

# port aransas visitors guide

**port aransas visitors guide** offers an essential overview for travelers seeking to explore this charming coastal town on Mustang Island, Texas. Known for its beautiful beaches, vibrant marine life, and laid-back atmosphere, Port Aransas is a popular destination for beach lovers, anglers, and nature enthusiasts alike. This comprehensive guide covers everything from the best times to visit and top attractions to local dining and accommodation options. Whether planning a family vacation, a romantic getaway, or an adventurous fishing trip, this Port Aransas visitors guide provides valuable insights to ensure a memorable experience. Readers will also find practical tips on transportation, recreational activities, and cultural events that highlight the unique character of this Gulf Coast gem. Dive into the details below to prepare for an unforgettable stay in Port Aransas.

- Getting to Port Aransas
- Top Attractions and Activities
- Beaches and Outdoor Recreation
- Dining and Local Cuisine
- Accommodations in Port Aransas
- Events and Festivals
- Travel Tips and Safety

## Getting to Port Aransas

Access to Port Aransas is straightforward, whether arriving by car, ferry, or air. The town is located on Mustang Island and is connected to the Texas mainland by the Port Aransas Ferry, a free service that operates 24/7. Visitors driving from Corpus Christi or other nearby cities can easily reach the ferry terminals. For those flying in, the closest major airport is Corpus Christi International Airport, about 30 miles from Port Aransas. Car rentals and shuttle services are available for convenient transport from the airport to the island. Understanding the transportation options helps visitors plan their trip efficiently and maximize their time enjoying the destination.

## Port Aransas Ferry Service

The Port Aransas Ferry is a vital link between the mainland and Mustang

Island. It runs continuously with frequent departures, accommodating both vehicles and pedestrians. The ferry ride provides scenic views of the Intracoastal Waterway and is an experience in itself. During peak seasons, travelers should anticipate some wait times, but the efficiency of the service ensures minimal delays. This ferry is the main gateway for most visitors driving into Port Aransas.

## **Driving Routes**

Port Aransas is accessible via several highways, with State Highway 361 being the primary route that leads directly to the ferry terminals. Travelers from San Antonio, Houston, and other Texas cities typically use Interstate 37 to reach Corpus Christi and then continue east on Highway 361. Clear signage throughout the route assists drivers in navigating to the island without difficulty.

## **Top Attractions and Activities**

Port Aransas offers a wide array of attractions and activities catering to diverse interests. From wildlife viewing and fishing charters to historical sites and nature preserves, there is no shortage of things to do in this coastal town. The town's relaxed vibe invites visitors to explore at their own pace while taking advantage of numerous outdoor recreational opportunities.

### **Port Aransas Nature Preserve**

The Port Aransas Nature Preserve is a protected area featuring walking trails, birdwatching platforms, and pristine coastal habitats. It is an ideal location for observing native wildlife, including migratory birds, alligators, and various plant species. Educational signage along the trails provides information about the ecosystem and conservation efforts.

### **Fishing and Boating**

Port Aransas is renowned for its fishing opportunities, including deep-sea fishing, bay fishing, and surf fishing. Numerous local charter companies offer guided fishing trips suitable for beginners and experienced anglers alike. Boating enthusiasts can also enjoy kayaking, paddleboarding, and sailing in the calm bays and open Gulf waters.

### **Museum of Port Aransas**

The Museum of Port Aransas presents the town's rich history, featuring

exhibits on local culture, maritime heritage, and natural environment. Visitors can learn about the area's development, traditional industries, and notable events that shaped Port Aransas into the vibrant community it is today.

## **Beaches and Outdoor Recreation**

The beaches of Port Aransas are among the top draws for visitors, offering miles of white sand and clear waters. Whether sunbathing, swimming, or enjoying water sports, the beaches provide a scenic and relaxing setting. The town's outdoor recreation options extend beyond the shoreline to include parks, trails, and wildlife observation spots.

### **Port Aransas Beach**

Port Aransas Beach is the main public beach area, well-maintained and accessible for families and individuals. Lifeguards are on duty during peak seasons, and amenities such as restrooms, showers, and picnic areas are available. The beach is also pet-friendly in designated sections, making it a versatile option for all visitors.

### **Mustang Island State Park**

Just south of Port Aransas, Mustang Island State Park encompasses over 3,800 acres of coastal landscape. It features camping facilities, hiking trails, and opportunities for birdwatching and fishing. The park is a favored destination for those looking to connect with nature in a more secluded environment.

