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FALL/WINTER 2019 MAGAZINE

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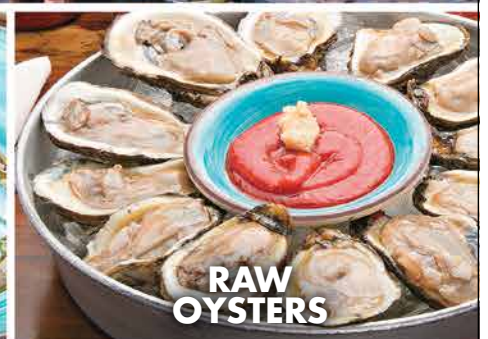
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WINTER
2019



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PIER PARK

THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOARD

27 MILES OF WHITE SAND

SALT THERAPY

RELAX

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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE INDOOR/
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY DURING THE
FALL/WINTER SEASON?



"Bonfires on the beach
with s'mores and great
friends!"

— **Michaelean Stewart**



"Spending time with winter
residents and attending
themed socials!"

— **Richard Sanders**



"Attending Lobster
Fest at Schooners!"

— **Harrison Moon**



"Attending the Snowbird
Senior Prom!" — **Nelda**



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SOME WOULD SAY THAT FALL IS THE PERFECT TIME OF YEAR to visit The World's

Most Beautiful Beaches. With endless sunshine and 27 miles of pristine beaches, the fall season signals milder temps, crystal clear waters and blue skies that provide a ready canvas for some of the best sunsets along the Florida Panhandle.

Not only does this season still have warm waters mixed with cooler days, it also brings some amazing events for the whole family to enjoy. As summer days turn into fall nights, visitors can kick off the Labor Day weekend with country music's biggest stars during the destination's seventh annual Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam. Coming up next on the calendar is the annual Pirates of the High Seas Fest, where kids of all ages can enjoy a three-day weekend of hunting buried treasure and other fun-filled adventures.

But, the fun doesn't stop in the fall, from our Beach Home for the Holidays celebration to welcoming snowbirds at the Winter Resident Senior Prom to ringing in the new year at the famous New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop at Pier Park, this winter is full of PCB festivities that locals and visitors alike are sure to enjoy.

In this issue of the Visit Panama City Beach Visitors Guide, learn how to vacation like a local as PCB's favorite residents share their tips and tricks to exploring Panama City Beach (pg. 90), discover some of the Gulf of Mexico's most famed ship wrecks and plan your next dive trip (pg. 50-51), document your trip at the top Instagram spots and don't forget to use #MyPCB (pg. 18-19) and catch a game at our brand new Panama City Beach Sports Complex (pg. 36-37).

We hope this guide inspires you — the list of things to see and do in Panama City Beach is virtually endless. Whichever way you decide to spend your fall season in Panama City Beach, we invite you to "Make It Yours." From eco-adventure and romance to family beach time and adrenaline, the options are endless to creating your own vacation vibe here at our Real. Fun. Beach.

DAN ROWE
President and CEO
Visit Panama City Beach



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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.



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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VISITPANAMACITYBEACH.COM

» SOCIAL CABANA

Check out what's happening in Panama City Beach through our range of social media: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, Google Plus, YouTube and our Blog.

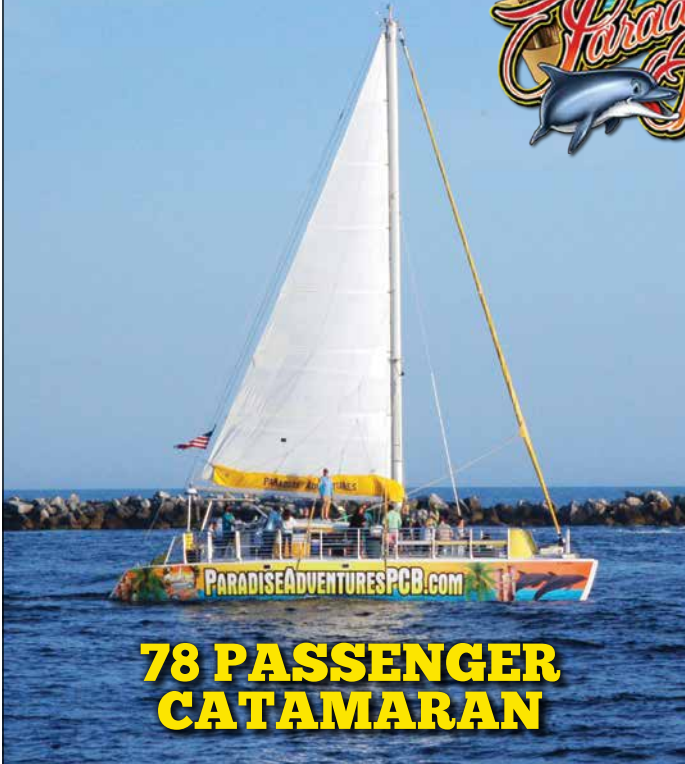


» GET INSPIRED

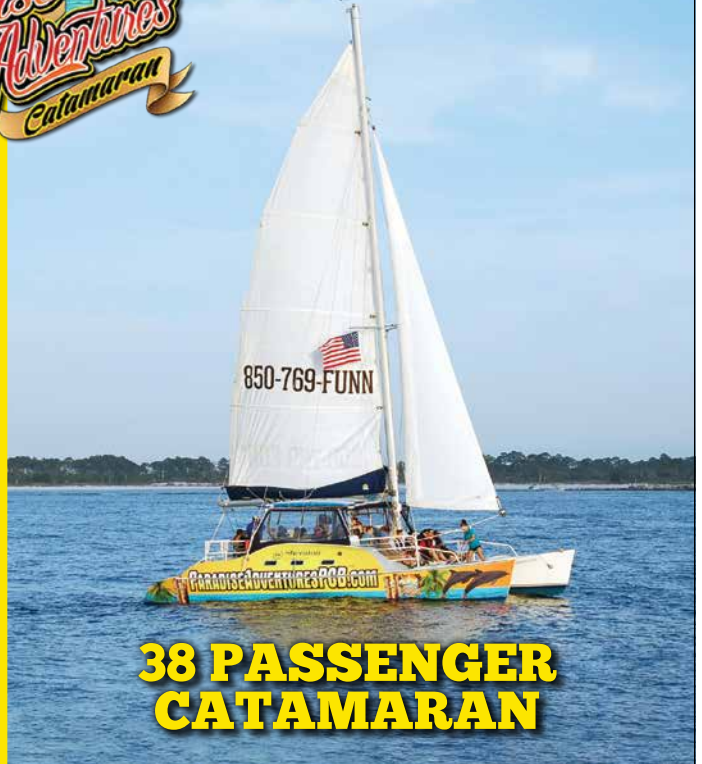
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**38 PASSENGER
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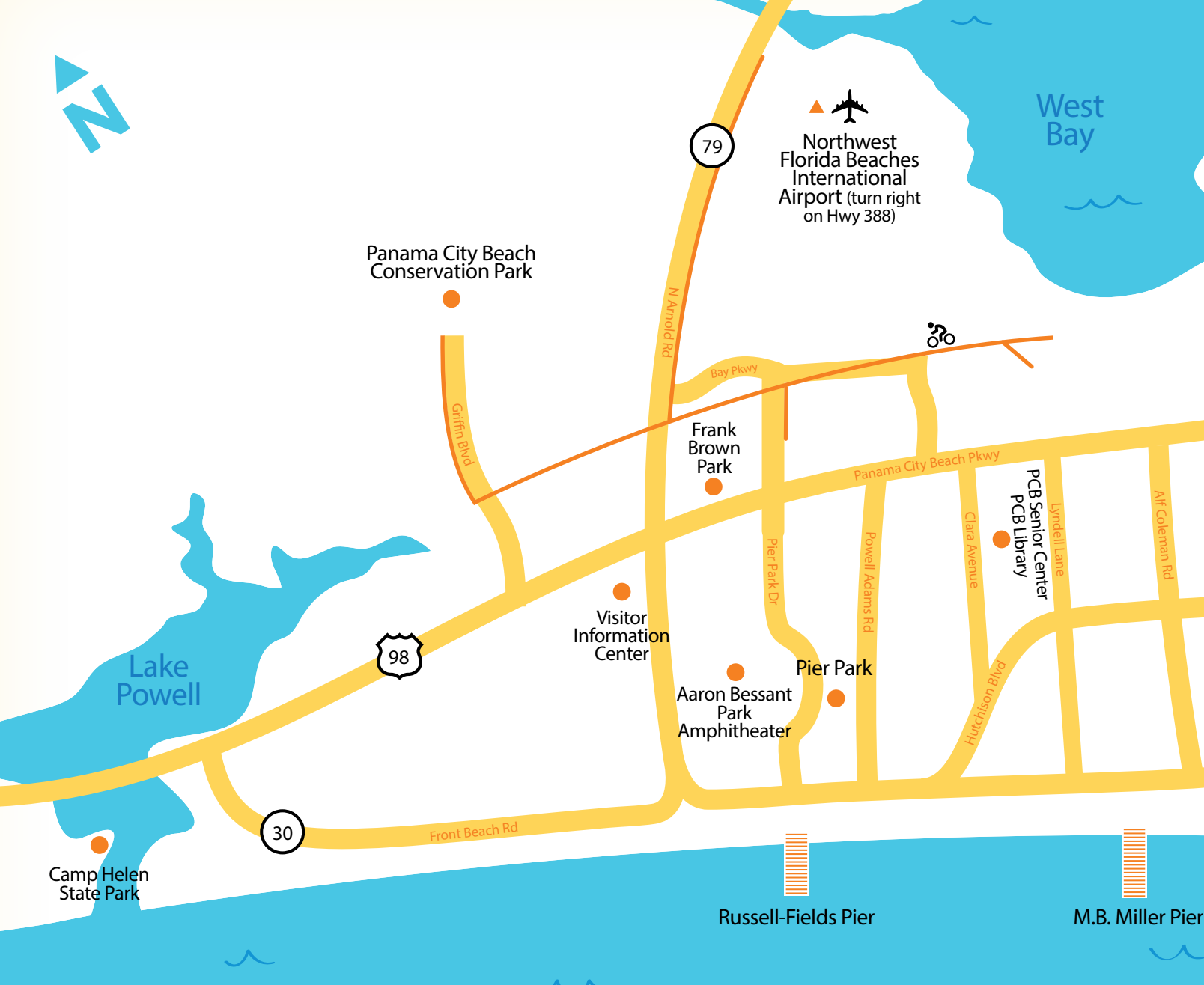
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Talk Like a Local

"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



FAMILY BEACH

**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.

#ASHTAG PCB

WHERE TO GET YOUR LIKES: SOME PERFECT
SPOTS MADE TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED

BY LIESEL SCHMIDT



Unless you've been living under a rock, you know the popularity of posting pics on social media. Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest ... they're all on everyone's daily feeds, but none sees as much action as Instagram when it comes to snapping the perfect shot of your daily life.

From fashion and food to art and nature, the pics being shared on Instagram run the gamut, and vacation time at Panama City Beach is the time to take those wow-worthy shots that will get you all the likes.



(PIER) PARK IT

As Panama City Beach's premier shopping, dining and entertainment destination, Pier Park has an endless supply of Insta-worthy moments in store. Take shots of a great outfit you've created in one of their retail shops or snap away at whatever's on your plate at one of their many popular restaurants. Love a challenge? You'll have plenty of reason to break out the camera phone after a game of laser tag or some time in the arcade. And if you're a dancing fool, hit the dance floor at one of their clubs to show off your moves. For even more excitement to post and share, go to one of the concerts, festivals or events that make Pier Park such a fun place to be.

SPIN THAT WHEEL

Towering nearly 200 feet, SkyWheel offers breathtaking views of the surrounding beaches and the city, making a trip to the top in one of the 30 climate-controlled, fully enclosed gondolas worthy of taking the shot. Down below, the venue offers even more fun (and Insta-worthy moments) at the SkyWheel Snack Shack, its 18-hole miniature golf course and the SkyTrail and SkyTykes ropes courses.

COLOR YOUR FEED

No trip to Panama City Beach would be complete without a walk past the famous "rainbow buildings," their bright facades painted in a kaleidoscopic parade of colors that command attention and call passersby to stop and snap. Several steps away, the vintage style script of the massive metal Pier Park arch welcomes one and all to come, see, taste, play and — of course — take a pic.

PICS AND TREATS

While you could snap away at tweet worthy plates that display an artful hand and a dedication to elegance, we all know what your Instagram account is really craving — mountainous sundaes, towering tiers of pancakes, burgers whose mere existence terrify cardiologists and delight foodies everywhere. Whether you're going for the shock factor or are hungry to get some likes, Panama City Beach has food destinations that'll make your followers wish you were sharing more than a pic.

WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT

Boating is the perfect opportunity to add to your Instagram feed, whether you're out there fishing and want to show off your catch or simply want to chronicle your time out on the open water. With infinity stretching out before you and the crystal waters at your feet, these are moments you'll want to capture forever.

GET BEACHED!

People flock to Panama City Beach for one main reason: the beach. Miles and miles of pristine white sand, waters whose glittering jewel tones have made it famous around the world — what's not to love? Break out the camera phone and snap away, your Insta feed will be the envy of anyone who sees it.

INSTA-SUNSETS

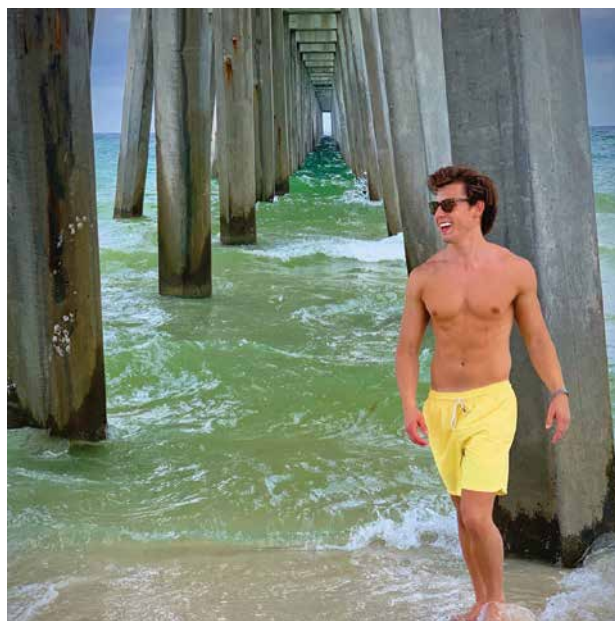
Ask anyone with even the slightest appreciation for nature, and they'll tell you that sunset is the most magnificent time of day to look at the sky. The wash of colors painting the horizon is something to behold, a sight that can never be recreated in exact form. And with its endless stretches of beautiful beaches, sunsets in Panama City Beach are well worth capturing forever, the perfect inspiration to all who peek at your Instagram to look around and appreciate natural beauty at its finest.

