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SPRING/SUMMER 2020 MAGAZINE

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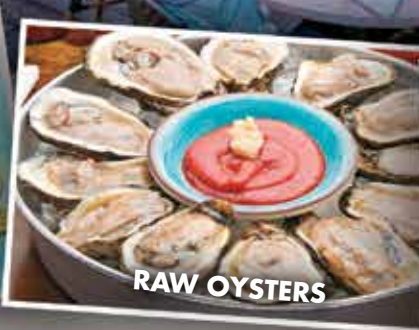
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SHELLISLANDBOATRENTALS.COM



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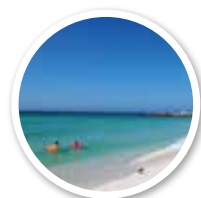
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"How do you PCB
in the summer?"



"Dive! Dive! Dive! I love
to be in the water either
diving or on my kayak."
— **Boomer McFall**



"Taking the boat to Shell
Island with friends & family!"
— **Brianna Webb**



"Hit the St Parks and take
pictures of the wildlife off
the beaten track!"
— **Chris O'Brien**



"I love to spend the day at
Shipwreck Island with my son,
and before we leave the park,
treat ourselves to their delicious
ice cream." — **Helen Adami**



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**PANAMA CITY
BEACH**



30A



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IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING and you are standing on the edge of the shore with sugar-white sand between your toes, listening to the turquoise waves roll in — it's an experience in Panama City Beach that keeps visitors coming back time after time. With 27 miles of pristine coastline to explore, you can collect seashells at sunrise, splash and play in the surf all day, or take a romantic walk at sunset.

Spring and summer call for some of the destination's most beloved events, including the Seabreeze Jazz Festival, SandJam and Thunder Beach. One of my favorite events is UNwineD. In partnership with *Southern Living*, on the weekend of March 20–21, we are able to bring an elegant garden party, complete with a Grand Tasting of local cuisine, craft beer, wine and spirits and a laid back concert in the park to the beach. This year's Saturday afternoon concert will be headlined by indie rock band Death Cab for Cutie.

As we turn the corner to the summer season, what better way to celebrate Independence Day than enjoying fireworks on the beach? Panama City Beach celebrates the Fourth of July with the largest display on the Gulf Coast — you won't want to miss it!

Panama City Beach will present visitors with spectacular views so they can experience these magical displays from a variety of locations, ranging from resorts to waterfront restaurants.

In the spirit of spring and summertime fun, this issue offers visitors an inside look at the best ways to explore the Real. FUN. Beach; whether you are looking for thrill-seeking adventures, a romantic getaway, quality family time or a chance to experience the great outdoors, Panama City Beach offers a variety of experiences catering to every type of traveler!



DAN ROWE

President and CEO

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» LIVE WEBCAM

When you can't be in Panama City Beach, you can still keep an eye on the World's Most Beautiful Beaches thanks to a new high definition webcam mounted on the M.B. Miller County Pier. Just go to **VisitPanamaCityBeach.com** to access the webcam, and even take control of the camera for up to 40 seconds at a time!

You can choose from 10 preset views to check on the waves and the water, or take a look down our white sandy beaches in either direction.

As an extra treat, you'll be able to save and share images from the webcam, or see a time-lapse replay of the previous day's sunset. Check it out! It's the next best thing to actually getting the sand between your toes.



LIVE VIEWS
OF PCB

Even if you can't be here in person, you can catch a glimpse of Panama City Beach from anywhere in the world! Check out the white sand, emerald green water or last night's sunset!

[WATCH LIVE](#)



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Talk Like a Local

"Back Beach Road"..... Panama City Beach Parkway

"Middle Beach Road"..... Hutchison Boulevard

"City Pier"..... Russell-Fields Pier

"County Pier"..... M.B. Miller Pier

**NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

Major Road

Bike Path



Distance Chart

Atlanta, GA	297 mi	470 km
Birmingham, AL	280 mi	440 km
Dallas, TX	751 mi	1,310 km
Houston, TX	639 mi	1,034 km
Montgomery, AL	186 mi	206 km
Nashville, TN	476 mi	744 km
New Orleans, LA	305 mi	513 km
Orlando, FL	340 mi	617 km
St. Louis, MO	745 mi	1,243 km
Tallahassee, FL	98 mi	171 km
Tampa, FL	339 mi	546 km



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FAMILY BEACH

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FAMILY TIME IS MORE FUN UNDER THE SUN

Panama City Beach is the perfect vacation destination for families. The beach is the best place to relax, unwind and play. With 27 miles of pristine, white-sand beaches, feel free to kick back under an umbrella with a good book while your family frolics in the waves.



The Best Things in Life Are **PRICELESS** *(OR CLOSE TO IT)*

Here are 23 fun and budget-friendly things to do

BY ZANDRA WOLFGAM

People often say there's no free lunch. But with so many wonderful parks, piers and playgrounds all around Panama City Beach, you can get pretty close. To get you started, here are some fun things to do to make the memories of your Panama City Beach vacation ... priceless.





EMERALD WATERS

and sugar-sand beaches are the perfect spot for fun and relaxation.

BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

With 27 miles of white sand and turquoise water, the World's Most Beautiful Beaches are accessible at no charge. With nearly 100 access points, you won't have a difficult time finding a spot to dig your toes into the famous sugar-white sand. To view a full list of beach access points, go to VisitPanamaCityBeach.com.

NATURAL DIVERSIONS

Get a breath of fresh air and head outside for a natural adventure. Pack a picnic lunch and visit Camp Helen State Park, 185-acres of ecological wonder that is bordered on three sides by water, the Gulf to the south and Lake Powell to the north and east.

The most visited park by locals

and tourists alike is St. Andrews State Park. Here you can cast a line and catch some fish, take a dive and scuba along the jetties, or simply enjoy what has been named the Best Beach in America — all for less than \$10 per vehicle.

Spanning nearly 3,000-acres, The Panama City Beach Conservation Park features 12 different trails of varying difficulty and eight boardwalks totaling more than a mile in length. Bring binoculars — you'll likely spot plenty of birds and wildlife in the wetlands area of this picturesque park.

CATCH A CONCERT

If you are visiting during the summer season, be sure to check out the Summer Concert Series,

held each year at Aaron Bessant Park from June through August, where you can enjoy a free concert in the park every Thursday night. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Coolers, food and — yes — pets are welcome.

PARK & PLAY

Frank Brown Park is an impressive state-of-the-art sports complex, complete with an aquatic center, children's playground and 200-plus acres of recreational facilities.

Admission to the park is free, so, you can park and play without spending a penny. Entrance fees to the park's aquatic center vary based on age and residency, but start at just \$3 per person. Score!

SHOPPING IS IN THE BAG

Technically, window-shopping and art gallery browsing are free. So go treasure hunting for souvenirs and get all the ideas you want for stocking stuffers. Visit large shopping centers such as Pier Park, which are filled with both name-brand and specialty boutiques, or take on the Décor By The Shore shopping trail, which showcases dozens of one-of-a-kind mom-and-pop shops peppering the coast. No matter what, you'll bag a great time — and surely clock some serious miles on that Fitbit, too.

HOW ACCOMMODATING

Most accommodations offer complimentary amenities as exclusive privileges for booking direct, so be sure to ask about all the goodies that come with your stay. From free DVD rentals to free beach chair setups, there are a host of freebies, so take full advantage of them. Many resorts and



hotels have fun daily activities for kids, so be sure to ask. And some even have attractions on-site, Sandpiper Beacon for example has a lazy river, waterslides and miniature golf — all free to registered guests. ●

AND, BECAUSE IDEAS ARE FREE, HERE ARE A FEW MORE ...

- » Snorkel until you spy something you recognize from "Finding Nemo."
- » Fly a kite, toss a ball or fling a Frisbee and act like a kid again.
- » Jog miles of sugar-white sands for a refreshing workout.
- » Feed the seagulls off the Russell-Fields Pier and feel as free as they are.
- » Toast the sunset.
- » Explore Shell Island for treasure.
- » Browse beach book and souvenir shops for unique finds.
- » Put your shades on and people watch at Pier Park.
- » Listen to live music at an outdoor concert.
- » Build a sand castle.
- » Picnic in a local park or playground.
- » Pose for a family portrait and capture the moment forever.
- » Get your groove on and dance in the sand.
- » Spike your life with some beach volleyball.
- » Be the first to spy dolphins ... and stingrays ... and sea turtles.
- » Catch a wave and bodysurf to shore.
- » Daydream your day away, you're on vacation after all.

For more attractions and activities to enjoy in Panama City Beach, go to VisitPanamaCityBeach.com, and be sure to go to VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/things-to-do/special-offers to view discounts and special savings on things to do and places to stay in the area.





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GOLF COURSES

Whether you're looking for a relaxing day on the course, a getaway with your friends or eager for some family fun, Panama City Beach has three public golf courses eager to cater to your needs.

Pro Shop 
Restaurant on Premises 
Driving Range 
PGA Pro Available 

BAY POINT GOLF CLUB

OFFERING THE ONLY Nicklaus Design in the Panhandle, Bay Point Golf Club boasts a sprawling locale carved from Northwest Florida's natural terrain of scrub oaks, pines and saltwater marshes. You'll find this course's layout unique, challenging and unforgettable.

Recently renovated with new TifEagle greens and now reopened after the effects of Hurricane Michael, the Nicklaus Course is set against the backdrop of St. Andrew's Bay and a marshland wildlife sanctuary. The conversion of all 18 greens will create more consistent putting surfaces with faster green speeds year-round. In addition, 23 renovated green-side bunkers complement the greens and include sand and drainage.

"I couldn't be prouder of the work our team has put in at Bay Point to get the Nicklaus Course back into playing shape,"

Bay Point general manager Ryan Mulvey said. "It has been a very difficult time for our community since (Hurricane Michael), but this golf course has been a real rallying point for our team and the work we've done has helped provide a sense of normalcy for all of us."

When you get hungry, swing by Bar 72 for pub-style and seafood fare. Bar 72 is open for lunch daily, and it serves breakfast and dinner on select days.

4701 Bay Point Road, (850) 235-6950
BayPointGolfClub.com

Holes: 18
Yardage: 7,152
Par: 72

Greens Fees: \$85-\$45





MICHAEL BOONIN

HOLIDAY GOLF CLUB

RENOVATED IN 2014, Holiday Golf features redesigned tee boxes and 18 remodeled greens that feature TifEagle turf, and the new state-of-the-art turf offers superb speeds and excellent consistency. Holiday looks to impress with its forgiving fairways, modern greens and Southern hospitality.

The 18-hole Championship Course has very generous fairways with water coming into play on almost every hole. The layout is forgiving on the tee and challenging on the greens making it great for every level of golfer.

Holiday also features a Par 3 Course. Master your short game on this 1,003-yard course, great for junior and beginning golfers. The course is available 7 a.m.–8 p.m., seven days a week and features a pace of play of only 60 minutes.

Holiday also features a pro shop, practice facilities and Mulligans Bar & Grill, offering breakfast, lunch and a fully stocked bar.

100 Fairway Blvd., (850) 234-1800
HolidayGolfClub.com

Holes: 18/9
Yardage: 6,859/1,003
Par: 72/27

Greens Fees: \$75–\$39
Par-3 Course* Fees: \$39–\$29



**Par-3 course is not available for night play*

SIGNAL HILL GOLF COURSE

THE ELDER STATESMAN of Panama City Beach golf courses, Signal Hill celebrated its 56th birthday in 2018. Rich in history and natural splendor, this golf course's setting is a well-maintained wonderland of wide-open fairways and dazzling greens.

Signal Hill retains a rich history and has learned a lot in its years along the coast. It has delighted guests with reasonable rates and a kind, attentive staff for decades. The 18-hole course is relatively flat, with some simple confidence-boosting holes and some tantalizing tricky ones. This makes Signal Hill the ideal golf course for families, beginners and pros seeking a relaxed round.

The course also offers a pro shop and a snack bar serving breakfast and lunch. Built by John Sherman, the course is still a local family affair; Signal Hill owner and operator Beth Langford is Sherman's daughter, her son is one of the course managers and her grandson works in the pro shop.

9615 N. Thomas Drive, (850) 234-3218
SignalHillGolfCourse.com

Holes: 18
Yardage: 5,617
Par: 71

Greens Fees: \$52–\$34
Nine Hole Rate: \$42–\$27





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BEYOND THE COAST

Find your way on the water to Shell Island
and a host of ocean activities

BY HANNAH BURKE

We've all dreamt of winding up on our own private island, the sensation of sun kissing our skin and toes sinking into pearlescent, white sand. There's no sign of civilization for miles, just the crystal-clear waves lapping at the shore and the gentle sway of palms in the breeze.

