

Visitors Guide

PORT ISABEL

Texas



PORTISABELCHAMBER.com

PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Port Isabel, Texas



421 East Queen Isabella Blvd. | Port Isabel, TX 78578
Keeper's Cottage & Chamber of Commerce
956-943-2262

Open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m., weather permitting.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

visitportisabellighthouse.com

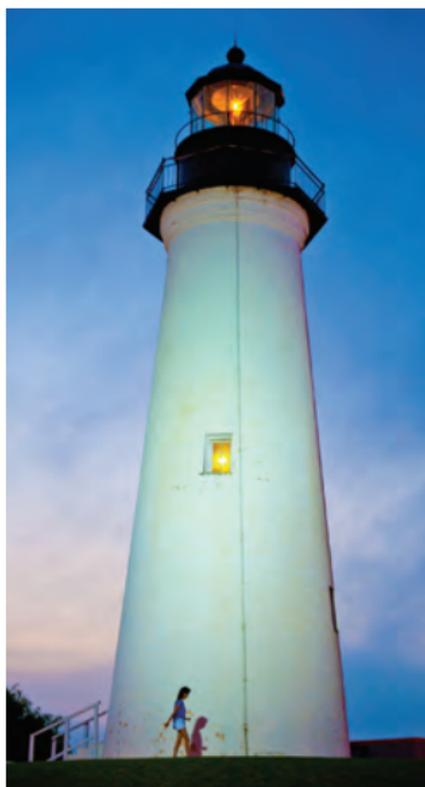
TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
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POINT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

THE POINT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE is the heart of the Port Isabel experience! A stroll to the top of the 70- foot tower offers a 16-mile view. The lighthouse was constructed in 1852 as a working beacon for vessels entering the Brazos Santiago Pass. Decommissioned in 1905, the lighthouse is now a primary tourist attraction.

TICKETS may be purchased in the Lighthouse, the Keepers Cottage (Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center), the Treasures of the Gulf Museum and the Port Isabel Historical Museum.



HOURS OF OPERATION *(Subject to change.)*

Daily: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (weather permitting).

Summer Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday - Sunday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TICKET INFORMATION **[LIGHTHOUSE ONLY]**

Adult: \$5.00; **Student*** & **Senior Citizens**:** \$4.00;

Children 4 – 12*:** \$3.00

(*With Student ID, ** 55 & over, ***Must be at least 4 years and 38" tall. Cannot be carried up the stairs by an adult.)

Individual Site Tickets to the Treasures of the Gulf Museum OR the Port Isabel Historical Museum.

Adults: \$4.00; Senior Citizens*: \$3.00; Students**: \$2.00

Children 4 & Under: Free; Museum Member***: Free.

Military ID: Free.

For more information: www.portisabellighthouse.com.

*Senior Citizens (55+); **Students (K-College w/ ID)

***Museum Member (w/ Membership Card)

(Hours & Prices subject to change. Call 956-943-2262.)

Below: easterly view from the top of the lighthouse.



The Best Kept Secret in Port Isabel!

WHITE SANDS

Motel, Marina & Restaurant



MOTEL: Day-Week-Month
Standard Motel Rooms
Kitchenettes (with full kitchen)
One Bedroom Suites (full kitchen &
separate bedroom)

MARINA, BAIT STAND:
Fully stocked marina.

Bait, tackle, ice, snacks, beverages.
Boat ramp & boat slips (Daily & Long Term).
Licensed Fishing Guides.

RESTAURANT & BAR: Featuring our **CAPTAIN'S CATCH** Seafood Platter. Proudly serving Texas Gulf Shrimp, fresh Flounder, Snapper and Mexican Food. Full service bar includes our own blend of tasty Margaritas.

WHITE SANDS

Motel, Marina & Restaurant

418 W. Highway 100 in Port Isabel, Texas

Motel Reservations / Marina Info:

956/943-2414

Restaurant: 956/433-5762

Your One Stop Fishing Headquarters



Large Selection of Bait & Tackle

FRESH SEAFOOD MARKET

Local Gulf Shrimp • Fish • Oysters • Crabmeat

GIFT SHOP

Guy Harvey • Salt Life • Avid • Hook & Tackle
Pescador • Aftco • Hats • Shirts & More

501 W. Highway 100

Port Isabel

956/943-1159



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PORT ISABEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
421 Queen Isabella Blvd. • Port Isabel, Tx 78578

www.portisabelchamber.com

Phone: (956) 943-2262

Fax: (956) 943-4001

email: director@portisabel.org

The Port Isabel Visitor's Guide is published by the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce. It is designed to serve as a resource for the visitor, persons interested in business or residential relocation or out of the area inquiries.

The Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce is organized to promote business and community growth, to promote tourism, to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the city so that its business people will prosper and to enhance the quality of life and values of the community.

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EXPERIENCE

the Gulf Coast Byway



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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

www.TexasTropicalTrail.com



101 Things To Do In Port Isabel

1- CLIMB THE PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE. The Port Isabel Lighthouse is the only lighthouse open to the public on the Texas Gulf Coast. In 1852, the Port Isabel Lighthouse was constructed at the cost of \$15,000.

2- LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S COTTAGE. Visit the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage to lighthouse memorabilia and artifact exhibit. No admission fee.

3- TREASURES OF THE GULF MUSEUM. In 1554, a fleet of ships wrecked 30 miles north of Port Isabel. The Treasures Museum tells the tale of the survivors with a variety of displays. Gift shop.

4- PORT ISABEL HISTORIC MUSEUM. The Champion building, built in 1899, sports a fish mural painted by a local one-armed angler.



5- BEULAH LEE PARK. In the center of Park District. Two gazebos, lots of outdoors.

6- PORT ISABEL EVENT & CULTURAL. Over 8,000 square feet of meeting and event space. 309 E. Railroad Ave.

7- One of TEXAS' LONGEST LIGHTED FISHING PIERS. The Pirates Landing Fishing Pier. Don't have a rod and reel? You can rent one. Don't want to fish... spectators are welcomed.

8- BAY FISHING TRIP. Need a story to bring back home with you? Experienced local captains can put you on the fish. Skinny water, great big fish.

