

**Emerald Coast**

# Visitors' Guide



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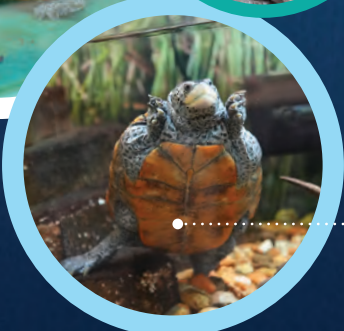
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**Publisher**  
Gail Acosta

**Production Manager**  
Dickie Williams

**Business Development**  
Kaitie Kiger  
Sandi Kemp

**NAVARRE PRESS**  
7502 Harvest Village Court  
Navarre, FL 32566  
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**On the cover:**  
**Navarre Beach surfing near the Fishing Pier**  
Photo by John Starrett

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SCAN ME

# Welcome Visitors to the beautiful Emerald Coast

Welcome to nature's stunning Emerald Coast. We hope that from the first moment you cross the bridge to Navarre Beach, you'll feel like you are in one of the most beautiful spots on earth. With our sugar-white sandy beaches, translucent emerald water, stunning sunsets and rich marine life, you have entered another world.

The word "vacation" can have a different meaning to each person. To the one on their feet all day, a vacation could mean a chair on the beach with a drink in their hand. To the one stuck in an office with no windows, a vacation could mean hiking national parks or participating in water sports. But to both, the call of the warm sun and cool breezes is an easy urge to answer.

The Emerald Coast is filled with activities for the entire family and couples with varying interests. Besides award-winning beaches, visitors will find metropolitan attractions and nightlife in the surrounding cities of Destin and Pensacola. To the north, visitors will find a wealth of history and outdoor adventure.

In your hands you have a guide to this hidden gem. Whether you wish to chart local treasures or navigate neighboring attractions, this guide is your map to the Emerald Coast.

So go ahead, make plans to explore the best beaches in the world, including the Gulf Islands National Seashore — one of only 10 national seashores. A seven-mile stretch of unspoiled beach lies just west of Navarre Beach. Take a drive along the narrow road, which bisects sandy beaches on both sides.

Enjoy an afternoon of golf on the fairways and rolling hills of our golf course. Bring your fishing gear and take advantage of one of the best fishing experiences on the Gulf of Mexico — the Navarre Beach Fishing Pier — or one of our many fishing charters. The pier, which is the longest in the Gulf, provides fishing and family fun as visitors cast their lines for grouper, redfish, Spanish and king mackerel and more.

Wildlife watchers will also find plenty to see here, including shorebirds stalking up and down local beaches or scurrying for the tiny treats washed up by the surf. You might see dolphins or sea turtles, Monarch butterflies or American eagles. Occasionally, a manatee even swims through area waters. If you want to learn more about these creatures, visit Navarre Beach's own Sea Turtle Conservation Center, artificial reefs and Marine Science Station. You can also visit the nearby Gulf Breeze Zoo which is home to more than 600 animals.

The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge is located on 2.3 acres in Navarre off Highway 87 on Clopton Drive. They rescue and rehabilitate injured, sick or orphaned wildlife. Their education center gives visitors and students of all ages an opportunity to learn about native Florida fauna and their habitats. It is open to the public.

Travel to the northern end of the county where Blackwater River State Park awaits you with its cool, refreshing tannin-stained waters. You can float or paddle through 600 acres of undisturbed nature and then visit the nearby city of Milton, which is one of the oldest in the area.

Visitors come to Navarre Beach and the Emerald Coast year-round for everything from swimming and snorkeling to shelling and scuba diving. October is often said to be the most beautiful month to visit our beaches. Join the Navarre Fishing Rodeo the first weekend of October or the "Run for the Reef" the second weekend of October. Residents and guests alike can brave the cooler waters during the annual Penguin Plunge on New Year's Day. Mardi Gras on Navarre Beach always serves up something fun, usually in the form of a parade.

Hungry for more? Look no further than our own restaurants. The Emerald Coast is home to a variety of eateries featuring everything from fresh-from-the-Gulf seafood to exotic delicacies and the basic American cuisine as well.