Such paradise manifests itself in Panama City Beach as Shell Island, a 7½-mile, pristine peninsula just off the coast of St. Andrews State Park. What you do once you get there is entirely up to you. Whether you're looking for ride on the shuttle or you want a sightseeing tour of the area, here's how to castaway for a day.



No matter which route you pick to Shell Island, you're in for a full day of discovery and fun.

Shell Island Shuttle

Eager for an express route? The Shell Island Shuttle is your ticket, transporting passengers to and from the retreat every half hour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You'll be dropped off near the rocky jetties, a premier snorkeling spot that fosters a medley of marine life. Open all week, the Shell Island Shuttle departs directly from St. Andrews State Park with no reservations necessary. Pack a picnic and stay for an hour or two, or indulge in an all-day R&R session until the final shuttle retrieves you.

[\\$19.95 for adults; \\$10.95 for children 12 and under](#)

[*Group rates available for parties of 20 or more](#)

[ShellIslandShuttle.com](#)

Pontoon Rentals

Ask any local about the ultimate leisure boat, and they'll steer you in the direction of the beloved pontoon. While dozens of pontoon rental vendors are stationed along the beach, Shell

Island Boat Rentals & Tours is located at Treasure Island Marina, a 10-minute cruise from your island destination. While the operation offers unique guided tours, pontoon rentals allow you to explore at your own pace. Choose among four rental packages that can accommodate up to 10 guests and be sure to take your time getting there ... you're more than likely to spot a pod or two of bottlenose dolphins!

[\(Seasonal Pricing\) ShellIslandTours.com/tour/boat-rentals](#)

Jet Ski Rentals

If none of the previous options are quite your speed, you're sure to get your kicks on a sleek n' speedy jet ski. At Lagoon Pontoons, select from two hour, half-day or full day rentals, climb aboard a VX110 Yamaha WaveRunner and slice through the sea to your heart's content. Though your target is about a 5-minute ride away, it's well worth it to take the scenic course through St. Andrews Bay to wet your appetite for adventure.



IF YOU'RE ON A DESERTED ISLAND, AND CAN ONLY BRING 5 THINGS ...

CAMERA

Shell Island is a barrier island, meaning it hosts a variety of ecosystems within its salt marshes, pine-scrub forests, dunes and barrier flats. You'll want to have your camera ready for any deer, ghost crabs, nesting birds or sea turtles you might encounter.

SNORKEL GEAR

Starfish, sponges, seahorses and tropical fish thrive just offshore.

FISHING ROD

Redfish, mackerel and sea trout — oh, my. Just keep in mind that you'll need a Florida fishing license to cast at Shell Island.

COOLER

Shell Island is an unspoiled oasis, meaning there are no public facilities or concessions available. Be sure to pack plenty of water and snacks — and ensure your space is clean before you leave.

BEACH BAG

A tote to contain your towels, sunscreen and shells. It wouldn't be Shell Island if it wasn't furnished with hundreds of sand dollars, conchs and pen shells to collect.

When you need to catch your breath, simply ride along the shore of Shell Island and let your thrilling excursion continue through the dunes.
\$199 2 hours; \$299 half day;
\$499 full day

LagoonPontoon.com/jet-ski-rentals

Dolphin Cruise

Boasting one of the world's most abundant populations of bottlenose dolphins, St. Andrews Bay and Shell Island are the ultimate sites to seek out these magnificent mammals. Island Time Sailing's Shell Island Dolphin & Snorkel Cruise isn't your typical sightseeing tour, offering guests an exhilarating adventure both on and off the boat. In the span of this 3½-hour cruise, experienced guides will scout out prominent dolphin purlieus, educate passengers on the history of St. Andrews Bay and anchor down for a swim and snorkel session. While stationed, families can easily wade or paddleboard to Shell Island to scoop up some scallops or conchs as a souvenir.

\$40 adults; \$30 children 3-12;
\$10 infants 2 & under
IslandTimeSailing.com/shell-island-dolphin-snorkel-cruise

Private Charters & Tours

If you want the privacy of your own boat but the expertise of a local tour guide, look no further than booking a charter with Blue Dolphin Tours. Whether you're looking for a romantic day in the sun with your significant other or want to bring the whole family along, your captain will supply the ultimate expedition. As opposed to larger commercial tour boats, this quiet modest craft is less likely to intimidate the dolphins you'll spot and swim with along the way. Once you reach your destination, snorkel, beachcomb and soak in some rays to make the most of your day.

\$49 per person (2-hour tour); \$249/boat (2-hour tour, max of 6 people);
\$349 (3-hour tour); \$449 (4-hour, private family tour)
BlueDolphinTour.com ●

NEW SPORTS COMPLEX HAS MAJOR IMPACT

|||||

New complex
hits a home run
as tournaments
hit town

BY THOMAS J. MONIGAN

Ever since its opening, the new Panama City Beach Sports Complex has been delivering on its promise to be something special.

More than a decade in the making, Panama City Beach's newest attraction celebrated its grand opening event in October as local youth teams and sports enthusiasts descended on the new complex to grab a first look. >>





The new complex sits on land donated by The St. Joe Company at the east end of scenic Breakfast Point. Nearly \$39 million in preparation and construction has created 13 rectangular fields — and much more:

- » AstroTurf with Z-Cap Cooling technology on nine of the fields
- » Natural grass on four of the fields
- » Two championship fields with a capacity up to 1,500
- » LED lights on all 13 fields
- » Warmup area
- » Wi-Fi access throughout complex
- » On-site concession stands
- » 1,000 parking spots



~~~~~  
**Dozens of league**  
tournaments and  
championship  
events have already  
flocked to Panama  
City Beach's pristine  
sports complex.  
~~~~~



"This project has been a long time coming," said Visit Panama City Beach's president and CEO Dan Rowe.

This is actually the second opening for the park, which held a soft opening in July to help accommodate teams and tournaments displaced by Hurricane Michael. The complex held nine championship events over a 10-week period, according to Richard Sanders, vice president of sports and special events for Visit Panama City Beach.

After their first look at the new park, local fans seem to be in agreement.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," Sanders says, "from the field conditions to the state-of-the-art light system and the professionalism and customer service of the park's staff."

In September, Visit Panama City Beach hosted the S.P.O.R.T.S Relationship Conference, a conference that brought in close to 100 officials from various events looking to place business and over 250 destinations from throughout the United States.

"Opening night, we had opening ceremonies, and the response was tremendous," Sanders said. "To this point, the complex is exceeding our expectations."

And what is proving so attractive?

"Being mostly an artificial turf facility, weather does not play as important role in events being able to be played," Sanders said. "We have already experienced a couple of situations where one park was deemed unplayable due to weather conditions, and we were able to move games to the new sports complex and the event was able to play to conclusion. This is important when you are hosting hundreds of teams from throughout the United States."

Years in the planning, the Sports Complex itself came together in about 14 months, which included two months of downtime because of the storm. Hired to bring the plan together was J.D. Wood, the general manager of the complex.

"We're staying busy and having fun," Wood said. "Everything we've been planning for and hoping for, it's just great to see it coming to fulfillment."

Helping Wood has been five fulltime employees and "28 to 40" part-timers. Their attention to detail has created rave reviews.

"As soon as folks get out of their vehicles, they're greeted with smiles and customer service all the way to their playing fields," Wood said. "The overall cleanliness of the complex, plus the attention to detail on the little things, like water in the dugouts and on the team benches — those kind of 'back to the basics' items are the kinds of things they are enjoying because not a lot of people do that anymore."

Locally based Anchor CEI was the general contractor for the ambitious project, and general manager Elizabeth Moore told the Panama City News-Herald: "I can't say enough how hard everyone came together on this. We're here now, and every day, it is going to get better."

Eventful Opening

One of the early major events was the Southeastern Labor Day Cup, and one of the host soccer teams was Bay United Soccer Club. Kara Davis is its president. Sons Zach (16) and Kyle (10) both play soccer, and daughter Reese (12) is a cheerleader.

Six Bay United teams and about 75 players participated in the Labor Day Cup.

"Bay United has been a part of travel soccer since 1991, so for so many years, our teams had to travel long distances to get to play different teams at appropriate levels of competition," Davis said. "For many families after Hurricane Michael, discretionary spending has become very limited for things like travel for their children's sports. The complex couldn't have opened at a better time."

Bay United practices at the complex, which gives its members a unique perspective.

"We see the hard work and preparation they are constantly putting in to make sure these events are top notch," Davis said. "The staff is always working to make sure the families that come to the complex leave with great memories and want to return. My son Kyle's team finished playing a game at 9:30 p.m. on the Saturday night of the tournament. The complex employees were just as patient and helpful then as when our first team arrived at 8 that morning."

Davis also had high praise for the man in charge.

"J.D. Wood is huge asset to the facility and community," she said. "His experience and relationships within the sports community are clearly driving more events to Panama City Beach. We see him out there at 7 p.m. on a weeknight when our teams are practicing, and at 7 a.m., on a weekend during a tournament. He clearly loves his job!"

Locals Welcome

One unique local group, Stroller Strong Moms, has chosen the complex for its Tuesday and Thursday workouts.

Amy Habrack started this group in 2018, and she has two children: Vanessa, 8, and Beau, 4.

"We are pushing strollers with our kids in them from station to station, then we park the strollers and do a workout and the babies can watch," Habrack said.

"It's a great location for us," she added. "There's a point half a mile from the start where there's a tree line. And there's a little bridge between two fields in a pretty shaded area. It's beautiful."

Stroller Strong Moms started out at Frank Brown Park, and the group still meets there on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Frank Brown has a full schedule of events booked once again in 2020, according to Sanders.

"We want to make sure we're doing things to complement each other and we're not competing with each other," Sanders said. "Frank Brown is a diamond sports primary park whereas the new sports park is primarily for soccer, lacrosse, and football. We are currently reviewing requests and setting a schedule that will be consistent in making sure the new sports complex is operating strong with events and the dates work well with Frank Brown Park also. All indications are that Panama City Beach will have a strong spring and summer worth of sports events." ●

