



2026 Visitor Guide Gulf County

Hidden from the crowds,
but not far away:

ATLANTA, GA	295 miles
BIRMINGHAM, AL	281 miles
DALLAS, TX	802 miles
LOUISVILLE, KY	645 miles
NASHVILLE, TN	470 miles
ORLANDO, FL	335 miles

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SHUTTERBUGS!

Thank you to all of our followers on social media who contributed content to our 2026 visitor guide!



WELCOME

Welcome to Gulf County

Welcome to Gulf County, Florida! We are delighted to welcome you to our beautiful and diverse destination — a place where you can find peace in nature, excitement in outdoor activities and warmth in our community spirit. From our pristine beaches and vibrant marine life to our charming small towns and rich local culture, Gulf County offers something for everyone. Enjoy our beautiful parks, indulge in local cuisine and immerse yourself in the warm hospitality that makes our community special. We are proud of our home and excited to share its treasures with you.

Thank you for choosing Gulf County for your adventures. We hope your visit is filled with joy, relaxation and wonderful memories. Come back to see us again soon!

@ABBHEY,HESS



Gulf County Tourist Development Council
150 Captain Fred's Place
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
Info@VisitGulf.com

PUBLISHED BY

WANDERLUST
CONTENT STUDIO

WanderlustContentStudio.com
@WanderlustContentStudio

Nicole Bordges & Martha-Page Althaus
Publishers and Co-Founders

nicole@wanderlustcontentstudio.com
marthapage@wanderlustcontentstudio.com

Design Director Deanne O'Connor
Copy Editor Camryn Diagonale
Illustrator Martha Williams

Visit Gulf County and Wanderlust Content Studio have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of information presented in the guide, but assume no responsibility for errors, changes, or omissions. All rights reserved.
Printed in USA.



2026 GULF COUNTY

Visitor Guide contents



RIGHT: ISTOCK.COM/HAPPYFOTO

on the cover This is Gulf County, where nature leads and you're free to follow. Out here on the shores of Cape San Blas, curiosity comes naturally. The world slows down, little feet explore, and every wave brings a new discovery. It's not about checking boxes; it's about connecting with the ones you love. Let the wonder of the moment lead the way.

features

- 15 COME EXPLORE**
Meet the five destinations of Gulf County
- 32 THE NATURE GUIDE**
Shelling, fishing, wildlife and more
- 39 FIND YOUR BEACH**
Gulf County's shoreline offers something for everyone
- 45 THE ULTIMATE PLAYGROUND**
All the ways to play in Gulf County

departments

- 07** The Top 10
- 08** This is Gulf County
- 10** Leave No Trace
- 12** History
- 27** Events
- 28** No Bad Days
- 30** Tupelo Honey
- 56** Where to Eat
- 59** Drinks + Nightlife
- 60** Local Resources
- 61** Weddings
- 62** Where to Stay
- 66** Local Businesses

visit us! welcome center

The Gulf County Welcome Center is the perfect place to begin your journey.



take care

Help preserve Gulf County's natural beauty. Look for these helpful tips throughout this guide on how you can do your part.

STOP BY!
150 Captain Fred's Place
Port St. Joe, FL
(850) 229-7800

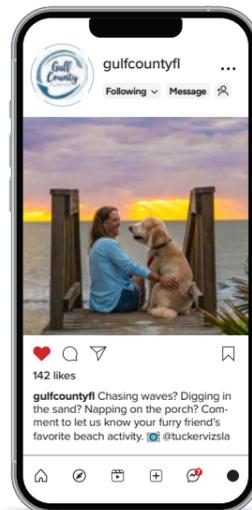
HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:00 AM ET - 5:00 PM ET
(some holidays exempt)

Located just off Hwy 98 in the heart of Port St. Joe, the **Gulf County Welcome Center** can help you uncover the hidden gems of our charming destination. Here, you'll find maps, guides and insider tips from our friendly and knowledgeable team of locals who are passionate about sharing the best of Gulf County. Whether you're looking for the perfect beach spot, local dining options or information on upcoming events, we've got you covered.



what time is it?

You're in for a time-twisting treat! Gulf County spans both Eastern and Central Time Zones. Check the local time as you travel across the county to ensure you don't miss a thing!



connect

Join us online to stay informed and inspired for your next visit. **Follow Visit Gulf County** on social media for the latest news, events and tips.

- G @VisitGulfCounty
- e @GulfCountyFL
- ú @GulfCountyBeaches
- w @GulfCountyFL

share these selfies!

We love seeing your photos and hearing your stories! Share your Gulf County adventures with us by tagging **#GulfCountyFL**



off-season travel perks

Visiting during the off-season means fewer crowds and more opportunities to immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Gulf County. Whether it's the cool, bug-free hikes of spring or the mild, tranquil days of winter, there's something special to discover all year long.

Turn to **page 28** for more.



Dine at the iconic Indian Pass Raw Bar. **Find more on page 19.**

start here!

Start your trip at the Gulf County Welcome Center for maps, advice and more. **Turn to page 4.**

Find the perfect beach and enjoy a campfire. For more camping spots, turn to **page 65.**

Take in the views from the Cape San Blas Lighthouse. **See page 20.**

The Top 10

How many of these #GulfCountyFL activities can you fit in during your vacation? Go for them all!

- 1 Discover the Gulf County Welcome Center.** Start here to make the most of your visit. *(Bonus: Sit a spell on the shaded deck with waterfront views of St. Joseph Bay!)*
- 2 Explore the Dead Lakes.** Paddle through these cypress-studded waters and enjoy incredible fishing and birdwatching.
- 3 Take a horseback ride on the beach.** A sunset trot along Cape San Blas is an unforgettable experience.
- 4 Climb the Cape San Blas Lighthouse.** Visit this historic landmark in George Core Park and climb to the top (131 steps!) for panoramic views.
- 5 Dine at Indian Pass Raw Bar.** Savor fresh seafood and experience the laid-back atmosphere of this iconic local spot.
- 6 Stroll Downtown Port St. Joe.** Browse charming boutiques and art galleries and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant in this historic downtown.
- 7 Paddle St. Joseph Bay.** Rent kayaks or paddle boards and discover the beauty of the Bay and its abundant marine life.
- 8 Hike T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.** Hike scenic trails, spot diverse wildlife, and enjoy a day of picnicking and swimming.
- 9 Enjoy a beach bonfire.** Experience the magic of a beach bonfire under the stars. Roast marshmallows, share stories and enjoy the soothing sounds of the Gulf.
- 10 Savor Tupelo Honey.** Sample the rich flavor of Wewahitchka's famous Tupelo Honey, straight from the source in North Gulf County. (Turn to page 30 for more.)

TOP LEFT (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT): ISTOCK.COM/HAPPY8790, WESTLIGHT, ALTER_PHOTO, DEVONYU

PET FRIENDLY

dogs love the beach, too!

It's not a true family vacation without man's best friend. Here's where to bring your pup around Gulf County. Let the tail wagging begin!

In **Gulf County**, our pet-friendly beaches, parks and outdoor spaces ensure that your four-legged friends can join the fun. Pets are welcome on all Gulf County beaches except for **T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula**

State Park, William J "Billy Joe" Rish Recreation Area and **Eglin Air Force Base** property on the elbow of Cape San Blas. Dogs must always remain on a leash. For pet-friendly accommodations, turn to pages 62 - 65.



shell collectors!

Keep your head down, because you never know what kind of treasures you'll discover during a walk on our beaches. **See page 38** for our guide to Gulf County shelling.





a magical retreat
this is gulf county

Nestled in the heart of the Florida Panhandle, Gulf County's five unique destinations — Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, Port St. Joe, St. Joe Beach and Wewahitchka — showcase the timeless charm of Old Florida. Discover quiet, unspoiled beaches and pristine landscapes. Experience the peacefulness and natural beauty that make Gulf County shores such a magical retreat — a place where cherished memories are made and nature's wonders are protected for future generations. Florida's Quiet Shores are naturally beautiful, with limited development and an eye toward conservation. Here's how to play your part to keep Gulf County beautiful.

St. Joseph Bay

A VISIT TO GULF COUNTY IS LIKE A STEP BACK IN TIME

— in the very best way possible. Unspoiled beaches harken back to what some other Florida beaches looked like 30 years ago. The area's preservation and conservation efforts ensure that Gulf County stays the same for future generations to enjoy.

Gulf County's landscapes are carefully preserved by our community's steadfast commitment to conservation. By limiting high-rise buildings and chain properties, we maintain the area's natural charm and tranquility. This allows visitors to enjoy the serene, unspoiled beauty of our beaches and coastal areas, reminiscent of Florida's past. On the Gulf Coast, you'll find plenty of breathing room and vast stretches of undeveloped beaches where it's all water, sand and sky as far as the eye can see.

Here, shoreline is protected by local ordinances and community initiatives. Our "Leave No Trace" policy outlines six simple steps that visitors can take at the end of their beach day to ensure a pristine, safe environment for visitors and native wildlife.

Experience Gulf County as it was meant to be: A sanctuary of tranquility and natural wonders, where every visit supports our conservation efforts and reinforces our shared responsibility to protect this beautiful part of the Florida Panhandle for future generations.

Leave no trace

By following these six easy steps, visitors can help preserve the natural beauty and safety of Gulf County's beaches for everyone to enjoy.



1 Remove personal items

All unattended personal items must be removed daily from the beach no later than one hour after sunset.



2 Fill in holes

All holes must be filled in before leaving the beach each day. This ensures that baby sea turtles find their way to the ocean without obstacles.



3 Bonfire guidelines

Bonfires are permissible but must not be within 100 feet of any structure, and all remnants must be extinguished and removed.



4 Glass containers prohibited

Glass containers are not allowed on the beach. Bring reusable water bottles, and pack food in reusable containers if possible.



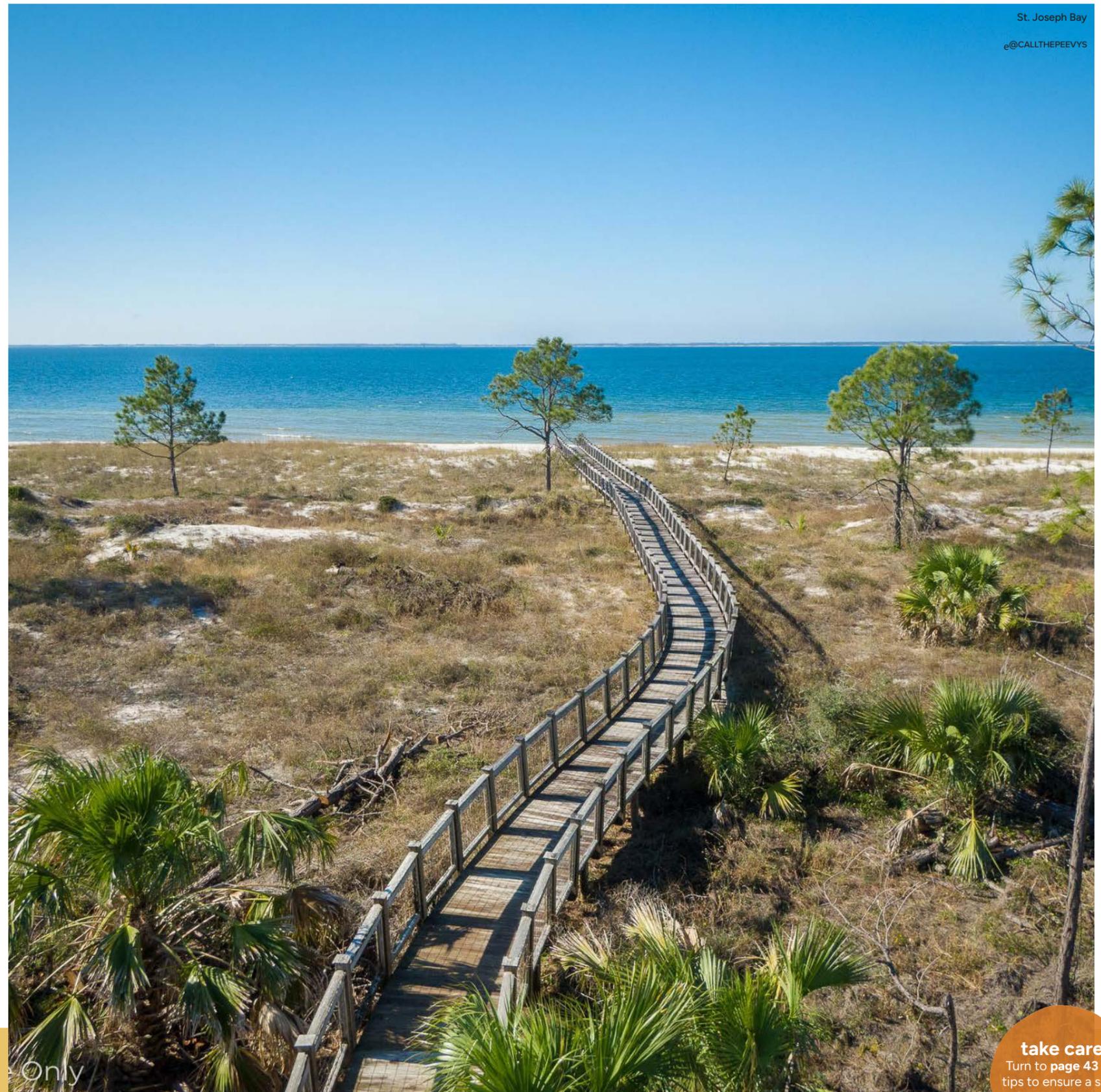
5 Respect sound levels

Be respectful of others on the beach and keep sound amplification and audio devices to a 25-foot sound radius from the source.



6 Dispose of waste properly

Take all trash, including food scraps, to designated waste bins. Don't feed the seagulls or other wildlife on the beach.



St. Joseph Bay

@CALLTHEPEEVYS



"Gulf County is synonymous with so much good. While stopping time is impossible, slowing it down is within reach, especially in Gulf County — it's where I find my pause button."
—Emily Raffield Candelier, Gulf County native; owner, BECASA Lifestyle Brand

take care
Turn to **page 43** for tips to ensure a safe, enjoyable beach day for everyone.

history & heritage

Discover the rich roots of this coastal Florida community.

FOR A RURAL AREA OF FLORIDA — Gulf County has a rich history. Coastal American Indians occupied the area when Spanish explorers dropped anchor inside Cape San Blas in the early 1700s. Many of the tribes were semi-nomadic, living both on the shore and moving inland depending on the time of year. Take a step back in time at the **St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve**, where Indigenous people harvested food, manufactured tools and lived on sites near the Bay for 12,000 years. Today, the preserve contains 19 known archaeological and historical sites, dating from prehistoric times to the 20th century. One of the most significant shell-tool manufacture sites in the region is located on Buffer Preserve lands. This ecologically rich area is home to a variety of landscapes, plus native plants and wildlife.



EARLY 1700s

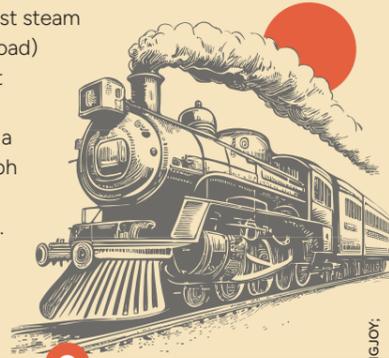
The Spanish gain occupation of St. Joseph Bay.



Map of the southern part of Calhoun County, Florida in 1842. This part of Calhoun County later became Gulf County. The map shows the towns of Apalachicola (in Franklin County) and St. Joseph (in Calhoun County) and the rail lines of the Lake Wimico and St. Joseph Railroad.

1836

Lake Wimico and St. Joseph Railroad (Florida's first steam engine railroad) runs its first train from Apalachicola to St. Joseph with 300 passengers.



1835

Lake Wimico and St. Joseph Canal Company is incorporated, the first step by local businessmen to divert river traffic to the new deep-water port.

1838

Florida's first Constitutional Convention is held in St. Joseph, now known as Port St. Joe. (For more, turn to page 20.)

FROM LEFT: PUBLIC DOMAIN; ISTOCK.COM/LUISA VALLON FUMI; SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/ALYABIGJOY; ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/MARTIALRED

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF THE PORT THEATRE; FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES; ILLUSTRATION: VOLODYMYR KRYSHTAL; BOENICEBOY



St. Joseph Point Lighthouse



The Port Theatre. Learn more at historicporttheatre.com

1839

St. Joseph Point Lighthouse is built on the northern end of the Cape, near the entrance to St. Joseph Bay.



