

txca-0983



Matagorda Island

Matagorda Island is a 56,688-acre offshore barrier island that is jointly owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas General Land Office. The USFWS has the lead responsibility for wildlife and habitat management, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, through a Memorandum of Agreement, has the responsibility of supervising public use, including public hunting, camping, birdwatching and hiking.

Known for its seclusion and natural beauty, Matagorda Island is a sanctuary for whooping cranes and home to about 18 other endangered or threatened species. A large herd of white-tailed deer, alligators and other wildlife call the island home. A 92-foot-tall lighthouse dating from 1852 still stands on the north end of the island.



For more information, visit the TPWD or USFWS websites:

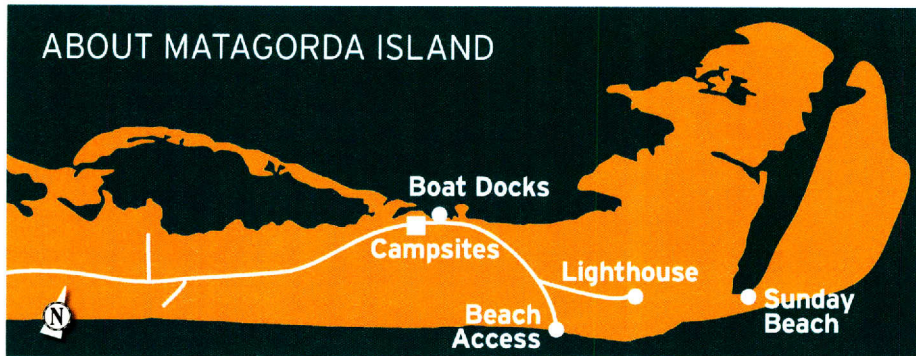
www.tpwd.state.tx.us • www.fws.gov

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be safe; remote conditions require awareness of safety concerns. Always bring plenty of drinking water, sunscreen and insect repellent. Also, be aware there are several species of venomous snakes present on the island.

Emergency	911
Calhoun County Sheriff	(361) 553-4646
TPWD	(979) 323-9669
USFWS	(361) 286-3559
Operation Game Thief	(800) 792-4263
U.S. Coast Guard	(361) 749-5217

ABOUT MATAGORDA ISLAND



Is there a ferry service to the island? No, the island is only accessible by charter boat or private boat. You can visit the Port O'Connor Chamber of Commerce website – www.portoconnor.com – for a listing of local fishing guides that shuttle people to the island.

Do you need reservations to camp on the island?

No. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

What permit do I need to camp? Overnight campers over the age of 16 are required to either possess a Limited Public Use permit (LPU) or Annual Public Hunting permit (APH). Permits can be purchased at any location that sells hunting and fishing licenses.

How many campsites are there? 12. Each campsite contains a shelter, picnic table and fire ring. Currently there are no public restrooms, showers, electricity or drinking water available. Due to the general lack of facilities, extremes in weather and access, this camping experience should be considered remote and primitive.

Do I need a permit if I don't plan to camp overnight? No. Daily visitors are not required to possess any permits. Only overnight campers are required to have an LPU or APH permit.

Are there boat docks available? Yes. There is docking space for approximately 10 boats.

How far is it across the bay to Matagorda Island?

Approximately 8 miles across Espiritu Santo Bay from Port O'Connor.

Is there transportation on the island to take you to the beach? No.

Can you take a motorized vehicle (ATV, motorcycle, etc.) on the island?

No. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the island.

How far is the beach from the campsites? Approximately 2.2 miles.

How far is the lighthouse from the campsites? Approximately 3 miles.

When is the island open to the public? Everyday. However, when TPWD is conducting public deer hunts, the north end of the island is closed to visitors. Public hunts typically occur in November and December.



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