

Compliments of
The SIMMS Team
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THE FLORIDA BEACH BOOK

*A guide to over 350
Florida Beaches and the Best
Restaurants on or near them!*



State of Florida

0 50 miles
0 100 km



Gulf of Mexico

Atlantic Ocean

- Northwest
- North Central
- Northeast
- Central West
- Central East
- Central
- Southwest
- Southeast



The Florida Beach Book

Are you ready to explore the beautiful beaches of Florida? I hope so!

Our goal in creating the Florida Beach Book is to make it as easy as possible for anyone, be it retirees, winter visitors, or full-time Florida residents, to enjoy and explore the 1,200 miles of coastline surrounding our beautiful state.

Throughout this book, you'll find details on some 350 beach locations, from the white sands of Pensacola Beach to the black sands of Venice, and everything in between. Information is organized by region and county. Just check the map at the beginning of the book to determine your beach of interest, and flip to that portion of the book to learn more about it. Each listing in the Florida Beach Book contains basic information like address and website, as well as details on special amenities, recreational offerings, hours, pet regulations and more.

We've handpicked what we think are some of the best restaurants on or near our beaches. Each of them has a listing in The Florida Beach Book and a gift certificate in the companion download. They invite you to visit and enjoy complimentary cocktails, wine, desserts, appetizers or discounts. Just be sure to take the appropriate gift certificate to the restaurant and find out what makes them special!

We hope you enjoy your stay in Florida, whether it's for the week, or for the rest of your life. So ... what are you waiting for? Get swimming!

The information is intended to be general in nature and comes from many sources. Every effort has been made to verify its accuracy and authenticity, but material is subject to change, and we do not warrant its accuracy. Copyright ©2009 Norton Real Estate, LLC. All rights reserved.

Southwest Florida



- 1 South Marco Beach
- 2 Tigertail Beach County Park
- 3 Naples Beach
- 4 North Gulf Shore Boulevard Beach
- 5 Naples Beach and Pier
- 6 Lowdermilk Park
- 7 Clam Pass County Park
- 8 Vanderbilt Beach County Park
- 9 Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
- 10 Barefoot Beach County Park
- 11 Barefoot Beach
- 12 Bonita Beach Park
- 13 Bonita Beach
- 14 Little Hickory Island Beach Park
- 15 Lovers Key State Park
- 16 Fort Myers Beach
- 17 Lynn Hall Park
- 18 Bowditch Point Regional Park
- 19 Bunche Beach
- 20 Causeway Islands
- 21 Dixie Beach
- 22 Lighthouse Beach Park
- 23 Gulfside City Park
- 24 Tarpon Bay Road Park
- 25 Bowman's Beach
- 26 Turner Beach
- 27 Captiva Beach
- 28 North Captiva Island
- 29 Cayo Costa State Park
- 30 Lighthouse Beach Park

- 31 Gasparilla Island State Park
- 32 Sand Spur Beach
- 33 Boca Grande Beach
- 34 Don Pedro Island State Park
- 35 Stump Pass Beach State Park
- 36 Englewood Beach





Southwest Florida

Collier County

Naples, Marco Island and the western part of the Florida Everglades make up Collier County, known to many as The Paradise Coast. Collier is the largest county in the state of Florida, by land area, yet more than 80% of the vast expanse of land is preserved as park and nature preserve land by federal, state, county, city and private agencies. With so many beautiful beach communities and nature surrounding, it's not surprising that Collier County is known as "Florida's Last Paradise."

If a sophisticated enclave bursting with fine art, symphonic concerts and high-end shopping is your cup of tea, then you'll love Naples, which rests on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico in a sea of charm and style. Enjoy the city's pedestrian walks, complete with shops, restaurants and galleries.

Paradise Coast, with immaculate white sand beaches, stretches from Barefoot Beach Preserve (at the northern tip of Collier County) through Naples, along Marco Island's shoreline, and into the deserted Ten Thousand Island area of the Florida Everglades. Some beach parks offer full facilities while others feature simple access points conducive to long beach walks on deserted sands. There are many access points for the beach in downtown Naples. Additionally, you'll find access to Tigertail Beach Park and South Beach public access on Marco Island. With pristine surroundings, warm sand and amazing sunsets, it's no question you'll want to want to lose your shoes on the walk.

The County offers beach parking to visitors and residents with beach permits. Residents pay for beach permits in their taxes. Beach permits allow you to park at City of Naples beaches as well. Visitors can purchase an Annual Beach Parking Permit for \$50.

The Best Restaurants in Collier County

Café de Marco
Marco Island

Vergina
Naples

[See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates](#)

▶ Safe Swimming! A Note on Water Quality

The Healthy Beaches Program at Florida Department of Health monitors water quality at beaches in 34 coastal Florida counties every week. They make sure the public has access to information on the quality of their own beach water. The Program also works with environmental officials to encourage them to use even faster, more accurate testing methods to ensure visitors and residents have the information they need.



1. South Marco Beach

Location: South Collier Blvd., Marco Island

Phone: 239-252-4000 Collier County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.colliergov.net>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$4/day, 70 space lot on Swallow Ave, a short walk across South Collier Blvd.

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, restroom at the parking lot

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Walk between two high rise condos to access the beach, but once there, the beautiful white beach is 150 feet wide and slopes gradually to the water.

2. Tigertail Beach County Park

Location: Hernando Drive, Marco Island

Phone: 239-252-4000 Collier County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.colliergov.net>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$4/day

Amenities: ½ mile of beach, concessions for food & drinks and rentals, playground, restrooms, boardwalk, barbeque areas with picnic tables, butterfly garden, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, walking, sunbathing, birding

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: One of the most popular in the County and listed as a birding site by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. There are no condominiums or homes on Tigertail Beach.

3. Naples Beach Accesses

Location: west end of most numbered and named streets along S.Gulfshore Blvd., Naples

Phone: 239-213-7120 Naples Community Services

Website: <http://www.naplesgov.com>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: metered & limited

Amenities: 5.5 miles of mostly quiet residential beachfront. No restrooms. Handicapped accessible at 17th Ave S, 4th Ave S,

6th Ave S, 8th Ave S, Horizon Way, Vedado Way & Via Miramar. Showers at Vedado Way, Via Miramar & Horizon Way, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 15th, 18th, 21st & 33rd Avenues South and 2nd, 6th and 7th Avenues North.

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

4. North Gulf Shore Boulevard Beach

Location: between Seagate Condominiums & North Gulf Shore Blvd., Naples

Phone: 239-252-4000 Collier County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.colliergov.net>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: Metered at the end of Seagate Drive, beach is accessible at both the end of Seagate and North Gulf Shore Blvd via foot.

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Located in a very upscale area of high rise condominiums and a bit difficult to find

5. Naples Beach & Pier

Location: west end of 12th Avenue South, Naples

Phone: 239-213-3062 Naples Fishing Pier

Website: <http://www.naplesgov.com>

Hours: Pier and Beach open 24 hours. Concessions: 9 AM to sunset on weekends, 10 AM to sunset on weekdays.

Parking: Metered on street parking and parking lot one block East with additional

parking at beach ends of Avenues to the North & South.

Amenities: food concession, bait shop, restrooms, picnic tables, handicapped access, showers

Activities: pier fishing (no license required), volleyball, sunset watching, swimming, walking, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The Naples Fishing Pier is one of the most popular attractions in Naples. It was built in 1888 as a freight and passenger dock. Today, it is a true community landmark for the city.



6. Lowdermilk Park

Location: west end of Banyan Blvd at Gulf Shore Blvd N.

Phone: 239-213-7120 Naples Community Services

Website: <http://www.naplesgov.com>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: metered, 125 spaces

Amenities: 750 feet of beach, lushly landscaped, boardwalk, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, food concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, playground, volleyball courts

Activities: volleyball, swimming, sunset watching, sailboat regatta watching, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Popular with families with children.

7. Clam Pass County Park

Location: Seagate Drive & Crayton Road, North Naples

Phone: 239-252-4000 Collier County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.colliergov.net>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: picnic tables, showers, concessions for food & drinks and equipment rentals, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, next to Naples Grande Beach Resort

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, nature walks

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: 35 acres of coastal habitat. Beach access is from a ¾ mile board-walk to the sandy beach. Free tram available. The boardwalk is a destination itself for those who love quiet nature. The Park abounds with wading shorebirds, eagles, hawks and osprey.

8. Vanderbilt Beach County Park

Location: end of Vanderbilt Beach Road, North Naples

Phone: 239-252-4000 Collier County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.colliergov.net>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/day, 120 space lot and 340 space garage, located just west of the Ritz Carlton hotel

Amenities: 2 mile beach, concessions for food & drinks and equipment rental, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, walking, shelling, birding

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Popular beach near upscale hotels in North Naples. Get there early to get a parking space in season.

9. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Location: five miles west of I-75 Exit 111 (Bluebill Avenue/ Immokalee Road), Naples

Phone: 239-597-6196

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/delnor-wiggins>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6 per vehicle

Amenities: 1 mile of beach, boat ramp, restrooms, tours, interpretive Exhibits, pavilion, picnic areas with grills and tables, hard bottom reef, showers

Activities: scuba diving, snorkeling, swimming, wildlife viewing, boating, fishing, kayaking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: One of the most popular seashore destinations in Naples, this park's mile long stretch of white sugar sand has been rated one of the best beaches in the nation. In season, the park closes its gates when it reaches capacity, so get there early.

10. Barefoot Beach County Park (Preserve)

Location: Barefoot Beach Road off Bonita Beach Road, Naples

Phone: 239-591-8596

Website: <http://www.colliergov.net>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/day

Amenities: 342 acres of natural land, one mile nature trail, showers, picnic area, concessions for food & drinks and rental equipment, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair

Activities: fishing, swimming, shelling, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: One of the last undeveloped barrier islands on Florida's southwest coast, with gorgeous and plush character. Many types of animals live here. Park rangers offer lectures, guided walks and interpretive programs.



11. Barefoot Beach (Access)

Location: Bonita Beach Road off Lely Barefoot Blvd., Naples

Phone: 239-252-4000 Collier County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.colliergov.net>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/day

Amenities: no facilities

Activities: sunbathing, swimming, fishing, shelling, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Barefoot Beach Preserve Park is located just south of this access point. Bonita Beach Park is north and has public rest rooms, concessions, and showers. You'll notice a lot of wildlife and sea life at this location, very near to the main Barefoot Beach Preserve Park site.

▷ Red Tide?

Florida's brilliant beaches are all part of an impressive ecosystem, with an abundance of life both on the beach and below the water. The red tide is caused by algae that live in waters around the world, including Florida.

In Florida specifically, red tide is caused by a microscopic kind of algae called *Karenia brevis* (aka *K. brevis*). Red tide periods can last days, weeks or months, and they can also change daily with the wind. Onshore wind will bring it near to the shore while offshore winds will push it out to sea.

Red tide does feature a chemical that can affect birds, fish, mammals and other kinds of animals. Some may also experience coughing or throat irritation while visiting beaches during red tide. These symptoms are usually temporary due to red tide toxins found in the air. If you develop symptoms, leave the beach area and seek an air conditioned location.



Lee County

The most populous county in the Southwest region, Lee County is home to Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs and the islands of Sanibel and Captiva. Fort Myers is the county seat, while Cape Coral is the largest city. The Gulf of Mexico has the biggest influence on the area and the three rivers: the Caloosahatchee, the Estero and the Imperial, provide fantastic recreational opportunities.

Natural sand beaches and warm waters provide the perfect backdrop for relaxing, reading and shelling. Each beach is unique, with special geography and sand qualities. The sand, soft and white, is great for kids, while the solitude and sunsets are great for couples. Those into the outdoors will enjoy volleyball, shelling, picnicking, skim-boarding and cycling.

- An annual parking sticker in Lee County is \$60 per year.
- Residents of Bonita Springs pay \$5 for an annual parking decal that allows for parking at Bonita Beach Park, Access #1 and Little Hickory Island Beach Park, free of charge.
- Public beaches on Sanibel Island offer metered parking. Those who own property, and those visiting long term can obtain A & B parking permits. (A is for property owners at \$12/year; B is for visitors at \$90/year.)
- Policy on Sanibel will help arrange delivery of a handicapped wheelchair for up to four hours at no charge. Call 239-472-3111.

12. Bonita Beach Park

Location: 27954 Hickory Blvd., west end of Bonita Beach Blvd., Bonita Springs

Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$2/hour

Amenities: 3 miles of beach, restrooms, picnic shelters with tables and grills, playground, sand volleyball courts, food concession, showers, restaurant

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Bonita Springs is a small coastal community

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The Best Restaurants in Lee County

Tanglewood in the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa
Bonita Springs

The Mad Hatter Restaurant
Sanibel

The Olde Captiva House
Captiva Island

The Mucky Duck
Captiva Island

Parrott Key Caribbean Grill
Fort Myers Beach

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

with beaches that are quite beautiful and less harried than Fort Myers Beach to the north.

13. Bonita Beach (Accesses)

Location: 10 accesses along Hickory Blvd. #1 is located just north of Bonita Beach Park, Bonita Springs

Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: limited, Access #1, \$2/hour, Accesses #2-9, limited and free

Amenities: 3 miles of beach, no facilities



Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, fishing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The beachfront is residential; a mix of high and mid rise condominiums and individual homes.

14. Little Hickory Island Beach Park

Location: 2 miles north of Bonita Beach Park on Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs

Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered parking

Amenities: 3 miles of beach, picnic tables, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, canoeing, kayaking, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

15. Lovers Key State Park

Location: 8700 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. 10.5 miles west of I75 at exit 116

Phone: 239-463-4588

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/LoversKey/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 700 acres with 2 miles of beach and 5 miles of bike trails, bike rentals, pavilion, playgrounds, picnic shelters with grills, boat ramp, outdoor showers, restrooms, nature trails, guided ranger tours. Food & equipment rental concessions available.

Activities: birding, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hiking, biking, shelling, swimming, wildlife viewing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Pets are not permitted at state parks on beaches or playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Much wildlife lives on or near the islands and their surrounding waters, including the West Indian manatee, roseate spoonbill, bottlenose dolphin, marsh rabbit, and bald eagle. The beach (two miles long) can be accessed by either boardwalk or tram. It was selected by the Travel Channel as the #4 beach in Florida.

16. Fort Myers Beach

Location: Accesses #11 thru #35 are on Estero Blvd. from Big Carlos Pass (south) to Matanzas Pass Bridge (north). Colored banners indicate their location and number. They also have symbols to show whether they have amenities, accessibility and/or parking (fee required). For #37 through #41 (north of the Matanzas Bridge on Estero Blvd.) there is no parking, only foot traffic.

Phone: 239-765-0202 Town of Fort Myers

Website: <http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: Metered parking is located on Old San Carlos Blvd., Estero Blvd., Center St., and Fifth St. \$2/hour, 2 hour limit. On Fifth St., spots are \$1/hour. All beach access streets offer long term parking. It is also available in the lot under Matanzas Pass Bridge. \$1/hour, no time limit. During the high season, arrive early to find a space or take a trolley from the mainland.

Amenities: Lynn Hall Memorial Park (Pier): restrooms and Times Square with beachfront restaurants and shopping

Activities: fishing, swimming, shelling, handicapped access, sunbathing, walking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes.

Of Special Interest: Fort Myers Beach (on Estero Island) features miles of white and sandy beaches, with ocean floors that gently slope toward the horizon without drop-offs or large waves. The beaches are all natural, meaning they are not raked or groomed, allowing visitors to enjoy the coast without inversely impacting the natural environment. The intersection of San Carlos Boulevard and Estero Boulevard is filled with bars, restaurants, beach-apparel stores, and motels that draw both singles and families. Its "Coney Island" atmosphere is often referred to as "Times Square."

17. Lynn Hall Park

Location: 1050 Main St., Fort Myers Beach, in the heart of downtown

Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$2/hour, 100 spaces

Amenities: licensed fishing pier with bait shop, picnic shelters with grills, playground, outdoor showers, restrooms, shopping



Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Located just north of the foot of the Matanzas Pass Bridge, next to “Times Square” in the heart of downtown Fort Myers Beach, this lively gulf front park is adjacent to shopping and restaurants.

18. Bowditch Point Regional Park

Location: 50 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach

Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: 8 AM to ½ hour past sunset

Parking: \$1/hour, 75 spaces

Amenities: day docks for boats up to 28 ft, paddle craft launch onto Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail, walking trails through preserve area, picnic tables and grills, food concession, restrooms and changing facilities

Activities: boating, swimming, fishing, sunbathing, walking, handicapped access

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Located on the northern tip of Fort Myers Beach, this park has access to the Bay and the Gulf and provides a much quieter experience than the beaches in town.

19. Bunche Beach (Preserve)

Location: 18201 John Morris Road, Fort Myers

Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, photography, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: This 731 acre preserve is a natural tidal wetlands area. Pristine and all-natural, it offers a sandy beach, salt flats, mangrove forests, and lots of wildlife for viewing.

20. Causeway Islands

Location: SR/CR 867, from the mainland traveling toward Sanibel, pass through the Toll Booth, and cross “sky” bridge to the first island. Keep going over “flat” bridge to the second island.

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Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: sunrise to ½ hour past sunset

Parking: free

Amenities: accessible from water, restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic tables

Activities: fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, wind surfing, kite boarding, shelling

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6’ leashes.

21. Dixie Beach

Location: Dixie Beach Road, off Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island

Phone: 239-472-3700 City of Sanibel

Website: <http://www.mysanibel.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: only A & B permit parking

Amenities: none

Activities: fishing, swimming, sunbathing

Pets: yes, on 8’ leashes

Of Special Interest: Only beach on the north or Bay side of the island, enjoyed by locals and favored by fishermen.

22. Lighthouse Beach Park

Location: 112 Periwinkle Way, east end of Sanibel Island

Phone: 239-472-3700 City of Sanibel

Website: <http://www.mysanibel.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$2/hour, 195 spaces

Amenities: restrooms, handicapped accessible, shell display, drinking fountains, bike racks, fishing pier on bayside

Activities: sunbathing, shelling, fishing, walking

Pets: yes, on 8’ leashes

Of Special Interest: 32 acres on eastern tip of island. Swimming is not advisable due to strong currents, especially for children.

23. Gulfside City Park

Location: 2001 Algiers Lane, off Casa Ybel Road, Sanibel Island

Phone: 239-472-3700 City of Sanibel

Website: <http://www.mysanibel.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$2/hour, 43 spaces

Amenities: bike racks, drinking fountains, outside showers,



restrooms, picnic tables, handicapped accessible
Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing
Pets: yes, on 8' leashes
Of Special Interest: 27.5 acres on midsection of island

24. Tarpon Bay Road Park

Location: East End of Tarpon Bay Road, Sanibel Island
Phone: 239-472-3700 City of Sanibel
Website: <http://www.mysanibel.com>
Hours: sunrise to sunset
Parking: \$2/hour, 75 spaces (use Trost Parking Lot)
Amenities: restrooms, outside showers, handicapped accessible
Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, walking, fishing
Pets: yes, on 8' leashes
Of Special Interest: .9 acres on midsection of island

25. Bowman's Beach

Location: 1700 Bowman's Beach Road, off San-Cap Road, Sanibel Island
Phone: 239-472-3700 City of Sanibel
Website: <http://www.mysanibel.com>
Hours: sunrise to sunset
Parking: \$2/hour, 214 spaces
Amenities: changing room, showers, drinking fountains, soda machine, grills, restrooms, picnic tables, handicapped accessible
Activities: swimming, fishing, known for great shelling, walking, sunbathing
Pets: yes, on 8' leashes
Of Special Interest: One of the best beaches in Florida, it's a quarter mile walk from the parking lot to the beach (over a bridge) through beach grasses and wetlands. Bowman's is located on the western side end of the island; it's the most remote beach on Sanibel.

26. Turner Beach

Location: 17200 San-Cap Road, Captiva (just across the bridge from Sanibel)
Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation
Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>
Hours: sunrise to sunset
Parking: \$2/hour, 20 spaces
Amenities: restrooms, showers, drinking fountain, handicapped

accessible, restaurant nearby
Activities: fishing from the beach and rock jetty, sunset watching, shelling, walking, sunbathing
Pets: yes, on 8' leashes
Of Special Interest: Strong currents make swimming dangerous.

27. Captiva Beach

Location: end of Captiva Drive, Captiva Island (next to South Seas Plantation)
Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks and Recreation
Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>
Hours: sunrise to sunset
Parking: \$2/hour
Amenities: restrooms
Activities: shelling, swimming, sunbathing, walking
Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes.

28. North Captiva Island

Location: between Captiva & Cayo Costa Islands
Phone: 941-964-0375 Cayo Costa State Park
Website: NA
Hours: sunrise to sunset
Parking: accessible only by a 20 minute water taxi ride from Captiva or by small plane
Amenities: none
Activities: swimming, walking, shelling, sunbathing
Pets: Most private rentals do not allow pets.
Of Special Interest: North Captiva Island is known for its pristine white beaches and some of the best shelling in the world. There are 5 miles of beautiful beaches, two-thirds of which border a 700-acre state land preserve. Golf carts are the most popular form of transport, as there are no cars or paved roads. Visit North Captiva Island Club Resort, <http://www.northcaptiva.com> for rental information.

29. Cayo Costa State Park

Location: directly south of Boca Grande and West of Pine Island, Cayo Costa Island
Phone: 941-964-0375
Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/cayocosta/>
Hours: 8 AM to sunset



Parking: Accessible only by passenger ferry or private boat (the ferry departs from Pine Island. Call 239-283-0015. Park fees: \$2 per person

Amenities: restrooms, interpretive programs, tent camping sites, bike rentals, day boat slips, cabins, campfire circles, kayak and canoe rentals, nature trails, pavilions, picnic tables and grills, showers

Activities: biking, swimming, boating, camping, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, walking, hiking, scuba, snorkeling, wildlife viewing, campfire programs

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: The island is 7 miles long with 9.5 miles of pristine beach along the Gulf. Its 256 acres are not much different than they were 500 years ago when the first Europeans first arrived.

30. Lighthouse Beach Park

Location: south end of Gasparilla Island, at Boca Grande Lighthouse, in Gasparilla Island State Park.

Phone: 941-964-0375

Website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/gasparillastrand>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$2/vehicle

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables

Activities: fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: 1890 Boca Grande Lighthouse which still serves as a US Coast Guard light and as a museum of local history. Swimming is hazardous because of strong currents.

31. Gasparilla Island State Park

Location: Florida's southwest coast, on a barrier island. Access from Boca Grande Causeway at C.R. 775 and Placida

Phone: 941-964-0375

Website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/gasparillastrand>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$3/vehicle

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, hiking/nature trails, restrooms, interpretive

exhibits, picnic areas, showers, visitors center

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, canoeing, kayaking, shelling, biking, fishing, wildlife viewing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: The park's beaches (ending at Boca Grande Pass) are an amazing asset, famous for deep waters and tarpon fishing. The lighthouse (circa-1890) once marked the way for mariners but now is a museum that highlights the island's heritage in fishing and railroad.

32. Sand Spur Beach

Location: Gulf Blvd. between 1st and Wheeler Streets in Boca Grande, in Gasparilla Island State Park.

Phone: 941-964-0375

Website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/gasparillastrand>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$2/vehicle

Amenities: picnic tables, restrooms

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Pets are not permitted at state parks on beaches or playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: the most swim friendly of Gasparilla Island's beaches.

33. Boca Grande Beach

Location: There are 15 Gulf of Mexico side beach access locations. Not all have a beach to access but offer excellent views of the Gulf. Parking is limited. Bayside, there are 12 access locations. Some allow canoe/kayak launching.

Phone: 239-533-7275 Lee County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.leeparks.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: limited free parking at some access points

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, shelling, sunbathing, walking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes.

Of Special Interest: Boca Grande has an Old Florida feel, a sleepy little island that comes alive for the annual tarpon run when it hosts major tournaments.



Charlotte County

Charlotte County wraps around Charlotte Harbor and 84% of the shoreline is preserved land. Golf Digest ranked Charlotte County as the “Third Best Place to Live and Play Golf in America”. Money Magazine called it one of the “Best Places to Live in the South.”

The beaches of Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands line miles of the Gulf coast. Though easily accessible, Charlotte County is still quiet and remote, attracting birds, sea turtles, dolphins, and more. In fact, the area’s wildlife is a true treasure, as are the lack of crowds, plentiful white sand, gentle waves and colorful shells that decorate this Gulf beach.

34. Don Pedro Island State Park

Location: small island between Night Island and Little Gasparilla Island, accessible only by private boat

Phone: 941-964-0375

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/donpedroisland>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: admission, \$2/person

Amenities: 1.3 miles of beach, restrooms, interpretive exhibits, nature trails, pavilions, picnic tables and grills

Activities: swimming, boating, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, walking, scuba, shelling, wildlife viewing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6’ leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: 1.3 miles of white sand beach with elevated sand dunes and interesting shells and driftwood make the trip worthwhile.

35. Stump Pass Beach State Park

Location: south end of Manasota Key, off I75 exit 191, Englewood

Phone: 941-964-0375

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/stumppass>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$3/vehicle

Activities: walking, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, shelling, swimming, sunbathing, boating, fishing, scuba, shelling, snorkeling, wildlife viewing

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

The Best Restaurants in Charlotte County

Mango Bistro
Englewood

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

Amenities: 1 mile of beach, restrooms, nature trails, pavilions, picnic tables, outdoor showers, visitor center

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6’ leashes. Pets are not permitted at state parks on beaches or playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Experience a mile of beach where sea shells and sharks teeth wash up, and anglers fish the surf for prize catches. With an amazing view of the Gulf of Mexico, you’ll love this stretch of undeveloped coastline. A hiking trail passes through five distinct natural communities that provide homes for many species of wildlife including West Indian manatees, gopher tortoises, snowy egrets, least terns, and magnificent frigate birds.

36. Englewood Beach

Location: 2100 North Beach Road, Englewood

Phone: 941-473-1018

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: .50/hour, 300 spaces

Amenities: basketball courts, grills, horseshoes, picnic shelters, pavilion rentals, playground, restrooms, volleyball courts, concessions, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, surfing, walking, volleyball

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Close to restaurants, shops, and scooter and bike rentals. This is a beach of energy and the laughter of children. A very popular beach!

Central West Florida



- 1 Blind Pass Beach
- 2 Manasota Beach
- 3 Casperson Park
- 4 Brohard Park
- 5 Service Club Park
- 6 Venice Beach
- 7 North Jetty Park
- 8 Nokomis Beach
- 9 Palmer Point Beach
- 10 Turtle Beach
- 11 Crescent Beach
- 12 Siesta Key Beach
- 13 Siesta Key
- 14 South Lido Beach
- 15 Lido Beach
- 16 North Lido Beach
- 17 Longboat Key South
- 18 Longboat Key North
- 19 Beer Can Island
- 20 Cortez Beach
- 21 Palma Sola Causeway
- 22 Manatee Beach
- 23 Holmes Beach
- 24 Anna Maria Beach
- 25 Anna Maria Bayfront Park
- 26 Egmont Key State Park
- 27 E.G. Simmons Park
- 28 Fort De Soto Park
- 29 Pass-a-Grille Beach
- 30 St. Pete Beach
- 31 Upham Beach
- 32 Treasure Island Park
- 33 Treasure Island Beach
- 34 St. Petersburg Beach
- 35 120th Avenue
- 36 John's Pass Beach and Park
- 37 Kitty Stuart Park
- 38 Madeira Beach
- 39 Archibald Beach
- 40 North Redington Beach
- 41 Redington Shores Beach
- 42 Indian Rocks Beach
- 43 Tiki Gardens - Indian Shores
- 44 Belleair Beach
- 45 Sand Key County Park
- 46 Clearwater Beach
- 47 North Clearwater Beach
- 48 Caladesi Island State Park
- 49 Honeymoon Island State Park
- 50 Pop Stansell Park
- 51 Crystal Beach



- 52 Sunset Beach
- 57 Robert J. Strickland Park
- 62 Fort Island Gulf Beach
- 53 Fred H. Howard Park and Beach
- 58 Hernando Beach Park
- 59 Rogers Park
- 54 Anclote Key State Park
- 60 Bayport Park
- 55 Anclote River Park
- 61 Alfred A. McKethan Pine Island Park
- 56 Robert K. Rees Park



Central West Florida

Sarasota County

Sarasota County is home to many well known towns including Sarasota, Venice, Englewood, Siesta Key and Longboat Key. The area known as Sarasota Bay separates the area's barrier islands from mainland Florida. Offering 40 miles of beaches, Sarasota County is one of the most desirable places to live in the country. With lots of clean air, sun and white sand, it's no wonder that Sarasota is associated with the good life.