COCONUT LOCOS

Want a drink that'll drive your social feed loco? Head over to Coconut Locos, where they whip up a refreshing and colorful array of smoothies, snowcones, and — cue the camera phone — imaginative drinks served in coconut shells and hollowed out pineapples, complete with cute little paper umbrellas and the all-important bendy straw. Sip and snap away; this is definitely a tasty moment to remember.

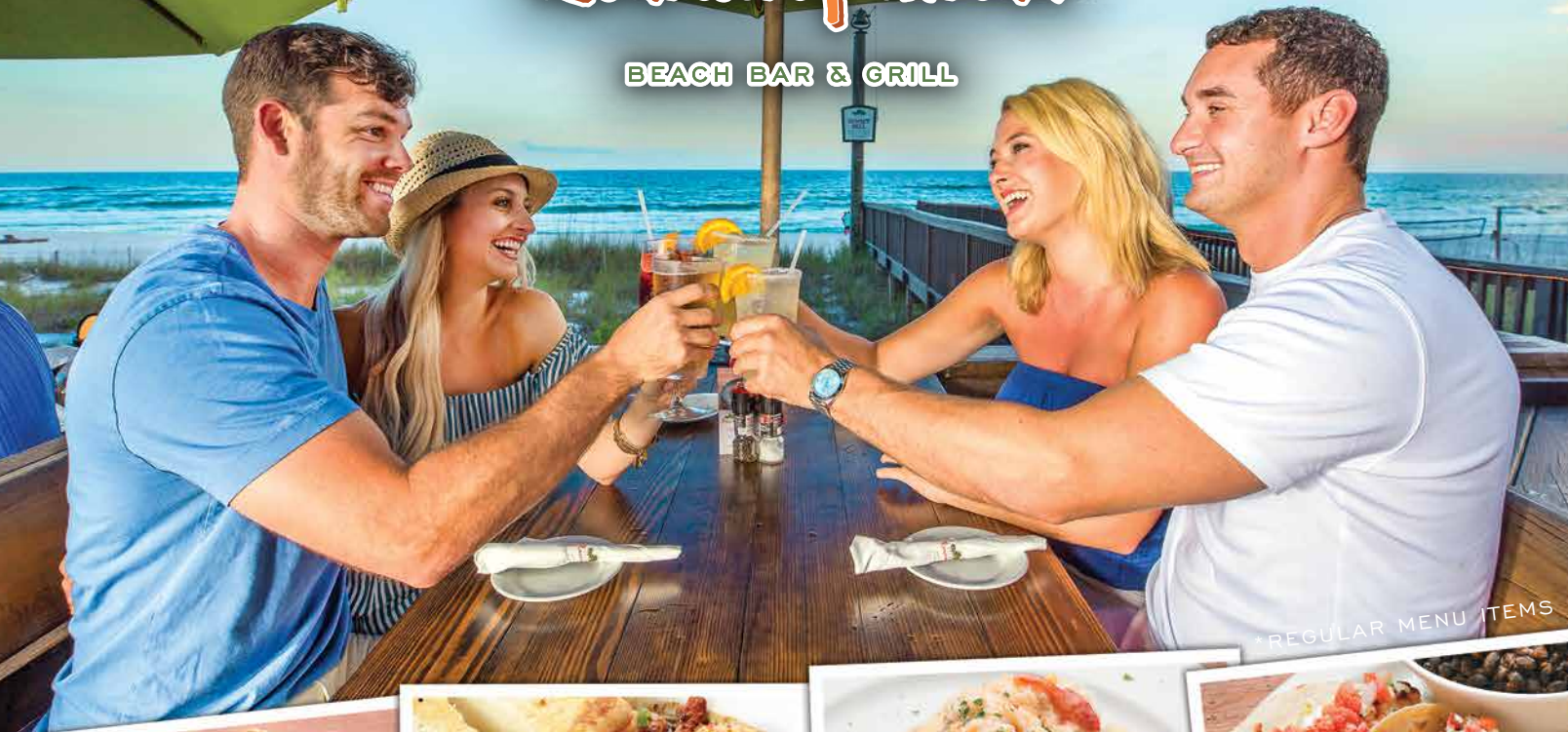
PIER(S) PRESSURE

With three great fishing piers in Panama City Beach, you'll have plenty of opportunity to cast a line and snap a pic. Setting your sights on the Gulf? Check out Russell-Fields City Pier and the M.B. Miller County Pier, the longest twin fishing piers on the Gulf of Mexico. At St. Andrews State Park, the Tiller Pier affords saltwater fishing, while another pier offers access to the Grand Lagoon. Find your pier, find your moment and watch your feed reel in the likes. ●



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IN PCB

Food, fun and friends ... oh my!

BY KRISTIN LUNA

STORY AND PHOTOS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY
VISITING BLOGGER AND INFLUENCER



For as long as I have memories, my family has gone down to Panama City Beach for vacation. We'd always pack up the station wagon and make the 7-hour drive from Tennessee to the Florida Panhandle. So it's special to me to return as an adult — with my husband, with my extended family or, in this case, with a large group of friends. Panama City Beach stretches a lengthy 27 miles across the Gulf Coast, and there's no shortage of activities to keep you busy on a long weekend getaway in the fall.

THURSDAY

If you're like me, you take the first flight of the morning out, meaning you'll touch down in plenty of time for a full day on the beach. It also means you'll require a major caffeine boost mid-morning and that your first stop after leaving the airport is Finns Island Style Grub for a smoothie bowl, kombucha and the famed black salt mocha made with cold brew. (Dairy-free or vegan? Ask for the "venocha," and they'll hook you up with house-made cashew milk instead of dairy.)

If you arrive closer to lunchtime, Finns is still a great bet as this food truck with a brick-and-mortar location got its start cooking up the meanest fish tacos around. Note: Finns typically closes at 3 p.m. on weekdays and 8 p.m. on weekends, so check the hours before you make the pilgrimage.

If you're traveling en masse, also take note that Finns has a catering arm and will come to your condo or rental house to set up a full-on taco bar, which is often more convenient than ushering a large group out to eat.

FRIDAY

That night, my friends arrived, and we met up at my favorite local spot for dinner. Craft Bar has upward of 30 craft brews available in flights or full pints, and I never miss an opportunity to taste my way through some of Florida's best beers. We ordered a bunch of different plates — from hot chicken to fried green tomatoes — and a few flights to share before calling it a night.

I love to hit the big hotspots on weekdays — when crowds are slimmer — and there's no more iconic stop than Shell Island, a 700-acre barrier island less than 30 minutes by boat from PCB. On this trip, our group chartered a boat with Lagoon Pontoons for a half day, so we grabbed breakfast to go, packed coolers full of drinks, snacks and lunch, and set off for a morning on Shell Island's white-sand beach.

If you don't have a full day to set aside for this uninhabited paradise, you can take the Shell Island Shuttle — which departs daily every half hour between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

We walked the perimeter of the island, we went swimming, we combed the shallow waters for starfish and we pulled up our lounge chairs to where the ocean meets the sea and got properly sunburned (tip: wear strong SPF!).

When we got back to land mid-afternoon, we had a few hours to go back to our respective condos, grab food, change then meet back for a full night on the beach. New to the area since my last stay in Panama City Beach is Endless Beach Rentals, a company that sets up charming beach rigs so that you don't have to worry about hauling your own gear through the sand. There are plenty of options from which to choose, but we

opted for the ultimate night under the stars in PCB: a beach bonfire.

With a bit of a chill in the air after the sun sank, the bonfire felt like a dream. We lounged in hammocks and cozy beach chairs provided by Endless Beach Rentals as we toasted s'mores. Meanwhile, several members of our group played cornhole and others grooved to '80s tunes the DJ (i.e. me) was spinning. You can also bring your own cooler of adult beverages if that's your thing.

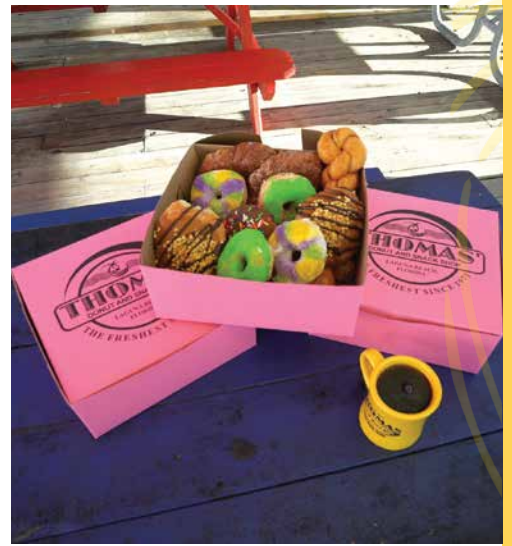
After your bonfire has been quenched, head west to Saltwater Grill, one of the best fine-dining experiences in PCB, for a feast of scallops, lobster, crab and juicy cuts of steak.

SATURDAY

Breakfast in PCB, for me, is almost always Andy's Flour Power, which recently located to an even bigger location just a half-mile from its original spot on Thomas Drive. They now can accommodate even more diners who flock there for the Belgian waffles, biscuits and gravy, omelets and French toast.

My favorite beach in PCB is nearby at St. Andrews State Park. Because there's a small fee (\$8 per car) to get in, it's never overwhelmingly packed. But it's got space galore, including two great stretches of beach — one lining the Gulf, the other flanking the lagoon.





It's also plentiful with wildlife, so keep your eyes peeled for herons, gators and other species that call the Panhandle home. Those traveling with kayaks or SUPs should definitely consider St. Andrews; the protected lagoon makes it an easier spot to paddle than most.

Since I was already in the St. Andrews area, I lingered until mid-afternoon, met back up with my crew at Grand Marlin for oysters and happy hour, then boarded our dolphin cruise with Island Time Sailing.

This two-hour tour sunset dolphin cruise takes passengers out through the lagoon, around Shell Island and back near the shore of St. Andrews, where you can see the sun set over PCB as the dolphins frolic on the horizon.

If you get seasick, take a motion sickness preventative medication an hour before the trip as it can be a bit rocky on the sailboat. Once you're back on land, you have a few dinner options nearby: Patches Pub, a more traditional PCB beach bar experience, or Shore Shack Pizza, a two-year-old restaurant that serves up a nice mix of specialty pies on a pleasant outdoor patio.

SUNDAY

Be one of the first in line for Thomas' Donuts after it opens. You won't regret setting your alarm early for a stack of that sugary-sweet perfection. It opens at 6 a.m., but if you're there by 8 on a Sunday morning, you shouldn't run into too long of a line.

Spend your final day beachfront, or if you're all beached out, head to Panama City Beach's Pier Park, a colorful wonderland, particularly well-suited for kids with its sky wheel, ice cream parlor, IMAX theater, laser tag and more. It also boasts 124 stores, so if you need a new bathing suit or are looking for a souvenir before you fly back home, this is your place.

Sticking around through sunset? Grab an early dinner beachside at Hook'd Pier Bar & Grille, then drive out to Camp Helen State Park to watch the colors in the sky light up on fire as only the Gulf knows how to do. ●



HAVE PUPS

— WILL TRAVEL —

Vacation fun for everyone — no matter how many legs

BY KIM HARRIS THACKER

For many families, a vacation isn't a family vacation unless all members of the family are present, including the four-legged ones. These families look for vacation destinations that promise good times and home-away-from-home accommodations for humans and canines alike — vacation destinations such as Panama City Beach.

In this gorgeous beach town, your pup can frolic in the waves, join your family

for an al fresco lunch at a pet-friendly restaurant, run off-leash in the doggie enclosures at a city park, tag along on a stroll through a popular shopping and entertainment district — and more.

The pet-friendly locations and venues found in this article are a sampling of the many that are available in Panama City Beach. A more comprehensive list can be found on the Visit Panama City Beach website, VisitPanamaCityBeach.com.

Under the "Places to Stay" tab is the

heading, "Pet-friendly Accommodations." This is where you'll discover the perfect place for your family to crash after you've spent your day in serious play. By using the Visit Panama City Beach website's "Make it Yours" feature, you can customize your vacation to fit the specific wants and needs of everyone in your family, including the four-legged kind.

Now, hang onto your leash, it's time to learn about dog-friendly Panama City Beach.

DOG BEACH

Located across from Pier Park and on the west side of Russell-Fields Pier (16101 Front Beach Road), lies a 400-foot stretch of white sand that comprises Dog Beach — the dog-friendly section of City Beach. Dogs on leashes are allowed here, but there is a limit of three dogs per visitor. Visitors can enter the beach via Public Beach Accesses 56 and 57. There is no fee, and the beach is open from sunrise to sunset.

Will Spivey, Aquatics and Beach Superintendent for Panama City Beach's Parks and Recreation Department, says, "We are happy to have a place where dogs and their owners can play at the beach. There is fresh water available at the top of the beach accesses, and we have a pet waste station on the beachside of both accesses. We ask that folks be courteous and pick up after their pets as well as maintain control of them while at the beach."

To ensure that your memories at Dog Beach are happy ones, you may wish to pack an extra collar for your dog. A collar that becomes wet with saltwater can be itchy and become very painful. It's also wise to bathe your pet in fresh water after he or she spends time in the Gulf. In addition, be aware of the temperature of the sand. If it's hot on your bare feet, it's sure to be uncomfortable on your dog's paws.