Gulf County Courthouse, built in 1927

1925

Gulf County is founded on June 6, 1925.



1938

The Port Theatre opens for its first movie presentation.

1967

T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park opens for visitors and camping.

1918

Time zones become law with the Standard Time Act. Local shipping and railroad industries agree to keep coastal areas in the Eastern time zone, while the inland towns remain Central. (Another vote is later held in 1982, with a 55% vote to keep the split time zones.)



Workers at the St. Joe Paper Company Mill, circa 1959

1936

St. Joe Paper Company begins construction of a paper mill in Port St. Joe. The mill opens in 1938.

2025

Gulf County celebrates its centennial anniversary!



picture perfect

We love seeing your photos and hearing your stories! Share your Gulf County adventures with us by tagging #GulfCountyFL



come explore
beautiful gulf county

Gulf County comprises five distinct destinations, each with their own charm: Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, Port St. Joe, St. Joe Beach and Wewahitchka. There's a variety of things to uncover in each place, from kayaking the Dead Lakes in Wewahitchka to fishing the blue waters off Cape San Blas. Let's explore!





@JONAHBCOOL

take care
Remove your items at the end of the beach day. Leave only footprints to keep Cape San Blas beaches beautiful for everyone.

Cape San Blas

Whether you're looking to unwind on the beach, explore natural wonders or enjoy water-based activities, Cape San Blas promises an unforgettable experience for all who visit.



Eagle Harbor

Cape San Blas is a coastal paradise, known for its serene beauty and laid-back charm. The picturesque peninsula offers pristine, white sandy beaches that stretch for miles along with the inviting waters of the Gulf of America, providing the perfect backdrop for a relaxing getaway. Nature enthusiasts will love the **T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park**, which has scenic hiking trails, bird watching and excellent fishing spots. The park's diverse eco-system is home to a variety of wildlife. Cape San Blas is famous for its pet-friendly beaches, making it an ideal destination for families and their four-legged friends. Spend your days swimming, sunbathing or collecting seashells along the shore. Adventure seekers, take note: Cape San Blas offers kayaking, paddleboarding and horseback riding on the beach. Accommodation

options range from cozy beach cottages to spacious vacation rentals, all offering a welcoming atmosphere. The area's friendly community and local businesses provide a warm welcome, ensuring that every visitor feels at home.



GULF COUNTY PEARLS

if these walls could talk

The **Cape San Blas Lighthouse** has a long history. The original building dates to the late 1840s, designed to protect ships from the dangerous shoals that ran out from the Cape. While earlier versions of the lighthouse fell prey to Mother Nature, the current building, a "skeletal" lighthouse, has eight cast-iron legs fastened into a concrete base for defense against hurricanes and erosion. Today, the lighthouse is located on the protective shores of Port St. Joe.



vacation bliss

Cape San Blas has a variety of vacation home rentals to choose from. If you're bringing multiple generations of family together for your annual beach week, you'll find plenty of well-stocked homes with all the amenities you need for an unforgettable vacation. For more accommodations options, turn to page 62.



"We relocated here seven years ago and immediately felt included. This community's southern hospitality welcomes new residents and visitors alike. The charm, outdoor activities and community spirit have etched these beaches into our hearts. It's the perfect blend of Old Florida and lifelong visitors."
—Tyler and Claire Matney, Owners, Scallop Cove



out on the water

Indian Pass is all about the water. Visitors come here for the tranquility of being out on the water fishing, kayaking and paddle boarding.

Find boat charters and fishing trips on page 47.

© MATT.MILLIRON

Indian Pass

For a taste of Old Florida, look no further than Indian Pass, where the vibe is lowkey and rustic. Generations of outdoors-loving visitors know this is the place to go for excellent fishing.

Indian Pass is a hidden gem known for its untouched beaches and serene atmosphere. This charming coastal community is a favorite spot for those looking to escape the crowds and reconnect with nature. Indian Pass' expansive, uncrowded beaches are ideal for relaxing and enjoying the simple pleasures of coastal living. Spend your days swimming, fishing or strolling along the shore, collecting shells and enjoying stunning Gulf views. Indian Pass is particularly renowned for its excellent fishing opportunities, both from the beach and by boat. The nearby **Indian Pass Campground** offers a convenient base for exploring the area. A highlight of Indian Pass is

its access to **St. Vincent Island**, a protected National Wildlife Refuge just a short boat ride away. This uninhabited island is a haven for wildlife. Visitors can explore its diverse habitats, from lush forests to quiet beaches, making it a paradise for hiking, birdwatching and nature photography.



GULF COUNTY PEARLS

Indian Pass pit stop

You can't come to Indian Pass without stopping by the **Indian Pass Raw Bar**. This family-owned local institution has been serving the community since the 1900s when it began as a general store. Today, known as the Raw Bar, it's the go-to spot for fresh oysters and shrimp. Sit on the front porch, listen to live music and grab a beer from the self-serve cooler.



© AMYEB76



"Indian Pass isn't just a place of colorful history and peaceful quietness. It's a lifestyle of its own. It's where local families come to get away and reconnect with not only each other but Mother Nature as well. From the wide variety of fishing and vast marine life to experience, one can get lost in the tranquility of this place. 'The Pass' is truly a unique, one-of-a-kind paradise." —Jordan Todd, *Saltwater Obsessions*



GULF COUNTY PEARLS

Constitution City

In 1837, the town of St. Joseph, which later became Port St. Joe, was the largest city in Florida (population: 11,000). After the harbor and railroad station were built, the city became an important Gulf Coast fishing, timber and trading port. Thanks to its boomtown reputation, St. Joseph hosted 56 delegates in 1838 to draft the state's first constitution. Take a self-guided tour through the **Constitution Convention Museum State Park** for a deeper dive into local history.



@GOTANOTHERPHOTO

Port St. Joe

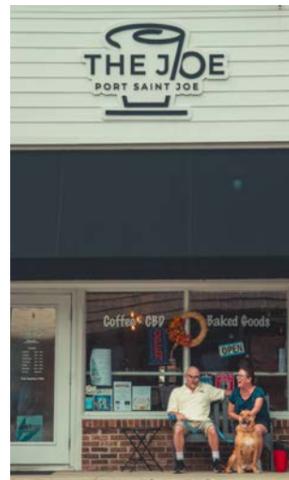
Park the car and set out on foot. Stroll Reid Avenue's locally owned shops and restaurants before crossing the street to St. Joseph Bay.

This charming bayfront town is regarded for its welcoming community and rich history. As the unofficial commercial hub for the area, Port St. Joe is a must-visit destination for travelers seeking both relaxation and adventure. The calm, clear waters of St. Joseph Bay invite kayaking and paddle boarding, offering a peaceful way to explore the Bay's abundant marine life. The **Point South Marina** serves as a gateway to these adventures, providing access to fishing charters and boat rentals. History enthusiasts

will find plenty to explore in Port St. Joe. **The Constitution Convention Museum State Park** gives a fascinating glimpse into Florida's journey to statehood, while the downtown area is lined with locally owned shops, restaurants and cultural attractions. A visit to Port St. Joe wouldn't be complete without seeing the iconic **Cape San Blas Lighthouse**, which now stands proudly in George Core Park. Climb to the top for panoramic views of the area. With its blend of natural beauty, historic sites and vibrant community spirit,

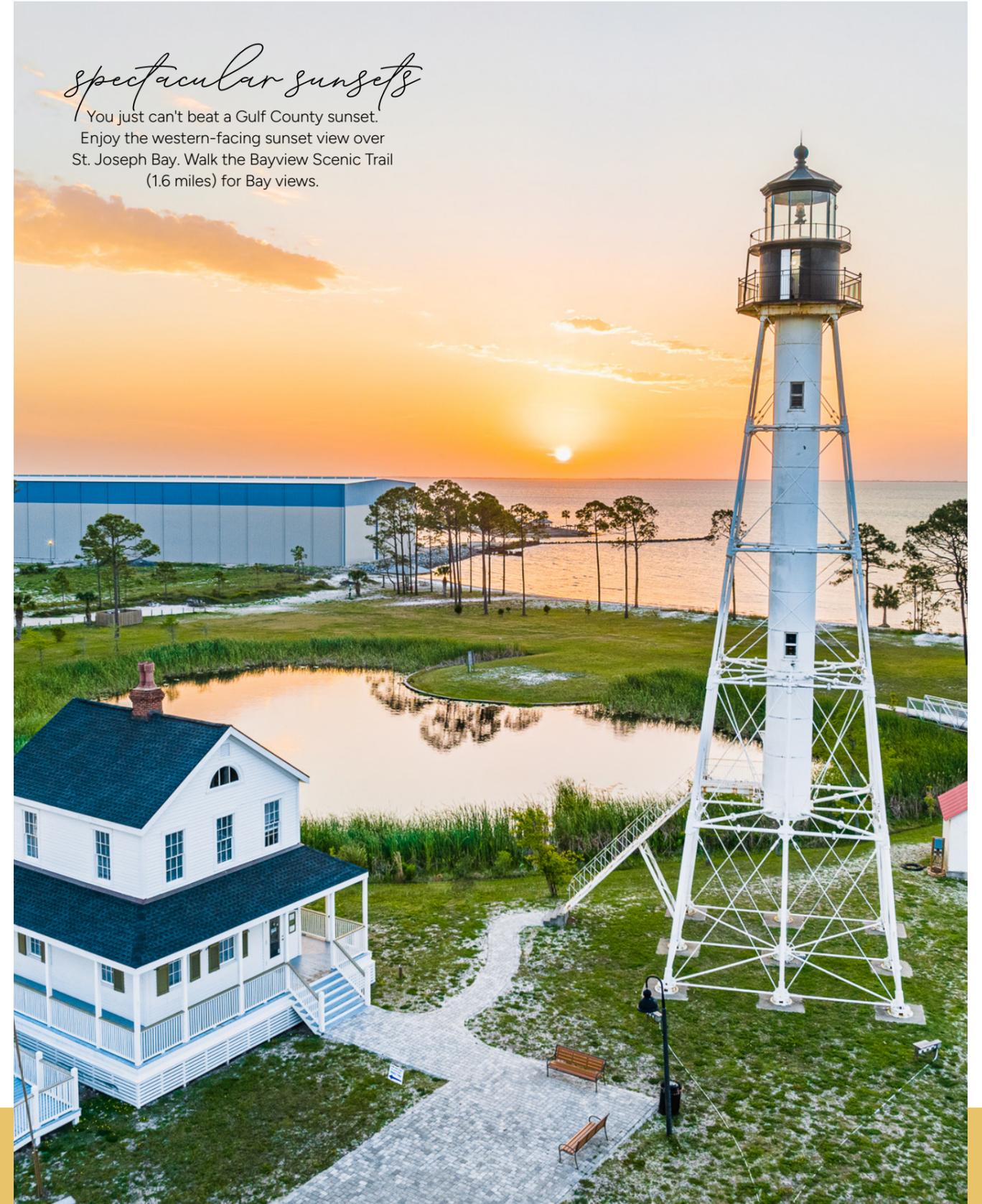
Port St. Joe is a delightful destination that showcases the best of Gulf County. Whether you're exploring the Bay, discovering local history or simply enjoying the coastal ambience, Port St. Joe promises an unforgettable experience.

take care
Don't forget your reusable shopping bags! Bring cloth bags for all your treasures from shopping downtown.



spectacular sunsets

You just can't beat a Gulf County sunset. Enjoy the western-facing sunset view over St. Joseph Bay. Walk the Bayview Scenic Trail (1.6 miles) for Bay views.



@STEPHENTEEKELPHOTOGRAPHY



"Port St. Joe's rich history and vibrant community make it a special place. From the historic downtown to the welcoming locals, there's a unique charm that draws you in and makes you feel at home." —Rex Buzzett, Mayor, Port St. Joe

take care

Packing a beach picnic? Avoid single-use plastics and pack food and drinks in reusable bags and containers. Dispose of trash and recycle when possible.



@RESTRELAXOUTFITTERS



@KCOMPTON513

St. Joe Beach

When you think of a Gulf County beach, picture-perfect St. Joe Beach is exactly what comes to mind: Soft, white sandy beaches and clear, calm blue water.

The wide, sandy beaches of St. Joe Beach are ideal for sunbathing, beachcombing and building sand castles. This family-friendly beach enjoys gentle waves, making it a safe and enjoyable spot for swimming and wading with young ones. The beach is also pet-friendly, so your furry friends can join in on the fun. But St. Joe Beach is more than just a beautiful shoreline — it's a welcoming community with local charm. Don't miss **Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill**. This serene spot overlooks the Gulf and is dedicated to honoring our nation's heroes. After a day at the beach or exploring the park, head to the popular **Shipwreck Raw Bar**. This local favorite offers a laid-back atmosphere and seafood. Enjoy fresh oysters, shrimp and other Gulf delicacies while taking in

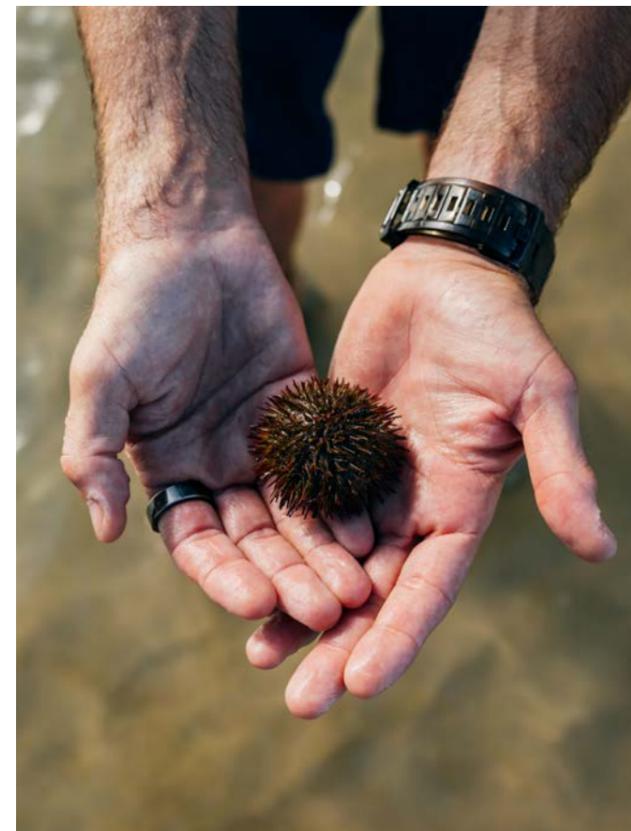
the friendly, casual vibe that defines St. Joe Beach. As the sun sets over the Gulf, the sky lights up with vibrant colors. Whether you're here for a family vacation, a romantic getaway or simply to unwind, St. Joe Beach offers a relaxing and enjoyable escape in Gulf County.



GULF COUNTY PEARLS

what time is it?

That's a popular question in St. Joe Beach, where the Eastern Time Zone meets the Central Time Zone. Pose for selfies — and straddle two time zones — in the colorful, oversized "time-zone chair" that borders St. Joe Beach and Mexico Beach. Our advice for tackling the time questions? Ignore it — you're on vacation, after all! Set your watch to island time, set your chair on St. Joe Beach's wide shores and settle in to watch the sunset on this west-facing beach.



