

DESTIN FORT WALTON BEACH FLORIDA

Gulf-to-Table

Part of what makes any destination unique is the distinct flavors travelers can experience during their stay, and Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida serves up just that and more. With more than 20 edible species of fish swimming just off the coast, many local restaurants offer a wide selection of fresh catches, brought in daily by local fishermen. Aside from menu items that diners may come to expect from a visit to the region, such as grouper, snapper and mahi-mahi, travelers can enjoy specialty “catch of the day” selections they may find surprising, including lionfish. No visit to the area would be complete without sampling local shrimp, oysters and crab, which are readily available year-round, and served fresh from the docks, often times having been brought in the same day.

The Largest Charter Fishing Fleet

As home to North America’s largest commercial charter fishing fleet, more than 200 vessels bring in thousands of pounds of fresh fish and seafood each day. The abundance of fresh catch combined with the region’s rich and diverse culture have inspired local chefs to introduce innovative fusion cuisine and continue to recreate the classics that have delighted for decades. Diners visiting the establishments operated by Saltwater

Restaurants don’t have to look far to learn the origin of their dishes, as the group’s dedicated commissary operates at the home of three of their restaurants, The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island. The commissary processes 2,000 lbs. of fresh fish straight off the boats daily, and delivers to the group’s myriad of restaurants along the Gulf Coast including The Crab Trap, Floyd’s Shrimp House and Rockin’ Tacos.

Dock + Dine

After returning from a day on the water, visitors have many options to “Dock and Dine” in the area, with restaurants along the Gulf of Mexico and Destin Harbor offering the opportunity to simply tie up and dive into a delicious meal. A long-standing favorite among locals and visitors is Dewey Destin’s Seafood Restaurant, a local gathering place on the water that offers picturesque views and some of the best seafood in town. Other popular locations include The Gulf on Okaloosa Island, which features a revolving menu of dishes with an emphasis is local ingredients, as well as Dock on the Island’s innovative menu of Gulf Coast flavors.

Cook Your Catch

For a truly memorable dining experience, many local



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restaurants also offer “cook your catch” service to mark the end of a successful day spent fishing. Smoked, grilled, fried, or blackened restaurants, such as East Pass Seafood & Oyster Bar and Harbor Docks are ready to prepare a feast cooked to please fishermen of all ages and accompanied by sides that are bursting with flavor.

Moving inland, those looking for true farm-to-fork options will be happy to taste the locally grown produce, sourced directly from the area’s many family-owned farms and served same day, in local restaurants like The Local Market and Camille’s. For non-seafood lovers, restaurants also offer traditional and contemporary American fare, from burgers and steaks to regional cuisine that’s distinctly southern, paired expertly with locally crafted beers and custom cocktails.

**For more information on Gulf-to-Table dining in Destin-Fort Walton Beach, please visit destinfwb.com.*

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