Soft powdery white sand beaches are the norm in Sarasota County. They are some of the most beautiful in Florida and there are many of them! Venice is a bit different in places with sand that is a bit crunchy, but still the beaches are wide and quite lovely. Siesta Beach on Siesta Key is Dr. Beach's #2 choice for 2009.

1. Blind Pass Beach

Location: 6725 Manasota Key Road, one mile north of the Charlotte County line on Manasota Key

Phone: 41-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: ½ mile of beach and 66 acres gulf to bay, canoe launch, picnic shelter, nature trail, playground, restrooms, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, walking canoeing, kayaking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: In addition to enjoying this beautiful beach, canoeing, kayaking and fishing are popular in the coves and lagoon on the bayside.

2. Manasota Beach

Location: 8570 Manasota Key Road, on the west end at Manasota Beach Road.

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation>

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

The Best Restaurants in Sarasota County

Café Venice Restaurant & Wine Bar
Venice

Cork
Sarasota

Ophelia's On the Bay
Siesta Key

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

▷ Don't Miss It!

The City of Venice has been named the "Shark's Tooth Capital of the World" because of the millions of shark teeth that wash up on their sandy white beaches. The Sharks Tooth Festival is held every Spring at Venice's very best shark tooth hunting beach. Here fossil collectors from around the region display and sell their sharks teeth and other fossils. Some 100 artists from around Florida market original works, and local vendors serve delicious dishes ranging from seafood to BBQ. Live entertainment is a favorite throughout the festival, including special events for children.

**Website:**

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: parking lots are free and plentiful

Amenities: 1500 foot beach, 14 acres gulf to bay, lifeguards, boat ramps, boardwalk, docking facilities, dune walkovers, picnic shelters, restrooms, volleyball courts, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, boating, fishing, shelling, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The beach is situated between the Gulf and the Intracoastal Waterway. On the “Intracoastal” side, visitors can access the Bay and Gulf via boat ramp and docking facilities. The dockage, spreading 620 feet, doubles as a scenic boardwalk through the mangroves.

3. Caspersen Beach

Location: 4100 Harbor Drive, Venice, south from the airport

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, 177 acres, 1100 foot boardwalk, .34 mile nature trail, picnic area, restrooms

Activities: swimming, shelling, walking, fishing, handicapped accessible

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Caspersen is recognized as one of the most enjoyable shelling beaches in this area. If you are looking to find prehistoric sharks’ teeth this is a great place. The area offers mangrove areas, freshwater and saltwater marshes, and tidal flats. A 20 minute walk through the nature trail has been developed through a coastal hammock, while the southern two thirds of beach front area is still in its natural state. A dune restoration system (complete with walkovers) helps preserve the shoreline.

4. Brohard Park

Location: 1600 Harbor Drive, directly on the Venice Airport

property

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 84 acres, Venice municipal fishing pier, bait shop, Pelican Man Sanctuary, restrooms, food concession, restaurant nearby, Paw Park

Activities: bird watching, swimming, fishing, sunbathing, walking, shelling

Pets: yes, in Paw Park

Of Special Interest: For dog lovers, check out the Paw Park at the south end of Brohard Beach, complete with doggie drinking fountains, showers, fire hydrants and leash posts. Dog lovers agree that this park and beach are the best in the state, allowing dogs to roam free.

5. Service Club Park

Location: 1190 Harbor Drive, north of and adjacent to Brohard Beach, Venice

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: playground, picnic tables, restrooms and showers, handicapped access, playground, dune walkovers

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

6. Venice Beach

Location: 101 The Esplanade, western end of Venice Ave., Venice

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 2 miles of beach total, 7.5 acres, lifeguards, handicapped accessibility and handicapped wheelchairs, concessions, dune walkovers, pavilion, restrooms, volleyball



courts

Activities: scuba, snorkeling, swimming, sunbathing, volleyball, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: A reef containing fossilized material is located a quarter mile offshore making it a favorite spot for local divers.

7. North Jetty Park

Location: 1000 Casey Key Road, Casey Key, Nokomis

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 500 feet of beach, 18 acres, lifeguards, concessions, horseshoe courts, picnic shelters, restrooms, volleyball courts, bait shop, showers, fishing jetty, bay & gulf access

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: One of the most exciting surfing beaches on the West Coast of Florida, North Jetty Park is also a popular picnicking spot with great fishing. If you enjoy watching boats, they can be seen daily as they pass through the jetties from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Gulf of Mexico.

8. Nokomis Beach

Location: 100 Casey Key Road, Casey Key, directly west of the Albee Road Bridge, Nokomis

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 400 feet of beach, 23 acres of land, boardwalk and deck, lifeguards, boat ramps on the Intracoastal, concession, pavilion, restrooms, picnic shelters, outdoor showers, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, boating, shelling, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Sarasota County's oldest public beach, it is a

family oriented beach and popular for fishing and picnicking. The dune restoration in 1985 which includes five walkovers, has been very successful toward preserving and protecting the shoreline.

9. Palmer Point Beach

Location: north end of Casey Key

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: seclusion and a beautiful beach!

Activities: swimming, walking, sunbathing, shelling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Privacy and seclusion is yours on this beautiful, gentle sloping beach with a pristine dune system. It's also popular among boaters and others who enjoy walking along the shore from Turtle Beach.

10. Turtle Beach

Location: south end of Siesta Key

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: parking lots are free and plentiful

Amenities: ½ mile beach, free Wi-Fi at the Campground, boat ramps, canoe/kayak launch area, horsehoes, picnic shelters with grills, playground, restrooms, volleyball courts, campground, restaurants within walking distance

Activities: camping, boating, swimming, fishing, surfing, snorkeling, volleyball, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Turtle Beach is named for the turtles that like to nest in the soft, mounded sand here, but visitors can also nest here, as the campground offers 40 sites for parking recreational vehicles or pitching tents. Electricity and cable TV hookups also on site.

11. Crescent Beach

Location: Siesta Key. Beach Access #12 - Stickney Point Road & Access #13 - Point O' Rocks Road

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County



Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: limited, roadside

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing, scuba, snorkeling, walking, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Offers the best scuba diving and snorkeling at Point of Rocks on the off shore formation.

12. Siesta Key Beach

Location: 948 Beach Road, south end of Beach Road, Siesta Key

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website: <http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: .4 mile beach, lifeguards, restrooms, showers, picnic tables and grills, concessions, volleyball courts, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, soccer field, tennis courts, safety building, ball fields

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, volleyball, sunbathing, fishing, parasailing. Special events throughout the year including: Kids' Summer Fun Run Series, Sand Sculpturing Contest, Sandy Claws Arts and Crafts Festival, Sandy Claws Beach Run, "Say I Do Again"

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Siesta Beach is one of the most beautiful beaches found anywhere, recently receiving accolades for having the "whitest and finest sand in the world" at the "Great International White Sand Beach Challenge." Shallow water depth near shore and year round lifeguard protection make this one of the safest, most popular beaches in the County. The sand on Siesta Key is 99% pure quartz, making it exceptionally soft and white, while its turquoise blue water offers a winning combination! The location was rated the #2 in the country by Dr. Beach in 2009.

13. Siesta Key (Accesses)

Location: There are 10 beach access points on the north side of Siesta Key:

Beach Access #1 - Shell Road

Siesta Drive, west to Higel, west on Shell Road

No Swimming

Beach Access #2 - Avenida Messina

Ocean Boulevard, west on Avenida Messina

No Swimming

Beach Access #5 - Ocean Boulevard

Ocean Boulevard and Beach Road Intersection

Beach Access #7 - Calle de la Siesta

Beach Road and Calle de la Siesta

Beach Access # 8 - Plaza de las Palmas 1

Off of Beach Road, north of Siesta Beach

Beach Access # 9 - Plaza de las Palmas 2

Off of Beach Road, north of Siesta Beach

Beach Access # 10 - Calle del Invierno

Beach Road, north of Siesta Beach

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free, limited on street

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming unless otherwise indicated, sunbathing, walking, fishing, shelling

Pets: no

14. South Lido Beach (Park)

Location: south end of Ben Franklin Drive at the southern tip of Lido Key

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 640 feet of gulf beach, 3500 ft on the Bay, seasonal lifeguards, picnic tables and grills, jogging trail, multi-purpose field, nature trails, playground, self-guided canoeing trail, restrooms, volleyball courts, observation tower and decks, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, canoeing, volleyball, sunbathing, shelling, volleyball, hiking

Pets: no



Of Special Interest: The 100 acre park interacts with four significant bodies of water; The Gulf of Mexico, Big Pass, Sarasota Bay and Brushy Bayou. The park's southern, beach portion offers amazing views of the downtown Sarasota skyline and the Gulf of Mexico. It also features a wonderful picnic area shaded by Australian Pines. A facility at the northern end of the park features a own nature trail with scenic overlooks and boardwalks. The northern portion also features rest rooms, picnic area, canoe launch, and self guided canoe trail.

15. Lido Beach

Location: 400 Ben Franklin Drive, one half mile southwest of St. Armand's Circle, Lido Key

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 3100 feet of beach, 15 acres, lifeguards, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, concessions, gift shop, observation decks, playground, recreation building, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, 25 meter swimming pool

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing, surfing, volleyball, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: great beach for small children and very active.

16. North Lido Beach

Location: 400 Ben Franklin Drive, one quarter mile northwest of St. Armand's Circle, off John Ringling Blvd., Lido Key

Phone: 941-861-5000 Sarasota County

Website:

<http://www.scgov.net/ParksandRecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free, small lot

Amenities: 77 acres, nature trail, handicapped accessible

Activities: sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The beach is easy to get to, yet visitors experience privacy. Use caution when swimming, as currents are very strong.

17. Longboat Key South

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Location: 4 beach accesses on the Sarasota County side of Longboat Key

Phone: 941-316-1988

Website: <http://www.longboatkey.org/>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: limited spaces but free lots. Accesses at 4052, 3490, 3410, 3175, 3055 & 2900 Gulf of Mexico Drive

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, walking, sunbathing, shelling

Pets: no



Manatee County

Part of Florida's lively Gulf Coast, Manatee County is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and beachgoers, drawing in millions of visitors from all over the world each year.

The city of Anna Maria, nestled at the northernmost tip of Anna Maria Island, lies at the mouth of Tampa Bay between the Gulf of Mexico and Sarasota Bay. Anna Maria stretches over 1.5 square miles and the entire city is a bird sanctuary. Aquatic life in the area is equally impressive, with bottlenose dolphins and manatees often making an appearance.

Bradenton Beach, another small beach community, is located at the southern tip of Anna Maria Island. Some 35 percent of the Beach is actually reserved only for public recreation. Two large public beaches are also accessible in the southernmost part of town.

With more than 5,000 permanent residents, Holmes Beach is the largest of the three cities on Anna Maria Island, bound by the Gulf of Mexico and Sarasota Bay. Holmes Beach stretches more than three miles. Its sandy white beaches make it a popular vacation spot.

Longboat Key, just south of Anna Maria Island and across from Longboat Pass, serves as a luxury resort and retirement community in both Manatee and Sarasota Counties, boasting 11 miles of sandy beaches, upscale retreats, fine dining, high-end shopping, private golf courses, and an acclaimed tennis resort.

18. Longboat Key North

Location: Accesses via Gulf of Mexico Drive at Atlas St. as well as Gulfside Rd. & Broadway St.

Phone: 941-316-1988 Longboat Key

Website: <http://www.longboatkey.org/>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: limited, but free lots. Accesses at Broadway and Firehouse Road, as well as 6847, 6399, 4795 Gulf of Mexico Drive

Amenities: ½ mile of beach but no facilities

Activities: swimming, walking, shelling, sunbathing

Pets: no

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

The Best Restaurants in Manatee County

Euphemia Haye
Longboat Key

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

19. Beer Can Island

Location: North Shore Road, Longboat Key

Phone: 941-316-1988 Longboat Key

Website: <http://www.longboatkey.org>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: limited, free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, shelling, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: popular with boaters who beach their boats on the bay side and enjoy the day

20. Cortez Beach

Location: north of Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach, find it between 5th and 13th Streets off of Gulf Drive/Anna Maria Island

Phone: Manatee County Parks & Recreation, 941-742-5923

Website: <http://www.mymanatee.org>

Hours: from sunrise to sunset

Parking: on street parking

Amenities: ¾ of a mile of beach. No facilities.

Activities: swimming, surfing, sunbathing, fishing, shelling



Pets: no

Of Special Interest: within walking distance of restaurants and shops. Anna Maria Island has 7 miles of beach.

21. Palma Sola Causeway (Park)

Location: right hand side of Palma Sola Causeway, SR 64, which connects Bradenton and Anna Maria Island

Phone: 941-742-5923 Manatee County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.mymanatee.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables and grills, boat ramps, fishing pier

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, boating, fishing

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: on Palm Sola Bay, great for children.

22. Manatee Beach

Location: SR 64 & Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, Anna Maria Island

Phone: 941-742-5923 Manatee County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.mymanatee.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots

Amenities: playground, concessions, volleyball, picnic tables, restrooms, showers, pier, volleyball, beach café, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing, volleyball, swimming, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: “Anna Maria Island is one of the farthest points in the gulf and believe it or not probably one of the better spots to surf in the central gulf,” said West Side Surf Shop owner Jim Brady. Anna Maria Island has served as the backdrop for numerous Hollywood films including “Palmetto” (Woody Harrelson), “Out of Time” (Denzel Washington), and “The Perfect Storm” (George Clooney). Anna Maria Island has 7 miles of beach.

23. Holmes Beach

Location: beach accesses at most numbered and named streets in Holmes Beach, Anna Maria Island

Phone: 941-742-5923 Manatee County Parks & Recreation

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Website: <http://www.mymanatee.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free, on street

Amenities: 1.5 miles of beach

Activities: swimming, sunbathing fishing, shelling, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Anna Maria Island has 7 miles of beach

24. Anna Maria Beach

Location: west end of Village of Anna Maria, Anna Maria Island

Phone: 941-742-5923 Manatee County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.mymanatee.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot, 1 block away at Spring & Gulf

Amenities: handicapped accessible, no facilities

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The Village of Anna Maria has beautiful beaches on three sides and a collection of small shops and restaurants to explore.

25. Anna Maria Bayfront Park

Location: 3100 North Bayfront Blvd., Village of Anna Maria, Anna Maria Island

Phone: 941-742-5923 Manatee County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.mymanatee.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 1,000 feet of beach, playground, picnic tables and grills, restrooms, fishing pier

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: quiet bayside beach on Tampa Bay, great for children.



Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County is one of three counties that make up “Greater Tampa Bay,” which is home to over 2.5 million people. The region attracts millions of tourists each year, but it is much more than a tourist destination. Tampa Bay has Florida’s largest port for import/export and is known as a top growth market for manufacturing, especially in the medical industry. Tampa International Airport is the #1 ranked airport in the country and three hospitals ranked as “America’s Best Hospitals” by U.S. News and World Report serve the area.

Hillsborough County fronts Tampa Bay, but off the west coast of Pinellas County, you’ll find 20 barrier islands. They are connected by a stretch of road called Gulf Blvd. There are many “Tampa Bay” towns/beaches and each possesses its own individuality.

26. Egmont Key State Park

Location: at the mouth of Tampa Bay, southwest of Fort DeSoto Beach

Phone: 727-893-2627

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/egmontkey>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: accessible only by boat, no entrance fee

Amenities: nature trails, picnic tables, beaches. No restrooms and bring your own water!

Activities: boating, fishing, swimming, wildlife viewing. One of the best dive sites in the area due to submerged armament bunkers from its past.

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6’ leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Although this park is primarily a wildlife refuge, it can be a personal refuge - a place to relax and collect shells along secluded, pristine beaches. It is accessible by private boat only and has a unique natural and cultural history. Its lighthouse has stood since 1858, and during the 19th century, the entire island served as a camp for captured Seminoles (at the end of the Third Seminole War). It was later occupied by the Union Navy (during the Civil War). As the Spanish - American War threatened in 1898, Fort Dade was built on the island and

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The Best Restaurants in Hillsborough County

Pelagia Trattoria
Tampa

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

remained active until 1923. After touring the sites and trails, you’ll enjoy swimming, wildlife, fishing, and picnicking. There is no boat dockage, so you either anchor offshore or land on the beach.

27. E.G. Simmons Park

Location: 2401 19th Avenue, N.W. off U.S. 41 in South Hillsborough County

Phone: 813-671-7655

Website:

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/>

Hours: Spring 6 AM to 7 PM, Summer 6 AM to 8 PM, Fall/Winter 6 AM to 6 PM

Parking: free

Amenities: 469 acres, bay front beach, boat ramp, campground, canoe launch, picnic area, playground, restrooms, fishing piers

Activities: fishing, hiking, boating, swimming, shelling, birding

Pets: yes, in the park, not on the beach



Pinellas County

Pinellas County is home to Clearwater, the county seat, St. Petersburg & Tarpon Springs. The county is located on a narrow peninsula of 280 square miles between the Gulf and Tampa Bay. It is one of three counties that make up “Greater Tampa Bay.”

Pinellas County offers 35 miles of white-sand beaches on 20 barrier islands, and a few of them usually end up on well-known Best Beach Lists!

If you would like to explore the area (but are tired of walking), jump on the beach trolley instead. From north to south, it stops at every beach and town on the peninsula, from Clearwater Beach to Pass-A-Grille in St. Pete Beach.

28. Fort De Soto Park

Location: 3500 Pinellas Bayway S., Tierra Verde

Phone: 727-893-9185 Pinellas County

Website: http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_Ft_DeSoto.htm

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free

Amenities: this park consists of 1,136 acres made up of five interconnected islands. It has over 7 miles of waterfront, including almost three miles of the finest white sand beach in the United States, an 800-foot-long boat launching facility with eleven floating docks and a 238-site family camping area with facilities including picnic tables, grills, water, electricity, washers, dryers, sanitary disposal stations, modern restrooms, showers, play areas, and a camp store. The site features two large swimming facilities, as well as a food concession area at North Beach Swim Center, not to mention two fishing piers with full food and bait concessions, restrooms, picnic shelters, snack bar, nature trail, recreation trail, canoe trail, and dog park.

Pets: yes, in designated areas

Activities: swimming, fishing, boating, camping, hiking, walking, biking, in-line skating

The Best Restaurants in Pinellas County

Sea Critters
St. Pete Beach

Patrick's Bayside Grill
St. Pete Beach

WineBurgers
Tierra Verde

Gulf Bistro
Madeira Beach

Costa's
Tarpon Springs

Café Ponte
Clearwater

Bob Heilman's Beachcomber
North Clearwater Beach

Bobby's Bistro & Wine Bar
North Clearwater Beach

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates



Of Special Interest: Fort De Soto Park was named America's Top Beach for the second consecutive year (2009) by TripAdvisor, which cited its combination of soft white sand, clear and calm water and a super laid-back atmosphere as reasons its North Beach made the popular online travel network's annual best-of list. In 2005 Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, a.k.a. "Dr. Beach," named it the best beach in the entire country.

29. Pass-a-Grille Beach

Location: 1000 Pass-a-Grille Way, Pass-a-Grille

Phone: 727-367-2735 St. Pete Beach

Website: <http://www.stpetebeach.org/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered \$1-\$1.25/hour

Amenities: 1 mile of beach, concessions, playground, picnic areas, restrooms and showers. Handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchairs available (call 727-367-8300)

Activities: fishing, swimming, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Relaxing, beautiful sunsets and historic charm are both highlights of this Old Florida fishing community. Forget the high rise hotels, all you'll find are wide, open beaches. Pass-A-Grille, located on the southern edge of Long Key, has restaurants, small inns and unique shopping. The historic 8th Avenue has some of the oldest dwellings on the Pinellas beaches, and one of the biggest Historic Districts in the whole Gulf Coast.

30. St. Pete Beach (Access)

Location: 4700 Gulf Blvd.

Phone: 727-367-2735 St. Pete Beach

Website: <http://www.stpetebeach.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: 235 space metered lot \$1-\$1.25/hr

Amenities: 5.5 acre park, restrooms, showers, water fountain, concessions, handicap access, playground, picnic areas

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: There are so many things to do on St. Pete Beach that you'll probably never want to leave the island! Spend time shopping on the historic Corey Avenue, eat at a waterfront restaurant, or plan a day skim-boarding in the water. No visit

to St. Pete Beach would be complete without a visit to Don CeSar Beach Resort, which was built during the Jazz Age and has hosted tons of celebrities. It's been a highlight of the beach for over 80 years.

31. Upham Beach

Location: the northern tip of St. Pete Beach

Phone: 727-367-2735 St. Pete Beach

Website: <http://www.stpetebeach.org/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered \$1-\$1.25/hr

Amenities: 600 feet of beach, restrooms, showers

Activities: surfing, swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: One of the few spots along the Gulf of Mexico known for surfing, this beach is favored by locals.

32. Treasure Island Park

Location: 10400 Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island

Phone: 727-547-4575 Treasure Island

Website:

<http://www.ci.treasure-island.fl.us>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered \$1-\$1.25/hour

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, concessions, handicapped accessibility & handicapped wheelchairs, picnic areas, restrooms, showers, volleyball courts

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, jet skiing, volleyball, surfing, sunset watching

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: On a two mile stretch of this large beach, visitors can fly kites, rent jet skis, or play on one of the dozens of volleyball courts. Accommodations of varied size and price range dot the beach, and nearby beach restaurants offer a great place to relax and recharge. If you're looking for a family friendly location, Treasure Island's wide beach and accommodations have made it a top choice for generations.

33. Treasure Island Beach (Access point)

Location: 100th Ave. & Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island

Phone: 727.549.6165 Pinellas County



Website: http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/20_Treasure_Island.htm

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered \$1-\$1.25/hour

Amenities: restrooms and showers, biking/jogging path

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, biking, jogging, walking, surfing

Pets: no

34. St. Petersburg Beach

Location: 112th Avenue at Gulf Blvd on Treasure Island

Phone: 727-893-7111 City of St. Petersburg

Website: <http://www.stpete.org/beaches>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered \$1-\$1.25/hour

Amenities: picnic shelters and grills, snack bar, volleyball nets, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing, volleyball, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: St. Petersburg Beach recently received a Blue Wave Award from the Clean Beaches Council for the second year in a row, a symbol of responsible beach management encouraging greater public awareness of environmental issues, health, and safety issues at beaches. It indicates that the beach is a healthy, safe, and environmentally sound place to lounge.

35. 120th Avenue

Location: 120th Avenue at Gulf Blvd, Treasure Island

Phone: 727-360-3278 Treasure Island

Website: <http://www.ci.treasure-island.fl.us>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered \$1-\$1.25/hour

Amenities: snack bar, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

36. John's Pass Beach and Park

Location: Gulf Blvd. @129th St., Madeira Beach

Phone: 727-391-9951 City of Madeira Beach

Website: <http://www.madeirabeachfl.gov/>

Hours: 6 AM to midnight

Parking: metered, \$1/hour

Amenities: 500 feet of beachfront, restrooms, showers, picnic

tables, jetty, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: No

Of Special Interest: on Sand Key, which is 14 miles long and extends from John's Pass to Clearwater Pass.

37. Kitty Stuart Park

Location: Gulf Boulevard at 140th-141st Avenues, Madeira Beach

Phone: 727-391-9951 City of Madeira Beach

Website: <http://www.madeirabeachfl.gov>

Hours: 6 AM to 10 PM

Parking: limited metered, \$1/hour

Amenities: shower, picnic table

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

38. Madeira Beach

Location: Gulf Boulevard at 144th Avenue, Madeira Beach

Phone: 727-391-9951 City of Madeira Beach

Website: <http://www.madeirabeachfl.gov/>

Hours: 6 AM to midnight

Parking: limited metered, \$1/hour

Amenities: 3.5 miles of beach, rental concessions, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: no

39. Archibald Beach Park

Location: Gulf Blvd. @ the end of Madeira Way, Madeira Beach

Phone: 727-391-9951 City of Madeira Beach

Website: <http://www.madeirabeachfl.gov/>

Hours: 6 AM to midnight

Parking: metered lot

Amenities: concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, volleyball

Pets: no

40. North Redington Beach

Location: Gulf Blvd., Redington Beach, Sand Key

Phone: 727-391-4848(Town of North Redington Beach

Website: <http://www.townofnorthredingtonbeach.com>



Hours: 24 hours

Parking: limited, free, on street

Amenities: 1 mile of beach

Activities: fishing, swimming, shelling, walking sunbathing

Pets: no

41. Redington Shores Beach

Location: 18200 Gulf Blvd., Redington Shores, Sand Key

Phone: 727-397-5538 Redington Shores Town Hall

Website: http://www.pinellas-county.org/park/13_Redington.htm

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: metered, \$1/hour

Amenities: 3.5 acre park with 1 mile of beach, restrooms, showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

42. Indian Rocks Beach

Location: 1700 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach

Phone: 727-588-4852 Pinellas County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/park>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: metered

Amenities: 1.5 acres, 3 miles of beach, restrooms, picnic tables, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, walking

Pets: no

43. Tiki Gardens - Indian Shores

Location: 19601 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores

Phone: 727-588-4882 Pinellas County

Website: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/park>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: metered

Amenities: 1 mile of beach, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: no

44. Belleair Beach

Location: Belleair Beach Causeway to Gulf Blvd., Belleair Beach

Phone: 727-595-4646 Belleair Beach Public Works Department

Website: <http://www.cityofbelleairbeach.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: limited street parking

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, walking

Pets: no

45. Sand Key County Park

Location: 1060 Gulf Blvd., north end of Gulf Blvd, Clearwater

Phone: 727-588-4852 Pinellas County

Website: http://www.pinellascountygov.org/park/15_Sand_Key.htm

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: metered, \$1.hour

Amenities: 90 acres, 1 mile of highly rated beach, lifeguards, fitness trail, picnic areas, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, Paw Park, playground, concessions, restrooms, showers, cabana rentals, seasonal lifeguards

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, surfing, fishing

Pets: Only in Paw Park

Of Special Interest: Sand Key Park houses the base of operations for the artificial reef program, an interdepartmental cooperation program to build a reef in the Gulf. Its natural communities feature a beach where sea turtles deposit eggs each year. A salt marsh offers viewing benches where you can view heron, great horned owl, anhinga, roseate spoonbill, and other animals nest and feed. There are nine boardwalks leading to the beach, which are a favorite for sunset weddings performed every year.

46. Clearwater Beach

Location: Go west on U.S. 60. The municipal beach is located on the southern half of Clearwater Beach, between the Clearwater Pass jetty to the south and Avalon Ave. to the north.

Phone: 727-562-4800 Clearwater Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.clearwater-fl.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: metered lots/streets, \$.75-\$2/hour

Amenities: 4 miles of white sand beach, concessions, beach showers, restrooms, cabana, umbrella and watercraft rentals, volleyball courts, showers, playground, Pier 60 fishing pier, picnic shelters, grills

Activities: swimming, volleyball, fishing, sunbathing, walking,



shelling, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Pier 60 is open 24 hours and is located ½ mile north of Clearwater Pass, where the beach meets the causeway.

“Sunsets at Pier 60” is a popular evening activity, modeled after Mallory Square (Key West). Pier 60 also offers restaurants, concessions and shopping, as well as a bait/tackle shop. Rod rentals available.

Beach Walk, a winding promenade with green landscaping, offers artistic touches and clear views all the way Clearwater’s award-winning beach and beyond. It’s a place where cyclists, rollerbladers and pedestrians enjoy safe, convenient access and where visitors and locals can socialize, dine, play games, or simply enjoy the spectacular sun and surf.

47. North Clearwater Beach

Location: north of Causeway Blvd. on Mandalay Ave, Clearwater Beach

Phone: 727-562-4800 Clearwater Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.clearwater-fl.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: metered street, limited, free street

Amenities: showers, restrooms, picnic areas at the southern end.

