

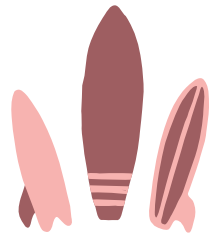


GET A LITTLE OUT THERE

There's something we've learned about getting families out on the water. Parents learn to detach and let their kids go and grow.

Children develop sides they never knew they had. Like courage. Independence. And an appreciation of the natural world.





Welcome to
Destin-Fort
Walton Beach.

A place where
endless waterways
offer endless
adventure.

Get ready for clear water.
White sand.
And unforgettable
family adventures.



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ON THE WET SIDE

in this section

Destin-Fort Walton Beach is surrounded by the Gulf, Bay and other waterways—making it the easiest place to get out on the water.

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LET'S HIT THE BEACH

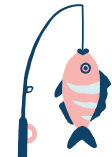
BEST BEACH FOR...



paddleboarding

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

Take a break from the waves and paddleboard on calm, brackish waters. The Gulf Islands National Seashore is accessible by boat or car (with easy parking) and is a great place to watch kiteboarders.



surf fishing

HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

A wide-open beach is perfect for families learning to fish from the shoreline. You can also explore the ¾-mile trail winding through natural dunes. At only \$6 per vehicle, the views are worth it!



critter spotting

NORRIEGO POINT TIDE POOLS

Check out these knee-deep tide pools formed by rocks and roped off from the open waters of the East Pass. Ideal for beginner swimmers, these pools are a good location for finding hermit crabs.



snorkeling

JOHN C. BEASLEY PARK

Snorkel the artificial reef east of the pavilion, enjoy a stroll or even get some fishing advice from the experts—our local birds and dolphins, of course.



sunbathing

OKALOOSA ISLAND BEACH ACCESSES

Ready for some days in the rays? Lather on the SPF and head over to your choice of several public beach access points, also accessible from Okaloosa Island's accommodations.



Our sugar-white sand rolls out a soft and squeaky welcome to the Gulf. Why is our sand white? It's actually 1,000- year-old Appalachian quartz. The white sand and sunlight combine to give the Gulf its emerald color.

Discover Your Marine Animal Adventure Buddy

Feathers? Fur? Flippers? No matter the form, there's lots of animal friends to find in Destin-Fort Walton Beach. Take this quiz to find your marine animal buddy and then learn more about the adventure you and your buddy are sure to love!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BEACHY MOVIE?

- 1 *Finding Nemo*
- 2 *Lilo & Stitch*
- 3 *Moana*
- 4 *The Little Mermaid*

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE WEEKEND ACTIVITY?

- 1 Making up dances
- 2 Riding bikes and skateboards
- 3 Hanging with the neighborhood crew
- 4 Chilling out at home

WHAT'S YOUR SCHOOL SUPERLATIVE?

- 1 Class Clown
- 2 Most Chill
- 3 Most Spirited
- 4 Bookworm

WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PERSONALITY?

- 1 Confident and adventurous
- 2 Laid-back and easygoing
- 3 Funny and social
- 4 Curious and cautious

HOW DO FRIENDS DESCRIBE YOU?

- 1 Spontaneous
- 2 Go-with-the-flow
- 3 On-the-go
- 4 Clever

WHAT'S YOUR MUST-HAVE BEACH ACCESSORY?

- 1 Net for critters
- 2 Inflatable swim tube
- 3 Boogie board
- 4 Sandcastle bucket

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- 1 Ability to fly
- 2 Shapeshifting
- 3 Super-speed
- 4 Invisibility

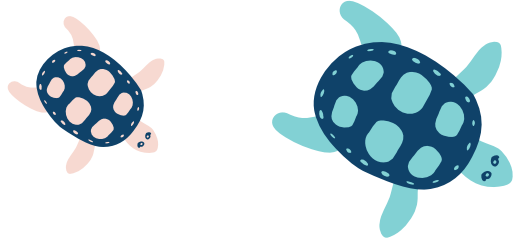
WHEN APPROACHING A NEW ADVENTURE, YOU...

- 1 Dive in headfirst
- 2 Do whatever seems fun at the time
- 3 Take charge and convince your friends to join
- 4 Want to explore and learn but let others try first



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Meet your marine match:



2

If you answered with mostly 2s:

SURF THE WAVES LIKE A SEA TURTLE

Much like a sea turtle, you like to roll with the tide and don't mind playing things by ear. Your go-with-the-flow attitude makes you open to new experiences, like surf lessons in the Gulf. If you're lucky, you may even spot one of your sea turtle adventure buddies while you're catching a wave in the crystal-clear water.

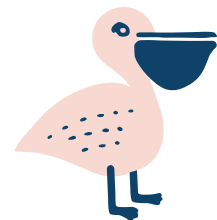


1

If you answered with mostly 1s:

GO FISHING LIKE A PELICAN

When it comes to adventure, you know your way around the water. Just like a pelican, when an opportunity comes your way, you just can't say no. Charter fishing offers tons of action on the water, but take some advice from your pelican friend—you must be patient for the perfect catch!

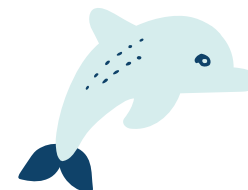


3

If you answered with mostly 3s:

NAVIGATE THE GULF LIKE A DOLPHIN

Aye aye, captain! You love to take charge and make plans the whole crew will love. Like one of our local dolphins, you enjoy fast-paced activities where you can lead the pack. Try sailing lessons in the Gulf and you'll get a chance to raise the sails and even steer the vessel yourself.

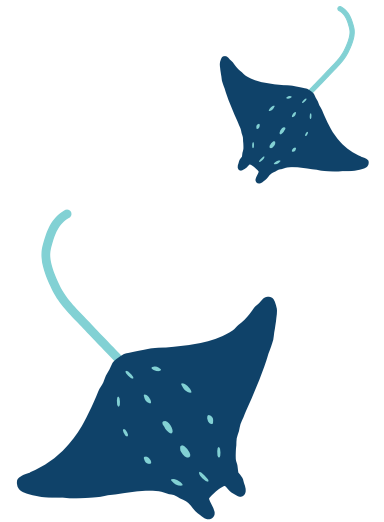


4

If you answered with mostly 4s:

EXPLORE UNDERWATER LIKE A DEVIL RAY

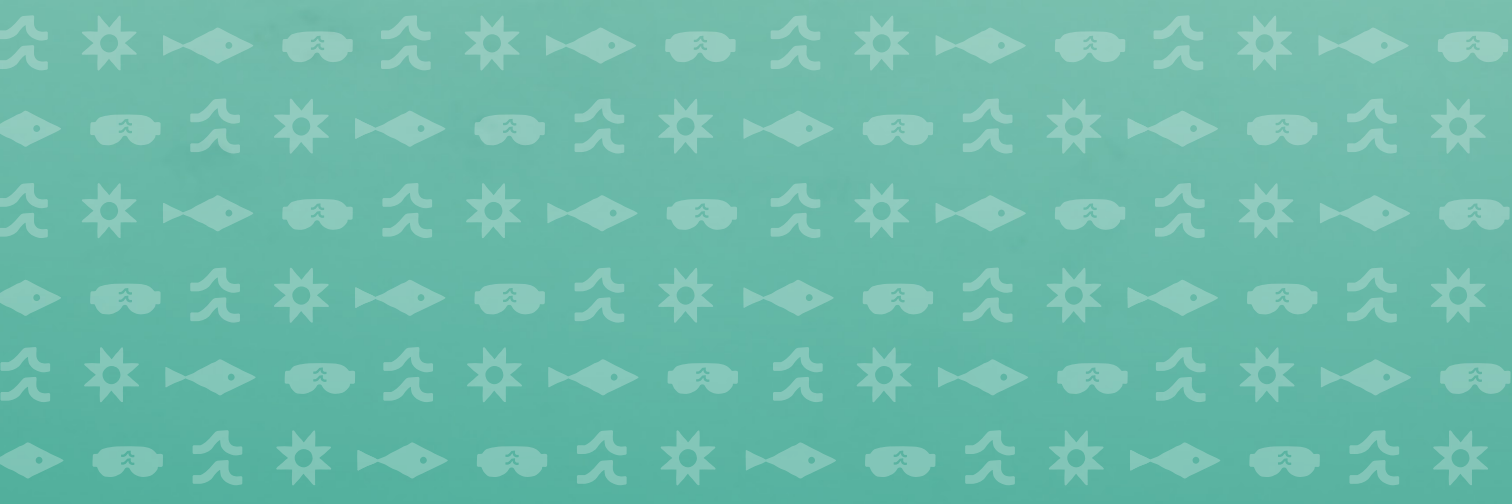
Cautious. Curious. Caring. Just like a devil ray, your gentle spirit and inquisitive nature pair perfectly with discovering the Gulf's underwater world. Grab a snorkel to explore the best hiking trails beneath the surface.





DIVE INTO LITTLE ADVENTURES

There's a new, bite-size adventure for everyone in Destin-Fort Walton Beach.



FIND A LITTLE ADVENTURE PERFECT FOR YOUR FAMILY



BEST FOR AGES 4-7

- Surf fish in Henderson Beach State Park
- Explore the beach at night
- Dolphin excursions

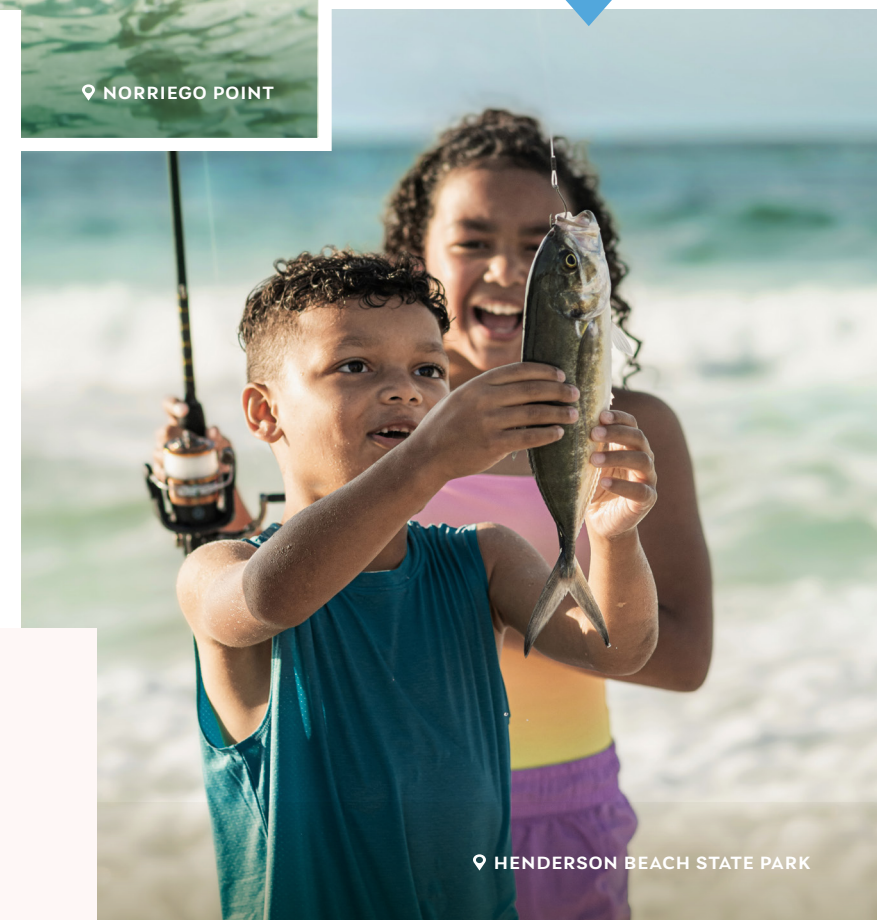


📍 NORRIEGO POINT

BEST FOR AGES 0-3



- Sand sculpture lessons
- Explore the Norriego Point tide pools
- Fish and explore the Valparaiso T-Pier



📍 HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

Explore now!



Want to try our adventures for FREE?
Discover expert-led classes!





BEST FOR AGES 8-12

- Snorkeling with a guide
- Beginner paddleboarding on the Bay
- Paddleboard Rocky Bayou



BEST FOR AGES 13+

- Beginner diving at the jetties
- Sailing lessons in the Gulf with East Pass Sailing

DESTIN JETTIES

FIND ALL THE SURFING WORDS!

Q R R S I K S U R F S U P W G
 S N S P R D U C K D I V E C X
 H B N E I L J P L C P C D F O
 A S T R P O B A N O N O C W T
 N H B F T N W A X D R W L A C
 G O E E I G O N Y M T A X V V
 F R L C D B S C A O S B B E C
 I T D T E O U F E S W U R S U
 V B P T A A R X G W E N E I E
 E O I E Z R F B N I L G A I Z
 I A A N G D B Q A P L A R W E
 R R B P N H O O R E H F E W N
 I D P Y M Q A A L O K O R P N
 D I J P V C R Z Y U X O S E S
 E R T L C Y D M G T G C C U R

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| SHORTBOARD | COWABUNGA |
| LONGBOARD | DUCK DIVE |
| SURFS UP | HANG FIVE |
| WIPE OUT | WAVES |
| PERFECT TEN | SURFBOARD |
| BREAKERS | RIPTIDE |
| GNARLY | WAX |
| SWELL | RIDE |

LITTLE ADVENTURES, BIG APPETITES

Discovering something new out on the water is not only a great way to make memories, it's a great way to build an appetite! But don't worry, Destin-Fort Walton Beach has lots of family-friendly restaurants close by. (Wet swimsuit approved!)



BEGINNER CHARTER FISHING IN THE GULF

Bring your cleaned catch to **Harbor Docks** for the freshest meal possible, caught by you!