From the quiet coastal waters that have become our hallmark to the rich history that continues to shape our future, Navarre welcomes each visitor as a part of the community. Whether you've made memories here before or you want to discover Florida's most relaxing place for the first time, we invite you to sit down, relax and stay awhile. We're not just a stop along the way. We are the destination.



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850.908.8888



### **Nine Mile**

9400 University Pkwy #101A  
Pensacola, FL 32514  
448.227.4500

# Beach Safety & Info

## Sugar White Sands

Why is the sand on Navarre Beach and across the Emerald Coast so white that it looks like grains of sugar?

This quartz-rich sand actually washed down from the Appalachian Mountains by way of the Apalachicola River, where it entered the Gulf of Mexico and eventually made its way onto our shores. This sand is pure, white quartz crystals ground into perfect granules, leaving the sand powdery soft, even squeaking, under your toes!

We hope you will love our beaches as much as we do. And please remember to leave only your footprints behind so others can enjoy it as well.

## Santa Rosa County Beach Ordinances

According to Santa Rosa County ordinances, the following rules apply to Navarre Beach:

- Remove all items used for swimming, sunbathing or recreation two hours after dusk, and keep them off the beach until two hours after sunrise.
- No camping.
- No firearms.
- No glass containers.
- Remove trash.
- No pets.
- No abusive, threatening, indecent or disorderly conduct.
- No campfires.
- Do not destroy sea oats.
- Stay off the dunes.
- No fireworks.
- Do not disturb other visitors with radios, TVs, musical instruments or other noise-producing devices.
- No public address systems.
- No nudity.
- No vehicles on the beach.
- No watercrafts, surfboards and similar objects within the public swimming area.
- No fishing within the public swimming area.
- And, it is always a good idea to wear sunscreen or protect your skin with clothing.

## Rip currents

The United States Lifesaving Association estimates that the annual number of deaths due to rip currents on our nation's beaches exceeds 100. Rip currents account for more than 80% of rescues performed by beach lifeguards. These statistics can be reduced by following a few simple guidelines when the surf is rough at local beaches. The greatest safety measures you can take to avoid the dangers of a rip current are to swim near a lifeguard, recognize dangerous surf conditions and be aware of the dangers of rip currents. Storms have changed the shoreline and near-shore sandbars along our beaches, and the frequency of rip currents has increased. A rip current is a turbulent, fast-flowing current that can carry a swimmer away from shore very quickly.

Rip currents are formed when water rushes out to sea in a narrow path (like a break in the near-shore sandbar or from an obstruction of the current caused by a jetty or other type of barrier). Rip currents can last for a few hours or may be permanent; they usually exist during rough surf and after storms.

### RIP CURRENTS Break the Grip of the Rip!



Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

#### IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- Don't fight the current
- Swim out of the current, then to shore
- If you can't escape, float or tread water
- If you need help, call or wave for assistance

#### SAFETY

- Know how to swim
- Never swim alone
- If in doubt, don't go out

More information about rip currents can be found at the following websites:  
[www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov](http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov)  
[www.uslifeguards.org](http://www.uslifeguards.org)



## Rip currents

### Some signs of rip currents include:

- A difference in water color. The water may be murkier from increased sediments or appear darker because it is deeper.
- The waves may appear to be larger and choppier.
- Foam or objects are carried directly out to sea, or debris or vegetation may appear perpendicular to the shore at the site of a rip current.
- As the water rushes out to sea, a bowl-like indentation may be apparent on the shore.
- Rip currents are usually present if the surf is very rough. Remember, always use common sense and swim responsibly.
- If you are caught in a rip current, don't panic or try to swim against the current. Swim parallel to shore until you are out of the current. Rip currents are rarely more than 30-feet wide. If you can't break out of the current, float calmly until it dissipates, usually just beyond the breakers. Then swim diagonally to shore. If you don't know how to swim, stay out of the water!
- Swim near a lifeguard.
- Supervise children when in or near the water.
- Respect the beach and water environment; know the water conditions.
- Know your swimming abilities and limits.
- Swim in groups.
- Be aware of weather conditions; get out of the water and away from the beach during storms.
- Stay calm in the event of an emergency.
- Pay attention to beach warning flags and lifeguards.
- RED flag means the surf is dangerous: stay out of the water;
- YELLOW flag means use caution when entering the Gulf;
- GREEN flag indicates waters are calm. A PURPLE flag means dangerous marine life may be present.
- DOUBLE RED flags mean the water is closed to the public.