9- OFFSHORE FISHING TRIP. Skinny water not enough? Try an offshore fishing experience for a bigger fishing tale.

10- WATCHING PELICANS AT PELICAN STATION RESTAURANT. Pelicans perch on the railroad pier pilings and

boulders.

11- OSPREYS OVERHEAD. Fishing from the skies.

12- BUY FRESH SEAFOOD. If you don't want to catch your own, or just want to take home some succulent Gulf shrimp, shop at Quik Stop, Joe's Seafood Market, Reyes Seafood, Tortugas, Pelican Station or Gulf Seafood for your own fresh Gulf or Laguna Madre Bay catch.

13- EAT FRESH SEAFOOD. Many restaurants offer to cook your catch and add their side dishes. Or choose from menus full of expertly prepared seafood or catch an all you can eat special.

14- SHOP TILL YOU DROP. Whatever you want! Browse and leave with just a postcard or a new address!

(continued on page 7)



FULTON MANSION State Historic Site



Your adventure begins here...

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION 

317 S. Fulton Beach Rd. • Rockport, TX 78382
fulton-mansion@thc.texas.gov
361-729-0386 • <http://bit.ly/fulton-mansion>

PORT ISABEL
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NAVIGATION DISTRICT

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Gulf of Mexico



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

LAGUNA VISTA:

Fire Alarms 9-1-1
Fire Department Office(956) 426-9089
Police Department.....(956) 943-8855

PORT ISABEL:

Emergency Medical Service (956) 943-7829
Police Department.....(956) 943-2727
Constable Pct. #1.....(956) 943-6757
Justice of the Peace.....(956) 943-2520
Sheriffs Office(956) 544-6700
Port Isabel - San Benito
Navigation District(956) 943-7826

NATIONAL SERVICES:

U. S. Coast Guard.....(956) 364-7400
National Weather Service(956) 504-1432



101 Things To Do In Port Isabel

15- VIEW THE SHRIMP BOAT FLEETS. Visible from both South Shore & Port District, or from the end of Champion St.

16- CROSS THE ONLY SWING BRIDGE IN TEXAS. At the intersection of South Shore Drive and Garcia St.

17- GO ON A DOLPHIN CRUISE. Experience marine life close up and personal.

18- CITY OF PORT ISABEL CEMETERY. Home to some of the earliest settlers to the area. Grave markers with countries of origins connect us to lands across the waters. [\[Historical Marker\]](#)

19- OLDEST CEMETERY IN PORT ISABEL. Located on Island Ave., right hand side, 1/2 block north of Queen Isabella Blvd.

20- VISIT THE QUEEN ISABEL INN. Constructed early in the 1900s, it is one of the oldest coastal resorts in south Texas. [\[Historical Marker\]](#)

21- DRIVE MODERN VENICE. Carved from earth and water during the 1930s, Modern Venice offers a waterfront view for every resident. Take Island Avenue north.

22- DRIVE THE PORT ISABEL/SAN BENITO NAVIGATION DISTRICT. The southernmost deep-water port in Texas is home to shrimping fleets, related industry and can facilitate large sea going vessels at its docks. Shrimp boats use the turning basin before heading back to dock. Barges, ships, fishing and pleasure craft pass through these waters.

23- PICNIC AT THE PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE. Enjoy an afternoon in the sea breezes, just steps from the historic Port Isabel Lighthouse and the Keeper's Cottage.

24- JUST TAKE A WALK. Miles of sidewalk space to stroll through charming Port Isabel.

25- READ AN ADVENTURE AT THE PORT ISABEL PUBLIC LIBRARY. Take a break from all the action and settle in with a good book. Or check up on news from home on one of the library's computers. 213 Yturria St.

26- TAKE THE WALK OF GENERALS. 21 of them. Strategically placed all around the lighthouse, the Walk of Generals pays homage to the military giants that spent time in Port Isabel or on Brazos Island (Boca Chica beach).

27- CHRIST'S CAVALRY MURAL. Illustrates the Oblate history in Port Isabel and the Rio Grande Valley. 1849-2012. Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. 705 S. Longoria St.

28- SEE THE WETLANDS BEHIND H.E.B. The intersection of Highways 48 & 100 is a perfect example of the terrain of the Laguna Madre area before its settlement and development in the early years.

29- WINDSURF THE LAGUNA MADRE. No shortage of fuel here! Navigate the bay from the flats on South Padre Island to the Port Isabel Side Channel in Port Isabel.

30- VISIT THE SITE OF HISTORIC FORT POLK ON THE LIGHTHOUSE GROUNDS. Ft. Polk was the first occupant at the site of the Lighthouse. Zachary Taylor built the fort in 1846 which served the troops until 1850 during the U.S.-Mexican War. [\[Historical Marker\]](#)

31- TRY TO FINISH SOME OF THE BIGGEST TORTILLAS IN TEXAS'. So big, they dwarf a dinner plate. Filled with anything you want. Not a challenge for the faint hearted. Isabel's Cafe and Manuel's Restaurant both boast of Texas Monthly's best tortilla ratings!

32- WATCH A MOVIE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE ESTABLISHMENT CINEMA. Free to the public. Fridays at 9:30 p.m. in June & July.

33- SEND A POSTCARD HOME FROM THE PORT ISABEL POST OFFICE. Share a memory. Don't just send an email. Why not buy and send an authentic Port Isabel postcard from Port Isabel.

34- SEND AN EMAIL FROM THE PORT ISABEL PUBLIC LIBRARY. Ok, sometimes the mail just isn't fast enough. Use the library's computers to let folks back home know what a great time you are having.

35- FLYFISH THE LAGUNA MADRE. Some of the best flyfishing on the Gulf coast will test your technique.

36- WADE FISH THE LAGUNA MADRE. Strap on the bait bucket and hit the Laguna Madre 'mano a mano'.

37- VISIT THE OLD PORT ISABEL FIRE HALL. Located southeast of the Port Isabel City Cemetery, the old Port Isabel Fire Hall is still used for community activities.

38- VISIT PIRATELAFITTE'S WELL. He had to get fresh water somewhere, why not dig a hole in Laguna Vista.

39- VISIT A STATE HISTORIC SITE. The historic Port Isabel lighthouse is one of 32 Texas Historical Commission State Historic Sites.