DINING

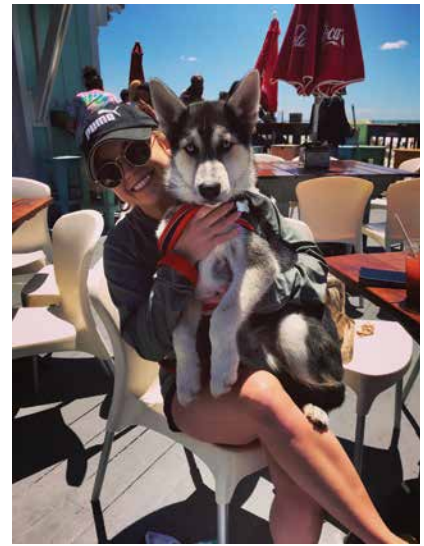
Your dog won't be the only member of your family to drool at the sight of the scrumptious cuisine offered at Panama City Beach's restaurants, many of which welcome canines on leashes in their outdoor dining areas. Try Pineapple Willy's: Servers provide pets with lots of fresh water, and a few have been known to give out treats and belly-rubs.

I scream, you scream, even Fido screams for ice cream. The Pink Pelican Ice Cream Bar has two outdoor tables where dog owners can sit, relax and possibly (probably) share a slurp of ice cream with their pet. This fun ice cream parlor is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., every day.

If you're headed out the door late for drinks, visit Angry Tuna Seafood Company in Pier Park, across the road from Dog Beach. The outdoor dining area is shady and gated-off from the rest of the Pier Park foot traffic. For early morning coffee, head to Starbucks: They have 10 dog-friendly, outdoor tables and even offer coffee-free "Puppaccinos" to fur-babies.

CITY PARKS

Frank Brown Park boasts a fenced-in, leash-free puppy playground. The park also has 1.5 miles of trails and greenways that are perfect for strolling with leashed companions.



Aaron Bessant Park, next to Pier Park, is another pet-friendly city park. Dogs are even welcome at some of the concerts held at the park's outdoor amphitheater. Just remember to keep your dog on a leash and clean up after him or her.

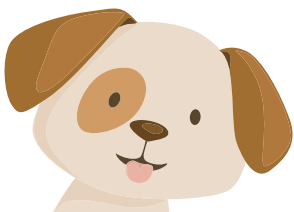
Panama City Beach Conservation Park is a pet-friendly wilderness park that contains miles of trails and boardwalks perfect for dogs on leashes. These trails are open every day — as is the rest of the park — from sunrise to sunset.

PIER PARK

Dogs that are on leashes are welcome in Pier Park; however, with the exception of Ron Jon Surf Shop, they are not allowed in the stores or restaurants. No matter — there is an endless variety of things to do and see at this deluxe outdoor venue. Pier Park often hosts entertainment from local music groups, too. ●

Great Health, Great Vacation

Keep your pet healthy while on vacation with the help of these tips from Dr. Matt LeBleu, a veterinarian at Animal Care Center Panama City Beach.



THINGS TO BRING ON VACATION

- » Flea prevention/parasite control, due to exposure to common pet areas in condos, etc.
- » Medical records/vaccine history, in case veterinary care is required.
- » Extra medication for your pet, if he or she is on regular medication.

TIPS

1 Watch your pet carefully while on the beach. Dr. LeBleu sees a high number of sand impaction cases that are caused by pets

ingesting sand. He adds that sand toxicity is also possible when a pet is playing on the beach, as are health problems caused by drinking ocean water.

2 To avoid heat stroke, provide your pet with plenty of shade and fresh drinking water, whether you're on the beach or at the park.

3 Be aware that your pet may experience increased anxiety while on vacation, especially if he or she has noise phobia. For example, fireworks on the Fourth of July can be very stressful for a pet.

Consider medications to help your pet stay calm and comfortable. In addition, traveling can cause a pet to experience stress-induced diarrhea.

4 Dr. LeBleu cautions against traveling with animals that have major health concerns, because doing so can sometimes exacerbate conditions and force emergency visits. Dr. LeBleu says, "We've seen many vacations ruined due to pet-parents being faced with a euthanasia decision while away from home with their pet."

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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.

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   

DESIRÉE GARDNER





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



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

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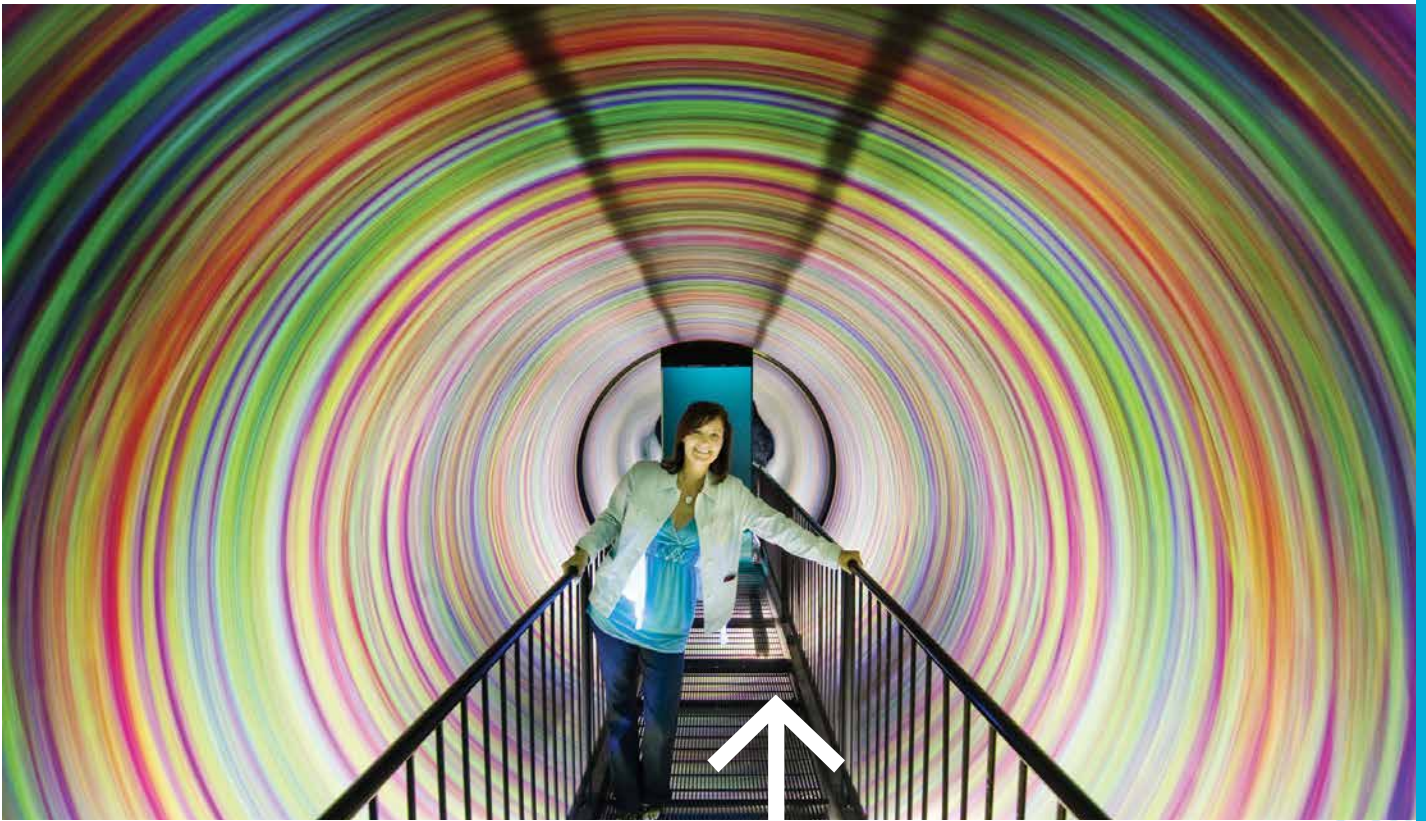
| INFO@THUNDERBEACHPRODUCTIONS.COM

FUN OUT OF THE SUN

Staying out of the sun or getting out of the rain, PCB offers its fair share of indoor entertainment

BY ROB RUSHIN





The climate in Panama City Beach makes it a perfect destination year-round, from sunny and hot summers to sunny and mild winters. But no matter how great the weather, everybody likes to take the vacation indoors every now and again.

No worries. Panama City Beach boasts abundant indoor recreation options for those days when you need a break from the sun or a stray shower is rolling through.

Attractions listed are open daily unless noted.

WONDERWORKS

Imagine a top-secret laboratory in the Bermuda triangle where an experiment gone wrong lands it intact — but upside down — in Panama City Beach.

Impossible? Not at WonderWorks, where you enter through the roof and move through the inversion tunnel to begin your adventure. WonderWorks is a four-story fun house filled with over 100 highly interactive virtual, physical and mental challenges for the whole family.

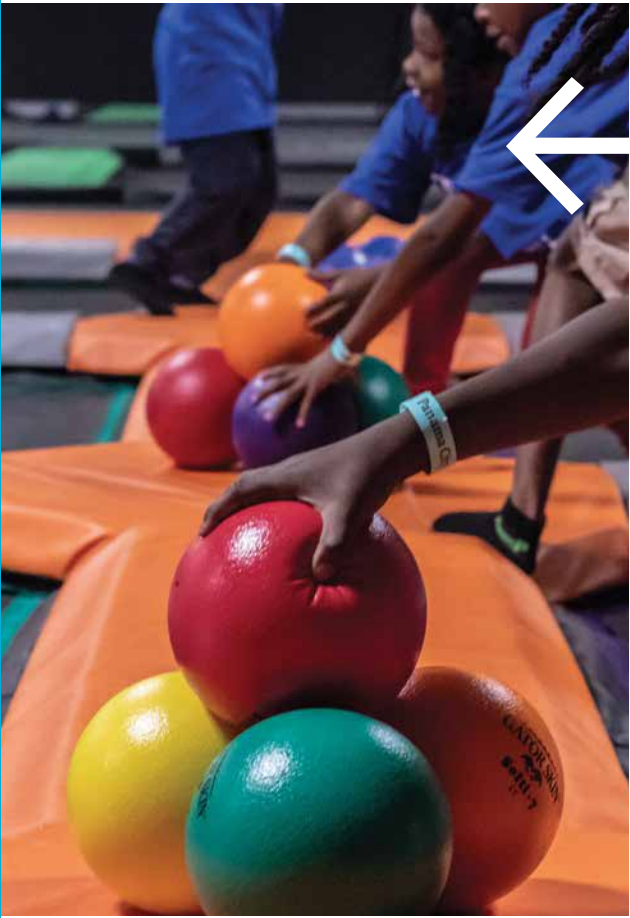
ROCK'IT LANES

If you cannot find something to tickle your fun bone at Rock'it Lanes, you might need a medic. With 24 bowling lanes, 10 pool tables, an 8,000-square foot skating rink and a 16,000-square foot mega arcade, there is literally something for everyone at this indoor recreation mecca. Or if you want to chill while the kids go wild, you can head over to the sports bar and indulge in some food and beverages while enjoying wall-to-wall high-def TVs.

EMERALD COAST MIRROR & LASER CRAZE

This unique amusement palace offers four challenging, family-friendly games. The Mirror Maze is 2,300 square feet of mirrors, complete with a light and sound extravaganza that will blow your mind. Can you make it through the entire maze without touching a single mirror? This fun house on steroids is great for the whole family.

Did you ever fancy yourself an international jewel thief or double-0 spy? Test your skills in the Laser Challenge, where every move you make means points or penalties. Dodge a constantly shifting array of laser beams to see who racks up the highest score.



Looking for cutthroat competition? Check out the Pirate's Quest Laser Tag arena and compete with other players across 1,800 square feet of laser tag battlefield.

JUST JUMP TRAMPOLINE PARK

Bounce into safe family fun at the Just Jump Trampoline Park, which features 30,000 square feet of open jump area. Featuring a tumble track, two Soc-Air courts, dodgeball, basketball, a double trapeze and a gladiator pit, Just Jump is the place to go to take your vacation higher. A dedicated kiddie area for jumpers age 6 and under features a play structure, separate trampolines, foam pit, climbing wall and a basketball goal.

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT ODDITORIUM

Ripley's Odditorium brings a taste of the weird and strange to Panama City Beach. Unusual exhibits, art and artifacts from around the world challenge your imagination and expand your horizons. For a one-of-a-kind immersive experience, Ripley's 7D Moving Theater combines a 3D movie with moving seats, interactive gaming and special effects that rock your senses as you experience every bump, drop and turn with a motion simulator. It's great fun for ages 8 to 80. This place is for real — believe it or not.

GULF WORLD MARINE PARK

For interactive education and family fun featuring dolphins, sea lions and tropical birds, pay a visit to Gulf World Marine Park. Interact with stingrays and sea lions, or take a swim with the dolphins. Daily educational shows and fascinating indoor and outdoor exhibits showcase the excitement of penguins, flamingos, sharks, sea turtles — and much more.





DAVE & BUSTER'S

One part sports bar, one part restaurant and one part arcade, Dave & Buster's has a little something for everyone. After having a bite, charge up your Power Card and play all the video games you want — without the hassle of cash or coins. Along with daily specials, Dave & Buster's also features an event space for your favorite get-together or private celebration.

MAN IN THE SEA MUSEUM

Life might not be all games, but we can still have fun. The Man in the Sea Museum explores the history of undersea diving. Learn about the evolution of dive equipment, from antique equipment to the latest hi-tech gear, and explore treasures recovered from sunken ships dating back to the 1500s. The Man in the Sea Museum is also home to SEALAB-I, the United States Navy's first underwater habitat, and features a submarine you can explore with the family. Open Tuesday–Saturday.

THE GRAND THEATRE

The Grand Theatre at Pier Park is the only IMAX movie theater in the area. With an all-digital projection and sound system, stadium seating and high back rocking chairs, The Grand screens first-run blockbusters and IMAX specialty films. Stop by the specialty café and pay a visit to the arcade for fun and games before or after the movie.

KARTONA THE ELECTRIC SPEEDWAY

Panama City Beach is home to the region's only indoor go-kart facility. Featuring eco-friendly, all-electric karts, Kartona also provides helmet-mounted GoPro cameras to record your race, a spectator area for your fans, a concession bar for snacks and drinks and private party rooms for your special event. Rent the track, race your friends and record it all with their Go-Pro race cams to take the experience home with you. Kartona offers kart rentals for visitors and casual racers and league competitions for more committed need-for-speed demons. ●





NEW RECREATION COMPLEX EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Park will also help local sports
displaced by the hurricane

BY THOMAS J. MONIGAN

The new Panama City Beach Recreation Complex is enjoying considerable success since opening in July.