Follow these tips to help make a visit to the beach a safe one! For daily sea conditions and current warning flags, visit the Santa Rosa County website at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/navarrebeach](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/navarrebeach).

For more information concerning marine and environmental issues, contact Chris Verlinde, UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Sea Grant extension agent, at 850-623-3868 or email [chrismv@ufl.edu](mailto:chrismv@ufl.edu).

### BEACH WARNING FLAGS

-  **Water Closed to Public**
-  **High Hazard**  
High surf and/or strong currents
-  **Medium Hazard**  
Moderate surf and/or currents
-  **Low Hazard**  
Calm conditions, exercise caution
-  **Dangerous Marine Life**

Absence of Flags does not assure Safe Water.



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Turn to the coupon section for a special offer!  
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# Navarre Beach Fishing Pier

Fishing inshore, utilizing the Santa Rosa Sound as well as the Escambia, East and Choctawhatchee bays, you will find speckled trout, white trout, sheepshead, redfish, gray snapper and flounder waiting to grab your bait. Do you enjoy relaxing on the Gulf beaches in your chair with your fishing rods staked out in the sand? You will find Florida pompano, redfish, whiting, bluefish and ladyfish and beautiful, clean water in abundance. Move out onto one of the local fishing piers, and you can add king and Spanish mackerel, cobia, hardtail jacks (blue runners) and jack crevalle to your catch. If inshore trolling is your game, then pulling your baits in the Gulf waters will allow you to encounter bonita (little tunny), Spanish and king mackerel, cobia, barracuda, blackfin tuna and mahi-mahi. Six- to eight-hour fishing trips offshore is where the action really heats up. Red snapper, vermillion snapper (locally called “mingoes”), gray triggerfish, amberjack, white snapper (red porgies), lane snapper and three species of grouper (red, gag and scamp) will not only ensure great fishing action, but also provide you with fine meals afterward. Making trips longer than eight hours offshore will take you out to where the big amberjack, snapper and grouper live, as well as yellowfin tuna and an assortment of billfish. Wetting a line at the closest shore to spending a night out on the Gulf, the Emerald Coast can provide you with all the fishing challenge and excitement you desire.

Did you know the Navarre Beach Fishing Pier has been celebrated as the longest fishing pier extending into the Gulf of Mexico? The pier features concrete piles and an octagonal end design with a surface area of approximately 3,800 square feet. The pier was constructed using more than 370 breakaway wood panels, which detach during heavy wave action and help preserve the integrity of the structure, reducing possible storm repair costs. With a surface area exceeding 32,000 square feet total, the pier offers fishermen ample space to angle 30 feet above the Gulf. The pier’s deck was renovated in 2020 and provides more space to enjoy with family and friends. Inside the pier store, fishermen can find last minute fishing needs, while visitors can shop for souvenirs, food and drinks. Take a walk along the pier and you may see anything from manta rays to sharks, cobia, Spanish mackerel and huge schools of bait fish. It’s like visiting an outside aquarium. Pelicans and great blue herons perch on the pier railings hoping for a handout and posing for photos. It’s a great way to experience the beauty of the Gulf of Mexico, as well experience the unique culture of the local fishing community.

**Fishing: \$7**  
**Spectators / Walkers: \$1**  
Weekly and annual passes available

- Rules**
- No running on pier
  - No sitting or standing on rail
  - No pets allowed
  - No jumping off pier
  - No glass containers
  - No camping or cooking allowed
  - No fish of any kind left on pier
  - No fish cleaning tables on pier
  - No lights allowed
  - No Sabiki rigs allowed on octagon
  - Please don’t feed our pier birds!

**Hours**  
**5 a.m. to 11 p.m.**

Place all trash in containers. All tackle except one rod and reel, ice chest, carts, etc., must stay in the center of the octagon at the end of the pier.