40- PLAY GOLF. On the shores of the Intracoastal Waterway at Long Island Village or on the banks of the Laguna Madre at SPI Golf Club.

41- BUY A T-SHIRT. What is more traditional than picking up a Port Isabel t-shirt!

42- LAUNCH YOUR BOAT AT THE POMPANO CITY DOCKS. You're not going to catch any fish if it stays on the trailer!

43- STORE YOUR BOAT AT SEARANCH II. Don't want to trailer your boat all the way from home? Might not be here for a while? Dry dock your boat in Port Isabel.



(continued on page 12)

PARK CENTER



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POINT ISABEL I.S.D.

BRIDGING THE DISTRICT
AND COMMUNITIES IN A...

Tradition of Excellence



FISHING!

PORT ISABEL, TEXAS

For generations, Port Isabel has been a launching pad for anglers fishing the Lower Laguna Madre and nearshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Today, fishermen continue to flock here, knowing the angling experience offered by Port Isabel is unrivaled by other destinations along the Texas coast.

Legendary for its production of trophy speckled trout (spotted seatrout), the Lower Laguna Madre yielded the current Texas state record trout in 2002. Redfish, one of the most popular gamefish along the Gulf Coast, are also found in abundance on the Lower Laguna's shallow, clear flats.

In addition to the traditional Texas inshore fare of speckled trout, redfish and flounder, the waters fronting Port Isabel are also home to a variety of 'more tropical species' than is typically found elsewhere in the Lone Star State. The only fishable population of snook in the United States outside of South Florida resides in the Lower Laguna, as do healthy populations of mangrove snapper, lookdowns, gag grouper, Spanish mackerel and more.

Tarpon also draw a good number of anglers to Port Isabel each year. A resident population of juvenile tarpon is available to anglers year around. Mature fish are typically found in fishable numbers from April through October - by far the longest 'tarpon season' on the Texas coast.

Anglers looking to head into the Brazos Santiago Pass and the waters of the Gulf of Mexico beyond will have an opportunity to catch not only tarpon, but also kingfish (king mackerel), bonito, blackfin and yellowfin tuna, red snapper, wahoo, ling, and a variety of billfish.



By Danno Wise

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Fax: (956) 772-7093

www.HOMESPI.com

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Wilson, Kate	832-315-1981	katewilsonspi@gmail.com
Zuniga, Linda	459-7183	lindazuniga1@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATIONS



CASA ROSA MOTEL

Phone: (956) 943-2052 or 943-3465

Address: 761 Highway 100

Website: www.casarosamotel.com

Email: info@casarosamotel.com

Facebook: [Casa-Rosa-Motel-334939756549465/](https://www.facebook.com/Casa-Rosa-Motel-334939756549465/)

AMENITIES: Outdoor swimming pool, gazebo, BBQ & picnic area, wifi, complimentary continental breakfast, coffee in the lobby, 44 air conditioned guest-rooms, desks and sofa beds, refrigerators, flat screen TVs, microwaves, business center in lobby.



LONG ISLAND VILLAGE

Phone: 800-292-7261 or (956) 943-6449 x13, x14

Address: 33772 S. Garcia St.

Website: www.longislandvillage.com

Email: longislandvillage@live.com

Facebook: [longislandvillagedande](https://www.facebook.com/longislandvillagedande)

AMENITIES: 18-hole par 3 golf course, outdoor & indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, shuffleboard, exercise room, miniature golf course, library, self-serve laundry, Village Cafe, event hall, activity center with wifi.

OYSTER COVE CONDOMINIUMS

Phone: (956) 943-2376 • Address: 401 Island Ave.

Email: oystercovecondos@gmail.com



PORT ISLA INN

Phone: (956) 772-2020

Address: 202 N. 2nd St.

Website: www.portislainn.com

Email: joshportislainn@gmail.com

AMENITIES: Outdoor swimming pool, BBQ & picnic area, wifi, microwave, refrigerator, stove, table & chairs, sofa sleeper (in some rooms), standard cable TV w/remote, self-controlled air, alarm clock, hair dryer.

PALMS CONDOMINIUMS

Phone: (956) 943-3340 or 572-6722 • Address: 506 Marina Dr.

Email: thepalmscondopi@gmail.com



QUEEN ISABEL INN

Phone: (956) 943-1468

Address: 300 S. Garcia St.

Website: www.queenisabelinn.com

AMENITIES: Outdoor swimming pool, cable TV w/ remote, telephone, microwave, coffee maker, toaster, hair dryers, iron & ironing board, ice chests for use by the pool or beach, self-serve laundry.



SOUTHWIND INN

Phone: (956) 943-3392

Address: 600 E. Davis St.

Website: www.southwindinn.com

Email: millionview@yahoo.com

Facebook: [SouthwindInn](https://www.facebook.com/SouthwindInn)

AMENITIES: Outdoor swimming pool, wifi, 2 double beds or single kingsized bed, kitchenette, color TV w/ cable including HBO, bathtub shower, free local telephone calls, air conditioning/heat, ceiling fan, refrigerator, coffee maker w/ coffee and condiments.



WHITE SANDS MOTEL, MARINA & MOTOR LODGE

Phone: (956) 943-2414

Address: 418 W. Highway 100

Email: whitesands.418@gmail.com

Facebook: [WhiteSandsPortIsabelTX](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteSandsPortIsabelTX)

AMENITIES: Outdoor swimming pool, rooms & suites with full kitchens, wifi, restaurant, marina, bait shop, self-service laundry.

WOOLVERTON REALTY (Agent)

Phone: (956) 943-5506 or 5507 • Address: 110 E. Queen Isabella Blvd.