“It has been an experience to see this as just an idea, then a rendering and now reality,” said Chris O’Brien, Director of Sports Marketing and Special Events for Visit Panama City Beach.

“This is definitely a unique project,” said project manager Elizabeth Moore of Anchor CEI. “We had some setbacks due to the storm, but we’ve adapted and we didn’t sacrifice on the outcome.”

As of late June, there were 47 events booked between July 2019 and July 2020. That number expands to 60 events when all of 2020 is included.

“Panama City Beach is already a great destination to visit, and we knew there was a demand for this type of facility,” O’Brien said, “so we are very excited to have so many organizations signing on for new events at the park.”

The new complex is a \$39 million project with 13 fields and 1,000 parking spaces

located on 160 acres of land donated by the St. Joe Company on the eastern end of an area known as Breakfast Point.

Nine of those fields are comprised of artificial turf while the other four feature natural grass.

“Those fields represent 1 million square feet of playing surface,” O’Brien said. “We visited a lot of other complexes and have tried to consider all the aspects that make for a great experience for all the participants, parents and event directors.”

With that in mind, O’Brien mentioned that the complex features a four-lane entrance road that begins on Highway 98, an entrance building, shade areas, dugouts, scorekeepers’ boxes and multiple concession areas.

“The new complex allows us to secure large national and regional events in soccer and lacrosse, as well as football, flag football and other rectangle field sports,” O’Brien said. But that’s not all.

“With the multipurpose design, we can convert 10 fields to diamond sports,” O’Brien said, “and that allows us to bring a great range of baseball and softball events.”

Panama City Beach's new sports complex can host a variety of youth sports.



“Our goal is to bring joy to the visitors who come to this complex when they are utilizing this as part of their vacation.” J.D. WOOD

Bookings already confirmed on the complex's calendar are anticipated to generate 37,000 room nights at hotels in the area, bringing an estimated \$13.9 million into Bay County's economy.

“The hurricane was a major variable,” said Jason Clement, CEO and founding partner of Sports Facilities Management. “The big issue has been finding labor. Frankly a lot of the construction personnel have been working on the cleanup and reconstruction in other local areas.”

Clement did not hesitate to mention Anchor CEI.

“They've had to be innovative and creative, but they have done a real nice job of keeping us on track,” Clement said. “When you're out there on site, you just realize how big it is. And even though we forecasted 29 events for the first 12 months, we booked 47.”

“It's really important for visitors that you've got the product that they're looking for when they come to the beach. And this is really going to be a world-class playing surface complex and destination that's also going to drive a lot of people to the beach, restaurants, shopping, all of that.”

Native Texan J.D. Wood has been chosen as the complex manager, and his credentials are impressive. Wood has been the tourism manager for the city of College Station (where Texas A&M is located) and has previously been in charge of an 18-field complex known as Veterans Park.

“Our goal is to bring joy to the visitors who come to this complex when they are utilizing this as part of their vacation,”

And there's more.

“The entire project is built with tourism dollars, so bringing in visitors is the main focus,” O'Brien said. “However, with the majority of events taking place on weekends, we are discussing and will be hosting local league play, as well as practices in a variety of sports.”

Which brings us to a local connection.

“The turf allows for play all the time,” O'Brien said, “and with the hurricane last year, many of the local Bay County fields in Panama City, Lynn Haven and other communities were destroyed and are still not repaired.

“So, we are working with many of the youth clubs and leagues to fill in any gaps in programming for a multitude of sports,” he added. “This use is great to keep the facility busy and a huge need is met for local recreation and developing new players.”

Sports Facilities Management, located in Clearwater, has been chosen to take charge of operating the new facilities.

SFM's 2017 study projected that in its first year of operation, the Panama City Beach Sports Complex would generate \$867,000 in gross revenues, or \$580,000 in income after expenses.



Wood said. "They will be using it as their way to train and get better, and that's what we're about."

Wood offered some numbers of his own to show why this project is unique.

"What I'm most excited about the complex is the flexibility with all the configurations we can have with the 13 rectangle fields," Wood said. "With those type fields, the magic number is usually 12-plus."

And with diamond sports, the magic number is eight or more. Which gets taken care of quite nicely here.

"With the nine synthetic surfaces, we can get 10 diamonds," Wood said, "and that gives us something above and beyond what most people can offer."

Wood said 22 of the first 47 events booked involve soccer.

"Then you have an assortment of lacrosse, flag football, tackle football, softball and baseball events," Wood said. "The hope is we can bring in others like rugby and quidditch."

Once hired, Wood wasted no time in establishing local connections that could have benefits for years to come.

"We're working through agreements with local soccer clubs, youth football groups and intramural programs at the local colleges," Wood said. "We're even discussing how a local group called Stroller Strong Moms can use the walking path Tuesdays and Thursdays in the mornings."

Wood also mentioned that once summer ends, most events run Fridays through Sundays.

"So, from Monday through Thursday, we have some availability," Wood said. "And we're trying to make it where we can have all of the synthetic fields utilized by local organizations that can have a place to play, especially after the hurricane." ●

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REEL TALK

Panama City Beach Fall/Winter Fishing Report

BY CAPT. NATHAN CHENNAUX

One of the great things about Panama City Beach is that it's surrounded by water on three sides, and each side supports a distinctly different aquatic ecosystem. From the back water creeks and bayous of East Bay and West Bay to the white sand beaches that stretch for miles along the coast, diversity is something you will find no shortage of here.

Settling on a species is often the most difficult pre-trip decision since there is

such a wide variety of fish to target. You never know what a day on the water might entail, so it's best to be flexible and have a couple of different rigs at the ready so you can take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

As we transition into the fall/winter seasons, a lot of exciting events begin to take place. When the days shorten and water temperatures start to cool, fish begin congregating in big schools that will follow bait to warmer waters. Migration patterns differ for different

species of fish, and their routes can vary greatly in distance. For example, speckled trout may move only a couple of miles before holing up in deep bayous to wait out the winter. Spanish mackerel, on the other hand, will leave the area altogether during the winter months. The good part about the annual migration is that fish tend to be opportunistic when they are on the move, and this can lead to some really great angling adventures.

Not all fish will actually migrate



~~~~~  
Captain Justin Leake,  
co-host of Visit Panama  
City Beach's "Chasin'  
The Sun" fishing show,  
hoists a redfish.  
~~~~~

during the winter, however. Redfish are at home in a wide range of temperatures, and I have found winter fish in all the same places where I typically find them during the warmer months. Water levels and frontal systems play larger roles in redfish behavior than cold temperatures alone. Late fall cold fronts are often accompanied by very low water levels — so low that some grass flats dry out. When this happens, the redfish have to move into deeper water until the levels rise to the point that they can return to the flats in search of shrimp, crabs and mullet.

One of the most highly anticipated migrations is the annual flounder run that starts as early as mid-September and extends into early November. Flounder move out into the Gulf of Mexico through passes and inlets and can be caught by the hundreds if you happen to be in the right

place at the right time. These fish are very aggressive and will attack both natural and artificial lures. Flounder are high-quality table fare but should be harvested in moderation so that the population stays healthy.

Remember, it's not the "take" that makes a fishing trip successful ... it's what we put back and leave for the next generation that matters most.

Good luck! ●



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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.

ACTIVITIES

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

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\$2 pedestrians
and bicyclists

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**



Camp Helen
State Park

Hours 
Fees 

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.



If you want to go off road, 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 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 enjoy the "kiddie pool," 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 176 camp sites 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
 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

ACTIVITIES

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

 Dawn until dusk
 Free

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**

Under

— THE SEA —

Panama City Beach has become a scuba diving paradise

BY KARI C. BARLOW

For scuba divers in search of unique underwater adventures, Panama City Beach is the place to be. Underneath its emerald green waters lies a treasure trove of natural and man-made sites spread across the northern Gulf of Mexico.

“The diving here is phenomenal,” said Todd Yarbrough, course director at Red Alert Diving, a full-service dive center and aquatic training facility. “The variation of depth, the visibility and the conditions and the animal life are just unparalleled.”

Within just a few miles of Panama City Beach, divers will find more than 50 artificial reefs, sunken ships and barges, as well as hundreds of natural limestone reefs.

“The artificial reef system we have here is pretty great,” said Yarbrough, who started diving when he was 12. “We have everything from 400-foot long ships to 40-foot Army tankers for people to dive on. Our shipwrecks are all within recreational limits, and they’re as clean and as safe as anything can be in our sport.”

Perhaps the greatest draw — and one that appeals to all ages — is the impressive array of marine life accessible around these dive sites.

“We have such a vast array of fish from amberjack to goliath grouper, and goliath grouper get up to 700 to 800 pounds,” said Brian Robinson, general manager at Diver’s Den, which offers certification and dive charters. “They’re just a really cool thing for people to see.”

Here are five of the top wrecks and reefs to seek out in Panama City Beach:





1 EL DORADO

This former luxury cruise liner, damaged during Hurricane Michael in October 2018, is the newest wreck to join the area's list of artificial reefs. The 157-foot vessel was sunk approximately 12 miles off the coast of Panama City Beach at a depth of 103 feet. Bay County officials along with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission worked together for months to prepare the ship to serve as a home for everything from sea turtles and octopi to redfish and dolphin. The site is expected to accommodate intermediate and advanced divers.

2 BLACK BART

Located six miles off shore, this old oil field supply ship serves as a memorial to Capt. Charles Bartholomew, the U.S. Navy's Supervisor of Salvage in Panama City. Sunk in the early 1990s, it sits upright on the bottom in 75 to 80 feet of water with the top of its wheel house in 45 feet of water. The Black Bart is known as a good site for photography and wreck training.

3 USS STRENGTH

This former U.S. Navy minesweeper is one of the most inviting wrecks along the Gulf Coast. Sunk in 1987, the 184-foot ship is located about six miles off the coast. "It's sitting in two pieces on the bottom," Yarbrough said. "It holds lots of fish and quite a few shells. There's plenty to look at."

4 EMPIRE MICA

Built in 1941, this 465-foot ocean tanker was torpedoed by a German U boat, and one of its propellers now sits at Captain Anderson's restaurant in Panama City Beach. "It's an actual shipwreck," Yarbrough said. "When you dive it, you're looking at history." It's located off the coast of Port St. Joe in about 115 feet of water.

5 LIBERTY SHIP

This 441-foot World War II Liberty Ship is located in about 100 feet of water about 10 miles off shore. Yarbrough describes this site as one best suited to advanced divers or less experienced divers accompanied by a professional guide.

Yarbrough and Robinson also recommend diving at St. Andrews State Park jetties because of the convenience and diverse marine life. “You just drive up, put your gear on and head into the water,” Yarbrough said. “The park is a great place to dive with kids. You can run into anything from turtles and rays to sharks. I’ve seen schools of hundreds of red drum. I’ve seen barracudas.”

While scuba diving does take a certain amount of preparation, it’s usually well worth the effort. “Scuba diving is a sport that is made for anyone who is interested in it,” Yarbrough said. “There’s such a sense of adventure. You’re seeing things very few other people see.” ●



DON'T FORGET — SAFETY FIRST!

Step into any dive shop along Panama City Beach, and you'll find that safety is paramount when helping visitors find the right dive to suit their needs. Beginners looking to head underwater for the first time can complete a three-day certification course at Red Alert Diving, Diver's Den and many other local shops. While aspiring scuba divers don't have to be proficient swimmers, it's important that they have some level of comfort in the water ahead of certification. "Certification is important simply because we can't breathe underwater," Yarbrough said. "You learn how to assemble and disassemble the equipment and how to properly operate the equipment. You practice what to do if your mask floods, what to do if you lose your regulator, how to clear it and recover it, and what to do if you or your buddy runs out of air." A certification course — which starts with academics and then progresses to pool dives followed by open-water dives — is especially important because it teaches divers how not to panic and how to surface at a safe speed, said Robinson, a diving instructor for 10 years. "The No. 1 cause of diving accidents is diver error, so we focus our training on teaching divers to make the right decision in an emergency," he said.

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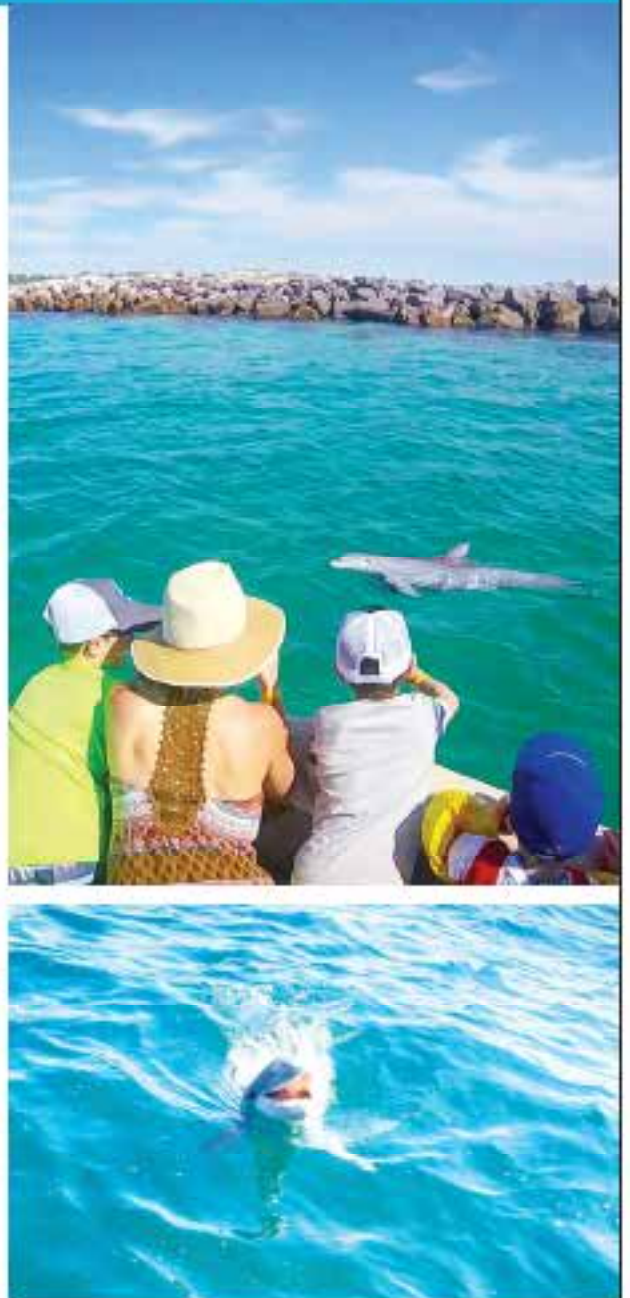



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— MAKE IT A — *Date Night*

How to make your romantic getaway unforgettable

BY ZANDRA WOLFGAM

What could be more romantic than spending time at the beach with the one you love? Not much. We agree the tantalizing Emerald Coast waters and sugar-white sands of the Gulf of Mexico deserve top billing, but after you stroll the beach together as the mesmerizing fire in the sky slowly dissolves into the horizon, we have a few more ideas to make lasting memories with the one you love. Get a great start on matters of the heart with a delicious breakfast. Share a strawberry stack at The Pancakery, the Classic at Jesse's Place or go "old school" at the All American Diner. Once your belly is as full as your heart, you will be ready to tackle the day.