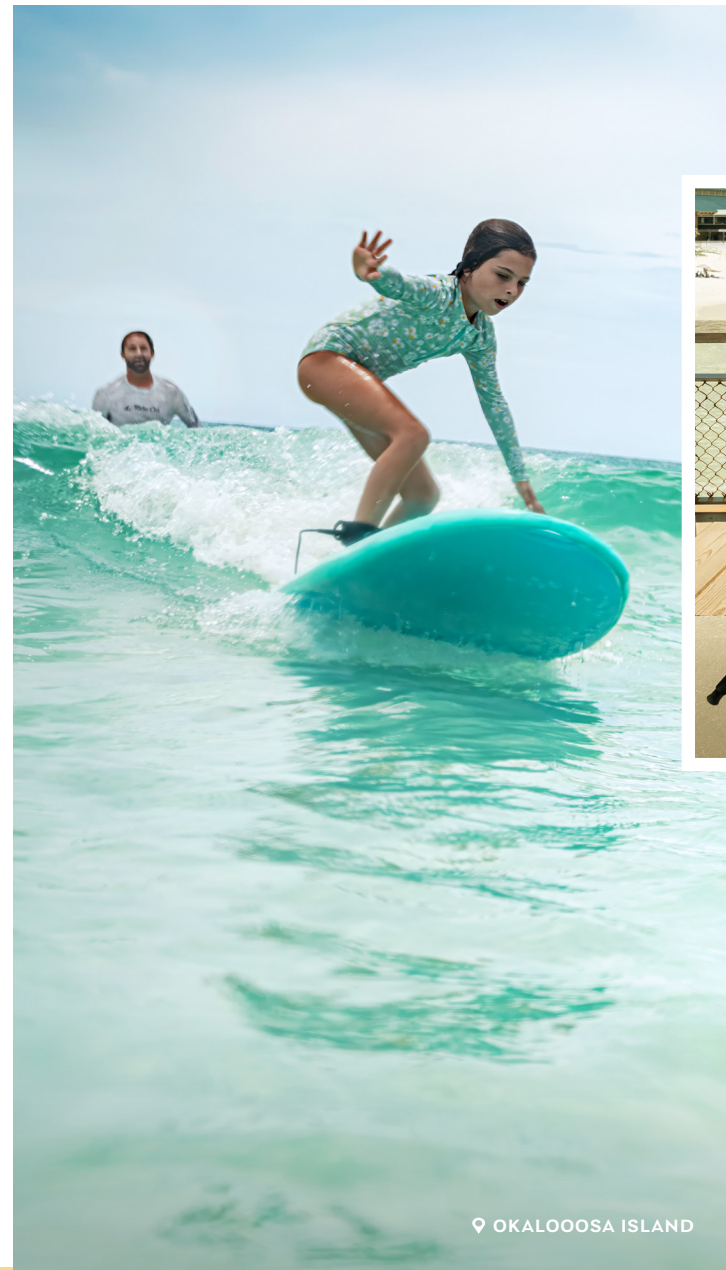
SURF LESSONS

Refuel after a day of shredding waves with smoothies, snacks and coffee from **Oasis on the Boardwalk**.



BEGINNER SAILING LESSONS IN THE BAY

No sailing lesson is complete without a celebration meal at Niceville's **LJ Schooners**. We recommend sitting at their shaded picnic tables!



OKALOOSA ISLAND



THE ISLAND PIER



FISHING THE ISLAND PIER

Reeling in Spanish mackerel on The Island Pier can work up an appetite! Walk a few steps over to **Rockin Tacos** for a casual, easy meal with a view of the beach.



RENT A BOAT TO SPECTRE ISLAND

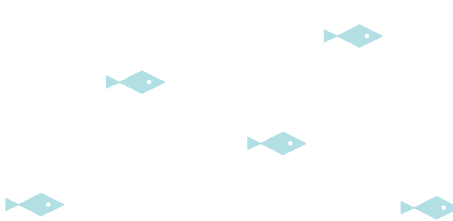
Pull up to the dock at **The Gulf** after exploring the Santa Rosa Sound. Enjoy fresh Gulf-to-table seafood at their picnic tables.



TALK WATER LIKE A LOCAL

📍 VALPARAISO T-PIER

There are so many ways to get out on the water in Destin-Fort Walton Beach that it can be hard to keep them all straight! Here's our guide to our local waterways paired with some of our favorite adventures.



THE GULF

As the largest gulf in the world, this is a body of water that needs no introduction. The Gulf (don't call it an "ocean!") is crystal-clear, salty and made for endless adventures. Plus, the local dolphins hang out year-round, so there's always a chance to see some playful marine life!

★ **Best for:** Surf lessons, beginner diving, dolphin excursions

CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY

The Choctawhatchee Bay has calm, brackish waters where salty Gulf waters flow in and mix with freshwater from the bayous. If you stay closer to the wading waters near the shore or the bayous, you'll find calm paddleboarding spots for kids and beginners. You may even spot fascinating sea life like our local stingrays.

★ **Best for:** Beginner sailing lessons, kayak/paddleboard fishing

CHOCTA-WHAT?

How to pronounce Choctawhatchee Bay

Pretend the "w" doesn't exist. OK, let's sound it out.

Chock
Ta
Hatch
Ee

Choctawhatchee.

*Still tongue-tied?
Just fake a sneeze and
you'll be close enough!*

THE SANTA ROSA SOUND

The Santa Rosa Sound connects Pensacola Bay to Choctawhatchee Bay and is home to Spectre Island, a popular boating destination.

★ **Best for:** Kayaking, exploring by pontoon



"Take a paddleboarding lesson with Matt from WET Inc. Matt is famous locally for paddleboarding his kids to school, so you know he'll have all the tips and tricks to get your family standing up in the water!"

- DEANA, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT



📍 OKALOOSA ISLAND GRASS FLATS

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

A favorite of water sport enthusiasts (including kiteboarders), the Gulf Islands National Seashore offers calm, clear water. Perfect for beginner swimmers, you may even see a pod of dolphins searching for a meal. The Gulf Islands National Seashore is part of the U.S. National Park Service and is a protected coastal area with paid parking, restrooms and picnic tables.

★ **Best for:** Snorkeling, beginner paddleboarding

TURKEY CREEK

Enjoy canoeing, kayaking or tubing down Turkey Creek with a chance to spot turtles, wading birds and other wildlife beneath a canopy of cypress trees. The creek's nature trail allows two-way traffic (stroller-friendly) to take in all of nature's sights and sounds while traveling on the 1-mile-long raised boardwalk.

★ **Best for:** Kayaking, tubing



TURN FOR MORE 



“One of the best places to see dolphins is The Island Pier. They have an observer pass for \$2/person for the whole day. Come and go as you please and see a ton of wildlife in the clear water below.”

- APRIL, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT

SHOAL RIVER

The Shoal River can be accessed at Shoal River Wayside Park, located at the southern edge of Crestview along State Road 85. The park has a boat ramp, restrooms, pavilions and a playground. Bring your paddleboard to enjoy 9.5 miles of Florida paddling trails (yes, there are designated paddling trails!) that begin at Ray Lynn Barnes Boat Ramp on Hwy 90 and end at Wayside Park.

★ *Best for: Paddleboarding*

YELLOW RIVER

Accessed at Milligan Park, the Yellow River offers grills, picnic tables and a boat launch. Like the Shoal River, the Yellow River is also designated as a Florida paddling trail, offering more advanced paddling at 54 miles long, with several access points where it joins with the Shoal River.

★ *Best for: Paddleboard fishing*



Both the Shoal River and Yellow River have clear water (tinted brown due to vegetation), and the sand is nearly as white as the sand along our beaches!



Can you spot all 8 differences?



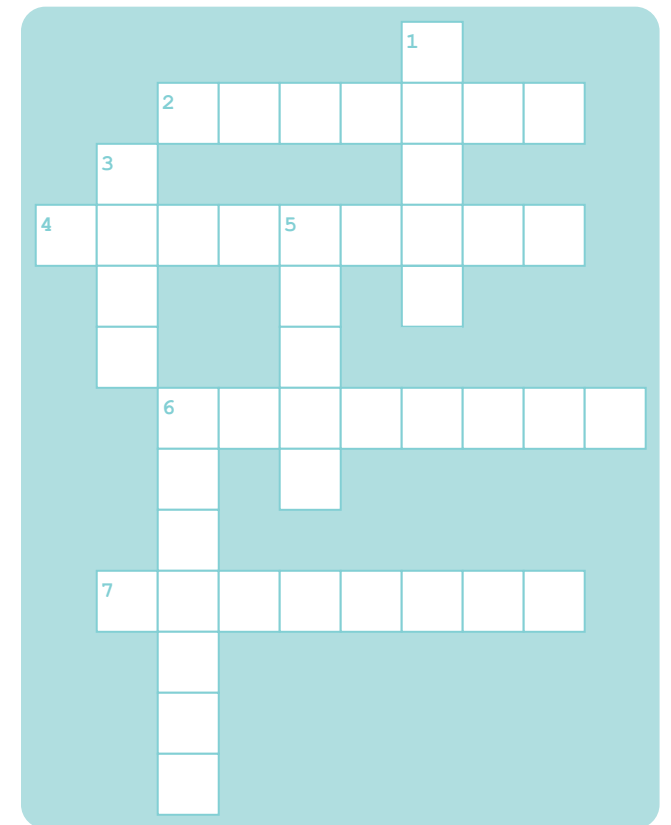
Can you solve these coastal clues?

ACROSS

- 2. the sound of our sand
- 4. what you lather on at the beach
- 6. sea creature with 5 arms
- 7. when salt and fresh water mix

DOWN

- 1. the Gulf has small ones
- 3. it's fun to swim in the _____
- 5. the color of our water
- 6. use this to see underwater creatures



ACROSS 2. squeaky 4. sunscreen 6. starfish 7. brackish
DOWN 1. waves 3. gulf 5. clear 6. snorkel



WHY GO TO THE POOL WHEN YOU CAN EXPLORE A TIDE POOL?



Looking for a family-friendly spot to explore the Gulf? Head to Norriego Point, where the kids can safely play in shallow tide pools. The knee-deep pools are formed by rocks and roped off from the open waters of the East Pass. This creates the perfect conditions

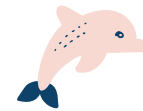
for dipping into the water and exploring all kinds of wildlife. While most of the fun is found looking underwater, don't forget to glance up, where you can catch the boats cruising in and out of the harbor.

The easiest way to get to Norriego Point is by heading to

the Norriego Point Beach Access and Park, located at 343-277 Gulf Shore Drive. Parking is limited, so if you see a spot near the access point, be sure to snag it! Another option is the O'Steen Public Beach Access, which is nearby and has street parking.



MARINE LIFE TO LOOK FOR:



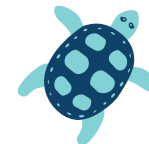
DOLPHINS

Keep an eye out for dolphins playing and feeding in the clear water of the East Pass. The best times to see them are usually between 10 a.m. and noon.



HERMIT CRABS

Hermit crabs thrive in Florida's warm waters—swapping shells as they grow. Despite their name, they can live in colonies of 100+ and are often found around the rocks of shallow tide pools.



SEA TURTLES

Keep your eyes peeled for four different species of sea turtles: loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley and leatherback—regular visitors to our crystal-clear tide pools.

EXPLORE OUR FREE LITTLE ADVENTURE CLASSES

Whether fishing, surfing or exploring sea creatures, our expert-led classes make it easy to try something new. Chat with a Scout to find the perfect class for your kids!

Chat now!





GO FISH: MORE WAYS TO FISH THAN ANYWHERE ELSE



Destin-Fort Walton Beach started as a small fishing village and has evolved into a premier beach destination. But even after all these years, fishing will always be the backbone of the area. Explore all the ways to fish our endless waterways and discover what happens when parent and child become captain and mate.

CHARTER FISHING IN THE GULF

Any nautical map will show you that Destin-Fort Walton Beach's quick and easy access to the deepest depths of the Gulf sets it apart from nearby ports. This is due to the 100-Fathom Curve, which is closer to our shoreline than anywhere else on Florida's Gulf Coast. This means that you'll get to spectacular fishing and bigger fish with a much shorter ride. Younger kids will enjoy nearshore fishing while older kids can try deep sea fishing with an experienced captain.

★ **Perfect for:** Tweens, teens or families with more fishing experience



"Worried about getting your crew back in time for lunch and naps? You can work with your captain to set a time that works best for your family's schedule."

- LAURA, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT



CHARTER FISHING IN THE BAY

Inshore fishing in the calm waters of the Choctawhatchee Bay is a great first-step to fishing out on the water in Destin-Fort Walton Beach. Many of our charter captains specialize in shorter runs (as short as 2 hours) that are completely customized to your family's needs. Your captain will waste no time in heading straight to the best spots to catch redfish, trout, flounder and more.

★ **Perfect for:** Younger kids or families looking for a more laid-back trip



"Looking for an easy way to try fishing? Try our FREE fishing class right on the beach (led by local experts). Chat with a Scout for more info!"

- CHELSEA, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT



THE ISLAND PIER

Fishing from The Island Pier is a quick and easy way to reel in your catch of the day. And with crystal-clear water, you can "sight-cast" which means you can aim your line right over your catch. Tarpon, tuna, king mackerel, cobia and even sailfish have been caught off the pier. They cover your fishing license and your pass covers you all day, so you can come and go as you please.

★ **Perfect for:** Fishing newbies looking for an easy way to rent a rod

VALPARAISO T-PIER

If you want to fish like a local, venture off the beaten path to the Valparaiso T-Pier. (You guessed it—it's shaped like a "T!") Here you can have a little extra room for your kids to cast a line, and there's even a restroom and two fish-cleaning stations. If not everyone in your group is into fishing, bring a kayak or paddleboard! There's a small beach perfect for water activities. Heading there? Just put this address into your GPS: 1153 N Bayshore Dr, Valparaiso.

★ **Perfect for:** Young families looking for a day off the beach



Scan me!



Try our filter tool to find the adventure for you.



READY, SET, SNORKEL

Looking for a safe place for everyone to snorkel? Check out the Snorkel Jetty at the O’Steen Public Beach Access on Holiday Isle. The shallow, calm water is perfect for younger kids, beginner swimmers and first-time snorkelers. Here you can see hermit crabs and other critters as well as charter boats returning to the harbor in the afternoon.