Website: www.woolvertonrealty.com

Email: realestate@woolvertonrealty.com



1723 W. Highway 100
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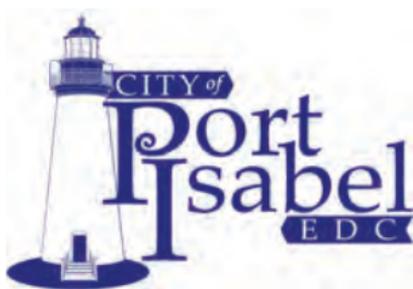
101 Things To Do In Port Isabel

- 44- DOCK YOUR BOAT AT THE POMPANO CITY DOCKS. Check at City Hall for information on the City Docks' accommodations. Call 956/943-2682. Parking fees apply.
- 45- WATERFRONT DINING. Pelican Station, Pirate's Landing or White Sands, pick one, or try them all.
- 46- SAIL THE BAY. Challenge your skills or drop anchor and enjoy the breeze and the peace and quiet.
- 47- STAY IN PORT ISABEL. Nostalgic to waterfront to modern to a waterfront RV experience. Moderately priced Port Isabel accommodations offer what you need.
- 48- TAKE A SELFIE. Lots of backgrounds for a great selfie!
- 49- BUY FINE ART. Take an original created by a local artist home with you. Many specialty shops feature local artist's wares.
- 50- BUY SOMETHING OLD. Like antiquing? Area shops offer collectibles to fill every nook and cranny of your luggage.
- 51- BUY SOMETHING NAUTICAL. Need a seashell? A compass? A whole boat? Bay Quest Outfitters, Harris Sea Castle, Anglers Marine Center, Quik Stop or Twenty Four Ten Net Works Hardware will fill the bill.
- 52- KAYAK THE CHANNELS. For a true off-road view of Port Isabel, take a kayak ride through all the channels.



(continued on page 24)

The Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation is a non-profit 4B corporation governed by a Board of Directors and operated under the direction of the Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation Director.



PIEDC utilizes ½ of one percent from the local sales tax which is then committed to funding projects and initiatives to promote the growth of the business community. In addition to workforce training and business incentives, the PIEDC has flexibility to contribute to projects that enhance the aesthetic and cultural value of our City such as street and sidewalk beautification, event and festival support, museum enhancements, and the promotion of .

The Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation has been a catalyst for local economic development for nearly two decades. In response to an ever-changing environment, it is now our focus to foster small business development and job creation and retention in Port Isabel.

The Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation serves as a facilitator for businesses to utilize every resource available, while keeping the growth and prosperity of the local economy in mind. Opportunity abounds in Port Isabel with a winning combination that includes affordable coastal real estate, Federal incentives, an available workforce and a friendly regulatory environment.

Recognizing that economic prosperity is a collective effort, the PIEDC takes great pride in the local partnerships that make that happen. We attribute much of Port Isabel's success to business and local government leaders that come together, use sound judgment and experience to promote and lead our community in the direction of growth and prosperity.

The Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation provides a proactive visionary attitude toward business development, retention. We are certain you will find Port Isabel a great place to be and the quality of life a great incentive. Please feel free to call our office and ask about doing business in Port Isabel. PIEDC and City staff will be happy to help you get started in our paradise at the coast.

Jared Hockema, PIEDC Director

Port Isabel City Hall • 305 E. Maxan St. • Port Isabel, Tx 78578
Phone: 943-0705 • Fax: 943-2029 • salcocer@copitx.com
<https://bit.ly/PIEDC>

THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY'S HISTORIC ROOTS BEGIN IN PORT ISABEL, TEXAS!

VISIT THE PORT ISABEL MUSEUMS



ADMISSION:

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS TO PORT ISABEL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OR TREASURES OF THE GULF MUSEUM

ADULTS	\$4.00
SENIOR CITIZENS (55 & OVER)	\$3.00
STUDENTS (K - COLLEGE W/ID)	\$2.00
CHILDREN (4 YEARS)	FREE ADMISSION
MUSEUM MEMBERS*	FREE ADMISSION

ALL TICKET PURCHASES ARE FINAL

(*WITH MEMBERSHIP CARD)

317 E. RAILROAD AVE. PORT ISABEL, TEXAS 78578
HOURS: TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10 A - 4 P**
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PORT ISABEL EVENT & CULTURAL CENTER

309 E. Railroad Ave. • 956/943-0720

pieventcenter@gmail.com

www.portisabel-texas.com/eventcenter

facebook.com/portisabeleventcenter

Relocation Information

Port Isabel, population 5017, is located 35 miles southeast of Harlingen and 22 miles northeast of Brownsville, Texas and 25 miles from the U.S./Mexico border. It lies on the eastern end of the Rio Grande Valley at the Brazos-Santiago Pass to the Gulf of Mexico. The latitude of Port Isabel is 26.073N. The longitude is 97.208W. It is in the Central Standard time zone. Elevation is 7 feet. Port Isabel is 180 miles from Monterrey, Mexico; 286 miles



from San Antonio; 366 miles from Houston; 531 miles from Dallas; 688 miles from Mexico City; and 815 miles from El Paso, Texas.

Incorporated in 1927, the City of Port Isabel has a Home Rule type of government with five council

members including the mayor, a city planning commission and a city master plan. The city has a full-time manager and staff. Emergency personnel include 18 police officers, 6 police vehicles, a volunteer fire department and fully staffed emergency medical services. The fire department has one fire marshal, 5 vehicles and a fire insurance rating of 0.42 full key rate and a fire protection class of 6. Service is provided to industry beyond the corporate limits.

Port Isabel and the Laguna Madre area are home to about 2,500 school age children attending one of four public schools; Garriga Elementary School (Pre-K to 5), Derry Elementary School, (Pre-K to 5), Port Isabel Junior High School (6-8), and Port Isabel High School (9-12). Port Isabel is within 25 miles of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and Texas Southmost College, and 40 miles from Texas State Technical College, the University Preparatory School and the Marine Academy in Harlingen.

As historic and cultural preservation is a priority for the community, Port Isabel has three museums, the Point Isabel Lighthouse, the Treasures of the Gulf Museum and the Port Isabel Historic Museum.

Port Isabel also has an accredited public library. Recreational, social and cultural facilities include: public swimming pool, golf courses, tennis courts, Laguna Madre Youth Center, high school auditorium, Port Isabel Event



& Cultural Center and a community center. Clubs and organizations include: Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce, American Legion Post #498, Friends of the Library, Laguna Madre Art League, Laguna Madre Humane Society, Laguna Madre Museum Foundation, Laguna Madre Yacht Club, Habitat for Humanity (Laguna Madre Chapter), Laguna Madre Golf Association and numerous committees and subcommittees.