If you want to chill and relax, consider a couple's massage or body treatment, such as the Scentually Scented Couples' Massage offered at **BEACH THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE & SPA** (\$205). Add a Thousand Roses Facial and make it a combo treatment (\$335). Romance, doesn't just have to be put on hold until the sunsets. Day dates are a great way to spend quality time (especially if the kiddos are enjoying a day camp getaway themselves). There are plenty of options of how to spend the day working off that Gulf seafood.

Shopping while on vacation is pretty much a win-win. **PIER PARK** has all your favorite name brand stores — not to mention dining and entertainment, perfect for a great date — but, if you want to get lost in lesser-known, locally owned boutiques and mom-and-pop specialty shops that don't always have the budget to advertise, we have done the legwork for you. We bundled together our favorites and call it *Décor By The Shore*. It's a selection of stores and shops, such as Beach House Market, Avenue Sea and The Shadow Box, which specialize in coastal-themed antiques, furniture, gifts and accessories. Couples looking to holiday shop while on vacation can make their list, check it twice and head to the area for all their holiday shopping needs this season.

Amp up your adventure quotient by adding a splash. A snorkeling or catamaran excursion at **ST. ANDREWS STATE PARK** is a great way to take in the natural beauty and experience an exciting adventure together. Venture to Shell Island, a 7-mile long undeveloped barrier island running east to west between the Gulf of Mexico and the St. Andrew Bay, and make an entire day of it. Take a beach tour boat over, or rent a private pontoon to escape to this special island retreat. Get lost searching for the perfect seashell or swimming with the dolphins, and let the world fade away.

One of the most unique — and romantic — dining experiences around is Firefly Restaurant.



HOLLY GARDNER

Your morning adventures will surely work up an appetite. What says, 'I love you' more than a picnic for two? Grab a picnic lunch to go from Liza's Kitchen and head to **CAMP HELEN STATE PARK** and find some shade under one of the majestic live oaks or tall Cypress pine and spend the afternoon hiking a nature trail, birding or simply stretch out on a blanket and watch the clouds roll by.

Whether you are strolling the beach or just parked on your balcony with a glass of wine, don't miss the setting of the sun. That is a no brainer. Once the sun goes down, there are still plenty of options for you and your sweetheart. Extend your time on the beach with a romantic beach bonfire experience with a hammock and s'mores. There are local outfits, such as Endless Summer, that will take care of all the logistics.

Speaking of fire and the beach, **FIREFLY**, located about a block off the beach in the Shoppes at Edgewater, is a wonderful locally owned and operated Mediterranean restaurant that has a cozy vibe perfect for a dinner date night out. Named "most romantic restaurant" (2017) by Open Table, Firefly is open daily for dinner at 5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Ask about the weekly specials and wine-pairing menu. If ordering from the regular menu, you can

start with crab toast, beef or tuna tartare, root beer braised pork or delicate escargot. Refreshing salads feature locally sourced greens and produce. There is a full roster of entrees, and each is beautifully plated. From filet mignon, rib-eye, roasted chicken, homemade pasta and a range of fresh local fish, there is always something to satisfy. There are plenty of options for a sweet ending, but you can't go wrong with the Dark Chocolate Nutella Cake or simply toast your love with a decadent Espresso Tini.

Voted Best of Bay Live Music Venue 2019, the Todd Herendeen Theatre on

Front Beach Road is a fun way to experience dinner and a live show that pays tribute to many of the music legend greats from Elvis Presley and Neil Diamond to Roy Orbison and Johnny Cash. Who doesn't a little "dinner music?" Head to **PINEAPPLE WILLY'S** on Thomas Drive, **RUNAWAY ISLAND** or **SHARKY'S BEACHFRONT RESTAURANT** on Front Beach Road for cocktails and dinner. Then stay to hear live music.

Whatever stokes the fire in your heart, you are sure to find it and more in Panama City Beach. ●



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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.

Wake Up and Smell What's **BREWIN'**

Area coffee purveyors offer local pours to help you get your morning started

BY LIESEL SCHMIDT



The aroma of freshly brewed coffee is one of the most recognizable smells in the world, a scent that seems almost as eye-opening as the inky liquid itself. Perfectly made, coffee is an artful balance of its natural bitterness and acidity, somehow managing to become something bold, smooth and rich. Simple though it might seem at first blush of the humble bean, coffee is complex and unique with the brew of every cup, and its styles are as diverse as the regions in which it grows. And whether you insist on a no-frills cup or order yours with a long list of adjectives that fancify it to the highest degree, coffee is an undeniable part of culture all over the world. And with so many great cafes and coffee houses in Panama City Beach brewing up these beautiful beans, it's easy to see that this is one city that loves a good jolt.



PANAMA CITY BEACH offers a bevy of local spots and cafes to find your perfect cup of brew.

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TO BEING
ORGANIC AND
SUSTAINABLE
— ALL WHILE
SERVING UP
A DELICIOUS
CHOICE OF
BREWS.**



WILD ROOT

DEJA BREW COFFEE SHOP

Keeping every step of the process in-house, Deja Brew Coffee Shop goes straight to the source to get the best beans and roasts them on-site, then uses their Roasters Edge blends to create each cup of their dark beverages. Open since 2013, owner Jerry Williams and his team of baristas are busily brewing customer favorites like lattes and macchiatos — though with a selection of premium beans from 15 different companies to choose from. It's little wonder that a fresh-brewed cup of the classic stuff is one of their top perks. One taste of the coffee at Deja Brew, and you'll want to do it all over again for some major déjà vu. [8730 Thomas Drive, Unit 1109.](http://8730ThomasDrive.com) [\(850\) 814-3985, RecDejaBrew.com](http://(850)814-3985)

WILD. ROOT.

Freshness and purity is a thing of beauty at Wild. Root. coffee and tea bar, and owners Eric Marcus and Chandra Hartman have a shared affinity for all things natural, organic and sustainable. That has resulted in some undeniably delicious drinks showcasing Mother Nature's flavors at their best. Using locally sourced fair trade organic beans from Amavida Coffee Rosters, Wild. Root.'s top brews feature ingredients like local honey and agave to sweeten

their sips, adding them to their beverages to create cups full of heaven on earth. Customers are wild about the mocha and honey lattes, while the Thai's dash of cardamom earns global appeal. Tap into the maple tree-laden forests of Vermont with the New Englander's hit of maple syrup; or chill out with a cup of their small batch cold brew finished with freshly made vanilla brown sugar simple syrup. Whether you love yours pure and dark or prefer to lighten it up with a sweeter cup, Wild. Root. has the perfect brew to make you go wild.

[707 R. Jackson Blvd,](http://707RJacksonBlvd.com)
 [\(850\) 249-0614, WildRootLife.com](http://(850)249-0614)

FINNS BARISTA BAR & SNACK SHACK

Building on their shared love of coffee to get into the grind, Finns Island Style Grub owners of Justin and Karen Buxton poured out that passion to launch Finns Barista Bar & Snack Shack in 2016. Sourcing their beans from Amavida Coffee Roasters, each cup created by their highly skilled baristas is a truly organic experience, from their house-made cashew milk to the made-from-scratch organic syrups that sweeten their custom creations.



MICHAEL BOONIN

Naturally, the purer the drink, the better it tastes; and Finns makes a cold brew coffee that's straight up addictive. So much so that it's their most popular drink — especially when it's been sweetened and "creamified" with their organic add-ins. Topping the list of faves and raves are the Madagascar vanilla and the black salt mocha, though combining a few of their fabulous five syrups will create a truly unique drink that's unlike any other. From icy cold brews to steamy and creamy cappuccinos, Finns goes all in for the killer cup.

[7220 Thomas Drive.](http://7220ThomasDrive.com)
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LAGUNA BEACH COFFEE AND CREAM

Located on the campus of Laguna Beach Christian Retreat, Laguna Beach Coffee and Cream has been offering an eye-opening experience for coffee lovers for the past three years, brewing up Amavida coffee to create bean-based favorites for all their fans, such as their signature iced caramel macchiato and their sweet vanilla latte. Using only the finest ingredients, like premium Ghirardelli caramel and mocha syrups, owner John Haas and his team of baristas at Laguna Beach have more on their minds than just crafting a cup full of flavor — they're also set on serving spirit-filled love. [20016 Front Beach Road, \(850\) 234-2502, ChristianCamp.com](#)

THE POUR

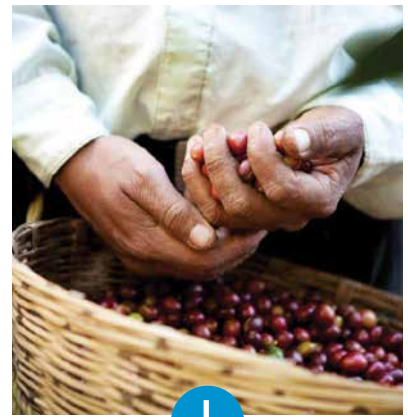
A great cup of java is always a good idea, and the baristas at The Pour definitely know the power of a good pour. Using fair trade beans from local coffee roaster Amavida, the coffee-loving team at this café handcrafts all the traditional brew-based beverages as well as a wide selection of buzz-inducing drinks that show quite the creative flair. Perfect to chase away the wintery chill, the honey bee latte combines locally roasted organic espresso and freshly steamed milk and sweetens it with honey, vanilla and a dash of cinnamon. For some flower power in your cup, the Woodstock latte features vanilla, creamy white chocolate and a soothing hint of lavender. Open since 2012, The Pour has been creating works of sippable art that not only get the day going, but also raise funds needed for the various ministries and outreach programs of The Ark. From espressos and lattes to mochas and frappes, everything they serve is a good deed overflowing. [12902 Front Beach Road, \(850\) 234-3048, ThePourpcb.com](#)

THOMAS DONUT & SNACK SHOP

Since opening the original joint as a donut and snack shop back in 1971, the Thomas family has not only kept their finger on the pulse of Panama City Beach with their freshly made sweets and lunch and dinner classics, but they have also made that pulse race with their specialty coffee and espresso drinks. They brew up everything from straight-up shots to cappuccinos, lattes, iced coffees and lattes, frozen coffees and, of course, good-old cups of joe. Using a Columbian blend of beans called Laguna Beach Blend, exclusively made just for them by Amavida, each jolt of java at Thomas is fair trade and organic. And while their beverages have kept up with the times, a fresh-baked Thomas donut is one accompaniment that won't ever go out of style. So sip and dunk to your heart's content — owner Mike Thomas and his crew at Thomas Donut & Snack Shop will gladly fill your cup and serve whatever you need to get some pep in your step. [19208 Front Beach Road, \(850\) 234-8039, ThomasDonutAndSnackShop.com](#) ●



MICHAEL BOOINI



AMAVIDA COFFEE

THE WORDS “ORGANIC” and “fair trade” might be buzzwords that people look for in a product these days, but for the founders of Amavida Coffee Roasters, those words weren't just catchphrases they felt would help their branding. They were — and are — a way of life for the company. Established in 2004, Amavida's founders were passionate not only about coffee but also about the farmers growing the coffee and the farming communities in which they lived. Turning their business knowledge, extensive international travel experience and, yes, their love of a bold cup of java, longtime area residents Dan and Sally Bailey built a coffee company that truly makes a difference.

Having grown up in Puerto Rico, Dan saw firsthand the impoverished conditions coffee growers and small farmers often lived in. As he realized that he could actually do something that would create a positive impact, he and Sally decided to pour themselves into a company that forged relationships directly with coffee growers across the globe, supporting them with fair pay and fair practices that would help sustain them and start a chain reaction in their communities and in their families. From the importing of the coffee beans to the roasting they do in-house, each step of the Amavida way is something to be commended and emulated — and the quality of their practices shows in the taste and the aroma of their finished product. Now a name known both regionally and nationally, Amavida imports their coffee from more than 14 different countries to create premium roasts that have built quite the following — and their mission is one that makes their buzz all the more worthy. *For more information on Amavida Coffee Roasters, call (850) 213-1965 or visit [amavida.com](#). — LIESEL SCHMIDT*

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VIEWS WORTH SAVORING

As cooler weather arrives, here are a few spots to enjoy some local seafood out in the sun

BY LIESEL SCHMIDT

MICHAEL BOONIN



When you're mere steps away from the freshest, most celebrated seafood in the country, the thought of boxing yourself into a restaurant dining room, walled off from the fresh air, sunshine and sounds of the shoreline can seem almost like sacrilege. But those view-obstructing walls don't have to be an issue if you play your cards right, and Panama City Beach has plenty of fantastic restaurants serving up beautiful vantage points and gorgeous views of the water you don't want to miss.