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REEL TALK

Panama City Beach Spring/Summer Fishing Report

BY CAPT. NATHAN CHENNAUX

~~~~~

**A**s winter slowly releases its chilly grip on Northwest Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and its surrounding bays and estuaries come to life.

Early in the spring, you'll find a massive congregation of sheepshead in the St. Andrews Pass along the jetties. These distinctive black and white striped fish can be caught throughout the year, but they're especially plentiful during the spring when they mass in big schools to spawn. As a matter of fact, it's one of the few times during the year that you can catch as many as you want.

Sheepshead are great table fare and the bag limit is quite liberal, but I encourage you to keep only a

few and release the rest — especially during this time of the year when they are most vulnerable. A medium-light action spinning rod with live shrimp or fiddler crabs on a small circle hook is all you really need to catch a lot of fish. Try using a Carolina rig weighted with just enough lead to get to the bottom.

Shortly after the sheepshead spawn, you'll begin to see schools of Spanish mackerel popping the water's surface along the beaches, in the pass and in open water in the bays. When the fish are feeding on the surface, it's fun to dash from school to school and throw jigs, spoons or small plugs into the frenzy. The most common way to target





#### CLEAR WATERS

await you this  
summer no matter  
what kind of catch  
you are angling for.

them, though, is to troll Christmas tree rigs, spoons, bubble rigs and similar baits. You'll see a lot of big charter boats trolling in a line around the bay in search of Spanish mackerel this time of year.

One of my favorite spring tactics is motoring along the beach in search of big schools of redfish cruising in the surf. The size of the fish can vary greatly from school to school, but that doesn't matter because casting lures into schools of several hundred fish in crystal clear water never gets old.

Sight fishing is much easier with a control tower atop your boat, but you can still have a successful outing without one if you take your time and

don't get in a hurry. Once you locate a school, navigate your boat in front of the fish and let them come to you. After you catch one, move out to deeper water and wait a minute, then run back out ahead of them and let the school come to you again. If you only try to play catch up, you'll just keep pushing the school down the beach.

As spring turns to summer, you'll begin to see tarpon showing up along Panama City Beach. Known affectionately as the "silver king," tarpon can humble even the most seasoned angler. They migrate from east to west in mid- to late-spring, either solo or in large schools. Despite their large size, tarpon tend to be quite

skittish in our crystal clear water, and anglers must put all their skills to work if they want a successful hookup.

The tarpon's large eyes allow them to scrutinize every bait, so extreme care must be taken to fool them into a bite. And cracking the code can be a challenge on any given day. While a 40-pound fluorocarbon leader will often provoke more strikes, it lacks the abrasion resistance to land a fish after a prolonged battle — and heavier leaders sometimes won't get any action at all. It's just the nature of the beast.

But on those magical days when conditions are perfect, you've selected the ideal bait, made a precise cast and the silver king cooperates, you'll experience the incredible acrobatics that cause many anglers to dedicate their lives to the chase. And if you're fortunate enough to battle a tarpon all the way to the boat, be sure to cherish the moment; treat it with respect and release it healthy to fight another day. ●



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# PUBLIC PARKS

**PANAMA CITY BEACH** has some of the best parks and recreation areas for tourists and locals alike. Whether you love the beach, boating, camping, fishing or any outdoor adventure in between, Panama City Beach has something for everyone.

Hours  
Fees

## CAMP HELEN STATE PARK

This often overlooked ecological gem sits on the far western border of Panama City Beach. Offering pristine beaches, excellent trails that wind through dunes and scrub oak forests and a rare dune lake, Camp Helen State Park is truly a unique park.

The original 185 acres that is now Camp Helen State Park was used as a family summer retreat before being purchased by the Alabama company, Avondale Textile Mills, which renamed the park Camp Helen and used it as a resort destination for vacationing employees. The historic lodge and associated buildings still stand today and have undergone recent renovations.

Camp Helen State Park is bordered by water on three sides, and the unique combination makes it the ecological wonder that it is. Lake Powell forms the eastern border, and is one of the largest rare

coastal dune lakes found only in a few places in the world. At times, this freshwater lake will breach the spit of land that separates it from the Gulf of Mexico, and the resulting channel causes fresh and salt water to mix, resulting in what's known as "brackish" water.

The park is home to five distinct natural communities — mesic flatwoods, scrub oak, basin swamp, depression marsh and marine unconsolidated substrate. Each of these ecosystems can be viewed in only a short walk through the park. There is no camping at Camp Helen, but fishing, boating and fires are allowed in designated areas. No lifeguard is on duty, so exercise caution when entering the water. History tours are given the first Saturday of every month at 10 a.m., and it's free with paid park admission. **23937 Panama City Beach Parkway, (850) 233-5059**

### ACTIVITIES

Beach  
Birding  
Canoeing and Kayaking  
Fishing  
Hiking/Nature Trail  
Historic Site  
Interpretive Exhibit  
Meetings & Retreats  
Picnicking  
Swimming  
Visitor Center  
Weddings

🕒 8 a.m. until sunset,  
365 days a year

💰 \$4 per vehicle;  
\$2 pedestrians  
and bicyclists





#### ACTIVITIES

Bicycling  
Birding  
Geo-Seeking  
Hiking/Nature Trail  
Pet friendly  
Picnicking  
Wildlife Viewing

🕒 Dawn until dusk

💰 Free

## PCB CONSERVATION PARK

Panama City Beach — along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission — developed an innovative system to restore thousands of acres of protected wetlands, leading to the creation of the 2,900-acre Panama City Beach Conservation Park.

The Panama City Beach Conservation Park protects and balances our natural environment while providing amazing outdoor recreational opportunities to visitors. The 2,900-acre park is a safeguard for wetlands, wildlife and pine forest, while also acting as a natural filter that balances treated water before it makes its way to the St. Andrews Bay.

Encompassing over 2900 acres, the Conservation Park has 24 miles of trails and over a mile of boardwalks. The trails range anywhere from 0.6 miles up to 11 miles, with 12 different trails to choose from. A 4,400 square foot building is at the southeast corner of the park to function as a shelter for park users, garbage disposal, public restroom facilities, parking, picnic tables and a drinking water station.

Public restrooms, picnic areas, a guide to local flora & fauna and a pavilion are located near the main parking lot, and an outdoor classroom provides a venue for group educational and enrichment opportunities. Additionally, eight boardwalks totaling over a mile in length are scattered throughout the park, allowing excellent viewing of natural wetland areas.

Trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Dogs are permitted on leashes, but no more than two dogs per person. No motorized vehicles of any kind or horses are allowed on the trails. No overnight stays, campfires, smoking or open flames allowed. Guided Audubon bird walks, volunteer and recreational programs for park guests are offered seasonally. **100 Conservation Drive, (850) 233-5045**

## ST. ANDREWS STATE PARK

St. Andrews State Park is consistently one of the most popular and most visited state parks in Florida. Situated on a peninsula at the far eastern edge of Panama City Beach, St. Andrews State Park is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico to the south, the St. Andrews Pass to the east and the Grand Lagoon to the north. Beach goers will love over 1.5 miles of beaches that rest on the Gulf and Grand Lagoon.

There are two trails that will help you explore the nature and wildlife of Panama City Beach — including migratory birds, deer and alligators. Anglers will also be thrilled with two piers and numerous jetties to cast off from, plus a boat ramp on the lagoon.

If you're looking to get on the water, there's plenty that St. Andrews can offer including: swimming, surfing,

snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking and canoeing. An array of brightly colored marine life can be found not far beneath the surface. Those in search of calmer waters can enjoy the inlet lagoon, a large area along the pass that's protected by the jetties. No lifeguard is on duty, so exercise caution when entering the water.

St. Andrews State Park is great for campers, who can choose from 60 campsites with electricity, water, picnic tables and grills (these can accommodate tents, or RVs up to 40 feet in length). There is also a "primitive" camping area for scouts, faith-based groups and other organized nonprofit groups. This site is equipped with water, a portable toilet, fire ring and picnic tables.

**4607 State Park Lane,  
(850) 708-6100,  
\* Call ahead for booking**

#### ACTIVITIES

Beaches  
Bicycling  
Boat ramp  
Boat tours  
Boating  
Campfire circles  
Camping  
Primitive/Group Camping  
Canoeing and Kayaking  
Concessions & Food  
Fishing  
Geo-Seeking  
Hiking/Nature Trail  
Interpretive Exhibit  
Pet friendly  
Picnic Pavilion  
Picnicking  
Playground  
Scuba Diving  
Shower Station  
Snorkeling  
Surfing  
Swimming  
Weddings  
Wildlife Viewing

🕒 8 a.m. until sundown

💰 \$8 multi-occupant (2-8) vehicle; \$4 single-occupant vehicle; \$2 pedestrians and bicyclists



*C'mon Baby,*

# ROLL OUT!

Pedal your way through paradise

**BY ZANDRA WOLFGRAM**

Walking is wonderful and motoring may get you there faster, but if you ask us, bicycling is best for traveling through paradise. With beautiful bike-friendly trails and plenty of bike rental shops, Panama City Beach is pretty much a cyclist's dream come true. And with the health benefits that bike riding racks up, what's stopping you from hopping on this healthy trend?







### GET IN GEAR

No wheels? No worries, PCB has plenty of bicycle rental shops ready to send you spinning your wheels (in a good way). Bike rental shops offer cruiser rentals, family-friendly equipment, high-end mountain bikes and other accessories so you will have all the gear you need for a great ride. They are experts, so when you visit, be sure to take full advantage by asking them about their advice on the equipment best suited for you, the best trails and how to stay safe. Most of all ... have fun!

#### **Bike The Beach PCB**

17292 Front Beach Road  
#106  
(850) 557-7787

#### **Peddle Paddle Surf Shop Opens A New Window**

15010 Front Beach Road  
(850) 238-6917

### LESSON LEARNED

What could be more fun than learning something new while on your beach vacation? If you're in the market for a lesson or a refresher, Tony Horton and Holly Rome with Bike the Beach PCB are happy to help you get things rolling. Your lesson also will include a review of all the safety equipment you need. Just give them a call to get on their schedule.



## BEST TYPE OF BIKE FOR YOU

How do you know what kind of bike you are best suited for? Here are a few things to keep in mind:

### Single-speed vs. Multi-speed

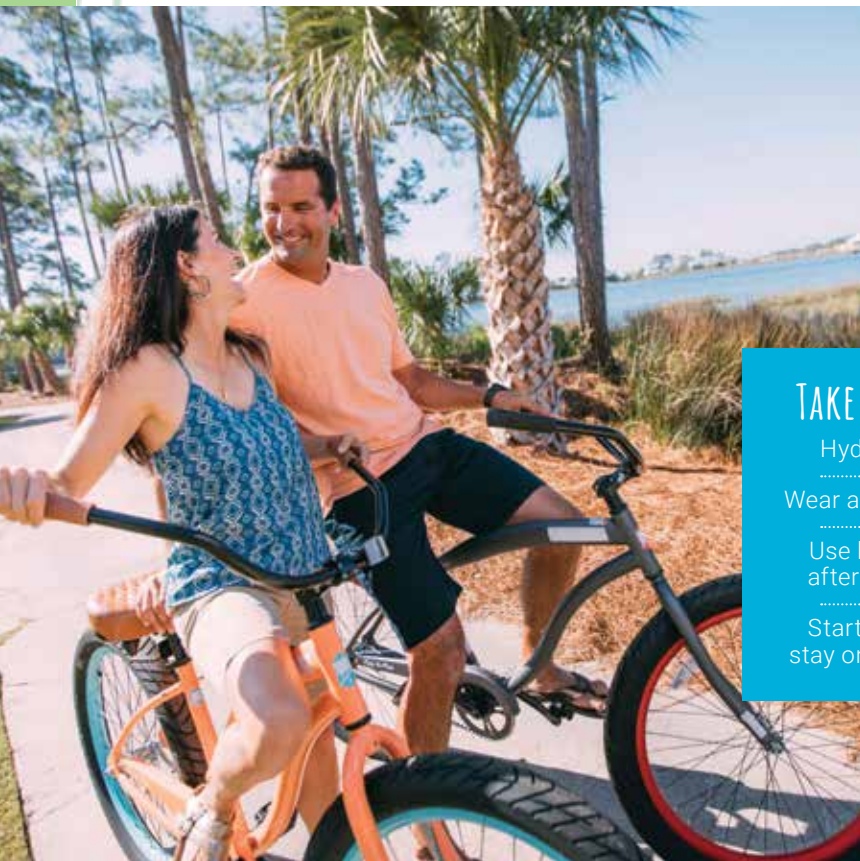