The Port Isabel/Cameron County Airport is located ten miles from Port Isabel. Municipally owned, it has a lighted primary runway of 10,000 feet. The Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport is located in Brownsville, just 22 miles south with commercial and passenger service. The Valley International Airport, located in Harlingen, 35 miles northeast, is a hub serving

Relocation Information



the lower Rio Grande Valley and South Padre Island.

The Laguna Madre community is served locally by several publications including Port Isabel/South Padre Press (weekly), Coastal Current (weekly), and South Padre Parade (weekly). Rio Grande Valley newspapers serving the area include: Brownsville Herald and Valley Morning

Star, El Nuevo Herald, La Frontera, Mid Valley Town Crier and the Bargain Book.

The climate is mild, semi-tropical. January mean minimum temperature is 51.4 F, July mean maximum is 92.5 F. Annual average temperature is 73.6 F. September is the month with the highest precipitation with an average rainfall of 5.13", March is the lowest precipitation month with 1.11". Annual average is 27.62".

Port Isabel has a diverse demographic picture. Median resident age is 34 years, median household income is \$28,413, median house value is \$82,349. Ethnic groups represented in Port Isabel breakdown following: 74.4% Hispanic, 24.5% Non-Hispanic, 15.5% from other races, and 3.01% from two or more races. (Total can be greater than 100% because Hispanics could be counted in other races.)



Industries providing employment include: arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (25.1%); educational, health and social services (12.2%); retail trade (10.9%). Daytime population change due to commuting: +21.1%. Workers who live and work in Port Isabel: 38.5%

Taxation: Ad valorem rate per \$100 evaluation:

City of Port Isabel	0.626327
Cameron County	0.384291
State of Texas	none
Point Isabel ISD	1.081634
Laguna Madre Water District	0.080820
Texas Southmost College	0.162935
South Texas ISD	0.049200

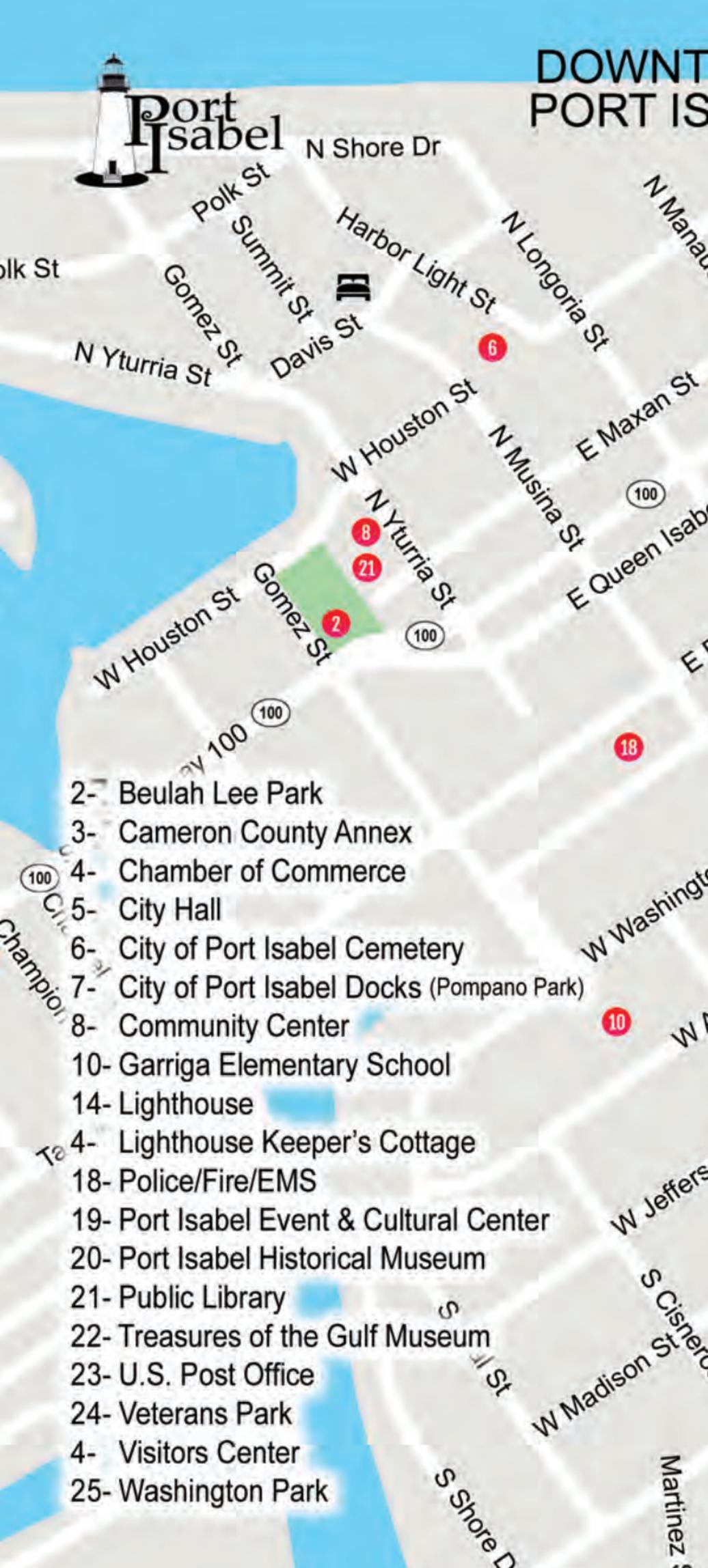
Port Isabel is a historic community with roots dating back to inhabitation by the Coahilitecan Indians prior to European settlements. It's strategic location played an important role in the U.S. Mexican War, the U.S. Civil War and the California Gold Rush. Natural clay bluffs and a proximity to the Gulf of Mexico made it a safe harbor for passage to points west and north. The Laguna Madre area has been settled, ranched, fished, shrimped and still plays a vital role in Cameron County and south Texas. Whether considering a visit, a new home or a business home, our quality of life and diversity make Port Isabel a great place to stop for day or stay for a lifetime.