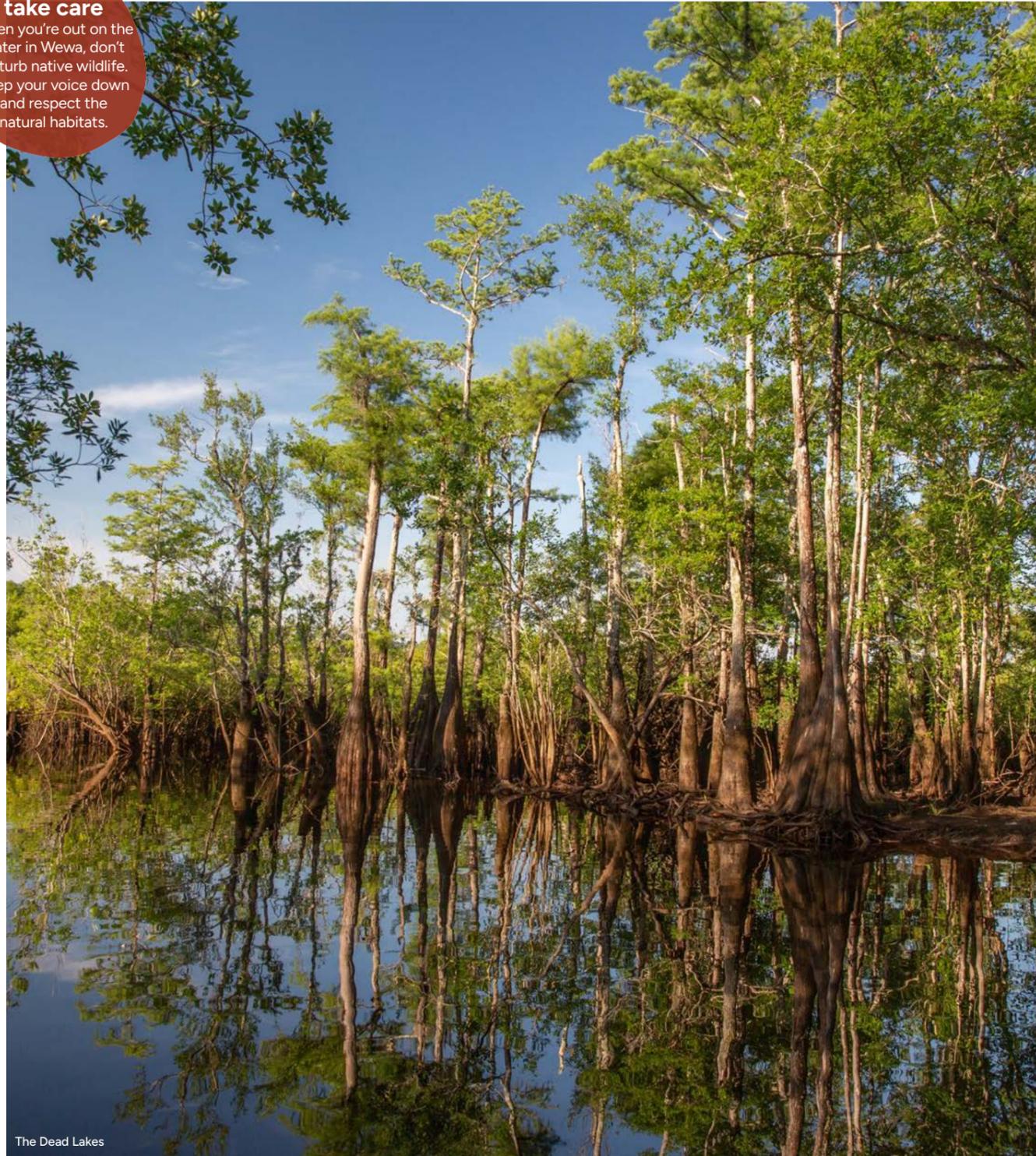
what's biting? For fishing rules and regulations, turn to **page 34**. Keep your eye out for license-free fishing days, which are a great way for those who don't yet have a fishing license to cast a line (including kids!). Visit myfwc.com for annual dates for saltwater and freshwater license-free days.



"St. Joe Beach is a stretch of shoreline with ever-changing natural beauty. It's perfect for peaceful sunrise walks, sunbathing, swimming and calming sunsets. Simple pleasures, seeing sea turtle nests, jumping mullet, shells and shore birds ... it's a wonderful place for making special memories." —Melissa Farrell, Owner, Joseph's Cottage

take care

When you're out on the water in Wewa, don't disturb native wildlife. Keep your voice down and respect the natural habitats.



The Dead Lakes

discover the dead lakes Tupelo and cypress trees rise up from the Dead Lakes waters, providing natural habitats for a variety of animals including ospreys, eagles, beavers, turtles and alligators. Take a guided boat tour with **Off the Map Expeditions** to learn more about this ecologically diverse region of Gulf County.



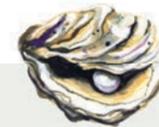
Wewahitchka

The locals call this town "Wewa," and you can, too. This quaint town is rich in history and natural beauty. It feels worlds apart from the region's beaches, but it's just 30 minutes away.

Located near the tranquil Dead Lakes, Wewahitchka is a paradise for nature lovers and outdoor adventurers. The Dead Lakes are perfect for fishing, boating and kayaking, with their mysterious cypress-studded waters providing a stunning backdrop. The town's claim to fame is its renowned Tupe-

lo Honey, harvested from the abundant tupelo trees in the area. Beekeeping is a longstanding tradition here, and visitors can explore this heritage at the annual **Tupelo Honey Festival**, where you can taste and purchase the world-famous Tupelo Honey, unique to the region. (For more, turn to page 30.) Wewa's community spirit shines

at **Lake Alice Park**, a popular spot for picnics and family gatherings. The park has playgrounds, walking trails and a tranquil lake view. When you need a break from the beach, Wewahitchka's rustic charm and serene landscapes make this quiet corner of Gulf County a special place to explore.



GULF COUNTY PEARLS

what's in a name?

It may be hard to spell (and even harder to pronounce), but the aptly named Wewahitchka means "water eyes." This Seminole Indian name perfectly captures Wewahitchka's landscapes, which are defined by waterways along the Chipola River, the Dead Lakes, the Apalachicola River Basin and Lake Alice and Lake Julia – two perfectly round lakes in the middle of town that look like eyes when viewed from above.

LEFT: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/MAGGEE; SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/BILLION PHOTOS



"Wewahitchka is a hidden gem in Gulf County — from the perfectly round lakes from which the town's name is derived to the historic courthouse and Tupelo Honey. Capture your best photo at one of our beautiful landmarks or on the Dead Lakes Bridge." —David C. Rich, *Outdoor enthusiast*



tupelo honey

Discover what locals call "nature's gold."

LOCAL TREASURE Each April through May, white tupelo gum trees bloom along the edge of the Apalachicola River.

THE BEES KNOW To make one pound of honey, bees need to collect nectar from at least one million flowers.

FLAVOR PROFILE Tupelo Honey has a floral scent, with a hint of rose and an herby, earthy taste.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR The annual Tupelo Honey Festival is held on the third Saturday of May in Wewahitchka. Sample different varieties and enjoy local food vendors, arts and crafts and more, set against the bucolic background of Lake Alice.

See more on page 30.



days and nights in beautiful gulf county

There's never a bad time to visit Gulf County. Each season brings unique experiences and adventures, making Gulf County an ideal year-round destination.

take care

Bonfires can not be within 100 feet of any structure. Remnants must be extinguished and removed the same day. Only burn natural wood.

signature events

Mark your calendars for these annual events. For dates and details, head to [VisitGulf.com/Events](https://www.visitgulf.com/events).

WINTER

- Christmas on the Coast
- Chili Cook-Off
- Snowbird Appreciation Golf Tournament
- St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve Bay Day
- SaltAir Farmers' Market
- New Year's Eve Celebration

SPRING

- SaltAir Farmers' Market
- Breeze By The Bay 5k & 10k
- Tupelo Honey Festival
- Forgotten Coast en Plein Air
- Blues on Reid
- Pickleball for Sea Turtles Tournament

SUMMER

- July 4th Celebration
- Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Festival
- MBARA Fishing Tournament
- Bayou Bash Fishing Tournament
- SaltAir Farmers' Market
- Juneteenth Celebration

FALL

- Florida Scallop & Music Festival
- Blast on the Bay Songwriters' Festival
- St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve Bay Day
- Forgotten Music Festival
- SaltAir Farmers' Market
- Ghost on the Coast

Save the Date!

Scan this code for more details on Gulf County annual events.





gulf county temps

SPRING

Daytime 70°F
Nighttime 55°F
Water 68°F

SUMMER

Daytime 85°F
Nighttime 75°F
Water 80°F

FALL

Daytime 75°F
Nighttime 60°F
Water 72°F

WINTER

Daytime 65°F
Nighttime 45°F
Water 60°F

no bad days

Good news: Gulf County beaches aren't just for the summer! In-the-know visitors love Gulf County year-round. Here's why:

SPRING Hikers enjoy cooler temps and fewer bugs on our coastal trails. This is a great time for birdwatching, as many species migrate through the area. Cast a line for

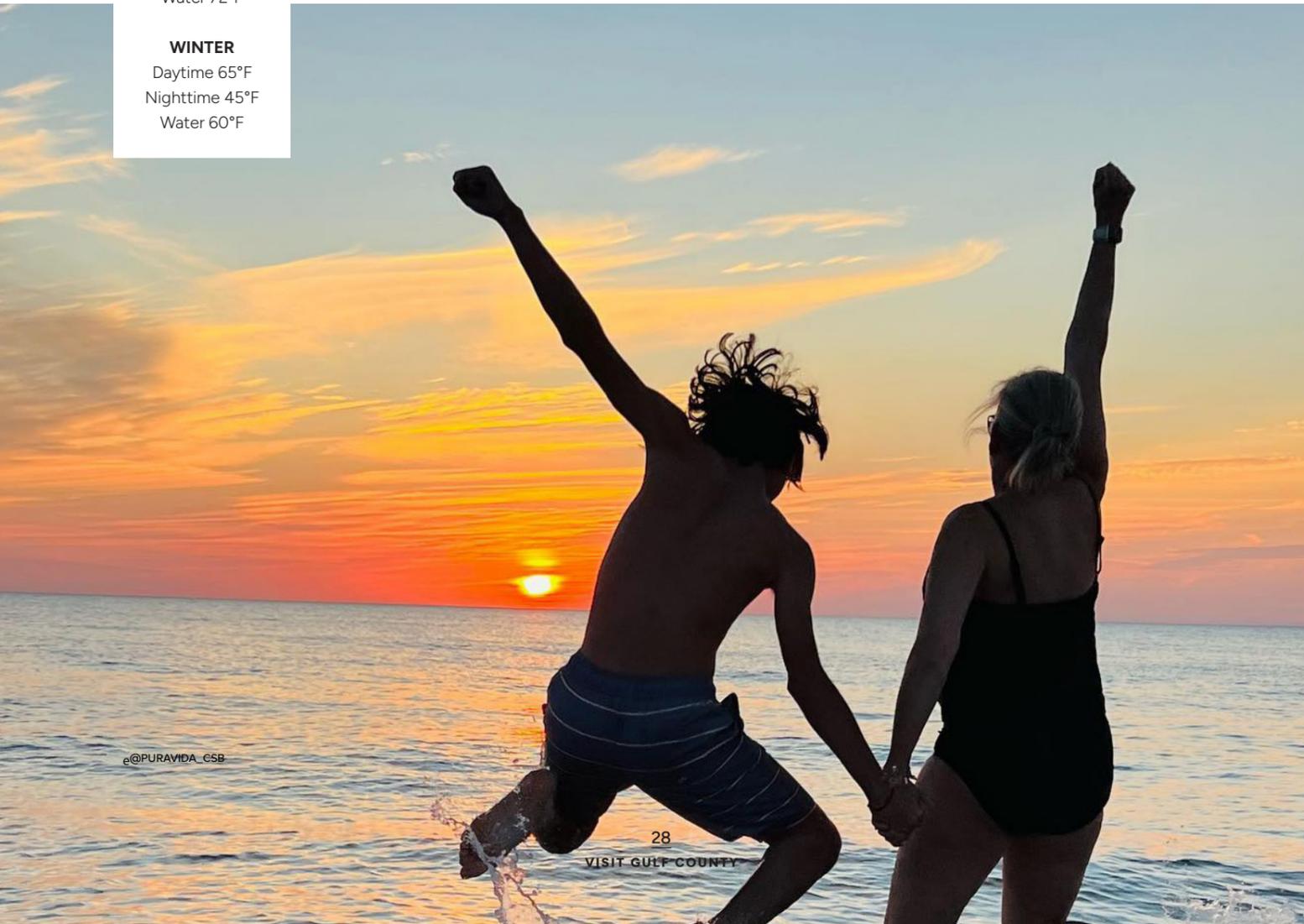
Spanish mackerel and pompano.

SUMMER Bask in the sun on our pristine beaches. The waters are perfect for swimming, kayaking and paddle boarding. Snapper and grouper fishing are at their peak, and sea turtles begin nesting along the shore. (Turn to page 36 for more on sea turtle nesting season.)

FALL Experience the beauty of autumn with pleasant temperatures and vibrant sunsets. Anglers can catch flounder and redfish.

WINTER Mild winter weather makes Gulf County the perfect escape from the cold. Enjoy shelling along quiet beaches, or take a guided eco-tour to learn more about native wildlife and plants. Fishing for

sheepshead and trout is excellent this time of year. (Turn to page 34 for more seasonal fishing tips.)



@PURAVIDA_CSB



unforgettable nights

MILKY WAY SEASON FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Gulf County offers an incredible opportunity for Milky Way photography from April to September. The best visibility occurs during new moon phases when the night sky is at its darkest. Capture stunning images of the Milky Way stretching across the horizon, a perfect activity for night owls and photography enthusiasts. (Don't forget to share your snaps with us by tagging #GulfCountyFL) @d.j.macd



As Sweet as *Tupelo Honey*

GET A TASTE OF GULF COUNTY'S
RARE NATURAL RESOURCE

STOCK.COM/ARDA SARI

In Gulf County, the unique flavor of Tupelo Honey is a cherished local treasure. Nestled in the heart of the Florida Panhandle, our region is one of the few places in the world where white tupelo gum trees (*Nyssa ogeche*) flourish, creating honey renowned for its exceptional quality and taste.

harvest

In the spring, the Apalachicola River Basin becomes a hive of activity as the tupelo trees burst into bloom for a brief, spectacular three-week period. These trees, usually found standing in a few feet of water, bloom from late April to early May. The blossoms begin as a round bud, about the size of a small pea, before swelling into what looks like a miniature cauliflower. Finally, it explodes with dozens of little spikes. The nectar is at the base of each spike. These white blossoms draw thousands of bees to diligently collect the precious nectar.

The harvesting of Tupelo Honey is an art passed down through generations, including the age-old tradition where beekeepers strategically place bee boxes on floating platforms, known as bee barges, along the Apalachicola River, allowing bees optimal access to the blooming tupelo trees. The bees gather nectar and transform it into the liquid gold we know and love.

tasting notes

What sets Tupelo Honey apart? For starters, its light, buttery flavor, floral scent and smooth texture. A high fructose content prevents

crystallization, making it ideal for culinary uses — and an even more delicious spread on toast! With subtle hints of cinnamon and floral undertones, Tupelo Honey adds a special touch to both sweet and savory dishes.

experience it

Visitors to Gulf County can experience this local delicacy firsthand. Wewahitchka, located about 20 minutes north of Port St. Joe, is home to many apiaries (where bees are kept). Here, you can taste samples and purchase over a dozen varieties of raw honey. Throughout Gulf County, local honey is available in area stores, and the **Gulf County Welcome Center** has samples.

By purchasing Tupelo Honey, you're not only savoring a unique flavor, but you're also supporting our local economy and preserving this rare natural resource.



"Golden treasure comes in a variety of forms. For those of us who inhabit the world of bees and the mystical river swamps that are home to the white tupelo, our gold is liquid. It's rare, precious and delectable!"

