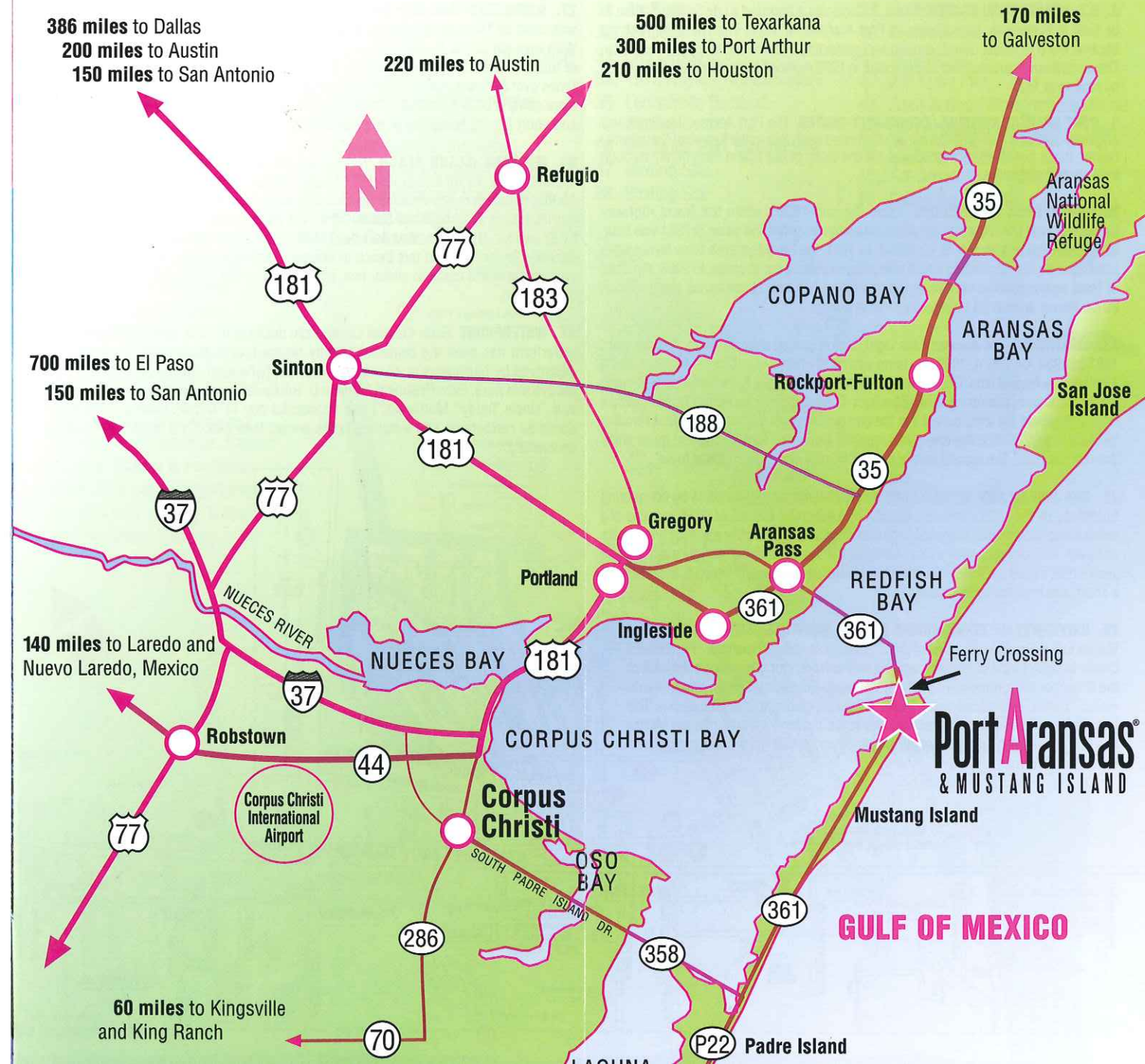
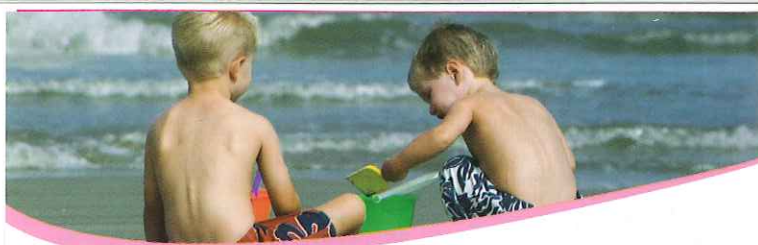


MILEAGE SHOWN FROM PORT ARANSAS



MILEAGE SHOWN FROM PORT ARANSAS





FIND YOUR WAY TO FUN!

