



**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**  
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**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CELEBRATES HOLIDAYS WITH SANTA & SAND**

*Event Lineup Includes Lantern Fest, Christmas Parade,  
Breakfast with Santa and Polar Bear Dip*

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas** – South Padre Island guarantees visitors a white Christmas – as long as that means miles of sugary, fine-sand beaches. South Padre Island celebrates the holiday season with several Island-flavored events, from the first weekend in December through New Year’s Day. From the Holiday Lantern Fest to a Polar Bear Dip in the Gulf of Mexico, here’s a look at how to add sun, sand and Santa to the holiday season, South Padre Island-style.

- **South Padre Island Holiday Celebration and Lantern Fest, Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3:** Get in the holiday spirit at the South Padre Island Convention Centre during The Holiday Celebration & Lantern Fest! On Friday, enjoy a Christmas tree lighting, festive concert, photos with Santa, beautiful holiday displays, and hot chocolate with all the fixings! Friday also marks the start of the two-day Winter Marketplace! On Saturday, thousands of revelers will join together armed with lanterns for one unforgettable spectacle at the Lantern Fest. Doors open on Friday and Saturday at 9 a.m. for the Winter Marketplace, the Holiday Celebration begins Friday at 6 p.m. and Lantern Fest Gates open Saturday at 1 p.m. at the South Padre Island Convention Centre, 7355 Padre Blvd.  
<http://www.sopadre.com/event/south-padre-island-holiday-celebration-and-lantern-festival/>
- **South Padre Island Christmas Parade, Friday Dec. 9:** Grab some chairs and claim a spot along Padre Boulevard to watch lighted floats glide down the Island’s main street during the **South Padre Island Christmas Parade**. Twinkling holiday lights set the stage for an evening of fun. The parade travels south on Padre Blvd. from the starting point at Mars Boulevard. (956) 761-8112  
<http://www.sopadre.com/event/christmasparade/>
- **Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, Dec. 10:** Santa will make a special stop at Schlitterbahn Beach Resort to visit with children at the annual **Breakfast with Santa**, 10 a.m. to noon. Kids 11 and under will enjoy a free breakfast (\$3 for older children), along with fun activities, free carousel rides, photos with Santa, and more. Schlitterbahn is located at 100 Padre Blvd. No pre-registration is required. (956) 761-8112  
<http://www.sopadre.com/event/breakfast-with-santa/>

- **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear Dip, Sunday, Jan. 1:** Kick off the New Year by taking the plunge at what is -- unofficially -- the nation's warmest **Polar Bear Dip**. With balmy air temperatures in the 70s and water temperatures in the 50s, this is where the nation's smartest polar bears swim. More than 1,000 revelers are expected to dash and splash into the Gulf of Mexico. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes to this free event, which features live music and a costume contest. Registration starts at 10 a.m. at Clayton's Beach Bar & Grill, 6800 Padre Blvd., <http://www.sopadre.com/event/19th-annual-polar-bear-dip/>.

For more on these events and other South Padre Island travel information, go to [www.sopadre.com](http://www.sopadre.com) or call 1-800-SOPADRE.

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