- Swimming and sunbathing
- Surf fishing and shell collecting
- Kayaking and paddleboarding
- Birdwatching and wildlife photography
- Camping and hiking at nearby parks

## **Dining and Local Cuisine**

Port Aransas boasts a variety of dining establishments that highlight fresh seafood and regional flavors. The culinary scene ranges from casual beachside

eateries to more refined dining experiences, catering to all tastes and budgets. Local restaurants emphasize locally sourced ingredients, reflecting the coastal heritage of the area.

## **Seafood Specialties**

Fresh-caught shrimp, fish, oysters, and crab are staples on Port Aransas menus. Popular dishes include fried shrimp baskets, grilled fish tacos, oyster po'boys, and seafood gumbo. Many restaurants offer daily catches prepared with classic Texan and Gulf Coast seasonings.

## **Casual and Family-Friendly Options**

Families and groups looking for casual dining will find numerous options such as burger joints, pizza places, and taco stands. Many of these establishments provide outdoor seating with ocean views, perfect for enjoying a relaxed meal after a day on the beach.

## **Accommodations in Port Aransas**

Visitors can choose from a wide range of lodging options in Port Aransas, including hotels, vacation rentals, beach cottages, and campgrounds. The variety ensures that travelers can find accommodations suited to their preferences, whether seeking luxury amenities or budget-friendly stays.

## **Hotels and Resorts**

Several hotels and resorts are located near the beach, offering convenient access to the shoreline and town attractions. Amenities often include swimming pools, fitness centers, and on-site dining. Many properties cater to both short-term visitors and extended stays.

## **Vacation Rentals and Cottages**

Vacation rentals provide a home-like experience, ideal for families or groups. Options range from cozy cottages to spacious beachfront homes equipped with kitchens and multiple bedrooms. These rentals often allow guests to enjoy privacy and flexibility during their visit.

## **Camping Facilities**

For outdoor enthusiasts, camping is available at nearby Mustang Island State Park and other designated areas. Campgrounds offer tent and RV sites with

essential utilities and access to park amenities. Camping is a popular way to experience the natural beauty of the region up close.

## **Events and Festivals**

Port Aransas hosts a variety of annual events and festivals that celebrate local culture, seafood, and outdoor activities. These events attract visitors from across Texas and beyond, providing entertainment and community engagement throughout the year.

### **SandFest**

SandFest is a renowned sand sculpting competition held every spring, showcasing the talents of professional and amateur artists. The event includes live music, food vendors, and family-friendly activities, making it a highlight on the Port Aransas calendar.

### **Texas SandFest**

Another key event is the Texas SandFest, a large gathering that features incredible sand sculptures along with arts and crafts booths, culinary delights, and live entertainment. This festival draws thousands of attendees and is a major draw for tourists.

## **Fishing Tournaments**

Various fishing tournaments take place throughout the year, providing competitive opportunities for anglers of all skill levels. These events often include prizes and social gatherings, reflecting the town's deep connection to fishing and marine sports.

## **Travel Tips and Safety**

When visiting Port Aransas, it is important to plan ahead and observe safety guidelines to ensure a smooth and enjoyable trip. Awareness of local weather patterns, wildlife precautions, and beach regulations helps travelers make informed decisions during their stay.

### **Best Time to Visit**

The ideal time to visit Port Aransas is from late spring to early fall when the weather is warm and conducive to outdoor activities. Peak tourist seasons coincide with summer months, so booking accommodations in advance is

recommended. Off-season visits may offer quieter beaches and lower rates.

## **Beach and Water Safety**

Port Aransas beaches are monitored by lifeguards during busy periods, but visitors should always swim with caution and heed posted warnings. Awareness of rip currents, marine life, and weather changes enhances safety. Additionally, sun protection and hydration are essential when spending extended time outdoors.

## **Wildlife and Environmental Considerations**

Respect for local wildlife and habitats is crucial. Visitors should avoid disturbing nesting birds, marine animals, and dune vegetation. Proper disposal of trash and adherence to fishing regulations support conservation efforts that preserve the natural beauty of Port Aransas for future generations.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the top attractions to visit in Port Aransas?**

Top attractions in Port Aransas include Mustang Island State Park, Port Aransas Beach, the Port Aransas Nature Preserve, and the Texas SandFest event. Visitors also enjoy fishing, bird watching, and exploring local shops and restaurants.

### **When is the best time to visit Port Aransas?**

The best time to visit Port Aransas is during the spring (March to May) and fall (September to November) when the weather is pleasant, and the crowds are smaller. Summer is popular but can be hot and busy, while winter is mild and quieter.

