

# PENSACOLA BEACH

**VISITOR  
GUIDE**  
Santa Rosa Island, Florida

2009

VisitPensacolaBeach.com

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## An Island Escape is Closer Than You Think



Escape to a faraway place that is surprisingly close to home. Santa Rosa Island, one of the world's longest barrier islands, dazzles visitors with open stretches of brilliant white-sand beaches graced with golden sea oats, majestic oaks and soaring, century-old pines. However, it's not just locals singing island praises. TripAdvisor®, the world's largest travel community, rates Pensacola one of the "Best Family Friendly Vacations" in the United States and Canada, and "Southern Living's" readers selected ours as one of the South's best beaches.

Easily accessible by boat or car, a visit to the island helps visitors instantly leave everyday stresses on the mainland. Nestled between two sections of Gulf Islands National Seashore, the core of Pensacola Beach

offers a wide range of accommodations appropriate for every budget, award-winning eateries, water adventures and shopping venues.

An array of island activities offers opportunities for romance, adventure or family fun all at a great value and sure to create memories that will last a lifetime. From free, beachside concerts and air shows featuring the world-famous Blue Angels to wine tastings, parades and art festivals, Pensacola Beach offers something for every taste. And of course there is always the prospect of a beach chair and umbrella, the ever-rolling surf, and just doing nothing at all.

So go ahead, catch the island spirit and discover the allure of our corner of Florida.

## Beach Warning Flags



**Water Closed to Public**  
Agua Cerrada al Publico



**High Hazard**  
High Surf and/or Strong Currents  
Peligro Alto, Resaca Alta y/o Corrientes Fuertes



**Medium Hazard**  
Moderate Surf and/or Currents  
Peligro Medio, Resaca Moderada y/o Corrientes Fuertes



**Low Hazard**  
Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution  
Peligro Bajo, Condiciones Calmas, Tenga cuidado



**Dangerous Marine Life**  
Vida Marina Peligrosa

### Surf conditions can be deceiving.

There can be dangerous currents even on calm days. Call for the latest surf advisory at Pensacola Beach and the Gulf Islands National Seashore protected areas.

## 932-SURF

Absence of Flags Does Not Assure Safe Waters  
La ausencia de Banderas No Asegura Aguas Seguras

## Live Like a Local While on Vacation



Whether you're seeking spectacular local dishes, special events, pristine beaches or surprising local peculiarities, you're bound to find something on Pensacola Beach that really "floats your boat." Just ask an islander about their favorites or explore with a fellow traveler to discover the personality of paradise. Following are a few bits of island trivia to get you started:

- Island cuisine ranges from famous burgers, beach pizza and wings to Cuban sandwiches, steaks and a wide variety of fresh-from-the-gulf specialties. In fact, oysters lovers are drawn to the island where one popular restaurant serves up more than 1.3 million oysters each year, which equates to about 253 tons of the tasty treats on the half shell.
- Prepare to lunge, laugh and love the simplicity of summer nights while hunting for ghost crabs. Just grab a flashlight and a bucket and look for these quick little critters, often seen scurrying along the shoreline at speeds up to 10 mph. Always use a gentle hand and observe only briefly before setting them free.
- Santa Rosa Island is a prolific herb garden—a native mint, *Conradina*, looks similar to rosemary and is easily spotted on the island's western end near Fort Pickens. Other edible plants include muscadine grapes, wild onions and dewberries.
- It's true, the beach squeaks. Quartz that eroded in the Appalachian Mountains eons ago slowly made its way down rivers and streams to the gulf and Pensacola Beach. The fine grains of white sand actually squeak when you walk barefoot, something locals call our "singing sand."
- A trip to the island is not complete without trying a Bushwacker, the island's signature drink. Developed by a local business owner in 1975, the rum-based drink is a rich, creamy, chocolatey concoction that now comes in strawberry or banana versions. For non-drinkers, the "virgin" Bushwacker can be made sans alcohol.