## NAVARRE BEACH FISHING PIER



## Fish IDs



Gray (Mangrove) Snapper



African Pompano



Gulf Flounder



Sheepshead



Atlantic Spadefish



Scaled Sardine



Blue Runner



Red Drum



Atlantic Thread Herring



King Mackerel



Bluefish



Round Scad



Spanish Mackerel



Spotted Sea Trout



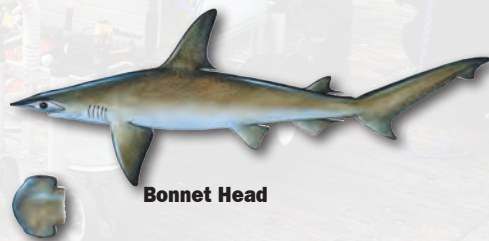
Crevalle Jack



Florida Pompano



Cobia



Bonnet Head



Striped Mullet

## AREA FISHING PIERS

**Fort Walton Beach:**  
Okaloosa Island Fishing Pier  
Okaloosa Island  
1030 Miracle Strip Parkway E.  
850-244-1023

**Navarre Beach:**  
Navarre Beach Fishing Pier  
8579 Gulf Blvd  
850-710-3239

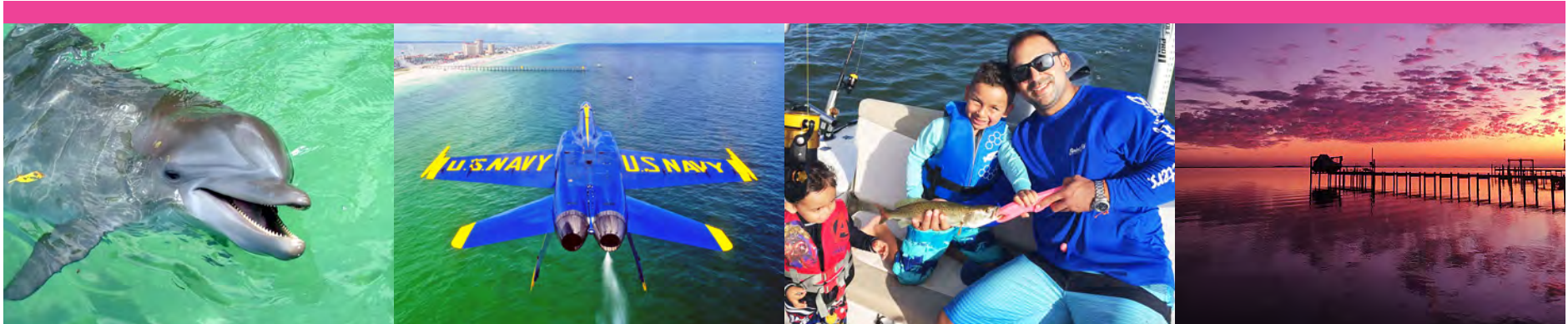
**Pensacola Beach:**  
Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier  
41 Fort Pickens Road  
Pensacola Beach  
850-934-7200

Outdoors enthusiasts – and anglers in particular – will love the Navarre area of the Emerald Coast, which is home to some of the best saltwater fishing in the state of Florida.



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# Marine Sanctuary

If you are in search of some below-the-surface excitement, look no further than Navarre Beach.

Beachgoers can enjoy the tantalizing turquoise water from above and below at an attraction that's good for the environment and the economy.

Underwater and just off the coastline, the Navarre Beach Marine Sanctuary has things going, and growing on the artificial snorkel reef. The plant and animal life is growing as you read this, attracting fascinating fish and colorful marine life to Navarre Beach.

There are three snorkel reef sites, two in the Santa Rosa Sound and one in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the One-Mile-Out Reef, which is about a mile offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. The One-Mile-Out Reef is designed for scuba divers and kayak fishermen.

As the reefs grow, more plant life and crustaceans grow on top of them and on each other.

"The growth continues as more plant life and crustaceans are growing on top of the reefs and on top of each other. Because of that, more of the animal life comes to feed because it's an easy source," according to Mike Sandler with the Navarre Chamber Foundation.

