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Strange RV Encounters: Port Aransas Festivals: Whooping Cranes, Sandcastles, and Beach Camping



The Weird, the Wacky, and the Wonderful



Juliana Mathews, Yahoo Contributor Network
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Welcome to paradise! The town of Port Aransas, Texas, on Mustang Island is a favorite summer vacation destination for RVers and tent campers.

Did you find the buried treasure on Mustang or Padre Islands? Me, neither. Fear not, [there are several annual festivals](#) keep you entertained when you're not looking for the buried treasure.

Camping on the Beach

Got \$12? [For \\$12, you can RV or tent camp on the beach](#) for three nights in any three-week period. It is primitive camping without any RV hookups, known among RVers as "boondocking." However, there are bathroom facilities. The sand is hard-packed and safe for large RVs.

Prefer amenities like running water and electricity? There are many RV parks from which to choose. The island tends to be busy in the warm summer and quiet in the mild winter.

Things to See and Do in Port Aransas

The annual [Whooping Crane Festival](#) draws a large crowd, attracting as many birders and tourists as the birds themselves. The festival is held at birding locations around Port Aransas in late February.

Withstanding hurricanes and war alike, the [Lydia Ann Channel Lighthouse](#) appears unscathed. While no longer in operation, she stands tall at the edge of the Aransas Pass side of the channel. Tours are sometimes available, but you can always kayak to the lighthouse.

As ubiquitous as grains of sand on the beach, people descend upon the town to enjoy [Sandfest, the annual sandcastle building contest](#) held in late spring.

Professional sandcastle builders flock to the island to compete in this favorite childhood pastime. Apparently, that pastime is also a career for some lucky artists. What you once did for fun, these folks do for money.

Join me next time for more of Port Aransas, when I tell you about the giant shark entrance doors.

To see many more photos, [follow more of my weird, wacky, and wonderful RV adventures on Flickr.](#)

My next stop: [Strange RV Encounters: Port Aransas and Giant Shark Doors.](#)

Read how it all began: [Strange RV Encounters: An Introduction.](#)

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Published by [Juliana Mathews](#)

In the summer of 2011, Juliana bought an RV, gave up most of her possessions and began traveling around the country with her cat, seeing all the weird, wacky and wonderful roadside attractions. She writes... [View profile](#)



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Pioneer Beach Resort, Port Aransas, Texas

Pioneer Beach Resort, located at 120 Gulfwind Drive, Port Aransas, Texas, is a privately owned RV Park "nestled among the dunes of Mustang Island."



Top 5 U.S. Travel Destinations for Seniors

These top 5 U.S. travel destinations for seniors have what it takes to satisfy both the tame and the adventurous senior traveler.

Best 5 Texas State Lands for Tent Camping in the Summer

This article briefly discusses five of the best places in Texas to go tent camping during the summer months.



Texas Gulf Coast Beach Information

If you are planning on visiting or camping in Texas, you won't want to miss the Texas Gulf Coast. There are a number of places we have visited along the gulf coast and love it.

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