"We've got a view that's one-in-a-

million," says Melissa Whitted, the operations manager at **RUNAWAY ISLAND**. That observation is well founded as Runaway offers unobstructed views of the sun sinking into a watercolor of sunset hues each afternoon from their deck bar, sunset deck and dining deck, as well as their flag room and ballyhoo bar on their upper level. Perfect for those days when you feel like relaxing in a casual atmosphere and long to hear some live music on the deck while you dine on seven different types of fish tacos and sip some killer cocktails or wicked frozen drinks, Runaway Island is

the perfect escape — especially as the weather gets cooler and that sea breeze blows in. *Runaway Island is located at 14521 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach. For more information, call (850) 634-4884 or visit runawayislandpcb.com*

An old-fashioned beach bar built on the beach back in the '70s, **SCHOONERS** has a locale right along the surf, putting your toes steps away from a good wiggle in the sand and the tide right at eye level as you breathe in the salt air and feast on some of the area's best seafood. Enjoying this beach bar's "sunset-perfect perspective," guests love to gather for the countdown before the sunset blast of the old Schooners cannon as the sun dips below the surface of the Gulf. From their redfish tacos to their seafood sandwiches (grouper, redfish or lobster), Schooners has the course charted for great waterfront dining, and their views will definitely put some wind in your sails. *Schooners is located at 5121 Gulf Drive, Panama City Beach. For more information, call (850) 235-3555 or visit schooners.com*

Located directly on the beautiful white sand beaches overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, **HARPOON HARRY'S** amazes guests with their 16-foot windows and sweeping 180-degree views of the Gulf of Mexico. Opening out onto an outdoor dining area raised high above the sand, the sunset experience is made even more complete with frozen drinks from the tiki bar or one of the restaurant's famous "monster harpoon" drinks. Salting the air with

Schooner's offers up two great views in one: their beachfront seating and their delicious food.



every breeze rolling in off the waves, the fantastic view here will stir up your appetite, and Harpoon Harry's menu — featuring its famous Seafood Bucket (crab legs, Gulf shrimp, clams and scallops) — will spear your hunger right on through. *Harpoon Harry's is located at 12627 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach. For more information, call (850) 234-6060 or visit harpoonharry.com*

One of the newest entries onto the shores of Panama City Beach, **HANG FIVE BEACH BAR & GRILL** opened to a packed house in June. Featuring an open-air deck and a main dining room that offers garage-door access to beach breezes, Hang Five has a cool atmosphere to draw you in — but don't forget about the eats. A fresh array of local seafood includes some unique offerings, such as their own Emerald Coast version of the reuben with blackened mahi-mahi; the Gulf Coast paella with scallops, shrimp, crawfish, mussels, clams and Andouille sausage; or the Mardi Gras pasta with sautéed scallops, shrimp and crawfish. *Hang Five Beach Bar & Grill is located at 15005 Front Beach Road. For more*



information, call (850) 502-5555 or visit hangfivepcb.com

Serving a full menu of great seafood, fish tacos and cocktails from daybreak until the stars come out and play, you might have to leave the sands of the beach to come in and dine at **BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH**, but their waterfront views will make you feel like you never left. One of a trio of Barefoot restaurants known throughout the area for their fresh, casual fare and fantastic drinks, this beach-side eatery

has options aplenty, offering a fun open-air dining experience with the beach just a hop, skip and a jump down the dunes. Whether you come for the fresh oysters or fried alligator or you want to close out the day with a cocktail in hand and your toes tapping to live music, Barefoot on the Beach will keep the water within view but the hunger at bay. *Barefoot on the Beach is located at 11073 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach. For more information, call (850) 249-2442 or visit barefootrestaurants.com* ●



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GET ACTIVE

» WINTER CALENDAR THRILLS WITH FESTIVALS, RALLIES AND MORE **AUG.–DEC. 2019**



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

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)

PANAMA JACK PADDLEBOARD CLASSIC/ EDGEWATER BEACH RESORT

Oct. 5 Annual pier-to-pier SUP race will

be held at Rick Seltzer Park. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., race set for 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. [Facebook.com/PierToPierSUPRace](https://www.facebook.com/PierToPierSUPRace)

PIRATES OF THE HIGH SEAS FEST

Oct. 11–13 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





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OKTOBERFEST Oct. 4–6

Music lovers and fans of German food and craft beer will don their lederhosen and dirndls and gather at Aaron Bessant Park for the Panama City Beach Oktoberfest. Local brewers will pour their core beers and other seasonal offerings while local food vendors will highlight German fare. PCBOKtoberfest.com

LOBSTER FESTIVAL & TOURNAMENT

Oct. 14–20 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

THUNDER BEACH MOTORCYCLE RALLY

Oct. 23–27 Motorcyclists will be roaring into town to celebrate the annual autumn event. Bikers from around the nation head south to 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 mid-October. Bikers from around the country enjoy scenic rides along the Emerald Coast, live entertainment and local cuisine. ThunderBeachProductions.com



IRONMAN FLORIDA

Nov. 2 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

EMERALD COAST CRUIZIN' CAR SHOW

Nov. 6–9 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

HOLLY FAIR

Nov. 7–10 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

AMERICAN CORNHOLE ORGANIZATION

Nov. 8–9 The ACO presents the second annual Master Series tournament in Panama City Beach. The inaugural event is set to take place at the Laketown Wharf Event Center and its 28,000 square-foot indoor complex. AmericanCornhole.com

PIER PARK FOURTH ANNUAL SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Nov. 9 Sample a variety of delicious shrimp, crab and oyster dishes from Pier Park restaurants. Purchase a wristband in advance or on the day of the event at the Pier Park mall office. A wristband allows guests to visit the various restaurant tents where they can try small plates from participating Pier Park restaurants. Seafood lovers won't want to miss these delectable delights. VisitPanamaCityBeach.com

BLOODY MARY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Nov. 9 Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Bloody Mary & Music Fest. Up to 20 bars and restaurants will compete for the title of "Best Bloody Mary in the Grand Lagoon." The winner will be crowned the "Big Tomato" and will be awarded the four foot, tomato-topped trophy to keep until next year's event. Location is TBD. GrandLagoon.org

PANAMA CITY BEACH MARATHON

Dec. 7 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

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



BEACH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Nov. 29–30

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



SANDJAM FEST 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. Stay tuned for the lineup! SandJamFest.com

OTHER YEARLY EVENTS

PANAMA CITY BEACH MARDI GRAS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

February 21–22 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 funnest Mardi Gras events anywhere. Enjoy a weekend filled with parades, float tours, street fare, a kids zone and live music (and lots and lots of beads). VisitPanamaCityBeach.com

UNWINE D

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. UN-wineD features superb craft beer, spirits and wine from around the world, along with culinary creations by Northwest Florida's leading chefs. The event also features a Concert in the Park, headlined by top musical talent from around the country. VisitPanamaCityBeach.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

JEEP BEACH JAM

May 13–17 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, Jeep parade, bounce houses, live music and more. JeepBeachJam.com

REAL.FUN.FOURTH.

July 1-4 No Independence Day is complete without sparkling, vibrant fireworks displays. This week-long celebration boasts activities around Panama City Beach, capped off with a fireworks show at Aaron Bessant Park. VisitPanamaCityBeach.com



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SOUTHERNRESORTS.COM

Chilling out with Cool Threads

Fall breezes and cooler nights are on the way, so make sure to grab something long-sleeved on your way out the door. Looking for the perfect accessory for your day or night out at the beach, or in the mood to take the scent of the beach home with you? Several local boutiques have something that will catch your eye.



PANAMA CITY BEACH

◆ **Classic T-Shirt:** Relive sandy, sun-filled days again and again with a comfy, cool T-shirt from the coast. Spunky slogans and cute artwork adorn ready-to-wear shirts in sizes and styles for the whole family.
[17001 Panama City Beach Pkwy., VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://17001PanamaCityBeachPkwy.com)

SHIPWRECK LTD

MEN'S OUTFIT

◆ **Color Block Pullover:** This Quicksilver pullover is a fall/winter essential that will keep you warm and cozy all season long. It's great for an outdoor adventure or just kicking back and relaxing on the beach.

[10570 Front Beach Road,](http://10570FrontBeachRoad.com)
[Panama City Beach,](http://PanamaCityBeach.com)
 [\(850\) 233-6750,](http://(850)233-6750)
ShipwreckLTD.com



SHIPWRECK LTD

WOMEN'S OUTFIT

◆ **Waves, Waves, Waves Pullover & Zodiac Necklace:**

Shipwreck LTD provides some of our area's trendiest and affordable clothing, shoes and jewelry. This adorable Billabong pullover is the perfect outfit for a casual date night spent bowling or putt-putt golfing. Complete the look with this dainty zodiac necklace.

[10570 Front Beach Road,](http://10570FrontBeachRoad.com)
[Panama City Beach,](http://PanamaCityBeach.com)
 [\(850\) 233-6750,](http://(850)233-6750)
ShipwreckLTD.com





MAGNOLIA JUNE

◆ **Soap & Bath Salts:** It's time for some FinchBerry Soapery fun. These exclusively handcrafted, vegan-friendly decadent soaps and fizzy bath salts should be a staple in your pampering regimen. Swing by Magnolia June and pick up your favorite scent.

◆ **Scout Beaded Bracelet:** This handcrafted beaded Scout bracelet can be worn as either a necklace or bracelet. The amethyst stones bring serenity, calmness and symbolize peace.

◆ **Tan Backpack:** Head out on your next beach adventure with this beautiful leather backpack. This tan backpack comes with adjustable straps and multiple compartments perfect for storing all of your beach day essentials.

**701 Pier Park Drive,
Suite 117, Panama City
Beach, (850) 230-3600**



HOOK & TACKLE

◆ **Long-Sleeved Shirts:** With breathable texture and durable quality, these performance fishing shirts are perfect for a day out on the water — sun protective, quick-drying, lightweight and odor-resistant.

◆ **The Open Top Fishing Visor:** With breathable texture and durable quality, these performance fishing shirts are perfect for a day out on the water — sun protective, quick-drying, lightweight and odor-resistant.

**800 Pier Park Drive, Suite 110,
Panama City Beach, (850)
230-3040, HookAndTackle.com**

EARTHBOUND

◆ **40cean Bracelet:** Accessorize your wrists and support cleaner oceans with this bracelet. Made from 100% recycled materials recovered from our oceans, this adjustable unisex bracelet supports the Coral Restoration Foundation and its efforts to grow and replant endangered coral species all around the world. Each 40cean bracelet purchase also helps to remove one pound of trash from the ocean and coastlines.

◆ **Amethyst Druzy Necklaces:** These gold and silver chain necklaces feature a vibrant amethyst druzy. Each amethyst is unique, and no two necklaces are identical.

◆ **Kantha Fabric Blanket:** Experience the bold patterns of India with one-of-a-kind Kantha (pronounced: KAHN-taa) fabric blankets. Each is handcrafted by skilled artisans from upcycled fabric remnants and features an iconic running stitch, a symbol of its unique craftsmanship. A Kantha blanket is perfect to use at the beach or cuddle up with at a beach bonfire.

**800 S. Pier Park Drive,
Panama City Beach, (850) 234-6631,
EarthboundTrading.com**





AUG. 30-SEPT. 1

we be jammin'! The fifth annual **PEPSI GULF COAST JAM** signals the end of summer and the launch of the fabulous fall season. More than 15,000 music lovers will venture to the Gulf Coast for the three-day celebration of sun, fun and country music over Labor Day weekend will make your heart sing. GulfCoastJam.com



ENTERTAINMENT

MAKE YOUR STAY EVENTFUL

Save the date for these fantastic fall festivals and wonderful winter happenings

BY ZANDRA WOLFGRAM

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**Y**ou could say fall is pretty near the perfect season in Panama City Beach. Autumn signals milder temps and thinner crowds, and crystal clear waters and clear skies provide a ready canvas for some of the best sunsets along the Florida Panhandle. And, of course, unforgettable fall is followed by wonderfully warm winter, which means it's time to celebrate the season. Here on the Gulf Coast, fall and winter are filled to the brim with wonderful opportunities to gather with the ones you love. With family-friendly food festivals, hip happenings and magical "must-dos," the only question is what are you waiting for?





Ahoy, mateys! No matter your age, Columbus Day weekend is the time to channel your inner Captain Jack Sparrow and set your sails to make landfall in Panama City Beach **OCT. 11-13** for the fun-filled **PIRATES OF THE HIGH SEAS FEST**. The adventure begins in Pier Park with a treasure trove of spirited fun from scallywag scavenger hunts, pirate invasions, wicked water battles, pirate-themed parades, live music concerts, dueling fireworks and more. Yo ho ho! [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com)



Don your dirndls and lederhosen and schuhplattler your way to Aaron Bessant Park **OCT. 4-6** for Panama City Beach's annual **OKTOBERFEST** celebration. Enjoy traditional German fare, and craft brew and seasonal beer poured by local brew masters, while listening to live heritage music. The festive three-day event is brimming with fun events from the tapping of the keg, stein hoisting and tug of war to best beard competition and a brat toss. [PCBOKtoberfest.com](http://PCBOKtoberfest.com)

All aboard! **OCT. 4-5** prepare to paddle your way to Rick Seltzer Park for the ninth annual **PANAMA JACK PIER TO PIER PADDLEBOARD CLASSIC**. The fun begins Friday from 4-7 p.m. when you get your race number, review the course, have dinner at Finns and meet fellow paddlers. Race day opens Saturday at 7 a.m. The 10-mile race starts at 9 a.m., 3-mile race 9:05 a.m., team relay race at 11:30 a.m., free kids race after the relay, lunch at 12:30 p.m. followed by awards. Enjoy paddleboard demos, Saturday night poolside movie night under the stars and Sunday sunrise service. Proceeds benefit the

Troy University Scholarship Fund, K9s for Warriors and the National Breast Cancer Foundation. [Facebook.com/PierToPierSUPRace](https://www.facebook.com/PierToPierSUPRace)

Have you experienced hog heaven? Rev up your fall at the 19th annual **THUNDER BEACH AUTUMN MOTORCYCLE RALLY** from **OCT. 23-27**. Motorcycle enthusiasts from all over the nation roll into Panama City Beach for "the most biker-friendly free rally in the United States" to enjoy contests, rocking entertainment, bike shows, and scenic rides in paradise along the world's most beautiful beaches. [ThunderBeachProductions.com](http://ThunderBeachProductions.com)