Traditionally, beach cruisers are designed as single-speed bikes — that is, they don't have any gearing to change the resistance in the pedal stroke. That said there are 3-speed and 7-speed versions. Having multiple gears are great for hilly terrain.

### Pedal Brakes vs. Handlebar Brakes

Most beach cruisers brake simply by pedaling backwards, a century-old technology known as coaster brakes. Handlebar brakes also are easy to use, but they don't have as clean a look and might require a bit more maintenance.

### Fit and Comfort

When it comes to style, low-rider cruisers have a high “cool factor” and are a great choice for short rides around the beach. Longer rides are better when you're seated in the upright position of a classic beach cruiser frame, which allows you to relax your arms and provides for a more efficient pedal stroke so that you are not wasting energy.



## TAKE A TIP

Hydrate

Wear a helmet

Use lights  
after dusk

Start on &  
stay on a trail







**AFTER YOU**  
choose your  
bicycle type, you're  
ready to experience  
dozens of miles  
of trails and  
boardwalks in and  
around Panama  
City Beach.

## BIKE PATHS & TRAILS

Conservation Park spans 2,912 acres and offers more than 24 miles of trails and boardwalks. The 12 designated trails range from less than a mile to 11 miles long. An additional mile of boardwalks through the park's wetlands allows birders unparalleled opportunities to view migrating and local birds.

For the explorer who wants a smoother, less challenging path to follow than those found in Conservation Park, **Gayle's Trails** are a great option. These paved pathways were named after former Mayor Gayle F. Oberst, who played a major role in securing the grants that allowed for the trails' development. As part of the proposed statewide trail system that is to run from Pensacola to Miami, Gayle's Trails will eventually connect trails across Panama City Beach, from the Panama City Beach Conservation Park to the Hathaway Bridge and Bay County 388.

The Gayle's Trails trail heads are found in **Aaron Bessant Park** and **Frank Brown Park**. Gayle's Trails offer cyclists the choice of three routes with

a round trip of up to 19.5 miles. Visitors can choose to walk or bike the trails found within the parks' boundaries, or they can follow them from park to park. They can also explore the many paths that lead away from the parks, such as the trail that runs from Frank Brown Park to the Panama City Beach Conservation Park (2.8 miles), or the stretch that parallels Highway 79 north to the Intracoastal Waterway.

## MAP MY RIDE

Plan, track, analyze and share your journey for free with the MapMyRide feature. Register through Facebook or email or go online to search for popular local bike routes around Panama City Beach.

## THE BENEFITS

Add a little pedal power to your beach excursion and burn a few calories while you tick off some of the most popular sites. The average person will burn between 450 to 750 calories per hour cycling. The number of calories depends on your weight, speed and time spent biking. ●

| CALORIES BURNED PER HOUR       |         |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Activity                       | 130 lb. | 155 lb. | 185 lb. | 205 lb. |
| Cycling, 12-13.9 mph, moderate | 472     | 563     | 654     | 745     |
| Cycling, 12-13.9 mph, moderate | 590     | 704     | 817     | 931     |
| Cycling, 12-13.9 mph, moderate | 708     | 844     | 981     | 1,117   |
| Cycling, 12-13.9 mph, moderate | 944     | 1,126   | 1,308   | 1,489   |



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**ROMANCE**

# ROMANCE

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DANCE BENEATH  
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# Hitting THE PERFECT Spot

Opulence, decadence and relaxation await at PCB's spas and resorts

**BY HANNAH BURKE**

Panama City Beach is the perfect place to relax, attracting millions of visitors each year. Along this famously beautiful stretch of white sand beach, visitors can find a wide selection of accommodations that strive to provide the definitive vacation experience.

While many specialize in family fun, some take a decidedly more luxurious approach. For the vacation when you just want to be pampered, here are a few of Panama City Beach's top spas to consider. For a truly relaxed and luxurious vacation, a quick stop — or even a full day — in one of the area's premier spas is a must. Let your worries and tensions melt away while enjoying a massage, facial, manicure or pedicure. These Panama City Beach spas offer the ultimate opportunity to pamper yourself, and the perfect treat to top off your vacation.







## SERENITY SPA AT SHERATON PANAMA CITY BEACH GOLF & SPA RESORT

A featured jewel of Sheraton Resort is the full-service Serenity Spa, a luxurious sanctuary where you can relax and enjoy peaceful pampering and treatment. A local favorite, this spa offers seven different types of massage therapy and four unique body treatments to leave you feeling rejuvenated. A popular request is the Signature Serenity Customized Facial, a treatment tailored to your skin's unique needs, then paired with a neck and facial massage. Couples massage treatments provide a perfect opportunity to recharge before a night on the town or unwind on your way to a lazy day on the beach. Pedicure and manicure treatments are a quick fun treat, while those wanting a full makeover can select salon treatments. Guests can spend time in the spa area before and after treatments in the comfortable and private relaxation areas, take advantage of the sauna and steam rooms, or head out to enjoy the adjacent 10,000-square-foot zero-entry tropical resort pool. **4114 Jan Cooley Drive, (850) 236-6000, [SheratonPCB.com](http://SheratonPCB.com)**



## SALON BALIAGE & SPA IN CARILLON BEACH RESORT



Salon Baliage and Spa mirrors the exclusive beach community vibe of Carillon Beach in the design of their private spa. Choose from packages like the “Island Package” — a Grapefruit Facial combined with the Coconut Lime Sugar Scrub and Coconut Lime Massage — or the “Queen for a Day” — a Swedish massage, European Facial, pedicure, manicure and hair treatment with styling. Body treatments like the “Sea Salt Glow” will leave you feeling rejuvenated after a day at the beach, or just add an extra treat to your vacation experience. The salon, owned by Joni Day, frequently provides specials for its resort guests, and professional hair and makeup artists provide wedding and special occasion services.  
**100 Carillon Market St., #202, (850) 235-1985, [SalonBaliage.com](http://SalonBaliage.com)**

## EDEN SALON & SPA

Family owned and operated, Eden lives up to its name with a variety of ways to pamper and beautify during your visit. Full body massages and facials are just part of the allure as Eden also has a full and experienced staff on hand to offer hair coloring and styling — perfect for that upcoming beach wedding — pedicures and nail services, hair removal, body waxing, threading and skincare. If that wasn't enough, Eden, found off Front Beach Road, is content to help you nurture your body and soul with other options, including permanent makeup







## MASSAGE ENVY



A nationwide franchise offering massages, skin care and facials, Massage Envy offers many ways to help you reach a rest and relaxed state. Located in Pier Park, Massage Envy offers more personalized massage and therapy treatments to better match a varied clientele. Swedish, sports and deep tissue massages, along with trigger point therapy, are some of the options available to relieve tension. They also have cranial sacral therapy (for headaches and upper body pain), prenatal massages and geriatric massages. Massages can also include a CyMe boost or lotion to pair with the massage, with different options available for hydration, detox, firming, etc. Skin therapies also include microderm infusion and chemical peels to help restore that glow in the Florida sun. **15801 LC Hilton Jr. Drive, Suite 120, (850) 563-0070, [Massageenvy.com](http://Massageenvy.com)**



and microblading services to help you get your look just right. **8317 Front Beach Road, Suite 7, (850) 387-4647, [EdenSalonPCB.com](http://EdenSalonPCB.com)**

## HAND & STONE

A good massage could be the perfect chaser after a long day of shopping some of PCB's finest locales. Located in Pier Park North near the heart of the shopping district, Hand & Stone offers a selection of relaxation services, including Swedish, prenatal, deep tissue and sports massages

in addition to their namesake hot stone massage, which can be great for chronic pain and arthritis sufferers. They also offer couples massages, a bevy of facials and hair removal options for those that need a bit more pampering. For guests in search of something a little more cutting edge, Hand & Stone also offers LED Skin Phototherapy, a noninvasive facial procedure to help aging skin and reduce wrinkles and acne. **15600 Panama City Beach Parkway, Suite 800, (850) 764-0617, [HandAndStonePanamaCity.com](http://HandAndStonePanamaCity.com)** ●

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Gulf-front kids playground**





**FOODIE**

# FOODIE

## **FROM SURF TO TURF, FIND YOUR TASTE OF THE BEACH**

Known as the Seafood Capital of the South, Panama City Beach offers memorable dining with the easy-going vibe you seek from a coastal town. You can look forward to welcoming service, unparalleled views and world-class restaurants. PCB sits at the nexus of the Gulf Coast and American South, making it an ideal location for unforgettable meals.



# FROZEN SWEETS & ICY TREATS

Whether in a cone or a shake,  
frozen goodies have become an art form in PCB

BY LIESEL SCHMIDT







MICHAEL BOONIN

Coffee ... bacon ... cinnamon swirl and maple syrup ... they're standard favorites on the menu at breakfast; but in recent years, they've been showing up in ice creams and milkshakes all over the country, claiming their place in the mix along with everything else imaginable. Plainly put, we've come a long way from plain-Jane chocolate and vanilla. Even the days of 31 flavors can seem like they were part of the ice age.

Once so seemingly simple, ice cream and milkshakes have become a canvas of creativity, and whether you stand by your standards or are down with dipping into the most confounding concoctions, one thing's for sure: Young or old, traditionalist or rebel, we all still scream for ice cream. Here's a look at some Panama City Beach favorites:

### THE YARD MILKSHAKE BAR

The Yard's extensive list of 50 insane and gravity-defying toppings means that their 28 base flavors of premium Hershey's ice creams can be combined into customized shakes so numerous that they would give a statistician pause. Since opening the Panama City Beach location in early 2018, owners Logan and Chelsea Green have boasted signatures such as "The Unicorn," with its enchanted purple-and-white sweet cream ice cream swirled with sweet and sour cherry and blue raspberry rainbows. Or maybe you're in the mood for the "Cookie Dough Delicious," an explosion of cookie dough ice cream served in a jar rimmed with chocolate icing topped with a mountain of chocolate

**FELIX BOONIN'S EYES** are almost as big as the prize — a massive Unicorn shake served up by The Yard at Pier Park in Panama City Beach.

chips, whipped cream and a colossal scoop of edible cookie dough. **15801 L.C. Hilton Jr. Drive, #110, (850) 708-3226, [TheYardMilkshakeBar.com](http://TheYardMilkshakeBar.com)**

### PINK PELICAN ICE CREAM BAR

Pink Pelican Ice Cream Bar has the scoop on fantastic flavors, sourcing each of their 40-plus ice creams, sherbets and frozen yogurts from the crème de la crème of the nation's creameries. Perhaps that's what helped earn them the distinction of being named the No. 2 Ice Cream Shop in America by TripAdvisor. Pink Pelican's menu of sweet treats is so wacky, it might make your head spin. Topping the list is the Pink Pelican Special, a mix of peanut butter cups,

MICHAEL BOONIN



Thomas Donut & Snack Shop