DOWNTOWN PORT ISABEL

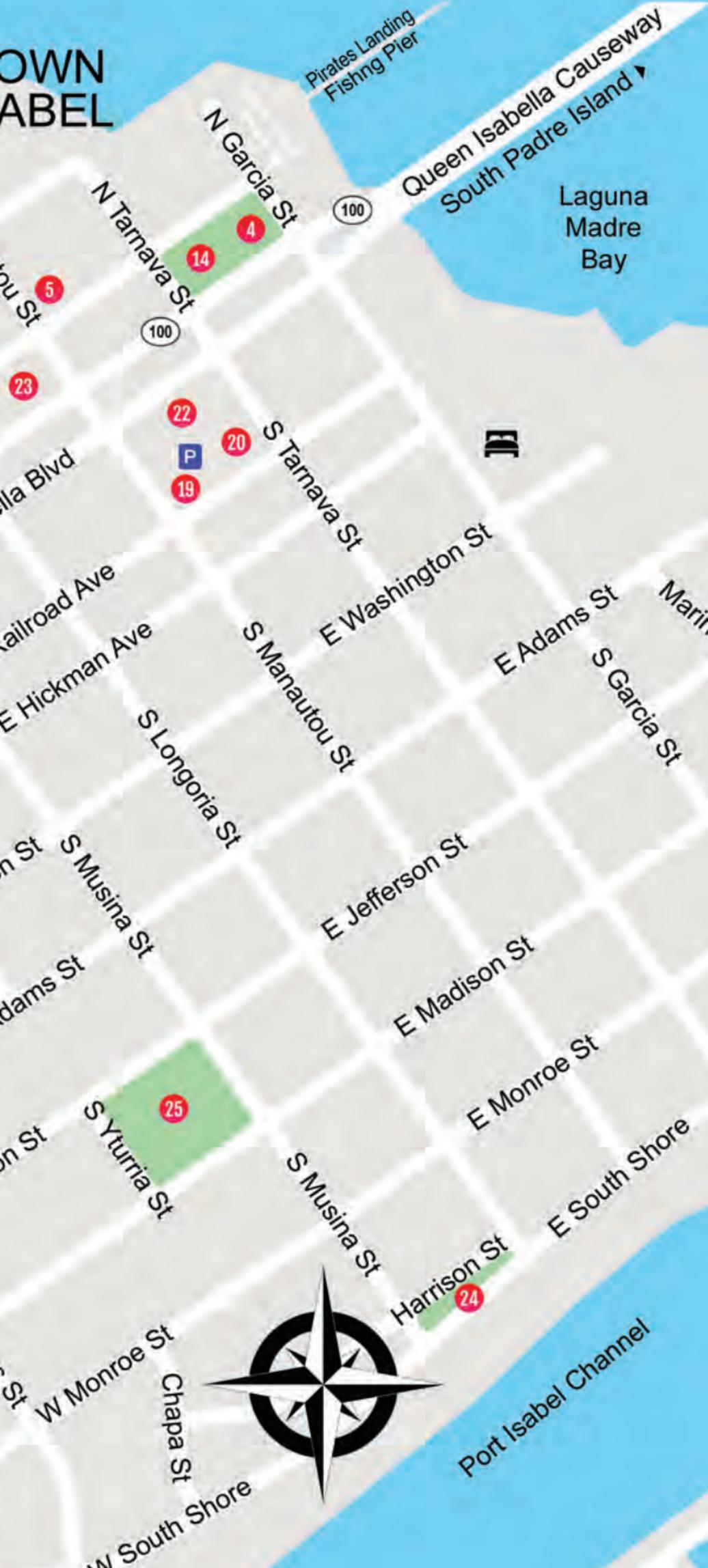


Port Isabel



- 2- Beulah Lee Park
- 3- Cameron County Annex
- 4- Chamber of Commerce
- 5- City Hall
- 6- City of Port Isabel Cemetery
- 7- City of Port Isabel Docks (Pompano Park)
- 8- Community Center
- 10- Garriga Elementary School
- 14- Lighthouse
- 4- Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage
- 18- Police/Fire/EMS
- 19- Port Isabel Event & Cultural Center
- 20- Port Isabel Historical Museum
- 21- Public Library
- 22- Treasures of the Gulf Museum
- 23- U.S. Post Office
- 24- Veterans Park
- 4- Visitors Center
- 25- Washington Park

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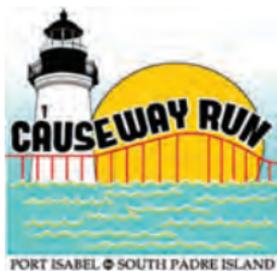
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LONGEST CAUSEWAY RUN & FITNESS WALK



The **LONGEST CAUSEWAY 10k RUN & 5k FITNESS WALK**, now in its third decade, is held annually on the second Saturday in **JANUARY**. The 10k event features a unique route that includes the 2.6 mile Queen Isabella Causeway. Starting in Port Isabel and ending on South Padre Island, the Longest Causeway Run & Fitness Walk attracts upwards of 3,000 - 4,000 participants, both runners and walkers.



The **SUMMER CAUSEWAY 10k RUN & 5k FITNESS WALK** is held annually on the first Saturday in **JUNE**. The 10k route which also includes the Queen Isabella Causeway, starts on South Padre Island and ends in Port Isabel.

These popular events attract runners and walkers of all ages and training levels. It is a rain or shine event. An awards ceremony is held at the finish line. Finisher medals are awarded. First through third place medals are also presented in each of the 23 male and female age divisions and the top three overall male and female winners are recognized. A portion of the proceeds supports the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Program.

Both Longest Causeway Run & Fitness Walks are hosted by the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce. For more information on the Causeway Run & Fitness Walk, contact the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce at (956) 943-2262 or email: director@portisabel.org.



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ANNUAL WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP SHRIMP COOK-OFF & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

As featured on the Travel Channel's *Best in Food!*

The Port Isabel Shrimp Cook-Off & Seafood Festival is held annually on the first Saturday in November from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the intersection of Highway 100 and Highway 48.