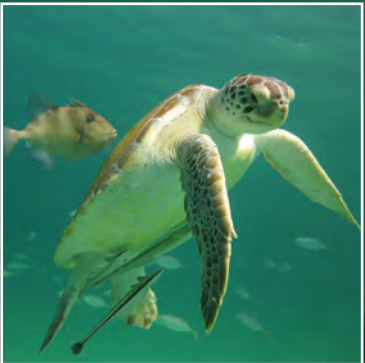
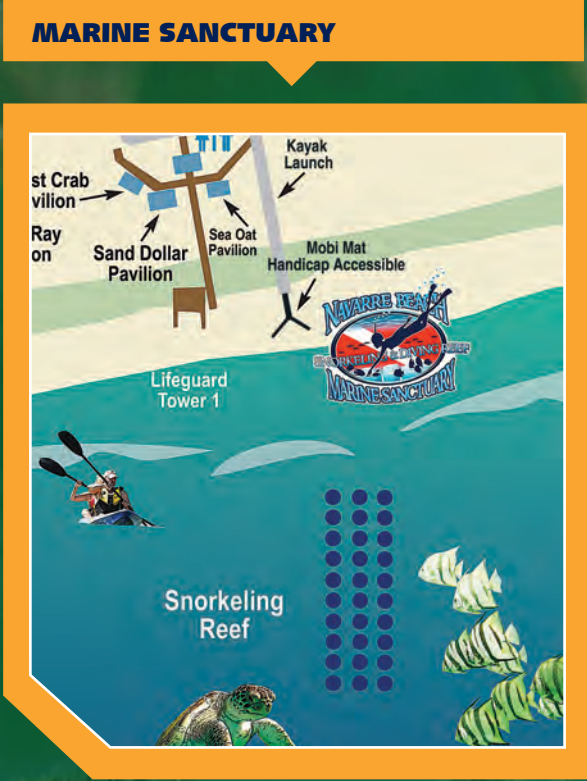
The Gulf of Mexico provides a much wider variety of sea life and vegetation than in the sound. The reefs offer a colorful kaleidoscope for viewing and attract marine life including sea turtles, octopi and juvenile and adult fish like snapper, blennies, damselfish, surgeonfish, jacks, porgies and spadefish.

In the Santa Rosa Sound, you might spot oysters, which sustain other marine life such as shrimp, crab, sheepshead, redfish, sea trout and red trout.

But you don't have to wear a snorkel or scuba gear to spot some of our most popular marine animals. Depending on the time of year, you'll see dolphins surfacing just offshore and, occasionally, manatees slowing cruising under the surface.

The Navarre Beach Marine Park is free to the public and open from sunrise to sunset.

For more information about the Sanctuary visit [www.navarrebeachmarinesanctuary.org](http://www.navarrebeachmarinesanctuary.org)



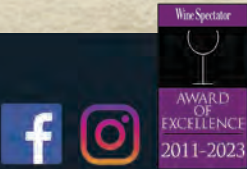
Photos by John Starrett and Mike Sandler



## Fresh Gulf Seafood Daily!

The Grand Marlin features seafood so fresh we print our menus twice daily to take advantage of the local catch. Come for mouthwatering dishes, island cocktails, relaxed atmosphere and beautiful views!

**TheGrandMarlin.com | For reservations call 850.677.9153**  
**400 Pensacola Beach Blvd. | Open daily at 11 | Sunday Brunch 9-2**



# Seashells by the seashore



Navarre Press photo

If you like to go for long walks on the beach, you will love shelling. Navarre Beach has become a destination for avid shell collectors, with locals and visitors finding treasures both along the shore and in shallow waters. Locally originated Facebook groups feature some of the most pristine shells collected as well as fun ways to use them as everything from Christmas ornaments to framed décor.

Though there are more types of shells in local waters than we have pages to describe, here are a few of the most common shells you might see. Take what you love and throw the rest back for the next beachgoer to discover. The magic never gets old.

## HOLLEY HILL

Pottery & Art Studio

850.939.2744  
holleyhillpottery.com  
State Road 87 and Buckeye Dr.  
7507 Buckeye Drive  
Navarre, Florida 32566

Established in 1980, the pottery business remains family owned and operated with works by the original owners, Marty, Brenda, and Jason Stokes. The first kiln, built in 1980 by the Stokes, remains operational and is fired on a regular basis, as are additional stoneware and raku kilns.

Individually signed pottery originals depict life on the Emerald Coast of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. Each piece is unique and reflects the natural beauty of local seafife, whether it be functional table ware, kitchen ware, or art-form décor.

Individual and group tours to observe the pottery's operation are welcomed by the Stokes. The family's pottery and framed art, including individual works by family members Lee, and Ann, are also available for purchase in the studio show room.