No facilities north of Bay Esplanade, where it intersects Mandalay on the south side.

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing, walking, surfing

Pets: no

48. Caladesi Island State Park

Location: one mile west of Dunedin off the Gulf Coast

Phone: 727-469-5918

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/caladesiisland>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: Accessible by boat only, \$6/boat. Ferry service to Caladesi departs Honeymoon Island State Park every hour beginning at 10 AM. (727-734-1501)

Amenities: 108 slip bayside marina, food & drink concessions, playground, restrooms, showers, hiking & nature trails, picnic shelters, handicapped accessible, volleyball nets, chaise lounge and umbrella rentals

Activities: canoeing, kayaking, swimming, walking, swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, hiking, volleyball

Pets: Only on boats staying overnight (not allowed on ferry) & on leashes of 6’. Not permitted on beaches.

Of Special Interest: One of the few completely natural islands along Florida’s Gulf Coast, Caladesi’s white sand shores have been rated as the nation’s #1 best beach. Saltwater anglers fish directly from their boats or throw lines out into the surf. Nature lovers can watch wildlife while hiking a three mile trail through the island’s interior, or paddling a three mile kayak trail through the bay and mangroves.

49. Honeymoon Island State Park

Location: west end of State Road 586, north of Dunedin

Phone: 727-469-5942

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/honeymoonisland/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 4 miles of beaches, food & drink and rental concessions, restaurant, restrooms, showers, interpretive exhibits, ranger tours, hiking/nature trails, covered picnic pavilions, grills, volleyball nets, handicapped accessible, dog beach

Activities: surfing, swimming, shelling, hiking, volleyball, fishing, snorkeling, sunbathing

Pets: Dogs are allowed in designated areas on 6’ leashes such as pet beach and on the nature trail.

Of Special Interest: The pioneers called it Hog Island, but it became Honeymoon Isle in 1939 when a New York developer built 50 palm thatched bungalows for honeymooners. Nowadays, visitors can drive straight across Dunedin Causeway to find the sun-drenched Gulf beaches, tidal flats, and mangrove swamps. Nature lovers will enjoy osprey nests, a variety of shorebirds, and one of the few virgin slash pine forests remaining in South Florida. Shelling is especially good here, as the Gulf currents flow an incredible variety of seashells onto the shore.

50. Pop Stansell Park

Location: 797 Florida Avenue at 8th Street, Palm Harbor

Phone: 727-771-6000 Palm Harbor Parks & Recreation

Website: http://www.phrec.org/gen_info.html

Hours: 9 AM to dusk



Parking: free lot

Amenities: .5 acre wooded park, restrooms, picnic tables, pier, boat ramp

Activities: swimming, fishing, boating, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Pinellas County Recreation Trail within 1 block

51. Crystal Beach

Location: Crystal Beach Ave at South Gulf Road, Crystal Beach

Phone: 727-771-6000 Palm Harbor Parks & Recreation

Website: http://www.phrec.org/gen_info.html

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, pier

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Crystal Beach Pier is a popular fishing spot.

Visitors can launch kayaks directly from the beach.

52. Sunset Beach

Location: west end of Gulf Road, Tarpon Springs

Phone: 727-938-3711 Tarpon Springs City Hall

Website: <http://www.ci.tarpon-springs.fl.us/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free parking lot

Amenities: restrooms and picnic tables, boat launch

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing, boating

Pets: no

53. Fred H. Howard Park & Beach

Location: 1700 Sunset Drive, Tarpon Springs

Phone: 727-938-3711 Tarpon Springs City Hall

Website: <http://www.ci.tarpon-springs.fl.us/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free parking lot

Amenities: 1 mile of beach, 155 acres, restrooms, showers, nature trails, kayak & canoe trails, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, windsurfing area, a ball field, two playgrounds, more than 90 picnic tables and nine shelters with grills and tables

Activities: swimming, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, windsurfing, walking, jogging

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Almost 2 million visitors enjoy the park and its facilities annually. The park's location offers access to the Gulf of Mexico by a one-mile long causeway. Nesting ospreys and eagles can be viewed as visitors fish for food in the surrounding water. Dolphins, and sometimes even manatees, are spotted in the area. The causeway itself is frequently used for sunbathing, fishing, exercising and more.

▷ Don't Miss It!

The Tampa Bay Blues Festival, held at Vinoy Waterfront Park in downtown St. Petersburg, is one of the world's best blues events, having hosted more than 195 of the world's greatest blues performers. Past artists include Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Guy, Little Feat, Robert Cray, Taj Mahal, Delbert McClinton, Jonny Lang, Koko Taylor, Jimmy Vaughan, and others. The festival has become a destination event all its own, with fans travelling from around the United States and even Europe to enjoy this celebration of music.



Pasco County

Pasco County is one of three Counties that make up “Greater Tampa Bay.” It is home to Dade City, the County Seat, which dates back to the 19th Century and New Port Richey, which is young by comparison. A County of shady rivers and scenic coastline, Pasco County has more than enough natural beauty to share.

Enjoy lounging in the Florida sun or swimming in the Gulf waters at the Anclote River Park, Robert J. Strickland Memorial Park or Robert K. Rees Memorial Park.

54. Anclote Key State Park

Location: three miles off the coast of Tarpon Springs

Phone: 727-469-5942

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/Anclotekey/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: Anclote Key is accessible by boat only. You may anchor offshore with your own vessel or reach the island by ferry service (Sun Line Cruises @ 727-944-4468 and Sponge-O-Rama @ 727-943-2164.) Ferries leave from Tarpon Springs’ historic Sponge Docks. No entrance fee.

Amenities: 4 miles of beach, restrooms, picnic tables & grills

Activities: swimming, primitive camping, shelling, birding, kayaking, canoeing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Visitors must bring water and supplies; there are no provisions on the island. The park itself is home to nearly 45 types of birds, including the American oystercatcher, piping plover and bald eagle. An 1887 lighthouse is a sentinel on the island’s southern end. There is no fee to stay overnight in the primitive campground, although campers must check in (calling the park) prior to arrival.

55. Anclote River Park

Location: on the mouth of the Anclote River @ 1119 Baillies Bluff Road, Holiday

Phone: 813-929-2760 Pasco County

Website: http://portal.pascocountyfl.net/portal/server.pt/community/parks_and_recreation/

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The Best Restaurants in Pasco County

The German Restaurant
Holiday

See Companion Download for Restaurant
Gift Certificates

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/day

Amenities: boat ramp, restrooms, picnic area, volleyball, playground, showers, handicapped accessible, concessions

Activities: swimming, fishing, volleyball, boating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Where the river empties into the Gulf, this park is popular with boaters.

56. Robert K. Rees Park

Location: Green Key Road, Port Richey

Phone: 813-929-2760 Pasco County

Website:

http://portal.pascocountyfl.net/portal/server.pt/community/parks_and_recreation/

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 500 foot beach, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic area, canoe access to gulf, concessions, nature trail

Activities: swimming, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, boating, handicapped access, birding

Pets: no



57. Robert J. Strickland Park

Location: 6345 Clark Street, Hudson

Phone: 813-929-2760 Pasco County

Website:

http://portal.pascocountyfl.net/portal/server.pt/community/parks_and_recreation/

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 700 foot beach, lifeguards, restrooms, showers, picnic shelters, handicapped access, restaurants nearby

Activities: swimming, fishing, boating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Hudson has a resort feel to the town and fronts a very nice sandy beach. There's a boardwalk, restaurants and bars.

▷ Sunbathing Safety

While most everyone loves the feel-good experience of bathing in the sun, getting too much sun can be unpleasant and often results in sunburn. Florida Department of Health (FDOH) recommends that you use smart tanning procedures when tanning on Florida beaches, limited prolonged exposure to UV light (from the sun or tanning devices) to avoid injury. FDOH recommends the following specific practices:

Apply sunscreen early and often, before you even go outdoors.

Instead of tanning for hours at a time, do it for shorter periods over several days and weeks (whether you are outside or in a tanning bed)

Use lip balm that blocks UV light to help protect your lips

Help to keep your skin moist by using aloe vera or other moisturizer; it will help you avoid sunburn and sooth your skin.

Wear sunglasses that have been proven to protect against UV rays.



Hernando County

Hernando County is bordered on the west by the Gulf and on the north and east by the Withlacooche State Forest. It's the heart of the "Nature Coast" and one of the most beautiful counties in Florida.

Of the coastal communities, Hernando Beach is the largest and offers upscale homes, marinas, restaurants, retail stores and other businesses.

The County operates 3 parks that offer swimming - one on the Gulf, one on a creek and one on the Weeki Wachee River.

58. Hernando Beach Park (Linda Pedersen Park at Jensen Creek)

Location: 6400 Shoal Line Road, Spring Hill

Phone: 352-754-4027 Hernando County

Website: http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/PARKS_REC/

Hours: 8 AM to dusk

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 135 acres, restrooms, showers, picnic tables & grills, pavilion, showers, playground, community building, observation tower, boat launch and fishing pier across the street at Jenkins Creek Park

Activities: swimming, fishing, birding

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: If you like fishing off a bank and enjoying nature, then spend time at this 135-acre park connected by an aluminum boardwalk to Jenkins Creek Park, across the street. Climb the 40-foot-high observation tower to get a panoramic view of the area, including the marsh and Gulf of Mexico. Or, just relax on the bank where you can fish while your children play on the playground. It's likely you'll spot some manatees during your stay.

59. Rogers Park

Location: 7244 Shoal Line Blvd., Spring Hill

Phone: 352-754-4027

Website: http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/PARKS_REC/

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: \$2/vehicle

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, concession, boat launch into river, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, observation deck, playground, barbecue grills, volleyball court

Activities: swimming, boating, volleyball, fishing

Pets: no

60. Bayport Park

Location: 4140 Cortez Blvd, Spring Hill @ the end of SR 50 W

Phone: 352-754-4027 Hernando County

Website: http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/PARKS_REC/

Hours: 8 AM to dusk

Parking: free lot

Amenities: picnic tables, pavilions, grills, fishing pier, boat ramps, boardwalk, concession

Activities: boating, fishing, birding

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Newly renovated and expanded Bayport Park sits on the Gulf of Mexico. Here you can launch your boat and head straight out to the Gulf for relaxing day on the water. No beach.

61. Alfred A. McKethan Pine Island Park

Location: 10800 Pine Island Drive, off CR 495, west of Weeki Wachee

Phone: 352-754-4027 Hernando County

Website: http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/PARKS_REC/

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: \$2/vehicle

Amenities: lifeguards, restaurant, picnic tables & grills, showers, restrooms, pavilions, playground, volleyball, handicapped access, observation point, concession, fishing pier

Activities: swimming, volleyball, fishing, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no



Citrus County

Citrus County is a natural paradise with freshwater rivers and lakes, lush coastal salt marshes and clear springs that are home to the nation's largest population of endangered manatees. Citrus County is literally the only place in the United States where you can snorkel with manatees in the waterway.

The coastline of Citrus County is a mix of wetlands, marshes and forests with a few small islands; nothing like the coastline and barrier islands of more southern counties. Beaches are rare and we know of only one: Fort Island Gulf Beach, located in Crystal River.

62. Fort Island Gulf Beach

Location: 16000 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River

Phone: 352-527-7677 Citrus County

Website:

http://www.citruscountyfl.org/commserv/commrec/parksrec/parks_recreation.htm

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 15 acres, boat ramp, fishing pier, pavilion, picnic tables & grills, restrooms, outdoor showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, boating, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

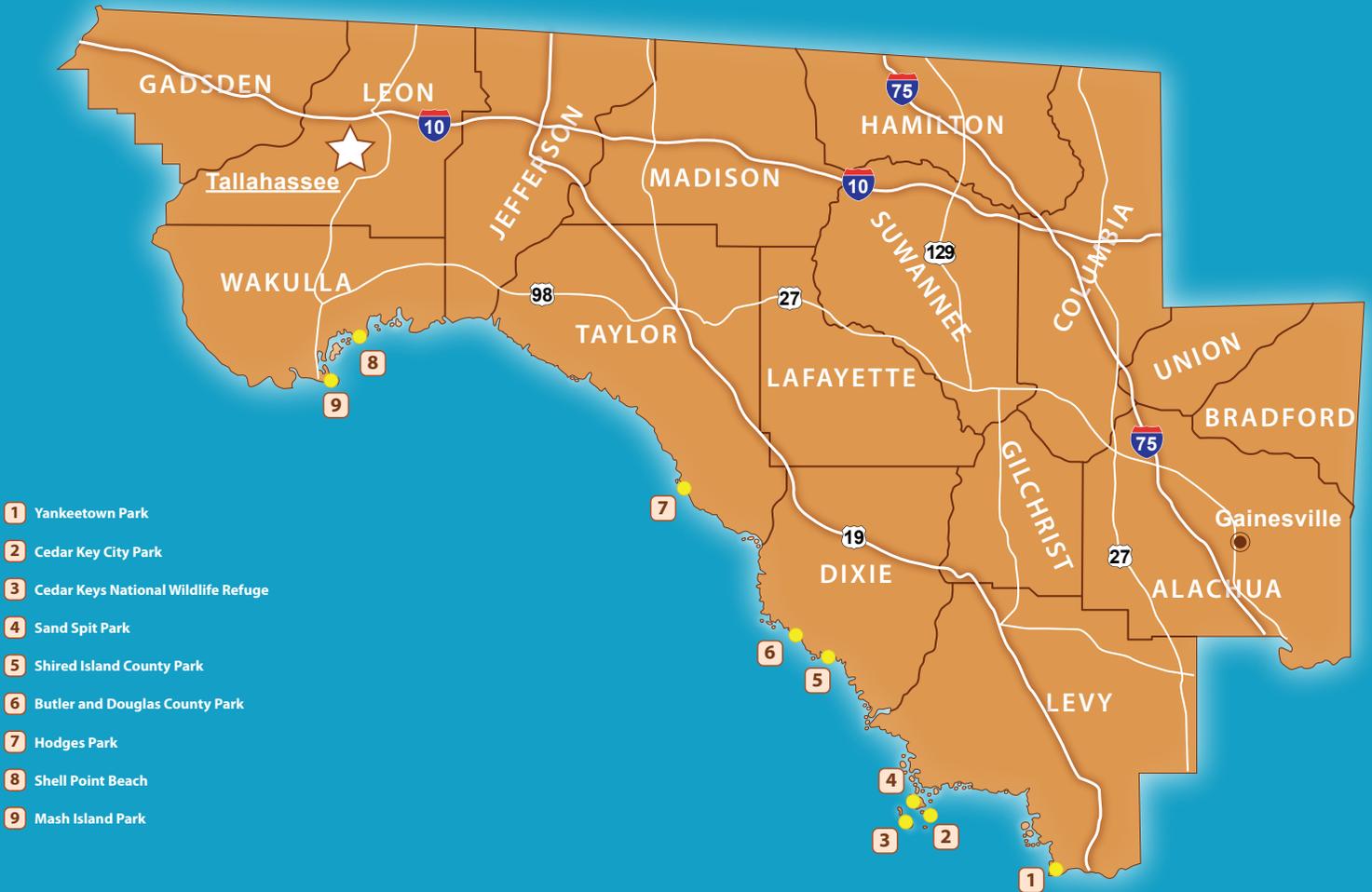
▷ Shark Safety

While sharks are a natural part of the water environment in coastal Florida, millions of residents and visitors are able to enjoy Florida beaches without incident every year. When they occur, shark attacks are usually the result of mistaken identity, with sharks searching for food attack a human by mistake. Chances of attack increase if swimming in cloudy or murky water with a high concentration of bait fish. However, remember that shark attacks are very rare, averaging less than one fatality every year in the state. The chance of having a dangerous interaction with a shark can be reduced even further by following these tips:

- Always stay in groups
- Do not wander too far from shore
- Avoid being in the water during darkness or twilight hours
- Do not enter the water if bleeding from an open wound or if menstruating
- Wearing shiny jewelry is discouraged
- Avoid waters with sewage and those being used by sport or commercial fisherman
- Use extra caution when waters are murky
- Refrain from excess splashing and do not allow pets in the water
- Exercise caution when occupying the area between sandbars or near steep drop-offs
- Leave the water if large schools of bait fish are present
- Do not enter the water if sharks are known to be present and evacuate the water if sharks are seen while there
- And, of course, do not harass a shark if you see one!

North Central Florida

0  20 miles
0  50 km





NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Levy County

Its scenic beauty, wildlife and outdoor recreational opportunities make Levy County the perfect destination. Almost 20 percent of the county is designated for state and national wildlife area. As such, Levy County offers numerous parks, springs, wildlife refuges and nature preserves, where visitors can enjoy both rest and recreation, in abundance.

Florida has one of the biggest concentrations of freshwater springs in the entire world - almost 400. Amazingly, almost 200 of them are located in the Suwannee Basin. Of these, there are about 18 "first-magnitude" springs in northern Florida, named because they can discharge 100 cubic feet of water every second. That's an astounding 64 million gallons of water every day! Clearly, Levy County's springs are one of its most popular destinations, both amongst serious scuba divers and those just looking to swim or snorkel in the clear waters.

1. Yankeetown Park

Location: west end of CR 40, Yankeetown

Phone: (352) 486-5127 Levy County

Website: http://www.levycounty.org/cd_parks.aspx

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: boat ramp around the corner, restrooms, picnic tables, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, boating, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Yankeetown is located on the Withlacoochee River and boasts some of the best salt and fresh water fishing in the country. Yankeetown is also home to Punkin Island where the 1961 Elvis Presley movie "Follow That Dream" was filmed.

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The Best Restaurants in Levy County

The Island Room Restaurant at Cedar Cove

See Companion Download for Restaurant
Gift Certificates

▷ Safe Kids Florida

Safe Kids Florida, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, supports the following tips:

- Never leave children unattended near water.
- Don't allow children to run, push, or jump on others while near water.
- Learn infant and child CPR
- Ensure children always wear life jackets approved by the U.S. Coast Guard
- Remember that inflatable inner tubes and water wings are not safety devices
- Teach children to swim by age 4
- Always stay within designated swimming areas of rivers, lakes and oceans



2. Cedar Key City Park

Location: 2nd & Dock Streets, Cedar Key

Phone: 52-543-5132 Cedar Key City Hall

Website: <http://www.thecityofcedarkey.org/>

Hours: 10 AM to 6 PM

Parking: free

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, shower, restaurants nearby, kayak rentals, playground, volleyball, basketball

Activities: swimming, boating, handicapped accessible

Pets: yes

Of Special Interest: Cedar Key is one of the oldest ports in the state, and when Florida's first railroad connected it to the east coast, it became a major supplier of seafood and timber products to the northeast. Today it's a mecca for artists and writers who are undoubtedly inspired by the surrounding environs. Many visit every year to walk the streets, browse amazing shops and galleries, explore the bayous and enjoy world-renowned restaurants with seafood fresh from local waters.

3. Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge

Location: consists of 13 islands ranging in size from 1 to 120 acres, totaling 762 acres off the coast of Cedar Key

Phone: 352/493-0238

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/cedarkeys/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset. Closed certain times of year - call for details.

Parking: Accessible by boat only

Amenities: Most public use at Cedar Keys N WR is focused on Atsena Otie Key. Here visitors will find a pier, restrooms, and a walking trail to a 19th century cemetery.

Activities: birdwatching, swimming, fishing, walking, shelling, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Established in 1929, Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge contains significant natural and cultural resources from pre-historic and historic times. Wading birds, shorebirds, fish, manatees, bald eagles, crabs, and even reptiles are some of the species of wildlife that find suitable habitat on its islands and marshes.

4. Sand Spit Park

Location: G & 1st Streets, Cedar Key

Phone: 352-543-5132 Cedar Key City Hall

Website: <http://www.thecityofcedarkey.org/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free street parking

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking

Pets: yes



Dixie County

Dixie County is away from the crowds, with plenty of elbow room and situated in the “Heart of the Nature Coast.” The Gulf of Mexico and the Steinhatchee River serve as western borders while the Suwannee River sits on Dixie’s eastern side. Not many beaches, but you can enjoy hunting, fishing & boating and bicycling and hiking on the Nature Coast Greenway Trail.

5. Shired Island County Park

Location: CR 351S to CR 357, 20 miles south of Cross City

Phone: 352-498-1239 Dixie County Public Works

Website: <http://www.dixie.fl.gov>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot, fees for camping

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, showers, RV parking, camping, boat ramp

Activities: swimming, boating, fishing

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: small beach

6. Butler and Douglas County Park

Location: end of 4th Avenue West, Horseshoe Beach

Phone: 352-498-1239 Dixie County Public Works

Website: <http://www.dixie.fl.gov>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot, fees for camping

Amenities: tent and RV camping, boat ramp, restrooms, showers, picnic tables

Activities: fishing, scalloping in season, boating

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: no beach to speak of

Taylor County

Taylor County has wild and wonderful unspoiled rivers and long pristine undeveloped coastline. Here you can enjoy both inshore and offshore saltwater fishing, from Steinhatchee, Spring Warrior, Keaton Beach, Econfina or Aucilla. Its thousands of acres are a hunter’s paradise. A number of small communities dot the coast, offering an array of accommodations, from rustic cottages to modern resorts and full-service camping facilities.

7. Hodges Park

Location: Keaton Beach Drive, Keaton Beach

Phone: 850.838.3500 Taylor County

Website: <http://www.taylorcountygov.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: fee parking lot

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, outdoor showers, fishing pier

Activities: scalloping in season, swimming, fishing, shelling, birding

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: a rare find in these parts: a 400 foot sandy beach!



Wakulla County

The waters of the Gulf of Mexico moderate Wakulla County's climate, as breezes cool the air in the summer and provide warmth in the winter. Within the St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge with its famous white lighthouse, and the adjacent Apalachicola National Forest, lies a natural paradise: crystal lakes, clear springs, dense woods, saltwater ponds, and marshes. Both preserves offer freshwater and saltwater fishing.

The four rivers in the county, Wakulla, St. Marks, Sopchoppy, and the Ochlocknee, are favorites for canoeing and boating. Shell Point also offers sailing and sail boarding.

8. Shell Point Beach

Location: end of Shell Point Road C.R. 367, Shell Point

Phone: 850-926-7227 Wakulla County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.mywakulla.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 400 feet of beach, restrooms, outdoor shower, pavilion, picnic tables, playground, beach volleyball court, sidewalks for bike riding or beach strolling

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, walking, biking, volleyball

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Point Beach is the sailing spot of choice for members of the Shell Point Sailboard Club (SPSC) and the Shell Point Yacht Club, and offers some of the most beautiful sunsets in Wakulla County.

9. Mash Island Park

Location: end of Mashas Sands Road, CR 372 at the intersection of Coastal Highway 98 and the Ochlocknee Bay Bridge

Phone: 850-926-7227 Wakulla County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.mywakulla.com/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$2/vehicle

Amenities: fishing pier, nature trails, portable toilets, picnic tables, boat ramp

Activities: birding, swimming, walking, fishing, boating

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Explore a unique coastal marsh belt ecosystem where marsh grass gives way to a coastal beach. Mashas Sands features unique landscapes: from savannas and tidal creeks to wide open sky. Remote and secluded, it's a great area for bird-watching. It's also great for families with children, as water levels are low and the windy days in the area are perfect for kite flying. The grass eventually gives way to a little beach perfect for sunbathing. If you are interested in exploring, try the tidal marsh pools, which are incredible.

▷ Stinging Creatures

Florida's oceans are also home to many creatures. Most are harmless but some do have the ability to bite or sting. Some of these include Portuguese Man-of-War, fire corals, stingrays, jellyfish, catfish, and sea urchins. Always be able to recognize these animals and avoid contact if possible. In most cases, the stings or bites do not result in serious harm although the injury can be painful. Sensitive individuals may experience more serious conditions.

Northwest Florida

0  20 miles
 0  50 km



- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Bald Point State Park | 16 Sunset Park | 31 Pelayo Beach | 46 John Beasley Wayside Park | 54 Johnson Beach |
| 2 Carrabelle Beach | 17 Canal Park | 32 Santa Clara Park | 47 Brackin Wayside Park | 55 Perdido Key State Park |
| 3 Dog Island | 18 Crooked Island East | 33 San Juan Beach | 48 Okaloosa Island | |
| 4 St. George Island State Park | 19 Tyndall Beach | 34 Seaside | 49 Navarre Beach | |
| 5 St. George Island | 20 Shell Beach | 35 Grayton Beach State Park | 50 Pensacola Beach | |
| 6 Little St. George Island | 21 St. Andrews State Park | 36 Grayton Beach | 51 Fort Pickens Gate | |
| 7 St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge | 22 Thomas Drive Park | 37 Blue Mountain Beach | 52 Langdon Beach | |
| 8 Indian Pass | 23 Bay County Park | 38 Gulf View Heights | 53 Big Lagoon State Park | |
| 9 Salinas Park | 24 Bid-o-Wee Beach | 39 Ed Walline Park | | |
| 10 Cape Palms Park | 25 Panama Beach City Pier | 40 Dune Allen/Fort Panic Park | | |
| 11 St. Joseph Peninsula State Park | 26 West Panama City Beach | 41 Topsail Hill Preserve State Park | | |
| 12 Frank Pate Park | 27 Camp Helen State Park | 42 Miramar Beach | | |
| 13 St. Joe Beach | 28 Gulf Lake Beach | 43 James Lee County Park | | |
| 14 Beacon Hill Community Park | 29 Deer Lake State Park | 44 Henderson Beach State Park | | |
| 15 Mexico Beach | 30 Seagrove Beach | 45 Eglin Air Force Base | | |



NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Franklin County

Franklin County is located in Florida's Northwestern Panhandle approximately 80 miles southwest of the State Capitol, Tallahassee. The county is made up of 545 square miles (and 348,800 acres), which makes it one of the state's largest counties. Franklin County has over 11,000 residents.

Almost 90 percent of Franklin County is made up of national preserves, state forests and other protected land. Immaculate (and uncrowded) beaches, one of the world's most abundant bays and some 200 years of history make this area exceptional.

The area's oyster industry is world renowned and has deep roots in the community of Eastpoint (bay side). The county harvests about 90% of the oysters sold in Florida (and some 10% of the oysters sold in the country).

Apalachicola, an area famous for seafood and its rich maritime history, features nationally recognized restaurants and a beautifully restored historic district unrivaled in the Panhandle. As the center for Arts and Culture, the 1830's port town features art galleries, museums, and a professional theatre all located within 200+ historically significant homes and commercial buildings. Hotels, bed & breakfasts and charming inns are all within easy walking distance.

Franklin County is part of exceptional "Old Florida": natural, historic, and completely authentic. It's perfect for throwing your feet in the sand, touring some history, exploring nature, or just relaxing.

1. Bald Point State Park

Location: on Alligator Point, S.R. 370 off U.S. 98, one mile south of Ochlockonee Bay

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Phone: 850-349-9146

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/baldpoint/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$4/vehicle

Amenities: 9 miles of beach, 4800 acres, fishing dock, picnic pavilions, canoe/kayak launch, access to two Apalachee Bay beaches, grills, restrooms

Activities: birding, wildlife viewing, swimming, sunbathing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing, hiking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: Some of the most picturesque scenic areas along north Florida's Gulf Coast can be found at this park.

Bald Point has numerous water and land activities, with coastal marshes, oak thickets and pine flatwoods fostering a diverse biological community perfect for birding and wildlife viewing. Each fall, bald eagles, migrating raptors, and even monarch butterflies are commonplace as they each head south for the winter.

2. Carrabelle Beach

Location: U.S. 98, one mile west of Carrabelle

Phone: 850-697-2585 City of Carrabelle

Website: <http://www.carrabelle.org/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables

Activities: fishing, walking, swimming

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Narrow roadside beach (98) where you can walk for several miles. People come to Carrabelle not only for fabulous fishing, but also to sail, snorkel, scuba dive, scallop and play on the beaches. Wildlife is plentiful. It's not uncommon to see a fox, deer, pelican, blue heron, or (at the right time of year) a family of black bears.

