



FACT SHEET

Panama City Beach Entertainment Persona

OVERVIEW

Panama City Beach (www.visitpanamacitybeach.com) is located in Bay County, Fla., in the Northwest part of the state. The destination is best known for its more than 27 miles of white-sand beaches and emerald-green waters where the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrew's Bay converge.

In addition to enjoying the destination's 360 days of sunshine each year, Panama City Beach is packed with all sorts of entertainment fun for all ages and interests, including go-karts and mazes at amusement and water parks, hands on experiences at animal parks, holiday events, and culinary and music festivals. PCB is awash in awesome attractions and spectacular events year-round for everyone from foodies to country music lovers that will delight even the most restless travelers.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

American Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival

Food Truck Festivals of America has held its annual Panama City [Beach Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival](#) in Aaron Bessant Park for three years in a row. This festival is a weekend of craft beer, great food, lawn games, music and fun for the whole family.

PCB Mardi Gras and Music Festival

"Laissez les bon temps rouler" in Panama City Beach and celebrate the destination's authentic [Mardi Gras](#) celebration. In conjunction with the Krewe of Domonique Youx's great Mardi Gras at the Beach Parade, this annual festival takes place the weekend before Fat Tuesday.

Emerald Coast Boat and Lifestyle Show

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

Emerald Coast Cruzin'

The bi-annual [Emerald Coast Cruzin'](#) car show at Aaron Bessant Park is perfect for families and features thousands of hot rods and classic cars. Events include a swap meet, parade, cruiz-ins, block party and more.

Panama City Beach Scottish Festival

The annual [Panama City Beach Scottish Festival](#) takes place at Frank Brown Park and features Scottish athletic competitions, Scottish & Irish musical performances (such as bagpipe bands and Irish step dancers), a British car club show, children's activities and Scottish and Irish food and drink. The family-friendly event always kicks off with a welcoming ceremony and parade of Tartans.

UNwineD

[UNwineD](#) is an award-winning culinary event held in Aaron Bessant Park, featuring craft beer, spirits and wine from around the world, culinary creations by the region's leading chefs and a Southern garden party presented by *Southern Living*. Guests can raise a glass at the Friday Night Kickoff Party, a time to mix and mingle with some of the South's most elite chefs, mixologists and tastemakers. The celebration continues Saturday with the Grand Afternoon Tasting & Cocktail Competition followed by a live concert.

SandJam Music Festival

[SandJam](#) is an annual alternative rock music festival, which sets their stages on the beautiful sugar white-sand beaches of Panama City Beach, providing a picturesque backdrop for this springtime festival. Music lovers of all ages are invited to make long lasting memories at SandJam Music Festival, presented by Pepsi.

Seabreeze Jazz Festival

Named a "Top 10 Jazz Festival in the USA" by JazzIZ Magazine and nominated as "Best Jazz Festival" at the Oasis Smooth Jazz Awards, the [Seabreeze Jazz Festival](#) combines top national smooth jazz artists for a full weekend of fun, sun, great beaches and good times. The annual event is held in the Pier Park Amphitheater, featuring internationally known acts as well as local performers.

Thunder Beach Spring Motorcycle Rally

The most biker-friendly rally in the country, the free four-day [Thunder Beach Spring Motorcycle Rally](#) features 200 vendors and exhibitors, a bike parade, beauty pageants, poker runs, live music, motorcycle stunt shows, tattoo contests, bike shows with category judging and much more. Event happenings take place at multiple venues throughout the Panama City Beach area.

Visit Panama City Beach 70.3 Gulf Coast / Visit Panama City Beach IRONMAN Florida

What began as a challenge between groups of Navy SEALs has become one of the most recognized endurance events in the world. [IRONMAN](#) is a statement of excellence, passion and commitment that is a true test of mental and physical toughness. Panama City Beach has proven to have the best combination of temperature and terrain for this competition, making

the Florida edition of the challenge one of the most popular races on the circuit.

Florida Beach Jam

Thousands of jeep owners and enthusiasts gather in Panama City Beach for the annual [Jeep Beach Jam](#). This five-day family event, organized by the JBJ Productions, Inc. team, is filled with many fun-in-the-sun activities including concerts, scavenger hunts, off-road excursions, bonfires and more. Events take place at many locations throughout the beach.

Real.Fun.Fourth

Home to the largest display of fireworks on the Gulf Coast, Panama City Beach offers an All-American weekend of Independence Day celebrations during [Real.Fun.Fourth](#). Friends and family put on their red, white and blue gear and gather on the sand to enjoy an electrifying firework show.

Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam

[The Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam](#), held on Labor Day Weekend, brings the best of today's country music to the beach. Festival-goers get a chance to see the biggest names in country music as they take to the stage on the beach, with previous artists including Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Tim McGraw, Brad Paisley, Kid Rock and Eric Church, just to name a few. As the sun begins to set, patrons can ride free shuttles to the headline stage at Frank Brown Park.

Schooners Bloody Mary & Music Festival

Up to 20 bars and restaurants compete for the title of "Best Bloody Mary in the Grand Lagoon" at the [Schooners Bloody Mary & Music Festival](#). The winner is crowned "Big Tomato" and the event features live music and award-winning Bloody Mary's.

Pirates of the High Seas Fest

Columbus Day weekend brings a treasure trove of fun-filled adventures to Panama City Beach with the [Pirates of the High Seas Fest](#). Taking place throughout the Grand Lagoon and Pier Park, the festival includes an ensemble of parades and sword-swinging showdowns, a pirate invasion, a Treasure Drop and fireworks display.

Panama City Beach Oktoberfest

Locals and visitors alike raise a glass and don their lederhosen for this annual celebration of German heritage during [Oktoberfest](#). Authentic German beer and brats are the star of the show, while festivities include stein hosting competitions, live music and plenty of activities for the kids.

Schooners Lobster Festival & Tournament

This week-long celebration welcomes Lobster lovers from near and far for the biggest lobster tournament and festival in the area. Attendees can expect live music, contests and lots of delicious Florida Lobster. Held at

Schooners Last Local Beach Club, the [Lobster Festival & Tournament](#) is a must for foodies of all ages.

Beach Home for the Holidays

A great holiday tradition for the family, locals and visitors can spend Thanksgiving weekend kicking off the most wonderful time of the year at [Beach Home for the Holidays](#), with free holiday concerts at Aaron Bessant Park Amphitheater, free seasonal-themed events like campfires and s'mores, meeting with Santa, a Christmas tree-lighting and more.

Panama City Beach Marathon, Half Marathon & 5K

Hosted by the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce, guests can run through paradise and alongside award-winning beaches in the annual Marathon, [Half- Marathon and 5K](#). The 26.2-mile race attracts thousands of both residents and visitors to the destination year after year.

New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop

Tens of thousands of visitors head to Panama City Beach for the [New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop](#), which features not one but two countdowns, fireworks and 10,000 inflatable beach balls raining down from the sky over the streets of Pier Park. The 8 p.m. Beach Ball Drop gives kids the chance to experience the fun before they head to bed and let their parents continue the celebration. More entertainment and live music will follow during the build up to midnight, when a dazzling fireworks display will accompany the lowering of a giant LED-lit beach ball to signify the beginning of the new year.

ACTIVITIES

Shipwreck Island Water Park

Home to nearly three million gallons of water for children to slide down, splash under, swim in, float down, raft through or just relax in, [Shipwreck Island Water Park](#) has been a favorite attraction among families for generations. Attractions include the 500,000-gallon wave pool, Tadpole Hole for toddlers, Lazy River, Tree Top Drop tube ride, Pirates Plunge Racing Slides for thrill seekers, Rapid River Run home to twists, turns and waterfalls, and White Knuckle River with 400 feet of winding fun.

WonderWorks

[WonderWorks](#) is an amusement park for the mind with 35,000 square feet of "edu-tainment". The attraction combines education and entertainment with more than 100 hands on exhibits that challenge the mind and spark the imagination. This once top-secret laboratory was located in the Bermuda triangle. An experiment gone awry lifted the laboratory carrying it to Front Beach Road in Panama City Beach where it landed upside down. Luckily, all of the exhibits remained intact and available for guests to explore.

Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium

Curiosity seekers have no fear as [Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium](#) offers family fun for kids of all ages. From shrunken heads to the newly built kids crawl area, this odditorium will leave even parents amazed. Experience the bizarre, explore the mysterious and enjoy the weird at Ripley's Believe It or Not!

Coconut Creek Family Fun Park

Welcome Aboard! [Coconut Creek](#) is home of the Gran Maze, the first American designed giant size maze for human amusement constructed in the United States and two 18-hole courses, both of which will provide you with fun, adventure and excitement regardless of your skill level.

Museum of Man in the Sea

Is it too cold or rainy to go scuba diving in Panama City Beach's famous emerald-green waters? The [Man in the Sea Museum](#), founded in 1982, transports visitors under water with eye-catching and education exhibits. The Man in the Sea Museum brings you treasures recovered from sunken ships dating from 1500, along with more recent commercial and naval equipment, vehicles and habitats. Both kids and adults can climb through SEALAB I and other selected exhibits. Come see displays of early diving equipment and watch videos of showing how it was used!