Get cracking and head to Panama City Beach **OCT. 14-20** for the **30TH ANNUAL SCHOONER'S LOBSTER FESTIVAL & TOURNAMENT**. Lobster lovers, behold the biggest lobster tournament and festival in the Sunshine State. This weeklong celebration brings live music, contests and lots of delicious Florida lobster. Come watch huge local lobsters tip the scales, taste fresh lobster prepared every mouth-watering way you

can imagine, and dig into the Schooner's sand sculpting contest. This popular event draws thousands of lobster fans from all over the Southeast, and divers compete in a variety of categories — including harvesting spiny, shovelnose and big 6 lobster. [Schooners.com/events/lobsterfestival.htm](http://Schooners.com/events/lobsterfestival.htm)

**GULF WORLD MARINE PARK** is celebrating Halloween nearly all month long. Come visit our ghostly and ghoulish marine world **OCT. 18-31** for Halloween-themed shows. Come join us for Mermaid Mondays, Witches Wednesdays, dolphin hocus pocus, "foul" bird events and sea lions pirate adventures. Beware our not-so-spooky after-hours event, including a haunted house, glow-in-the-dark Halloween dance party and kids' activities. [GulfWorld.net](http://GulfWorld.net)

Cheers to the **BLOODY MARY & MUSIC FESTIVAL**. Venture to Schooner's Last Local Beach Club located on the Grand Lagoon in Panama City Beach on **NOV. 9** to sip and sample Bloody Mary cocktail recipes from more than two dozen local vendors

and cast your vote for which creative concoction tastes best. Enjoy a full bar and light bites from local eateries as the “Big Tomato” winner is awarded a trophy and local bragging rights. [GrandLagoon.org](http://GrandLagoon.org)

As the queen of soul says, ‘let’s drop the top baby and let’s cruise on into it’s better than ever street.’ Motor your way to the Aaron Bessant Park **NOV. 6–9** in Panama City Beach for **EMERALD COAST CRUIZIN’**. This four-day event (held in both fall and spring) is a must-see for automobile enthusiasts of all ages. Enjoy hot rod shows featuring more than 125 vendors, show and shine classic car showcase, live music, fish fry, car auction and more in a block party atmosphere. [EmeraldCoastCruizin.com](http://EmeraldCoastCruizin.com)

Kicking off Thanksgiving weekend (**NOV. 29–30**) is **BEACH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**, a fun-filled lineup of festive activities and events is sure to build new holiday traditions for families gathering in Panama City Beach to celebrate



the season. Highlights include the ceremonial lighting of a 100-foot Christmas tree, visiting magical Santa’s Village and star-studded holiday music concerts at Aaron Bessant Park, including award-winning country music star and 2011 American Idol winner Scotty McCreery. [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com)

Race to Pier Park in Panama City Beach **DEC. 7** for the **PANAMA CITY BEACH MARATHON**. Step up for a marathon, half-marathon, 5K or kid’s fun run. Regardless of the race you enter, everyone wins with a view of the Gulf of Mexico to inspire each step to the finish line. [PCBMarathon.com](http://PCBMarathon.com)

Count down the moments to the New Year in Pier Park on **DEC. 31** at the **NEW YEAR’S EVE BEACH BALL DROP**. This family-friendly celebration filled with festive activities and live music begins at 8 p.m. and culminates with fireworks and 10,000 glowing beach balls descending from Celebration Tower following by a second dazzling fireworks display. [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com)

Promenade your way to the beach **FEB. 21–22** for the **PANAMA CITY BEACH MARDI GRAS & MUSIC FESTIVAL** and laissez le bon temps rouler during the party of the winter season — Mardi Gras! In conjunction with the Krewe of Dominique Youx’s great Mardi Gras at the Beach parade, this festive fete, held the weekend before Fat Tuesday, features Mardi Gras-themed fun and entertainment for the whole family. From live music on Celebration Station stage to activities and crafts in the Kids Fun Zone, the only thing left to say is “throw me something mister!” [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com) ●



Circle **MARCH 20–21, 2020** for **UNWINED**, the

must-not-miss weekend of the spring season. Head to lovely Aaron Bessant Park for this tented event, and sip custom cocktails, swirl wonderful wines, sample craft brews and savor chef-prepared nibbles. Do all this while listening to live music and browsing local art, wine-themed vendors, boutique booths and more. The concert is BYOBC (bring your own beach chair), and the Grand Tasting is 21 and older. [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com)



# GOOD TIMES

# Great Finds

Hit the trail and discover some of PCB's top shops and boutiques

BY HANNAH BURKE



Embarking on the Décor' By The Shore shopping trail allows you to bottle up the scenic splendor of Panama City Beach and take it home with you. Pick up a card from Visit Panama City Beach or print one from [VisitPanamaCityBeach.com](http://VisitPanamaCityBeach.com) and then collect stamps in it from 10 of the most distinguished coastal consignment and antique furniture shops in the area. Once your card is filled and your wallet is empty, your trek will be rewarded. Simply turn the evidence of your excursion back in to the visitors' center for your very own Panama City Beach swag bag.

"People who take on this trail will love the local twist on Panama City Beach," says Lacey Rudd, Public Relations Manager for Visit Panama City Beach. "Each one of these stores has its own personality and holds a piece of our community. Although they all have the same theme, you're sure to find something different from each store!"



## ← THE SHADOW BOX

Have you ever purchased new pieces of décor, only to go home and realize you have no idea how to arrange them? Terrah Waynick, owner of The Shadow Box, completes the picture for you through her savvy staging of vignettes. With over 20 vendors that hail from all over the country, each week brings a brand-new shipment of “shabby-chic” antiques and beachy baubles to Waynick’s museum. **1711 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, (850) 249-1388**

## BACK BEACH THRIFT

Back Beach Thrift takes on the traditional thrifting experience and makes it seamless. Rather than sifting through shelves of mismatched items, you’ll find a collection of new and used furniture, appliances, and recreational equipment geared specifically toward the beach lover. This stop also serves as a local trading post where you can bring your unwanted items and swap them for a new prize. With a constant influx of new stock, you never know what you might find! **19605 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, (850) 896-8373**

## COASTAL COTTAGE EMPORIUM

This one’s for the vintage enthusiasts. If you’re looking to bring that beachside bungalow vibe to your home, the Coastal Cottage Emporium stocks its space with distressed, repurposed fittings, pastel pops of color and nautical antiques. Bedframes, bookcases, cabinets and chairs get their old-fashioned finish from chalk paint, one of the hottest interior design trends. You’re encouraged to browse their selection of Annie Sloan chalk paint to take home and work some magic of your own! **17756 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, (850) 249-3782**

## ARTIST SPACE AT MR. SURF’S

You may be wondering what one of PCB’s premier surf, kayak, and paddle board renters and retailers are doing on this list, but inside Mr. Surf’s gift shop lies dozens of purchasable paintings, ceramics and accessories from local artists. These one-of-a-kind pieces add PCB panache to your beach home or condo. Finn’s, the adjoining barista bar and island-style grub truck, also makes this stop perfect for refueling. **7220 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, (850) 235-2702**

## GREAT AMERICAN GARAGE SALE

Forget driving all over town to scout out the perfect garage sale—there’s a permanent one on Thomas Drive that never runs out of priceless finds! You’ll be treated to another

selection of oceanic ornamentations for your home, but this is also the place to go for those looking to sharpen up their toolbox. Like a true garage sale, you never know what kind of knick-knacks and novelties await.

**7030 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, (850) 381-8075**

## PIECES ON THE BEACH

With its conglomeration of enchanting shells, alabaster driftwood and antique goods from 22 talented vendors, Pieces on the Beach is the epitome of coastal-chic. As you wander through the stylish labyrinth of this 5,500-square foot shop, you’ll eventually come across the onsite paint studio. Sign up for an art class with Pieces, and you’ll learn all about furniture restoration using the serene, seaside hues of Maison Blanche paint.

**2505 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, (850) 234-6277**

## TURTLE GIRLS MARKET

A trove of local art, artisan-crafted curiosities and collectibles, Turtle Girls Market features masterpieces inspired by our emerald-green waters. Though you’ll find an impressive selection of both classic and contemporary furniture for your beach home, the Turtle Girls also treat you to a gorgeous array of mermaid-worthy accessories fashioned from shells and dazzling jewels.

**7930 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, (850) 775-4101**

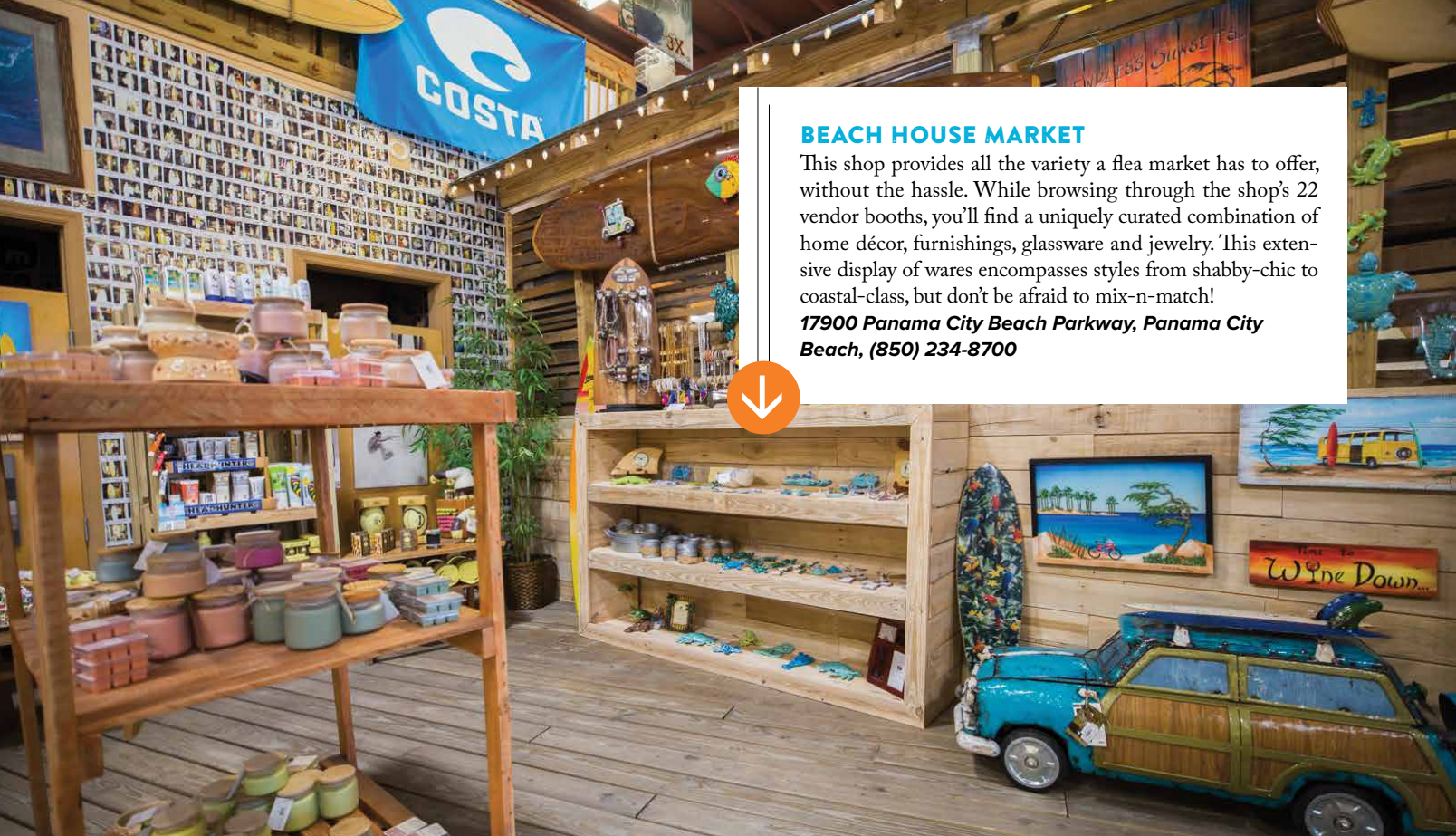
## SALTY MERMAID MARKETPLACE

A lifestyle and clothing store that exudes the beach life, Salty Mermaid offers an abundance of home décor and unique clothing options. Alongside beach apparel and shirts that celebrates the mermaid lifestyle, Salty Mermaid has a bevy of baubles available, including necklaces, earrings, pendants and more that will inject saltwater into your veins. From local artwork to hammocks, you’ll definitely leave with something to hang on to.

**7829 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, (850) 238-8830**



Take your time as you stroll down Panama City Beach’s Coastal Design Emporium Trail, a choice selection of stores and shops specializing in coastal-themed antiques, furniture, gifts and accessories. These vendors are known for Northwest Florida’s unique sense of style and design.



### BEACH HOUSE MARKET

This shop provides all the variety a flea market has to offer, without the hassle. While browsing through the shop's 22 vendor booths, you'll find a uniquely curated combination of home décor, furnishings, glassware and jewelry. This extensive display of wares encompasses styles from shabby-chic to coastal-class, but don't be afraid to mix-n-match!

**17900 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, (850) 234-8700**



### THE SALT SHED AND COMPANY

Located in a renovated filling station on the west end of Panama City Beach, The Salt Shed has everything you need to refurbish your home or garden. Outdoors, the garden center has a range of pots and plants to decorate your home or yard, including seeds, ferns, small trees, succulents and ornamental plants. Inside, The Salt Shed also offers home décor, from furniture to locally produced art. Gifts also range from soaps and pottery to apparel and jewelry.

**22601 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, (850) 249-5457**

### SOUTHERN LIVING STORE

Southern Living Store features SL lifestyle products in fashion, food, home, garden and travel. The Southern Living Store is for Southerners by Southerners, reflecting an environment where the customer always looks forward to coming back. We host entertaining food-tasting events and offer friendly, insightful service that encourages the customer to evolve and personalize traditions in the modern South. It's an engaging blend of inspiration, humor and practicality.

**600 Pier Park Drive, Panama City Beach, (850) 708-3240**

### SUN BEAR GALLERY AND STUDIO

This unique beachside art gallery and gift shop showcases one-of-a-kind art pieces and jewelry along with sunset paint parties. Stop by and browse featured artists and their pieces as well as get to know contributing artists. The gallery also offers unique sunset paint parties; all materials are provided and instruction is tailored to age and skill level.

