

# DESTIN FORT WALTON BEACH FLORIDA

## Water Adventures

Famed for its pristine, sugar-white sand and vibrant emerald-green waters, Destin-Fort Walton Beach is the perfect destination for families seeking memorable water-based adventures. The calm, crystal-clear Gulf waters create ideal conditions for everything from snorkeling and diving to allowing kids to wade in and explore the shoreline. Whether you're fishing, boating, or enjoying thrilling watersports, there's something for everyone in the family. Along the way, you can also marvel at the abundant wildlife that calls this coastal paradise home.

### **Sugar-White Sand + Emerald-Green Water**

The signature sugar-white sand beaches found in Destin Fort Walton Beach are some of the most beautiful in the world and have a history all their own. Appalachian quartz crystals, washed from rivers and tumbled by tides over thousands of years, form the fine white powder sands that exist today. The sand remains cool to the touch year-round and gives the water its trademark emerald color by reflecting sunlight through the surf, creating a picturesque backdrop for a perfect photo.

### **Getting Out on the Water**

Play on the water isn't just fun for kids it's a transformative experience. With more than 20 miles

of coastline, plus protected bays and bayous, the best way to explore is on the water. For memories that will last a lifetime, guests can rent a pontoon, kayak or paddle board to explore the waterways, experience underwater beauty snorkeling and diving, or opt instead for a cruise to spot wildlife and even enjoy a beautiful sunset.

### **Nature Lovers**

An environment that is diverse in nature awaits including vibrant reefs, coastal waterfronts, inland forests, and cultural centers. It's a setting that encourages kids to not only interact with their surroundings, but with parents and siblings. The destination's many parks provide an opportunity to be immersed in a coastal landscape whether checking out the endangered coastal scrub at Henderson Beach State Park, or spotting herons, pelicans, and other coastal birdlife along the walkways of Liza Jackson Park. For an up-close encounter with some of the destination's most famous residents, seasonal Nighttime Educational Beach Walks (June-October) provide locals and visitors alike information about protecting the sea turtle population. Offshore adventurers can spot an abundance of marine life including dolphins, goliath groupers, angelfish, Spanish mackerels, spadefish, octopus, and more. The calm, clear waters of The Gulf are as ideal



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for first-time snorkelers as they are for those who are PADI certified. Divers can explore artificial reefs, wrecks and a limestone shelf at depths of up to 90 feet.

## Along the Shores

Beachgoers can lay out on the sand, letting time slip away or break up their stay discovering treasures on land. Strolls down Destin's HarborWalk Village or The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island are feasts for the senses. Savor Gulf-to-Table seafood served at restaurants just steps away from the fishing boats that just recently pulled them from the water or chart a course for shops brimming with sweet treats, gifts, and beach apparel. A bit further inland, antiques and unique shops line Downtown Fort Walton Beach, and well-known brands can be found at Destin Commons, an open-air mall, that is home to a multitude of shopping and dining destinations. To bring friends and extended family along for the journey, roomy vacation rentals provide a comfortable option. A more peaceful intimate experience awaits, 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).

*\*For more information on Destin-Fort Walton Beach's water adventures, please visit [destinfwb.com/little-adventures](http://destinfwb.com/little-adventures).*

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