—Pam Palmer and Gary Adkison,
Blue-Eyed Girl Honey

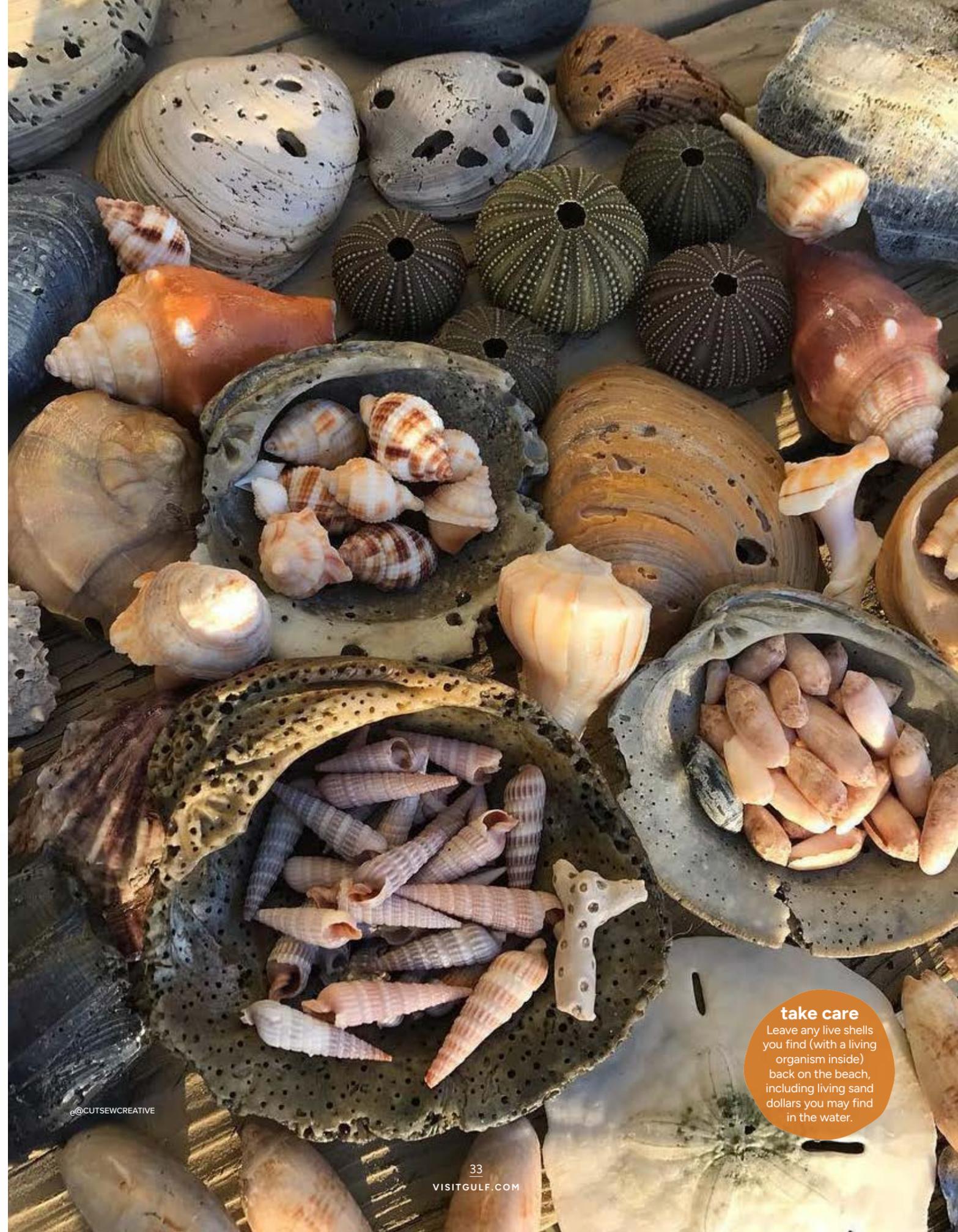
mark your calendars!

Underneath large oak trees and overlooking tranquil Lake Alice, the annual **Tupelo Honey Festival** takes place on the third Saturday in May and celebrates the honey harvesting season with plenty of (you guessed it!) flavorful Tupelo Honey.

THE Gulf County *nature guide*

Whether you're shelling along our
pristine beaches, casting a line in our
abundant waters or observing diverse
wildlife on a hike, this is your
comprehensive resource
for ways to connect with nature.

FISHING 34 | WILDLIFE 36 | SHELLING 38

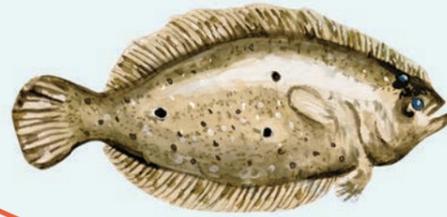


take care

Leave any live shells
you find (with a living
organism inside)
back on the beach,
including living sand
dollars you may find
in the water.

fishing

saltwater fish



Flounder



Grouper



Redfish



Sheepshead



Speckled Trout



Red Snapper

fishing guide

In spring, look for Spanish mackerel and pompano. Summer is prime time for snapper and grouper. Fall brings an abundance of flounder and redfish, while winter is perfect for sheepshead and trout. Check all fishing regulations at myfwc.com.

freshwater fish



Blue Gill



Black Crappie



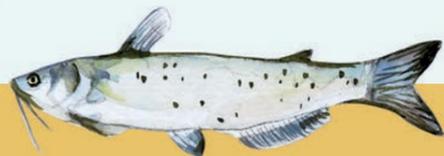
Redear Sunfish



Flathead Catfish



Large Mouth Bass



Channel Catfish



DIVE IN

scallop season

St. Joseph Bay scallop season runs August 16 through September 24. Remember these tips for a perfect scalloping day!

1 You must have a saltwater fishing license to harvest scallops. Purchase online at myfwc.com/license

2 Be weather aware. Summer storms pop up most afternoons.

3 Mind the seagrasses! Scallops are primarily found in shallow areas. Go slow and trim up your motor.

4 Bag limits per person: Two gallons of whole bay scallops in shell or one pint of bay scallop meat. Per vessel: Max. 10 gallons of whole bay scallops in shell or a half-gallon (four pints) of meat.

5 Use reef-safe sunscreen to lessen the damage to our seagrasses.

ISTOCK.COM/CHENGYUZHENG

Gulf County is a paradise for anglers! There are year-round opportunities to catch a wide variety of fish. Whether you're fishing from the shore, a kayak, or a charter boat, Gulf County's waters are teeming with possibilities.

You have seen the remarkable beaches of Gulf County, but you haven't truly discovered all there is to offer until you take a guided fishing trip. Whether you plan to fish inshore, offshore

or in freshwater, you are sure to reel in a fish worth bragging about. Our local guides know what lures and bait the fish are biting at and the best time to be in a particular location.

You don't have to be a skilled angler to take home a keeper when you're out with a guide – you don't even need any experience! Local outfitters will take care of everything, from baiting the hook to removing your catch from the line to even cleaning the fish. Just

one trip and you will know how easy it is to get hooked on fishing in Gulf County!

Get Hooked!

From fishing charters to boat rentals, we've got everything you need to plan the perfect fishing trip. Scan this code to learn more.



Ladies Cast Off

The Bayou Bash Fishing Tournament is an inshore fishing competition sponsored by the Swivel Sisters Women's Fishing Club. Come out to watch the tournament or cast a line yourself.

Registration for the Bayou Bash is open until the event. To register ahead of time, go to swivelsisters.org



10G Fishing Charters
(229) 869-7024

Bounty Bay PSJ Charters
(850) 628-4528

Cat Daddy Adventures
(850) 227-6697

Congo Charters
(850) 527-2574

Doghouse Charters
(850) 527-9530

Fish & Eco Tours
(918) 695-0167

Flat Bottom Fishing
(850) 227-6108

Gettin' Reel Sportfishing
(850) 227-8056

Lady J Charters
(850) 227-1200

Perfect Cast Charters
(850) 227-5149

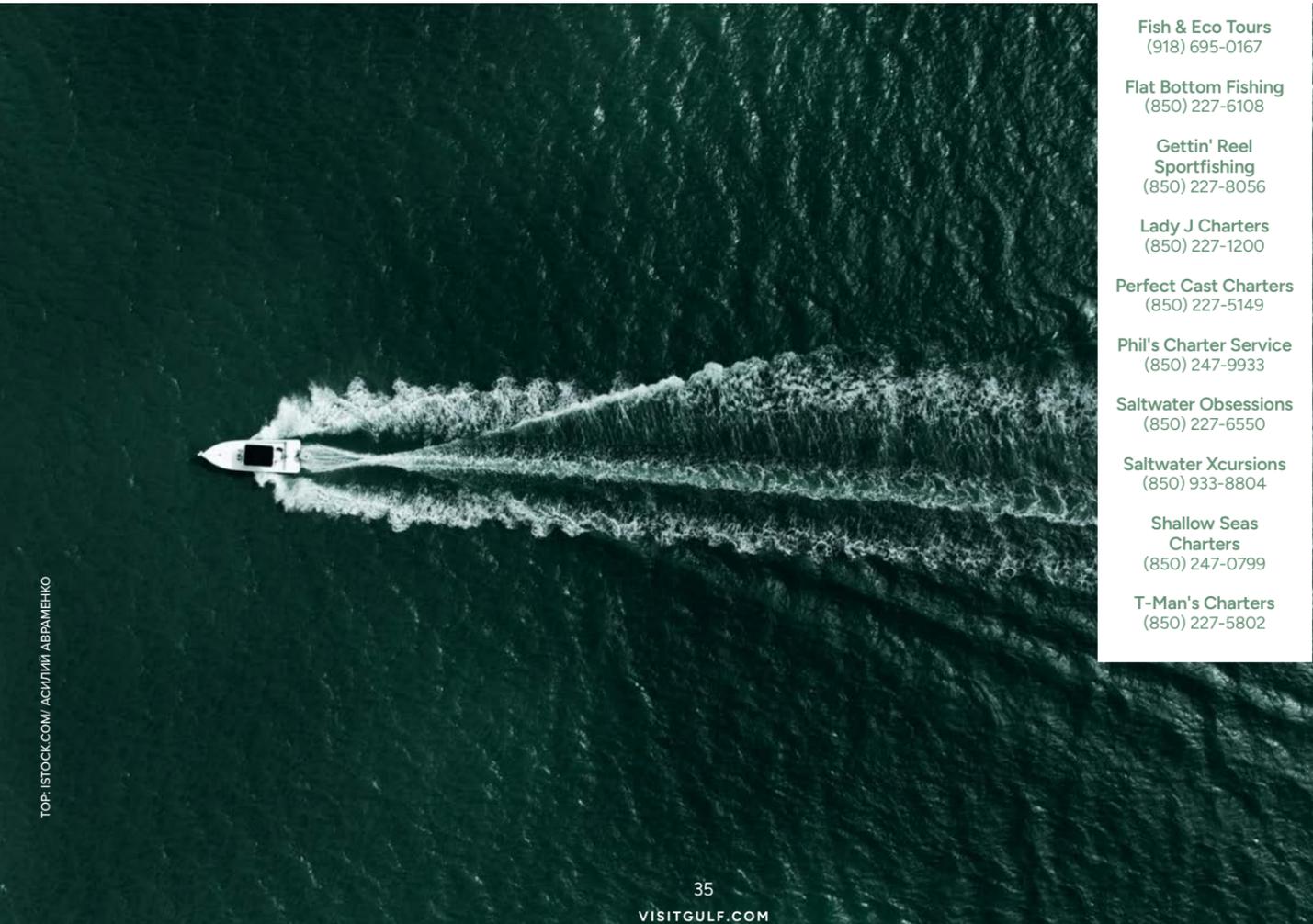
Phil's Charter Service
(850) 247-9933

Saltwater Obsessions
(850) 227-6550

Saltwater Xcursions
(850) 933-8804

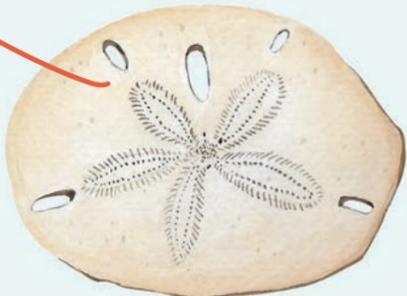
Shallow Seas Charters
(850) 247-0799

T-Man's Charters
(850) 227-5802



TOP: ISTOCK.COM/ АСИЛИЯ АБРАМЕНКО

sea life



Sand Dollar



Bay Scallop



Hermit Crab



Southern Bald Eagle



PROTECT

sea turtle nesting season

Gulf County is the largest density nesting place for sea turtles in Northwest Florida. We protect these massive, beautiful creatures and ask that our visitors do as well.

From May 1 to October 31, loggerhead sea turtles crawl ashore Gulf County beaches during the night to lay their eggs in a sandy nest. After laying their eggs, these giants cover their nests and return back to the ocean. After roughly a two-month incubation period, tiny hatchlings emerge from the sand and scramble to the Gulf, counting on the light of the moon and stars to guide them to the sea.

When you leave the beach at the end of your beach day, follow these easy tips to ensure you're leaving the coast pristine for the safety of these nesting — and baby — sea turtles:

- 1 Sea turtles need the beach to be clean, flat and dark. Cover in all holes and tear down sand castles or sculptures.
- 2 Remove all tents, chairs, coolers and beach toys.
- 3 Turn off all outdoor lights at your rental house. Baby turtles need the light of the moon to guide them back to the ocean.
- 4 If you come across a nest, leave plenty of distance. Do not disturb the nest in any way.

wildlife guide

From bald eagles soaring overhead to spiky sea urchin on the ocean floor, the possibilities are endless when it comes to spotting wildlife in Gulf County. Here are a few of the species that call our region home.



Sea Horse



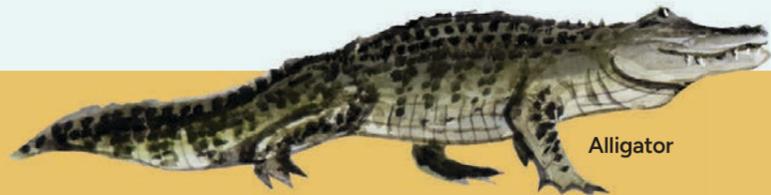
White Tail Deer



Sea Urchin



Blue Heron



Alligator

take care

Learn more about these beautiful sea creatures at the **Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center** in Port St. Joe.



Gulf County is home to a diverse array of wildlife. From the gentle bay scallops and majestic sea turtles to bald eagles and endangered snowy plovers, our region is a sanctuary for diverse species.

Respecting and protecting our wildlife

ensures that these magnificent creatures can continue to thrive in Gulf County. In addition to being a refuge for nesting sea turtles, our beaches also provide essential habitats for many nesting shorebirds. It's important for visitors to be mindful of marked nesting areas and keep their distance. If you come across a sea turtle

nest, it's crucial to avoid disturbing the area. Don't get close to the nest or disturb it in any way. If you come into contact with injured sea birds or other wildlife, contact local wildlife rescue services for assistance (turn to page 60 for more). Remember to never feed wildlife and to leave only your footprints behind.

Deeper Dive

The waters of St. Joseph Bay are clear during much of the year because it is not primarily fed by a river. The clarity makes this unique habitat a special place for a wide variety of sea life. Check out one of the dozens of dive sites the area has to offer. For more information on Gulf County's underwater adventures, see **page 47**.



Protect Our Shores
Scan this code for more ways to be a responsible traveler.



"The shores of Cape San Blas and St. Joseph Peninsula have beckoned nesting sea turtles for centuries. It is an honor and a privilege to share our beautiful beaches and waterways with these ancient visitors. Our local community goes above and beyond to ensure they continue to thrive here for generations to come."

—Jessica Swindall, Director, Florida Coastal Conservancy & Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center

BOTTOM: ISTOCK.COM/TIM STARKE

sea shells

Calico Scallop
This bivalve is usually smaller than a bay scallop, with a patchwork of red and pink on the upper shell.



Scotch Bonnet
This egg-shaped shell is a lucky find. Its checkered color pattern ranges from white to brown.



Spiny Jewel Shell
The spikes and hard shell help protect it from predators.



Tulip Shell
Its name alludes to its general shape, like a tulip flower. The shell color varies, and they can be as large as nine inches.



Stiff Pen Shell
This long, triangular shaped shell attaches to rocks or shells in sandy, shallow ocean bottoms.



Auger Shell
This slender shell is designed for plowing through sand, leaving a trail behind it.

shelling guide

Gulf County boasts some of Florida's best shelling opportunities. Don't forget to bring your mesh shelling bag (or a bucket!) for those early-morning beach walks. Here's a sampling of what you may find.



Buttercup Lucine
The exterior color is mostly gray and white, but the internal surface ranges from bright yellow to orange.

Kitten Paw
Its well-defined pleats give protection against crushing by predators and also help prevent the valves from separating under stress.



Southern Quahog
Often found in the shallow, sandy-mud flats of local bays. It's thicker and heavier than its Northern counterpart.

Giant Heart Cockle
This heavy ribbed, heart-shaped shell is usually colored purple and brown.



Lightning Whelk
One of the largest shells found in the Gulf of Mexico.



SOUVENIRS

beach finds

Our quiet shores are a treasure trove for shell enthusiasts.

As you stroll along our beaches, keep an eye out for a variety of unique and beautiful shells. Some common finds include Atlantic coquina, auger shells and the prized lightning whelk. For the best shelling experience, head out during low tide when the receding waters reveal newly beached shells. Early mornings are often the best time to discover these untouched gems. And don't let a storm deter you — some of the best shells are often found right after a storm. Remember, while collecting shells is a fun and memorable activity, it's important to leave live shells (shells with a living organism still inside) on the beach to help preserve our ecosystem. This includes living sand dollars you may spot in the water.



FIND YOUR BEACH SPOT AND STAKE YOUR CLAIM

Finding Your Perfect Beach

With 244 miles of shoreline, you're sure to locate your ideal spot in the sand! Our coastline is dotted with diverse beaches, each with its own unique charm, and all of our beautiful beaches have something special to offer.





@WATERSEDGERV

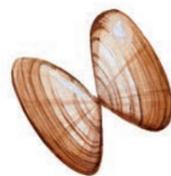
Indian Pass

FOR A BEACH DAY FILLED WITH FISHING AND SHELLING.