If your crowd’s got a little more experience, John C. Beasley Park has one of our favorite artificial reefs for snorkeling. It’s accessible by paddleboard or kayak, is free to enter and offers close-to-shore action.

A big beach pavilion with picnic tables and restrooms makes this the perfect place to hang out and enjoy the day. Don’t forget a flotation device (like a boogie board) if you need to take a quick break from underwater exploring.

Okaloosa County’s artificial reef program is one of the most active programs in the nation with 550+ reef sites easily accessible for fishing, diving and snorkeling.



DIVE THE SS UNITED STATES!

Once the world’s fastest ocean liner, the SS United States will soon become the world’s largest artificial reef—right off the coast in Destin-Fort Walton Beach. Discover how you can dive it!

Learn more!



TO INFINITY AND BELOW

DIVING IN DESTIN-FORT WALTON BEACH

Ready to explore the Gulf’s underwater world but not sure where to start? The Discover Scuba program makes it easy to dive right in. Perfect for ages 10+, this 3-hour beginner diving adventure shows you the magic beneath the crystal-clear waters of the jetties.

An experienced dive instructor will show you the ropes, go over safety procedures and equip your family with everything needed for your first open-water dive. Plus, this adventure counts towards your PADI certification!

Getting started is easy:

- 1** Visit any local dive shop to sign up for the Discover Scuba program.
- 2** Take a 15-minute online course at home.
- 3** You’re ready for your first shallow-water dive at the jetties with a PADI professional!

Want a more adventurous underwater experience?

Take a deep dive into our Shipwreck Alley which offers 25 vessels to explore and spans 16 miles.

Scan me!



For more info on our dive sites.



SUN, SAND AND SAFETY:

YOUR HANDY BEACH FLAG GUIDE



KNOW YOUR BEACH FLAGS

Pay close attention to the flag warning system. Even when the sky is sunny, currents and surf could pose dangers. Avoid swimming when red flags are flying, and remember, knee-deep is too deep when red flags are posted.



DOUBLE RED FLAGS mean the water is closed to the public.



RED FLAG indicates high hazard and means high surf and/or currents.



YELLOW FLAG indicates medium hazard and means moderate surf and/or currents.




GREEN FLAG indicates low hazard and means calm conditions, but swimmers should exercise caution.



PURPLE FLAG indicates dangerous marine life.

We want your vacation to be filled with fun, sun and relaxation, all while staying safe. Our lifeguards are trained to the highest

standards and are always ready to assist, but it's important to follow some simple guidelines on our beautiful beaches.


To receive Beach Flags + Safety updates from March through October, text "BEACH" to 44144.



ON DRY GROUND

in this section

Adventures in Destin-Fort Walton Beach don't end when you come back to shore. Explore parks, trails, museums and more with a variety of inland activities perfect for satisfying that itch for adventure.

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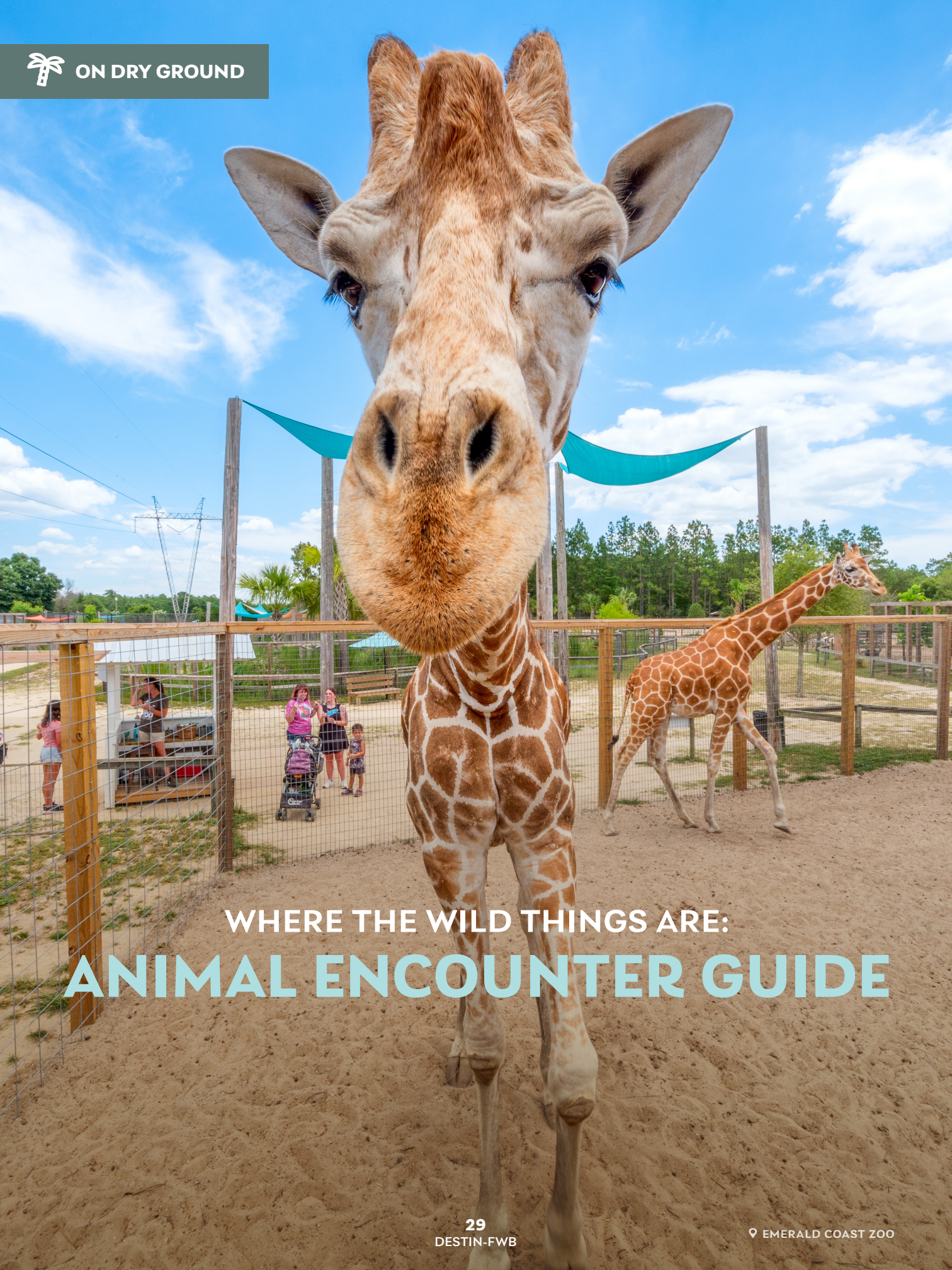
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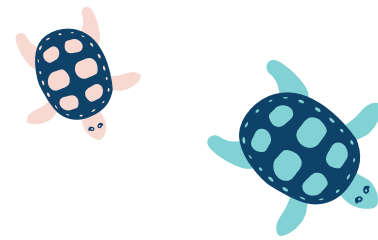
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WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE:

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER GUIDE



LIONS AND TIGERS AND TURTLES, OH MY!

EMERALD COAST ZOO

At the Emerald Coast Zoo, you can get up close and personal with your favorite members of the animal kingdom like sloths, kangaroos, giraffes and bears! Watch the mighty lion enjoy his lunch at noon every day. You can also visit the aviary and feed the birds. Come meet A&E TV star Rick the Reptile Guy along with his family (who actually live in the zoo).

Located in Crestview, Florida, only a 45-minute drive from the beach, the family-owned Emerald Coast Zoo is uniquely situated to bring visitors an unforgettable experience.



GULFARIUM

GULFARIUM MARINE ADVENTURE PARK

Suit up—you're in the splash zone! Located right on the beach next to The Island Pier, the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park has delivered wildlife fun and learning for 60+ years. The Gulfarium provides exciting opportunities

like meeting penguins, daily dolphin and sea lion shows, educational chats and hands-on animal encounters. You'll also learn about the Gulfarium's rehabilitation and release program and their commitment to marine animal rescue, active since 1955.



“My son loves the touch tank at the Gulfarium. He gets his shirt soaked and there's staff there to tell him about each creature. He just thinks it's amazing to see those animals up close.”

- BETH, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT

PARKS AND TRAILS THAT NEVER FAIL

Discover some not-so-hidden gems.



📍 TURKEY CREEK PARK



📍 ROCKY BAYOU STATE PARK



📍 HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

FRED GANNON ROCKY BAYOU STATE PARK

Just off Route 20, north of the Mid-Bay Bridge, this beauty offers a convenient boat ramp and you can even rent a paddleboard at the front entrance. It's also a terrific place for kayaking and paddleboarding, or for getting some practice in with your kids. The park features a playground, some nice, flat hiking trails (and you may even see a bald eagle).

WHITE POINT

Want some spectacular views of the Bay that few ever get to see? This favorite spot is located on Eglin Air Force Base. You'll need to get a permit in advance at eglin.isportsman.net. It's well worth it even for a day, and the pass is good for a year. Break out a fishing pole, toss in a kayak or just wade around looking for hermit crabs. The rest of this spot is wide open and a little on the wild side, so it's easy to claim your own space. There are picnic tables but no restrooms, so plan accordingly.

HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

Enjoy a majestic shoreline anchored by 30-foot snow-white sand dunes. Fishing, a pet-friendly nature trail and 60 campground and RV sites connected to the beach via boardwalk are among this park's featured areas. This special place was established for the preservation and protection of the last remaining coastal scrub area in Destin-Fort Walton Beach.

SHOAL RIVER PRESERVE

Set on 410 acres along the Shoal River in Crestview, this preserve offers over 6 miles of cleared trails to bike, hike or simply take in the scenery.

Maybe you've spent hours in the car and your gang needs a little break before you hit the beach. Or you've been spending days in the sun and sand, and the family needs a change of pace. Either way, you're primed for easily accessible parks and trails that are packed with fun wildlife and adventure.

TURKEY CREEK PARK

Enjoy a boardwalk adventure where you can spot local turtles, wading birds and other wildlife beneath a spreading canopy of cypress trees. The raised wooden Turkey Creek Nature Trail can easily accommodate strollers and they also have a pavilion with shaded picnic tables. Take your tubes and inflatables down to Dock 6 or 7 and float lazy-river style all the way back to Dock 1.

MATTIE KELLY PARK AND NATURE WALK

This 10.13-acre bayou access park has a pier, beach and picnic area. The majority of the land is considered wetlands and can't be developed, but a raised wooden boardwalk makes the park easily accessible by explorers of all ages.

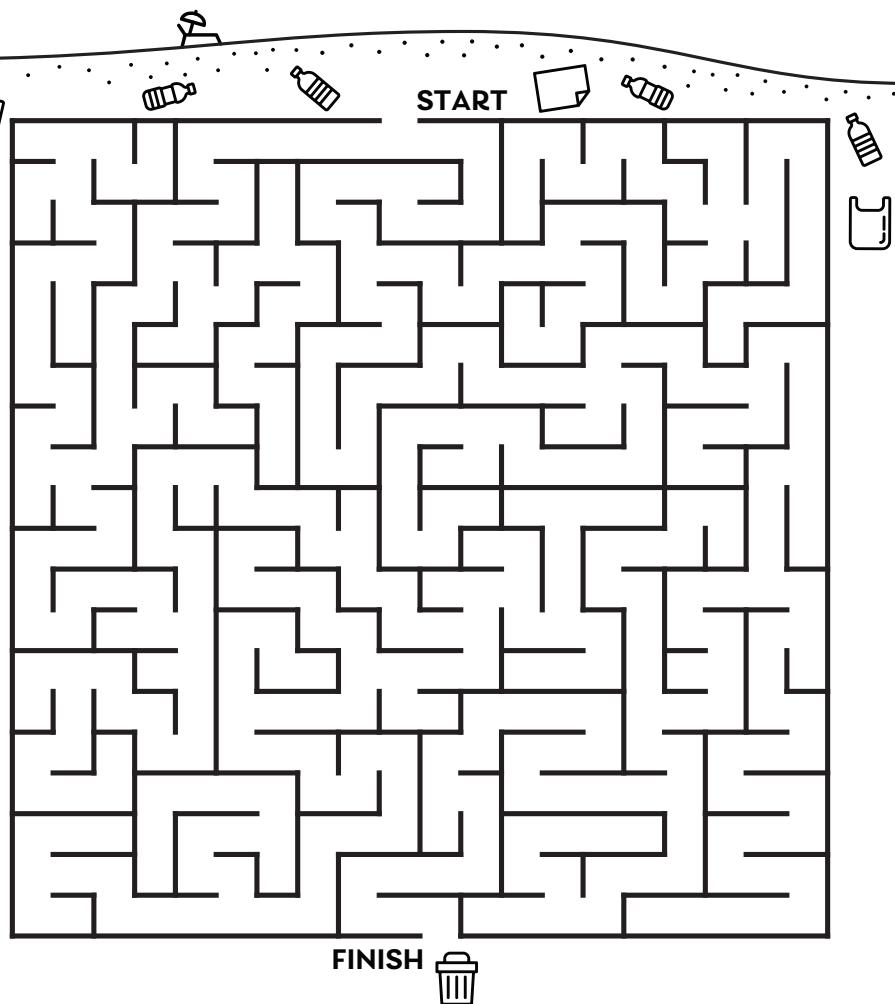
FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The Florida National Scenic Trail, better known as the Florida Trail, spans approximately 1,500 miles across some of the most beautiful, unique landscapes in the entire country. With a trailhead conveniently located on SR 285, the Okaloosa County section of the Florida Trail is 32.9 miles long and perfect for hikers looking for a challenge.





Get the beach litter to the trash can!



TIMBERLAKE TRAIL

Get to know these looping bike trails located on the Eglin Reservation. Considered a moderately challenging route, take a ride on the Snake Charmer, Gator Alley or Stinky Creek Trail. Dogs are welcome.