Thousands of attendees enjoy recipes by dozens of contestants as they prepare Gulf Wild Caught Shrimp in a contest of the palette. Contestants are judged on appearance, aroma and taste of their specialty dishes. Samples are available to the general public at a modest fee. The legendary band "The Agency" performs all day,



while vendors offer artwork, gifts and collectibles, tasty food and information. And there's plenty to keep the kids entertained as well.

For more information on this must

attend event, contact the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce at (956) 943-2226 or email: director@portisabel.org.



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101 Things To Do In Port Isabel

53- JET SKI THE LAGUNA MADRE. Kayaking too slow? Jet ski the Laguna Madre Bay!

54- FISH IN TEXAS' OLDEST FISHING TOURNAMENT. Port Isabel is home to the Texas International Fishing Tournament. Held annually the first weekend in August.

55- RUN ACROSS TEXAS' LONGEST CAUSEWAY. Held annually in January & June, the Longest Causeway Run & Fitness walk is a 10k run or 5k walk that starts in Port Isabel and ends across the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge on South Padre Island.

56- EAT THE WORLD'S BEST SHRIMP. Many local restaurants serve fresh caught Gulf shrimp, expertly prepared. You can sample the finest at the Chamber's World's Championship Shrimp Cook-Off, annually, the first Saturday in November.

57- VISIT THE VALLEY'S SPORTS HALL OF FAME & ONE OF THE LARGEST SPORTS MEMORABILIA COLLECTIONS IN THE RGV. Drop in at Doubleday's Sports Bar.

58- VISIT THE PIRATES AT PIRATES LANDING. And enjoy a meal overlooking the Laguna Madre.

59- SHOP MARKET DAYS. Held twice a year in April and October, at the Port Isabel Lighthouse.

60- SEE THE BROWNSVILLE SHIP CHANNEL. From the intersection of Garcia Street and South Shore Drive or in the Port District, you can see large ocean-going vessels, oil rigs heading out to the Gulf and barges turn in from the Intracoastal Waterway or the Gulf of Mexico en route to the Brownsville Ship Channel.

61- SEE THE GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY FROM THE TOP OF THE CAUSEWAY. The darker deeper water seen from the top of the Causeway is the Intracoastal Waterway. It connects Brownsville to Boston.

62- SEE THE ORIGINAL QUEEN ISABELLA CAUSEWAY. As you cross the causeway to South Padre Island, look south. The ends of the bridge are still visible.

63- WATCH THE FIREWORKS OVER THE BAY. Fridays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the City of South Padre Island creates a breathtaking firework display on the north side of the causeway over the Laguna Madre Bay.

64- TRICK OR TREAT THE LIGHTHOUSE SQUARE. On Halloween, businesses pass out treats.

65- CROSS THE LONGEST BRIDGE IN TEXAS. Going to South Padre Island? You've got to cross the longest bridge in Texas at 2.6 miles over the Laguna Madre Bay.

66- RV CAMP IN PORT ISABEL. Enjoy the sounds of seagulls and the fresh sea breezes.

67- SPRING BREAK IN PORT ISABEL. From February to April, south Texas sees the migration of college students taking a little 'R & R'.

68- VISIT ONE OF THE TOP THREE BEACHES IN AMERICA. Cross the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge to South Padre Island.

69- WI-FI. Need to make it a working vacation? Free Wi-Fi at various locations around town.

70- CANNON FIRE OVER THE BAY. 6 p.m. daily, at the Cannon Bar, watch the crew of the Black Dragon fire a 6 pounder!

71- TOUR PORT ISABEL'S 8 REGISTERED HISTORIC MARKERS. The Port of Matamoros, located at Pirate's Landing; the Charles Champion Building; the Queen Isabella Causeway; Fort Polk located at the Point Isabel Lighthouse; Queen Isabel Inn; Alta Vista Apartments on Yturria St.; and the newest site, the Palangana Cemetery. [\[Historical Marker\]](#)

72- FLOWERING PLANTS & TREES. Varying with the seasons, look for Cactus, Yuccas (Spanish Dagger), Royal Poincianas, Century Plant, Aloe Vera, Anacua (sandpaper plant), Sea Grape, palm trees, Mesquite, Ebony and many more.

73- ROLL DOWN THE HILL. It's traditional! Rolling down the hill at the Port Isabel Lighthouse.

(continued on page 26)



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ANNUAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS



JANUARY~ Longest Causeway Run and Fitness Walk. 2nd Saturday in January. Hosted by the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce. 10k run / 5k walk over the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge from Port Isabel to South Padre Island.

APRIL~ Queen Isabella Market Day. 2nd Saturday in April. Hosted by Museums of Port Isabel on the grounds of the Lighthouse. Vendors, food, music.



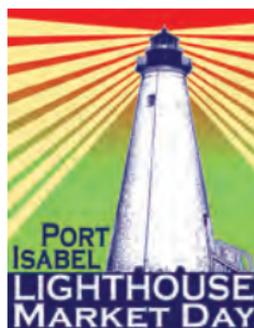
EASTER WEEKEND~ Lighthouse Easter Egg Hunt. Saturday. Hosted by the City of Port Isabel.

JUNE~ Longest Causeway Run and Fitness Walk. 1st Saturday in June. 10k run or 5k walk. Hosted by the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce.



SUMMER (June & July, Fridays @ 9:30pm) ~ Lighthouse Establishment Cinema. Movies are projected onto the Port Isabel Lighthouse. Free admission. Concessions.

OCTOBER~ Pachanga in the Park hosted by the City of Port Isabel at Laguna Madre Baseball Park. Food, vendors, games, live music.



OCTOBER~ Lighthouse Market Day. 2nd Saturday in October. Hosted by the Museums of Port Isabel on the grounds of the Lighthouse. Food, vendors, music entertainment.

NOVEMBER~ Shrimp Cook-Off & Seafood Festival. 1st Saturday in November. Hosted by the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce, the Cook-Off attracts dozens of competitors for the World's Best title.