3. Dog Island

Location: 3.5 miles South of Carrabelle in the Gulf

Phone: 850-697-2585 City of Carrabelle

Website: <http://www.carrabelle.org/>



Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: accessible only by water-taxi, boat or plane

Amenities: 6 miles of beach

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, hiking

Pets: yes, on leash, outside refuge

Of Special Interest: this small barrier island offers visitors a choice of exploring marshes and forests, or just kicking back and relaxing on the pristine white-sand beaches. There is one small inn and no stores, 270 species of birds and an isolated beach. 2/3 of the island is owned by Nature Conservancy. There are hiking trails throughout the preserve.

4. St. George Island State Park

Location: On St. George Island, some 10 miles SE of Eastpoint, off of U.S. 98

Phone: 850-927-2111

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/stgeorgeisland/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: 9 miles of beach, developed and primitive camping, restrooms, showers, picnic shelters and grills, nature trails, concessions for food & drinks, beach supplies, camping & fishing gear, boat ramps, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, boating, camping, canoeing, hiking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: Miles of undeveloped beach with the Gulf of Mexico on one side and Apalachicola Bay on the other provide the perfect setting for this park. Two boat ramps offer access to the Apalachicola Bay where anglers are able to fish for flounder, sea trout, redfish, pompano, whiting, and Spanish mackerel. Few parks in Florida have more Gulf Coast shelling opportunities. Shore birds like the least tern, snowy plover, black skimmer, and willet will often along the sandy shores and grass flats of the park.

5. St. George Island (Public Beach)

Location: where the causeway meets the island, St. George Island

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Phone: 850-653-8277 Franklin County

Website: <http://www.franklincountyflorida.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free

Amenities: restrooms, showers, picnic shelters

Activities: swimming, fishing, restaurants nearby

Pets: yes, on leashes

6. Little St. George Island

Location: due west of St. George Island

Phone: 850-653-8063 Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Website: <http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: accessible only by boat, no fee

Amenities: none

Activities: primitive camping, swimming, hiking, shelling, fishing, boating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Shelling is incredible. Private camping allowed at either end of island. No facilities; fresh water not available.

7. St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge

Location: Visitor Center: 479 Market Street, Apalachicola. St. Vincent Island is 9 miles SW of Apalachicola and its closest public boat ramp is 22 miles west of Apalachicola (end of County Road 30-B). From that boat ramp, it's 1/4 mile across to the island.

Phone: 850-653 8808

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/saintvincent/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: NA

Amenities: 12,000+ acres, 14 miles of beach

Activities: swimming, hiking, fishing, shelling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: St. Vincent NWR is an undeveloped barrier island just offshore from the mouth of the Apalachicola River, in the Gulf of Mexico. The refuge is preserves, as naturally as possible, its varied plant and animal communities. Ten different habitats have been identified: relatively pure stands of cabbage palm; freshwater lakes and streams; tidal marsh; scrub oaks;



dunes dominated by live oak/mixed hardwood understory; and four different slash pine communities, each with its own unique understory species. St. Vincent is a major stop-off point in the Gulf region for birds of the neo-tropical migratory species. The island itself is a haven for endangered/threatened species like bald eagles, indigo snakes, sea turtles, and gopher tortoises. Wood storks also use the area during their migration. In addition, the refuge area serves as a breeding area for the endangered red wolf.

▷ Leatherback Nesting

Florida is the only place in the continental United States where leatherback turtles nest on a regular basis.

In fact, outside of a few nests on the west coast, leatherbacks nest almost entirely on the east coast of Florida with almost half of all nesting occurring in Palm Beach County.

Leatherbacks are the largest of all sea turtles and are named for their rubbery shells. Adults can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and reach up to 8 feet in length.

Leatherback nesting occurs in Florida from April through July. A female turtle will nest at various times over two to three years, laying six to nine nests per season. After laying about 80 fertilized eggs, they then cover them with a layer of some 30 unfertilized eggs, which helps protect them from predators like birds and raccoons, and also helps regulate their temperature.



Gulf County

Gulf County is predominately rural but there is a surprising diversity of life-styles and activities in this quaint, picturesque area of Florida. When you are in Gulf County, you will discover “Old Florida.” It is like stepping into a “Norman Rockwell” painting, with rustic towns and unpretentious gracious folks.

Gulf County has 43 miles of pristine shoreline. Port St. Joe is the largest city and the county seat. This tiny, coastal, deep-water port community is rich both in resources and history. The city is in a transitional stage from primarily industrial to a more tourist-friendly community focusing on its natural resources: it’s snow white beaches, sapphire blue waters, unique area parks, and fishing (freshwater and salt), camping, hiking and hunting opportunities. Quaint shops and unique dining experiences await you in its renovated downtown area.

8. Indian Pass (Beach)

Location: CR 30-B to Indian Pass

Phone: 850-229-7800 Gulf County

Website: <http://www.visitgulf.com/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free

Amenities: 10 miles of beach, boat ramp

Activities: boating, fishing, camping, horseback riding, swimming

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Permit required for beach driving and horseback riding. Call Gulf County Tax Collector @ 850-229-5353. In between Indian Pass & St. Joseph State Park lie 22 miles of contiguous beach.

9. Salinas Park

Location: CR 30-E, Cape San Blas

Phone: 850-229-7800

Website: <http://www.visitgulf.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 1/2 mile of beach, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, nature trails, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, horseback riding,

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

The Best Restaurants in Gulf County

Firefly
Panama City Beach

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: permit required for beach driving and horseback riding. Call Gulf County Tax Collector @ 850-229-5353. In between Indian Pass & St. Joseph State Park lie 22 miles of contiguous beach.

10. Cape Palms Park

Location: 5 miles NW of Cape San Blas on CR 30-E

Phone: 850-229-7800 Gulf County

Website: <http://www.visitgulf.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 100 feet of beach, boardwalk, pavilion, restrooms, picnic tables & grills, playground, showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: In between Indian Pass & St. Joseph State Park lie 22 miles of contiguous beach.



11. St. Joseph Peninsula State Park (aka T.H. Stone Memorial)

Location: CR 30E to tip of St. Joseph Peninsula

Phone: 850/227-1327

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/STJOSEPH/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: 2,516 acres, 9 miles of beach, boat ramp, cabins, playground, picnic tables, nature trails, concessions, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing, canoeing, kayaking, primitive camping, hiking, fishing, biking, wildlife viewing, campfire circles, birding, shelling

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: With miles of white sugar sand, this park has one of the top rated beaches in the United States. From offshore, kayakers and canoeists take in a brilliant of the high dunes as well as the sand pine scrub. A coastal barrier peninsula, it provides great opportunities for bird watching; more than 240 species have been sighted throughout the park. A boat ramp is at Eagle Harbor (bay side). Campers will find a full-facility campground just a short walk from the beach, as well as a primitive campsite in the wilderness preserve area. Eight cabins (bay side) offer other overnight accommodations.

12. Frank Pate Park

Location: south end of 5th Street, Port St. Joe

Phone: 850-229-8261 Port St. Joe City Hall

Website: <http://www.cityofportstjoe.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free parking lot

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, boat ramp, fishing pier, tennis courts, playground

Activities: swimming, boating, fishing, tennis

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: this is a bayfront park

13. St. Joe Beach

Location: US 98, St. Joe Beach

Phone: 850-229-8944 (Gulf County Planning

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Website: <http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov/CountyAdministration.cfm>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free on street

Amenities: 9 miles of beach

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking

Pets: yes, on leashes

14. Beacon Hill Community Park

Location: US 98 in Beacon Hill

Phone: 850-229-8944 Gulf County Planning

Website: <http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov/CountyAdministration.cfm>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 1200 feet of beach, restrooms, picnic tables, boardwalk, softball/baseball field

Activities: swimming, walking, softball, baseball

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Beacon Hill has long been the location for the Beacon Hill Lighthouse, an aid to navigation at the entrance to St. Joseph Bay.



Bay County

Bay County is known for its sugary white sand beaches, but it has so much more to offer. The County is located in the heart of Florida's Great Northwest overlooking the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. Panama City is the County Seat and there are small beach towns galore including Mexico Beach and Rosemary Beach.

The County combines imagination and entertainment with natural beauty and Southern hospitality. With nearly 30 miles of white and sandy beaches, you'll be sure to get your feet wet fishing, snorkeling, boating, or diving.

15. Mexico Beach

Location: U.S. 98, Mexico Beach. Public access at the end of almost every street.

Phone: 850-648-5700 City of Mexico Beach

Website: <http://www.mexicobeach.com/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lots or street parking

Amenities: 3.5 miles of beach, restrooms and showers at Canal Park, Crooked Island East and Sunset Park, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, walking, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Mexico Beach is a community on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico but miles from anything else. Driving along Highway 98, you'll see no high rises, and nothing to hinder your views of sea oats and the white sand. Though you might be stopped for a family of beachgoers crossing the street, you'll find no traffic lights. Just park between the palm trees, and have fun.

16. Sunset Park

Location: 19th St. & U.S. 98, Mexico Beach

Phone: 850-648-5700 City of Mexico Beach

Website: <http://www.mexicobeach.com/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Of Special Interest: children friendly beaches with a calm shoreline and no undertow

17. Canal Park

Location: 37th St. & U.S. 98, Mexico Beach

Phone: 850-648-5700 City of Mexico Beach

Website: <http://www.mexicobeach.com/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, pier, jetty

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: children friendly beaches with a calm shoreline and no undertow

18. Crooked Island East

Location: 2 miles west of Mexico Beach, on U.S. 98 (on Tyndall Air Force Base)

Phone: 850-283-1113 Tyndall Air Force Base

Website: <http://www.tyndall.af.mil>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Access at the Base's eastern boundary, East Beach Road. You can walk the 6+ miles to the end of the Peninsula.

19. Tyndall Beach

Location: access through Main Gate at Tyndall Air Force Base

Phone: 850-283-1113 Tyndall Air Force Base

Website: <http://www.tyndall.af.mil>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Public Access to both Crooked Island East and Tyndall Beach (West) is denied during times of high security alerts. Call ahead.



20. Shell Beach (Island)

Location: less than 1 mile SE of St. Andrews State Park Boat Ramp and accessible only by boat across a busy shipping channel

Phone: 850-233-5140

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/StAndrews>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: NA

Amenities: none

Activities: snorkeling, surfing, fishing, shelling, swimming

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Quiet and deserted, you can walk for miles. At certain times of the year, the surfing is the best in Florida.

21. St. Andrews State Park

Location: Located three miles east of Panama City Beach, off State Road 392 (Thomas Drive)

Phone: 850-233-5140

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/StAndrews>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: fishing piers, jetty, boat ramp, nature trails, picnic pavilion, full facility campsites, primitive camping, concessions for food, souvenirs and fishing amenities, kayak, canoe, snorkel and dive rentals, handicapped accessible, playgrounds

Activities: birding, swimming, snorkeling, fishing, camping, hiking, boating, canoeing, kayaking, scuba diving, campfire circles

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Pets are not permitted in State Parks on beaches or playgrounds, in bathing areas, park buildings cabins, or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Well known for its sugar white sands and emerald green waters, this former military reservation has over one-and-a-half miles of beaches on the Gulf of Mexico and Grand Lagoon. Shell Island Boat Tours are offered in the spring and summer months.

22. Thomas Drive Park

Location: 7000 block of Thomas Drive, East Panama City Beach

Phone: 850-784-4065 Bay County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.bay.fl.us/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

23. Bay County Park (M.B. Miller Park)

Location: 12213 Front Beach Road in Panama City Beach

Phone: 850-784-4065 Bay County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.bay.fl.us/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: saltwater pier, restrooms, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing,

Pets: no

24. Bid-o-Wee Beach

Location: between the county and city piers, Panama City Beach

Phone: 850-784-4065 Bay County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.bay.fl.us/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free on street parking

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

25. Panama Beach City Pier (Russell-Fields Pier)

Location: 16101 Front Beach Road, across the street from Pier Park, Panama City Beach

Phone: 850-233-5080 Panama City Beach City Hall

Website: <http://www.pcbeach.org>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: ½ mile of beach, concessions, restrooms, showers, fishing pier

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing, handicapped accessible

Pets: Yes, in designated areas.

Of Special Interest: Panama City Beach Florida beaches have been honored with numerous beach awards throughout the years including:

- #2 Beach in America (St. Andrews State Recreation Area) -



TripAdvisor, March 2008

- One of America's 20 Most Beautiful Beaches - Conde Nast Traveler, 2006
- Top Ten Family Beach Destination - USA Today, 2005
- #8 Beach in Florida - The Travel Channel, March 2005

Pier Park's 1 million square feet is the best shopping and entertainment destination in the area, featuring the best beach food, music, trivia and non-stop sports at several popular establishments.

Panama City beach has replaced Fort Lauderdale as the Spring Break Capital of the U.S. Unless you are in partying frame of mind, avoid PCB during spring break season!

26. West Panama City Beach

Location: many marked beach access points from the Pier to Phillips Inlet

Phone: 850-233-5080 Panama City Beach City Hall

Website: <http://www.pcbeach.org>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free street parking

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Quieter than PCB. Good alternative during spring break season.

▷ Loggerhead Nesting in Florida

Some 90 percent of all loggerhead nesting in the United States happens in Florida, with most taking place on the east coast of the state. In Brevard County there were 22,994 loggerhead nests in the year 2003 alone.

Named for its large head, the loggerhead turtle is the most common sea turtle in the state. It has a reddish-brown shell and can weight between 200 and 350 pounds, at up to 3 feet in length. Loggerheads generally nest in Florida from April to September.

Female loggerheads return to their nesting beach every two or more years, when they lay about four to seven nests, one every 14 days on average. Each nest has about 100-126 eggs that incubate about 60 days.



Walton County

Home to one of the most beautiful beaches in the nation, Walton County also has 17 fresh and salt water lakes and the Choctawhatchee Bay. The area is a well-known haven for outdoor lovers and eco-activities. Forty percent of its 53,000 acres is state-owned and thus is protected from future development.

The County's 26 miles of shoreline have been certified as "Blue Wave" beaches, a national designation given by the Clean Beaches Council. Walton County is the only destination in the country to have 26 continuous miles of beaches certified Blue Wave.

Charm and scenic beauty define the coastline. Sand as white as sugar and emerald green water offer a naturally soothing setting (not to mention a unique way of life). Beautiful beaches complemented by world-class accommodations, award-winning dining, diverse shopping, the arts and outdoor pursuits are found here in towns of Seaside, Rosemary Beach, Grayton Beach and Sandestin.

27. Camp Helen State Park

Location: west of Panama City Beach just inside Bay County, on U.S. 98 at the west end of the Lake Powell Bridge, Inlet Beach

Phone: 850-233-5059

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/camp Helen>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$4/vehicle

Amenities: picnic tables, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, shelling, nature study, hiking, fishing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: The park is bordered on three sides by the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Powell - one of the largest coastal dune lakes in Florida. Coastal dune lakes are very rare; in the United States, they can only be found along the Gulf Coast. Prehistoric relics indicate that humans may have lived in the area some 4,000 years ago. Natural areas include coastal dunes and salt marshes (along the Gulf) and freshwater wetlands and sand pine scrub (along the lake).

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

The Best Restaurants in Walton County

Bistro Bijoux
Miramar Beach

Restaurant Paradis
Rosemary Beach

Café 30A
Seagrove Beach

Old Florida Fish House
Santa Rosa Beach

The Ocean Club
Miramar Beach

Restaurant Fire
Grayton Beach

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates



28. Gulf Lake Beach

Location: just west of Seacrest Beach at Camp Creek Coastal Lake on 30A

Phone: 850-267-1216 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free limited

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Seacrest Beach begins after the big bend in the road on Scenic Highway 30A. The road follows the Gulf in this area, passing through areas with close-up views of just how wild and dense coastal scrub can be. Then, rising suddenly from the dunes, is a residential community known as Seacrest. Camp Creek Lake is a highlight of the Seacrest Beach region.

29. Deer Lake State Park

Location: 30A, Santa Rosa Beach

Phone: 850-231-4210

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/deerlake>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$3/vehicle

Amenities: ¾ mile of beach, 10 mile walking/biking trail, picnic tables, composting toilet (no water in the park)

Activities: swimming, hiking, biking, sunbathing, birding, fishing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Deer Lake State Park is a 1,920-acre facility named after a freshwater coastal dune lake within its boundaries. Gulf trail access opens to a great dune field and a pristine beach area. The park features 11 unique natural communities including mesic flatwoods, scrub, dome swamp, beach dune, sandhill, basin swamp, depression marsh, coastal dune lakes, estuarine tidal creek, blackwater stream, and unconsolidated marine substrate. Spring azaleas line the blackwater streams, and summer wildflowers surround cypress domes around the sandhills and longleaf pines.

30. Seagrove Beach

Location: 30A, Seagrove Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free limited street parking

Amenities: shower

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Back in the 1940s and 1950s, families came to Seagrove Beach to rent modest one-story cottages with paddle fans instead of air conditioning and wide screened porches (perfect for sleeping). They returned to Seagrove Beach every year, and second and third generations now make the trip. Many of the charming cottages still exist, though they have been updated to meet the needs of modern travelers and are now shaded by mature plants and scrub trees.

31. Pelayo Beach

Location: 30A, Seagrove Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free limited street parking

Amenities: shower

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

32. Santa Clara Park

Location: ½ mile east of intersection of CR 395 & 30A, Seagrove Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free limited street parking

Amenities: lifeguards, showers, restrooms, picnic tables

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

33. San Juan Beach

Location: 30A, Seagrove Beach



Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free limited street parking

Amenities: shower

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

34. Seaside Beach

Location: 30A, Seaside

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: no public parking, accesses are for owners, renters and guests

Amenities: shower

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Seaside is home to a gourmet food market, multiple art galleries, and small boutiques all centered around a town square with an outdoor amphitheater. Park your car and rent a bike to explore this successful pioneer town, which was featured in the movie *The Truman Show* (1997).

35. Grayton Beach State Park

Location: near Grayton Beach on 30A

Phone: 850-231-4210

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/graytonbeach>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: full facility camping, cabins, boat ramp, 4 miles of biking trails, 100 acre Western Lake for canoeing and kayaking, nature trails, picnic pavilion

Activities: canoeing, kayaking, swimming, hiking, biking, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: Golden in the morning sun, silvered by moonlight, Grayton Beach has consistently been ranked among the most beautiful and pristine beaches in the United States.

36. Grayton Beach

Location: end of CR 283, Grayton Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free street parking

Amenities: shower, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Grayton Beach celebrated its 110th anniversary on July 4th, 2000 and still maintains the same "small cozy town" character. It has narrow tree lined streets and friendly people with funky art galleries, antique and specialty shops and a general store.

37. Blue Mountain Beach

Location: South end of CR 83, Blue Mountain Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free street parking

Amenities: lifeguards, shower, handicapped access

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The first European settlers may have mistaken the Blue Mountain community's towering dunes for mountains after being at sea for months. They were likely also impressed by the lush vegetation that covers the dunes, especially the spiky Gulf Coast lupine that lives along Florida's Emerald Coast in the dune scrub. With fuzzy blue leaves and purple-blue flowers that look like small sweet peas, it's easy to see how Blue Mountain got its name.

38. Gulf View Heights

Location: 30A, Santa Rosa Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free parking lot

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no



Of Special Interest: Behind Goatfeathers Raw Bar & Restaurant

39. Ed Walline Park

Location: south end of CR 393, Santa Rosa Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free parking lot

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

40. Dune Allen/Fort Panic Park

Location: West of Intersection of CR 393 & 30A, Dune-Allen Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguards, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, picnic tables, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Dune Allen Beach is an established community that surrounds Stallworth Lake, one of 17 coastal dune lakes, which are unique to this part of the world. The lakes are so rare that they can only be found in South Walton and remote portions of Africa and Australia. They have the highest concentration of rare wildlife species in the entire state, some of which are not found anywhere else in the world.

41. Topsail Hill Preserve State Park

Location: 30A, Santa Rosa Beach

Phone: 850-267-0299

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/topsailhill>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$3/vehicle

Amenities: 2.3 miles of beach, RV resort with pool and shuffleboard courts, furnished bungalows for rent, camp store, bike & nature trails, guided ranger tours, restrooms, showers,

tram to the beach from the parking lot

Activities: fishing, birding, hiking, biking, swimming, sunbathing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: This 1,640 acre park offers a wide variety of natural resources including 3.2 miles of secluded, white sand beaches with majestic dunes over 25 feet tall. Three very rare coastal dune lakes offer great freshwater fishing. While boats are not permitted, fishing shoreline can still yield bass, panfish, bream, and catfish.

42. Miramar Beach

Location: Off Scenic Gulf Drive, 2 miles west of intersection of US 98 & Scenic Gulf Drive, Miramar Beach

Phone: 800-822-6877 Beaches of South Walton

Website: <http://www.beachesofsouthwalton.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguards, picnic tables, showers, concessions, restrooms, 5 dune walkovers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Miramar Beach begins at the Gulf of Mexico along Scenic Gulf Drive and meanders past condos and private homes with panoramic views of the gulf, a resort and scattered shops and restaurants. Curving around to join Emerald Coast Parkway, you will find the largest designer outlet center in the United States, Silver Sands Factory Stores.



Okaloosa County

Okaloosa County is home to Destin and Fort Walton Beach, two popular beach destinations. In fact, readers of Southern Accents magazine named Destin the No. 2 beach destination and the No. 8 golf destination in its second “Great Escapes Reader Travel Awards.”

Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Destin features 2400 acres of golf, tennis, shopping, 2000 guest accommodations, from hotel rooms to condos to cottages, and stunning beaches. The Village of Baytowne Wharf in Sandestin boasts 30 boutiques and over 20 restaurants and bars and numerous events throughout the year. Delight your senses in the County’s spectacular beaches (voted “safest in the country” and among the top ten in the country) and the expansive waters of Choctawahatchee Bay. Discover endless miles of beach perfect for shell seeking, soul searching, sun bronzing, sand castle building, and solitude.

43. James Lee County Park

Location: 3518 Scenic Hwy (Old) U.S. 98, Destin

Phone: 850-689-5772 Okaloosa County Public Works Resources

Website:

http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_pw_resources_parks_list.html

Hours: 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset

Parking: free lot, 166 spaces

Amenities: handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, restrooms, picnic tables, concessions, showers, restaurant, volleyball nets, pavilion, playground, nine dune walkovers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, volleyball

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Clear and shallow water is great for children; restaurant and bar are great for sunset watching.

44. Henderson Beach State Park

Location: just east of Destin on U.S. 98

Phone: 850-837-7550.

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/hendersonbeach>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

The Best Restaurants in Okaloosa County

Joey Tomato’s

Niceville

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

Amenities: 6,000 feet of beach, pavilions with barbecue grills, picnic tables, restrooms, soda machines, playground, restrooms, showers, nature trails, biking and in-line skating paved roads, full facility camping, handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing, biking, hiking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6’ leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: The family oriented beach is one of the areas most prized assets. Depending which season you visit, your beach experience could bring sightings of sea turtles, dolphins, migratory birds, butterflies and (as always) a gorgeous sunset. The park’s natural features include scrub oaks, sand pines, and dune rosemary. Access the beach via boardwalks.

45. Eglin Air Force Base

Location: west of Destin Bridge, off U.S. 98 on Okaloosa Island

Phone: 850-882-1113

Website: <http://www.eglin.af.mil>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 3.5 miles of beach, jetty

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, surfing, camping, snorkeling



Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The Outdoor Recreation program at Eglin AFB is one of the largest in the world. They have children's water safety programs, diving classes, deep sea fishing charters, camping facilities, boat slips and boat repairs. Call (850) 883-1243 to make reservations for FAMCAMP. For information on fishing, hunting, or other popular outdoor activities on the reservation, contact the Natural Resources Division (aka Jackson Guard) of the Environmental Management Directorate Division.

46. John Beasley Wayside Park

Location: U.S. 98 on Okaloosa Island, 1.25 miles east of Fort Walton Beach

Phone: 850-689-5772 Okaloosa County Public Works Resources

Website:

http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_pw_resources_parks_list.html

Hours: 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset

Parking: free lot, 208 spaces

Amenities: 2 dune walkovers, picnic tables, restrooms

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: next to Brackin Wayside Park

47. Brackin Wayside Park

Location: U.S. 98 on Okaloosa Island, one mile east of Fort Walton Beach

Phone: 850-689-5772 Okaloosa County Public Works Resources

Website:

http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_pw_resources_parks_list.html

Hours: 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset

Parking: free and plentiful

Amenities: pavilions, picnic tables, restrooms, volleyball nets, playground, dune walkovers, adjacent to the fishing pier, concessions, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, volleyball, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Known as "The Boardwalk" for its bars, restaurants and beach shops.

48. Okaloosa Island

Location: 7 numbered beach accesses within 2 miles starting at Santa Rosa Blvd (after Brooks Bridge)

Phone: 850-689-5772 Okaloosa County Public Works Resources

Website:

http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_pw_resources_parks_list.html

Hours: 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset

Parking: free lots

Amenities: #1, 2 & 7 have restrooms, picnic tables and grills; #3, 4, 5, 6 have portalets and are handicapped accessible.

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: pure quartz sparkling white beautiful beaches



Santa Rosa County

The area's beaches have been ranked among the best in the country by TripAdvisor, Dr. Beach, and the popular Travel Channel. The beaches however, are narrower than they once were. Local governments are working on acquiring funding for major beach renourishment to replace the sand that was washed away by Gustav in 2008. The Gulf Islands National Seashore is the longest tract of protected seashore in the country.

While Navarre offers miles of protected beach great for picnics, bike tours, and camping, Blackwater River State Forest and its surrounding area - dubbed the "Canoe Capital of Florida" - boasts more than one million acres of Floridian wilderness, attracting hikers, kayakers, bird watchers, and campers from both near and far.

49. Navarre Beach

Location: U.S. 98 to Route 399 Bridge across the Navarre Bridge to Navarre Beach

Phone: 850-983-1940 Santa Rosa County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, showers, handicapped access

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Navarre Beach is a small family-friendly beach community with a total of two restaurants and waterfront bars where locals and visitors alike meet to toast the sunset, play a round of beach volleyball, or reflect on the day while watching the sparkling water. It is also rated one of the best beaches in the country by the University of Maryland, Laboratory for Coastal Research. Researchers gave the location high marks for white sand, water and air temperatures, total number of sunny days and for gentle currents.

Escambia County

Escambia County is the westernmost of Florida's Counties in the Panhandle. It has 40 miles of white quartz sand beaches. Much of the shoreline belongs to Gulf Islands National Seashore. Resting on the banks of Pensacola Bay, Pensacola offers a rich heritage, fresh coastal cuisine, art and culture, unique shopping and many festivals throughout the year celebrating everything from music and food to the arts and Mardi Gras. The history of Naval Aviation can be traced at the National Naval Aviation Museum at the Pensacola Naval Air Station home of the world famous Blue Angels. Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key are popular beach areas in the county.

50. Pensacola Beach

Location: Pensacola Bay Bridge to Route 399 to Pensacola Beach

Phone: 850-932-2257 Santa Rosa Island Authority

Website: <http://sria-fla.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, fishing pier, restaurants, shops and bars nearby, amphitheatre, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, snorkeling, volleyball, kite flying, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Pensacola Beach is 1,474 acres, which make up approximately 30% of Escambia County on Santa Rosa Island. Pensacola Beach is eight miles long and a quarter mile at its widest. The white sand beaches on the island are made up almost entirely of quartz - that is the reason for the "sugary white" feel and look.

The Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier, which stretches across emerald green waters beyond two sand bars, has some of the best fishing and sights of any Florida pier. They have everything you need to fish, bait, tackle, rental rods, coolers and carts as well as food and drinks in their new restaurant, tackle and gift shop.