BLACKWATER RIVER STATE FOREST: KARICK LAKE RECREATION AREA

North of I-10, Blackwater River State Forest calls to your adventurous side. Karick Lake Recreation Area, accessed with a minimal fee, rewards with vistas of unparalleled peacefulness. While there's no swimming, canoeists and kayakers are welcome, and there is a boat ramp. The lake is well stocked if you have a hankering for some freshwater fishing. And if you're camping, you can pick out a campsite right on the shore.

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

This protected region has picnic tables, areas for bird-watching, a boat launch and other amenities. The Gulf Islands National Seashore is teeming with native wildlife and the water is calm. It's perfect for paddleboarding, kayaking and kiteboarding. Keep an eye out for our local dolphins!



33 DESTIN-FWB

 GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE



LOCAL COLOR AND CULTURE

Go deeper into what makes this place tick.

 MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER

Just beyond our beaches and clear waters lies a rich and varied culture that can add depth to your family's experience. Our region offers many opportunities to reawaken your inquisitive side, uncover local heritage and create one-of-a-kind memories.

CARVER-HILL MUSEUM

This Florida historic site located in the city of Crestview honors the historic Carver-Hill School and chronicles the local African-American community with archives of photos, yearbooks and other memorabilia.

MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center hosts Broadway touring shows and conducts programs that enhance the mission of Northwest Florida State College. Stop in to see exhibitions with artists across many styles and media. The art galleries represent a viable cultural asset for the campus and community.

BAKER BLOCK MUSEUM

As a local history museum and genealogy library focused on the history of the Northwest Florida

Panhandle. Exhibits include turpentine and timber, Native American artifacts, a copper whiskey still and the history of Eglin Air Force Base.

Scan me!



For directions, tickets and more info.

34 DESTIN-FWB



“On rainy days, I love taking my kids to the Emerald Coast Science Center. They have all kinds of events and things to do. We even got to pet a hedgehog!”
 - HAYLEY, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT

WOMEN VETERANS MONUMENTS AT VETERANS PARK

Located on the Choctawhatchee Bay coastline, this park features 12 monuments (including 4 brand-new statues) dedicated to brave women who have served and made significant contributions to the U.S. Military throughout history.

DESTIN HISTORY + FISHING MUSEUM

Discover the history that shaped Destin, from the small fishing village of the past to the world-class fishing and resort destination. The museum features over 100 fish mounts, interactive exhibits and an outdoor historic park complex.

HERITAGE PARK + CULTURAL CENTER

Located in downtown Fort Walton Beach, this park and cultural center features the Indian Temple Mound Museum, Camp Walton Schoolhouse Museum, Garnier Post Office Museum, Civil War Exhibit Building and Fort Walton Temple Mound.



HERITAGE MUSEUM OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

The museum houses an extensive collection of artifacts, textiles and documents pertaining to local and regional history. These materials are used for education, entertainment and research through the archival library, exhibits, tours, public programs and events.

EMERALD COAST SCIENCE CENTER

Explore over 45 hands-on science and nature exhibits—it’s a place of discovery for all ages! The science center features animal presentations, workshops and exhibits that stimulate the imagination with educational and interactive fun.

THE CRESTVIEW HISTORY MUSEUM AT THE BUSH HOUSE

The historic 1926 Bush House underwent renovation in 2022 and became a historic artifact in its own right. The American craftsman-style home features original rooms and artifacts showcasing the richness and diversity of Crestview’s past.

USAF ARMAMENT MUSEUM

Visitors can view over 29 different aircraft and the largest collection of armament in the Air Force. It’s the only museum dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of artifacts associated with Air Force armament.



BETWEEN ADVENTURES?

We've got you covered.



📍 DOWNTOWN FORT WALTON BEACH

Make the most of the moments between moments.

Refuel, relax and cool down with a range of off-the-beach attractions and activities. From shopping to live music, from mini golf to go-karts, there's something for everyone to enjoy in Destin-Fort Walton Beach.



GET IN, ADVENTURER—WE'RE GOING SHOPPING!

DESTIN COMMONS

Destin Commons is a large outdoor, open-air mall with some of the area's most mouthwatering dining options, family-fun events, a mini train ride and even a splash pad. You'll also love the variety of shops, including everything from national brands to unique styles that are only found here.

DOWNTOWN FORT WALTON BEACH

Downtown Fort Walton Beach offers lots of shopping, restaurants and bars that are favorites among locals and visitors alike. Got a lot you want to see? The layout of the downtown area makes it convenient to walk from one place to the next, so you can check out all the shops on your list and sample great food along the way. Uptown Station, a large outdoor shopping center, has more than 60 national and specialty stores as well as outdoor movie nights and a pet-friendly park.



📍 HARBORWALK VILLAGE

THE BOARDWALK ON OKALOOSA ISLAND

The Boardwalk is the largest collective location for dining and entertainment in the heart of Okaloosa Island. Serving as a county park and public beach access point along the Gulf, The Boardwalk offers a full range of waterfront dining, gift shops and plenty of beachfront amenities. You'll find gift shops and surf shops that the whole family will love. Plus, The Boardwalk offers free parking, a kids' playground, splash pad, sand volleyball courts and

family-friendly events most nights of the week, including fireworks and movie nights.

HARBORWALK VILLAGE

HarborWalk Village is also home to a variety of shops, with everything from art and jewelry to apparel and cherished souvenirs. HarborWalk Village offers fun games, shopping, dining and treats for everyone. Make sure to check out the charter boats as they return with their catch. After your shopping spree, be sure to check out the waterfront restaurants for a view of the harbor.



PUT SOME PLAY IN YOUR DAY

📍 KELLY PLANTATION GOLF CLUB



**Gulf or golf?
We've got both!**

Nine distinctive courses, including private clubs and public options, are waiting to challenge you in Destin-Fort Walton Beach. With favorable weather nearly year-round, every stroke is played against a backdrop of incredible natural beauty. Choose from courses that meander the

coastal scenery within feet of the sparkling blue. Don't neglect the options that beckon around the Crestview area to the north, with their subtle changes in elevation and contoured greens. From reunions with friends to parent/child matchups, golf in Destin-Fort Walton Beach is ready to accommodate any skill level.

BLACKWATER GOLF CLUB

Along with a newly renovated 18-hole championship course, this Crestview course also offers fun for the non-golfers in your group. Let the kids try out the high-tech driving range with games like "go fish," and don't forget the "19th hole" at Eagle's Nest at Blackwater.

BLUEWATER BAY GOLF CLUB

Play alongside the Choctawhatchee Bay, through woodlands and wetlands, on this beautiful community-run course. After your round, visit the sailing marina for lunch and a view.

EMERALD BAY GOLF CLUB

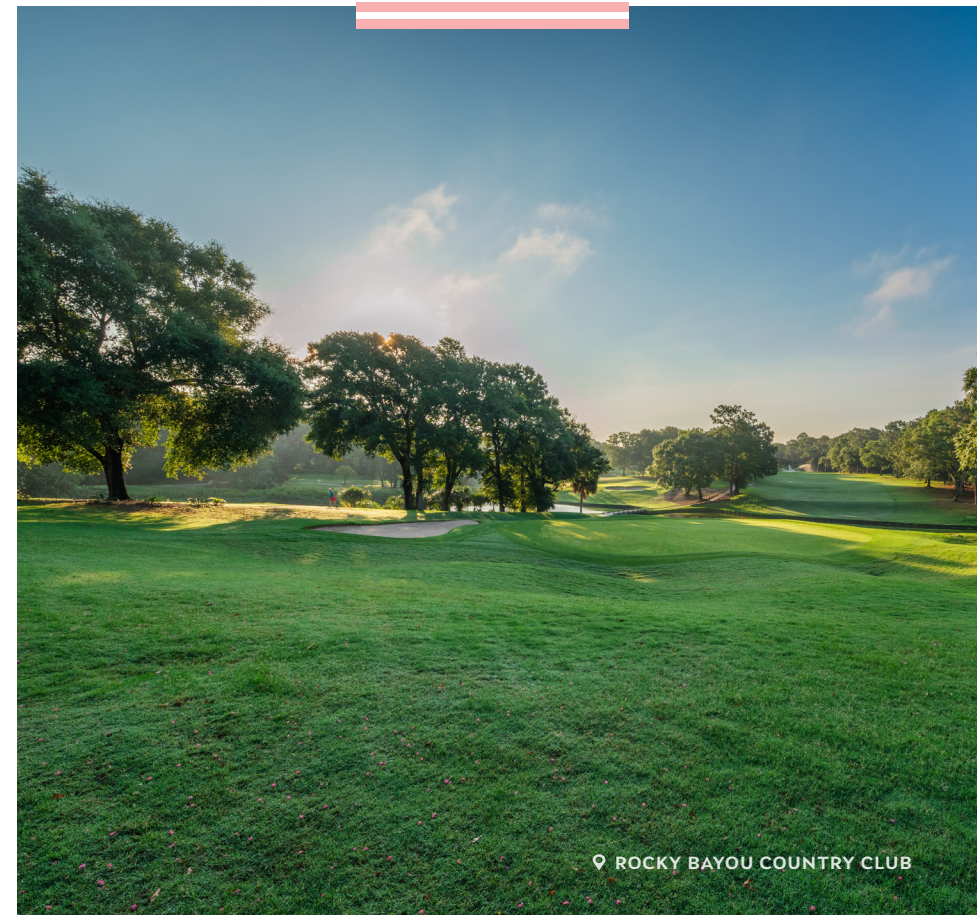
This prestigious golf course winds through the gated community of Emerald Bay and offers multiple water features, gorgeous views of the Choctawhatchee Bay, a full-service pro shop and delicious meals at The Grille with fireplace views of the green.

FORT WALTON BEACH GOLF CLUB

Enjoy 36 holes of championship golf a few short miles from the gorgeous shores of Destin-Fort Walton Beach at this city-owned course.

INDIAN BAYOU GOLF CLUB

This premier 18-hole course offers picture-perfect greens in the heart of Destin-Fort Walton Beach.



📍 ROCKY BAYOU COUNTRY CLUB

KELLY PLANTATION GOLF CLUB

With miles of waterfront views, native magnolia and palmetto trees and a 7,099-yard course, this semi-private club along the Choctawhatchee Bay features 18 captivating holes for a scenic day of golf.

REGATTA BAY GOLF + YACHT CLUB

This semi-private course is known for their top-ranked course and PGA Pro instructors, ready to share their skills enhanced with Trackman Technology.

ROCKY BAYOU COUNTRY CLUB

The semi-private oak-lined fairways, picturesque lakes with water-play on six holes and dramatic elevation changes make this club perfect for the scene seekers and the course geeks alike.

SHALIMAR POINTE GOLF CLUB

With praise from the local and national levels, this community-run course attracts players of all skill levels looking for a beautiful round of golf on the shores of the Choctawhatchee Bay in Shalimar.

A TASTE OF THE GULF

in this section

When it comes to great food in Destin-Fort Walton Beach, we've got all the juicy details. From our local Scouts' family-friendly restaurant recommendations to how to cook your catch, we'll steer you towards the best ways to savor the Gulf.

OUR SCOUTS' FAVORITE EATS

page 44

THE DISH ON FISH

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COOK YOUR CATCH

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TIME TO REFUEL: FAMILY DINING IN DESTIN-FORT WALTON BEACH



Your taste buds deserve an adventure.

After you've spent a day out on the water, our waterfront restaurants will serve up panoramic views as incredible as the locally caught seafood on your plate. The fleet works hard to guarantee that the Gulf's fishery is respected and preserved while still ensuring there's plenty of fresh seafood for local restaurants and fish markets. Plus, there are non-seafood options for the pickier eaters in your group!

OUR SCOUTS' FAVORITE EATS:

Our Little Adventure Scouts are real locals who know Destin-Fort Walton Beach inside and out. They know what it's like to take their kids on a bite-sized adventure and the best place to go for dinner after (yes, even in wet bathing suits). Here are a few of their favorite breakfast, lunch and dinner spots for the whole family:

📍 DEWEY DESTIN'S



"Dewey Destin's Bayside is our favorite spot. We like to pull the boat up to their dock and eat a fresh seafood lunch on the patio. And don't worry if your kids are in wet swimsuits, it's super casual."

- LAURA

📍 THE BACK PORCH

"The Back Porch has been a local favorite for over 40 years. It's right on the beach, so my littles love it and that gives time for mom and dad to actually enjoy their fresh-caught seafood dinner!"

- CHELSEA

📍 CAMILLE'S



"Camille's at Crystal Beach has great breakfast smoothies to fuel you up for a morning paddleboard adventure on the Gulf. The beach is right across the street."

- SAM

📍 MJ'S PLACE

"MJ's Place in Niceville has great coffee, bagel bombs and even a drive-through so you don't have to unbuckle the kids and get everyone inside."

- APRIL

📍 FUDPUCKER'S

"My kiddos love feeding and seeing the gators at Gator Beach at Fudpucker's restaurant. Fudpucker's also has a fun scavenger hunt for the whole family while you wait for your food!"

- AUBREY

📍 DOC'S OYSTER BAR



"Doc's Oyster Bar is right on the water, so you can pull your boat right up and have a great dinner with a view. They have 10 kinds of oysters and I suggest trying them all!"

- BETH

📍 LJ SCHOONERS

"My favorite place to eat with the kids is LJ Schooners. It has shaded outdoor seating and it's right on the water. They even have a little beach for kids to play, which makes it easy to head out for an after-lunch paddle."

- DENA

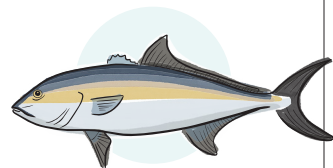
📍 PARLOR DOUGHNUTS

"Parlor Doughnuts have gluten-free cronuts that are incredible. You would never know they were gluten-free."