Port Aransas is on the northern tip of Mustang Island, about 30 minutes from downtown Corpus Christi, three hours from the Rio Grande Valley, three hours from San Antonio and four hours from Houston or Austin.

Take I-37 to Corpus Christi, then U.S. Highway 181 thru Portland, to State Highway 361 thru Aransas Pass to the free ferry ride.

Or, take I-37 to Corpus Christi, right onto South Padre Island Drive and left onto State Highway 361 into Port Aransas.



Port Aransas[®] & MUSTANG ISLAND

Texas. Island style.™

Port Aransas Visitor Center
Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Bureau
403 W. Cotter, Port Aransas, TX 78373 • 361-749-5919

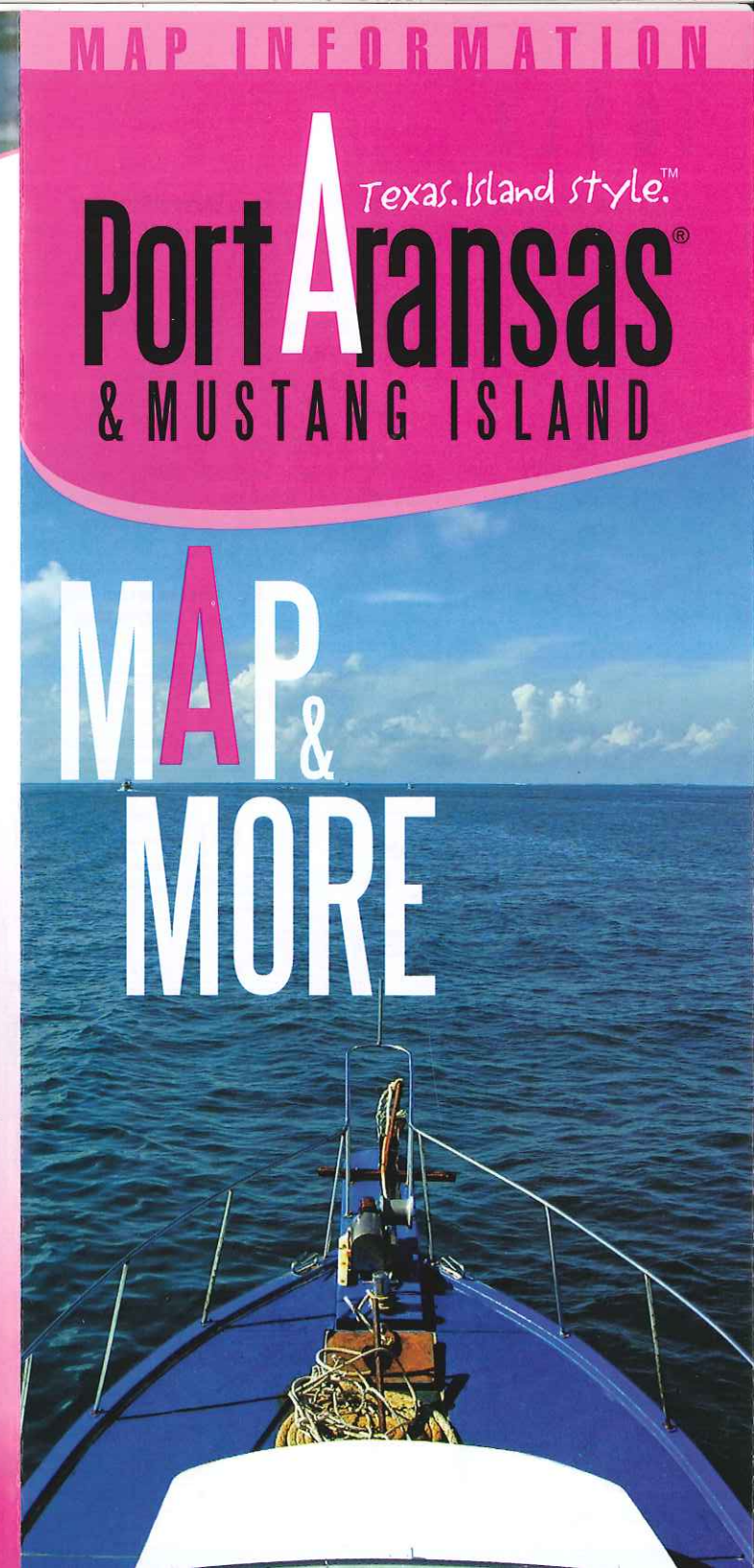
800-45-COAST

MAP INFORMATION

Port Aransas[®] & MUSTANG ISLAND

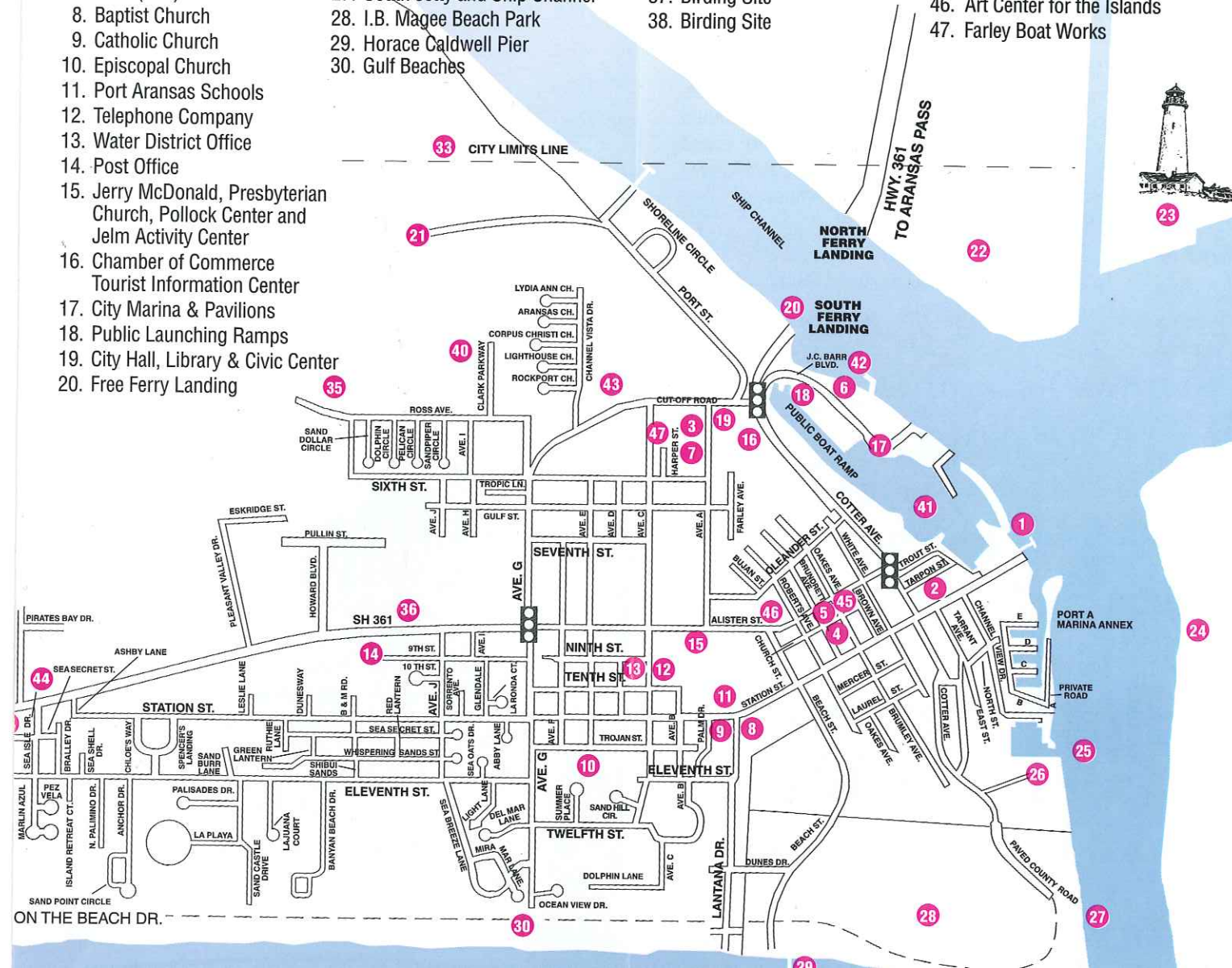
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MAP &
MORE



INDEX

1. Ancel Brundrett Pier
2. Coast Guard Station
3. Law Enforcement
4. Church Of Christ
5. Community Center Museum
6. Roberts Point Park/
Patsy Jones Amphitheater
7. EMS (911)
8. Baptist Church
9. Catholic Church
10. Episcopal Church
11. Port Aransas Schools
12. Telephone Company
13. Water District Office
14. Post Office
15. Jerry McDonald, Presbyterian
Church, Pollock Center and
Jelm Activity Center
16. Chamber of Commerce
Tourist Information Center
17. City Marina & Pavilions
18. Public Launching Ramps
19. City Hall, Library & Civic Center
20. Free Ferry Landing
21. Port Aransas Nature Preserve
22. Harbor Island
23. Old Original Aransas Light House
24. San Jose Island
25. Harbor Pilot Dock and Office
26. University of Texas
Marine Science Institute
27. South Jetty and Ship Channel
28. I.B. Magee Beach Park
29. Horace Caldwell Pier
30. Gulf Beaches
31. Air Strip
32. S.H. 361
33. City Limits
34. 1913 Royal Palm Cemetery
35. Leonabelle Turnbull
Birding Center
36. Wetlands Park Birding Site
37. Birding Site
38. Birding Site
39. North Jetty
40. Community Park
41. Waterfront
42. J.P. Luby Pier
43. Joan & Scott Holt Paradise Pond
44. Port Aransas Community Theater
45. Computer Center
46. Art Center for the Islands
47. Farley Boat Works