### **What are the best activities for families in Port Aransas?**

Families can enjoy beach outings, visiting the Port Aransas Museum, going on dolphin-watching tours, exploring the Marine Science Center, and participating in kid-friendly events and fishing excursions.

## Are there pet-friendly accommodations in Port Aransas?

Yes, Port Aransas offers many pet-friendly accommodations including vacation rentals, hotels, and campgrounds that welcome pets. It's recommended to check specific policies and any additional fees before booking.

## How can visitors get around Port Aransas?

Visitors can get around Port Aransas by renting bikes, golf carts, or cars. The city is bike-friendly, and many areas are walkable. There are also local shuttle services and taxis available for transportation.

## What local seafood dishes should visitors try in Port Aransas?

Visitors should try fresh Gulf seafood such as shrimp, oysters, crab, and fish tacos. Popular dishes include fried shrimp baskets, oysters on the half shell, seafood gumbo, and ceviche, available at many local seafood restaurants and beachside eateries.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *Port Aransas Travel Guide: Beaches, Dining, and Adventures*

This comprehensive guide covers everything a visitor needs to know about Port Aransas, from the best beaches to local dining hotspots. It includes detailed maps, activity suggestions, and insider tips to make your trip memorable. Perfect for first-time visitors and returning travelers alike.

### 2. *Exploring Port Aransas: A Visitor's Handbook*

A handy manual designed for tourists, this book highlights key attractions, wildlife viewing spots, and fishing locations around Port Aransas. It also provides practical information on accommodations, transportation, and seasonal events to plan your visit effectively.

### 3. *Port Aransas Nature and Wildlife Guide*

Focusing on the natural beauty of the area, this guide introduces readers to the flora and fauna of Port Aransas and nearby wildlife refuges. It includes birdwatching tips, hiking trails, and conservation efforts, appealing to eco-conscious travelers and nature enthusiasts.

### 4. *Family Fun in Port Aransas: Activities and Attractions*

This book is tailored for families visiting Port Aransas, offering suggestions for kid-friendly beaches, parks, and educational centers. It also features ideas for outdoor adventures, water sports, and easy dining options suitable for children of all ages.

### 5. *Port Aransas Seafood and Local Cuisine Guide*

A culinary journey through Port Aransas, this guide introduces readers to the freshest seafood and local dishes. It includes restaurant reviews, recipes, and information on food festivals, helping visitors savor the unique flavors of the Texas coast.

#### 6. *Fishing in Port Aransas: Tips and Techniques for Anglers*

Ideal for fishing enthusiasts, this book covers the best fishing spots, seasonal catches, and equipment recommendations in Port Aransas. It also offers guidance on licenses, local regulations, and charter services to ensure a successful fishing trip.

#### 7. *Historic Port Aransas: A Cultural and Architectural Tour*

Delve into the rich history of Port Aransas with this guide that explores its cultural landmarks, historic buildings, and maritime heritage. Readers will find walking tours, anecdotes, and photographs that bring the town's past to life.

#### 8. *Port Aransas Festivals and Events Calendar*

Keep up-to-date with the vibrant community events in Port Aransas through this detailed calendar and guide. From music festivals to art shows and seasonal celebrations, this book helps visitors plan their trip around exciting local happenings.

#### 9. *Outdoor Adventures in Port Aransas: Kayaking, Biking, and More*

Discover the many outdoor activities available in Port Aransas, including kayaking, biking trails, birding, and beachcombing. This guide provides safety tips, rental information, and suggested routes for making the most of your active vacation.

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**port aransas visitors guide:** *Travel Guide Texas* Lonely Planet, 2023-11 Lonely Planet's Texas is our most comprehensive guide that extensively covers all the state has to offer, with recommendations for both popular and lesser-known experiences. Delight in live music at an Austin club, get lost in Big Bend National Park and visit NASA's Space Center in Houston; all with your trusted travel companion. Inside Lonely Planet's Texas Travel Guide: Lonely Planet's Top Picks - a visually inspiring collection of the destination's best experiences and where to have them Itineraries help you build the ultimate trip based on your personal needs and interests Local insights give you a richer, more rewarding travel experience - whether it's history, people, music, landscapes, wildlife, politics Eating and drinking - get the most out of your gastronomic experience as we reveal the regional dishes and drinks you have to try Toolkit - all of the planning tools for solo travelers, LGBTQIA+ travelers, family travelers and accessible travel Colour maps and images throughout