SkyWheel

[Skywheel](#) promises a 360-degree panoramic views of the Emerald Coast from Pier Park 180 feet up (the height of an 18-story condo!). Providing riders with the chance to sit in a glass-enclosed gondola for up to 15-minutes and seating as many as six people, families love getting a bird's eye view of the picturesque destination.

SkyTrail

The [SkyTrail at SkyWheel Panama City Beach](#) is an aerial attraction engineered for the most daring climbers. Participants, fitted with a harness and redundant sling, can explore suspended bridges, cargo nets, rope ladders and more. For those looking for an additional adrenaline rush, the SkyRail allows guests to jump off a suspended platform and soar through the air.

Gulf World Marine Park

[Gulf World](#) is the perfect place for the entire family, featuring daily interactive shows with dolphins, sea lions, reptiles and tropical birds. Over the years, the marine park has matured into one of Panama City Beach's jewels for its charismatic trainers and commitment to rehabilitating local marine life on-site. Intimate arenas allow spectators to get up close with all animals and even swim with dolphins as part of their Trainer for the Day program.

Swampy Jack's WONGP Adventure

Panama City Beach's brand-new, hybrid amusement park, [Swampy Jack's WONGO Adventure](#), opened just last month, bringing the thrill of a Mario Kart video game to life with its unique interactive outdoor track-Marrakesh Road Rally. Teens can also experience thrilling rides and attractions such as the Blue Hole, funky and surreal bumper cars; the Swamp Ape, the park's signature attraction featuring a 25' tall photo-bombing Swamp Ape, lights, music and fog; the Yacuma, a grand serpent wipeout ride; and the iconic Kraken, an experience that will send adventurers swirling upwards.

Cobra Adventure Park

The Max Flight Simulator at [Cobra Adventure Park](#) allows travelers to live life at full throttle and experience the "rollercoaster of the future." In addition, guests can race go-karts on a four-story track, with double riding available; reach heights of over 160 ft. on The Vertical Accelerator, get lost in the electronic games at The Arcade or putt their way around the mini pirate course at Smuggler's Cove.

Pier Park

This 1.1 million square-foot, open-air regional lifestyle center brings unique shopping, tourist attractions and dining to the heart of Panama City Beach. Located on 100 acres directly across from the Gulf of Mexico and City Pier, department stores and restaurants include Dillard's, JCPenney, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville and dozens of one-of-a-kind boutiques and specialty shops. In addition, [Pier Park](#) embraces diverse dining options such as Hofbrau Beer Garden, Back Porch Seafood & Oyster House, Pompano Joe's Seafood House and many more. Shoppers can also enjoy movies at The IMAX Grand 16 Theatres, which was recently retrofitted to offer the high-tech sensory experience for up to 350 moviegoers.

Zoo World

[Zoo World](#) lets guests get up close to graceful giraffes, loveable lemurs, glorious gators, steady sloths and the auspicious aviary. Visitors can nourish their animal-loving soul, while also hand-feeding some of the wondrous creatures.

NextGen-VR

[NextGen-VR](#) is the play space for the techie and gamer at heart. Guests can book large rooms and choose from more than 120 games that run on high-end hardware for a fully immersive, virtual reality experience.

Hidden Lagoon Golf and Racetrack

[Hidden Lagoon](#) offers big thrills and fun for all ages and is known for its two super attractions, including a nearly mile-long go-kart track and an outdoor mini-golf course that is surrounded by fountains and waterfalls.

DINING

Nothing works up an appetite like a day filled with indoor and outdoor entertainment. Known as the “Seafood Capital of the South,” Panama City Beach offers an array of dining options to please all palates including award-winning restaurants, casual beachfront cafes and family-friendly tables. Visitors can enjoy island cuisine, steakhouses, barbecue, ethnic cuisine and specialty sushi. Experiences are available for any occasion from elaborate multi-course meals and dinner cruises to buffets, grills, casual beachside dining and ice cream parlors.

ACCOMODATIONS

More than 16,500 rooms ranging from resorts, hotels, condos, town homes and villas are available for quick getaways or extended stays in Panama City Beach. Each accommodation caters to families of different interests, from luxury resorts with kid-friendly amenities to fully equipped campsites and RV parks.

ACCESSABILITY

Daily commercial air service is provided through Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, just 15 minutes from the beach. Leading low fare carrier Southwest Airlines operates daily flights through the airport non-stop from Baltimore, Houston, Austin, Chicago and Nashville. Delta Airlines operates non-stop flights from Atlanta. United Airlines offers direct flights to their international hub in Houston. Florida’s Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf of Mexico bring boaters to the area’s many marinas, and the destination is within a six-hour drive to major Southeastern cities including Atlanta, Birmingham, New Orleans, and others.

ADDRESS

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