \$28. Telephone: (800) 633-7463.

RED RIVER (40 miles north-east of Taos): Daily operation through March 28. Lifts: 2 triple chairs, 3 double chairs, 1 surface chair. Lift prices: full-day adult \$30. Telephone: (505) 754-2382.

SANDIA PEAK (10 miles east of Albuquerque): Daily operation through mid-March. Lifts: 2 surface chairs, 4 double chairs,

55 person tram. Lift prices: full day adult \$26. Telephone: (505) 242-9133.

SKI SANTA FE (20 miles northeast of Santa Fe): Daily operation through mid-April. Lifts: 1 quad chair, 1 triple chair, 2 double chairs, 3 surface chairs. Lift prices: full day adult \$30. Telephone: (505) 982-4429.

SKI APACHE (10 miles north of Ruidoso): Daily operation through April 11. Lifts: 1 quad chair, 5 triple chairs, 12 double chairs 1 surface chair and 1 four passenger gondola. Lift prices: full day adult \$32. Telephone: (505) 336-4356.

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SKI CLOUDCROFT (near Cloudcroft): Daily operation through March 31. Lifts: 1 double chair, 1 surface chair. Lift prices: full day adult \$25. Telephone: (800) 333-7542.

TAOS SKI VALLEY (15 miles north of Taos): Daily operation through mid-April. Lifts: 3 quad chairs, 1 triple chair, 6 double chairs, 1 surface chair. Lift prices: full day adult \$35. Telephone (505) 776-2291.

Sunny mountain skiing

Vail's enormous terrain, including the back bowls, is one reason why it's rated the top ski resort. Touting seven high-speed quad chairlifts, the most in the world, 90% of Vail's 3,834 skiable acres may be accessed via these express lifts. And the activities found both on-mountain and off provide diversions, including Boardertown, the showboard half-pipe at Golden Peak and a bobsled course near Mid-Vail.

Getting to Vail is easy with non-stop service into the Vail/Eagle County Airport from Dallas/Fort Worth on American Airlines. With the convenience of non-stop air service, Vail truly is a

South Padre for the adventurer

Are you ready to trade in your overcoats and earmuffs for swimsuits and suntan oil? Then it's time to start planning your Spring Break trip to South Padre Island, Texas' premier beach resort. During the month of March this traditionally "family" beach welcomes Spring Breakers from all over the country.

Once again, the Party Smart theme is in place for Spring Break '93. This novel idea is the brainchild of the Beer Drinker's of America, a nonprofit, alcohol education awareness program which neither condones nor condemns the use of alcohol. What it does say to people 21 years and older is, if you choose to drink, do so responsibly. Party Smart will be seen and heard all over South Padre Island!

Corporate sponsors are flocking to South Padre Island to catch the present and future markets for their merchandise. So, you can look forward to various activities including volleyball tournaments, sandcastle contests, frisbee contests and tug-o-wars on the beach. Poolside will be the scene for bikini contests, tan line contests, and the infamous belly flop contests.

These activities and many more will only enhance the Island's other recreational action such as windsurfing, wave riding, parasailing and horseback riding on the beach.

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THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

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Grid of words from yesterday's crossword puzzle.

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