51. Fort Pickens Gate

Location: ¼ mile east of the Fort Pickens entrance gate on SR 399, Pensacola Beach

Phone: 850-932-2257 Santa Rosa Island Authority

Website: <http://sria-fla.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, showers, dune walkovers

Activities: swimming, surfing, snorkeling, sunbathing, walking, shelling, fishing

Pets: no

52. Langdon Beach (Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore)

Location: Western tip of Santa Rosa Island

Phone: 850-934-2600 Gulf Islands National Seashore

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/guls>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: entrance fee to Gulf Islands National Seashore is \$8/vehicle

Amenities: concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, visitor center

Activities: swimming, fishing, camping, shelling

Pets: on a leash, not on the beach

53. Big Lagoon State Park

Location: CR 292A, 10 miles southwest of Pensacola

Phone: 850-492-1595

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/biglagoon/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: 700 acres and 1 mile of beach, boat ramp, campfire circle, nature trails, picnic areas, restroom, showers, full facility camping, handicapped access

Activities: camping, swimming, fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, crabbing, hiking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: This coastal park sits on the northern shoreline of its namesake, Big Lagoon, which separates the mainland from Perdido Key and the Gulf of Mexico. Natural

communities, from pine flatwoods to saltwater marshes, bring a variety of birds, especially during spring and fall migration periods. Beaches, nature trails, shallow bays, and open woodlands mean natural opportunities for nature study.

54. Johnson Beach (Gulf Islands National Seashore)

Location: SR 292, 15 miles southwest of Pensacola

Phone: 850-934-2600 (Gulf Islands National Seashore)

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/guls>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: entrance fee to Gulf Islands National Seashore is \$8/vehicle

Amenities: concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, camping, boating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Two thirds of Gulf Islands National Seashore is under water. The Atlantic bottlenose dolphin is the largest, most common mammal here.

55. Perdido Key State Park

Location: 15 miles southwest of Pensacola, off SR 292

Phone: 850-492-1595

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/perdidokey/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$3/vehicle

Amenities: picnic tables, restrooms, showers, nature trails

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, walking

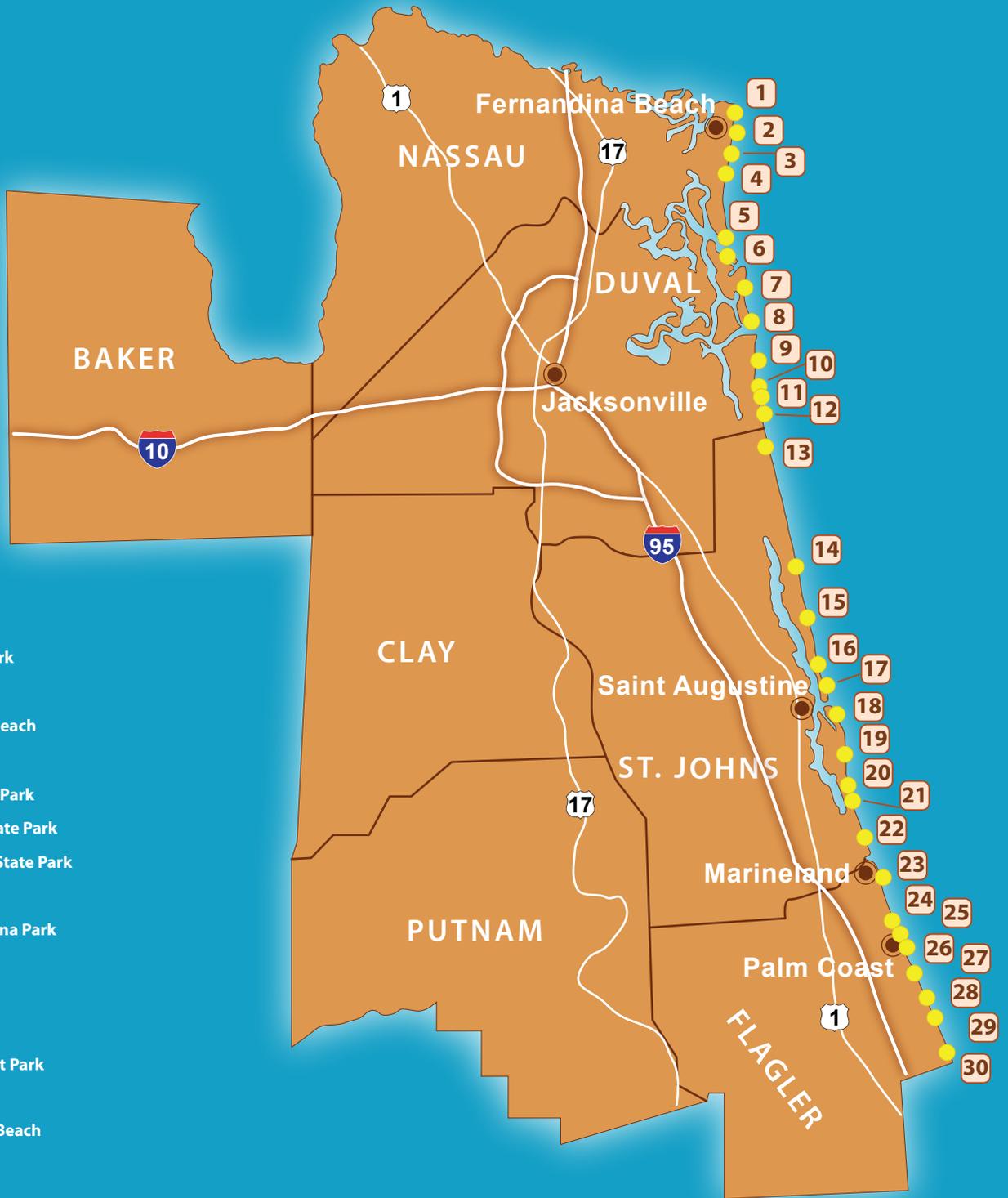
Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Perdido Key is a 247-acre barrier island. White sand beaches and sea-oat covered rolling dunes make this park a favorite for swimmers and sunbathers alike. Surf fishing happens to be another popular sport here. Visitors can access the beach via boardwalks from the parking lot without damaging the beach vegetation and fragile dunes.

Northeast Florida

0  20 miles

0  50 km



- 1 Fort Clinch State Park
- 2 Main Beach
- 3 South Fernandina Beach
- 4 Peter's Point
- 5 Amelia Island State Park
- 6 Big Talbot Island State Park
- 7 Little Talbot Island State Park
- 8 Huguenot Park
- 9 Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
- 10 Atlantic Beach
- 11 Neptune Beach
- 12 Jacksonville Beach
- 13 Mickler's Beachfront Park
- 14 GTM Reserve
- 15 South Ponte Vedra Beach
- 16 Surfside
- 17 Vilano Beach
- 18 Anastasia State Park
- 19 St. Augustine Beach
- 20 Frank B. Butler County Park
- 21 Crescent Beach
- 22 Matanzas Beach
- 23 Washington Oaks Gardens State Park
- 24 Malacompra Beach Park
- 25 Old Salt Road Park

- 26 Jungle Hut Road Park
- 27 Varn Beach Park
- 28 Beverly Beach
- 29 Flagler Beach
- 30 Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area



NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Nassau County

Nassau County is a wonderful blend of rural, wooded areas to the west and beautiful rivers, sounds, beaches and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.

Amelia Island IS coastal Nassau County. Thirteen miles in length and two miles in width, both the northern and southern tips of the island are held as park preserves (almost 10 percent of the island itself). Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Intra-coastal waterway, strong-currented Nassau Sound and one of the East's largest and deepest inlets - Cumberland Sound - Amelia Island is edged with natural Appalachian quartz beaches and framed by sand dunes as high as 40 feet. It was recently named by Conde Nast Traveler's Reader's Choice Awards as among the Top 10 North American islands, long treasured for its stretches of quiet beach, natural beauty, history, and charming seaport-like character.

Once a bustling Victorian seaport village, the charming downtown Fernandina Beach has managed to escape the mass commercialization of the 20th century and offers a beautiful 50-block historic district with lots of original structures that date back to the late 19th century. This includes many Victorian-style mansions and cottages.

1. Fort Clinch State Park

Location: North of the city of Fernandina Beach, off State Road A1A

Phone: 904-277-7274

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/fortclinch>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: restrooms, showers, picnic shelters with grills, nature trails, full facility camping, pier, jetty, 3.3 miles of biking

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

▷ Springing the Blues!

Springing The Blues is a completely free outdoor music festival celebrating the country's indigenous musical form and promoting support of the arts. The three-day event, right on the oceanfront, features renowned blues performers, displays and activities geared toward the whole family. Held every year, the first weekend of April at Jacksonville Beach/Oceanfront SeaWalk Pavilion.



trails, campfire circle, playground, handicapped accessible.

Miles of beaches on the Atlantic and Cumberland Sound.

Activities: hiking, fishing, shelling, camping, swimming, biking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: 1,120 acre Fort Clinch is one of the most well-preserved 19th century forts in the country. No battles were fought here, but it was garrisoned during the Civil and Spanish-American wars. Additionally, in the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps started to preserve and rebuild a lot of the abandoned fort's structures. Daily tours, including period reenactors, are available.

2. Main Beach - Fernandina Beach

Location: End of Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach

Phone: 904-277-7350 City of Fernandina Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.fbfl.us/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: Metered, \$1/hour

Amenities: 4.5 miles of beach, seasonal lifeguards, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, playground, miniature golf, volleyball, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, restaurant

Activities: swimming, volleyball, fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, on a leash

3. South Fernandina Beach (accesses)

Location: 33 numbered accesses south of Main Beach, Fernandina Beach

Phone: 904-277-7350 City of Fernandina Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.fbfl.us/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: small free lots at 19 of the accesses, limited free street parking at others

Amenities: 4.5 miles of beach from Main Beach south to the City line.

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leash

4. Peter's Point

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Location: 1974 S. Fletcher Avenue (A1A), south of city line

Phone: 904-548-4689 (Nassau County Parks & Recreation)

Website: <http://www.nassaucountyfl.com>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, parking lot for horse trailers, beach driving, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, beach driving, horseback riding, camping

Pets: Yes, on leashes

5. Amelia Island State Park

Location: A1A, 8 miles south of Fernandina Beach

Phone: 904-251-2320

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/ameliaisland/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: \$2/person

Amenities: fishing pier, beaches

Activities: canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, swimming, fishing, shelling, wildlife viewing, beach driving

Pets: No

Of Special Interest: Located where Nassau Sound meets the Atlantic Ocean, 200 acre, Amelia Island State Park offers visitors incredible recreational opportunities in a picturesque natural setting. The point near the southern tip of Amelia Island offers a brilliant panorama of land and sea. For an exceptional beach experience, visit Kelly's Seahorse Ranch, which allows you to take a tour of the beach by horseback!



Duval County

Duval county and The City of Jacksonville merged in 1968, creating a single entity governing all of Duval County with the exception of the beach communities (Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach and Jacksonville Beach) and Baldwin. Jacksonville covers almost 900 square miles and ranks as the 14th largest city in the United States in population with more than 800,000 residents.

Beyond the Downtown Jacksonville skyline you'll find cute riverfront streets full of boutiques, Bed and Breakfasts and quaint sidewalk cafes, not to mention busy business districts with shopping malls and upscale restaurants. Of course, the city also boasts a lot of breathtaking, undeveloped landscape with miles of sandy white beaches and a paradise for hiking, camping and other water sports. Best of all, regardless of where you go, you'll find the city's unique Southern hospitality.

Jacksonville has come to be known as Florida's "First Coast," largely because of its beaches, which, unlike many in Florida, remain relatively unspoiled and unfenced. Beach communities in Duval County (Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach) feature offer some of the best boating, sport fishing, and water sport opportunities in the United States.

6. Big Talbot Island State Park

Location: 20 miles east of Jacksonville on A1A, between Amelia and Little Talbot Islands

Phone: 904-251-2320

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/bigtalbotisland>

Hours: 8 am to sunset

Parking: \$2/vehicle

Amenities: boat ramp, fishing pier, nature trails, restrooms, picnic tables, grills

Activities: fishing, wildlife viewing, birding, canoeing, kayaking, boating

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park

The Best Restaurants in Duval County

North Beach Bistro
Atlantic Beach

Matthew's
Jacksonville

Take Away Gourmet
Jacksonville

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Located on one of Northeast Florida's unique sea islands, Big Talbot Island State Park is primarily a natural preserve providing a premier location for nature study, bird-watching, and photography.

Visit The Bluffs (this island has bluffs, not dunes) and enjoy a picnic at one of the pavilions overlooking the water or take a quick stroll down the trail to Boneyard Beach. The beach is



uniquely famous for its salt washed skeletons of live oak and cedar trees, which once grew near the shore. No swimming is allowed in this park.

7. Little Talbot Island State Park

Location: just south of Big Talbot Island State Park. I-95, Exit 358A, then east for 17 miles.

Phone: 904-251-2320.

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/littletalbotisland/>

Hours: 8 am to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: 4.5 miles of beaches, restrooms, outdoor showers, full facility camping, interpretative ranger programs, nature trails, handicapped accessible

Activities: guided segway trips, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, shelling camping, surfing, hiking, biking, volleyball, birding, hiking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: To rent a kayak or go on a guided paddle tour of the inland waters contact Kayak Amelia at (888) 30-KAYAK (305-2925). If you prefer dry land, try a Segway tour of Fort George Island or Little Talbot Island via Ecomotion Tours.

8. Huguenot Park

Location: 10980 Heckscher Drive on Fort George Island

Phone: 904-249-4700 (City of Jacksonville)

Website: <http://www.coj.net>

Hours: 8 AM - 8 PM, April - October and 8 AM - 6 PM, November - March.

Parking: \$1 per person 8 - 10 AM, then \$3 per car with up to six persons

Amenities: Lifeguards, boat ramp, camping, concession, picnic shelters, grills, playground, restrooms, volleyball, visitor/interpretive center, showers, handicapped access

Activities: surfing, camping, beach driving, swimming, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: This park is bounded by ocean, inlet and river and is designated a Great Florida Birding Trail site by the Florida Fish

and Wildlife Conservation Commission because of the outstanding habitat. Lifeguards in season.

9. Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

Location: 500 Wonderwood Drive, Jacksonville

Phone: 904-249-4700 (City of Jacksonville)

Website: <http://www.coj.net>

Hours: 8 am - 8 PM April-Oct., 8 am - 6 PM, Nov.-March

Parking: \$1 per person 8 AM to 10 AM, and then \$3 per car from 10 AM to close.

Amenities: 1.5 miles of beach, lifeguards, RV campsites, tent campsites, 60-acre freshwater lake, water playground, picnic areas, 20 miles of scenic trails for biking and hiking, "the poles" surfing spot, concessions, restrooms, showers, handicapped access, cabins

Activities: surfing, swimming, fishing, beach driving, canoeing, kayaking

Pets: Yes, on leashes

10. Atlantic Beach

Location: Ocean Blvd. & Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach

Phone: 904-247-9828 (Atlantic Beach Recreation Department)

Website: <http://www.ci.atlantic-beach.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: limited, free on street parking at Atlantic and ends of streets at accesses north of Atlantic

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, lifeguards, showers, restrooms at Bull Memorial Park, 7th & Ocean, restaurants on Atlantic Blvd.

Activities: swimming, fishing shelling, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Atlantic Beach is a small beach village with a "Town Center" of shops and restaurants.

11. Neptune Beach

Location: adjacent to Atlantic Beach

Phone: 904-270-2423 (Neptune Beach Public Works)

Website: <http://www.ci.neptune-beach.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: limited free on street parking

Amenities: Seasonal lifeguards, no facilities

Activities: surfing, swimming, fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, before 9 AM after 5 PM

Of Special Interest: primarily a residential community, but next to



Atlantic Beach/Blvd with restaurants, shops, restrooms.

12. Jacksonville Beach

Location: east of Jacksonville, between the Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. 1st Street runs along the Ocean, Beach Blvd. is the center of the beach area.

Phone: 904-247-6100 (City of Jacksonville Beach)

Website: <http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: free lots and street parking at many locations at the beach and more one block west

Amenities: 4.1 miles white sandy beaches, restaurants on Beach Blvd., fishing pier, restrooms at 2nd Avenue North, 5th Avenue North & 19th Avenue North, handicap accessible ramps at 5th Avenue North, Beach Blvd, 1st street and 6th Avenue South, beach wheelchairs at lifeguard station, 904-249-9141.

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, volleyball

Pets: Yes, before 9 am after 5 PM.

Of Special Interest: The Jacksonville Beach Fishing Pier, nearly a quarter of a mile long, offers anglers access to deep-water species of fish. Open daily 6 AM - 10 PM. The site offers a concession and bait shop and restrooms, and is wheel-chair accessible. The pier is located oceanfront at North 1st Street and 5th Avenue.

Oceanfront Park, 1st Street South between 5th & 6th Avenues South is a 2-acre oceanfront park with four sheltered picnic areas, educational kiosk system, sand volleyball court, small children's playground, two dune walkovers, handicapped-accessible ramp & restrooms.



St. John's County

With over 40 miles of scenic coastline, St. Johns County beaches feature some of the best wildlife viewing and recreational opportunities in the entire state. Within minutes of the historic downtown St. Augustine district, you can park off-beach and walk, sunbathe, fish or enjoy wildlife viewing along endless miles of pristine coastline or park directly on the sand and enjoy a dip in the surf near one of the several staffed lifeguard towers.

The beaches have several miles of coquina and white soft sand set against a backdrop of natural dunes topped with sea oats. St. Johns County has lots of beach front parks with easy access to most of its beaches.

13. Mickler's Beachfront Park

Location: 1109 ½ Ponte Vedra Blvd., A1A, South end of Ponte Vedra Beach

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfll.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: free lot

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, restrooms, showers, handicapped accessible dune walkover, grills, and horseback riding

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, horseback riding, beach driving

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Horseback riding permitted year round with special beach use permit. For more information or to obtain a horseback riding permit, contact the St. Johns County Beach Services via phone at (904) 209-3740.

14. Guana-Tolomato-Matanza National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM Research Reserve)

Location: between Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine at 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach

Phone: 904-823-4500

Website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/gtm>

Hours: Beaches 8 AM - sunset

The Best Restaurants in St. John's County

Restaurant Medure
Ponte Vedra Beach

The Tasting Room
St. Augustine

95 Cordova in The Casa Monica Hotel
St. Augustine

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates



Parking: three beach parking lots on the west side of A1A. The parking lot at south beach is wheelchair accessible. \$3/vehicle.

Amenities: 73,352 acres, 4 miles of beach, excellent educational opportunities, dune walkover, hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails, boat ramp

Activities: fishing, shelling, swimming, hiking, biking, horseback riding, boating, camping, canoeing, kayaking

Pets: on trails on leashes, not on beaches

Of Special Interest: The GTMNERR education center is a perfect place to stop for the day and visit. Just across A1A (from the education center) are beautiful beaches offering an occasional Right Whale sighting.

15. South Ponte Vedra Beach

Location: 2.25 miles south of GTM Research Reserve on A1A, South Ponte Vedra Beach

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfl.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: limited, free lot

Amenities: restrooms, covered picnic tables, grills, stairs to beach

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leashes

16. Surfside

Location: 3070 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine, ½ mile north of Vilano Beach

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfl.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, dune walkover, showers, picnic tables

Activities: sunbathing, fishing, horseback riding, 4 x 4 beach driving, swimming.

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Horseback riding is allowed north of the Surfside access ramp year round with special beach use permit. Beach driving and parking are permissible with a special beach

use permit. To get one, go to <http://www.sjcfl.us/HCP/Permits.aspx>

17. Vilano Beach

Location: 2 miles north of downtown St. Augustine, on Highway A1A, just over New Vilano Bridge

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfl.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, dune walkover, covered picnic tables, and showers, waterspray for children, handicapped accessible

Activities: fishing, swimming, sunbathing, beach driving, surfing, shelling

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: A friendly group of porpoises used to frequent the inlet side, hence the name Porpoise Point.

Porpoises are rarely seen in the waters and now you will most likely see bottlenose dolphins hunting for fish and splashing in the water. A manatee may occasionally make an appearance as well. The area is also home to the Least Tern, which nest on Porpoise Point through the summer and are state threatened.

18. Anastasia State Park

Location: just south of St. Augustine on Anastasia Island

Phone: 904-461-2033

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/anastasia>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 4 miles of beach, several miles of park roads for biking, 139 camping sites for RVs and tents, archeological site, nature trails, full facility campground

Activities: surfing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing, windsurfing, hiking, wildlife viewing, camping

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Island Joe's camp store, rental shop, and grill sells beach sundries, camping and fishing supplies, rents bicycles, beach chairs, ocean toys and umbrellas. Anastasia



Watersports offers canoes, paddleboats, sailboards, and kayaks for rent. Lessons available.

For some of the better surfing on the eastern coast of Florida, try Anastasia State Park, which features four miles of beach break where visitors can spread out and enjoy.

19. St. Augustine Beach

Location: On Anastasia Island, 4 miles south of downtown St. Augustine on A1A, St. Augustine Beach.

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfll.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: free lot and street parking

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, seasonal lifeguards, splash park, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, visitor center, fishing pier, tackle shop, bocce court, handicapped accessible, restaurants & beachside bars, surf shops, volleyball courts

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, sunbathing, parasailing, beach driving.

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: The SJC Ocean Fishing Pier is the first of the pedestrian access points within the City of St. Augustine Beach limits

20. Frank B. Butler County Park

Location: 5860 A1A South, 2 miles south of St. Augustine Beach

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfll.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: free lot

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, restrooms, dune walkover, picnic tables, showers, boat ramp on the Intracoastal

Activities: beach driving, swimming, fishing, sunbathing, boating, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leashes

21. Crescent Beach

Location: 6930 A1A South, 3 miles south of St. Augustine Beach

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfll.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 5 miles of beach, seasonal lifeguards, restrooms, dune walkover, covered picnic tables, showers, beachfront restaurant

Activities: swimming, fishing, beach driving, horseback riding, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Horseback Riding during designated times only with special permit.

22. Matanzas Beach

Location: southern tip of Anastasia Island, at the Matanzas Inlet 7.5 miles south of St. Augustine Beach, Highway A1A

Phone: 904-209-0333

Website:

http://www.sjcfll.us/BCC/Parks_1_Recreation/Beaches/index.aspx

Hours: 24 hours, except turtle nesting season

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 3 miles of beach, restrooms, dune walkover, handicapped accessible, Fort Matanzas National Monument Visitor Center is located across the street with ferry rides and fort tours, history talks and nature walks

Activities: swimming, beach driving, shelling, fishing, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leashes



Flagler County

Flagler County, home to Flagler Beach and Palm Coast, offers more than 19 miles of untouched Florida beaches making a perfect destination for beachcombing, surfing, water sports or just relaxing in the sun. If you are looking for leisure activities, a variety of beautiful Florida State and Flagler County parks offer canoeing, kayaking, hiking, bird watching, tennis, biking, fresh and salt water fishing and historical experiences and tours.

23. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

Location: 2 miles south of Marineland on A1A

Phone: 386-446-6780

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/washingtonoaks/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: beaches, nature trails, biking areas, interpretive exhibits, playgrounds, visitor center

Activities: hiking, fishing, biking, picnicking (no swimming)

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: Although the formal gardens are the centerpiece of this 425 acre park, Washington Oaks is also famous for the unique shoreline of coquina rock formations that line its Atlantic beach. The gardens make use of native and exotic plant species, from camellias and azaleas to the bird of paradise.

24. Malacompra Beach Park

Location: end of Malacompra Road in Hammock

Phone: 904-437-7490 (Flagler County Parks & Recreation)

Website: <http://www.flaglerparks.com/recreation/beach.htm>

Hours: dawn to 11 PM

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, walking trail, dune walkover,

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: beware of strong undercurrents

The Best Restaurants in Flagler County

The Flagler Fish Company

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

25. Old Salt Road Park

Location: at the end of Old Salt Road in Hammock

Phone: 904-437-7490 Flagler County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.flaglerparks.com/recreation/beach.htm>

Hours: dawn to 11 PM

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: less rocky than Malacompra and Jungle Hut

26. Jungle Hut Road Park

Location: at the end of Jungle Hut Road in Hammock

Phone: 904-437-7490 (Flagler County Parks & Recreation)

Website: <http://www.flaglerparks.com/recreation/beach.htm>

Hours: dawn to 11 PM

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, outdoor shower, dune walkover

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, on leashes

27. Varn Beach Park

Location: A1A, Beverly Beach



Phone: 904-437-7490 (Flagler County Parks & Recreation)

Website: <http://www.flaglerparks.com/recreation/beach.htm>

Hours: dawn to 11 PM

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leashes

28. Beverly Beach

Location: south end of Beverly Beach on A1A

Phone: 904-437-7490 Flagler County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.flaglerparks.com/recreation/beach.htm>

Hours: dawn to 11 PM

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing

Pets: Yes, on leashes

29. Flagler Beach

Location: S.R. 100 east to beach.

Phone: 386-517-2031 City of Flagler Beach, Beach Services

Website: <http://www.cityofflaglerbeach.com/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free on street

Amenities: 6 miles of beach, lifeguards, restrooms, fishing pier, restaurants, handicapped accessible, handicapped wheelchairs, call to reserve

Activities: surfing, swimming, fishing, shelling

Pets: Yes, on leashes in designated areas

Of Special Interest: The City is home to many great fishing spots including the Flagler Beach Municipal Pier, restaurants with ocean front dining, gift shops and a whole host of recreational facilities. The Intracoastal Waterway flows through the town offering numerous opportunities for boaters and fishers. Surf the third largest break in Florida.

30. Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area

Location: In Flagler Beach off A1A

Phone: 386-517-2086

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/gamblerogers>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: boat ramp, campfire circle, RV & tent campsites, biking areas, nature trails, picnic tables and grills, ½ mile beach, interpretive exhibits and guided tours

Activities: snorkeling, biking, hiking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, camping, surfing, birding, wildlife viewing, surfing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, this windswept park is named for Florida folk singer Gamble Rogers and railroad entrepreneur Henry Flagler. The beach, not surprisingly, is the park's most popular feature. A nature trail runs through a shady forest of saw palmetto and scrub oaks. A boat ramp allows boaters and canoeists to launch from the Intracoastal Waterway. The park's campground (full facility) overlooks the Atlantic Ocean; it is a short boardwalk walk from the beach.

Central East Florida



- 1 North Peninsula State Park
- 2 Ormond-by-the-Sea
- 3 Ormond Beach
- 4 Daytona Beach
- 5 Daytona Beach Shores
- 6 Wilbur-by-the-Sea
- 7 Ponce Inlet
- 8 Lighthouse Point
- 9 Smyrna Dunes Park
- 10 New Smyrna Beach
- 11 Bethune Beach
- 12 Apollo Beach
- 13 Klondike Beach
- 14 Playalinda Beach
- 15 Jetty Park
- 16 Cherie Down Park
- 17 Cape Canaveral
- 18 Avon-by-the-Sea
- 19 Cocoa Beach
- 20 Shepard Park
- 21 Sidney Fischer Park
- 22 Lori Wilson Park
- 23 Seacrest Beach
- 24 Robert P. Murkshe Park
- 25 South Cocoa
- 26 Crescent Beach
- 27 Seagull Park
- 28 S.P.R.A.
- 29 Hightower Beach
- 30 Satellite Beach
- 31 Pelican Beach Park
- 32 Richard G. Edgeton Park
- 33 Canova Beach Park
- 34 Paradise Beach
- 35 James H. Nance Park
- 36 Ocean Avenue Park
- 37 Spesser Holland Park
- 38 Coconut Point Park
- 39 Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge
- 40 Bonsteel Park
- 41 Sebastian Inlet State Park
- 42 Sebastian Inlet State Park South Side
- 43 Amber Sands Beach Park
- 44 Treasure Shores Beach Park
- 45 Golden Sands Beach Park

- 46 Wabasso Beach Park
- 47 Sea Grape Beach
- 48 Turtle Trail Beach
- 49 Tracking Station Beach
- 50 Jaycee Beach Park
- 51 Humiston Park
- 52 Riomar Beach
- 53 South Beach Park
- 54 Round Island Park
- 55 Avalon Beach State Park
- 56 Bryn Mawr Beach
- 57 Pepper Park
- 58 Fort Pierce Inlet State Park
- 59 South Jetty Park
- 60 South Beach
- 61 Surfside Park/Kimberly Bergalis Park
- 62 Coconut Drive Park
- 63 Frederick Douglass Beach
- 64 Middle Cove Beach
- 65 Blind Creek Beach
- 66 Turtle Beach Nature Trail
- 67 Walton Rocks Beach
- 68 Herman's Bay
- 69 Normandy Beach
- 70 Dollman Park
- 71 Waveland Beach





CENTRAL EAST

Volusia County

Volusia County's 47 miles of Atlantic Ocean beaches are a world-class playground. Early automotive industry pioneers like Louis Chevrolet and Henry Ford spent leisure time in the sun and found that the gentle slope, hard packed sand, and wide expanse of beach was the perfect spot for early auto racing. Ormond Beach, in fact, is known as the "Birthplace of Speed."