- TAYLOR

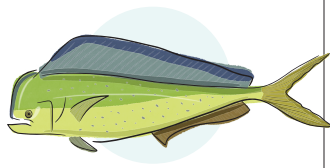
THE DISH ON FISH

Where there's great fishing, there's great seafood. Learn about the different fresh Gulf catches and the best places to eat them.



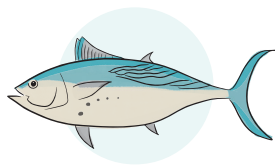
AMBERJACK

Light and flaky with an extremely delicate hint of salmon flavor.



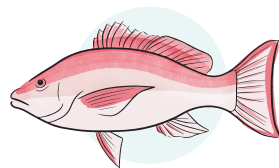
MAHI MAHI

A sweet, mildly pronounced flavor that's fairly firm. The large, moist flakes are delicious on a bun or in a taco.



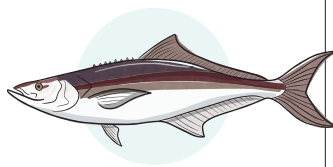
BONITO

A delicacy in many European countries, with a flavor that recalls mackerel and tuna; it's excellent when grilled.



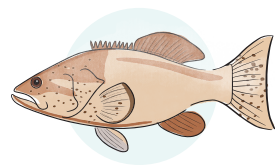
RED SNAPPER

The star of the late-spring and early-summer catches, it's lean and moist with a firm texture and a distinctive sweet, nutty taste.



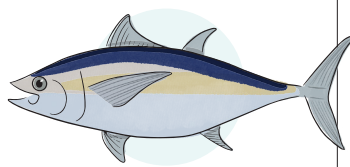
COBIA

Sweet and rich with a firm, white, steak-like texture. It's great grilled.



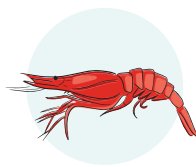
GROUPE

White and lean with a very mild yet unique flavor; its subtle flavor makes it versatile and delicious however it's served.



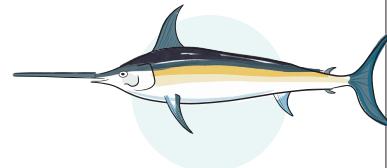
TUNA

Prized around the world for its full flavor and firm, lean meat. It's also rich in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids.



ROYAL REDS

The huge crimson shrimp remind you of lobster and scallops, with a naturally briny flavor and rich, buttery meat.



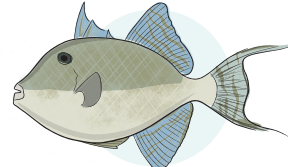
SWORDFISH

Known as "the steak of the sea," it's rich and juicy with a slightly sweet taste.



SHEEPSHEAD

This juicy fish's diet consists mostly of shellfish, so it tends to have a sweet, surprisingly light shellfish taste.



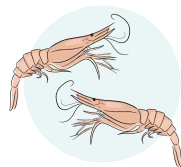
TRIGGERFISH

While several species from this family are notoriously ill-tempered, the gray fish's white flesh and vaguely sweet flavor leave diners in a great mood.



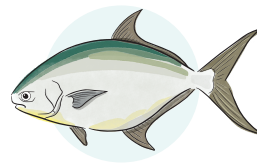
KING MACKEREL

It's deliciously light and has a flaky texture.



GULF SHRIMP

The taste depends on the color. Brown shrimp have a strong flavor; white shrimp are milder and sweeter; pink shrimp are sweet, even milder and good for grilling.



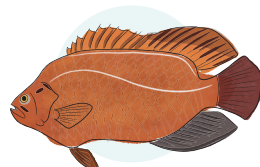
POMPANO

The pearly white meat is firm but finely flaked, with a sweet, mild taste.



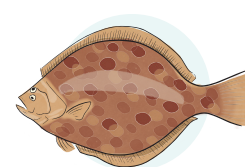
LIONFISH

These invasive fish are venomous, but not poisonous. Once the spines are removed, it's completely safe and healthy to eat their delicious white and buttery meat.



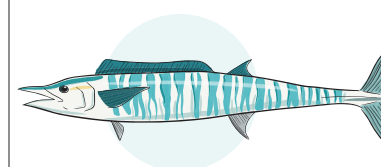
TRIPLETAIL

A firm white meat that is very tasty and often compared to grouper and snapper.



FLOUNDER

Lean and flaky with a mild, sweet taste and delicate texture.



WAHOO

Mild and sweet, with a firm texture and large, circular flakes. Perfectly suited to sashimi.

Did you know...

If you can't decide between blackened and grilled fresh-caught fish, try ordering it bronzed. This means your fish will be right in between blackened and grilled and the seasoning is perfection.



Boathouse Oyster Bar

A local favorite for gumbo, seafood, burgers, salads and, you guessed it, oysters—all with a view.

The Cowhead

It's all about the meat and mouthwatering sides. Start the day with a brunch burger and end with a hand-scooped milkshake.

Dewey Destin's Harborside

Look for catch-of-the-day specials on their blackboard that might include grouper, flounder, red snapper, swordfish, wahoo, trigger or cobia.

The Gulf on Okaloosa Island

A cool waterfront spot built from recycled building materials (like shipping containers) refashioned with style. Look for fresh fish in sandwiches, platters and tacos.

Brotula's Seafood House & Steamer

This family-friendly restaurant on the Destin Harbor is locally owned and specializes in fresh, locally sourced seafood. Grab a balcony table for some of the best views of the Destin Harbor.

Jackacuda's Seafood & Sushi

Named after a famous fishing spot near a DFWB artificial reef, Jackacuda's is a locally owned seafood and sushi spot serving Gulf-fresh catches with a new-South twist.

The Local Market

Freshly baked bread collides with in-house roasted or brined meats to form the perfect breakfast or lunch sandwich. Enjoy with a variety of juices, smoothies and homemade ice cream, of course.

Lucy Buffett's LuLu's

You'll love the peel-and-eat shrimp, fried crab claws or fresh greens with seasonal snapper atop. But they're famous for hand-stirred-roux seafood gumbo. Have food sensitivities? LuLu's even has a separate allergy kitchen!

The Crab Trap

With two beachfront locations (Destin and The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island), The Crab Trap offers Gulf views, a sandy playground and Gulf-to-table meals. Find out why they've been a local favorite for over 30 years.



📍 HARBOR DOCKS

COOK YOUR CATCH

Sometimes a long day on the boat calls for a night in. This recipe from Harbor Docks will help you whip up your fresh-caught fish into a restaurant-quality dish. All from the comfort of your own rental!

BLACKENED FRESH CATCH WITH CUCUMBER DILL SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

- Fresh-caught fish filets
- Blackened seasoning (just use your favorite from the supermarket)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 small cucumber, halved, seeded and diced
- 1/2 tsp dill weed
- 1 tbsp white wine
- 8 oz heavy cream
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 1 tbsp cornstarch mixed with 2 tbsp water to make a slurry

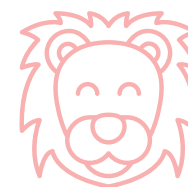
FOR THE SAUCE:

1. Heat oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Sauté garlic, cucumber and dill until fragrant. Deglaze with white wine.
2. Add heavy cream and chicken bouillon.
3. Bring to a boil for five minutes.
4. Slowly stir in cornstarch slurry until thickened. Keep warm.

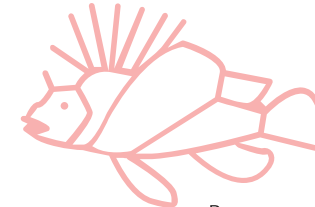
FOR THE FISH:

1. Spread blackened seasoning on a large plate. Lay the fish flat on seasoning and lightly press to make sure it adheres. Filets should be heavily seasoned on one side.
2. Heat a skillet (preferably cast iron) to medium heat and coat with enough oil to cover the pan.
3. Lay the fish seasoned-side down in the skillet. Cook for about three minutes, flip once and cook for a couple more minutes, until just cooked through.
4. Plate the fish, top with sauce and serve to all your hungry anglers.

LIONS OR LIONFISH?



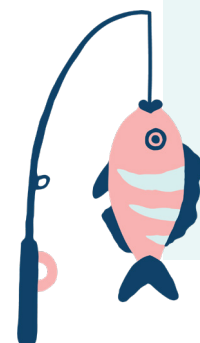
A



B

- 1. Live in groups of 10 to 15
- 2. Can lay 30,000 eggs in 1 week
- 3. Can reduce animal populations up to 90%
- 4. Can live up to 25 years in captivity
- 5. Weigh 1 to 2 pounds
- 6. Babies are called “cubs”
- 7. Can swallow prey in one bite
- 8. Are known as “king of the jungle”
- 9. Females do most of the hunting
- 10. Prefer to live and hunt alone
- 11. Hunt mostly from dusk until dawn
- 12. Have spines that they use for self-defense

Answers: 1.A 2.B 3.B 4.A 5.B 6.A 7.B 8.A 9.A 10.B 11.B 12.B



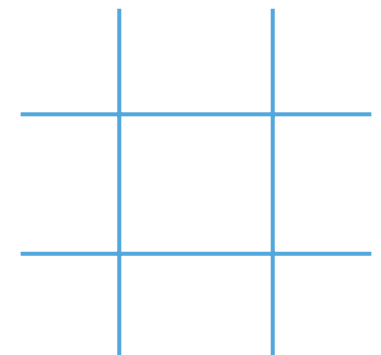
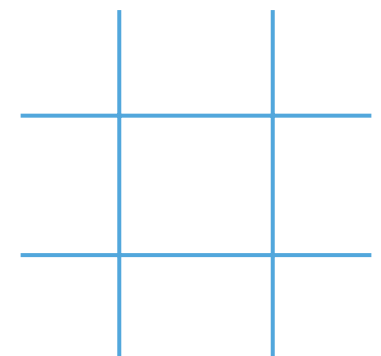
Don't feel like cooking your catch at home?

Chat with a local Scout for cook-your-catch restaurant recommendations at [destinfb.com!](http://destinfb.com)



SAND DOLLAR + STARFISH TIC-TAC-TOE

Each player chooses a sea creature. Take turns drawing starfish or sand dollars in the empty squares. The first player to get 3 of their sea creatures in a row (up/down, across or diagonally) is the winner!



DAYBREAK TO DARK

in this section

From meeting our nocturnal wildlife to enjoying live music and fireworks, there's so much to discover after dark in Destin-Fort Walton Beach.

SUNRISE/ SUNSET

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AFTER-DARK ADVENTURES

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WHERE TO STAY

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CAN'T-MISS EVENTS

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KIDS' GAMES + JOURNAL

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LODGING LIST

page 61

I SPY STUNNING SKIES



Are you a glow-getter? Here's your guide to our local sunrise and sunset shows for every season that you visit. You can usually catch the sunrise and sunset over the Gulf, except during the summer months when the sun sets over the Bay. Make waterfront dinner reservations to enjoy Gulf-to-table flavors with a pink, orange and all-around gorgeous backdrop.



"My kids can't stop talking about the dolphin sail we took with Captain Pam. She's fantastic and her boat is a trimaran which is very stable, so you never feel nervous with your kids moving around as you sail."

- DENA, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT

WHEN TO WATCH

Here are the average times to catch sunup and sundown throughout the year:



JANUARY

6:40 A.M. 5:10 P.M.

FEBRUARY

6:25 A.M. 5:35 P.M.

MARCH

6:45 A.M. 7:00 P.M.
(After change to daylight time)

APRIL

6:20 A.M. 7:15 P.M.

MAY

5:50 A.M. 7:30 P.M.

JUNE

5:45 A.M. 7:50 P.M.

JULY

5:55 A.M. 7:50 P.M.

AUGUST

6:10 A.M. 7:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER

6:30 A.M. 6:50 P.M.

OCTOBER

6:45 A.M. 6:15 P.M.

NOVEMBER

6:15 A.M. 4:50 P.M.
(After change to standard time)

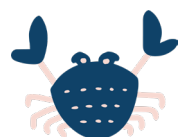
DECEMBER

6:30 A.M. 4:45 P.M.



AFTER-DARK ADVENTURES

The sun may have set in Destin-Fort Walton Beach, but the adventure has just begun!



BOO! LET'S GO GHOST CRABBING

As the sun goes down, the ghost crabs wake up for their night shift. Head to the shore after dark to catch our nocturnal friends in their element. Bring a bucket and some red flashlights (to protect sea turtles) and keep your eyes peeled for these quick critters scurrying across the sand.

You can pick up a free red-filtered flashlight during turtle season (March through October) at the following locations: Destin-Fort Walton Beach Welcome + Adventure Center, Crestview Welcome + Adventure Center, Destin City Hall, Destin Chamber of Commerce, Destin History & Fishing Museum, Emerald Coast Science Center, Henderson Beach State Park or the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park.

GETTING HERE:

The Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS) is the area's closest airport with nonstop flights to several major U.S. cities. When planning your trip, consider the convenience and efficiency of flying directly to VPS.



CONCERTS IN THE VILLAGE

Check out some of the country's best cover bands and original musical acts from a variety of genres. Kids will love running around this beautiful, 3,000-capacity outdoor venue on Thursday nights from late April to June at the Cultural Arts Village.

THE BOARDWALK

Head to The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island for prime sunset views, spectacular fireworks, movie nights, dinners on the water and sweet treats galore. With free parking and public restrooms, the fun doesn't have to end until you're ready. Trust us, bedtime can wait.

SEA TURTLE PATROL

Flashlights off! Join the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Sea Turtle Patrol for fun, educational and interactive events centered around sea turtle conservation. With experiences like live nest evaluations, Turtle Talks at the Gulfarium and more, there's plenty for turtle-lovers to discover. For more info, visit our Facebook page.



"Remember to always gently release ghost crabs after saying hello! And while you're out there, take a moment to look up. Our beaches are the perfect place for stargazing."

- SAM, LITTLE ADVENTURE SCOUT

Scan me!



Follow the Sea Turtle Patrol.

REST UP FOR TOMORROW'S ADVENTURE



WATERSCAPE RESORT

Make your nights as amazing as your days with accommodations ranging from beachfront hotels to cozy campsites.