~~~~~  
WHETHER IT'S frozen milk, frozen juice or served with a banana split, there are a bevy of cool treats to choose from along Panama City Beach.
 ~~~~~

Oreo cookie pieces, brownie pieces and Heath Bar bits swirled together with a silky ribbon of butterscotch. Other licks to love are Cookie Monster, Chocolate Hurricane, Tennessee Whiskey, Mexican Hot Chocolate and Almond Joy. *543 Richard Jackson Blvd., (850) 249-5576, [Facebook.com/PinkPelicanIceCream](https://www.facebook.com/PinkPelicanIceCream)*

#### THOMAS DONUT & SNACK SHOP

Rounding up the first of their loyal following when they opened as a donut and snack shop in 1971, Thomas Donut & Snack Shop put the cherry on top of their already successful family-owned business when they built an ice cream shop in 2015. The menu, which offers a daily rotating list of 36 flavors of ice creams, frozen yogurt, sorbets and sherbets, boggles the mind (and freezes the brain). Best-sellers include “C” is for Cookie, Butterscotch Bomb, Garbage Can, Key Lime Pie, Dulce de Leche, and Special Praline. For milkshakes, their traditionalist method still appeals. Using a base of premium vanilla bean ice cream to make their shakes, Thomas widens their menu of flavors with their ability to create shakes or malts from any of their premium ice creams,

frozen yogurts, sorbets and sherbets that they serve. *19208 Front Beach Road, (850) 234-8039, [ThomasDonutAndSnackShop.com](https://www.thomasdonutandsnackshop.com)*

#### CHUY'S GOURMET POPS & MORE

With more than 35 flavors on their menu, Chuy's Gourmet Pops & More first opened in late spring of 2016. Since then, owners Jazmina and Silvino Barragan have been using fresh fruits and ice creams to create combinations that are truly unique and worth getting downright sticky for. Classic pops like Cookies & Cream, Raspberry Lemonade, Strawberry and Mango are available, but don't worry — Chuy's doesn't get stuck in convention. Their fruit-based pops are made using fresh juices and about a dozen flavors of hand-dipped ice creams. *11204 Hutchison Blvd., (850) 249-5102, [Facebook.com/ChuysPops](https://www.facebook.com/ChuysPops)*

#### DAVID'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE CAFÉ & SNO-BALLS

Since they opened the NOLA-style eatery in 2007, owners David Bulger and David Ellingson have made it their mission to bring the Big Easy to the beach, and their famous Sno-Balls have really put this place on parade. A cup of finely shaved ice with soft-serve ice cream at its center



is drizzled in one of many flavored syrups and is then capped off with a dome of even more shaved ice and syrup. Sno-Balls are customizable and kaleidoscopic, and with more than 60 flavored syrups and 12 ice cream flavors available at David's, the combinations are endless. Favorites include Key Lime Pie (topped with graham cracker crumbs) and Red Velvet Cake. *13913 Panama City Beach Parkway, (850) 236-1998, DavidsSnoBalls.com*

### GULF COAST BURGER CO.

Off-the-wall is the name of the game at Gulf Coast Burger Co., whether you're talking creative burgers that push the limit or milkshakes so weird and colorful you'll wonder who comes up with these things. The brainchild of Justin Greene and Dustin Kelly, Gulf Coast Burger's shakes shake up the dessert scene with flavors such as the sugar-packed "Sugar Rush," a vanilla base loaded with Fruity Pebbles and festooned with an enormous lollipop, some Nerds Rope, Airhead Extremes and cotton candy ... then topped with a cherry. While you can certainly order a classic shake reminiscent of an old-time soda fountain, the fun twists they put on their shakes likely will tempt you to the dark side —and their spiked shakes make this kid-like indulgence anything but child's play. *10031 Hutchison Blvd, (850) 775-1312, GCBurgerco.com*

### FUNLAND ARCADE AND SNACK BAR

Funland Arcade and Snack Bar has been a gamer's dream-come-true for more than 65 years; but whether your name is topping the leaderboard or you've been mourning your digital demise, the game's not over until

you've scooped up a treat from the Dairy Bar, where they're serving up everything from ice cream cones and classic sundaes to root beer floats and milkshakes. Make tracks for a cone piled high with Moosetracks, or lick your way to the next level of happiness with Butter Pecan, Birthday Cake, Strawberry Cheesecake or Cookies and Cream. Win or lose, Funland's 14 flavors of cool, creamy deliciousness will make you feel like a champ. *14510 Front Beach Road, (850) 234-3693, Funland-Arcade.com*

### MARBLE SLAB CREAMERY

We love ice cream ... it's as simple as that. We love the way it calls to us from the sugary confines of a light, crispy cone. We love the cold, creamy sweetness that tantalizes our tongue with every lick. In fact, we love ice cream so much that when you visit Marble Slab Creamery, we want you to enjoy more than just a sweet treat. Marble Slab wants to provide you with a unique and memorable ice cream

experience — a special ice cream cone that's made just the way you like it, just when you want it. Now that's something you can't get from a carton. *600 Pier Park Drive, Suite 120, (850) 233-4770, MarbleSlab.com*

### POKEE & ICE ROLLS

Pokee & Ice Rolls is bringing Panama City Beach a vibrant fusion of Thai and Hawaiian delicacies. Ice rolls, or stir-fried ice cream, is a delicious handmade dessert that originates from Thailand. The process of making a customized Ice Roll begins with pouring liquid onto an ice-cold metal surface. As the liquid freezes into a creamy texture, our staff will add your favorite mix-ins and spread it thinly across the cold surface. The ice cream then gets rolled up and placed in a cup and covered with your choice of toppings, fresh fruits, drizzle or whip cream. *11260 Panama City Beach Parkway, Suite 104, (850) 319-7884, PokeeIceRolls.com* ●



Marble Slab Creamery



# THE BEACH'S BEST SANDWICH

No matter which way you cook it,  
the grouper sandwich is a Gulf classic

BY LIESEL SCHMIDT

When you live on the coast, there's an endless array of beautiful seafood at your fingertips, and best-loved examples of the gilled glories of the Gulf include the grouper that swim offshore. One bite of these flaky, tender fish and you'll be hooked, and the restaurants on Panama City Beach showcase grouper in every way imaginable. And while they certainly warrant luxury when it comes to plating and pairings, these fine fish are best when caught between two buns.

## **Barefoot Hide A Way Grill**

There's a casual, relaxed feel at Barefoot Hide A Way Grill that makes it welcoming to visitors and locals alike. There's nothing fancied on the menu — it's all straight-up flavor in everything from their juicy burgers to their crispy fish and chips. Riding high on the tide of guest fave raves is their Grouper Po'Boy, and whether you want it fried, grilled or blackened, Barefoot's grouper is a glorious taste of the Gulf that'll make your hunger come out of hiding. [15405 Front Beach Road, \(850\) 249-2031, BarefootHideAWayGrill.com](https://www.barefoothideawaygrill.com)



MICHAEL BOONIN



**Montego Bay  
Seafood House  
& Oyster Bar**



**Dusty's Oyster Bar**

Named for its original owner and founder, Dusty's Oyster Bar has been a Panama City Beach landmark for more than three decades, known for a casual laid-back atmosphere where music is practically part of the menu. And aside from the fresh oysters, one of the things that sandwich. Since having taken the helm more than 25 years ago, owners John and Callie Hicks have made it their goal to offer a fantastic sandwich at a fantastic price. They do just that by using fresh-caught fillets reeled in by local fishermen and serving them fried, grilled or blackened in a po'boy roll to make sure you don't leave hungry. They may

be known for their shucking skills, but this place might also make you a grouper groupie. [16450 Front Beach Road, \(850\) 233-0035](#)

**Montego Bay Seafood House & Oyster Bar**

Sitting at the end of the Shoppes at Edgewater, Montego Bay has been a local favorite since 1982. The Caribbean-themed surf-and-turf eatery has a spicy selection of Jamaican-inspired recipes — but it doesn't shy away from a classic grouper sandwich. Served on toasted ciabatta bun with lettuce and fresh tomato, you can go with the traditional flame-grilled, fried or blackened options. But for those seeking a different twist, you can also

order it with lemon-pepper or a Jamaican jerk rub. [473 Richard Jackson Blvd., \(850\) 233-6033, MontegoBayPCB.com](#)

**J. Michael's**

Offering a menu teeming with tasty Creole/Southern-style cuisine including seafood gumbo, plump shrimp sautéed in garlic butter, and spicy red beans and rice that could well be considered its original claim to fame, J. Michael's has been a beloved part of the Panama City Beach cuisine scene since 1976. Owner J. Michael Stewart delights in serving up fresh seafood, "Surfer" sandwiches and a whole tackle box full of other tasty dishes that keep reeling diners in. Riding the rip curl when it comes to their handcrafted





**Schooners**

“Surfers” is the Fisherman’s Favorite, a grilled fillet of grouper served on a toasted onion roll with a slather of housemade tartar sauce that adds just the right amount of creaminess, crunch and acidity to make this one handheld that’s truly worth getting hooked on. [3210 Thomas Drive, \(850\) 233-2055, JMichaelsTheOriginal.com](https://www.jmichaelsoriginal.com)

### **Schooners**

Offering a wide variety of items from cheese curds to jerked chicken, Schooners lets the wind take them where it may when it comes to the style of their cuisine. But whatever dish is on course for your own ride on the tides, one thing clearly keeping this open-air beach shack popular is their dedication to using fresh ingredients that don’t need a whole lot of dressing up. Among their biggest catches is the Gulf Fresh Grouper Sandwich, a locally caught fillet perfectly fried, grilled or blackened to be tender and juicy and served on a fresh bun with crisp lettuce and tomato.



**Hang Five Beach Bar & Grill**

And while some restaurants might give all the glory to the hands at work in their kitchen, the owners at Schooners give major cred to the fishermen who harvest these fine specimens of the sea. [5121 Gulf Drive, \(850\) 235-3555, Schooners.com](https://www.schooners.com)

### **Sharky’s Beachfront Restaurant**

We’re not sure if all seafood tastes better under a tiki hut, but the anecdotal evidence certainly seems to suggest there’s some grain of sandy truth in this hypothesis. Located just a couple beach volleyball spikes from the Gulf itself, you can be sure the grouper is as fresh as the springtime sea air. Sharky’s, perhaps as well known for its beach parties as its dinner platters, has the classic grouper sandwich down pat. Available as requested — grilled, fried or blackened — their grouper sandwich is a delectable entry available with tartar sauce on the side plus a mix of lettuce, tomato, red onions and pickles. Experience full immersion by

grabbing a seat outdoors under your own private umbrella as the waves crash and the cool sea breeze blows in. [15201 Front Beach Road, \(850\) 235-2420, SharkysBeach.com](https://www.sharkysbeach.com)

### **Hang Five Beach Bar & Grill**

One of the newest entries into the PCB market has started to make waves in beachfront dining. The beach-side restaurant hosts a solid stable of appetizing bites and entrees, perfect for sitting inside among the wood-cabin-meets-surf-shop décor. If the weather is nice, sit just inside the giant windowed garage doors for a taste of the Gulf life or on the deck for the total experience. The entrees include a fresh fish sandwich available in either mahi-mahi or grouper. Reel in the grouper — topped with a tomato, shredded lettuce and onions — for a juicy and well-spiced Gulf surprise that will not disappoint. [5005 Front Beach Road, \(850\) 502-5555, HangFivePCB.com](https://www.hangfivepcb.com) ●





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# ENTERTAINMENT

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# GET ACTIVE

» SPRING AND SUMMER DELIGHT WITH CONCERTS AND CELEBRATIONS FEB.—JULY 2020

## PANAMA CITY BEACH MARDI GRAS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL Feb. 21-22, 2020



The most family-friendly Mardi Gras celebration on the Gulf Coast, this two-day festival takes place in Pier Park and is one of the most fun Mardi Gras events anywhere. Enjoy a weekend filled with parades, float tours, street fair, kids zone and live music (and lots and lots of beads).

Visit [PanamaCityBeach.com](http://PanamaCityBeach.com)





### GRAND LAGOON WATERFRONT MARKET

**Weekends** Wildly popular farmer's market has outgrown the grassy areas of Pirate's Cove Marina and has arrived at Capt. Anderson's restaurant. The market hosts the region's favorite makers, bakers and growers on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "Top 10 Things to do at PCB." [Facebook.com/GLWFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/GLWFarmersMarket)

### PCB FOOD TRUCK & CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

**Feb. 15–16** Food Truck Festivals of America is bringing the third annual Panama City Beach Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival back to Aaron Bessant Park. This festival will be a weekend of craft beer, great food, lawn games, music and fun for the whole family. Thirty food trucks will be serving everything from fall-off-the-bone BBQ and wood-fired pizza to juicy prime rib and gooey mac & cheese — plus so much more. [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/events/food-drink-festivals/food-truck-craft-beer-festival](https://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/events/food-drink-festivals/food-truck-craft-beer-festival), [FoodTruckFestivalsofAmerica.com/Panama-City-Beach](https://www.FoodTruckFestivalsofAmerica.com/Panama-City-Beach)

### PANAMA CITY BEACH MARDI GRAS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Feb. 21–22** "Laissez les bon temps rouler" in Panama City Beach and celebrate the destination's authentic Mardi Gras celebration. In conjunction with the Krewe of Domonique Youx's great Mardi Gras at the Beach Parade, this annual festival takes place the weekend before Fat Tuesday. This year's entertainment will include headliner Blood Sweat & Tears and more. [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/Mardi-Gras](https://www.VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/Mardi-Gras)

### EMERALD COAST BOAT AND LIFESTYLE SHOW

**Feb. 28–March 1** This land-based event features boat displays from all major manufacturers and top dealers representing the latest in boats, high tech engines, electronics and marine accessories. Showcasing more than just boats, the Emerald Coast Boat and Lifestyle Show also features everything for the kind of active, outdoor beach lifestyle that is so popular along the Emerald Coast, from standup paddleboards and fishing kayaks to outdoor kitchens, diving, active

wear and beach cruising bicycles. [EmeraldCoastBoatShow.com](https://www.EmeraldCoastBoatShow.com)

### EMERALD COAST CRUIZIN' CAR SHOW

**March 4–7** Twice a year, Panama City Beach pays homage to the classics ... cars that is. Activities at Aaron Bessant Park include cruise-ins, concerts, parties, vendors, food, parades and celebrity appearances. Car enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to check out the thousands of hot rods, customs, muscle cars, trucks and classics on display. [EmeraldCoastCruizin.com](https://www.EmeraldCoastCruizin.com)

### PANAMA CITY BEACH SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

**March 7–8** The 28th annual Panama City Beach Scottish Festival will take place at Frank Brown Park and will feature Scottish athletic competitions, Scottish & Irish musical performances (such as bagpipe bands and Irish step dancers), a British car club show, children's activities and Scottish and Irish food and drink. The family-friendly event kicks off with a welcoming ceremony and parade of Tartans. [PCBeachScotFestival.com](https://www.PCBeachScotFestival.com)

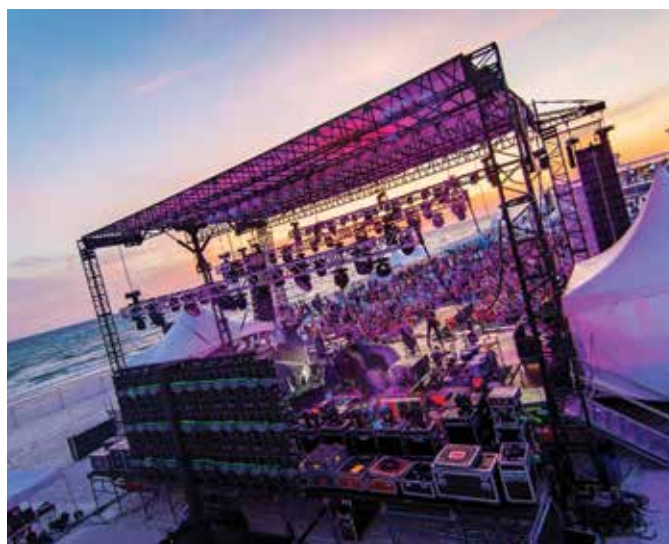
## SWEET Southern MOMENTS

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### SANDJAM MUSIC FESTIVAL April 24–26



The third annual adult-alternative rock music festival will set their stages on the beautiful sugar white sands of Panama City Beach, providing the most beautiful backdrop for this spring's biggest festival. Come for the music, stay for the beaches and make long-lasting memories at SandJam, presented by Pepsi. This year's headliners include Weezer, Shinedown and 311. [SandjamFest.com](https://www.SandjamFest.com)



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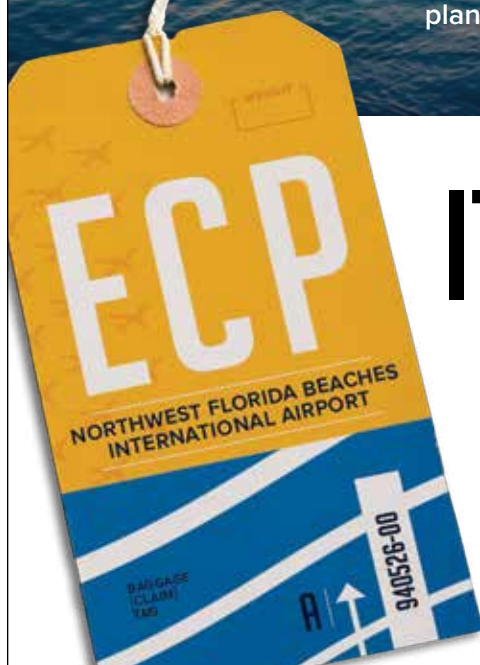
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## UNWINED