**19800 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, (850) 588-6861**

### HIP. SEA IN PCB

This local gem is owned by a mother and daughter, but what makes Hip. Sea in PCB so special? The duo reclaims discarded items and makes them useful and beautiful again. This creative technique benefits the environment and creates one-of-a-kind pieces for your home. Their goal: to educate and provide vintage pieces that will help you achieve your dream home.

**7328 Thomas Drive Suite K, Panama City Beach, (850) 625-9536**

### 13 HUB LANE

The alabaster exterior of 13 Hub Lane gives way to vibrant splashes of aqua, coral and sea-glass green décor as visitors step inside. Beach meets Boho at this specialty shop, where furnishings range from bold, modern statement pieces to subdued, nautical neutrals. The shop offers textured art, metallic glassware and extravagant lighting fixtures that will uniquely accent your space without disrupting a beach home vibe. Take home a sea-inspired scent from the hub's selection of Barr-Co.'s soaps, lotions and candles, and you'll experience a whole new dimension of coastal living.

**17203 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, (850) 532-6000 ●**





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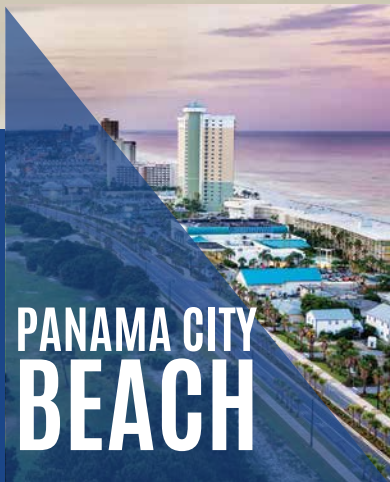


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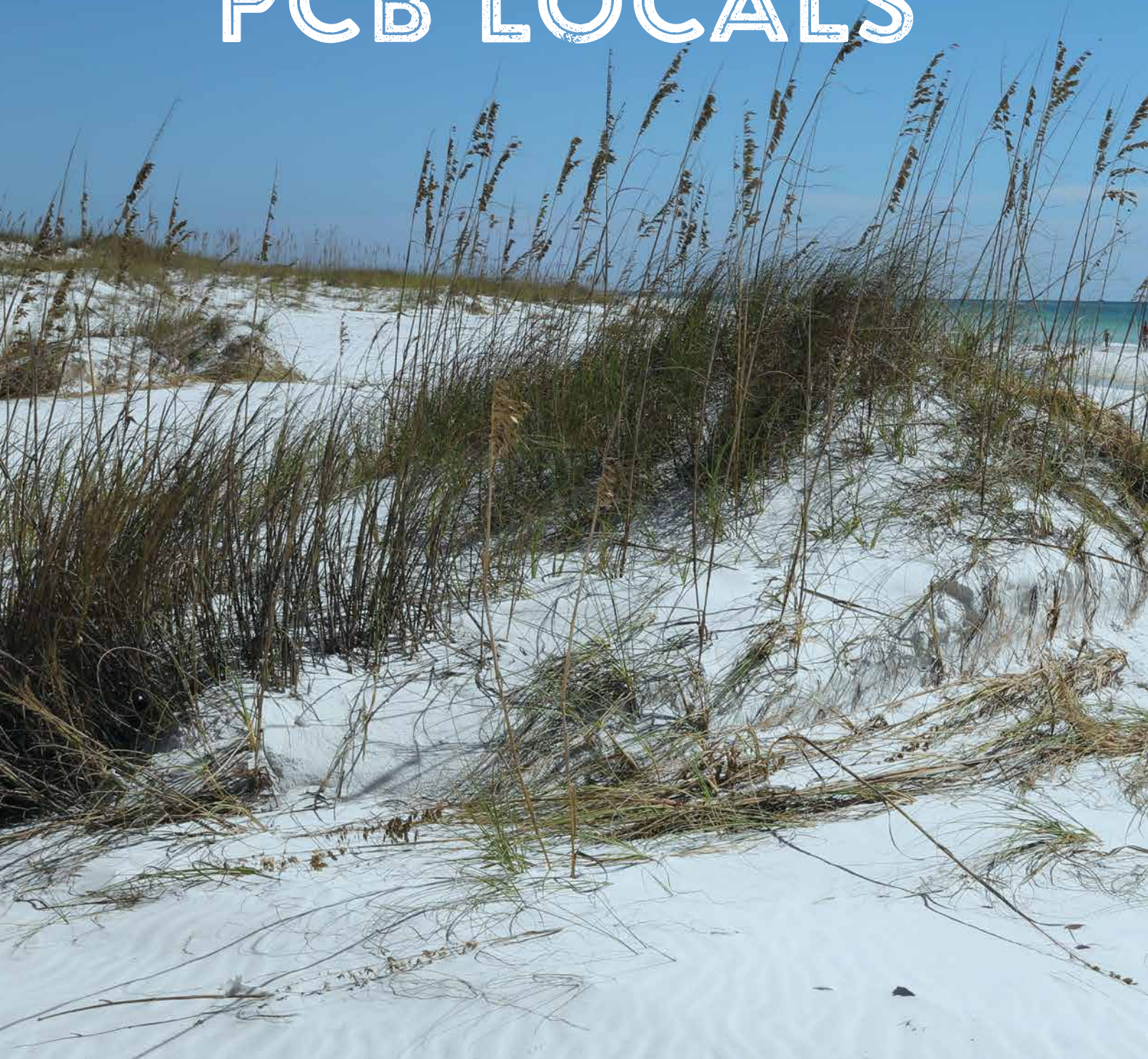


2100 THOMAS DRIVE, PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32408

REAL PCB

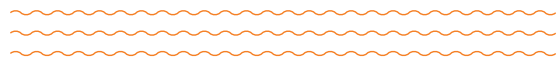


PCB LOCALS





OUR QUAIN T 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 THE WATER, PANAMA CITY BEACH IS THE PERFECT DESTINATION TO EXPLORE.



## JOHN

### Lagoon Pontoons

**Q: Do you have any tips/tricks for anyone wanting to check out Shell Island or explore on the water?**

**A:** Our visitors have plenty of options to ferry over to Shell Island or even rent their own pontoon boat or jet skis. However, I recommend taking a guided dolphin tour or snorkeling trip with Lagoon Pontoons for the best experience. The captains are all local and very knowledgeable on the history of the area, and they're good at finding local sea life for guests — such as dolphins, starfish, sand dollars and more.

**Q: When you're searching for great live music, what are some of your favorite local spots to catch a band playing?**

**A:** Panama City Beach puts on some great events in the fall that bring in artists from all over the country, which are always a great time. But when I'm looking to enjoy a night out and want to hear some awesome local music in Panama City Beach, I frequent Schooners, Newby's Brew and Booze, Patches Pub, The Craft Bar and Diego's. You get a great variety of music and always have a fun experience. *Love country music? Watch the top country artists perform live at the Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam, Aug. 30–Sept. 1.*



## ANNA

### Capt. Anderson's

**Q: What is a must-see attraction in PCB?**

**A:** My family, friends and I love to hop on the Shell Island Dolphin cruise to explore Shell Island and check out all of the wildlife. If you're looking for a quick trip, you can book a tour for a few hours or you can choose to stay the entire day. It is a great way to get out on the water and relax.

**Q: What does a perfect weekend in PCB look like for you?**

**A:** The perfect weekend in PCB to me is spent on the water fishing with my family. No matter what time of the year, there is always something to fish for. A lot of restaurants in the area will even take your fresh catch and cook it for you while you dine. Panama City Beach has some of the best fishing in the world!

*Check out Capt. Nathan's fishing report on page 44–46 to help plan your fall/winter fishing excursion!*



## MATT Schooners

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

**A:** I am biased and believe Schooners to be the best venue to catch a sunset in Panama City Beach. The cannon blast tradition, which happens every day at sunset, adds to an already great sunset experience. If you are on the west end of the beach, Runaway Island offers a panoramic view of the beach and a front row seat to PCB's amazing sunsets.

### Q: There are many, well-known attractions/restaurants in PCB, but what are some of your favorite hidden gems in PCB?

**A:** I have a 5-year-old daughter, so we enjoy Funland and Race City. With over 100 arcade games and an ice cream bar, there's plenty to do at Funland. And Race City offers some of the best go-kart tracks on the beach. As for restaurants, I work mainly nights, so most of my restaurants are matinees. I enjoy Diego's, Beau's and Andy's Flour Power.



## SHELBY Endless Beach Rentals

### Q: What are a couple of your favorite local shops, and what do they offer?

**A:** If I'm searching for an outfit on the fly after making last-minute plans, I can usually find something at Salty Dog or Shipwreck LTD. If we're out and about on the west of the beach, it's always nice to stop by Loaf and grab a snack and a coffee. If we're on the East end of the beach, we are definitely grabbing an iced coffee and smoothie bowl from Finns Barista Bar and Snack Shack.

### Q: What PCB event is always on your calendar?

**A:** One event my friends and I look forward to every year is the SandJam Music Fest. To get to experience live music right on the beach, and it be unique and different from the other festivals, is super refreshing. It has been interesting watching it grow into what it is today, and I'm excited to see what it brings year after year.

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AT THE REAL FUN BEACH YOU WILL NEVER RUN OUT OF WAYS TO MAKE IT YOURS



PCB IN PHOTO

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@nelnelly1984



# Share your fun!

**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 #RealFunBeach, 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)!



@domesticallyblissful



@hamptoninnpcb

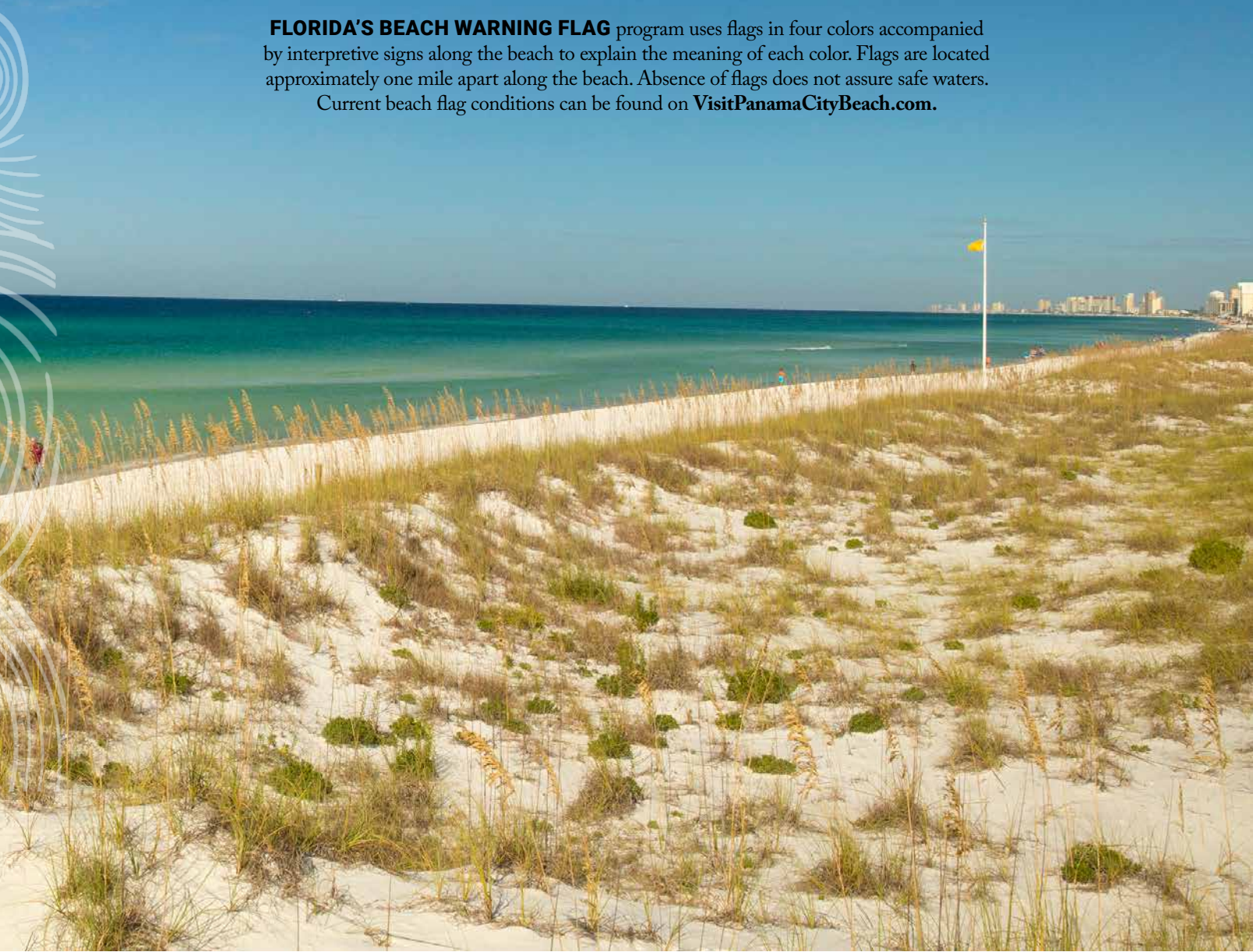


SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT -  
**#REALFUNBEACH**



# 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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**Discovery**

## FISHING, DIVING AND THE COASTAL LIFESTYLE

Chasin' The Sun explores the diverse fisheries found in the turquoise waters off the coast of Panama City Beach. Hosts and professional fishing guides, Capt. Justin Leake and Capt. Travis Holeman, provide an in-depth look at the irresistible coastal lifestyle, highlighting the region's rich culture and revealing why Panama City Beach is a fishing and diving hot spot and family vacation destination.





**BEACH  
ETIQUETTE**

# 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!

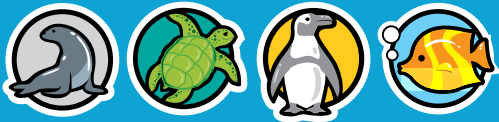
The “Leave No Trace” ordinance states that all personal items will be removed and disposed of if left on the beach between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. These items include, but are not limited to, tents, chairs, toys, umbrellas and coolers. On public beaches or with the upland landowner’s permission,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