



## FACT SHEET

### Panama City Beach Foodie Persona

#### OVERVIEW

Panama City Beach ([www.visitpanamacitybeach.com](http://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. With an average of 320 days of sunshine annually, the region has long been favored by foodies seeking a vibrant food and cultural experience that is every bit as inviting as the waterfront vistas. From hearty terrestrial fare to coastal delicacies to one of a kind wines and beers, Panama City Beach has what you're hungering for, and visitors delight in the area's many culinary festivals.

[UNwineD](#), the destination's premier two-day culinary festival features craft beer, wine and spirits from around the world in addition to mouth-watering creations from some of the area's leading chefs and live entertainment. Past chefs include *Top Chef* star and Atlanta native Kevin Gillespie. Seafood lovers will adore October's Lobster Festival, featuring live music, cold beer and regional catches like the spiny and shovel-nosed lobster—any epicurean knows that variety is the spice of life. Speaking of spice, the Blood Mary and Music Festival offers an assortment of this delectable adult beverage as restaurants compete to see who can mix the tastiest drink.

Panama City Beach's unique geography makes it an ideal locale for fresh coastal cuisine inflected with Cajun, Gulf Coast and American Southern traditions. Known as the "Seafood Capital of the South," it should come as no surprise that seafood is the main ingredient for Panama City Beach menus. However, foodies don't have to go to a restaurant to enjoy the city's seafood abundance, as some of the best eateries are seafood markets that serve their freshest catches right in front of you. The lively food culture of this dynamic city today is guaranteed to satisfy the most ravenous appetite for fun and flavor. Have lunch at the beach while the sun glistens on the Gulf, sip drinks on a deck while the gulls soar above St. Andrew Bay or savor a romantic dinner while the sun sets over the tranquil waters of the Grand Lagoon.

#### SEAFOOD STAPLES

##### [Captain Anderson's](#)

Since 1967, Captain Anderson's has innovated many of the Gulf Coast's classic dishes and has won the loyalty of millions of customers and friends at this elegant restaurant. Freshly harvested shrimp, oysters and fish pair

beautifully with hearty comfort food, and Capt. Anderson's Restaurant serves a perfectly seasoned steak accompanied by grilled shrimp and raw oysters.

#### [Grand Marlin](#)

With sunsets overlooking Grand Lagoon, The Grand Marlin of Panama City Beach offers a tranquil, relaxed atmosphere, paired with the area's best selection of fresh seafood highlighted by delectable, daily specials from the kitchen of award-winning Chef Gregg McCarthy. The restaurant boasts the area's best-stocked, most tempting oyster bar where the finest oysters, from Apalachicola and East Bay to more exotic locales, are shucked to order. For those in the mood for something other than seafood The Grand Marlin of Panama City Beach offers enticing steaks, succulent poultry dishes and other fare to meet your every taste. The restaurant's second floor features The North Drop Bar – bringing a touch of the Caribbean to the shores of beautiful Grand Lagoon. Enjoy a tall cocktail while sitting back and relaxing in the laid-back atmosphere.

### **BEACHFRONT DINING**

#### [Runaway Island Beach Bar and Grill](#)

Sit outside on the deck at this restaurant and take in the breathtaking views of the Gulf while enjoying catch-of-the-day seafood and cool, refreshing cocktails. The restaurant boasts two levels of inside dining space, but the crowning achievement is the outdoor deck complete with a boardwalk that extends all the way to the shores of the white sandy beach.

#### [Schooners](#)

At Schooners the food is far from fancy but always fresh and mouth-watering delicious. With a casual and laid-back atmosphere, Schooners is open for lunch and dinner and has ice cold beer and noteworthy views. With live bands and nightly sunset celebrations, locals and visitors alike can tuck into a delightful meal while soaking in popular beach tunes.

#### [Hang Five Beach Bar & Grill](#)

This brand-new beach restaurant is quickly becoming a local favorite. You cannot beat the breathtaking views, tasty cocktails or fresh seafood. Grab a seat at the bar or watch the sunset from the deck outside. Hang Five also features live music every Friday evening with local talent.

#### [Pineapple Willy's](#)

World Famous Pineapple Willy's™ is the Panama City Beach seafood restaurant where it all began. Since 1984, William Buskell, (aka Pineapple Willy) has remained true to his mission of great food, great cocktails and great staff. Today, the restaurant still serves the best ribs on the beach, the staff is as friendly as ever and the music and drinks at Willy's Live gets better every year!

#### [Hook'd Pier Bar & Grill](#)

Experience real Panama City Beach flavor and style at the locally owned Hook'd Pier Bar and Grill. With beachfront dining and an amazing selection of freshly caught seafood, visitors won't find anything better.