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**port aransas visitors guide:** *Insight Guides Texas (Travel Guide eBook)* Insight Guides, 2021-11-01 Insight Guides Texas Travel made easy. Ask local experts. Comprehensive travel guide packed with inspirational photography and fascinating cultural insights. From deciding when to go, to choosing what to see when you arrive, this guide to Texas is all you need to plan your perfect trip, with insider information on must-see, top attractions like the NASA space centre in Houston, Big Bend National Park and the old Wild West town of El Paso, as well as cultural gems like the 19-block Dallas Arts District, the 'world's largest honky-tonk' club in Dallas, and Nashville's wildly cool vintage shops. Features of this travel guide to Texas: - Inspirational colour photography: discover the best destinations, sights and excursions, and be inspired by stunning imagery - Historical and cultural insights: immerse yourself in Texas's rich history and culture, and learn all about its people, art and traditions - Practical full-colour maps: with every major sight and listing highlighted, the full-colour maps make on-the-ground navigation easy - Editor's Choice: uncover the best of Texas with our pick of the region's top destinations - Key tips and essential information: packed full of important travel information, from transport and tipping to etiquette and hours of operation - Covers: Dallas; Fort Worth; Central Texas; Austin; Hill Country; San Antonio; Houston; East Texas; The Gulf Coast Looking for a guide to the USA? Check out Insight Guides USA for a detailed and entertaining look at all the country has to offer. About Insight Guides: Insight Guides is a pioneer of full-colour guide books, with almost 50 years' experience of publishing high-quality, visual travel guides with user-friendly, modern design. We produce around 400 full-colour print guide books and maps, as well as phrase books, picture-packed eBooks and apps to meet different travellers' needs. Insight Guides' unique combination of beautiful travel photography and focus on history and culture create a unique visual reference and planning tool to inspire your next adventure.

**port aransas visitors guide:** *Mobil Travel Guide* Mobil Travel Guide, Mobil Travel Guide Staff, 2003-11 This planner has introductory information about the state followed by city listings in alphabetical order. For each city, the planner lists recommended sites and attractions and Mobil One- to Five-Star rated lodgings and restaurants.

**port aransas visitors guide:** The complete cyclist travel guide for Texas (USA) , 2025-08-15

**port aransas visitors guide:** Flyfisher's Guide to the Texas Gulf Coast Colby Sorrells, 2009-03 The Flyfishers Guide to the Texas Gulf Coast is the definitive guide book on fishing the Texas Coast. Interest in fishing the gulf coast is exploding and the Flyfisher's Guide to the Texas Gulf Coast gives you all the information you need for success. Nationally known author and saltwater flyfisher, Colby Sorrells, covers every aspect of saltwater fishing for the entire Texas Coast. He covers the fish, the flies, light tackle, tactics, and the best seasons. Colby covers the entire coast in detail with information on each specific area. He lists the fly shops, outfitters, charter captains, marinas, accommodations, and much more. There are 60 detailed maps showing every bay, cover, harbor, reef, island, park, marina, and boat launch. There are also seasonal fishing charts showing the peak seasons for each species of fish. This book is essential reading for everyone who fishes the great Texas Gulf Coast.

**port aransas visitors guide:** Mustang Island, Texas USA Ezra Hunt, 2020-02-03 Mustang Island, Texas USA. Mustang Island, Padre Island, Port Aransas Travel Guide. The Gulf Coast here is

essentially one 131-mile-long beach, including 18-mile Mustang Island and massive 113-mile North Padre Island (the second-largest island by area in the US, after New York's Long Island). The most notable sections for beachgoers are Mustang Island State Park and Padre Island National Seashore. On the northern tip of Mustang Island, the town of Port Aransas (Ah-ran-ziss), or Port A to locals, is in many ways the most appealing beach destination on the Texas coast. It is small enough that you can bike or walk everywhere, but large enough to host loads of activities and nightlife. The pace is very relaxed, and daily life is dominated by hanging out on the beach, fishing and doing nothing perhaps followed up by a few cold drinks as the sun goes down