**March 20–21** Guests can raise a glass while mixing and mingling with elite chefs, mixologists and top tastemakers at this hip signature spring event. UNwined features superb craft beer, spirits and wine from around the world, along with culinary creations by Northwest Florida's leading chefs, accompanied by outstanding musical talent (Grammy nominated band Death Cab for Cutie and Joywave). [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/Unwined](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/Unwined)

## PCB BEER FEST

**April 4** Panama City Beach's largest craft beer festival will be held at Fishale Gastro Pub. Bay County's longest running Craft Beer festival features over 200 craft beers and ciders. We have some new add-ons this year, including food trucks and the Newby's bourbon corner. Come join us for rare craft beers, live music, national reps and an incredible craft beer experience.

## PARROTHEAD RENDEZVOUS "STORIES WE COULD TELL"

**April 16–19** The 14th annual Rendezvous, hosted by the Panama City Parrot Head Club, will take place on the sugary sands of Panama City Beach at Sharky's Restaurant. This awesome beach party is four days of trop rock musical entertainment and a ton of Parrot Head Fun. Proceeds will benefit local charities. [PanamaCityPHC.org](http://PanamaCityPHC.org)

## CAJUN FESTIVAL

**April 17–19** Cajun music, Cajun food & Cajun fun — c'mon ova y'all. This annual Cajun Beach Party will feature daytime bands on the beach and a crawfish eating contest on Sunday. It's lots of fun for the whole family. [Schooners.com](http://Schooners.com)

## SEABREEZE JAZZ FESTIVAL

**April 22–26** Named a "Top 10 Jazz Festival in the USA" by JazzIZ Magazine and recently nominated as "Best Jazz Festival" at the Oasis Smooth Jazz Awards, the Seabreeze Jazz Festival combines top national smooth jazz artists with a full weekend of fun, sun, great beaches and good times — all on the west end of Panama City Beach. The event attracts thousands of fans from the U.S., Canada and Europe for the ultimate performance-packed weekend of jazz. [SeabreezeJazzFestival.com](http://SeabreezeJazzFestival.com)

## THUNDER BEACH MOTORCYCLE RALLY

**April 29–May 3** Motorcyclists will be roaring into town to celebrate the annual spring rally and the autumn events. Bikers from around the nation will enjoy contests, rocking entertainment and bike shows. Known as "The Most Biker Friendly FREE Rally in the United States," Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally is held twice yearly in Panama City Beach, during the first weekend in May and again in mid-October. Bikers from around the country can enjoy scenic rides along the Emerald Coast, live entertainment and local cuisine. [ThunderBeachProductions.com](http://ThunderBeachProductions.com)

## IRONMAN GULF COAST

**May 9** Athletes looking for a flat and fast early season race that will ease you towards a personal record can look no further than Visit Panama City Beach IRONMAN 70.3 Gulf Coast. You will be in awe of the "World's Most Beautiful Beaches" as you swim, bike and run your way through Panama City Beach. Bring your friends and family to this spectator-friendly course and create your perfect race-cation! [Ironman.com](http://Ironman.com)

## FLORIDA JEEP JAM

**May 13–16** Jeep enthusiasts from throughout the United States travel to Frank Brown Park for this five-day event dedicated to all things Jeep. Industry-leading companies will be present with information, seminars and merchandise. This family-friendly event includes obstacle courses, bonfires, a Jeep parade, bounce houses, live music and more. [FloridaJeepJam.com](http://FloridaJeepJam.com)

## GROOVIN' ON THE GREEN

**Recurring Sundays** Enjoy an evening of music at Carillon Beach's Village Green for this summer concert series. Admission is free and guests are welcome to bring chairs, blankets and coolers with your beverage of choice while listening to a myriad of musical stylings — including bluegrass, top 40, beach, reggae, country, blues and jazz. [Facebook.com/CarillonBeachFlorida](http://Facebook.com/CarillonBeachFlorida)

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**Recurring Thursdays (June–Aug.)** Hot summer nights are made for music, and the Summer Concert Series has become a beloved summertime tradition

in PCB. Enjoy a free concert at the park every Thursday at Aaron Bessant Park Amphitheater. Bring your lawn chair and blankets and enjoy the sounds of summer music; coolers, food and pets are welcome. The 2019 lineup can be found at [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com).

## PEPSI GULF COAST JAM

**Sept. 4–6** Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam, a three-day celebration of sun, fun and country music, will host its seventh annual festival on the Gulf Coast shores of Panama City Beach. Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam will provide the best of today's country music for an audience of more than 20,000 people on the coast. Festivalgoers will stand on the white sugar sand beach and dip their toes in the water during the day and watch their favorite performers at night. As the sun begins to set, patrons will ride free shuttles to the stage at Frank Brown Park. [GulfCoastJam.com](http://GulfCoastJam.com)



## REAL.FUN.FOURTH.

**July 3–4**

No Independence Day is complete without sparkling, vibrant fireworks displays. This weeklong celebration boasts activities around Panama City Beach, capped off with a fireworks show at Aaron Bessant Park.



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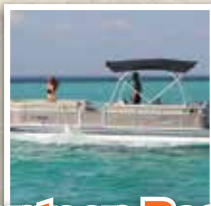
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## OTHER YEARLY EVENTS

### 9-11 STAIR CLIMB

**Sept. 12** The Panama City Beach 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Fundraiser started back in 2011 as a special way to remember the 10th anniversary of the tragic events on September 11, 2001. Held at Edgewater Beach and Golf Resort, all money raised goes towards the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and local First Responder projects. [FireHero.org/events/9-11-stair-climbs](http://FireHero.org/events/9-11-stair-climbs)

### PIRATES OF THE HIGH SEAS FESTIVAL

**Oct. 9–11** Columbus Day weekend brings waves of fun-filled adventure to Panama City Beach each year with this annual event at Pier Park. The whole family can play together, and weekend activities include a scavenger hunt, pirate invasions, water battle, kids parade and main parade, live music, fireworks and much more. [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com)

### SCHOONERS LOBSTER FESTIVAL & TOURNAMENT

**Oct. 12–18** The biggest seven-day lobster festival in Florida takes place at Schooners during the middle of October. Lobster tournament divers hunt for local lobsters and vie for prizes, while spectators devour delicious lobster dishes and participate in a sand-sculpting contest. [Schooners.com/Events/LobsterFestival.htm](http://Schooners.com/Events/LobsterFestival.htm)

### PANAMA CITY BEACH OKTOBERFEST

**Oct. 16–18** Locals and visitors alike will raise a glass and don their lederhosen for this annual celebration of German heritage. Authentic German beer and brats are the star of the show, while this year's festivities will feature stein hoisting competitions, live music and plenty of activities for the kids. [PCBOKtoberfest.com](http://PCBOKtoberfest.com)

### SCHOONERS BLOODY MARY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Oct. 19** Up to 20 bars and restaurants will compete for the title of "Best Bloody Mary in the Grand Lagoon," and the winner will be crowned "Big Tomato." The event will feature live music and a host of award-winning bloody marys. [Schooners.com/events/bloodymary.htm](http://Schooners.com/events/bloodymary.htm)

### THUNDER BEACH MOTORCYCLE RALLY

**Oct. 21–25** Motorcyclists will be roaring into town to celebrate the annual spring rally and the autumn events. Bikers from

around the nation will enjoy contests, rocking entertainment and bike shows. Known as "The Most Biker Friendly FREE Rally in the United States," Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally is held twice yearly in Panama City Beach, during the first weekend in May and again in mid-October. Bikers from around the country can enjoy scenic rides along the Emerald Coast, live entertainment and local cuisine. [ThunderBeachProductions.com](http://ThunderBeachProductions.com)

### IRONMAN FLORIDA

**Nov. 7** What began as a challenge between groups of Navy Seals has become one of the most recognized endurance events in the world. The Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run, with the Florida edition of the challenge serving as one of the most popular races on the circuit. Too much to take on? Check out the new Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast in May — half the course with all the fun! [Ironman.com](http://Ironman.com)

### EMERALD COAST CRUIZIN' CAR SHOW

**Nov. 11–14** Twice a year, Panama City Beach pays homage to the classics ... cars that is. Activities at Aaron Bessant Park include cruise-ins, concerts, parties, vendors, food, parades and celebrity appearances. Car enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to check out the thousands of hot rods, customs, muscle cars, trucks and classics on display. [EmeraldCoastCruizin.com](http://EmeraldCoastCruizin.com)

### HOLLY FAIR

**Nov.** Northwest Florida's Southern holiday upscale shopping event will feature an entirely indoor and newly remodeled venue at Edgewater

Golf & Beach Resort. All proceeds from this event support the Junior League of Panama City's mission of developing positive community change. [JLPanamaCity.org/hollyfair](http://JLPanamaCity.org/hollyfair)

### BEACH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**Thanksgiving Weekend, Nov. 27–28**

Kicking off Thanksgiving weekend, Beach Home for the Holidays includes a fun-filled lineup of activities and events to entice families from far and wide to build new traditions and celebrate the season together in Panama City Beach. Highlights include the lighting of a 100-foot Christmas tree, magical Santa's Village and holiday music concerts (past acts include Scotty McCreery, Wynonna Judd, John Berry and Panama City POPS Orchestra) at Aaron Bessant Park. [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/Holidays](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/Holidays)

### PANAMA CITY BEACH MARATHON

**Dec. 5** Runners can choose from a marathon, half-marathon, 5K or kid's fun run in this popular annual event — regardless of the division, all win with a view of the Gulf of Mexico to guide them along. [PCBMarathon.com](http://PCBMarathon.com)

### NEW YEAR'S EVE BEACH BALL DROP

**Dec. 31** Celebrate New Year's Eve on the beach. A family-friendly countdown at 8 p.m. culminates with fireworks and 10,000 beach balls being dropped over the crowd. As the seconds tick down to midnight, thousands of revelers watch the Celebration Tower as a glowing beach ball descends to signify the start of a New Year and kicks off a second round of fireworks. Live music sets a festive tone all night long! [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com) ●







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After Hurricane Michael devastated our neighboring cities, David Jones, the owner of the 850 Brand, wanted to show his support and raise funds to assist in the recovery of Panama City, Mexico Beach and others. In the weeks following the storm, David sold over 1,500 shirts and donated approximately \$17,000 to local charities that went directly back into the community.



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The background of the page is a photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange. In the foreground, several people are walking on the sand. In the background, there is a lifeguard stand and some beach equipment. On the left side of the page, there is a green vertical bar with white concentric circles.

# ***THE SOUNDS OF SUMMER***

SandJam Fest and Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam  
fill the beach with music's top talents

***BY LIESEL SCHMIDT***

**DON'T BE** afraid to  
rock out as you take  
to the shoreline and  
revel in this year's  
SandJam Fest.



Bringing a different feel and a whole different crowd to the beach — one a little more rock and a bit less country — is the **SandJam Fest Presented by Pepsi**, held at M.B. Miller County Pier. Garnering massive success in its 2018 inaugural show, headliners for the 2020 concert include Shinedown, 311 and Weezer, making it a showstopper for true rock lovers looking for an alternative to the standard concert scene. In all, another

20 acts are scheduled to perform on two massive stages over three days on the World's Most Beautiful Beaches.

Instituting Sandjam was a move inspired by the overwhelming response to Gulf Coast Jam — and the resulting outcry of rock fans for a festival that catered to their tastes. Not ones to overlook such an opportunity to bring in more tourism to the area, PCB Entertainment president Rendy Lovelady worked with his committee to organize the





new event and make sure that it went off sensationally. Fortunately, the SandJam was a rocking (pun intended) success.

Building from the momentum of its inaugural event, the 2019 SandJam was bigger and better, hosting headliners Kings of Leon, Third Eye Blind and Young the Giant, as well as 26 additional acts over its three days. The lineup drew nearly 30,000 music lovers, a 30% increase over the previous year's attendance.

"So many people put in thousands of hours planning and working to bring in the right talent and create the right atmosphere to draw people to our amazing area," says Lovelady of the 2019 event, which came less than seven months after Hurricane Michael. "We weren't sure six months ago if we could pull this off, but we felt like we had to make it happen for Panama City Beach and the entire Panhandle. We just don't have words right now for how well everything came together to present an amazing event."

The fun doesn't stop with the music. The concert resembles a festival as far as the eye can see as revelers pack the M.B. Miller Pier parking lot. Stands

and tents offer food and beverages, clothing and crafts, and even activities such as yoga. There's also a special two-story VIP area complete with hammocks, fire pits and wine tastings.

If the past festivals are anything to go by, the **Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam 2020** is sure to be epic. And why wouldn't it be? It's the hottest ticket of the season — and you can take that as literally as you'd like.

Hitting the beach and the stage with all the charm, finesse, pizzazz and passion that you'd expect to pour out of every guitar-pickin', cowboy hat-wearing, boot-stompin' vocalist of country music, the lineup for the festival is the perfect reason to make visiting Panama City Beach a must-do in summer. Add to that the sights, the smells, the tastes, it's enough to make you go on sensory overload ... in the best possible way.

Sure, you could do the usual Labor Day weekend. We're all for breaking out the grill skills and getting together with friends and family for some food and fun at the beach. But why not crank it up to 11? You can do all that and more with all the thrill of live music being performed by some of the biggest names

on the charts, names that have hits rocking the airwaves and capturing the attention of fans across the globe. They're names that are on your playlists, and now they'll be performing their songs for you — live!

And not in just some used baseball arena, either. With one of the most beautiful beaches in the background at Frank Brown Park, these hot country music artists have the best performance venue imaginable. The sounds of the waves crashing nearby, the feel of the sand under your feet, the warmth of the sun on your skin ... all with your favorite stars.

Past years have proven the Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam to be quite the draw, featuring artists such as Tim McGraw, Jason Aldean, Kid Rock, Big and Rich, LOCASH, Midland, Lanco, Gretchen Wilson, Luke Bryan, Little Big Town, Brad Paisley, Jake Owen and Eric Church. It's a list that's so impressive each year that *Billboard Magazine* included the Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam in its "10 Best Country Music Festivals" list. According to *Country News* editor Chuck Dauphin: "This great country music festival is known for its diverse mix of musical talent from within the country ranks. This event has become a rite of passage for thousands of country music fans."

Not too shabby for a beach and resort town on the Emerald Coast — or any coast for that matter.

In addition to established artists and bands, the Gulf Coast Jam sponsors the Pepsi Southern Original Contest, where up-and-coming country music and Southern rock artists submit their best work and compete for a chance to perform at the Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam. For these artists, it's a regional stage that could catapult them to stardom.





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WHETHER YOU'RE
 into rock or country,
 Panama City Beach's
 two major concerts
 will provide a lifetime
 of memories.
 ~~~~~