BEACHY CAMPGROUNDS

CAMPING IN HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

With 60 campground and RV sites all a short walk from the beach, camping in Henderson Beach State Park gives you 24/7 access to adventure.

Your whole family will love biking, hiking and exploring the 6,000 feet of open shoreline! You can make reservations up to 11 months in advance, and spaces do fill up! By the way, you don't need to be camping in Henderson Beach State Park to enjoy it—the park is open to the public all year from 8 a.m. to sundown! (Admission is \$6 per car.)

WATERFRONT RV RESORT

DESTIN WEST RV RESORT

With Bay-front campsites, the Destin West RV Resort offers captivating views, big adventure and community bonfires. You'll get electrical and water hookups as well as full access to The Island Resort. Their pool has a waterfall!

RELAXING RESORTS

Panoramic views, Gulf-to-table restaurants, relaxing spas and warm Southern hospitality make our resorts a vacation without ever leaving the property. With over 13,000 rooms to choose from, you'll find a perfect fit for you and your family. Here are a few of our favorites:

BEAL HOUSE

Gulf-front views, direct beach access and proximity to The Boardwalk's shops and restaurants await you at this modern Okaloosa Island hotel.

HILTON GARDEN INN + HOLIDAY RESORT

Looking for a view? Look no further than the Hilton Garden Inn or Holiday Inn. These resorts sit right next to each other and both offer a Gulf-front location, outdoor courtyard and, most importantly, a lazy river.

THE HENDERSON

Right next door to Henderson Beach State Park, The Henderson offers beachy luxury with two pools, fine and casual restaurants, lounges and a lavish day spa.

THE ISLAND RESORT

The Island Resort's grotto pool is the perfect place to hang with the kids after a morning of fishing on The Island Pier, which you can see right from your balcony.

THE EMERALD GRANDE

The Emerald Grande at HarborWalk Village puts Gulf-to-table restaurants, fun shops and panoramic views right at your doorstep.



THE EMERALD GRANDE



THE HENDERSON

COMFY CONDOS + HOUSES

Got a bigger crowd? Check out our vacation rentals, with more space and amenities like fully equipped kitchens and large dining rooms to gather everyone around one table. These homes become cherished parts of family memories, with guests returning year after year.

Discover condos and rental homes in any of our family-friendly areas:

DOWNTOWN DESTIN

Stay in the heart of Destin, where family-friendly attractions like Big Kahuna's and The Track are minutes away from Norriego Point and gorgeous Gulf views at Holiday Isle.

OKALOOSA ISLAND

Stay next door to 7 public beach accesses with a view of The Island Pier.

CRYSTAL BEACH

Neighborhood feel with local restaurants and public beach accesses in walking distance.

CRESTVIEW

Stroll through the historic, walkable downtown featuring shops, restaurants and the Emerald Coast Zoo nearby.

NICEVILLE

Easy access to the Bluewater Bay Marina for sailing and fishing adventures.

CATCH MORE FUN: CAN'T-MISS EVENTS

Our signature Destin-Fort Walton Beach events all have one thing in common—fishing!

EMERALD COAST OPEN

MID MAY

Get ready for the largest lionfish tournament in the world! The Emerald Coast Open was created to help educate the public on the impacts of lionfish and promote the removal of this invasive species. This 2-day outdoor festival is open to the public and includes lionfish tastings, cooking demonstrations, an interactive kid zone and more!



DESTIN SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

LATE SEPTEMBER

One of our area's most celebrated traditions, the Destin Seafood Festival kicks off the Destin Fishing Rodeo that extends the entire month of October. This free event was started in 1978 by the Destin Charter Boat Association Women's Auxiliary and includes live music, delicious food vendors, kids' activities and more. Ask about VIP tickets!



DESTIN FISHING RODEO

OCTOBER

The Destin Fishing Rodeo started in 1948 and, to this day, continues to attract people from around the world to Destin-Fort Walton Beach. This month-long celebration is the ultimate fishing tournament for saltwater anglers of all ages. Public weigh-ins are hosted every day behind AJ's from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and are a great way for families to grab lunch and get up close and personal with some of the biggest fish in the Gulf.

WRITE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: FILL IN THE BLANKS!

If I were a(n) in Destin-Fort Walton Beach, I would be the

animal *adjective ending in -est*

one there is. I'd spend my days in the crystal-clear Gulf and my nights

verb ending in -ing

under the stars. I love to play with all my friends.

verb ending in -ing *game*

I would eat time(s) a day and my favorite snack would be .

number *type of food*

When I return to my home by the , I would rest my head and dream about

location

and get ready for the day tomorrow.

noun *adjective ending in -est*

SPOT IT. MARK IT.

Work together on the road to spy all the beachy sights!

 hotel	 ice cream shop	 fishing pole	 beach umbrella	 donut shop	 kite
 surf shop	 airplane	 bridge	 bicycle	 welcome center	 dog
 boat	 sand dunes	 bird	 water	 military vehicle	 inner tube

DESTIN-FORT WALTON BEACH ADVENTURE JOURNAL

THE ADVENTURES OF _____

ABOUT ME:

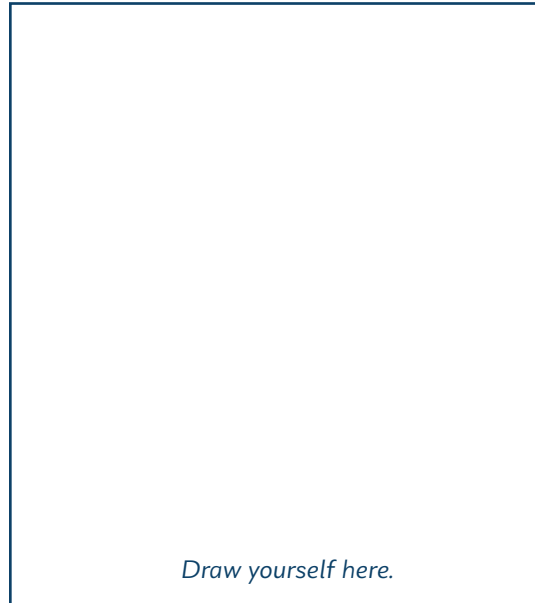
Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Age: _____

Favorite color: _____

Here's what I look like:



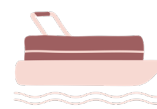
MY ADVENTURES: *Circle all of your adventures.*



Fishing



Kayaking/
Paddleboarding



Boating



Surf lessons



Snorkeling

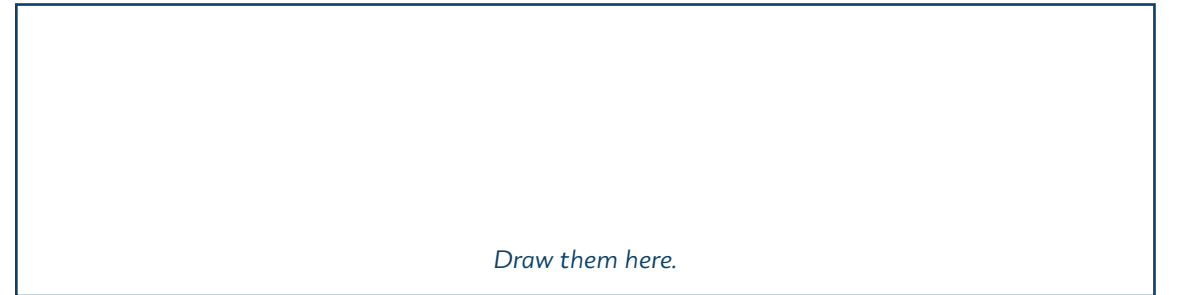
Something else!

Draw it above.

MY VACATION:

Highlight of the trip: _____

Animals I saw:



The weather was:



My biggest challenge was: _____

My bravest moment was: _____

What I'm most looking forward to next vacation: _____



GO AHEAD, STAY AWHILE.

Whether it's a vacation home, RV resort or family-friendly hotel, you can find the perfect place to recharge in Destin-Fort Walton Beach.



AvantStay

AvantStay vacation homes in Destin are the perfect way to travel for groups of all sizes, with 200+ luxury vacation rentals around Destin. Explore our impeccably designed homes, with ocean views, private pools, premium amenities and more. Our concierge provides experiences such as fridge stocking, mid-stay cleans and in-home massages to enhance your stay. Enjoy all the perks of a hotel from the comfort and privacy of a home with AvantStay, the perfect base for all your Destin activities!

avantstay.com



Beach Weekend Vacation Properties

Your stay is just the beginning. Our coastal homes and vacation rentals across Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Island, and Destin offer more than beautiful views—they connect you to the full Beach Weekend experience. Enjoy discounts on pontoon rentals and Crab Island excursions, unlimited pickleball court access in downtown Fort Walton, and a free coffee on us at our downtown café—just a few ways we make your stay even better.

beachweekend.com



Beach Condos in Destin

Resting Beach Place – Harbor Landing 801A, where space, style and sunsets set the pace. Stretch out, settle in, and soak up the good life at Resting Beach Place—a freshly renovated, luxury 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo perched on the 8th floor of Harbor Landing in Destin's exclusive Holiday Isle. With 2,300 sq. ft. of airy, coastal-chic living space, this corner condo feels more like a beach house than a rental. From morning coffee to sunset cruises, every moment here is pure relaxation.

beachcondosindestin.com



Beal House Fort Walton Beach

Beal House is right where you want to be: just steps from the crystal-clear water of Okaloosa Island and only minutes to The Boardwalk. Mixing contemporary décor with a healthy dose of history, Beal House features 100 guest rooms—60 with balconies overlooking the Gulf—plus a fitness center, outdoor pool, and direct beach access. The Remedy, an onsite restaurant and pool bar, serves coastal-fresh cuisine along with craft cocktails and specialty martinis.

hilton.com



Beach Escapes Rentals

Beach Escapes Realty offers boutique property management and real estate services on the Emerald Coast, focusing on memorable vacations. They provide luxurious Gulf-front properties for couples, families and friends, along with various accommodations. Guests enjoy stunning beaches, recreational activities and personalized travel guides. The friendly management team ensures a hassle-free planning process, offering exclusive discounts on local services and activities.

beachescapere rentals.com



Best Western Niceville - Eglin AFB Hotel

Best Western Niceville – Eglin Air Force Base Hotel is centrally located only minutes from Eglin Air Force Base, the Northwest Florida Regional Airport (VPS), the Northwest Florida State College and the “World’s Whitest Beaches.” Nearby is Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park, Turkey Creek Nature Trail, The Heritage Museum and the Air Force Armament Museum. Guests enjoy complimentary hot buffet breakfast, fitness center, outdoor pool and pet-friendly rooms available upon request.

bestwestern.com



Breathe Easy Rentals

Locally rooted along Florida's Emerald Coast, Breathe Easy Rentals is a family-owned vacation rental management company built on passion, integrity, and Southern hospitality. Our Destin-based team is dedicated to creating effortless, memorable experiences through honest communication, attention to detail, and personalized care. Whether you're booking a beach getaway or trusting us with your home, relax, unwind, and Breathe Easy.

breatheeasyrentals.com



Brooks and Shorey Resorts

Locally owned and operated, Brooks and Shorey Resorts offers beachfront vacation rentals on beautiful Okaloosa Island. Enjoy Gulf views, fully furnished condos, and complete kitchens. Stay nightly, weekly, or enjoy winter monthly rentals on select condos. Every short-term stay includes our Sand and Shore Pass with FREE activities like golf, cruises, and water park fun! Book local! Stay beachfront!

emeraldcoastrentals.com



Comfort Suites Niceville Near Eglin Air Force Base

Comfort Suites Niceville Near Eglin Air Force Base provides spacious suites. Located just a half-hour from the beaches in Destin-Fort Walton Beach, the hotel is near Eglin Air Force Base and just minutes away from the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS). Guests enjoy free daily hot buffet breakfast, fitness center, outdoor pool and pet-friendly rooms available upon request.

comfordsuites.com/fla61



Destin West Vacations

Destin West Vacations is the onsite vacation rental company for the resort. Located on Okaloosa Island, Destin West is central to Destin and Fort Walton Beach. The resort has beach and Bay access, tons of pools, spas and a lazy river! Walking distance to all you will want to do, families, couples and groups love to stay here. Water sports for Crab Island, fishing, Gulfarium and more are just next door!

destinwest.com



Diamond Gulf Rentals

Diamond Gulf Rentals is a boutique Florida vacation rental company dedicated to luxury guest experiences. This portfolio of rental homes is selective, so they can focus on what is important to our guests... quality. Diamond Gulf Resorts has put much thought into what families value and need during their stay to provide a luxury guest experience.

diamondgulfrentals.com



Drop Anchor

This cozy apartment is perfect for a single person or couple looking for some true R&R. It is completely updated and situated right in the heart of the Bluewater Bay Marina Complex next door to LJ Schooners Dockside Restaurant. Stroll down to the marina, literally just steps away, to enjoy a drink at sunset or use the sidewalks to explore by foot or by bike. Only 15 minutes to Destin.



Compass Resorts Vacation Rentals

Dreaming of the perfect Destin getaway? Compass Resorts makes every beach trip as enchanting as your first glimpse of emerald water. Our team is always available and ready to make sure you can focus on what matters most—relaxing, reconnecting and creating magical memories. From booking to departure, we'll help you find your way to a better vacation.

compassresorts.com



Destin Gulfgate

Destin Gulfgate offers beachfront condos with private 30-foot balconies, ideal for panoramic Gulf views and family getaways. With exclusive beach access, a zero-entry pool, fitness center and complimentary beach setup, it's the perfect destination for memorable vacations. Enjoy three decades of hospitality excellence and your dream beachfront escape in the heart of Destin at Destin Gulfgate.