**port aransas visitors guide: North American Travel Guide: The Ultimate Exploration**

Pasquale De Marco, Immerse yourself in the captivating tapestry of North America with this comprehensive travel guide, your ultimate companion to exploring the continent's iconic cities, breathtaking landscapes, and hidden gems. Embark on an unforgettable journey through the vibrant heart of New York City, discover the cultural mosaics of Los Angeles and San Francisco, and uncover the historic charm of cities like Williamsburg and San Antonio. Discover the awe-inspiring natural wonders that North America has to offer, from the cascading majesty of Niagara Falls to the towering peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Explore the enchanting beauty of national parks like Yosemite, Acadia, and Everglades, and delve into the rich history and cultural heritage of Native American tribes. Indulge in the culinary delights of North America's diverse regions, from the melting pot of New York City's cuisine to the authentic flavors of Cajun and Creole cooking in New Orleans. Savor the unique tastes of Southwestern cuisine in Santa Fe and indulge in the fresh seafood of the Pacific Northwest. Uncover the hidden gems and off-the-beaten-path destinations that make North America a treasure trove of surprises. Discover the quaint charm of Carmel-by-the-Sea, explore the vibrant culture of Asheville, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Sedona and Leavenworth. With practical advice, insider tips, and insightful recommendations, this guide empowers you to plan the perfect trip, whether you're a seasoned traveler seeking new horizons or a first-time explorer eager to uncover the continent's treasures. Let this guide be your trusted companion as you embark on an adventure that will leave you with unforgettable memories and a deeper appreciation for the beauty and diversity of North America.

**port aransas visitors guide: Holiday and Vacation Planning Guide to the Federal Parks of the Southwest** United States. National Park Service. Southwest Region. Public Affairs Office, 1978

**port aransas visitors guide: Mobil Travel Guide , 2000**

**port aransas visitors guide: Lone Star Travel Guide to Texas Parks and Campgrounds** George Oxford Miller, 2009-05-16 An up-to-date guidebook perfect for campers, hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, bird watchers, nature photographers and just about anyone else who enjoys the outdoors.

**port aransas visitors guide: Echoes of Glory** Thomas E. Alexander, Dan K. Utley, 2015-10-01 In their previous book, *Faded Glory: A Century of Forgotten Texas Military Sites, Then and Now*, historians Thomas E. Alexander and Dan K. Utley chose to go beyond the familiar military sites of Texas—the Alamo or the San Jacinto battlefield, for example—to feature lesser known locations. The book successfully recovered these “forgotten” arenas for tourists and preservationists alike. Alexander and Utley now return with *Echoes of Glory*, and the result is another impressive catalogue that highlights the hidden gems of Texas history. *Echoes of Glory* explores two dozen rarely discussed but equally significant military sites across Texas. From the establishment of a Spanish fortress at San Sabá during the mission era to a multimillion-dollar Cold War naval base, readers will find a range of sites and stories to enlighten and entertain. Rare illustrations contrast each site with how it appeared in its glory days to how it appears today. *Echoes of Glory* underscores the need to preserve or fully interpret such places before they are lost forever.

**port aransas visitors guide: *Texas Beach & Bay Access Guide* , 2002**

**port aransas visitors guide: The complete camper guide for Texas (USA) ,**

**port aransas visitors guide: Paddling Texas** Shane Townsend, 2014-11-04 From the canyons of Big Bend to the cypress swamps of Pine Island Bayou, the waters of Texas have something for

most every type of paddler and every paddling mood. One might float the diminutive Comal River, argued to be the shortest river in the world. Another might dig deep and follow the four-day, 260-mile route of the Texas Water Safari, which Canoe & Kayak Magazine referred to as "The World's Toughest Canoe Race." Whitewater is here too. Lakes are as well. And, the Texas Gulf Coast is home to sandy beaches, knobby mangroves, and sea grass flats. Meanwhile, Texas is home to some of the fastest growing cities in America. And, paddling is the fastest growing outdoor sport in the country. "Paddling Texas" is a guide for those who are new to either and all those who love both. Featured trips offer easy access, secure environments, good facilities, great fishing, superb wildlife viewing, and beautiful scenery. "Paddling Texas" gives recreational paddlers and anglers all the information they'll need to paddle many of the best trips in Texas.

**port aransas visitors guide: Romantic Weekends in Texas** Mary Lu Abbott, 2003-05 Join adventure traveler Kimberly Young as she explores Austin, Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, Waco and all the towns and attractions in between. Places to stay and eat are given, but the emphasis is on adventures in this massive state: Rafting the Guadalupe River, deep-sea fishing off the Texas coast, exploring the 96,000-acre Big Thicket National Preserve or Big Bend National Park, river-running the Rio Grande. Cattle drives, dude ranches and rodeos introduce you to the vibrant cowboy culture of the Southwest and relaxing days on the beaches of Padre Island take you away from it all.