Volusia County's world famous beaches attract millions of visitors each year. The sparkly white sands of New Smyrna Beach and Daytona Beach offer a variety of clean, safe, environmentally-friendly recreational opportunities.

Relax, read a book, cast a line into the surf, swim, or build sand castles with your kids. Roll down your windows, turn up the radio and enjoy a cruise in your car on the wide and hard-packed sand. A local tradition, beach driving dates back to the early automobile days.

The beach is open (to vehicles) sunrise to sunset from November 1 to April 30 and from 8 AM-7 PM from May 1 through October 31. \$5 per day/per vehicle fee for beach driving February 1 through November 30. Season beach passes are available; \$20 (Volusia County residents); \$40 (non-residents). Daily passes and seasonal passes can ONLY be purchased at tollbooths.

1. North Peninsula State Park

Location: A1A, 4 miles south of Flagler Beach

Phone: 386-517-2086

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/northpeninsula>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: free, no admission fee

Amenities: 2.5 miles of beach, hiking & nature trails, picnic areas, restrooms

The Best Restaurants in Volusia County

Martini's Chophouse
South Daytona

La Crepe en Haut
Ormond Beach

Aunt Catfish's on the River
Port Orange

Ocean Deck Restaurant & Beach Club,
Daytona

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

Activities: hiking, swimming, shelling, fishing, birding

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: This Florida haven shelters rare creatures such as Florida scrub-jays, indigo snakes, and gopher tortoises. Bird-watchers will love the numerous native and migratory species throughout the park.

2. Ormond-by-the-Sea

Location: Tom Renick Park and Bicentennial Park on A1A in Ormond-by-the-Sea, 5 miles north of Daytona Beach

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours



Parking: free lots

Amenities: 2.5 miles of beach, lifeguards

Tom Renick Park: sheltered picnic areas, children's playground with padded floor, restrooms, water fountain, outdoor showers, handicapped accessible, handicapped surf chair

Bicentennial Park: baseball field, basketball court, boardwalk, community building, fishing dock, football/soccer field, nature walk, pavilion, picnic area playground, racquetball court, restrooms, shuffleboard, tennis court, volleyball court, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, hiking, sports as listed above

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: No beach driving in Ormond-by-the-Sea

3. Ormond Beach

Location: A1A just north of Daytona Beach

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours, autos: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot at Harvard

Amenities: 3 miles of beach, seasonal lifeguards, concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, dune crossovers, restrooms at Cardinal, Harvard, Williams, Riverview & Glenview, handicapped surf chairs at Cardinal Lifeguard Station

Activities: swimming, beach driving, fishing, shelling, surfing, volleyball, showers

Pets: no

4. Daytona Beach

Location: 92 E to the Ocean

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours, autos: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots at International Speedway Blvd, Silver Beach Avenue & Braddock Avenue (Sun Splash Park,) limited free street parking at most beach ramps

Amenities: 5 miles of beaches, restrooms at International Speedway Blvd., Silver Beach Avenue, Braddock Avenue & Sunsplash Park, lifeguards, showers, concessions, boardwalk, picnic tables, fishing pier, handicapped accessible & handicapped

wheelchairs available at Main St. Lifeguard Station

Activities: swimming, beach driving, jogging, surfing, fishing, bodysurfing, biking, volleyball, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The beach, at low tide, is 500 feet wide!

5. Daytona Beach Shores

Location: A1A South of Daytona Beach

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours, autos: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots

Amenities: 5.5 miles of beach, lifeguards, concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, fishing pier, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, beach driving, surfing, volleyball, fishing, jogging, bodysurfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Frank Rendon Park at 2705 Atlantic Ave., features sheltered picnic areas, grills, children's playground with padded floor, restrooms, water fountain, outdoor showers, 141 off-street parking spaces, handicapped parking, wheelchair accessible wooden beach walkway, wooden observation deck & beach wheels. Daytona Beach Shores is a resort and retirement community and much more sedate than its neighbor to the north.

6. Wilbur-by-the-Sea

Location: A1A, seven miles south of Daytona Beach

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lots

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, lifeguards, portable toilets

Activities: surfing, swimming, shelling, fishing, volleyball

Pets: No

Of Special Interest: Beach driving prohibited.

7. Ponce Inlet

Location: A1A, nine miles south of Daytona Beach

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services



Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours, autos: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots

Amenities: 2.5 miles of beaches, concessions, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers

Activities: swimming, volleyball, surfing, beach driving, fishing

Pets: no

8. Lighthouse Point Park

Location: A1A at Ponce Inlet

Phone: 386-756-7488 Lighthouse Point Park

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 6 AM to 9 PM

Parking: \$3.50/vehicle

Amenities: protected inlet beach, fishing jetty, showers, restrooms, nature trails, seasonal lifeguards, visitor center, museum

Activities: swimming, fishing, hiking

Pets: yes, on leashes on inlet side

Of Special Interest: The 175 foot tall beautiful red brick lighthouse, just outside the park, was built in 1887 and is the second tallest lighthouse in the US. Walk to the top!

9. Smyrna Dunes Park

Location: end of Peninsula Avenue, Smyrna Beach

Phone: 386-424-2935 Park Manager

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$3.50/vehicle

Amenities: 1.5 mile dune walkover, educational programs, fishing, guided nature walks, nature trails, observation tower, pavilions, picnic tables, restrooms, jetty, pier

Activities: swimming, hiking, wildlife viewing, walking, fishing, surfing

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: 73 acres of pristine land at the northern tip of the New Smyrna Beach peninsula, the area is surrounded by water on three sides. Waters from the Indian River flow through Ponce Inlet and into the Atlantic Ocean providing a variety of fishing or swimming venues for park visitors. The park also offers a chance for for ecologists, naturalists, students and

the public to see a range of wildlife, reptiles, birds, marine life and vegetation, all in their natural habitat. More than two miles of elevated boardwalks, pavilions and picnic areas, and an observation tower help protect the natural environs. The area also offers some of the best surfing in the United States.

10. New Smyrna Beach

Location: A1A, 20 miles south of Daytona Beach

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours, autos: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots

Amenities: concessions, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, lifeguards, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, volleyball, beach driving, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: restaurants & shops can be found on Flagler Avenue along with a large parking lot and restrooms

11. Bethune Beach (Mary McLeod Bethune Beach Park)

Location: south end of New Smyrna Beach

Phone: 386-239-7873 Volusia County Beach Services

Website: <http://www.volusia.org/beach/>

Hours: 24 hours, autos: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots

Amenities: 3 miles of beach, lifeguards, concessions, restrooms, picnic tables and grills, showers, handicapped access, basketball court, boardwalk, canoe launch, boat ramp, community building, fishing dock, pavilion, playground, tennis courts, volleyball

Activities: beach driving, swimming, sports activities, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Nestled upon six acres between the Halifax River and the Atlantic Ocean, this quiet spot features a boardwalk on the oceanside and a fishing pier on the riverside where visitors often catch a glimpse of manatees.

12. Apollo Beach (Canaveral National Seashore)

Location: A1A, 9 miles south of New Smyrna Beach



Phone: 386-428-3384 (Visitor Center)

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/cana>

Hours: Winter: 6 AM to 6 PM, Summer: 6 AM to 8 PM

Parking: \$3/person

Amenities: boat ramp, beach & island tent campsites, handicapped access, lots 1A & 5, handicapped wheelchair, restrooms, outdoor showers, visitor center with restrooms, archeological sites, canoe rentals

Activities: horseback riding, swimming, camping, shelling, boating, fishing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes on lagoon side, not beach

Of Special Interest: Canaveral National Seashore has 24 miles of barrier island beaches, 150 archeological sites. Camping allowed November 1-April 15. Canaveral National Seashore is a very important nesting area for many species of threatened and/or endangered sea turtles. Up to 4,500 nests have been noted each summer along the 24 protected miles of beach area. UNOFFICIAL nude beach south of Lot #5, the last of 5 parking lots. You can ride horses with a permit between November & mid-April.

▷ About Florida's Manatee

The Florida manatee is Florida's state marine mammal. A relative of the elephant, Manatees are grayish brown and have thick, wrinkly skin that often appears to have a growth of algae. The front flippers of manatees help them steer or even crawl through shallow water. They also have strong flat tails that propel them through the water.

Despite their little eyes and the fact that they have no outer ears, it is believed that manatees can see and hear very well. The largest population of them is found in Florida, which houses some 3,000. The animals grow to be up to 12 feet in length and up to 1,800 lbs in weight. They can live to be as old as 60 years.

Manatees are found in the warm water of shallow bays, rivers, estuaries and coastal areas. They rarely swim in waters less than 68 degrees. Manatees are well known for their gentle and slow nature, and have even been known to body surf when playing. When showing fear, stress or excitement, manatees will communicate by squealing under water.

Manatees are listed as endangered at both federal and state levels, with the main known cause of death being boat strikes; propellers and hulls from boats can inflict serious wounds on the animals.



Brevard County

Just 35 miles east of Orlando, Brevard County prides itself as the home of Kennedy Space Center, the only facility in the world that launches the Space Shuttle, Port Canaveral, the second-busiest cruise port in the world, 72 miles of beautiful Atlantic Ocean beaches and the largest collection of endangered wildlife and plants in the continental United States.

One of the greatest parts of living on Florida's Space Coast is that many of its cultural events and fine dining opportunities can be enjoyed outdoors. Downtown revitalization features trendy restaurants and cozy nightclubs, as evidenced by Titusville, The Cocoa, and Melbourne historical downtown area.

Brevard County boasts three of "Florida's Ten Best Beaches," as declared by Southern Living, along with six others. Over 100 of the best surfing spots on the East Coast can be found here. Whether you are a pro or a grommet, you'll be able to find a killer spot.

13. Klondike Beach (Canaveral National Seashore)

Location: between Apollo Beach & Playalinda Beach, in the middle of Canaveral National Seashore

Phone: 386-428-3384 (Visitor Center)

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/cana>

Hours: Winter: 6 AM to 6 PM, Summer: 6 AM to 8 PM

Parking: not accessible by car or foot, use entrances in Apollo Beach & Playalinda Beach

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, walking, snorkeling, back country hiking, surfing, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Klondike Beach is designated as the backcountry area of Canaveral National Seashore. Permits are required and cost \$2/per person, available at the park entrance stations. Limited backcountry camping permitted on certain designated islands throughout the year.

The Best Restaurants in Brevard County

Pompano Grill
Cocoa Beach

Squid Lips Overview Grill
Melbourne

Bacco Wine Café
Melbourne

Ristorante Claretta
Palm City

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

14. Playalinda Beach

Location: end of FL Route 406/402, Titusville

Phone: 386-428-3384 (Visitor Center)

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/cana>

Hours: Winter: 6 AM to 6 PM, Summer: 6 AM to 8 PM

Parking: 13 free lots

Amenities: Handicapped Accessible at Eddy Creek and lot #8, beach wheelchairs, restrooms, boat ramp, fishing pier, canoe/kayak launch

Activities: swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, shelling, hiking, surfing, fishing

Pets: yes, on leashes on lagoon side only

Of Special Interest: North of lot #13 is known as a clothing optional beach, although there is a Brevard County ordinance that does not allow it.

15. Jetty Park



Location: 400 Jetty Road, Cape Canaveral

Phone: 321-783-7111

Website:

<http://www.portcanaveral.com/recreation/beaches.php>

Hours: 7 AM to 9 PM for day visitors

Parking: \$7/vehicle

Amenities: fishing pier, bait & tackle shop, 126 site campground both full facility and tent, 4.5 acre beach, pavilions, picnic areas, restrooms, showers, boardwalk, observation deck, handicapped accessible, lifeguards

Activities: swimming, fishing, camping, volleyball, concessions

Pets: yes, campsites only

Of Special Interest: Jetty Park is one of the most popular recreation spots in Brevard County. One of the park's most beloved features is the Malcolm E. McLouth Fishing Pier - open 24 hours, 1,200 feet in size, paved, lighted, equipped with fish-cleaning tables with running water and it's handicapped accessible.

16. Cherie Down Park

Location: 8492 Ridgewood Ave, Cape Canaveral

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free lots

Amenities: restrooms, water fountain, outdoor showers, picnic shelter, grills, dune crossover, boardwalk, seasonal lifeguards, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: access 2.3 miles of beaches in Cape Canaveral from this peaceful neighborhood park

17. Cape Canaveral

Location: Ridgewood Avenue, Cape Canaveral

Phone: 321-868-1240 Cape Canaveral Public Works

Website: http://www.myflorida.com/cape/public_works.html

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lots & street parking

Amenities: handicapped accessible, 2.3 miles of beach, restrooms at Cherie Down Park only, beach trolley

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, fishing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The 1.9 square mile beach and coastal community of Cape Canaveral is bounded on the west by the Banana River, on the north by Port Canaveral, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by Cocoa Beach. Next to the port's north side is the John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA. Patrick Air Force Base is seven miles south of the city. The strategic Florida location puts the city in the heart of America's space facilities and right next to Port Canaveral, which is the only deep water port between Jacksonville and Fort Lauderdale.

18. Avon-by-the-Sea

Location: Ridgewood Avenue, Cape Canaveral

Phone: 321-868-1240 Cape Canaveral Public Works

Website: http://www.myflorida.com/cape/public_works.html

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lots & street parking

Amenities: handicapped accessible, 2.3 miles of beaches, restrooms at Cherie Down Park only, beach trolley

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, fishing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The 1.9 square mile beach and coastal community of Cape Canaveral is bounded on the west by the Banana River, on the north by Port Canaveral, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by Cocoa Beach. Adjacent to the north side of the Port is the John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA. Seven miles south is Patrick Air Force Base. This strategic Florida location puts the city in the center of the country's space facilities, right next to Port Canaveral, which is the only deep water port between Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville.

19. Cocoa Beach

Location: end of SR 520, Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-868-3252 Cocoa Beach Parks Department

Website: <http://www.cityofcocoabeach.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered street parking and/or lots at street ends, \$1/hour

Amenities: 6 miles of beach with 40 access points and a beach trolley, handicapped accessible, lifeguards, fishing pier,



restrooms at the parks

Activities: swimming, fishing, walking, fishing, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Widely known as the surfing capital of the East Coast, Cocoa Beach is the hometown of surfing champions. Cocoa Beach Pier has been a favorite for over forty six years. Originally a small fishing pier and now a landmark, you will find restaurants, bars, souvenir shops & rental concessions.

20. Shepard Park

Location: end of SR 520, Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-868-3252 Cocoa Beach Parks Department

Website: <http://www.cityofcocoabeach.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$7-\$10/day

Amenities: five acres, picnic tables, showers, restrooms, shops within walking distance, beach trolley, surfboard rentals, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, fishing, lifeguards, restaurant

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: provides great views of space launches

21. Sidney Fischer Park

Location: 1 mile south of SR 520 Bridge on A1A, Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-868-3252 (Cocoa Beach Parks Department)

Website: <http://www.cityofcocoabeach.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, restrooms, picnic shelters, showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, fishing, lifeguards, restaurant

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: provides great views of space launches

22. Lori Wilson Park

Location: 1500 N. Atlantic Ave, 1.4 mile south of SR 520 Bridge, Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free lots

Amenities: 32 acres, beach pavilions and grills, 1,000 foot boardwalk, 6 dune crossovers, seasonal lifeguards, nearby concessions, restrooms, outdoor showers, drinking fountains, playground, sand volleyball court, dog park, nature trails

Activities: swimming, walking, fishing, birding, sunbathing

Pets: only in Dog Park

Of Special Interest: The 3,155' interpretive boardwalk at the Maritime Hammock is accessed from the north parking lot, or by paved walkway from the south parking lot. Listed in State of Florida Great Florida Birding Trail; see migratory Songbirds, Painted Buntings, Florida Scrub-jays, Shorebirds, Seabirds and up to 15 Warbler species during spring migration.

23. Seacrest Beach

Location: south of Lori Wilson Park, Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-868-3252 Cocoa Beach Parks Department

Website: <http://www.cityofcocoabeach.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered street parking and/or lots at street ends, \$1/hour

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: less crowded than beaches to the north

24. Robert P. Murkshe Park

Location: 1600 Atlantic Avenue S., Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free lots

Amenities: 2.5 acres, dune walkover, restrooms, outdoor shower, picnic shelter

Activities: swimming, surfing, fishing

Pets: no

25. South Cocoa

Location: between 4th St and South 15th St, Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-868-3252 Cocoa Beach Parks Department

Website:



<http://www.cityofcocoabeach.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered street parking and/or lots at street ends, \$1/hour

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, walking, fishing, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Widely known as the surfing capital of the East Coast, Cocoa Beach is the hometown of surfing champions. South Cocoa Beaches are narrower and much less crowded than the beaches in North Cocoa.

26. Crescent Beach

Location: South Cocoa Beach area @ 35th St. & A1A

Phone: 321-868-3252 Cocoa Beach Parks Department

Website:

<http://www.cityofcocoabeach.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered street parking and/or lots at street ends, \$1/hour

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, walking, sunbathing, shelling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Widely known as the surfing capital of the East Coast, Cocoa Beach is the hometown of surfing champions. South Cocoa Beaches are narrower and much less crowded than the beaches in North Cocoa.

27. Seagull Park

Location: 285 Highway A1A, Satellite Beach

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free small lot

Amenities: 1.6 acre park, picnic tables, outdoor showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing

Pets: No

28. S.P.R.A. Park (South Patrick Residents Association)

Location: 499 Highway A1A, Satellite Beach

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

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Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free small lot

Amenities: .83 acre park, dune crossover, outdoor shower

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

29. Hightower Beach

Location: 4.5 miles south of SR 404 on A1A in Satellite Beach.

Phone: 321-773-6458 Satellite Beach Recreation Department

Website:

<http://www.satellitebeach.org/Recreation/RecHightower.htm>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, outdoor showers, picnic pavilion, observation pavilions, 560 foot boardwalk to the beach, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, swimming, walking, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: no

30. Satellite Beach

Location: A1A, 10 miles south of Cocoa Beach

Phone: 321-773-6458 Satellite Beach Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.satellitebeach.org/Recreation/RecHightower.htm>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: free lots at the ends of six streets between Grant & Palmetto

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

31. Pelican Beach Park

Location: 1525 A1A, Satellite Beach

Phone: 321-773-6458 Satellite Beach Recreation Department

Website:

<http://www.satellitebeach.org/Recreation/RecHightower.htm>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: free lot

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, volleyball courts, pavilions, grills, playground, restrooms, showers, dune crossovers,



handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, volleyball, sunbathing, walking.

Pets: no

32. Richard G. Edgeton Park (Bicentennial Park)

Location: Just North of Pinetree Drive on A1A, Indian Harbour Beach

Phone: 321-773-0553 Indian Harbor Beach Parks & Recreation

Website:

<http://www.indianharbourbeach.org/>

Hours: dawn to dusk

Parking: free lot

Amenities: picnic tables, showers, portable toilets, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, shelling, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no

33. Canova Beach Park

Location: 3299 Highway A1A at the end of Eau Gallie Causeway, Indian Harbor Beach

Phone: 321-773-0553 Indian Harbor Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.indianharbourbeach.org/>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 9.1 acres, pavilion, grill, picnic shelter, restrooms, outdoor showers drinking fountain, dune crossover, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, sunbathing

Pets: no

34. Paradise Beach (Howard E. Futch Memorial Park)

Location: 2301 N. Highway A1A, 1.1 miles south of Eau Gallie Parkway, Melbourne

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free small lot

Amenities: 12 acres, restrooms, volleyball courts, dune walkovers, seasonal lifeguards, pavilions and grills, outdoor showers, playground, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, shelling, sunbathing

Pets: no

35. James H. Nance Park

Location: 201 N. Miramar Avenue (A1A) between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, Indialantic

Phone: 321-723-2242

Website: <http://www.indialantic.com>

Hours: sunrise to 1:30 AM

Parking: metered parking lot, .75/hour

Amenities: volleyball court, restrooms, outdoor showers, picnic shelters, seasonal lifeguards, handicapped access

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

36. Ocean Avenue Park

Location: end of Ocean Avenue on A1A, Melbourne Beach

Phone: 321-724-5860 Melbourne Beach Public Works Department

Website: <http://www.melbournebeachfl.org>

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: gazebo, volleyball courts, showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, volleyball

Pets: no

37. Spesser Holland Park

Location: 2525 Highway A1A, 3 miles south of U.S. Highway 192, Melbourne Beach

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free small lot

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, dune crossovers, picnic shelters, grills, restrooms, water fountain, outdoor & indoor showers, handicapped accessible (south lot)

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, volleyball, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: north & south entrances with lots at both

38. Coconut Point Park

Location: 3535 S. Highway A1A, Melbourne Beach

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>



Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free small lot

Amenities: 36 acres, picnic shelter, restrooms, outdoor showers, dune walkovers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, volleyball, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge & listed in the State of Florida Great Florida Birding Trail.

39. Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge

Location: 20.5 mile stretch between Melbourne Beach & Wabasso Beach.

Phone: 772-562-3909 x 275

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/archiecarr>

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: Access to the refuge is managed through County-managed parks and Sebastian Inlet State Park

Amenities: NA

Activities: NA

Pets: The 248 acre refuge was designated to protect habitat for what is the most significant area for loggerhead sea turtle nesting in the Western Hemisphere, and the most significant area for green turtle nesting in North America.

40. Bonsteel Park

Location: 8455 Highway A1A, 14.6 miles south of Melbourne Causeway, Melbourne Beach

Phone: 321-637-5732 Brevard County Parks

Website: <http://www.brevardparks.com>

Hours: 7 AM to dark

Parking: free small lot

Amenities: 2.34 acres, restrooms, dune crossover, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

41. Sebastian Inlet State Park

Location: A1A, 15 miles south of Melbourne Beach, north side of the inlet

Phone: 321-984-4852

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/SebastianInlet/>

Hours: 24

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 3 miles of beach, 2 on the south side, 1 on the north side, paved bike paths, boat ramps, full facility camping, outdoor showers, picnic areas, nature trails, jetties, seasonal lifeguards, ranger tours, concessions, camping and fishing supplies, canoe and kayak rentals, marina

Activities: swimming, surfing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, biking, fishing, hiking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: The premier saltwater fishing spot on Florida's east coast, this park is a favorite for anglers nationwide for catching snook, redfish, bluefish, and Spanish mackerel from its jetties. Surfing is also popular, with many major competitions held here each year. Two museums offer area history. The McLarty Treasure Museum highlights the 1715 Spanish treasure fleet; the Sebastian Fishing Museum highlights the area's fishing industry.



Indian River County

Indian River County, the crown jewel of Florida's Treasure Coast, enjoys an international reputation. Centrally located 75 miles south of the Kennedy Space Center and 135 miles north of Miami, the County's 543 square miles contain beautiful beaches, immaculate ocean and river front communities and endless groves of renowned Indian River oranges and grapefruit.

The City of Vero Beach is the county seat and the largest city in the county. Open and lush greenery, pristine beaches, and ocean vistas describe this community which is also the commercial and cultural center of the area

There are ten city/county beach parks to welcome you in Indian River County.

42. Sebastian Inlet State Park South Side

Location: south side of the inlet bridge, beach access is ½ mile south of that on A1A

Phone: 321-984-4852.

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/SebastianInlet/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 3 miles of beaches, 2 on the south side, 1 on the north side, paved bike paths, boat ramps, full facility camping, outdoor showers, picnic areas, nature trails, jetties, seasonal lifeguards, ranger tours, concessions, camping and fishing supplies, canoe and kayak rentals, marina.

Activities: swimming, surfing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, camping, biking, hiking, fishing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: The premier saltwater fishing spot on Florida's east coast, this park is a favorite for anglers nationwide for catching snook, redfish, bluefish, and Spanish mackerel from its jetties. Surfing is also popular, and several large competitions are held here annually. Two museums offer area history. McLarty Treasure Museum highlights the 1715 Spanish treasure fleet's

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The Best Restaurants in Indian River County

Maison Martinique
Vero Beach

Squid Lips Overview Grill
Sebastian

River Grille
Sebastian

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

history; the Sebastian Fishing Museum highlights the area's fishing industry history. From the South side of the Park, you can access the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge.

43. Amber Sands Beach Park

Location: 12566 North A1A, six miles north of CR 510, North Indian River County

Phone: 772-567-8000 Indian River county Recreation Department

Website: <http://http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: boardwalk, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, shelling, sunbathing, boardwalk

Pets: no

44. Treasure Shores Beach Park

Location: 3 miles north of CR 510, Vero Beach



Phone: 772-567-8000 Indian River county Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: playground, water fountain, restrooms, outdoor showers, handicapped accessible, lifeguards, picnic tables
Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, fishing & surfing outside guarded areas

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: beautiful, lush grounds and vegetation

45. Golden Sands Beach Park

Location: 10350 North A1A, Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-8000 Indian River county Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: playgrounds, lifeguards, picnic pavilions, showers, restrooms, handicapped accessible
Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, fishing and surfing outside guarded areas

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: beautiful, lush grounds and vegetation

46. Wabasso Beach Park

Location: 1820 CR 510 in Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-8000 Indian River County Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, boardwalk, showers, lifeguards, beach market & restaurant, handicapped accessible
Activities: swimming, sunbathing, shelling, fishing outside guarded areas, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Disney's Vero Beach Resort is next door

47. Sea Grape Beach

Location: 8302 N. Highway A1A, ½ mile south of CR 510, Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-8000 Indian River County Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, shelling, sunbathing

Pets: no

48. Turtle Trail Beach

Location: 2.3 miles south of CR 510 on A1A, Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-8000 Indian River County Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: 7 AM to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, shelling, sunbathing

Pets: no

49. Tracking Station Beach

Location: 800 46th Place, North A1A, Indian River Shores

Location: 2.3 miles south of CR 510 on A1A, Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-8000 Indian River County Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, pavilion, picnic tables and grills, water fountain, outdoor showers, dune walkovers, lifeguards, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing & surfing outside of guarded areas, shelling, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The Town of Indian River Shores is identified with its pristine beaches and controlled growth. The Town's 7 square miles lie along State Road A1A between the Indian River Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean, adjacent to the City of Vero Beach.

50. Jaycee Beach Park

Location: 4200 Ocean Drive, one mile north of Beachland Blvd., Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-2144 (City of Vero Beach)

Website: <http://www.covb.org/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot



Amenities: restrooms, lifeguards, picnic tables & grills, showers, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, playground, boardwalk, volleyball court, restaurant

Activities: swimming, fishing & surfing outside guarded areas, shelling, sunbathing, volleyball

Pets: no

51. Humiston Park

Location: 3000 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-2144 City of Vero Beach

Website: <http://www.covb.org/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, concessions, picnic tables, small retail area

Activities: shelling, swimming, fishing & surfing outside guarded areas, sunbathing

Pets: no

52. Riomar Beach

Location: Ocean Drive & Riomar Drive, Vero Beach

Phone: 772-567-2144 City of Vero Beach

Website: <http://www.covb.org/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: limited free street parking

Amenities: none

Activities: fishing & surfing outside guarded areas, swimming, sunbathing, shelling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: favored by surfers

53. South Beach Park

Location: end of East Causeway (17th Street Bridge), east of SR A1A intersection

Phone: 772-567-2144 City of Vero Beach

Website: <http://www.covb.org/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, playground, outdoor showers, volleyball, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, concessions

Activities: fishing & surfing outside guarded areas, swimming,

sunbathing, shelling

Pets: no

54. Round Island Park

Location: 2201 Highway A1A in Vero Beach, at the Indian River/ St. Lucie County line

Phone: 772-567-8000

Website: <http://www.ircrec.com>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, picnic tables, showers, canoe/kayak launch, boat ramp, playground, handicapped accessible

Activities: canoeing, kayaking, fishing in river and outside guarded area of beach, boating, swimming

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: on both sides of A1A

▷ Blue Wave Certification (part of the Clean Beaches Council)

The Blue Wave program is a national environmental certification for beaches that helps maintain healthy and vibrant beaches across the country.