PORT ISABEL ANTIQUE & FLEA MARKET

1st Sunday* of each month @ Beulah Lee Park
(*& select dates during the Winter Season~)
For more information call 956/867-7002



101 Things To Do In Port Isabel

- 74- **PLAY IN ALL THE PARKS.** Berrell Mock, Washington Park, Veterans Park, Episcopal Church Park, the Laguna Madre Park, Veteran's Park, Triangle Park and the Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site.
- 75- **HISTORY BY THE MURALS.** From contemporary to historic, see the murals at the Port Isabel Museums, the fish mural on the Champion building, inside Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church, Pirate's Landing Restaurant interior, the Port Isabel Event & Cultural Center and Doubleday Sports Bar.
- 76- **CHECK OUT THE UT/ROBERT RUNYON PHOTO DISPLAY.** The 50 photos that decorate the walls of Pelican Station Restaurant illustrate Port Isabel's ties to the railroad.
- 77- **COMMUNITY GALLERY.** On the Highway 100 side of the Treasures of the Gulf Museum, displays illustrate our past, present and future.
- 78- **SEE SPACEX.** From the top of the historic Port Isabel Lighthouse, look southeast and see the launch pad for SpaceX on Boca Chica.
- 79- **SEE A REAL SHRIMP BOAT.** The Lady Bea II is on display at the north end of Garcia St.
- 80- **TROPICAL LANDSCAPING.** Everywhere... medians, corners, Triangle Park, Beulah Lee Park, First National Bank of Edinburg, Treasures of the Gulf Museum and Port Isabel Historic Museum.
- 81- **ANCHORS & NAUTICAL ARTIFACTS.** Drive, hike or bike and keep an eye out for all the anchors and floats that adorn both private and public properties.
- 82- **ARCHITECTURE.** The Port Isabel Lighthouse, the Keeper's Cottage, Alta Vista Apartments, Isla Vista Apartments, Wireless Station buildings, Champion building, Queen Isabel Inn, the Thompkins building, old Port Isabel Fire Hall, shops on Maxan Street... discover our uniqueness.
- 83- **READ THIS GUIDE ON YOUR PHONE OR TABLET.** <http://bit.ly/guide-pi>.
- 84- **ZACHARY TAYLOR'S WELL.** Located between the Port Isabel Historic Museum and the Treasures of the Gulf Museum or Jean Lafitte's well in Laguna Vista.
- 85- **SITE OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL.** Used from 1846 - 1865, this military hospital saw more discomfort caused by disease than injuries caused by both the US/Mexican and the US Civil Wars it was in use for. The site is located at the Pirate's Landing Pier parking lot.
- 86- **CATCH UP ON THE LOCAL NEWS.** Pick up a Port Isabel/South Padre Press, Coastal Current, or the Parade for all the local information.
- 87- **STAY IN SHAPE.** Local gyms and fitness centers offer a full range of services.
- 88- **TAKE A BOATER'S SAFETY COURSE.** Check with the Laguna Madre Yacht Club for their next scheduled classes.
- 89- **ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE.** Churches are located from Laguna Vista to South Padre Island.
- 90- **WANT TO MAKE IT PERMANENT?** If you are considering a move to the area, check out the real estate agents that could make your dream come true.
- 91- **GET A NEW DO.** Treat yourself to a new look or get help finding a creative way to live with the humidity.
- 92- **GET ALL THE AREA INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED.** Stop in at the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center at the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage.
- 93- **LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT OUR LOCAL HISTORY & WHAT'S HAPPENING.** Like our page at facebook.com/portisabeltx.
- 94- **WATCH A SUNSET.** Sunsets over the Laguna Madre are spectacular and free!
- 95- **WATCH A SUNRISE.** If you didn't stay out too late, take in a sunrise before heading to breakfast. They cost the same as a sunset.
- 96- **TRY ALL THE 'ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH' SPECIALS.** Check with local restaurants.
- 97- **TAKE A NIGHTTIME FISHING TRIP.** The Isabella leaves the Pirate's Landing Fishing Pier for a night fishing trip on the Laguna Madre Bay!
- 98- **VISIT THE BAHIA GRANDE ON HWY 48.** The world's largest wetlands restoration project is home to a variety of wildlife species.
- 99- **PORT ISABEL'S ANTIQUE & FLEA MARKET.** Monthly first Sunday, 1st & 3rd Sunday during winter months in Beulah Lee Park.
- 100- **RELAX.** You can just relax and take in the fresh sea air.
- 101- **PLAN.** To come back again!



Find & Like

PORT ISABEL





The HISTORIC CHARLES CHAMPION BUILDING

The son of Joseph Champion, an Italian immigrant who settled in Texas in 1855, Charles Champion was born on February 2, 1870, in Old Point Isabel. He served as district clerk in Hidalgo County before purchasing the Hess General Store in Old Point Isabel in 1894. He renamed it "The Champion Store," and continued to operate the business in the small frame structure. In 1899, Champion erected this two-story brick building and named it "The Key of the Gulf." The first floor housed the general merchandise store, the U.S. Customs House, and the post office. Champion served as the second postmaster of Point Isabel. In the early 1900s, Champion provided the impetus for the fishing industry that employed many local citizens and became an integral part of the local economy. By 1908 Champion and Judge J.B. Wells owned the Santa Isabela land grant, which included Point Isabel. Long a proponent of a deep water port in Point Isabel, Champion died in 1926 before its completion in 1933. Champion was buried next to his wife Margaret Orive and other family members in the Point Isabel Cemetery.



1911 photo of the fish mural on the Champion Store, just 5 years after it was created.

THC Historical Marker

FISH MURAL

In 1906, Charles Champion commissioned Juan Morales, a local fisherman and artist, who was one-armed and four fingered, to paint the fish mural on the facade. Over 200 images represent species from the Laguna Madre Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The mural was restored in 2017.

PORT ISABEL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The historic Charles Champion building is home to the Port Isabel Historical Museum.



PORT ISABEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

421 E. Queen Isabella Blvd.
Port Isabel, Texas 78578
www.portisabelchamber.com
Phone: (956) 943-2262
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DOWNTOWN PORT ISABEL



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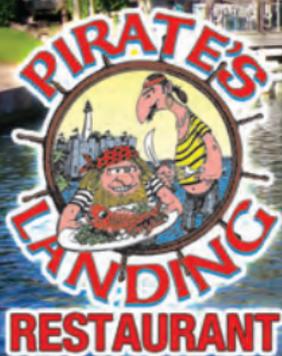
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