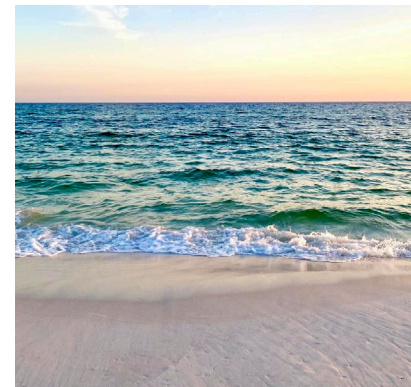
destingulfgate.com



Destin West RV Resort

Destin West RV Resort is located on Okaloosa Island, between Destin and Fort Walton Beach. Destin West RV Resort is directly on the Bay and across the street from the beach. Resort guests have full access to the Island Resort's swimming pools and spas, mini golf and activities. RV Resort is in walking distance to dining, shopping and tons of things to do! Water sports, fishing, the Gulfarium, an arcade and more are right next door, so you never need a car.

destinwestrvresort.com



Easy Vacation Services

Discover your perfect escape with Easy Vacation Services! Located in Fort Walton Beach, Easy Vacation Rentals specializes in genuine coastal hospitality and personalized service to make your stay unforgettable. Their friendly local team is here to assist every step of the way, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience. With a variety of vacation rentals for every budget, they are excited to welcome you to the Gulf Coast. Let them help create your ideal beach escape!

easyvacationservices.com



Emerald Grande at HarborWalk Village

Emerald Grande at HarborWalk Village is a condo-resort destination offering 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom accommodations with breathtaking, panoramic views of the Destin Harbor. Amenities include a full-service spa, room service, poolside services and more. Enjoy a boat shuttle ride to a private beach with complimentary chairs and umbrellas. Only an elevator ride away from HarborWalk Village, a bustling boardwalk with water activities, restaurants, retail shops and year-round events.

emeraldgrande.com



Fairfield Inn & Suites Crestview

Fairfield Inn & Suites Crestview is directly off I-10. Perfect for corporate business travelers, government travelers and leisure guests. Start your day with a hot buffet breakfast. The hotel's lobby has cozy couches and tables perfect to gather. The onsite fitness center has everything you need to keep your fitness routine. Enjoy the sparkling outdoor pool and patio area with an accessible lift. They also have two meeting rooms that can accommodate up to 50 people.

marriott.com/vpsfc



Fairfield Inn & Suites Destin

Feel at home at this Destin location, near the beach, with family-friendly amenities including free WiFi, complimentary hot breakfast, indoor and outdoor pools, 24/7 fitness, onsite laundry, free onsite parking and 600 square feet of banquet space to host your next meeting or event. At Fairfield Inn & Suites Destin, you are their #1 priority. That is why the friendly staff offers the Fairfield 100 Percent Guarantee, which promises you will be satisfied.

[marriott.com/vpsdf](https://www.marriott.com/vpsdf)



Fairfield Inn & Suites Fort Walton Beach - Eglin AFB

Located minutes from Eglin AFB and Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport, this award-winning hotel is close to all the area's top attractions. Unwind in spacious rooms featuring premium amenities, and enjoy a complimentary hot breakfast each morning. A convenient boardroom makes it easy to host productive small meetings. With exceptional service and proximity to sugar-white beaches, it's the perfect base for experiencing the Emerald Coast.

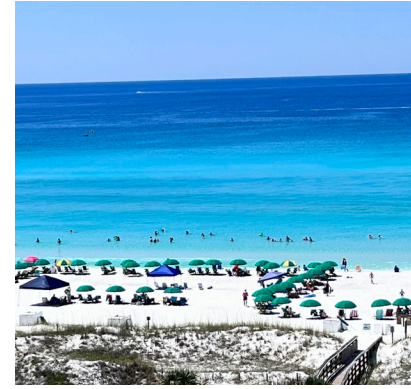
[marriott.com/vpsfi](https://www.marriott.com/vpsfi)



Fairfield Inn & Suites Fort Walton Beach Hurlburt Area

Start your day at our modern new Fort Walton Beach hotel, with a free hot breakfast, free WiFi, mini-refrigerators, microwaves and coffee makers. Sparkling outdoor pool and patio area, with free onsite parking. Easily visit the beautiful fine white-sand beaches of Destin, Okaloosa Island and nearby, sports venues, Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB. Perfect for business or leisure stays.

[marriott.com/vpswf](https://www.marriott.com/vpswf)



Gulf Tide Vacations

Gulf Tide Vacations is a locally owned boutique vacation rental management company based in the heart of Destin, Florida. Rooted in Southern hospitality and coastal charm, we're dedicated to creating seamless, unforgettable experiences for both homeowners and guests. From luxurious beachfront homes to hidden coastal gems, every stay is thoughtfully curated to showcase the beauty of the Emerald Coast. After all, the best souvenirs are the memories you take home.

[gulftidevacations.com](https://www.gulftidevacations.com)



Hampton Inn & Suites Destin

Discover the All-New Hampton Inn & Suites Destin—Newly Renovated for 2026! Enjoy a fresh stay in the heart of Destin, just a 5-minute walk from the beach, dining and family attractions. Relax at the resort-style pool, unwind in the courtyard, and stay comfortable in updated guest rooms and suites. Daily hot breakfast, 24-hour fitness center and warm hospitality make every stay memorable. At Hampton Inn & Suites Destin, "We Love Having You Here."

[hamptondestin.com](https://www.hamptondestin.com)



Hampton Inn & Suites Mary Esther - Fort Walton Beach

Soak up the sunshine at your new favorite getaway on the Emerald Coast—just off Highway 98 and a quick 10-minute cruise to the sparkling shores of Okaloosa Island beaches! Close to Hurlburt Field AFB and minutes from Destin, this spot blends fun and comfort with an outdoor pool, 24-hour fitness center, 517 sq ft meeting room and complimentary hot breakfast that hits the spot every morning. Book your stay and let the Gulf breeze take you away! Pet Friendly!

[fwbhampton.com](https://www.fwbhampton.com)



Five Star Properties

Five-Star Properties is more than just a name—they are a provider of premier luxury Destin vacation rentals and first-class service for their guests. These beach houses and condos can be found in the most desired beachside communities, such as Holiday Isle, Crystal Beach, Dunes of Destin, 1900 98, Destiny by the Sea, Silver Shells Resort and more.

[fivestargulfr rentals.com](https://www.fivestargulfr rentals.com)



Four Points by Sheraton Destin-Fort Walton Beach

Escape to paradise at Four Points by Sheraton Destin-Fort Walton Beach! Their newly renovated beachfront hotel on Okaloosa Island offers stunning Gulf-view rooms with unbeatable access to Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field and the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center. Unwind by the pool, sip a cocktail on the Upper Deck or host an unforgettable event at their beautiful venue. Discover the ideal mix of relaxation and convenience. Book your dream coastal getaway today!

[marriott.com/vpsfp](https://www.marriott.com/vpsfp)

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Grater RV Hideaway Cove

Escape to Grater RV Hideaway Cove, where we've created a true home-away-from-home experience. Our one-of-a-kind, private campground is family owned and operated, with nine spacious sites designed for your privacy and relaxation. Conveniently located in Mary Esther, FL, we are just a quick drive to the stunning beaches of Destin and Fort Walton Beach. Come be our guest and discover your new favorite hideaway!

[graterrvhideawaycove.com](https://www.graterrvhideawaycove.com)



Hampton Inn Crestview South I-10

Comfortable in Crestview. Find us off I-10, half an hour from Florida's Gulf Coast beaches. Twin Hills Park and Peaden Brothers Distillery are seven minutes away, and a 15-minute drive will take you to the Emerald Coast Zoo. Start the day with free hot breakfast and enjoy a variety of restaurants within a mile of our hotel. Unwind by our outdoor pool and stay connected with free WiFi.

[hill.tn/gv65uv](https://www.hill.tn/gv65uv)



Hampton Inn Fort Walton Beach - Okaloosa Island

Hampton Inn Fort Walton Beach is a beachfront hotel nestled right on the Gulf of Mexico on beautiful Okaloosa Island. This 100-room hotel is within walking distance to several restaurants and shopping venues. Start your day off right with a complimentary daily hot buffet breakfast! You will also be delighted to know that all of their guest rooms feature a private patio or balcony.

[ftwaltonbeach.hamptoninn.com](https://www.ftwaltonbeach.hamptoninn.com)

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Hampton Inn Niceville Eglin Air Force Base

Enjoy the outdoors by the Rocky Bayou. You'll find us just three miles from Niceville, next to the Rocky Bayou. It's a great spot for swimming, fishing, boating and hiking. We're about 20 minutes from Northwest Florida Regional Airport, and 15 from Eglin Air Force Base. You can learn about the base's history at the adjacent Air Force Armament Museum. Our WiFi and hot breakfast are free.

[hill.tn/Oqhoh](https://www.hill.tn/Oqhoh)



Harbor Suites Luxury Hotel at Harborwalk Village

Experience Destin at its finest with Harbor Suites Luxury Hotel at HarborWalk Village. Each retreat is designed with its own unique floorplan to match every traveler's vision of the perfect getaway. Select your favorite balcony, view, or suite type—offering spacious layouts, sleek furnishing, and direct access to HarborWalk Village, the Destin Harbor, Crab Island, and the beautiful Gulf Coast.

harborsuitesdestin.com



Henderson Beach Resort

Experience the timeless romance of Henderson Beach Resort on Florida's Emerald Coast, where Southern charm meets modern luxury. A place to create joyful memories and be welcomed home. Generations have chosen Henderson Beach Resort as a place to reconnect, discover and unwind. Surround yourself with the beauty of nature and shape memories that will last a lifetime.

hendersonbeachresort.com



Henderson Beach Vacation Rentals

Enjoy spacious, fully equipped 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom condos along with a selection of stand-alone cottages just steps from the pristine beaches of Destin. Perfect for families, couples or group getaways, each rental provides the comforts of home with the amenities of a luxury resort. With three refreshing pools, full-service spa, state-of-the-art fitness center, diverse dining options and engaging fitness classes, guests have everything they need right at their fingertips.

thehendersonbeachvacationrentals.com



Holiday Inn Express & Suites Niceville - Eglin Area

The centrally located Holiday Inn Express & Suites Niceville - Eglin Area is minutes from Eglin Air Force Base, Destin-Fort Walton Beaches Airport (VPS) and Northwest Florida State College. This hotel is the ideal choice for corporate business and government travelers. Seating up to 50 people, the meeting room space is perfect for corporate meetings or wedding receptions. Guests enjoy the complimentary daily hot buffet breakfast, fitness room and outdoor pool. Pet friendly rooms available. ihg.com



Holiday Inn Express Fort Walton Beach Central

Enjoy your stay at the Holiday Inn Express Fort Walton Beach Central. This hotel is just a short 5-minute drive to the beautiful beaches of the Emerald Coast. Their downtown Fort Walton location is just moments from unique shopping, dining, nightlife and local attractions.

hiexpress.com/ftwaltonbchflc



Holiday Inn Resort Fort Walton Beach

Paradise FOUND! Located on the white sandy beaches of the Gulf, this beachfront resort offers complimentary amenities, including a seasonally heated lazy river, indoor pool, hot tub, beachfront tiki bar, Dive-Inn movies, and seasonal kids' activities featuring visits from Mermaids, Pirates and other Favorite Characters—all designed for a memorable experience. Plan your stay at the Holiday Inn Resort—where every day is paradise!

holidayinnresortfortwaltonbeach.com



Henderson Park Inn

Enjoy the perfect intersection of modern luxury and coastal charm at Henderson Park Inn, an adults-only boutique hotel and longtime favorite relaxing getaway. The Inn is tucked away on the peaceful shores of the Emerald Coast and nestled along Henderson Beach State Park's mile of undisturbed beach.

hendersonparkinn.com



Hilton Garden Inn Fort Walton Beach

Indulge in the warmth and beauty of Florida's Gulf Coast from the Hilton Garden Inn Fort Walton Beach. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by expansive views of the Gulf of Mexico through modern glass windows. They offer spacious guest rooms and suites decorated in elegant coastal style. Bask in the endless sunshine from the lazy river pool deck overlooking the beach or enjoy easy beach access with the dune walkover. Onsite dining is available.

hgiftwaltonbeach.hgi.com

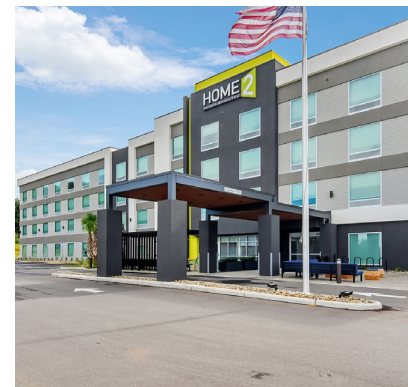
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Holiday Inn Express & Suites Fort Walton Beach - Eglin Area

Welcome to the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Freedom Tech Center, where modern convenience meets unparalleled comfort in a vibrant community setting. This hotel is not just a place to stay—it's a destination tailored to the needs of the ultimate business traveler. Conveniently located in the heart of the Freedom Tech Center and a short drive to Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field and Destin-Fort Walton Beach municipal airport.

hiexpress.com/ftwaltonfl



Home2 Suites by Hilton Crestview I-10

Pet-friendly stay near state parks. Our pet-friendly hotel is located a mile from shopping at Crestview Crossing. Emerald Coast Zoo, Bone Creek Recreation Area, and Blackwater River State Park are within half an hour of us. Henderson Beach State Park and Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport are less than an hour away. Enjoy our outdoor pool and patio, meeting space, and fitness center.

hil.tn/32qu5



Home2 Suites Destin

Stay at Home2 Suites Destin and enjoy the comforts of home with a resort-style touch. Their newly renovated, all-suite hotel offers fully equipped kitchens, spacious layouts and is just steps from the beach, top dining and attractions. Start each day with a complimentary breakfast and unwind by the resort-style pool or in their Spin2 Cycle fitness center. Perfect for extended stays, Home2 Destin combines convenience, relaxation and a prime location for the ideal Destin getaway.

home2suitesdestin.com

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Home2 Suites Fort Walton Beach Eglin Air Force Base

