

# DESTIN FORT WALTON BEACH FLORIDA

## Destination Backgrounder

No stretch is more captivating than the sugar-white sand beaches and emerald-green waters that meet along the shores of Destin-Fort Walton Beach. Located in Northwest Florida, the destination is not only an ideal place to unwind and experience total relaxation along a more than 20-mile stretch of beach, but for kids, and kids at heart, to uncover the adventurous side within. Inspired by a study that showed 56 percent\* of children spend less time outdoors than maximum security prison inmates and that 49 percent\* of surveyed parents find it hard to play with their kids, the destination set out on a mission to get kids on the water to give their adventurous side room to grow. The family-friendly locale offers an environment of discovery on land and water for both parents and kids to play and explore. It's free from the stresses and judgements of everyday life, inviting families to indulge their curiosities.

### **A Place of Initiation**

Destin-Fort Walton Beach is a place of initiation, where play on the water goes beyond sun-drenched fun to a transformative experience, inspiring self-confidence and self-reliance, and nurturing imaginations. Families will uncover a wide variety of opportunities for outdoor adventure inclusive of legendary fishing, boating, watersports and an abundance of wildlife to observe.

The destination's interactive adventure builder, Little Adventures, guides families through their exploration of a collection of activities, expertly curated by local residents, to build an itinerary that best suits their children's ages, skillset and interests. Kids as young as one can enjoy an afternoon splashing and discovering wildlife in crystal clear tide pools. Budding marine biologists will find themselves an arm's reach away from marine life on, and in some instances, under the water. Young explorers can chart their own course via kayak or paddleboard, and teens can challenge themselves to take a lesson out on the water and leave with a new skill like suba diving or eFoiling.

### **“The World’s Luckiest Fishing Village”**

Affectionately known as the “World’s Luckiest Fishing Village,” Destin boasts the largest commercial charter fishing fleet in the country, guaranteeing families an unforgettable day offshore year-round. It's a reminder that a child doesn't need an actual catch to make a fishing trip successful. Children remember the day, no matter what was – or wasn't – caught, ultimately walking away with a fish tale of their own as a prized souvenir.

Fishing outings vary to best suit first-timers and seasoned anglers alike, ranging from offshore excursions with the



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expert guidance of an experienced charter captain, to enjoying the peaceful bayous and bays in a kayak or paddleboard, to casting a line from the fishing pier or along the beautiful shores.

## **Gulf-to-Table Dining**

Part of what makes any destination unique is the distinct flavors one can experience during their visit, and with over 20 types of edible fish available off its shores, Destin-Fort Walton Beach serves up a wide selection of memorable dishes. Aside from menu items that diners may come to expect from a visit to the region, such as grouper, mahi-mahi, royal red gulf shrimp, and even lionfish, travelers can enjoy “cook your catch” services, whether smoked, grilled, fried, or blackened, to mark the end of a successful day spent fishing. For non-seafood lovers, restaurants also offer globally influenced cuisine; traditional American fare, and regional cuisine that’s distinctly southern, paired expertly with locally crafted beers and custom cocktails.

## **A Story to Share**

Visitors to Destin-Fort Walton Beach will not only discover natural wonders and cultural centers, but local experts who are passionate about sharing their inside secrets including hidden fishing holes, breathtaking dive sites, picturesque kayak routes and tips for building a

better sandcastle and surfing the Gulf. The signature sugar-white sand (that remains cool to the touch) and emerald-green water also have a story to share. Appalachian quartz crystals, washed from rivers and tumbled by the tides over thousands of years, have formed the fine white powder sand that exists today, creating the trademark emerald color that results from reflecting sunlight through the surf.

## **A Home Away from Home**

As the sun sets on an adventure filled day families can rest their heads at a wide variety of accommodations, that serve as a home away from home. Those seeking the convenience of having every last vacation detail tended to may book at one of several resorts and hotels. To bring friends and extended family along for the journey, roomy vacation rentals provide a comfortable option. A more peaceful intimate experience awaits, over at RV campsites, and at campgrounds including Henderson State Park and Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park where families can sleep under a canopy of stars.

To chart a course for an adventure and learn more, please visit [www.destinfwb.com](http://www.destinfwb.com).

*\*Global study of 12,000 families with kids aged 5-12 initially commissioned by the Real Play Coalition*