Each ticket to Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam includes free access to shuttle service to and from the festival grounds. The shuttle runs from noon until all concert attendees have left the park, serving seven convenient locations in Panama City Beach and leaving guests free to eat, drink and enjoy the festival to its fullest without the worry of having a drive home.

And speaking of eating, what's a great country music festival without great festival food? All weekend long, the festival grounds abound with fantastic food and refreshing drinks, from festival fare to slightly more refined cuisine, plus beverage options ranging from fizzy Pepsi sodas to bubbly Bud Lights.

Both festivals were great moneymakers for the area, but organizers made sure the 2019 events were more than just the music. A portion of ticket sales helped fund Panhandle hurricane relief efforts. There was also the "Can Jam for Sand Jam," a three-day event offering two SandJam tickets in exchange for two canned or non-perishable food items.



Food donations helped fill three local pantries. Now that's giving that rocks!

Expectations are running high for 2020, as each of the festivals have built their own reputations as big-name draws. So be sure to create your own memories as the shores of Panama City Beach are filled with song.

A little bit country, a little bit rock — these are festivals you won't want to miss.

*For ticket information on Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam 2020, visit [GulfCoastJam.com](http://GulfCoastJam.com). For ticket information for SandJam Fest 2020, visit [SandJamFest.com](http://SandJamFest.com). ●*

### **SANDJAM FEST** **April 24–26, 2020**

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### **PEPSI GULF COAST JAM** **September 4–6, 2020**

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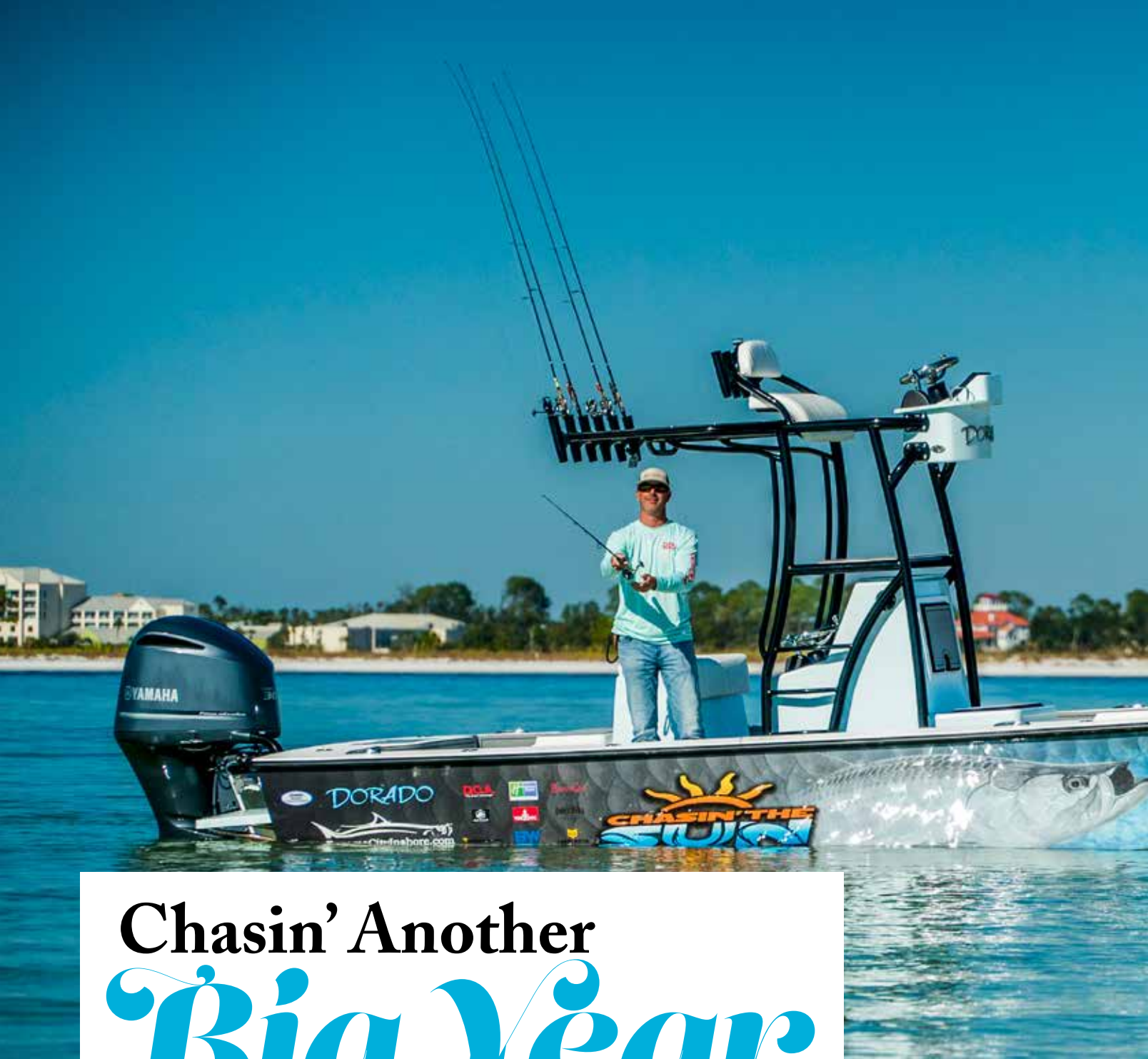
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# Chasin' Another *Big Year*

Panama City Beach's fishing and lifestyle program returns for Season 5

**C**hasin'The Sun hasn't caught its limit quite yet.

Visit Panama City Beach's award-winning television series has returned to the water for a fifth season on Discovery Channel.

Chasin'The Sun airs on Saturdays (8:30 a.m. Eastern/Pacific and 7:30 a.m. Central through June 2020) with all-new episodes showcasing the diverse angling, diving and coastal lifestyle that Panama City Beach has to offer.

"We're in our fifth season and have barely scratched the surface in terms of content and storylines," says Visit Panama City Beach Vice President of Tourism Development J. Michael Brown. "We look forward to sharing many more exciting adventures from our beautiful emerald green waters and white sand beaches."

Each week, co-hosts Justin Leake and Travis Holeman are joined by local charter boat captains — many of whom are Justin's lifelong friends — and special guest anglers





~~~~~  
THE SHOW'S
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 and ready for
 coastal angling
 action. **Right:**
 Capt. Justin Leake
 (left) and guest
 angler Ed Zyak of
 D.O.A. Lures show
 off a red grouper.
 ~~~~~



or watering hole as they are a tarpon or red snapper.

But it's the fast-paced, heart-pounding angling action that keeps viewers tuning in week after week. "Chasin' The Sun has allowed anglers from all over the world to experience our wonderful fishery," says Brown. "Plus, quite a few viewers have booked local charter trips after watching the show and traveled to Panama City Beach in search of their own trophy catch."

Chasin' The Sun is produced in partnership with Pinfish Media and reaches nearly 100 million U.S. households on Discovery Channel. The show is also available on demand via Amazon Prime and Vudu. Season 5 sponsors include B&W Trailer Hitches, D.O.A. Fishing Lures, Dorado Custom Boats, Dulce Vida Tequila, FireDisc Cookers, Holiday Inn Resort, Humminbird, Minn Kota, Native Eyewear and Pirates Cove Marina. ●

as they chase redfish, mahi mahi, snapper, kingfish and the elusive tarpon.

"Many people don't realize how diverse and abundant our fishery is," says Capt. Leake. "Inshore, near shore, offshore ... we have a lot of options and can almost always find a bite somewhere."

Justin's local knowledge is gleaned from a lifetime of fishing in and around Panama City Beach, and it pairs perfectly with Travis' experience as a nationally known tournament angler and professional guide based in the Florida Keys. While their approaches to

fishing are different, they share the same passion for being on the water.

"Justin likes to have everything planned in advance, and I like to go with the flow," says Capt. Holeman. "Either way, we always have a lot of fun — even if we don't catch a lot of fish."

Off the water, Chasin' The Sun highlights the attractions, events, dining establishments and natural beauty that make Panama City Beach one of the world's most popular vacation destinations. In fact, viewers are almost as likely to spot a local business, chef

## STAY CONNECTED



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# LET'S ALL SIP AND STROLL

Enjoy a culinary  
adventure at the 2020  
UNwineD Festival

**BY KARI C. BARLOW**

It's springtime — those breezy, downright perfect weeks before summer takes charge — and that means the 2020 UNwineD Festival is just around the corner.

Fleeting and fabulous, spring at the World's Most Beautiful Beaches is a season like no other, enticing folks outdoors to stroll sidewalks, sit on porches, dine al fresco and dip their toes into the Gulf of Mexico. The annual return of the region's premier wine and culinary festival is an added bonus.

"UNwineD is a culinary experience that all can enjoy," said Patrick Stewart, sports and special events operations manager at Visit Panama City Beach. "Our partnership with Southern Living sets us apart from other festivals."

This year's event, slated for March 20–21 at Aaron Bessant Park, promises to be the best yet, showcasing a rich variety fine wines, craft beers and top-notch spirits from across North America, Europe and South America. Last year, organizers added a fine arts

component to UNwineD, and they plan to once again incorporate a juried show into the two-day festival.

"It was very well received," said Helen Ballance, executive director of Beach Arts Group of Panama City Beach. "People thought it was wonderful to have the art along with the fine wine and gourmet food. It's all part of the package!"

UNwineD gets started on Friday with its annual Southern Living Kick-Off Party, a curated, ticketed experience for roughly 200 guests. Held under the festival's signature white tent, this one-of-a-kind night will feature "Top Chef" winner Kelsey Barnard Clark and include custom cocktails, live music and more.

A Dothan, Alabama, native and Season 16 winner of "Top Chef," Barnard Clark honed her craft at some of Manhattan's top restaurants, Cafe Boulud and Dovetail, before returning home to launch her own eatery in Dothan named KBC. She describes



## “UNWINE D IS A CULINARY EXPERIENCE THAT ALL CAN ENJOY.”

— **PATRICK STEWART**, *Sports and Special Events Operations Manager at Visit Panama City Beach.*

her menu as “whole food, prepared classically and plated with big city flair.”