Nearly 45 beaches in Florida are certified Blue Wave Beaches as part of the program, which is managed by Clean Beaches Council. This is because of their high ratings in things like cleanliness, safety, and warning systems.



St. Lucie County

Located in the middle of one of Florida's largest business centers, St. Lucie County is just 60 miles north of West Palm Beach, 120 miles north of Miami, 120 miles southeast of Orlando, and 225 miles south of Jacksonville. Still, it's a world away in spirit. The county's 572 square miles feature two major cities: Fort Pierce (north) and Port St. Lucie (south). Beautiful Hutchinson Island also contributes to this unique environment.

St. Lucie County's Atlantic Ocean waterfront offers inspiration and recreation for visitors and a natural habitat for marine life. Considerable effort has been exerted to keep the beach habitat natural, unspoiled and accessible, and we're sure you'll agree its well worth it.

Hutchinson Island's 22 miles of beaches have 34 public beach access points.

55. Avalon Beach State Park

Location: A1A on North Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County, four miles to the north of Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park

Phone: 772-468-3985

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/avalon>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$2/vehicle

Amenities: 1 mile of beach, dune crossovers, picnic tables & grills, restrooms, outdoor showers, nature trails

Activities: canoeing and kayaking, swimming, hiking, snorkeling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: One of the state's newest seaside parks, Avalon has more than a mile of increasingly rare undeveloped beachfront. The park serves as habitat for many kinds of wildlife. Threatened and endangered sea turtles, such as the loggerhead, leatherback, and Atlantic green, nest here during the spring and summer.

Swimmers and snorkelers should be cautious of underwater obstacles that may have been left behind by warfare exercises during the World War II period.

The Best Restaurants in St. Lucie County

12A Buoy
Fort Pierce

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

56. Bryn Mawr Beach

Location: A1A, 2 miles south of Indian River County line, North Hutchinson Island

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

57. Pepper Park

Location: 3375 N A1A, North Hutchinson Island

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 52 acres, lifeguards, volleyball courts, basketball courts, tennis court, playground, picnic tables and grills, drink machines, handicapped accessible.

Activities: diving, swimming, fishing, sports activities, sunbathing.

Pets: no



Of Special Interest: Ocean to River Park with 27 acres on the river side with 2 boat docks, saltwater fishing piers, pavilions, picnic tables and grills, restrooms, a canoe/kayak launch and 2 miles of trails.

58. Fort Pierce Inlet State Park

Location: 4 miles east of Fort Pierce, via North Causeway at the southern end of North Hutchinson Island

Phone: 772-468-3985

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/fortpierceinlet>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: bike paths, nature trails, half mile of beach, youth tent campsite, reef, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, lifeguards

Activities: snorkeling, scuba, surfing, swimming, fishing, hiking, biking, observation tower, birding

Pets: yes, on the inlet side of the park, not on the beach

Of Special Interest: both ocean and inlet beaches

59. South Jetty Park

Location: south side of Fort Pierce Inlet at the end of Seaway Drive, off A1A, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: .5 acres with 1200 foot fishing jetty and boardwalk, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, showers, lifeguards

Activities: kiteboarding, fishing, swimming, shelling, snorkeling

Pets: no

60. South Beach Access

Location: 430 South A1A, S. Gulfstream Avenue & S. Ocean Drive, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, showers, drink machines, picnic tables

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

61. Surfside Park & Kimberly Bergalis Memorial Park

Location: A1A, one mile south of Fort Pierce Inlet on A1A, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lots and access road parking

Amenities: seasonal lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no

62. Coconut Drive Park

Location: east on Coconut Drive from A1A, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, shelling, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: small and secluded

63. Frederick Douglass Beach

Location: A1A, 4 miles south of Fort Pierce Inlet, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 13.7 acres, seasonal lifeguards, volleyball court, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, showers, handicapped accessible, horse rental

Activities: horseback riding, swimming, fishing, volleyball, hiking

Pets: no

64. Middle Cove Beach (Access)

Location: A1A, five miles south of Fort Pierce Inlet, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none



Activities: swimming, walking, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: untouched, secluded beach that you can walk for miles

65. Blind Creek Beach (Access)

Location: A1A, 8 miles south of Fort Pierce Inlet

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: portable toilets, nature trail, boat ramp

Activities: swimming, walking, fishing, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: 409 acre Blind Creek Park is located on South Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County. South Hutchinson Island is bordered on the west by the Indian River Lagoon and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The park is identified as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA) by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and is valued for its Beach Dune, Coastal Strand, Maritime Hammock, and Estuarine Tidal Swamp.

66. Turtle Beach Nature Trail

Location: A1A, .5 mi north of St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant, 8.5 miles south of Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: very limited

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, sunbathing walking, fishing, shelling, surfing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: a secluded, wild, beach.

67. Walton Rocks Beach

Location: A1A, .5 mi south of St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant on A1A, 9.5 miles south of Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

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Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: dog friendly, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, dune walkovers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: yes

Of Special Interest: the County's only dog friendly beach.

68. Herman's Bay (Access)

Location: A1A, 5 miles north of Jensen Beach Causeway, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 1 acre, picnic tables, pavilion

Activities: swimming, fishing, walking, shelling, surfing

Pets: no

69. Normandy Beach

Location: A1A, 4 miles north of Jensen Beach Causeway, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 1 acre, picnic tables, pavilion

Activities: swimming, fishing, walking, shelling, surfing, handicapped accessible

Pets: no

70. Dollman Park

Location: 2 miles north of Jensen Beach Causeway, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 143.7 acres, handicapped accessible, dune crossover, pavilions, restrooms

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, walking, surfing

Pets: no



71. Waveland Beach

Location: 1.5 miles north of Jensen Beach Causeway, Fort Pierce

Phone: 772- 462-1517 St. Lucie County

Website: <http://www.stlucieco.gov/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 3.6 acres, lifeguards, vending machines, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, walking, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: no

▷ Blue Wave Ethics from the Clean Beaches Council

Blue Wave beaches are the complete eco-coastal beach experience. In supporting Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability (LOHAS), the Clean Beaches Council has developed the following guidelines to promote that lifestyle for beach visitors. Certified Blue Wave beaches actively promote and embrace these principles:

7 Blue Wave Ethics

1. Leave no trace (what you carry in, carry out)
2. Move your body (walk, run or swim)
3. Don't tread the dunes (use a walkover or walk-thru)
4. Know your limits (swim, surf and boat safely)
5. You are what you eat (eat healthy seafood)
6. Feed your mind. (read a book)
7. Respect the Ocean (riptides, storms)

Southeast Florida

0  20 miles

0  50 km

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Glasscock Beach | 41 North Ocean Park |
| 2 Jensen Beach | 42 Pompano Beach |
| 3 Bob Graham Beach | 43 Lauderdale by the Sea Beach |
| 4 Bryn Mawr (Alex's Beach) | 44 Hugh Taylor Birch State Park |
| 5 Stokes Beach & Virginia Forest | 45 Fort Lauderdale City Beach |
| 6 Tiger Shores Beach | 46 John U. Lloyd Beach State Park |
| 7 Stuart Beach | 47 Dania Beach |
| 8 Fletcher Beach | 48 North Beach Park |
| 9 House of Refuge Beach | 49 Hollywood Beach |
| 10 Chastain Access | 50 Hallandale Beach |
| 11 Bathtub Reef Beach Park | 51 Sunny Isles Beach |
| 12 St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park | 52 Haulover Beach |
| 13 Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge | 53 Bal Harbour |
| 14 Hobe Sound Beach | 54 Surfside |
| 15 Blowing Rocks Preserve Beach | 55 Miami Beach |
| 16 Coral Cove Park | 56 South Pointe Park |
| 17 Dubois Park | 57 Hobie Beach |
| 18 Jupiter Beach County Park | 58 Virginia Key Beach |
| 19 Carlin Park | 59 Crandon Park |
| 20 Juno Beach Park | 60 Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park |
| 21 Loggerhead Park | 61 Matheson Hammock County Park |
| 22 John D. MacArthur Beach State Park | 62 Homestead Bayfront Park |
| 23 Ocean Reef Park | 63 Biscayne National Park |
| 24 Riviera Beach | 64 John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park |
| 25 Palm Beach Shores Park | 65 Harry Harris County Park |
| 26 Midtown Beach | 66 Founder's Park |
| 27 Phipps Ocean Park | 67 Anne's Beach |
| 28 Richard G. Kreusler Park Beach | 68 Curry Hammock State Park |
| 29 Lake Worth Beach | 69 Coco Plum Beach |
| 30 Lantana Beach | 70 Sombrero Beach |
| 31 Ocean Inlet Park | 71 Bahia Honda State Park |
| 32 Ocean Ridge Hammock Park | 72 Boca Chica Beach |
| 33 Boynton Beach Oceanfront Park | 73 Smathers Beach |
| 34 Gulfstream County Park | 74 Higgs Beach |
| 35 Delray Beach | 75 Dog Beach |
| 36 Atlantic Dunes Park | 76 South Beach |
| 37 Spanish River Park | 77 Fort Taylor State Park |
| 38 Red Reef Park | 78 Simonton Street Beach |
| 39 South Beach Park | 79 Dry Tortugas National Park |
| 40 Deerfield Beach | |



79

Key West

Key West

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 78 | 74 | 73 |
| 77 | 76 | 75 |



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

Martin County

Martin County is a place of ease, unhurried moments, natural beauty and a preserved past. Just north of Palm Beach, Martin County is Florida's best-kept secret, offering small-town charm, secluded beaches, open skylines, pristine nature and other remnants of yesteryear. Martin County is home to Stuart, Hobe Sound, Tequesta and Jupiter.

Turn off your phone to enjoy the ambiance of the Martin County shore with 20 miles of peaceful beaches, beautiful water and natural sand dunes from Hobe Sound to Jensen Beach (and hundreds more in between). And don't forget "surfishing," a wonderful pastime for the whole family!

1. Glasscock Beach

Location: 4775 NE Ocean Blvd, Stuart, just south of Martin County line at County Line Road and A1A

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, surfing, shelling, fishing

Pets: yes, on leashes

2. Jensen Beach

Location: 4191 NE Ocean Blvd., A1A & SR 732 in Jensen Beach

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguard, concessions, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, volleyball, boardwalk, handicapped accessible and

handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, volleyball, surfing, snorkeling.

Pets: yes, on leashes outside of guarded area

Of Special Interest: Jensen Beach was once known as the "Pineapple Capital of the World" before the industry was destroyed by freezes, blights and fire in the early 20th century. It's an Old Florida beach town with a quaint main street with a handful of restaurants.

3. Bob Graham Beach

Location: 3225 NE Ocean Blvd., Jensen Beach

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes

4. Bryn Mawr (Alex's Beach)

Location: 2661 NE Ocean Blvd., Jensen Beach, 1 mile south of Jensen Beach Causeway

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes

5. Stokes Beach & Virginia Forest

Location: 1951 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, 1.5 miles south of Jensen Beach Causeway

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes



6. Tiger Shores Beach

Location: 1951 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, 2 miles south of Jensen Beach Causeway

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes

7. Stuart Beach

Location: 889 NE Ocean Blvd. Stuart

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguard, concessions, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, basketball, bike trails, volleyball court, boardwalk, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, volleyball, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes outside of guarded area

Of Special Interest: Stuart is a prospering arts community that has a charming, wonderfully revitalized downtown area, with top rated restaurants, art galleries, two excellent museums and a science center. On the beaches, golden sand prevails and most have healthy dune structures with walkovers to the beach. No high rise buildings are in sight! Surf shops, dive shops, kayak/canoe rentals and marinas are nearby. Next door is the Elliott Museum and across the street, the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center.

8. Fletcher Beach

Location: 45 SE McArthur Blvd., Stuart, ½ miles south of Stuart Beach

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: adjacent to Santa Lucea Beach (no facilities there either)

9. House of Refuge Beach

Location: 301 SE McArthur Blvd., 1 mile south of Stuart Beach

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: fishing, walking, surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: The House of Refuge (Gilbert's Bar (<http://www.elliottmuseumfl.org/index.php?main=2&nav=19>)) is the last remaining shipwreck lifesaving station in the United States. It was originally one of just 10 houses commissioned by the U.S. Lifesaving Service as havens for shipwrecked sailors and travelers along the then-sparsely populated Atlantic coastline of Florida. The historic structure, having weathered many a storm, once provided shelter for shipwreck survivors. This includes those of the Georges Valentine, an Italian ship whose wreckage still lies just 100 yards from the rocky shoreline, making an ideal dive site. The House of Refuge still stands the test of time, offering a fascinating look at a lifestyle no longer seen along the sea. The museum has been restored to highlight historical lifesaving equipment, as well as the Keeper's living quarters just as they were in 1904.

10. Chastain Access

Location: 1213 SE McArthur Blvd., Stuart, 1.8 miles south of Stuart Beach

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: free lot

Amenities: none

Activities: fishing, walking, surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Also known as "The Rocks," this beach is a favorite of professional surfers.



11. Bathtub Reef Beach Park

Location: 1585 SE McArthur Blvd., Stuart, at the St. Lucie Inlet

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguard, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, canoeing, kayaking

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, volleyball, snorkeling.

Pets: yes, on leashes outside of guarded area

Of Special Interest: This beach is dubbed “bathtub” because of the calm shallow waters that are the result of a protecting offshore reef. It’s a great place for children and snorkelers.

12. St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park

Location: Port Salerno on the Intracoastal Waterway, 2/3 of a mile south of the Inlet

Phone: 772-219-1880

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/stlucieinlet/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$3/boat

Amenities: 2.7 miles of white sandy beach, picnic tables and grills, 3300 foot boardwalk, restrooms, outdoor showers

Activities: canoeing, kayaking, walking, swimming, fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6’ leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: This classic Florida barrier island is accessible only by boat, but it is worth the ride. Visitors can follow the boardwalk across mangrove forests, paradise trees, hammocks of live oaks, cabbage palms, and wild limes to visit a well preserved Atlantic beach. During summer, the island is a nesting area for leatherback, loggerhead, and green turtles. A large Anastasia rock reef can be found just offshore, extending nearly 5 miles along the coast, up to 1 mile offshore. The depth ranges from 5 ft. to 35 ft.

13. Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge

Location: SR 708 (Bridge Road) east to A1A, then north to Refuge. Visitor Center is located at 13640 U.S. Highway 1, two miles south of

SR 708.

Phone: 772-546-6141

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/hobesound>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: 2.5 miles of beach, portable toilets

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, nature trails, environmental education, interpretive museum, wildlife observation, photography

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, was established September 30, 1969 and remains a coastal refuge totaling over 1000 acres. The 735 acre Jupiter Island tract provides some of the most productive sea turtle nesting habitat in the United States. The 300 acre sand pine scrub mainland tract is valued because more than 90 percent of this community type has been lost to development in Florida.

14. Hobe Sound Beach

Location: South Beach Road, Hobe Sound, SR 708 east to end

Phone: 772-221-1418 Martin County Parks Department

Website: <http://www.martin.fl.us>

Hours: 24

Parking: free lot

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, showers, picnic tables, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, shelling, sunbathing, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: yes, on leashes outside of guarded area

Of Special Interest: The Village of Hobe Sound is home to an interesting collection of boutiques and galleries. It hosts events that draw thousands; The Hobe Sound Festival of the Arts, Hobe Sound Art Walk & Stroll and the Annual Christmas Parade, to name a few.

15. Blowing Rocks Preserve Beach

Location: 574 S. Beach Road, Hobe Sound

Phone: 561-744-6668

Website: <http://www.nature.org>

Hours: 9 AM to 4:30 PM

Parking: \$2/person, children under 12, free

Amenities: 73 acres, boardwalk, interpretive exhibits,



restrooms, visitor center, nature trails

Activities: wildlife viewing, scuba diving, snorkeling walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: A magnificent barrier island sanctuary located on Jupiter Island, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River Lagoon. This Nature Conservancy Preserve protects a variety of natural habitats, including beach dune, coastal strand, mangrove wetlands, tropical hammock and oak hammock. Its rocky limestone shoreline is the largest of the entire Atlantic coast. During major high tides and following winter storms, seas break against the rock and force large plumes of saltwater up to 50 feet in the air; the preserve was named for the sight.



Palm Beach County

With 47 miles of stunning coastline, Palm Beach County truly is an outdoor-lover's paradise. You can go fishing, diving and boating on the area's many waterways, and the pristine beaches along the Atlantic Ocean provide a fabulous venue to enjoy the county's natural recreation.

In the center of everything, Palm Beach epitomizes the area's social climate as a playground of the rich and celebrated. Ever since Henry Flagler (railroad mogul) brought his railroad to town, erecting beautiful hotels for his passengers, the town has been associated with luxury. But, there's more to Palm Beach County, than just Palm Beach. The county has 38 municipalities and unincorporated areas including West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach and offers the best in attractions, resorts, festivals, natural reserves, cultural venues and sporting activities. For the foodie in you, there are more than 2,000 restaurants.

Surfing is a favored sport. Check out <http://www.jupitersurf.com/> for local surf information.

16. Coral Cove Park

Location: 19450 SR 707, Tequesta

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 31 acres, lifeguards, 600 feet of beach frontage and 600 feet of Intracoastal Waterway frontage, picnic area with grills, playground, restrooms, outdoor showers

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

17. Dubois Park

Location: 19075 DuBois Road, Jupiter

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

The Best Restaurants in Palm Beach County

City Oyster & Sushi
Delray Beach

Rocco's Tacos
West Palm Beach & Boca Raton

Catfish House
Hobe Sound

Portobello Cucina Italiana
Jupiter

Coco Palm Beach
Palm Beach

Mondo's American Bistro
West Palm Beach

See Companion Download for Restaurant
Gift Certificates



Amenities: 18 acres, beach on the inlet, lifeguards seasonally 7 days/week, weekends and holidays the remainder of the year, picnic area, grills, pavilion, playground, restrooms, outdoor showers, access to nearby jetty, sheltered lagoon for swimming is great for children.

Activities: swimming, fishing outside guarded area, surfing, shelling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Jupiter is a boater's paradise with over 100 miles of shoreline along the Intracoastal Waterway, the Atlantic Ocean, Jupiter Inlet and the Loxahatchee River.

18. Jupiter Beach County Park

Location: 1375 Jupiter Beach Road, Jupiter

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website:

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 46 acres and 1700 feet of beach, lifeguards, picnic area with grills, pavilion, restrooms, outdoor showers, volleyball, jetty, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair

Activities: swimming, fishing & surfing outside the guarded area, volleyball, shelling, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Inlet fishing available 24 hours.

19. Carlin Park

Location: 400 S. A1A, Jupiter

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website:

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 120 acres, 3,000 feet of beach, lifeguards, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, bocce courts, café, exercise course, open playfield, picnic area with grills, playground, restrooms, outdoor showers, tennis courts, volleyball, amphitheater

Activities: surfing and fishing outside of guarded areas,

swimming, shelling, walking, sunbathing, volleyball, tennis, bocce ball

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Lighted facilities open to 11 PM when in use.

20. Juno Beach Park

Location: 14775 A1A, Juno Beach

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website:

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 5.24 acres, 300 feet of beach, lifeguards, pier with bait shop & snack bar, picnic shelter, restrooms, outdoor showers

Activities: swimming, surfing, fishing outside of guarded area and on pier

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The Juno Beach Pier is the most consistent wave in the north end of Palm Beach County. Even with the smallest trace of swell, if something ridable breaks off the south side of the pier, surfers will find it. Prepared for crowds, especially on weekends.

21. Loggerhead Park

Location: 14200 U.S. Highway 1, Juno Beach

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website:

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 17.26 acres, 900 feet of beach, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, horseshoes, nature trail, picnic area, grills, pavilion, playground, restrooms, outdoor showers

Activities: swimming, fishing & surfing outside of guarded areas, shelling, hiking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Home to the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center (<http://marinelife.org/>), a non-profit organization dedicated to ocean conservation. Visitors of any age can see these magical creatures up close, learning about the fragile marine ecosystem



and how we all can protect it.

22. John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Location: 2.8 miles south of the intersection of US 1 and PGA Blvd. on A1A in North Palm Beach

Phone: 561-624-6950

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/macarthurbeach/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: Nature Center, kayak rentals, 2 miles of beach, tram, reef, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing, canoeing, kayaking. Many ranger programs including guided kayak tours, nature walks and rides, learn to kayak, learn to surf and yoga on the beach

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: A unique mixture of coastal and tropical hammock and mangrove forest, this barrier island provides a haven for several rare or endangered native tropical and coastal plant species. The William T. Kirby Nature Center has displays highlighting the park's natural communities as well as live animal exhibits. Open daily 9 AM until 5 PM

23. Ocean Reef Park

Location: 3860 North Ocean Drive, Riviera Beach

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 12.62 acres and 700 feet of beach. Restrooms, outdoor showers, playground, picnic area with grills, water fountain, handicapped accessible & handicapped wheelchair, reef, lifeguards

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, fishing & surfing outside of guarded area, parasailing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Offshore reef is popular with snorkelers.

24. Riviera Beach

Location: Ocean Blvd., A1A, south end of Singer Island

Phone: 561-845-4000

Website: <http://www.rivierabch.com/parkandrec>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 1,000 feet of beach, boardwalk, lifeguards, restrooms, showers, volleyball, tennis courts, playground, pier

Activities: swimming, surfing, fishing, volleyball, sunbathing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Ocean Mall, adjacent to the beach, is undergoing redevelopment.

25. Palm Beach Shores Park

Location: South Ocean Drive & Edwards Lane, Palm Beach Shores.

Phone: 561-844-3457 Palm Beach Shores Town Hall

Website: <http://www.townhall.ci.palm-beach-shores.fl.us>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: visitors park at Town Hall for free, 1.5 blocks away

Amenities: 2,000 feet of beach, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, boardwalk, playground

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, walking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Beachfront hotels close by.

26. Midtown Beach

Location: S. Ocean Blvd. & Worth Avenue

Phone: 561-838-5400

Website: <http://palmbeach.govoffice.com>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: metered street parking

Amenities: ½ mile of beach, restrooms 1 block away at Town Hall, handicapped accessible, lifeguards

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Upscale Worth Avenue shopping and restaurants.



27. Phipps Ocean Park

Location: South end of Palm Beach, 1.5 miles north of Lake Worth Beach

Phone: 561-838-5400

Website: <http://palmbeach.govoffice.com>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: metered street parking

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, tiki huts, tennis courts, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, walking

Pets: no

28. Richard G. Kreusler Park Beach

Location: 2695 S. Ocean Boulevard, ½ mile north of Lake Worth Beach, Palm Beach

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$1/hour, metered

Amenities: 4 acres, 450 feet of beach, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, restrooms, outdoor showers, reef

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing

Pets: no

29. Lake Worth Beach

Location: 10 S. Ocean Blvd., Lake Worth

Phone: 561-533-7367 Lake Worth Municipal Beach

Website: <http://www.lakeworth.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered, \$1/hour

Amenities: 1,300 feet of beach, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, shuffleboard courts, outdoor showers, volleyball nets, 1,200 foot fishing pier, swimming pool

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, surfing, volleyball

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: There are 6 retail stores in the Casino building and 2 sit-down restaurants. A full service restaurant and bar is located on the pier.

30. Lantana Beach

Location: Ocean Avenue (812) & Ocean Blvd. (A1A) in Lantana

Phone: 561-540-5731 Lantana Municipal Beach

Website: <http://www.lantana.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered parking

Amenities: 6 acres, 750 feet of beach, lifeguards, volleyball, reef, playground, restaurant

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing, volleyball

Pets: no

31. Ocean Inlet Park

Location: 6990 N. Ocean Boulevard, Ocean Ridge

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset, 24 hour inlet fishing

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 11.39 acres, 600 feet of ocean beach and 1100 feet of Intracoastal Waterway frontage, lifeguards, boat slips and rentals, jetty, marina, picnic area with grills, playground, restrooms, outdoor showers

Activities: swimming, boating, surfing and fishing outside of guarded areas

Pets: no

32. Ocean Ridge Hammock Park

Location: 6620 North Ocean Boulevard, Ocean Ridge

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 8.5 acres, outdoor shower

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Quiet and secluded.

33. Boynton Beach Oceanfront Park

Location: A1A, .25 miles north of E. Ocean Drive, Boynton Beach

Phone: 561-742-6650 Boynton Beach Recreation & Parks

Website: <http://www.boynton-beach.org>

Hours: sunrise to sunset



Parking: \$10/vehicle

Amenities: lifeguards, concessions, picnic tables, grills, playground, basketball court, restrooms and outdoor showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing, volleyball, snorkeling, surfing

Pets: no

34. Gulfstream County Park

Location: 4489 N. Ocean Boulevard, 1 mile south of Woolbright Road on A1A, Gulfstream

Phone: 561-966-6600 Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation

Website:

<http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free lot

Amenities: 6.83 acres, 600 feet of beach, lifeguards, boardwalk, picnic area with grills, playground, restrooms, outdoor showers, reef

Activities: swimming, fishing, snorkeling, sunbathing

Pets: no

35. Delray Beach

Location: Atlantic Avenue and A1A, Delray Beach

Phone: 561-243-7260

Website:

<http://www.mydelraybeach.com>

Hours: 5 AM to 11 PM

Parking: metered street and lot parking

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, lifeguards, restrooms, outdoor showers, restaurants, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, volleyball, sunbathing, snorkeling, diving, fishing and surfing outside guarded areas

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: 150 yards off the southern end of Delray's Beach, 22 feet down, lies a steel hulled freighter that sank in the 1920s. This is a first-class beach dive and excellent for beginners, according to <http://www.dixiediver.com>.

36. Atlantic Dunes Park

Location: A1A, one block north of Linton Blvd., Delray Beach

Phone: 561-243-7260

Website: <http://www.mydelraybeach.com>

Hours: 8 AM to dusk

Parking: metered/4 hours

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, outdoor showers, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, snorkeling, volleyball, surfing & fishing outside of guarded areas

Pets: no

37. Spanish River Park

Location: 3001 N. A1A, just south of Spanish River Road, Boca Raton

Phone: 561-393-7815

Website: <http://www.ci-boca-raton.fl.us/parks>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$16 weekdays & \$18 weekends, limited free on street parking

Amenities: 100 acre wooded park on the west side of A1A has three pedestrian tunnels to the beach. Lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables and grills, showers, nature trails, handicapped accessible

Activities: fishing in the Intracoastal Waterway, beach fishing outside guarded areas on beach, swimming, shelling, hiking, volleyball

Pets: no

38. Red Reef Park

Location: 1400 N. A1A in Boca Raton

Phone: 561-393-7974

Website: <http://www.ci-boca-raton.fl.us/parks>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$16 weekdays, \$18 weekends and holidays

Amenities: 67-acres, including the 20-acre Gumbo Limbo Environmental Education Center, restrooms, showers, picnic area with grills, lifeguards, executive golf course, handicapped accessible

Activities: beach fishing outside guarded areas on beach, swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing, shelling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Snorkel the unique rock and reef outcroppings near the offshore area.



39. South Beach Park

Location: 400 N. A1A, Boca Raton

Phone: 561-393-7810

Website: <http://www.ci-boca-raton.fl.us/parks>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$15 weekdays, \$17 weekends

Amenities: lifeguards, handicapped accessible, nature trails, restrooms

Activities: swimming, surfing, volleyball, walking, fishing outside guarded areas

Pets: no

▷ Don't Miss It!

The **Delray Affair**, held each year, draws crowds as one of southern Florida's oldest and greatest outdoor arts, crafts and entertainment festivals. Stretching along Atlantic Avenue over ten city blocks downtown Delray Beach, guests enjoy great artists and craftspersons, home cooked meals from charity, strolling entertainers and more.

Also not to be missed: SunFest, founded in 1982 and Florida's largest waterfront music and art festival. SunFest is held each year in downtown West Palm Beach the first week in May. It attracts nearly 300,000 visitors.



Broward County

Broward County has 1.8 million residents and Fort Lauderdale is the County seat and the largest city. With 1.8 million people in the County and 5.5 million people in the MSA, you might guess that Broward County is a busy place and you would be correct! If you are looking for an active vacation and/or lifestyle and you don't mind the urban crowds, Broward County has a lot to offer.