POINTS OF INTEREST

2. U.S. COAST GUARD STATION The U.S. Congress authorized a Life Saving Station to be built in Ropesville, later known as Port Aransas, in 1878. The Lifesaving Service became the U.S. Coast Guard, serving and protecting boaters and shipping ever since. The current hurricane resistant building built in 1978 replaced earlier structures destroyed by storms or fire.

5. PORT ARANSAS MUSEUM / COMMUNITY CENTER The Port Aransas Museum was originally built as a mail order kit house. Relocated next door to the historical Community Center, these two lovely old structures tell the story of our island community through exhibits and programs.

20. FERRY DOCK AND FERRIES From the mid-1920's when the Texas Highway Department put Mitzi, the first ferryboat, into service, until 1954 when SH 361 was built, ferries were the only access to the island. In 1951, the Ferry System's three ferries were purchased by Nueces County which charged one dollar a car to cross. In 1968, the State of Texas again assumed control, dropping the fee. Two new 28 car ferries along with six 20 car ferries operate 24 hours a day, free of charge.

23. LIGHTHOUSE The Aransas Pass Light Station guided ships through the pass from 1857 to 1954. On July 4, 1989, the lamp was re-lit when owner Charles Butt installed a 19th century Fresnel lens. During the War Between the States, Federal troops blockaded the Pass entrance, attempting to seize the light. Confederate troops led by Col. Marmaduke Hobby, removed the lens, buried it in the surrounding salt marsh and the lens remains lost to this day. In 1866 the tower was repaired and a new lens installed to guide ships through the pass. The second lens is now on display in the Civic Center foyer.

24. SAN JOSE ISLAND Inhabited first by the Karankawa Indians, then by conquering Spaniards, by the 1830's San Jose Island was a haven for pirates. In 1834, remains of a pirate camp were found, complete with iron rings implanted in the sand for tying boats or slaves. Rumors abound of a Spanish dagger with a silver spike that still guards Pirate Jean Lafitte's treasure. Today, the Island is privately owned but its beach is accessible by a short boat ride across the channel.

26. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE UTMSI is the oldest Marine Lab in Texas and is a part of the UT-College of Natural Sciences. The Visitor's Center is open to the public with aquaria and exhibits (for seasonal hours contact the Chamber of Commerce). Visit the Wetlands Education Center, a man-made marsh, offering self-guided tours 7 days a week or guided tours twice weekly. The Institute's marine research is a resource for Texas and for the world, offering Master and Ph.D degrees in Marine Science. It also offers several Road Scholar programs throughout the year.

27. SOUTH JETTY AND SHIP CHANNEL This natural pass, one of only three in Texas, was used by Mexican merchants, smugglers and pirates as a highway from the sea. With each big storm, the pass would shift and choke with sandbars making it the scene of many shipwrecks. In an attempt to tame it, the Army Corps of Engineers tried four times over 60 years to build jetties that would capture the channel. The existing Jetties were completed in the 1930's. Millions of tons of shipping and thousands of pleasure and sport fishing boats use it as a pathway to the Gulf of Mexico annually.

30. MUSTANG ISLAND BEACH Named for the wild horses that escaped Spanish explorers, the 18 mile long stretch of sandy beach is rich with history. In the early 1500's, passengers of a wrecked Spanish ship were captured by the Karankawa Indians, our island's first inhabitants. But by 1860, the Indians vanished, hunted to extinction by Spaniards. During the War Between the States, union troops led by Jack Hayes and Zachary Taylor marched this beach in search of enemy soldiers. Today, visitors from around the world come to swim, fish, play and enjoy the thousands of sea birds that call it home.

41. WATERFRONT From the first commercial docks in the late 1800's until today, the waterfront has been the center of activity on the island. Businesses come and go, destroyed by hurricanes or changing times, but fishermen, guides and tourists have always met here. Even President Franklin D. Roosevelt met local guides, Barney Farley and "Uncle Teddy" Matthews, for a successful day of Tarpon fishing. Relaxing in dockside restaurants and watching boats unload their catch is a great way to spend an evening.