KNOWN FOR ITS TRANQUIL, natural beauty, Indian Pass is a haven for anglers who enjoy casting their lines and reeling in a variety of fish. The beach is also a treasure trove for shell collectors, with its sands often scattered with unique finds. For those seeking a bit more thrill, beach driving is permitted with a required permit, allowing you to explore the shore at a relaxed pace (don't forget to be mindful of nesting sea turtles!). Indian Pass is a well-known spot for exceptional crabbing, with blue crabs plentiful in its shallow waters. It's a perfect spot for beginners and seasoned crabbers alike, adding a unique experience to any coastal adventure. Indian Pass's serene environment and diverse activities make it a must-visit for those seeking a true, Old Florida adventure.

Calling all Collectors

You'll find the best shells at Indian Pass!



Atlantic Coquina The exterior of this small mollusk can be white, yellow, pink, orange, red, purple or brownish and blueish.



Florida Fighting Conch Multiple colors and patterns varying from white, tan, orange, brown, black and purple. Albinos are uncommon.



Lettered Olive Shell Also known as the burrito shell, it's named for the appearance of hieroglyphic markings. Home to a large predatory sea snail.

SEE THE FULL SHELL GUIDE ON **PAGE 38**.

St. Joe Beach

FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY AMENITIES, BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND A LAID-BACK VIBE.

FOR A FAMILY-FRIENDLY BEACH with convenient access, head to St. Joe Beach. This beach is ideal for families, offering a short walk to the shore, making it easier to carry all your beach gear. The gentle waves and soft sands provide a safe and enjoyable environment for children to play and for families to create cherished memories together. Don't miss

the iconic time zone chair, where the Central and Eastern Time Zones meet — a perfect photo-opp spot for your #GulfCountyFL pics! When hunger strikes, St. Joe Beach offers a variety of food trucks and restaurants, including those in the WindMark Beach Community. Enjoy everything from casual bites to gourmet meals.



@HOLLEYPHOTOS



TOP RIGHT: ISTOCK.COM/ARTISTEER
@SANFLEABEACHSERVICE



ON THE SAND

beach access points

Where to go to get on the sand.

CAPE SAN BLAS

- Cape Palms Park
- Dunes Drive
- Salinas Park Gulfside
- T. H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
- Stump Hole Access
- William J. "Billy Joe" Rish Recreation Area

INDIAN PASS

- Higgins Street
- Indian Pass Boat Ramp
- Lee Street
- Ski Breeze
- South Seminole Street
- South Oak Street

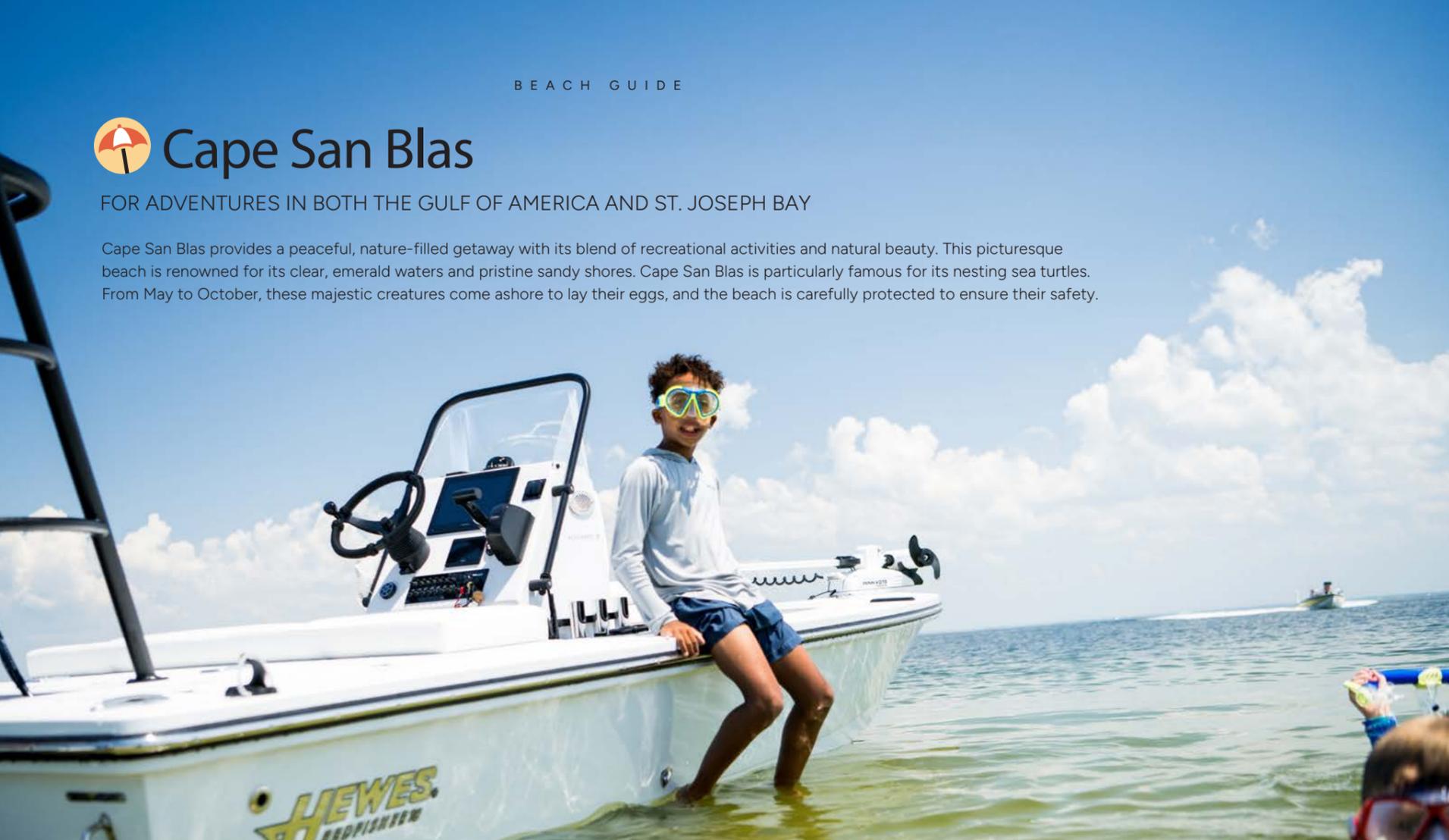
ST. JOE BEACH

- Barnacle Beach Access
- Coral Beach Access
- Dolphin Beach Access
- Junonia Beach Access
- Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill
- Urchin Beach Access
- Whelk Beach Access

Cape San Blas

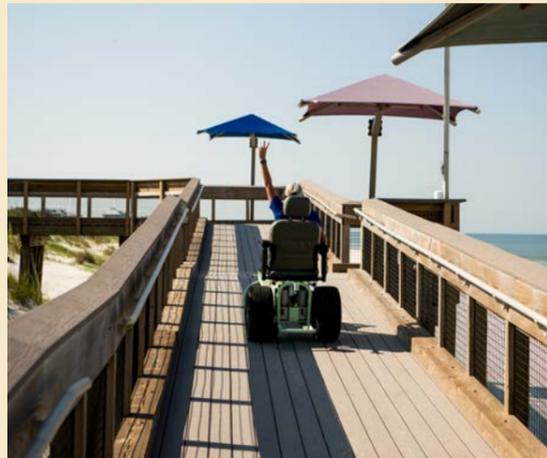
FOR ADVENTURES IN BOTH THE GULF OF AMERICA AND ST. JOSEPH BAY

Cape San Blas provides a peaceful, nature-filled getaway with its blend of recreational activities and natural beauty. This picturesque beach is renowned for its clear, emerald waters and pristine sandy shores. Cape San Blas is particularly famous for its nesting sea turtles. From May to October, these majestic creatures come ashore to lay their eggs, and the beach is carefully protected to ensure their safety.



beach day for all

Stretching from the Gulf of America across the peninsula to St. Joseph Bay, the 100-acre **William J. "Billy Joe" Rish Recreation Area** on Cape San Blas provides recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, their families and caregivers, with mobility equipment rentals included in the entry fee. Here, you'll find wheelchair-accessible boardwalks to the beach and Bay, a nature trail and a swimming pool with a chair lift. There's also family-style cabins available to rent.



"William J. 'Billy Joe' Rish Recreation Area is an accessible park where a Florida vacation becomes reality for visitors with disabilities. The accommodations make it easier for visitors to take a dip in the pool using the chair lift, explore the beach with a motorized beach wheelchair and stay overnight in accessible cabins." —Anna Kellner, Park Services Specialist, William J. "Billy Joe" Rish Recreation Area



Beach Safety

BEFORE YOU START YOUR BEACH DAY, KEEP THESE SAFETY TIPS IN MIND FOR A SAFE, ENJOYABLE DAY FOR ALL.



PAY ATTENTION TO THE FLAGS

Every day, volunteers with the Gulf County Beach Flag System will update flags on Cape San Blas and Indian Pass indicating water safety. Red means high hazard (high surf/strong currents), yellow means medium hazard (moderate surf/currents), green indicates low hazard (calm waters) and purple indicates stinging marine life present.



UNDERSTAND RIP CURRENTS

Rip currents are channeled currents of water flowing away from the shore. They typically extend from near the shoreline, through the surf zone and past the line of breaking waves. A rip current pulls you out away from the shore, not under water. If you get caught in a rip current, remain calm, let the current carry you out, then swim parallel to shore until you're safely out of the current and can make it back to land.



SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK

Gulf County does not have any lifeguards on public beaches.



BE WEATHER AWARE

Weather can change in Florida very frequently, especially during the summer. Download a weather app before you arrive. You can also sign up for ALERT Gulf notifications from the Gulf County Emergency Management, which will send you text alerts about incoming weather. Another option is downloading the Gulf County Sheriff's Office's app for local safety information.



DRIVE SAFE ON THE BEACH

To drive on the beach, you must get a Beach Driving Permit from the Gulf County Tax Collector's Office. The speed limit on all Gulf County beaches is 15 MPH, and you must use dedicated beach driving accesses. Beach driving is only allowed on Indian Pass beaches, west toward Eglin Air Force Base Property on the "elbow" of Cape San Blas, and north St. Joseph Peninsula until the entrance of T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park.



take care

Turn to **page 36** to learn more about how to protect Gulf County's nesting sea turtles.

take care

Gulf County is the ultimate playground for dogs, too! Just don't forget to bring a disposable pet waste bag on walks and hikes with your pup.



Pups love Gulf County!
Turn to page 7 for more.

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

The Ultimate *Playground*

Beyond the beach, here are all the other ways to play in Gulf County!



PICKLEBALL

-serving up fun

Pickleball has taken Gulf County by storm, becoming a favorite activity among locals and visitors alike.

Combining elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, this fast-paced and fun sport is accessible to players of all ages and skill levels.

With courts available at several parks throughout the county, including the popular facilities at

Frank Pate Park in Port St. Joe, **Veterans Memorial**

Park at Beacon Hill in St. Joe Beach, **Salinas**

Park on Cape San Blas and **T.L. James Park** in

Wewahitchka, there's no better way to spend time outdoors. Whether you're a seasoned player or a first-timer, pickleball offers a

perfect mix of competition and camaraderie. Many visitors have even

remarked that their love for the game started right here in Gulf County! So grab a paddle and gather your friends. Be sure to

check out local pickleball groups and leagues if you're interested in regular play. Gulf

County's welcoming courts and enthusiastic community make it an

ideal spot to get into the game.

vibrant energy and a sense of community spirit. (For more events, turn to page 27.)

Sports enthusiasts will find plenty of facilities to keep them active, from basketball, volleyball and pickleball courts to disc golf courses. Friendly games and spontaneous matches are a common sight, bringing together people of all ages in the spirit of play and competition. It's a place where community connections are strengthened and friendships are forged over shared interests.

In Gulf County, parks and playgrounds offer more than just a place to play and are more than just recreational spaces — they are integral to the fabric of the community and provide a canvas for creating cherished memories, a haven for relaxation and a gateway to the natural beauty that defines our region. They offer a sanctuary where nature, play and community converge, providing a perfect backdrop for both adventure and relaxation.



Community Parks

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS PERFECT FOR FAMILIES AND KIDS OF ALL AGES

Nestled amidst the coastal charm are parks and playgrounds that offer a fun outdoors escape. These green spaces are the heartbeat of our community, providing tranquil spots for relaxation, recreation and family gatherings.

Throughout the year, these parks come alive with community events and festivals, bringing people together to celebrate local culture and traditions. It's not uncommon to find farmers' markets, craft fairs and outdoor concerts filling the green spaces with

TOP RIGHT: ISTOCK.COM/HPIX. BOTTOM LEFT: STOCK.ADOBE.COM/CDULEB64



PARK HIKES

on rugged terrain

Treks and trails for the serious hikers

Head to **St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve** for its multi-use trail system, or to **T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park** where you'll find three hiking trails. The Maritime Hammock Nature Trail is a half-mile stroll with access to St. Joseph Bay. The Bayview Trail passes through pine flatwoods along St. Joseph Bay. The 1,700-acre Wilderness Preserve offers six miles of hiking trails in the northernmost part of the Peninsula. A wilderness permit is required for access and can be obtained at the Ranger Station.

Guide to Park Amenities

From playgrounds to picnic shelters, scan here for a comprehensive guide to Gulf County's parks system.



On the Trails

LACE UP YOUR HIKING BOOTS AND GET YOUR STEPS IN. HERE'S WHERE TO GO.



T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

Gulf County offers a diverse array of trails that wind through some of Florida's most stunning landscapes. You might spot deer grazing in the woods or turtles sunning themselves by a quiet pond. Whether you're a hiker, biker or casual walker, our trails provide the perfect opportunity to explore the natural beauty of the area.

PORT CITY TRAIL LENGTH: 4 MILES Port St. Joe

Start your day here. This paved, four-mile trail winds through the heart of the town, connecting parks, schools and neighborhoods. As you walk or bike along this well-maintained path, you'll pass by picturesque lakes and historic landmarks. The early morning light casts a golden hue over the path

and the trail buzzes with life, from joggers enjoying their morning run to families taking leisurely strolls.

LOGGERHEAD RUN BIKE TRAIL LENGTH: 8.7 MILES Cape San Blas

Cape San Blas boasts scenic trails that offer breathtaking views of the Gulf of Mexico. This paved path is a favorite for both cyclists and walkers, beginning near **Salinas**

Park and stretching along the Cape. This trail provides easy access to the beach and plenty of ways to spot local wildlife, like bald eagles and white-tailed deer.

SERENITY TRAIL LENGTH: 1/3 MILE St. Joseph Bay

End your day with a tranquil stroll along the aptly named **Serenity Trail**, located within **Salinas Park Bayside**

and overlooking St. Joseph Bay. Winding through pine forests and alongside Bay views, the **Serenity Trail** is perfect for unwinding and connecting with nature. The peaceful surroundings provide the ideal backdrop for birdwatching or simply soaking in the quiet beauty of the landscape. In Gulf County, trails are more than just paths — they are stories waiting to be told. Explore these trails and uncover the diverse beauty and rich experiences that make Gulf County so special.

TOP LEFT: ISTOCK.COM/LEVENTKONUK



St. Joseph Bay Golf Club

Tee Off

MAKE A TEE TIME AT ST. JOSEPH BAY GOLF CLUB FOR A MEMORABLE ROUND.

For golf enthusiasts, Gulf County offers a premier destination: the **St. Joseph Bay Golf Club**. As the only golf course in the county, this club provides an enjoyable golfing experience for players of all skill levels. Nestled along St. Joseph Bay, the course combines stunning natural scenery with challenging play.

The **St. Joseph Bay Golf Club** features an 18-hole course designed to delight and challenge golfers. The well-maintained fairways and greens are set against the backdrop of the bay. Each hole presents its own set of challenges, from strategically placed bunkers to water hazards that require precision and strategy. Whether you're an experienced golfer or a newcomer to the sport, you'll feel right at home on this inviting course.

The club also offers amenities to enhance your golfing experience. The clubhouse provides a comfortable space to relax before or after your round, with a pro shop stocked with top-quality gear and apparel. The on-site restaurant serves delicious meals and refreshing beverages, perfect for refueling after a day on the course. The aquatic area is open to the public and offers a large pool, plus a kiddie pool and a deck area that are perfect for a family-friendly day in the sun.

For those looking to improve their game, the club offers professional golf instruction. Whether you're looking to refine your swing or learn the basics, the experienced instructors can help you elevate your skills.