What makes UNwineD truly unique is that it’s a festival celebrating all of the senses. And in the entertainment department, organizers have upped their game each year, featuring amazing talent at its popular Picnic in the Park & Concert, which rounds out Saturday evening of the festival. Past crowds have enjoyed the high-energy folk of The Avett Brothers, the soulful stylings of St. Paul and the Broken Bones and the sentiment of Nashville crooner Cale Tyson.

Last year’s concert featured six-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile with opening entertainment by American folk-jazz-pop duo JOHNNYSWIM. Carlile, who was Rolling Stone’s 2005 Artist to Watch, is known for her hit tunes such as “The Story,” which was featured in an episode of ABC’s “Grey’s Anatomy,” and critically acclaimed albums “The Firewatcher’s Daughter” and “Give Up the Ghost.”

The fourth annual UNwineD festival will bring in headliner and Grammy-nominated band Death Cab for Cutie, as well as Joywave, for the 2020 entertainment.

UNwineD’s main drawing point — the Grand Afternoon Tasting from 1–4 p.m. on Saturday — is well worth the yearlong wait. While enjoying the shade of the white tent, festivalgoers can sip and stroll with their sampling glasses, partaking in handcrafted beverages from dozens of vendors and breweries.

In past years, guests have also enjoyed mouth-watering dishes from several local restaurants, including Dovalina’s Catering, Firefly, Temperley’s British Eatery and Runaway Island. The tent will also offer multiple culinary demonstrations and on-the-spot creations.



This year, a second white tent will house the juried art show, which will include acrylics, oils, photography, sculpture and other media.

“It’s going to be more like an art opening,” Ballance said. “It’s a garden party, and we’re going to make it more inviting. It’s going to be about not only selling art but also getting to know the artists.”

Blending art into the festival has proven not only profitable for the artists but also enjoyable for visitors, she added.

“It’s such a great fit,” Ballance said. “When you think of fine wine and craft beers, you think about art. This is a fabulous festival!”

In recent years, UNwineD has grown in popularity among locals and out-of-town visitors. The festival got its start as an effort to rebrand Panama City Beach as more than a spring break destination for college students and promote year-round tourism.

“The premier partnership with Southern Living, top-tier entertainment and overall culinary experience has proved itself year over year,” Stewart said. “That’s why I believe UNwineD was voted 2017 Most Innovative Projects of the Year by Florida Festivals and Events Association and continues to be one of the most popular festivals on the Gulf Coast.”

With bites and brews that run the culinary gamut, UNwineD has something for everyone.

“We wanted UNwineD to appeal to adults — specifically families and couples,” Stewart said. “It is the perfect weekend getaway trip for the girls or friends. Whether you’re a craft beer connoisseur, a sipper of sauvignon blanc or a master chef, this festival is an event you don’t want to miss!” ●

~~~~~  
LET THE LIBATIONS flow during UNwineD, the area’s top culinary event.
~~~~~





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# Fourth & Fun

Real. Fun. Fourth. is three days of patriotic revelry

BY LIESEL SCHMIDT



~~~~~  
**PANAMA CITY
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Fourth. is a three-
day extravaganza
for the whole family.
~~~~~



**T**here are countless events held all across the country on Fourth of July weekend, from major festivals to small family gatherings, neighborhood cookouts and block parties. For these special days commemorating our country's hard-won independence, we as a nation unite to party; and in a community such as Panama City Beach, the party isn't just fun — it's real fun. So it's appropriate that this three-day-long event is called **Real. Fun. Fourth.**

Starting July 3, each night of fireworks displays launches from a different location — from resorts to waterfront restaurants — so that the spectacular explosions of red, white and blue are enjoyable and visible to all, no matter where they might be spending their day. And because no Fourth of July weekend would be complete without some good old-fashioned star-spangled events, activities and entertainment, each day offers an opportunity to get in the holiday spirit.







@FENDERMKE



"The Fourth is a great time to make new memories on the beach with friends and family," says Visit Panama City Beach President and CEO Dan Rowe. "We have an action-packed week of fun activities that includes the largest fireworks display on the Gulf Coast."

With so much in the works, it's little wonder that Panama City Beach experiences a marked boost in tourism for the event each year, and hopes are high that 2020 will follow suit. "Real. Fun. Fourth. is an annual tradition for Panama City Beach visitors and locals," says Lacey Rudd, Public Relations Manager for Visit

Panama City Beach. "It offers more than three days of fireworks, making it one of the largest-scale fireworks displays in the area, and visitors and locals can expect another three-day event packed full of the biggest and best fireworks for 2020!"

From the first strains of the National Anthem to the last explosion of light across the sky, Real. Fun. Fourth. is the perfect way to pay tribute to our country, enjoy some time at the beach, and create some new memories and new traditions. There's no shortage of fun to be had.

**For more information on Real. Fun. Fourth., go to [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](https://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com) or call (850) 233-5070. ●**

## JULY 3

### Freedom Rocks! Fireworks

If you love great shopping and dining all in one spot, head to Grand Lagoon, where you'll be able to indulge in fabulous food, get some retail therapy and enjoy to live music at Freedom Rocks before the day ends with a colorful fireworks show. For the best view of the display above the Grand Lagoon Bridge, be sure to bring lawn chairs and blankets to stake your claim to prime spots out on the grassy lawn at Treasure Island Marina. Fireworks begin at 9. p.m.

## JULY 4

### Veterans Memorial Ceremony

Honoring all those who have served in the military, join the City of Panama Beach at Aaron Bessant Park for the Veterans Memorial Ceremony, which will offer a special salute to the courage, strength, honor, commitment, and sacrifices made by those who have so willingly defended our freedom and kept our nation safe.

## JULY 4

### Star Spangled Spectacular

If one display of fireworks is impressive, then surely two must be nothing short of spectacular! Join the City of Panama City Beach as they host the Gulf Coast's largest fireworks display at 9 p.m. The show features dueling firework displays from the city and county — setting off at Russell-Fields and M.B. Miller piers — in a colorful display of light and sound that's sure to make your heart swell with patriotic pride. For the best vantage point, arrive early and bring beach chairs and blankets.

## JULY 5

### Light Up the Gulf Fireworks Show

Don't want the excitement to end? Lucky for you, there's still some real fun to be had before the final blast of rockets-red-glaring across the sky. Held at Boardwalk Beach Resort, the Beach Bash is an annual holiday weekend favorite for any age, offering the perfect chance to have some beachside fun in the sun, get a taste of some of the best local seafood and rock out to live music before the main event — "Light Up the Gulf," Panama City Beach's largest private fireworks show. Fireworks are scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m., so come early for the perfect vantage point.

REAL **PCB**

**PCB LOCALS**







**O**ur quaint beach town is known for its beautiful beaches and fresh seafood, but what really sets us apart is the family-friendly welcome we provide visitors coming to explore the Real.FUN.Beach! So we set out to ask locals just how they make PCB theirs. And these locals know — whether you are looking for new adventures on land or in the water — Panama City Beach is the perfect destination to explore.

**DEBBIE**  
PCB City Hall

**Q: Working at City Hall must be pretty interesting, can you share any cool facts about Panama City Beach?**

**A:** A sleepy little beach community incorporated in 1953 merged with neighboring towns in 1970, and Panama City Beach as we know it was born Aug. 12, 1970. This year, we celebrate 50 years of paradise, and what better way to celebrate than at one of our many attractions, like Shipwreck Island Waterpark, or grab dinner at a local's hotspot like Schooners, and don't forget to take a trip to Shell Island!



## RACHEL SkyWheel

**Q: The SkyWheel is fairly new to the area, what all does this attraction offer?**

**A:** Fun for all, SkyWheel Panama City Beach is a full-service attraction in Pier Park. This new landmark in Panama City Beach stands nearly 200 feet tall and offers a full day of fun with a towering ropes course, 18-hole miniature golf course, and the only place for a fresh made-to-order funnel cake in Pier Park. The SkyWheel is suitable for families, couples, singles — and it's accessible to all.



## DANNE' Grand Marlin

**Q: Best spot to catch the sunset in PCB?**

**A:** If you are looking to catch one of our beautiful sunsets over Grand Lagoon, check out The Grand Marlin to enjoy live music at the North Drop Bar, the freshest seafood on the Gulf Coast — all while sipping one of our signature cocktails.

## ELISE

Holiday Inn Express & Holiday Inn Resort

**Q: With over 100 beach accesses and thousands of visitors in the destination year-round, where do you go for the perfect beach day, and how do you enjoy it?**

**A:** For a perfect beach day, all you need to do is head to the west end of the beach — where it's nice and quiet — and hit up the Carousel, purchase a bottle of champagne, beach-safe glasses and fill your cooler with cheeses, fresh fruit and crackers. You can even park right across the street, so refilling your cooler is quick and easy.



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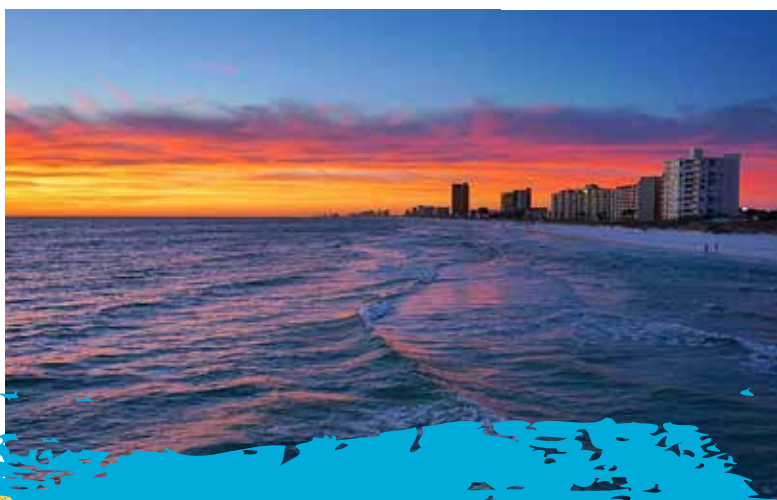
**A GREAT PHOTO** is all about being in the right place at the right time — in Panama City Beach, the right time is just about any time. So if you capture a great vacation photo you'd like to share with us, post it to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag #MyPCB, or email it to us at [social@visitpanamacitybeach.com](mailto:social@visitpanamacitybeach.com). Your photo might even be selected to appear in Visit Panama City Beach magazine (with your permission, of course)!



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# SAFETY FIRST

**FLORIDA'S BEACH WARNING FLAG** program uses flags in four colors accompanied by interpretive signs along the beach to explain the meaning of each color. Flags are located approximately one mile apart along the beach. Absence of flags does not assure safe waters.

Current beach flag conditions can be found on [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com).



*Sign up to receive alerts for flag changes by texting **FLAG** to **313131**.*



**GREEN –  
LOW HAZARD**  
Calm conditions,  
exercise caution



**YELLOW –  
MEDIUM HAZARD**  
Moderate surf  
and/or currents



**RED – HIGH  
HAZARD**  
High surf and/or  
strong currents



**RED OVER  
RED**  
Water closed  
to public



**PURPLE**  
Dangerous  
marine life

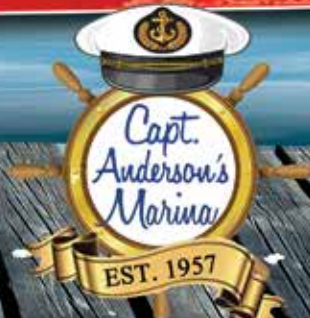


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# LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

Together, we can keep our beaches pristine

**PANAMA CITY BEACH** is known for having the “World’s Most Beautiful Beaches,” and we would like to keep it that way for the enjoyment of locals and tourists alike! For this reason, the “Leave No Trace” ordinance was adopted in 2012. Anything you bring to the beach should also leave the beach with you. Anything left on the beach overnight could be cleared off the beach by the time you return in the morning. Our goal is to protect our pristine beaches and the natural wildlife, such as

nesting sea turtles, by leaving no trace of personal items on the beaches overnight. Please do your part in maintaining our beautiful beaches!

The “Leave No Trace” ordinance states that all personal items will be removed and disposed of if left on the beach between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. These items include, but are not limited to, tents, chairs, toys, umbrellas and coolers. On public beaches or with the upland landowner’s permission, beachgoers may store personal

belongings overnight at the toe of the dune. The toe of the dune is the area of the beach immediately seaward of the dune and beach vegetation. To be specific, it is the area of the beach that is furthest from the water that is not in a sand dune or beach access point.

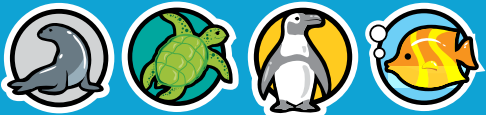
Those who store their personal items overnight do so at their own risk. The county, the city, the Tourist Development Council and the beach maintenance contractor do not assume any liability for any items left on the beach.





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