Located adjacent to the Destin-FWB Rigdon Center in Freedom Tech Center, Home2 Suites offers spacious suites perfect for groups and guests staying for business, pleasure, or an extended stay. Hotel features include complimentary breakfast, outdoor pool and patio with fire pits and gas grills, full-service bar, 4500 sq. ft. of event space with catering services, and a fitness center.

home2suites.com/fortwaltonbeach



Homewood Suites by Hilton Destin

A new hotel in Destin, along the beautiful Emerald Coast Parkway, this hotel is less than 1 mile from the public beach access and Big Kahuna's Water & Adventure Park. Enjoy boating, fishing, water activities, shopping and dining, all within 15 minutes. Their free breakfast, complimentary evening socials, outdoor pool and kids' splash pad complete your stay. Pet-friendly too!

destin.homewoodsuites.com



Jetty East Condominiums

Jetty East Condominiums is home to the most unique beach in Destin. The last condominium before a lonely white stretch of beach leads you to East Pass. Enjoy building memories swimming, playing tennis and pickleball and water sports. Discover why 70% of our guests are returning guests. We have generations of families and memories. We welcome you to relax too!

jettyeast.com



Hyatt House Destin

Discover your home base for coastal adventure at Hyatt House Destin, opening summer 2026. Ideally located near Destin's sugar-white beaches, championship golf, and vibrant local dining, our hotel combines laid-back beach charm with upscale comfort. Relax in spacious suites with full kitchens, unwind by the resort-style pool, and start each day with a complimentary breakfast before exploring Florida's Emerald Coast.

hyatthousedestin.com



Joe Joe's Resorts

Escape to Paradise with any of these 5-Star Accommodations! Whether you are looking for a romantic getaway, a family adventure or a peaceful retreat, they have you covered with many resorts and floorplans to choose from. Come immerse yourself in stunning surroundings, savor gourmet dining, try deep sea fishing, enjoy outlet shopping, watch fireworks over the harbor and create memories that will last a lifetime. Book now for an unforgettable escape. Paradise awaits!

joejoesresorts.com



Inn on Destin Harbor, Ascend Hotel Collection

Experience boutique-style comfort at the Inn on Destin Harbor, Ascend Hotel Collection, overlooking the Emerald Coast. Our 70-room property offers modern rooms with balconies, flat-screen TVs and mini fridges. Enjoy free WiFi, parking and breakfast. Steps from beaches, restaurants and Crab Island, our harborfront hotel is your perfect Destin getaway.

innondestinharbor.com



Kavid Vacations

Welcome to Kavid Vacations, where every stay is crafted for fun, relaxation and unforgettable memories! They specialize in uniquely-themed properties designed with flair to provide a one-of-a-kind vacation experience. Their passion for hosting means you'll enjoy top-notch hospitality and attention to detail from start to finish. Join them at 'It's A Vibe' in Destin or explore more of their other family-friendly stays!

kavidvacations.com



Manor on the Bay

Manor on the Bay is a haven where serene waters meet luxury living. Here, days are spent lounging by a heated pool, nights in a soothing spa and adventures begin at the boat docks. With the Bay as your backdrop, indulge in the simple joy of watching dolphins play or the warmth of gathering in elegant, yet homey spaces. It's more than a stay—it's where cherished memories with loved ones are waiting to be made.

manoronthebay.com



RealJoy Vacations

RealJoy is a locally managed vacation rental company serving Okaloosa and Destin since 2009. With a commitment to genuine hospitality, RealJoy manages hundreds of Gulf Coast properties, from beachfront condos to spacious family homes. Our local team provides 24/7 support to guests and owners, ensuring every stay is comfortable and stress-free. Dedicated to showcasing the best of the Emerald Coast, RealJoy combines local expertise with personalized service that makes every experience exceptional.

realjoy.com



Nautilus Condominiums

Nautilus Condominiums sit on the sugar-white sands of Okaloosa Island. This 7-story, family-friendly resort offers 1-, 2- & 3-bedroom condos across 2 buildings—Building 1 is Gulf-front and Building 2 features sweeping southeast Gulf views. Our condos offer full kitchens and in-unit laundry, a pool, beach chairs, and a friendly on-site office known for quick, personal service. Guests praise the location and great value—perfect for couples, families, and groups seeking relaxed beachfront stays.

nautiluscondominium.com



Rent Waterscape

Discover why Waterscape is one of the most-loved resorts in Destin-Fort Walton Beach! Splash through sparkling pools, float the lazy river, play in the splash pad with a pirate-ship waterslide, or unwind in the hot tubs. Enjoy free beach service, kayaking, and paddleboarding for endless beachfront fun. Rent Waterscape offers top-rated condos, exceptional service, and personal attention that make every stay memorable and fun!

rentwaterscape.com



Newman-Dailey Resort Properties

Family-owned and operated in Destin, Florida, since 1985, Newman-Dailey Resort Properties is recognized for its caring, professional team. Voted Best in Destin – Vacation Rentals by Emerald Coast Magazine, Newman-Dailey offers a diverse collection of premier vacation rental homes and condominiums for every size group or budget. It's where you'd rather be.

destinvacation.com



Residence Inn by Marriott Fort Walton Beach

Overlooking the beautiful Santa Rosa Sound and only 5 minutes from the beaches of Okaloosa Island, the Residence Inn Fort Walton Beach is your home away from home. Enjoy our pet friendly, all-suite hotel with full kitchen amenities, complimentary breakfast and WiFi. Conveniently located near local restaurants and attractions, Residence Inn Fort Walton Beach will be there for you creating extraordinary experiences.

marriott.com/vpsrw



Resorts of Pelican Beach

Welcome to Pelican Beach—the Center of Destin’s Fun and Sun! Choose from two premier beachfront resorts featuring five sparkling pools, two fitness centers, and three relaxing spas, plus tennis, pickleball, and more. Enjoy refreshing cocktails at the beachfront Tiki Bar, indulge in nearby dining and attractions, and take in breathtaking Gulf views—all from the heart of Destin’s entertainment and adventure district. Your vacation, your way—right at the center of it all.

pelican-beach.com



Seaspray Beach Vacation Rentals

Seaspray Beach Vacation Rentals in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, offers a private beachfront experience directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Fully furnished, individual condominiums are available in 1-, 2- or 3-bedroom units. Relax in the heated pool, and children can play freely on the playground or grassy courtyard. Pets are welcome here, as some units are pet friendly. Whether it’s a welcoming family vacation spot or a relaxing beachfront getaway, Seaspray is a fantastic choice.

seaspraycondos.com



Salt Water Vacations

Experience the Emerald Coast with Salt Water Vacations. From Destin to Fort Walton Beach, our curated collection of condos, cottages, and beach homes lets you vacay your way. Enjoy sugar-white sands, crystal-clear waters, and genuine local service. Whether for family fun, a couple’s escape, or a friends’ getaway, Salt Water Vacations offers comfort, convenience, and coastal charm—your perfect home by the sea. Vacation the Salt Water way—authentic, relaxing, and perfectly tailored to you.

saltwatervacay.com



SkyRun Vacation Rentals - Destin

Discover your perfect getaway in Destin, Florida, with SkyRun! They offer a handpicked selection of beautiful vacation rentals, from beachfront condos to spacious family homes, each equipped with top-notch amenities. Enjoy peace of mind with 24/7 guest support, pristine cleaning standards and personalized local recommendations. Let SkyRun make your Destin vacation unforgettable—book now for a seamless, relaxing escape in paradise!

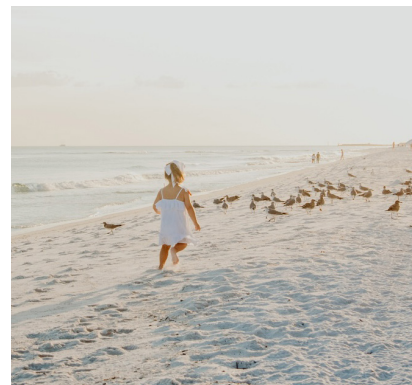
skyrun.com/destin



Scenic Stays

Scenic Stays is a professional vacation rental property management company operating along the beautiful beaches of Northwest Florida. With over 400 breathtaking vacation homes and condominiums, we’re confident our wide range of inventory will satisfy your vacation rental needs. At Scenic Stays, we’re committed to exceptional hospitality that keeps our guests coming back year over year.

myscenicstays.com



Southern Vacation Rentals

Make sweet Southern memories at the beach. Choose from beautiful homes, cottages and condos along the Emerald Coast—from Destin to Fort Walton Beach. Since 1995, we’ve provided exceptional local service and incredible vacation rentals for family vacations and reunions, couples and friends getaways, corporate retreats and more!

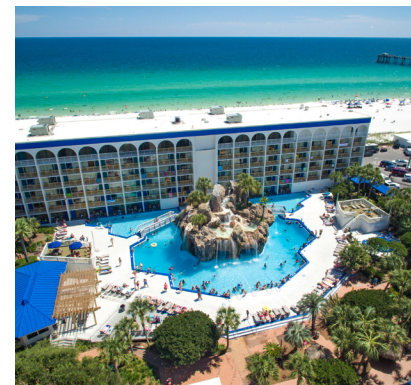
southernresorts.com



Spark by Hilton Destin

Spark by Hilton is making budget friendly hotel stays something special with comfortable rooms, free breakfast and genuinely helpful service. Giving you the best of everything you need done just the way you want. Discover clean and comfortable rooms at a refreshingly affordable rate. Thoughtfully designed with everything you need for a great sleep and good mornings.

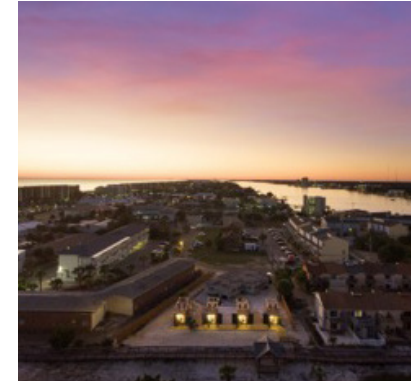
sparkbyhilton.com



The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach

Discover paradise at our family-friendly beach resort, featuring 600 feet of private sugar-white sandy beaches along the emerald Gulf waters. Enjoy endless activities, entertainment, and delicious dining with refreshing drinks. Relax in two sparkling pools or at the iconic Grotto swim-up bar. Plus, 24,000 sq. ft. of event space makes us the ideal spot for weddings, meetings, and celebrations. Drop your keys, grab your swimsuit, and soak up pure beachside bliss at The Island Resort.

theislandfl.com



StellarDweller

StellarDweller is a locally owned short-term rental company offering beautifully designed vacation homes and condos along the Emerald Coast. From beachside retreats to unique stays, we handle everything from guest services to property care with a personal touch. Whether you’re booking your next getaway or seeking expert management, StellarDweller delivers a seamless, five-star experience for travelers and property owners alike.

stellardweller.com



TownePlace Suites by Marriott Fort Walton Beach - Eglin AFB

Overlooking Choctawhatchee Bay, TownePlace Suites by Marriott Fort Walton Beach - Eglin AFB has ideal accommodations for all visitors. Our hotel features spacious, pet friendly accommodations with full kitchen amenities, complimentary breakfast, WiFi and parking. Enjoy our patio, outdoor pool, fitness center and view of the Bay. Only five miles to beaches and attractions; our location gives guests a live, work, play lifestyle.

marriot.com/vpsts

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DESTIN-FWB



Sugar Palm Vacation Rentals

Sugar Palm Vacation Rentals is your home base for unforgettable getaways along Florida’s Emerald Coast. Family-owned and based in Destin, we offer hand-selected vacation homes that blend comfort, style, and convenience. From luxury beachfront stays to cozy coastal retreats, each property meets the highest standards of care and cleanliness. More homes. More memories. More reasons to love Destin—with Sugar Palm Vacation Rentals.

sugarpalmvacationrentals.com



Tru by Hilton Destin

Find Tru by Hilton Destin in Destin a few minutes from Henderson Beach State Park, with many of Destin’s other beaches close by and plenty of restaurants within walking distance. They have both a heated indoor pool and an outdoor pool with water features. Family rooms with bunk beds and guest rooms with 55" televisions with premium channels and free WiFi. Pet friendly, outdoor fire pits, bocce ball court and outdoor games as well as complimentary hot breakfast buffet.

trubyhilton.com/destin

LODGING LIST



Tru by Hilton Niceville Eglin Air Force Base

Near Eglin AFB and Emerald Coast Beaches. We're convenient for Eglin Air Force Base and minutes from beautiful Destin beaches, restaurants, and shops. Enjoy a day out at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park, where you can try a range of different activities including boating, fishing and hiking. Kick back in our hotel Game Zone with pool table and enjoy free breakfast and WiFi.

hil.tn/dv539c



Wyndham Garden Hotel - Fort Walton Beach

Experience the ultimate getaway at this beautiful full-service beach hotel. Perfect for relaxation or business, they're just minutes from the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center. Enjoy stunning Gulf views, two refreshing pools and complimentary WiFi. Explore nearby attractions and Eglin Air Force Base, all within easy reach. With 3,500 sq ft of versatile event space and a dedicated team, they can ensure that your gatherings will be unforgettable in newly renovated rooms and suites.

wyndhamgardenftwaltonbeach.com



Vacasa

Vacasa brings vacations home for guests who want to enjoy the hospitality and joy found in a living room or around a dining table in places that take on meaning while creating lifelong memories. Their guests book vacations with peace of mind, knowing they're going to find exactly what they're looking for without any surprises. They have professional, local caretaking teams, in every market they manage, central support staff and 24/7 customer service.

vacasa.com



Wingate by Wyndham

Enjoy all-inclusive amenities and homestyle comfort when you book a room at our Wingate by Wyndham Destin hotel. Located minutes from the scenic shores of the Gulf of Mexico, our hotel near Henderson Beach State Park, just across the street from the hotel, is perfect for a beach getaway in Florida's beautiful Emerald Coast region.

wyndhamhotels.com/wingate

DOLPHIN SEARCH

Find all 12 bottlenose dolphins from your balcony!