BOTTOM RIGHT: ISTOCK.COM/OLGA EVTUSHKOVA, LIUDMILA CHERNETSKA

About Fun Charters
(850) 340-1035

AquaBear Adventures
(850) 227-8200

Bayou Boat Rentals
(850) 441-9343

Boho by the Bay
(850) 532-8583

Broke-A-Toe Horseback Riding on the Beach
(850) 899-7433

Buena Vida Boats
(850) 287-8034

Cape San Blas Pontoon Rentals
(850) 340-0557

Coastal Concierge
(850) 227-5148

Going Coastal Cabanas and More
(270) 839-4699

Fighting Conch Rentals
(850) 247-9392

Forgotten Coast Picnics & More
(850) 348-7693

Light Up Your Night Beach Bonfires
(850) 340-1803

Maritime Expeditions
(850) 227-4394

Off the Map Expeditions
(850) 819-3053

Point South Marina Port St. Joe
(850) 797-3489

Presnell's Bayside Marina & RV Resort
(850) 229-9229

R&R Outfitters
(850) 899-9086

Salty Fish Excursions
(850) 899-4809

Sea Flea Beach Service
(850) 628-4654

Sea Flea Rentals
(850) 381-3953

Scallop Cove Bait & Tackle
(850) 227-7557

Scallop Cove Too
(850) 229-1188

The Rockin' M Ranch
(850) 227-6117

Vacation Prep Squad
(850) 749-3071

Wheels in the Sand
(850) 340-0377

Williamson Outfitters
(850) 251-8650

OUTDOOR PREP

what to pack

Bring plenty of water, sunscreen and a hat. Don't forget insect repellent, snacks, a map and a camera to capture the scenery.



Let's get moving Port City Trail

Looking for a great way to see the sights of Port St. Joe while getting your steps in? The **Port City Trail** is just the thing! It's a fun, safe way to see the city – with nearly four miles of paved and lit walkways, and restrooms and water fountains along the way, you're never far from what you need!

Along the way, you'll find parks, historic sites, local shops, and can't-miss restaurants. To learn more about our parks, check out page 45 of this guide. To learn more about the discoveries that await you on the Port City Trail, visit us online.



PELICAN WAY

A short, 0.25 mile sidewalk connector running down Hwy 71. It connects Sandpiper Run over to BayWalk.



CORMORANT LOOP

This scenic 0.3 mile loop crosses the lake with bridges.



SANDPIPER RUN

This 0.75 mile straightaway runs between 16th Street Park and Hwy 71. From this point down to Hwy 71, making a left on the Hwy 71 sidewalk, to the end of BayWalk at Port St. Joe Marina, and back, is 2.5 miles.



HERON RUN

The longest single section of the Port City Trail measuring 0.83 miles from its starting point at Madison Avenue and running along Garrison Avenue out to Gulf Coast State College.



OSPREY LOOP

At nearly one mile in length this loop runs along Garrison Avenue and 22nd Street then moves through a scenic, wooded area crossing two bridges.



EAGLE LOOP

This section totals 1.5 miles. Twice around Eagle Loop is roughly the distance of a 5K road race. The park near the soccer fields includes tennis courts and picnic pavilions.



EGRET LANE

A 0.3 mile rone starting at the Lamar Faison Soccer Fields and ending at the Constitution Convention State Museum.

Amenities Key

- Bathrooms
- Pet Station
- Picnic Tables
- Playgrounds
- Public Fishing



Lake Days

FRESHWATER ADVENTURES AWAIT AT THE DEAD LAKES.

One of Gulf County's most intriguing natural attractions is the Dead Lakes, a unique landscape that offers a glimpse into the raw beauty and mystery of Florida's wilderness. Located near Wewahitchka, the Dead Lakes were formed by the remnants of ancient river channels, where submerged cypress and tupelo trees rise eerily from the water, creating a hauntingly beautiful setting.



WILD BEAUTY

dead gorgeous

The Dead Lakes offer a unique blend of adventure and relaxation. The scenic views and tranquil atmosphere offer a serene backdrop for a family outing or a peaceful retreat. From fishing and paddling to birdwatching and picnicking, the Dead Lakes are a must-visit destination for anyone looking to connect with nature and experience the serene charm of this extraordinary environment.

FISHING

Fishing enthusiasts will find the Dead Lakes to be a paradise. The waters are abundant with bass, catfish and bluegill, making it an ideal spot for both seasoned anglers and beginners. Whether you prefer fishing from the shore, a boat or a kayak, the serene and picturesque setting enhances the experience, making every trip memorable.

PADDLE

For those who love paddling, kayaking and canoeing through the Dead Lakes is an adventure like no other. The calm, reflective waters allow you to navigate easily among the towering tree stumps, providing a peaceful and immersive way to explore this natural wonder. As you paddle, you'll have the chance to observe local wildlife, including a variety of bird species such as eagles, ospreys and herons.

BIRDING

Those who love bird watching will be delighted by the diversity of species that call the Dead Lakes home. The unique eco-system supports a wide range of birds, making it a prime location for birdwatching and wildlife photography. Bring your binoculars and camera to capture the stunning sights of these majestic creatures in their natural habitat.

LOCAL VOICE

“The Dead Lakes is a beautifully unique freshwater eco-system. Fed by the Chipola River, it’s a combination of river, lake and backwater swamp. The mazes of dead and living cypress offer opportunities for everyone, from photographers to fishermen.”

—Matt Godwin, Owner, *Off the Map Expeditions*



paddle out

For a list of local outfitters that rent kayaks, paddle boards and all the necessary water gear, turn to **page 47**.

Boating

GET OUT ON THE WATER FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE GULF COUNTY EXPERIENCE.

Gulf County offers tons of water activities that allow you to explore its stunning waterways at your own pace. Boat rentals, kayaks and paddleboards are perfect for adventurers looking to experience the beauty of the Gulf of America, St. Joseph Bay and the area's many rivers and lakes.



Lake Wimico

Boat rentals are available for those who want to venture out on the open water. Whether you're interested in fishing, sightseeing, or simply enjoying a day on the bay, local rental services provide a variety of boats to suit your needs. From pontoon boats perfect for family outings to smaller fishing boats ideal for angling, you'll find the right vessel for your adventure.

For a more intimate experience with nature, kayak and paddleboarding are excellent choices. Paddle

through the calm waters of St. Joseph Bay, where you can observe marine life up close. Kayaks and paddleboards are easy to rent and suitable for all skill levels, making them great options for families, couples and solo explorers.

Whether you choose to rent a boat, kayak or paddleboard, Gulf County's waterways offer endless opportunities for exploration, relaxation and adventure. Embrace the freedom of the water and create memories.



Boat Safety

Brush up on your boat safety knowledge! Scan here for more.



fishing charters

Our local fishing charters provide an exceptional way to experience our rich waters. These charters are operated by experienced captains who are familiar with our waters and the best fishing spots. They offer a variety of trips, from half-day excursions to full-day adventures. They also provide all the necessary equipment, so all you need to bring is your enthusiasm and a sense of adventure. The captains also share their expertise, teaching you the best techniques for reeling in the big ones while sharing stories about the local marine life and ecosystems. Fishing charters are a fantastic way to explore the waters of Gulf County, enjoy the thrill of the catch, and create memories with family and friends. **Turn to page 34 for more on fishing and boating.**



USAGE FEE REQUIRED

- 1 **Bryant's Landing**
899 Bryant's Landing Road
- 3 **Captain's Cove Marina**
1617 Grouper Avenue
- 4 **Cox Landing**
672 Cox Landing Road
- 6 **Douglas Landing**
127 Lazy Day Drive
- 7 **Eagle Harbor**
9578 Cape San Blas Road
- 8 **Fisherman's Landing**
7711 Doc Whitfield Road
- 9 **Frank Pate Park**
298 Fifth Street

NO USAGE FEE

- 2 **Willis Landing**
7994 CR 381
- 5 **Dead Lakes Park**
482 Gary Rowell Road
- 10 **Gaskin Park**
3980 Lake Grove Road
- 11 **Highland View**
110 Angel Fish Street
- 12 **Indian Bayou**
699 Indian Bayou Road
- 13 **Indian Pass**
2850 Indian Pass Road
- 14 **Lola Landing**
190 Lola Landing Road
- 15 **Land's Landing**
790 Land Drive
- 16 **Lister Landing**
618 Lister Landing Road
- 17 **Lower Landing**
8090 Doc Whitfield Road
- 18 **Odena Landing**
256 Odena Road
- 19 **Overstreet**
440 Mallard Street
- 20 **Lake Alice**
111 Lake Alice Drive
- 21 **Troy Deal**
3320 Cape San Blas Road
- 22 **Saul's Creek**
196 Missfit Landing Road
- 23 **White City**
288 Pidgeon Road

BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/BOHBEH; SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/GRESEI



Find your balance (and inner peace!) on St. Joseph Bay.

Restore

RELAXATION IS EASY TO FIND IN GULF COUNTY.



A Day Away Spa
(850) 227-6642

**Ananta Yoga -
Forgotten Coast
Ashtanga**
(707) 880-7986

Coastal Lotus Yoga
(850) 227-4725

E. Esthetics
(850) 247-9996

Fit as a Fiddle
(850) 229-1920

**One Way Fitness
Center**
(850) 227-1929

Spyglass Beauty
(850) 340-1230

Vitality Wellness
(850) 407-9355

Wave Aesthetics
(850) 227-9283

Gulf County is an ideal place for wellness and relaxation. With its serene natural landscapes and a variety of wellness-focused activities, it's the perfect place to rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit. The calm waters of St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of America are perfect for paddle boarding and kayaking,

activities that combine physical exercise with the meditative benefits of being on the water.

Start your day with a peaceful yoga session on the beach. Many local instructors offer beach yoga classes catering to all levels, allowing you to connect with nature while enhancing your physical well-being. Who doesn't love a spa day? Indulge in a

soothing treatment at one of Gulf County's wellness centers. From massages and facials to holistic therapies, these centers offer a range of services designed to promote relaxation and healing. For a more immersive wellness experience, explore the area's numerous hiking and walking trails. The fresh air and scenic beauty of Gulf County's parks and nature preserves provide

the ideal backdrop for mindful walking, helping to reduce stress and improve overall health. Turn to page 48 for more. Gulf County's commitment to wellness ensures that visitors can find the perfect balance of relaxation and activity. Whether through yoga, hiking, spa treatments or water sports, you'll leave feeling refreshed and revitalized, ready to embrace life's next adventure.



Shopping on Reid Avenue, downtown Port St. Joe

Shopping

IN GULF COUNTY, THE NATURAL BEAUTY EXTENDS FAR BEYOND THE SHORELINE.

Gulf County offers a delightful shopping experience with a variety of charming small-town boutiques. Stroll along Reid Avenue in downtown Port St. Joe, where you'll find local shops offering everything from hand-crafted jewelry and local art to beachwear and home décor. Each store tells a story, and every item is a piece of Gulf County's vibrant culture.

In Gulf County, shopping is all about experiencing the community, savoring local flavors and finding treasures that capture the essence of your coastal adventure. You'll find perfect keepsakes to remember your visit, each item a small treasure that encapsulates the spirit of Gulf County. The joy of shopping here lies not just in what you buy, but in the connections you make and the stories you uncover. Here, you'll find shopping is more than just a pastime — it's an experience filled with charm and discovery.



cape san blas

Beach Planet
(850) 229-1515

Cape Tradin' Post
(850) 229-8775

Scallop Cove Bait & Tackle Shop
(850) 227-7557

Scallop Cove General Store
(850) 227-1573

St. Joe Shrimp Company
(850) 229-6774

Tortuga Moon
(850) 279-1031

Buy-Rite Drugs
(850) 227-7099

CVS Pharmacy
(850) 229-8771

Fuss Boutique
(850) 227-7555

Go Fish Clothing & Jewelry Co.

Goin' Coastal
(850) 899-9129

Joseph's Cottage
(850) 227-7877

Lighthouse Gift Shop
(850) 229-1151

Magnolias Boutique
(850) 340-0374

No Name Books & Gifts
(850) 229-9277

Point South Marina Outfitter Shop
(850) 460-9780

Sacred Heart Hospital on the Gulf Gift Shop
(850) 229-5727

SaltAir Farmers' Market
(850) 373-7379

Shirley Southern Boutique
(850) 227-3748

St. Joe Ace Hardware
(850) 227-1717

St. Joe Rent-All
(850) 227-2112

St. Joe Shrimp Company
(850) 229-6224

St. Joseph Bay Golf Club Pro Shop
(850) 227-1751

St. Patrick's Seafood
(850) 229-8070

The Port Fine Wine & Spirits
(850) 229-2977

Timber Tide Outfitters
(850) 227-7555

Walter Green Boutique
(850) 227-7946

Wendy Patrick Designs
(850) 229-1900

st. joe beach

The Mill Mercantile & Social
(850) 899-9149

wewahitchka

Annabelle's Boutique
(850) 639-2777

Buy-Rite Drugs
(850) 639-5065

Good Spirits Package Store
(850) 639-5773

Howard Creek Country Mart
(850) 827-8055

Wewa Ace Hardware
(850) 639-4000

port st. joe

About Beach
(850) 229-2500

B+E Two Gold Monkeys
(850) 340-3782

Bay Breeze Antiques
(850) 229-7774

Bayside Florist & Boutique
(850) 229-1111

Bird & Goose Boutique
(870) 530-7036

Bluewater Outriggers
(850) 229-1100

Boutique By the Bay
(850) 229-4141

Skully's Low Country Boil

From fresh seafood caught right off our shores to cozy cafes and fine dining establishments, you'll find an array of dining options to satisfy your cravings. Many restaurants feature locally sourced ingredients, providing a true taste of the Gulf. Enjoy waterfront dining with stunning views, casual beachside bites or elegant dinners in charming settings. Whether you're in the mood for a quick snack or a gourmet meal, Gulf County's diverse dining landscape ensures there's something for everyone.

Fresh Catch



cape san blas & indian pass

Cape Tradin' Post (850) 229-8775

Cone Heads 8020 (850) 229-5252

Indian Pass Raw Bar (850) 227-1670

LongBill's on Cape San Blas (850) 250-4310

Peachy's Beach Eats (walk-ups)

Scallop Cove General Store (850) 227-1573

Skully's Low Country Boil (850) 247-3077

Weber's Little Donut Shop (850) 340-3552

Hunt's on St. Joe Bay (850) 227-2285

Joe Mama's Wood Fired Kitchen (850) 270-1206

Keeper's Bistro & Bar (850) 227-9872

Krazyfish Grille (850) 229-7878

Moma Dot's (850) 227-6300

Paul Gants Bar-B-Que (850) 227-9311

Pepper's Mexican Grill & Cantina (850) 229-8540

Pomodoro Italian Grill & Bar (850) 227-3427

Port Poke (850) 229-6135

Provisions Restaurant & Catering (850) 229-9200

Quatro Locos Tacos and Cantina (850) 899-9014

Quinn & Co. (walk-ups)

Dining Guide

Scan here to search restaurants by location and cuisine type.



RIGHT, FROM TOP: ISTOCK.COM/PERFECTFOOD, BERND SCHMIDT



DIETARY RESTRICTIONS WELCOME

gluten free

You don't have to sacrifice your dietary needs on vacation.