Warm your toes in the golden sands of Broward County's 24 miles of sun-kissed beaches in any one of its welcoming towns from Deerfield Beach and Pompano to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Fort Lauderdale to Dania Beach, Hollywood and Hallandale. There is truly no better way to refresh, relax, renew and reconnect.

40. Deerfield Beach

Location: East end of 2nd Street on A1A

Phone: 954-480-4433 Deerfield Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.deerfield-beach.com>

Hours: 6 AM to 11 PM

Parking: metered street and lot parking

Amenities: 1 mile long beach, 900 foot fishing pier, boardwalk, volleyball, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, picnic shelters, concessions for umbrellas & chairs, restaurants, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, volleyball, walking, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Direct from Europe to Florida is the German concept most recognized as a "cable park," Ski Rixen USA is in the business of teaching people to learn how to wakeboard and waterski. The majority of customers who come to Ski Rixen USA have never done any of the activities that they offer and are successful in trick skis, wakeboarding, wakeskating, kneeboarding and waterskis. Ski Rixen USA, at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach is the place to do it all! To learn more: <http://www.skirixenusa.com>

The Best Restaurants in Broward County

Little Havana
Deerfield Beach

Christina's Café
Pompano Beach

Bimini Boatyard
Fort Lauderdale

See Companion Download for Restaurant Gift Certificates

41. North Ocean Park

Location: 16th St. & A1A, Pompano Beach

Phone: 954-786-4111 Pompano Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.mypompanobeach.org>

Hours: sunrise to 11 PM

Parking: metered parking

Amenities: restrooms, showers, picnic tables

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Pompano Beach was awarded a Blue Wave Beach designation, along with five other Broward County municipalities, by the Clean Beaches Council.

42. Pompano Beach

Location: Atlantic Blvd and A1A, Pompano Beach.

Phone: 954-786-4111



Website: <http://www.mypompanobeach.org/parksrec/>

Hours: pier, 24 hours; beach, sunrise to 11 PM

Parking: metered parking

Amenities: lifeguards, picnic tables, grills, playground, 1000 foot fishing pier, tackle shop with bait and food and beverage concession, handicapped accessible and handicap wheelchair

Activities: swimming, surfing, volleyball, fishing, boogie boarding

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Boogie Boarding is allowed every where on the beach, however, surfing is only allowed north of the pier inside lifeguard jurisdiction. Hobie Cats and Wind Surfers can both be launched from NE 16 Street. Boat and Jet Ski launching can be done at Alsdorf Park (NE 14 Street Causeway and the Intracoastal).

43. Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Beach

Location: East end of Commercial Blvd.

Phone: 954-776-0576 Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Pubic Works

Website: <http://www.lauderdalebythesea-fl.gov>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: metered street and lot parking. Restrooms in Town Hall @4501 Ocean Drive, a few blocks north of Commercial Blvd.

Amenities: ½ mile of beach, picnic tables, showers, reef, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, surfing, snorkeling, diving, volleyball

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Plenty of restaurants & beachfront cafes nearby. Beachside hotels rent chairs, etc. Anglin's Fishing Pier (Commercial Boulevard) is open 24 hours for fishing, sightseeing, etc. Buy or rent tackle, rods and bait at the tackle shop.

The three tier natural coral reef system is close enough to swim out to snorkel or dive.

44. Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

Location: East Sunrise Blvd. at A1A in Fort Lauderdale

Phone: 954-564-4521

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/hughtaylorbirch/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: nature trails, 1.9 mile bike/in-line skate drive, restrooms, showers, canoe rentals, lake, adjacent to Fort Lauderdale Beach, picnic areas, grills, pavilions, guided tours, group/youth primitive camping, visitor center, handicapped accessible

Activities: fishing, canoeing, biking, hiking, swimming, camping, surfing, lifeguards, mile long freshwater lagoon

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: A short walk from beachside shops and condominiums, this park is an oasis of tropical hammocks. Hugh Taylor Birch's former estate preserves four distinct natural communities, nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. The Terramar Visitor Center has displays on the area's natural and cultural histories.

45. Fort Lauderdale City Beach

Location: From the border of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea on the north side to Port Everglades on the south.

Phone: 954-828-7275

Website: <http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: many parking lots and street metered locations @ \$1-\$1.75/hour

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, wind surfing, jet skiing, volleyball, snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing, surfing

Pets: only at Canine Beach, see below

Of Special Interest: The City of Fort Lauderdale boasts more than seven miles of sparkling beaches that offer residents and visitors premier opportunities for recreation, relaxation and enjoyment. Its award-winning wavewall and unique beachfront promenade are highlights of Fort Lauderdale's world renowned coastline, which is full of shops, restaurants, cafes and entertainment. Beachgoers can enjoy activities like boating, wind surfing, jet skiing, deep-sea fishing, volleyball, snorkeling, scuba diving, and rollerblading.

The area is home to Fort Lauderdale Aquatics Center and the Las



Olas Marina as well as major events like the Greater Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, McDonald's Air and Sea Show, Beachfest, Oceanfest and more.

Fort Lauderdale Beach is an award winning Blue Wave Beach as designated by the Clean Beaches Council.

Canine Beach is located from the center line of Sunrise Boulevard at A1A north to Lifeguard Stand #5 (100-yard section of beach)

Hours: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays year round; Winter 3 PM to 7 PM, Summer 5 PM to 9 PM

Annual Permits for residents and non-residents are available at \$30/\$45 per dog. One-Weekend Permit - \$7 per dog, purchased at Canine Beach.

46. John U. Lloyd Beach State Park

Location: North of Hollywood on A1A

Phone: 954-923-2833

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/lloydbeach>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: 250 acres, 2.5 miles of beach, rental canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, sailboats, pontoon boats, gazebos, barbecue grills and volleyballs, two boat ramps, restrooms, showers, boat ramp, marina, food concessions, nature trails, playground, jetty, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, fishing, canoeing, nature study, boating, snorkeling, wildlife viewing, hiking, diving, birding

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: For those interested in the underwater beauty of South Florida, Lloyd Beach has one of the easiest and interesting shore dives in the area.

47. Dania Beach

Location: 100 North Beach Road, Dania

Phone: 954-924-3696

Website: <http://www.daniabeachfl.gov>

Hours: sunrise to 10 PM, fishing pier, 24 hours

Published by Norton Real Estate, LLC

Parking: metered parking lot

Amenities: ½ mile beach, concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, lifeguards, 987 foot fishing pier, bait shop, handicapped accessible, restaurant, marina across the street on the Intracoastal

Activities: surfing, swimming, fishing, snorkeling, boating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: One of the least crowded stretches of beach in Broward County.

48. North Beach Park

Location: 3501 North Ocean Drive at the end of Sheridan Street, Hollywood

Phone: 954-926-2444

Website: <http://www.broward.org/parks>

Hours: 8 AM to 6 PM

Parking: \$5/vehicle and metered street parking

Amenities: 56 acres, 1.1 miles of beach, concessions, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, showers, restaurant, boardwalk, bike path, volleyball nets

Activities: swimming, fishing, snorkeling, surfing, volleyball

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: A special feature on the beach side is a 60-foot-tall wooden observation tower that provides a panoramic view of the area and opportunities for a cardio workout while climbing the stairs to the top!

49. Hollywood Beach

Location: North & South of Hollywood Blvd on A1A, Hollywood

Phone: 954-921-3474 City of Hollywood Beach

Website: <http://www.hollywoodfl.org>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: metered street parking and fee parking garages in several locations.

Amenities: 4.5 miles of beach, 2 mile boardwalk, concessions, restaurants, shops, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, amphitheatre, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, surfing, walking, volleyball, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Named one of America's top ten nostalgic



promenades by USA Today, the Hollywood Beach Boardwalk is more than 2 miles long, featuring a brick lined pedestrian promenade that combines dramatic coastal views of award-winning Blue Wave beaches with the nostalgic feel of a Main Street thoroughfare. Walkers, runners, bicyclists and rollerbladers set their own pace on this path, which is bordered by Hollywood's famous coastline, boutique hotels, charming shops, cafés and places to eat facing the ocean.

50. Hallandale Beach

Location: Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale

Phone: 954-457-1452 Hallandale Parks & Recreation Department

Website: <http://www.hallandalebeachfl.gov>

Hours: 6 AM to 10 PM

Parking: metered lots, \$1/hour

Amenities: 4.9 acres, café, restrooms, showers, playground, rental concessions, bocce ball courts

Activities: swimming, surfing, bocce, sunbathing, walking, snorkeling

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The town of Hallandale Beach is home to Gulfstream Park (thoroughbred horse racing) & Mardi Gras Racetrack and Gaming Center (greyhound racing).



Miami Dade County

Miami-Dade County is home to many diverse, eclectic and interesting cities, towns and neighborhoods. Miami is the most international city in the country and many believe it's the city of the future. Miami-Dade Parks are some of the best swimming and sunning areas in Miami-Dade County: Crandon Park, rated among the top ten beaches in the U.S. for the past 10 years; Matheson Hammock Park, with its unusual atoll pool flushed with the tidal action of Biscayne Bay; and Haulover Park, with an Atlantic beachfront popular with surfers and families alike.

Diving: there are ten designated offshore artificial reef sites, with five lying between the Miami Dade/Broward county line and Key Biscayne and another five situated between Key Biscayne and Monroe County. For the most part, the best diving is in less than 130 feet of water and located less than two miles east of Miami Beach, Sunny Isles, and the Key Biscayne shoreline. The sites have more than 30 ships, two oil platforms, two U.S. Army tanks, more than 650 concrete and limestone structures, and lots of other cool artificial reefs. It's enough to keep any diver interested for numerous visits, regardless of skill level.

51. Sunny Isles Beach

Location: Sunny Isles Causeway, SR 826, and Collins Avenue

Phone: 305- 947-0606 City of Sunny Isles Beach

Website: <http://www.sibfl.net/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: metered parking lots

Amenities: 5 miles of beach, lifeguards, restrooms, showers, fishing pier, 16 beach accesses, most handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, surfing, fishing, snorkeling, volleyball, sunbathing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Samson Oceanfront Park is a 2.1-acre park located at 17425 Collins Avenue. The park has picnic tables, restrooms, playground, volleyball nets and vending machines. The Newport Fishing Pier is at Pier Park, Sunny Isles Blvd. and Collins Ave. The pier is closed for renovations, but scheduled to reopen in June of 2010.

The Best Restaurants in Miami Dade County

Little Havana
North Miami

Adriana Restaurant
Surfside

See Companion Download for Restaurant
Gift Certificates

▷ Don't Miss It!

Yet another amazing art festival, The Coconut Grove Arts Festival is one of the country's best and is a signature event on the southern Florida cultural calendar. The Festival gives visitors the chance to meet and talk with artists, sample cuisine, enjoy live entertainment, walk through history, and create their own works of art.



52. Haulover Beach

Location: 10800 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach

Phone: 305-947-3525

Website:

http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/parks/haulover_park.asp

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: 1.5 miles of beach, lifeguards, marina, tennis courts, nine-hole golf course, sundries shop, kite shop, restaurant, handicapped accessible and handicapped wheelchair, jetty

Activities: swimming, diving, volleyball, boating, tennis, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: A clothing optional section is located on the north end of the beach.

53. Bal Harbor

Location: Collins Avenue from 102nd St to 96th Street in Bal Harbor

Phone: 305-866-4633 Bal Harbor Town Hall

Website: <http://www.balharbourgov.com/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: metered under the Haulover Bridge, free at Bal Harbor Shops

Amenities: .3 mile of beach, walking path

Activities: swimming, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: no

54. Surfside

Location: Collins Avenue between 96th and 88th Streets, Miami Beach

Phone: 305-861-4863

Website: <http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov/>

Hours: 24 hours

Parking: metered street parking

Amenities: lifeguards, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, surfing, snorkeling

Pets: no

55. Miami Beach

Location: 87th Street on the north side to Government Cut on the south side

Phone: 305-673-7730 Miami Beach Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://web.miamibeachfl.gov/parksandrecreation/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: garages and metered street parking throughout Miami Beach. Visit:

<http://web.miamibeachfl.gov/parking/scroll.aspx?id=30852>

Amenities: 7 miles of beach, lifeguards at 25 locations, restrooms at 14th St.(Lummas Park), 21st St., 35th St., 46th St., 64th St., North Shore Open Space Park. Rental and food concession stands/pavilions at 21st St., 46th St., North Shore Open Space Park. Handicapped accessibility and handicapped wheelchairs at 10th St. & Ocean Drive & 72nd St. & Collins Ave. Call ahead: 305-673-7714.

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, rollerblading, in-line skating, walking, jogging, diving, fishing, sailing, biking, rowing, surfing, kayaking, jet skiing, power boating, volleyball, snorkeling, waterskiing .. Is there anything we could have left out?

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Simply said, Miami Beach has it all!

56. South Pointe Park

Location: southern tip of Miami Beach, on Washington Avenue between 1st & 5th Streets

Phone: 305-673-7730 City of Miami Beach

Website: <http://web.miamibeachfl.gov/parksandrecreation>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: lifeguards, showers, picnic tables, concessions, playground, restaurant, pier, jetty, handicapped accessible, interactive water features for children

Activities: fishing, swimming, surfing, snorkeling, volleyball

Pets: yes, on leashes in park, not on beach

Of Special Interest: Newly renovated park gets rave reviews from residents and visitors alike.

57. Hobie Beach

Location: Rickenbacker Causeway before Virginia Key on the way to Key Biscayne

Phone: 305-673-7730 City of Miami Beach

Website: <http://web.miamibeachfl.gov/parksandrecreation>

Hours: sunrise to sunset



Parking: free

Amenities: sailboat, windsurfer & kayak rentals, concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, showers, handicapped accessible, fishing pier

Activities: windsurfing, sailing, kayaking, swimming, fishing

Pets: yes, on leashes

58. Virginia Key Beach

Location: Rickenbacker Causeway on the way to Key Biscayne

Phone: 305-960-3000 City of Miami

Website:

<http://ci.miami.fl.us/cms/parks> & <http://www.virginiakeybeachpark.net/>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: restrooms, showers, picnic tables, grills, concessions, interpretive trail, basketball court, lifeguards

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, windsurfing, basketball

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Realizing that this site is a rare ecological and educational treasure within Miami-Dade County, the City has made it accessible to the local community by creating an interpretive nature trail. There is no better place to get acquainted with the dynamics of the maritime world of tropical and sub-tropical life in South Florida than by following the nature trail in Miami's Virginia Key Park.

59. Crandon Park

Location: 4000 Crandon Blvd. at north end of Key Biscayne

Phone: 305-361-5421

Website:

http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/parks/crandon_beach.asp

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: 2 miles of beach, concessions, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, showers, amusement center, merry-go-round, nature trails, bike path and rentals, nature center, golf course, marina, kayak rentals, eco-tours, tram tours, tennis courts handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, hiking, boating, kayaking, birding, biking, tennis

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: The beach is celebrated for its pristine sand, calm water, winding promenade, concession stands, multiple picnic areas with tables and grills, and convenient parking for over 3,000 vehicles. Crandon's Family Amusement Center is near the beach, and its famous offshore sandbar helps protect swimmers from the crashing surf.

60. Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

Location: 1200 South Crandon Park Blvd. at the south end of Key Biscayne

Phone: 305-361-5811

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/capeflorida>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 1.25 miles of beach, picnic tables and grills, restaurant, rental concessions, canoe & kayak launch, hiking and nature trails, restrooms, showers, group/youth primitive camping

Activities: biking, kayaking, swimming, fishing, hiking, sunbathing, walking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: Voted one of the Top 10 Beaches in the U.S. this park is the home of a historic lighthouse built in 1825 and reconstructed in 1846, the oldest standing structure in Miami-Dade County. Guided tours of the lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's cottage are given twice daily, Thursdays through Mondays. You'll need to climb 109 steps to the lighthouse if you want to enjoy the view of the beach, Miami and Biscayne Bay from the top of it.

61. Matheson Hammock County Park

Location: 9610 Old Cutler Road in South Coral Gables

Phone: 305-665-5475

Website:

http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/parks/matheson_beach.asp

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: 200 feet of beach on man-made atoll pool, marina, snack bar, restaurant, picnic pavilions with grills, nature and



bike trails, sailing school

Activities: swimming, fishing, walking, boating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Matheson Hammock Park is a lovely scenic park with an unusual feature - a man-made atoll pool, which is flushed naturally with the tidal action of nearby Biscayne Bay. Its relaxing breezy beach is a favorite for families who enjoy its warm, safe waters and beautiful views. The park also has a scenic lake.

62. Homestead Bayfront Park

Location: 9698 SW 328th Street, Homestead

Phone: 305-230-3033

Website:

http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/parks/homestead_beach.asp

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: natural atoll pool and beach, lifeguards, playground, restrooms, picnic tables & grills, snack bar, full service marina

Activities: swimming, fishing, boating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Gateway to the Florida Keys on Biscayne Bay.

63. Biscayne National Park

Location: 9700 SW 328th Street in Homestead (Visitor Center)

Phone: 305-230-7275

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/bisc>

Hours: Visitor Center: 7 AM to 5:30 PM

Parking: no entrance fee

Amenities: concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, boat trips, canoe and kayak rentals, nature trail at the Visitor Center. Boca Chita Key, Elliott Key and Adams Key have restrooms, no sidewalks. Boca Chita Key has sidewalks around the harbor and to the restrooms, but the remainder of the island is lawn and rocky ground.

Activities: boating, diving, snorkeling, camping, hiking, birding

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Within sight of downtown Miami, yet worlds away, Biscayne protects a rare combination of aquamarine waters, emerald islands, and fish-bejeweled coral reefs. Here

too, there is evidence of some 10,000 years of human history, from pirates to shipwrecks to pineapple farmers to presidents. It's the largest marine park in the entire National Park System. Most of the park's area (all 172,000 acres of it) is covered by water.



Monroe County

Monroe County is the southernmost county in Florida and the United States. It includes the Florida Keys and parts of both Big Cypress National Preserve and the Everglades National Park. These parks are largely uninhabited mainland regions. Most well-known are the Florida Keys, a string of islands connected by U.S. Highway 1, ending in Key West 150 miles southwest of Miami.

The Florida Keys are small islands of rock, which makes for narrower beaches. You won't find the wide sandy beaches that exist in many parts of Florida but what you lose in quantity of sand is more than compensated by the low-key natural beauty and lack of crowds at Keys beaches.

64. John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Location: Mile Marker 102.5 Overseas Highway, Key Largo

Phone: 305-451-6300.

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/pennekamp>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 70 nautical square miles, boat ramp, marina, boat tours, boat rentals, 2.5 miles of marked mangrove wilderness trails, canoe and kayak rentals, concessions, full facility camping, primitive youth/group camping, restrooms, showers, picnic areas with grills, nature trails, visitor center, ranger interpretive programs, handicapped accessibility

Activities: canoeing, kayaking, fishing, swimming, hiking, boating, wildlife viewing, scuba diving, snorkeling

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. State parks do not permit pets on beaches or playgrounds, or in bathing areas, cabins, park buildings or concession facilities

Of Special Interest: The first underwater park in the U.S., John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park encompasses approximately 70 nautical square miles. The mangrove swamps and tropical hammocks located in the park's upland areas give visitors a unique experience, but the coral reefs and their marine life are what bring most visitors to the park.

The Best Restaurants in Monroe County

Keys Fisheries
Marathon

Pierre's Restaurant
Islamorada

Morado Bay Beach Café
Islamorada

Rooftop Café
Key West

The Square Grouper Bar and Grill
Cudjoe Key

See Companion Download for Restaurant
Gift Certificates

The Park has two manmade beaches, each with its own distinct personality. The park's main snorkeling beach is Cannon Beach, where visitors can find remnants of an early Spanish shipwreck about 100 feet offshore. Far Beach, full of palm trees, is a relaxing place to swim or enjoy the sun.

65. Harry Harris County Park

Location: Mile Marker 92.5 in Tavernier

Phone: 305-292-4560 Monroe County Public Works

Website: <http://www.monroeocounty-fl.gov>

Hours: sunrise to sunset



Parking: \$5/person, weekends and holidays

Amenities: 100 foot ocean tidal pool, basketball court, baseball field, boat ramps, picnic area, playground, concessions, restrooms and showers

Activities: swimming, fishing, basketball, baseball, boating

Pets: no

66. Founder's Park

Location: Mile Marker 86.5, Islamorada

Phone: 305-853-1685 Founder's Park

Website: <http://www.islamorada.fl.us>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: entrance fees, non residents, \$8/adults, \$5/children

Amenities: 40 acre park with an Olympic-sized pool with diving area, a shallow water beach, water sports rentals, ball fields, fishing jetty, bocce, tennis and basketball courts, vita course with 18 exercise stations, multi-purpose path, skate park and dog park. There are interactive water features for children, marina, restrooms and showers and picnic areas. Handicapped accessible.

Activities: swimming, boating, fishing, tennis, basketball, in-line skating

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Islamorada, Village of Islands, is located about halfway between Miami and Key West. Nicknamed the Sportfishing Capital of the World, the Village boundaries range from the western end of Tavernier Creek Bridge to the western end of Channel Two Bridge. The Keys are marked by mile markers in the form of green numbered posts (denoted MM). Islamorada's mile markers are from 90.9 to 72.6. Plantation Key island is located at Islamorada's east or northern end. The next island over (going south and west) is Windley Key, then Upper Matecumbe Key and Lower Matecumbe Key. Islamorada also features an 18-mile bicycle path that runs the full length of the Village.

67. Anne's Beach

Location: Mile Marker 73.5, Islamorada (on Lower Matecumbe Key)

Phone: 305-664-6500 Village of Islamorada

Website: <http://www.islamorada.fl.us>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: free

Amenities: 1 mile of beach, restrooms, shaded boardwalk with

covered picnic tables

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Anne's Beach is a narrow beach and runs along the highway. It has no wave action and is a great spot to stop and enjoy a picnic lunch and a quick dip!

68. Curry Hammock State Park

Location: Mile Marker 56.1, Little Crawl Key

Phone: 305-289-2690

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/curryhammock/>

Hours: 8 Am to sunset

Parking: \$5/vehicle

Amenities: ½ mile of beach, nature trails, restrooms, showers, full facility camping, picnic tables and grills, playground

Activities: swimming, hiking, sunbathing, camping, fishing, canoeing, kayaking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: This park consists of a group of islands from the Middle Keys. The hardwood hammocks found here support one of the largest populations of thatch palms in the entire nation. Mangrove swamps, wetlands and seagrass beds offer an important habitat for tropical wildlife.

69. Coco Plum Beach

Location: Mile Marker 54.1, end of Coco Plum Drive on Marathon

Phone: 305-743-6598 Marathon Parks & Recreation

Website: <http://www.ci.marathon.fl.us/>

Hours: 7 AM to dusk

Parking: free lot

Amenities: Restrooms, covered pavilion

Activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Coco Plum is a turtle nesting beach. It's common to see Loggerhead Turtles coming on to the beach at night to lay eggs from April to October.

70. Sombrero Beach

Location: Mile Marker 50, east on Sombrero Beach Blvd, Marathon

Phone: 305-743-6598 Marathon Parks & Recreation



Website: <http://www.ci.marathon.fl.us>

Hours: 7 AM to dusk

Parking: free lot

Amenities: restrooms, showers, picnic pavilions, volleyball courts, handicapped accessibility, fishing pier, canoe/kayak launch

Activities: swimming, volleyball, sunbathing, fishing, snorkeling, canoeing, kayaking

Pets: yes, on leashes

Of Special Interest: Sombrero Beach is a turtle nesting beach.

Don't be surprised to find Loggerhead Turtles entering the beach at night to lay their eggs from April to October.

71. Bahia Honda State Park

Location: Mile Marker 36.8, 12 Miles south of Marathon on US 1

Phone: 305-872-2353

Website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/bahiahonda>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$8/vehicle

Amenities: 4 beaches, 3.5 mile paved road for biking, boat ramps, boat slips, boat snorkeling tours, full facility camping, cabins, kayak rentals, food concessions, nature trails, interpretive exhibits, picnic areas with grills, nature/visitor center

Activities: swimming, canoeing, kayaking, boating, camping, fishing, hiking, snorkeling, sunbathing, surfing

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: Henry Flagler's railroad to Key West turned the remote island of Bahia Honda Key into a tropical destination. Today, it's home to one of Florida's southernmost state parks, known for amazing beaches, sunsets, and snorkeling.

72. Boca Chica Beach

Location: Mile Marker 10.8, Greiger Key, east on Boca Chica Road

Phone: 305-292-4560 Monroe County Department of Public Works

Website:

<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: limited, free

Amenities: none

Activities: fishing, swimming, sunbathing, shelling, snorkeling

Pets: no

73. Smathers Beach

Location: South Roosevelt Blvd., Key West

Phone: 305-293-8367 Key West Parks and Recreation

Website: <http://www.keywestcity.com>

Hours: 7 AM to 11 PM

Parking: limited free and metered street

Amenities: restrooms, showers, watercraft rentals, concessions, volleyball courts

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing, sailing, windsurfing, parasailing, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Largest and most popular of the 4 Key West City Beaches

74. Higgs Beach

Location: Atlantic Blvd. between Reynolds and White, Key West

Phone: 305-292-4431

Website:

<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov>

Hours: 7 AM to 11 PM

Parking: free lot and street

Amenities: restrooms, showers, picnic tables and grills, food & rental concessions, restaurant, volleyball, tennis courts, pier, playground across the street, paved bike path, handicapped accessible

Activities: swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: no

75. Dog Beach

Location: At the end of Vernon Street, Key West

Phone: 305-292-8090 Key West Parks Department

Website: <http://www.keywestcity.com>

Hours: 7 AM to 11 PM

Parking: limited free street

Amenities: none

Activities: playing with your dogs!

Pets: yes, without leashes OK

76. South Beach



Location: 257 Front Street, south end of Duval Street, Key West

Phone: 305-292-8190

Website: <http://www.keywestcity.com>

Hours: 7 AM to 11 PM

Parking: limited on street parking

Amenities: pier, restaurant

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing

Pets: No

Of Special Interest: sandy beach, shallow water and a concrete pier

77. Fort Taylor State Park

Location: end of Southard Street on Truman Annex, Key West

Phone: 305-292-6713

Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/forttaylor/>

Hours: 8 AM to sunset

Parking: \$6/vehicle

Amenities: 87 acre park with the best beach in Key West, guided tours, interpretive exhibits, nature trails, picnic areas with grills, bicycle trail, concessions, restrooms, showers

Activities: swimming, sunbathing, fishing, snorkeling, diving, hiking, biking

Pets: Yes, but must be on 6' leashes. Dogs are not permitted in state parks on beaches, playgrounds, cabins, bathing areas, buildings or concession locations.

Of Special Interest: Fort Taylor is ideally situated where the Gulf meets the Atlantic and is the southernmost beach in the continental United States. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973, the park is popular for recreation, as well as U.S. military history. The fort was one of a full series built in the mid-1800s meant to defend the country's southeastern coast. Finished in 1866, it played important roles in the Civil War and Spanish-American War.

78. Simonton Street Beach

Location: 1 Simonton Street, a few blocks east of Mallory Square, Key West

Phone: 305-293-8367

Website: <http://www.keywestcity.com>

Hours: 7 AM to 11 PM

Parking: metered street

Amenities: boat ramp, restrooms

Activities: boating, fishing

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: not much for swimming, but great place to launch a boat or a kayak

79. Dry Tortugas National Park

Location: 70 miles west of Key West. Debarkation is Garden Key where Fort Jefferson is located.

Phone: 305-242-7700

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/dрто>

Hours: sunrise to sunset

Parking: 2 hour ferry road from Key West. The entrance fee is \$5 (for visitors 17 and older.) Pass valid for 7 days.

Amenities: 64,700 acre park, most of which is under water. Picnic tables, grills, toilets, no sinks or showers, overnight anchorage

Activities: swimming, diving, snorkeling, fishing, birding, camping, kayaking

Pets: no

Of Special Interest: Dry Tortugas National Park consists of a cluster of seven islands, composed of coral reefs and sand along with the surrounding shoals and waters. The area is well-known for its bird and marine life, as well as legends of pirates and sunken gold, and a military past.

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