#### [Sharky's Beachfront Restaurant](#)

Since 1986, locals and visitors have made Sharky's Beachfront Restaurant and Tiki Bar the place to go for fresh seafood, amazing entertainment and spectacular views of Panama City Beach. By day, the beach behind Sharky's is full of activity with volleyball, waverunners and parasailing. At night, the focus moves to the outdoor deck with live entertainment from local and national bands. However, what keeps people coming back is the food because Sharky's adds its own unique flair to local seafood, steaks and other popular dishes.

### **SWEETS**

#### [Thomas Donut & Snack Shop](#)

Thomas Donut and Snack Shop is a family-owned beachfront donut shop that's been in business since 1971. Famous for their donuts, Thomas' Donuts also offers breakfast biscuits, muffins, sandwiches, and kolaches.

#### [The Yard](#)

The Yard Milkshake Bar was created by husband-and-wife team Logan and Chelsea Green, who both came from families of entrepreneurs and spent their early years working for their parents. Chelsea knew she wanted The Yard to be like no other dessert place she had ever been to and decided that crazy specialty milkshakes was just what they were looking for. They have now expanded to Panama City Beach, FL, Fairhope, AL, Austin, TX. There are also two new Franchise locations in D'Iberville, MS and Hattiesburg, MS.

#### [Gulf Coast Burger Co.](#)

Gulf Coast Burger Co. specializes in gourmet chef-inspired burgers and milkshakes. Most people go for a small 16 oz shake but those daring foodies can try the Original #CAT5Shakes, inspired by the many hurricanes that have hit the area.

### **CLEAN EATS**

#### [FINN's Island Style Grub](#)

Finns Island Style Grub is the home of Finn's original fish tacos and serves the freshest and most delicious island style food in Panama City Beach. The restaurant's motto is "Keepin' It Fresh," so every order is cooked fresh to order to provide patrons with an amazing eating experience. The restaurant also sells tacos, burritos, nachos, ceviche, quesadillas and more.

#### [Lotus Health Food Café and Juice Bar](#)

Enjoy a meal in the garden setting of Lotus Café, which offers a health-conscious menu using all natural and organic ingredients. The menu includes juices and smoothies, seafood and chicken, vegetarian and vegan options, salads, wraps and more.

### [Liza's Kitchen Café & Catering](#)

A family owned and operated restaurant serving made-from-scratch soups, salads and sandwiches. Liza's Kitchen is known for its Sunday brunch, which features breakfast favorites like eggs benedict, French toast and biscuits and gravy.

## CASUAL DINING

### [Pompano Joe's](#)

Known for its fresh, affordable Gulf seafood prepared with a Caribbean flavor, Pompano Joe's is not your typical seafood restaurant. The restaurant is a neighborhood beach place where guests can "savor the flavor" of the Islands and takes tremendous pride in serving fresh Gulf seafood. Seafood is delivered daily and is handled with great care from the minute it arrives at their door to the time it arrives at diners' tables.

### [Saltwater Grill](#)

Diners will be wowed by the panoramic view of Saltwater Grill's 25,000-gallon tropical saltwater aquarium. Both sides of this restaurant offer dazzling views of this tropical reef and its nonstop parade of exotic sea creatures. Menu highlights include fresh Gulf seafood and choice steaks.

### [Andy's Flour Power Café & Bakery](#)

Open only for breakfast and lunch, this Panama City Beach favorite uses the freshest ingredients for their flaky pastries, muffins, omelets and popular breakfast potatoes.

## FINE DINING

### [Firefly](#)

For pure indulgence, make a reservation at Firefly, named "Most Romantic Restaurant 2017" by OpenTable. The award-winning cuisine and magical, Mediterranean bistro atmosphere will whisk your lover right off their feet.

## CULINARY FESTIVALS

### [UNwineD](#)

This award-winning event is 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 and picnic in the park.

### [American Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival](#)

Food Truck Festivals of America has held the Panama City Beach Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival in Aaron Bessant Park every Winter since 2018. This festival is a weekend of craft beer, great food, lawn games, music and fun for the whole family. Thirty plus food trucks serve everything from fall-

off-the- bone BBQ to wood-fired pizza to juicy prime rib to spicy Korean to gooey mac & cheese and so much more.

[Schooners Bloody Mary & Music Festival](#)

Up to 20 bars and restaurants compete for the title of “Best Bloody Mary in the Grand Lagoon”. The winner is crowned “Big Tomato” and the event features live music and award-winning Bloody Mary’s.

[Panama City Beach Oktoberfest](#)

Locals and visitors alike raise a glass and don their lederhosen for this annual celebration of German heritage. Authentic German beer and brats are the star of the show, while the festivities also feature 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, this event is a must for foodies of all ages.

**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**

**Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
P.O. Box 9473  
Panama City Beach, FL 32417

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850-233-6503  
1-800-PCBEACH (within the Continental United States)

**WEBSITE**

[www.visitpanamacitybeach.com](http://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Instagram: [@Visit\\_PCB](#)  
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