For those with dietary restrictions, Gulf County offers several gluten-free dining options. Many local restaurants are accommodating and provide gluten-free menus or modifications upon request. Whether you're looking for seafood, pizzas or casual fare, you can enjoy a delicious meal without compromising your dietary needs.

st. joe beach

Grateful Redz Dogz & More! (walk-ups)

Hippie Little Donuts (walk-ups)

Poor Boys Seafood (850) 247-2641

Shipwreck Raw Bar (850) 647-5050

St. Joe Emporium (850) 705-1021

WindMark Beach Bruno's Pizza (850) 899-9907

WindMark Beach Sunrise Cafe (850) 340-3632



wewahitchka

Birdie's Brew (walk-ups)

El Jalisco Wewahitchka
(850) 639-4164

Gilligan's Sports Bar & Package Store
(850) 568-1034

Harvell's Cajun Chicken & Foods
(850) 247-0575

Point Break Pizza Co.
(850) 227-5534

Smiley Honey
(850) 639-5672

The Creek Stop & Deli
(850) 639-2400

Tupelo Nutrition (walk-ups)



Pomodoro Italian Grill & Bar



e@IAWILLIA

grocery & concierge

Catering Connections
(850) 541-8176

Coastal Concierge LLC
(850) 227-5148

Duren's Piggly Wiggly
(850) 229-8398

Forgotten Coast Concierge
(850) 227-5298

Rich's Supermarket & Fuel Center
(850) 639-5343

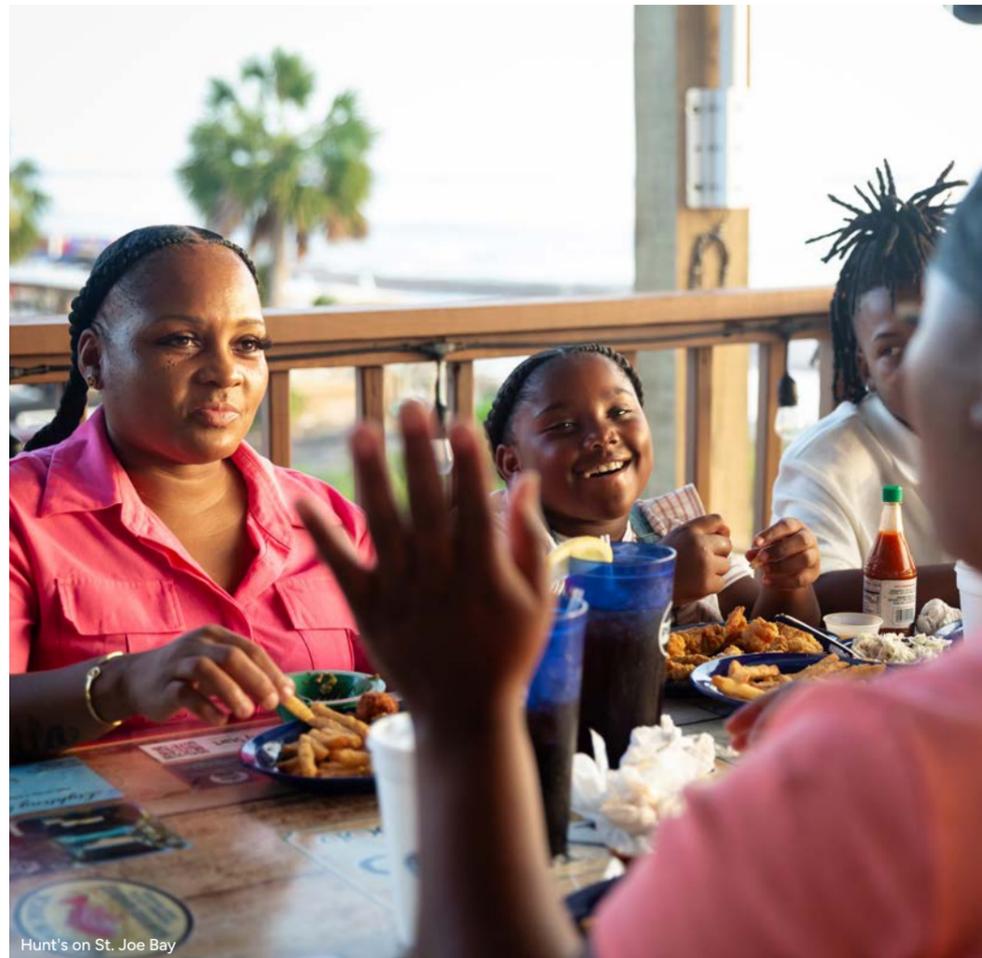
SaltAir Farmers' Market
(850) 373-7379

St. Joe Shrimp Company
(850) 229-6774

St. Patrick's Seafood
(850) 229-8070

Vacation Prep Squad
(850) 749-3071

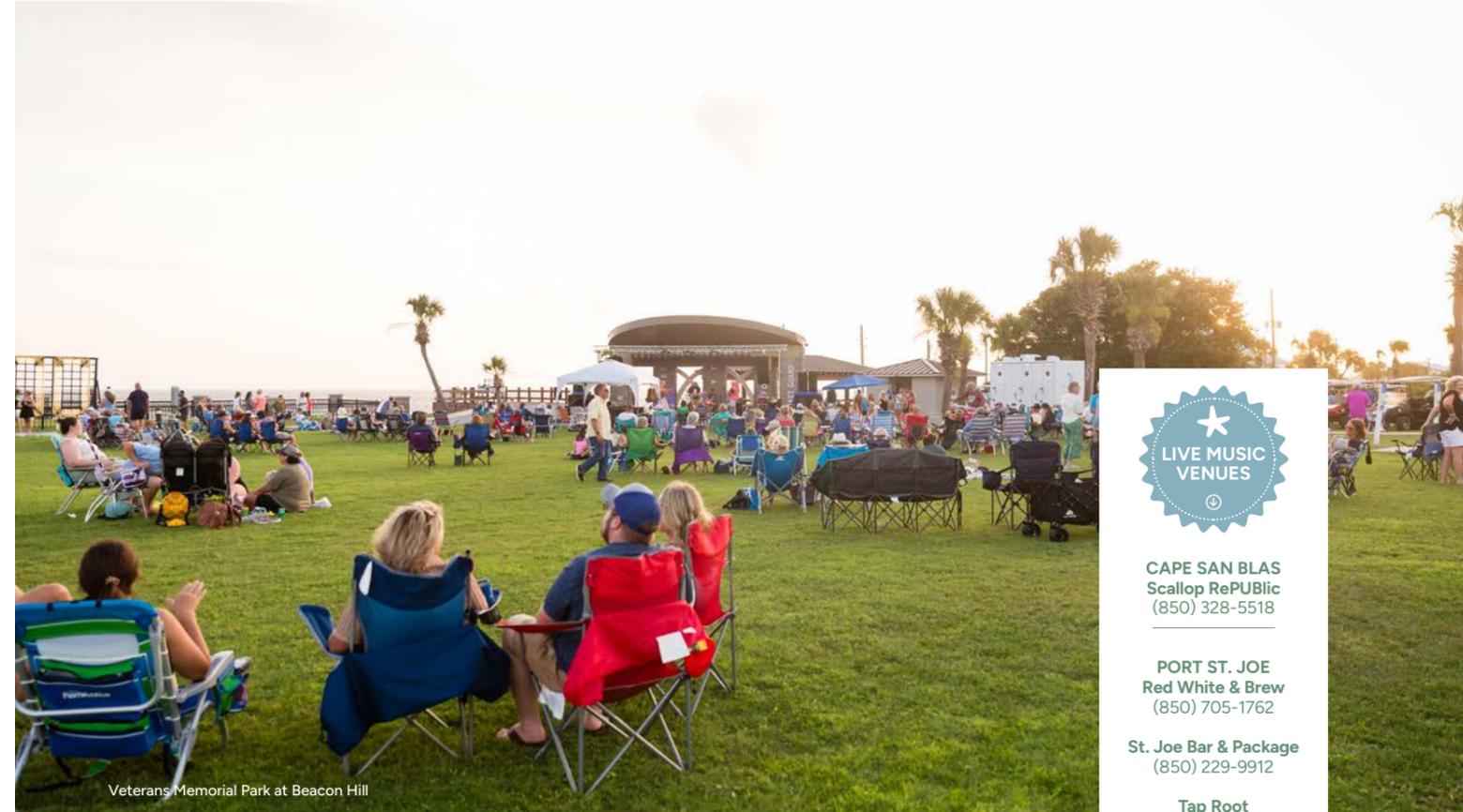
Your Table! Your Chef!
(850) 329-0544



Hunt's on St. Joe Bay

Find Where to Go
When the Sun Goes Down

LAID-BACK WATERING HOLES, BEACHSIDE LOUNGES AND FUN SPOTS WITH LIVE MUSIC — WHETHER YOU'RE IN THE MOOD FOR A CRAFT BEER, A FINE WINE OR A CREATIVE COCKTAIL, YOU'LL FIND A BAR THAT SUITS YOUR TASTE.



Veterans Memorial Park at Beacon Hill



CAPE SAN BLAS
Scallop RePUBLIC
(850) 328-5518

PORT ST. JOE
Red White & Brew
(850) 705-1762

St. Joe Bar & Package
(850) 229-9912

Tap Root
(850) 387-1290

The Haughty Heron
(850) 229-3463

ST. JOE BEACH
Lookout Lounge & Package
(850) 647-8310

The Mill Mercantile & Social
(850) 899-9149

WEWAHITCHKA
Gilligan's Sports Bar & Package Store
(850) 568-1034

The Hitch
(706) 575-9415

Many of our bars feature outdoor seating with views of the Gulf, creating a perfect backdrop for a relaxing evening. The friendly atmosphere and welcoming locals make it easy to settle in and enjoy the vibe. From casual hangouts to more refined settings, Gulf County's bars provide a great way to experience the local flavor and meet new friends.

When the sun goes down, Gulf County comes alive with the sound of music. From acoustic sets to lively bands, there's always

something happening to get your toes tapping. Live music venues range from cozy cafes and outdoor patios to bustling bars and waterfront

spots. Local artists and bands perform regularly, showcasing a diverse mix of genres. Live music fans, mark your calendars: The annual **Blast on the Bay Songwriters Festival** returns to Port St. Joe each October, featuring more than 40 country music songwriters performing in bars and restaurants all over town. Don't miss this intimate, laid-back fest!



GETTING HERE

air and road travel

Gulf County is located in the heart of the Florida Panhandle, so it's easy to get here no matter how you're traveling.

Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) is just 60 miles away, with service from Delta, Southwest, American Airlines and United.

Tallahassee International Airport (TLH), 99 miles away, offers flights from American Airlines, Delta, JetBlue and Silver Airways.

For those flying private, **Costin Airport (A51)** and **Apalachicola Regional Airport (AAF)** are nearby.

Driving Distance to Gulf County
Atlanta, GA 295 miles
Birmingham, AL 281 miles
Tallahassee, FL 75 miles
Pensacola, FL 122 miles
Jacksonville, FL 221 miles
Orlando, FL 335 miles

LOCAL RESOURCES



Trip Tips

Follow these tips for the best vacation ever. For more information and need-to-know details to plan your visit, check out visitgulf.com/plan-your-trip.

Pack Smart: Gulf County's laid-back vibe means casual clothes, sunscreen and insect repellent are essential. Bring layers for cooler evenings in the fall and winter.

Respect the Environment: Gulf County is home to fragile ecosystems. Stick to designated trails, avoid disturbing wildlife and be mindful of the Leave No Trace policy.

Mind the Zones: The county spans two time zones. Be aware of your location so you're on time for reservations and activities.

Explore Off the Beaten Path: Venture beyond the beach to discover parks, trails, lakes and rivers. Gulf County has plenty of hidden gems waiting for you.

Rent Local Gear: Don't worry about packing too much — rent kayaks, paddleboards and bikes from local outfitters to explore more easily.

Explore the Night Sky: Gulf County has less light pollution, making it perfect for stargazing. Don't forget a blanket for late-night viewing!

Enjoy a Digital Detox: Gulf County's natural beauty is perfect for unplugging. Take a break from screens and immerse yourself in the surroundings.



- Animal Hospital of Port St. Joe** (850) 229-6010
- Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital Gulf** (850) 229-5600
- Beach Driving Permits** (850) 229-6116
- Best American Storage** (850) 229-8014
- Buy-Rite Pharmacy (Port St. Joe)** (850) 227-7099
- Buy-Rite Pharmacy (Wewahitchka)** (850) 639-2252
- Charles Whitehead Public Library (Wewahitchka)** (850) 639-2419
- Coastal Towing (Wewahitchka)** (850) 647-3031
- Corrine Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library (Port St. Joe)** (850) 229-8879
- County Line Towing and Recovery (Port St. Joe)** (850) 247-9902
- CVS Pharmacy** (850) 229-8771
- Dog Grooming Plus** (850) 227-3611
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission** (888) 404-3922
- Florida Highway Patrol** (800) 459-6861
- Florida Poison Information Center** (800) 222-1222
- Forgotten Coast Cultural Coalition** (850) 323-0176
- Gulf County Chamber of Commerce** (850) 227-1223
- Gulf County Emergency Management** (850) 229-9110
- Gulf County Health Department** (850) 227-1276
- Gulf County Marriage License** (850) 229-6112
- Gulf County Sheriff's Department (Non-Emergency)** (850) 227-1115
- Gulf County Welcome Center** (850) 229-7800
- Point South Marina Port St. Joe** (850) 460-9780
- Sea Tow Port St. Joe** (850) 227-4049
- The Laundry Basket** (850) 227-8232
- U.S. Coast Guard** (850) 234-2457

FROM LEFT: STOCK.ADOBE.COM/©DULE964, ISTOCK.COM/IRINA DRAZOWA-FISCHER, MICHAEL BURRELL

e @stephenteekellphotography



coastal weddings

WITH AN ARRAY of beautiful venues, natural beauty, warm hospitality and picturesque landscapes, Gulf County is the wedding destination of your dreams. Imagine saying "I do" on a sandy beach as the sun sets, casting a golden glow over the waves. Whether you want an intimate ceremony or a grand celebration, Gulf County provides the ideal location to make your wedding day unforgettable.

Beachfront properties provide a romantic and serene atmosphere, perfect for intimate ceremonies and larger gatherings alike. Local vendors, from florists and photographers to caterers

and wedding planners, are ready to help bring your vision to life.

And perhaps the best part of a Gulf County wedding? The memories you'll make with your friends and family. Before or after the ceremony, explore our area's attractions with your guests — charter a boat for a fishing excursion, go on a group kayak through the Bay, work off pre-wedding jitters with a hike and enjoy fresh-caught seafood at a local restaurant with your closest family and friends. Gulf County offers an abundance of activities to enjoy, turning your wedding celebration into a vacation for everyone.

SAY YES!
on one knee
Scenic places to pop the question

HONEYVILLE PARK
Honeyville Park, with its charming picnic areas and picturesque surroundings, provides a lovely spot for an intimate, laid-back proposal. Pack a picnic and enjoy a leisurely afternoon before popping the question under the shade of majestic oak trees.

GEORGE CORE PARK
For a touch of history and charm, consider George Core Park in Port St. Joe, where the historic Cape San Blas Lighthouse provides a unique backdrop. Climb to the top for panoramic Bay views, making the moment even more memorable.

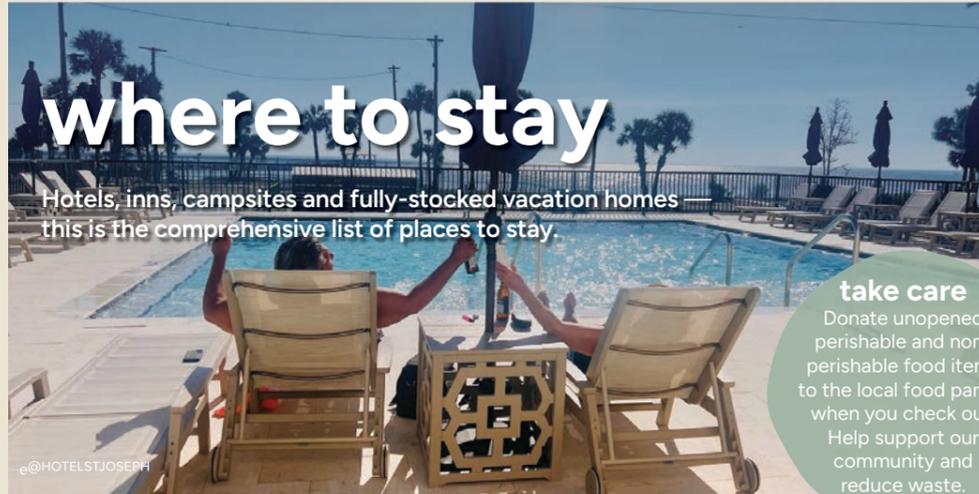
T.H. STONE MEMORIAL ST. JOSEPH PENINSULA STATE PARK
This secluded, rustic setting wows with pristine, untouched beauty and offers intimate spots amidst the dunes and along the shore, ideal for a private and heart-felt proposal.