**port aransas visitors guide: The Secret on the Island** Dorcas Mladenka, 2013-08-01 As a research assistant for a Texas detective agency, Maggie Haslo has a knack for connecting the dots. She can see that the facts don't add up in the suspicious death of her friend Mando. A history professor at the local university, Mando was killed in what the police are calling a drive-by shooting but Maggie's not buying it. Before his death, Mando had invited Maggie to the diving site of a sunken Spanish galleon off the Gulf coast; when her friend, Sister Clare, asks her to come investigate suspicious circumstances at her convent on nearby Mustang Island, Maggie decides to combine trips. A few days later, a nun is murdered, and Maggie makes a shocking discovery: the deaths of Mando and the nun are related. As she drives back and forth between the city and the island with her faithful German shepherd, Zoe, Maggie must put aside her sadness for the friends she has lost in order to be strong for friends that are still living. In the process, she meets more trouble than she could have imagined, but also a blue-eyed detective who turns out to be trouble of a different kind. Maggie's detective skills are about to be put to the ultimate test. Can she crack the case before another dead body shows up?

**port aransas visitors guide: A Birder's Resource Guide** American Birding Association, 2002

**port aransas visitors guide: The Rough Guide to Texas & the Southwest (Travel Guide with eBook)** Rough Guides, 2023-07-01 This practical travel guide to Texas & the Southwest features detailed factual travel tips and points-of-interest structured lists of all iconic must-see sights as well as some off-the-beaten-track treasures. Our itinerary suggestions and expert author picks of things to see and do will make it a perfect companion both, ahead of your trip and on the ground. This Texas & the Southwest guide book is packed full of details on how to get there and around, pre-departure information and top time-saving tips, including a visual list of things not to miss. Our colour-coded maps make Texas & the Southwest easier to navigate while you're there. This guide book to Texas & the Southwest has been fully updated post-COVID-19. The Rough Guide to TEXAS & THE SOUTHWEST covers: Houston, Around Houston, The Gulf Coast, Laredo and the Rio Grande Valley, Austin, The Hill Country, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, The Panhandle, The Davis Mountains, Big Bend National Park and around, El Paso. Inside this Texas & the Southwest travel guide you'll find: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVERY TYPE OF TRAVELLER Experiences selected for every kind of trip to Texas & the Southwest, from off-the-beaten-track adventures in Marfa to family activities in child-friendly places, like Big Bend National Park or chilled-out breaks in popular tourist areas, like the Rio Grande Valley. PRACTICAL TRAVEL TIPS Essential pre-departure information including Texas & the Southwest entry requirements, getting around, health information, travelling with children, sports and outdoor activities, food and drink, festivals, culture and etiquette,

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**port aransas visitors guide: The WPA Guide to Texas** Federal Writers' Project, 2013-10-31 During the 1930s in the United States, the Works Progress Administration developed the Federal Writers' Project to support writers and artists while making a national effort to document the country's shared history and culture. The American Guide series consists of individual guides to each of the states. Little-known authors—many of whom would later become celebrated literary figures—were commissioned to write these important books. John Steinbeck, Saul Bellow, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ralph Ellison are among the more than 6,000 writers, editors, historians, and researchers who documented this celebration of local histories. Photographs, drawings, driving tours, detailed descriptions of towns, and rich cultural details exhibit each state's unique flavor. Equaling the massive size of the state, the WPA Guide to Texas is just as expansive at 716 pages. From the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley, The Lone Star State's landscape is as varied as its political and cultural past. Having been under the control of six different nations' flags, the history section is particularly rich. The guide also includes a helpful list of books about the state.

**port aransas visitors guide: Explore Texas** Mary O. Parker, 2016-06-14 If you are interested in birdwatching, wildlife viewing, or stargazing; flowers, geology, or water; nature centers, festivals, or photography, a destination in Texas awaits you. From the desert gardens of Big Bend to hawk watching on the Gulf Coast to caving and bat watching in the Hill Country, nature-oriented travel in Texas also includes lesser known getaways. Organized by the seven official state travel regions, Explore Texas features descriptions of almost one hundred nature-oriented sites, including information about the best time to visit and why it's worth going; location, and other logistics; and a "learn" section on the observations and natural phenomena a visitor might expect to experience. Photographs by professional photographer Jeff Parker accompany the accounts, and handy color-coded icons help guide readers to the activities of their choice. Perfect for planning the family's next outing or vacation, this book also contains a message of how nature tourism helps to protect biodiversity, promote conservation, and sustain the state's tourism economy.

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