WEDDINGS



- A Design by Dorann** (850) 227-5869
- Aimee V Photography** (352) 745-1540
- Allure Hair Artistry** (850) 247-3096
- Bay to Beach Weddings** (334) 718-5158
- Bayside Florist & Gifts** (850) 229-1111
- Catering Connections** (850) 541-8176
- Cut'n Up** (850) 227-2200
- Gourmet Chef Now** (850) 227-8030
- Historic Port Inn Hall & Chapel** (850) 227-1111
- Kaila Bruner Photography** (229) 869-0026
- Mike's Shuttle Service** (352) 872-4879 (352) 745-1540
- Panache Tent & Event** (800) 461-6955
- Provisions Catering** (850) 229-9200
- Reggie Smith Photography** (470) 925-9453
- Salt Air Beauty & Hair Care** (850) 227-1112
- Sand Dollar Café** (850) 227-4865
- Shear Perfection** (850) 227-1296
- Sisters' Bistro** (850) 229-7121
- Southern Styles Hair Care** (850) 381-6454
- Stephen Teekell Photography** (325) 899-2440
- Stock the Bar** (850) 340-1053
- Studio 332** (850) 227-1099
- Studio M** (850) 227-6789
- The Grove at Indian Pass** (850) 227-5948
- The Hair Cottage** (850) 639-3519
- Your Table! Your Chef!** (850) 329-0544



where to stay

Hotels, inns, campsites and fully-stocked vacation homes — this is the comprehensive list of places to stay.

take care

Donate unopened perishable and non-perishable food items to the local food pantry when you check out. Help support our community and reduce waste.

hotels, inns, b&bs/ vacation rentals

Hotel Saint Joseph
(850) 253-7957
hotelsaintjoseph.com

The MainStay Suites
(850) 229-MAIN (6246)
mainstaysuitespsj.com

The Port Cottages
(850) 229-PORT (7678)
portcottages.com

The Port Inn & Cottages
(850) 229-PORT (7678)
portinnandcottages.com

The Pink Flamingo Motel
(850) 227-8522
thepinkflamingopsj.com

cape san blas

4Sunssets
(703) 861-7844
floridarentals.com/3298

581 Bay Escape
(270) 779-9222
airbnb.com/rooms/45177641

A Beach Break
(404) 277-2632
abeachbreak.com/desktop.html

Afterdune Delight
(404) 729-4008
vrbo.com/791252

Amelia By The Bay
(225) 385-0277, (404) 922-6672
Ameliabythebay.com

Pet Friendly

Amelia By The Sea
(561) 575-4413
vrbo.com/398120

Barbie House
(817) 602-7129, (817) 676-7113
vrbo.com/3346355

Beach Biz
(678) 677-5449
floridarentals.com/2036

Beach Bound Vacation Rentals
(850) 404-9333
beachboundvacationrentals.com

Bellevue at Seacliffs
(678) 209-9790
vrbo.com/2342458

Best of Times Beach House
(313) 570-7507
vrbo.com/2064067

Bluewater Beach House
(813) 546-8327
vrbo.com/2112676

Breezy By The Beach
(678) 995-1320
emeraldcoastbyowner.com/9304

Capecation
relax@welovehostingyou.com
welovehostingyou.com

Cape Haven
(678) 776-6399
vrbo.com/1040797

Cape San Blas Get Away
(404) 668-0122
capesanblasgetaway.com

Cape Sunset
(770) 241-2948
vrbo.com/4611409ha

Catch of the Bay
(334) 726-9237
floridarentals.com/17376

Cavanna Cabana
(850) 766-4102
cavannacabana.com

Crescent Pearl
(504) 812-6400
vrbo.com/1282254

Don't Worry Beach Happy
(470) 664-4704
Vacation-bliss.com

EsCape Vibes
airbnb.com/
rooms/753124471001843773

Heron's Hideaway
(651) 387-3909
https://www.airbnb.com/
rooms/53011689?

Le Grand Merci
(850) 899-9125
le-grand-merci.lodgify.com

Morning Glory
(817) 602-7129, (817) 676-7113
vrbo.com/1029218

Palmetto Tradewind
(864) 270-5775
vrbo.com/2065722

Panama Dreams
(716) 308-6534
vrbo.com/1226542

Peace Out on the Cape
(850) 755-0004
peaceoutonthecape.com

Saltwater Breeze
evolve.com/vacation-rentals/us/
fl/port-st-joe/513101

San Castle
cometothecape.com

Sand Castle
(817) 602-7129, (817) 676-7113
vrbo.com/2770259

Sandy Daze
(813) 285-1772
vrbo.com/253503

Sea the Blessing
(502) 387-0484
emeraldcoastbyowner.com/9187

Sea Y'all At The Cape
(570) 202-6060
vrbo.com/2065588

Seas the Day
(850) 340-0432
vrbo.com/817004

Seashell Resort
(817) 602-7129, (817) 676-7113
vrbo.com/1777987

Serendipity Sunsets
(540) 327-0222
airbnb.com/rooms/23268160

Speck-tacular
(706) 718-0439
vrbo.com/1960465

Stealin' Sunshine
cometothecape.com

Sunrise Beach House
(817) 602-7129, (817) 676-7113
vrbo.com/2295888

The Coral Seahorse
(417) 761-3308
onthecapevacations.com

The Coralee
(678) 571-4679
airbnb.com/
rooms/752865903478413682?
guests

The Lighthouse
(850) 270-7094
capesanvista.com

The Nauti Crab
(678) 381-5091
airbnb.com/rooms/46927380

The Norma Gail
(404) 587-9628
thenormagail.com and
airbnb.com/
rooms/1108586283032868641

Tide Together
(205) 369-3786
vrbo.com/699759

Vitamin Sea Villa
(770) 880-3097
vrbo.com/2717905

Whispering Pines of Cape San Blas
(850) 227-7252
whisperingpinesofcapesanblas.com

White Wings
(817) 602-7129, (817) 676-7113
vrbo.com/2295888

X-Ta-Sea
(817) 602-7129, (817) 676-7113
vrbo.com/2051178

indian pass

The Lucky Dog
(310) 936-4283
https://www.vrbo.com/3585377?

Gufenauf
(407) 929-7417
vrbo.com/131337

Osceola House
(813) 598-9608
vrbo.com/860387

Flipinflopin
(770) 380-6070
flipinflopin.com

Seahorse Summer
(229) 886-1577
vrbo.com/989602

port st. joe

Blissful by the Bay
(706) 271-7618

Cozy Corner
(770) 402-6446
vrbo.com/en-nz/holiday-accom-
modation/p3419374vb

Fleming Club
(850) 340-0024
vrbo.com/en-nz/holiday-accom-
modation/p827014vb

Kennedy's Cottage
(850) 227-4782
https://www.airbnb.com/
rooms/26059354?

Mitchell's Fish House
(850) 209-0135
vrbo.com/1261670

Paul & Michelle Powell
(678) 449-9042

Sunset Walk
(850) 227-4926
sunsetwalk.us

Vista Blu
(615) 294-4894
vrbo.com/2641183

Seashell Hideaway
(770) 703-0529

The Seagulls Nest
(850) 685-1146
The Turtles Nest
https://www.airbnb.com/
rooms/611731900831811148?

The Pelicans Post
https://www.airbnb.com/
rooms/611731900831811148?

Pet Friendly

The Cottage
(850) 209-0135

Seas the Day Beach House
vrbo.com/en-nz/holiday-accom-
modation/p817004vb

st. joe beach

iSeaviews
(404) 610-2718
vrbo.com/4989599ha

Nautical Blue
(850) 373-7758
vrbo.com/2339976

Seas the Day Beach House
(940) 300-0794
vrbo.com/817004

Serenity Now
(770) 313-5486
vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/usa/
florida/north-west/main-north-
west/port-st-joe

Harmon Realty Vacation Rentals
vacationrentalsmexicobeach.com

VACATION RENTAL MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

full-service

Let these vacation rental management companies help you find the perfect house that fits your needs and your budget.

30 Ez Vacation Rentals
(850) 358-9064
30ezvacationrentals.com

360 Blue by Natural Retreats Cape San Blas
(877) 550-2017
360blue.com

Aqua Shores Vacation Rentals
(850) 387-0658
aquashoresrentals.com

Be Our Guest Vacation Homes
(850) 677-1332
beourguestvh.com

Beach Bound Vacation Rentals
(850) 404-9333
beachboundvacationrentals.com

Bella Coastal Rentals LLC
(850) 202-6389
bellacoastalrentals.com

Cape & Coast Premier Properties
(877) 238-4745
capeandcoast.com

Cape Escape Vacation Rentals
(850) 420-5035
www.thecapeescape.com

Cape San Blas Get Away
(404) 668-0122
capesanblasgetaway.com

Cape San Blas Vacation Rentals
(850) 229-6916
capesanblasvacationrentals.com

Coastal Joe Vacation Rentals
(850) 227-7775
coastaljoevacationrentals.com

Coastline Vacation Rentals, LLC
(850) 227-3330
coastlinevacationrentals.net

Knot Forgotten Vacation Rentals
(850) 229-2512
knotforgottencoast.com

Harmon Realty Vacation Rentals
(850) 648-5767
vacationrentalsmexicobeach.com

New Wave Property Management
(850) 227-4092
newwavepropertymgmt.com

Panhandle Getaways
(850) 588-8125
panhandlegetaways.com

Pitzer Properties
(770) 715-2515
book.hostfully.com/pitzer-properties

Pristine Properties Vacation Rentals
(850) 277-1100
visitfloridabeaches.com

Renting the Coast
(850) 340-3243
rentingthecoast.com

Sunshine Vacation Rentals
(850) 899-5666
sunshinevacarentals.com
Forgotten Coast Property Management & Rentals
(850) 648-1012
forgottencoastrental.com

Teresa's Beach Homes
(850) 229-1522
teresabeachhomes.com

Vacasa
(503) 345-9399
vacasa.com

Find A Place

Scan here for more lodging options.



@WHITGOESWHERE

Pet Friendly

RV SITES AND CAMPGROUNDS

back to nature

From primitive oceanfront sites to fully equipped RV hookups, Gulf County's campground options are diverse.

GULF COUNTY'S CAMPGROUNDS offer an ideal escape for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. With a range of options from tent sites to RV parks and cozy cabins, you can find the perfect spot to suit your camping style. Nestled in picturesque settings, these campgrounds provide a serene backdrop of lush green spaces, tranquil lakes and stunning coastal views.

Enjoy the convenience of modern amenities like restrooms, showers and picnic areas, making your stay comfortable and hassle-free. Spend your days exploring hiking trails, kayaking through calm bays or simply unwinding around a campfire under the starlit sky.

Camping in Gulf County is more than just an outdoor adventure — it's a chance to disconnect from the hustle and bustle and reconnect with the natural world. Enjoy star-filled nights, scenic views and the tranquility that only a camping experience can offer. Gulf County is one big outdoor playground, so embrace it and explore.



Pet Friendly

Escape to the Cape RV
(615) 838-9875
escapetothecaperv.com

The Crab Claw
(706) 980-5317
rvbeachfrontcamping.com

Aqua Bay RV Park of Port St. Joe
(850) 247-3025
aquabayrvpark.com

T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
(850) 227-1327
floridastateparks.org/park/st-joseph

William J. "Billy Joe" Rish Recreation Area
(850) 227-1876
www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/william-j-billy-joe-rish-recreation-area

Dead Lakes RV Campground
(850) 639-1008
dlhc-rv-camp.com



Cape San Blas Lighthouse

Step back in time at the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, now preserved in Port St. Joe's Core Park. Originally built in 1849 to guide mariners past dangerous shoals, this resilient lighthouse has weathered storms, relocations, and decades of coastal change. Today, visitors can explore the lighthouse grounds, historic keepers' quarters, and oil house—beautifully preserved thanks to a dedicated community effort. A true symbol of strength, history, and Gulf Coast heritage, it's a must-visit landmark.



(850) 229-8261

capesanblaslight.org



Charles Whitehead Public Library

Nestled in the heart of Wewahitchka, the Charles Whitehead Public Library is a welcoming hub for learning, creativity, and connection. With a rich history rooted in community advocacy, this modern library offers books, digital resources, public computers, and engaging programs for all ages. Located just across from the historic courthouse, it's a place where stories are shared, knowledge grows, and visitors of all kinds can feel right at home in Gulf County.



(850) 639-2419

nwrls.com/charles-whitehead-public-library



Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center

Dive into coastal conservation at the Forgotten Coast Sea Turtle Center in Port St. Joe. Operated by the Florida Coastal Conservancy, the center features educational exhibits, turtle-friendly gear, and a variety of turtle, tortoise, and terrapin ambassadors for visitors to meet. Learn how to protect nesting sea turtles and preserve our coastal ecosystems through hands-on displays and expert insight. It's a fun, inspiring stop for nature lovers, families, and curious minds of all ages.



floridacc.org



Port Theatre Art and Culture Center

Experience the charm of Port St. Joe's iconic Port Theatre Art & Culture Center. Originally opened in 1938, this striking Art Deco landmark is being thoughtfully restored as a vibrant hub for music, live performances, art exhibits, and community events. The theatre continues to inspire generations with its rich history and bright future. Whether you're a fan of the arts or local history, the Port Theatre invites you to celebrate creativity, connection, and culture in the heart of downtown.



(850) 227-4355

thejoecenterforthearts41.wildapricot.org



Constitution Convention Museum State Park

Step into Florida's early statehood at the Constitution Convention Museum State Park in Port St. Joe. Located on 14 scenic acres, this museum commemorates the 1838 drafting of Florida's first constitution in the once-bustling town of St. Joseph. Explore fascinating exhibits, view original artifacts, and experience a recreated convention hall with life-size animated delegates. It's a must-visit for history lovers and curious minds exploring the roots of Florida's path to statehood.



(850) 229-8029

floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/constitution-convention-museum-state-park



Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library

Discover knowledge, history, and community at the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library. Serving Port St. Joe since 1977, this modern, welcoming library offers over 26,000 books, digital resources, public computers, and dynamic programs for all ages. Visitors can also explore the Alfred I. duPont Florida History and Genealogy Center. Rooted in a legacy of local support and enrichment, the library continues to inspire curiosity and connection in the heart of Gulf County.



(850) 229-8879

nwrls.com/corinne-costin-gibson-memorial-public-library



St. Joseph Bay Golf Club

Enjoy year-round golf at St. Joseph Bay Golf Club, conveniently located between Port St. Joe and Cape San Blas. This public course features a par-72, 18-hole layout with wide fairways and water hazards on 14 holes. The facility includes a driving range, putting green, pool, and a full-service restaurant with bar. Perfect for golfers of all skill levels.



(850) 227-1751

stjoebaygolf.com



St. Joseph Bay Humane Society

Looking to make a difference while you're in Gulf County? The St. Joseph Bay Humane Society welcomes volunteers to walk dogs, cuddle kittens, help at events, or assist around the shelter. Whether you're visiting for a day or live nearby, your time makes a big impact. This nonprofit not only relies on community support—it thrives because of it. And who knows? You might just meet your new best friend while giving back.



(850) 227-1103

sjbhumanesociety.org



St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

Explore wild Florida at the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, a stunning 5,000-acre landscape protecting rare habitats, native plants, and the pristine waters of St. Joseph Bay. Open daily for hiking, biking, paddling, birding, and nature study, the preserve is a haven for outdoor adventurers and conservation enthusiasts. Visit the on-site visitor center or join a guided tram tour to learn how this ecological gem helps safeguard one of Florida's most diverse coastal ecosystems.



(850) 229-1787
stjosephbaypreserve.org



T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

Discover unspoiled beauty at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Stretching 20 miles into the blue waters of the Gulf of America, the park features sugar-white beaches, coastal marshes, and protected habitats for sea turtles, nesting shorebirds, and the endangered St. Andrews beach mouse. Visitors enjoy swimming, fishing, hiking, and camping in one of the park's cabins, campsites, or primitive beach spots—making it a serene, nature-filled escape year-round.



(850) 227-1327
floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/th-stone-memorial-st-joseph-peninsula-state-park



The Joe Center for the Arts

Celebrate creativity at The Joe Center for the Arts in Port St. Joe. This vibrant, volunteer-powered art center features rotating exhibits, events, classes, and a charming gift shop—all in the heart of downtown. Whether you're an art lover or simply curious, The Joe offers an inspiring experience for visitors of all ages. Looking to get involved? Volunteers and docents are always welcome to help bring art to life along the Gulf Coast.



thejoecenterforthearts41.wildapricot.org



Williams J. Billy Joe Rish Recreation Area

Enjoy sun, sand, and inclusive fun at William J. "Billy Joe" Rish Recreation Area. Stretching from the Gulf of America to St. Joseph Bay, this 100-acre park offers accessible boardwalks, nature trails, a beachside pool, and kayak launch—all designed for visitors of all abilities. With mobility equipment available on-site and family-style cabins for overnight stays, Rish Park is a welcoming retreat where everyone can connect with nature and enjoy Florida's coastal beauty.



floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/th-stone-memorial-st-joseph-peninsula-state-park



See you soon!
 Ready to plan your trip to Gulf County? **Scan the code below for more trip-planning essentials.** We can't wait to see you here soon.





PORT ST. JOE • CAPE SAN BLAS • ST. JOE BEACH • WEWAHITCHKA • INDIAN PASS