Please call:  
**Marty, Jason or Brenda Stokes**

like us on **facebook**

Holley Hill Pottery is located in the community of Holley, just 6 miles north of Navarre, Florida, at S.R. 87 and Buckeye Drive.

## Shell IDs



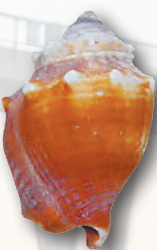
Lightning Whelk



Sunray Venus



Florida Spiny Jewelbox



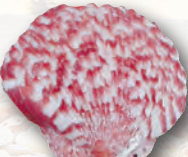
Florida Fighting Conch



Lucine



Calico Clam



Scallop



Sand Dollar



Imperial Venus



Shark's Eye



Murex



Bonnet



Lettered Olive



Sozon's Cone



Banded Tulip



Common American Auger

# Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center

## Navarre Beach center focuses on giving sea turtles ‘more tomorrows’

“Together, we are giving sea turtles more tomorrows!” That is the commitment of the Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center located at 8740 Gulf Boulevard. Open to the public since 2013 as a nonprofit organization, the conservation center is the 2,010-square-foot home to Sweet Pea and the Shanna Litterst Education Center.

### Want to be a turtle hero?

- **Pick up trash.**  
Sea turtles eat jelly fish and cannot tell the difference between a jelly fish and a plastic bag.
- **Leave it flat.**  
Knock down any holes in the sand and fill in.
- **Lights out.**  
No bright lights on the beach at night especially during nesting season 5/1-10/1.
- **Leave no trace.**  
Remove all recreational items from the beach.
- **Do not disturb.**  
If you see a sea turtle, observe from a distance.
- **Tell others.**  
Help sea turtles by educating others.

The NBSTCC’s mission is to conserve and protect threatened and endangered sea turtles through community education and partnered research. The center has aquariums, interpretive displays and interactive exhibits. These focus on sustainability and conservation of Northwest Florida’s unique coastal and marine ecosystems which are vital to sea turtle survival.

The center’s residents include Sweet Pea, a green sea turtle who swims in her own enrichment pool, adult and baby seahorses, diamondback terrapin, Safari, an African spurred turtle and Flip Flop, a South American red-footed tortoise. Coming soon

is a stingray and horseshoe crab viewing habitat along with interpretive exhibits and a virtual underwater submarine experience.

The Navarre Beach Pier is the most active area for sea turtles to become stranded or injured. The Responsible Pier Initiative reduces injury to sea turtles accidentally hooked during recreational fishing. There are two pier marshals at the pier who are quick to respond to an injured or stranded turtle and notify the center. The center has a special sea turtle rescue net that can be used to gently reel the turtle and reduce the stress on the animal. Injured sea turtles are transported to the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park on Okaloosa Island.

For more information, visit <http://navarrebeachseaturtles.org/>.



### SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTER



# Navarre Beach Marine Science Station

## Science station offers visitors the chance to get their hands dirty and feet wet

Just like the busy marine life activity that takes place under the sea, the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station is teeming with programs aimed to promote the appreciation, conservation and understanding of the marine ecosystem of coastal Florida. The Navarre Beach Marine Science Station was created in 2009 after Charlene Mauro’s marine science students held a town hall meeting and presented their idea of converting the empty ranger station into an environmental center to the county commissioners and the school board. For more information about the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station, visit [www.navarresciencestation.org](http://www.navarresciencestation.org).



### MARINE SCIENCE STATION





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# Beach Birds



## Great Blue Herons

If you see a great blue heron up north, the chances are you will have to use a telephoto lens to photograph it. Along the Emerald Coast, they'll stand right next to you. Herons, a lightweight bird, are perhaps best known for their long legs and long necks. The middle of their legs flex backwater, but that's because what looks like their knee is actually their ankle. Everything below that middle joint is actually part of their feet.



## Brown Pelicans

If Navarre Beach had an official bird, brown pelicans would likely be in the running. They fly in a graceful V-formation over the beach, dive straight down in the water for food and pester fishermen on the pier for a free meal. But they don't want to be friends, experts warn. They just want food. In the air, pelicans are beauty and grace. On land? Not so much. They don't walk as much as they waddle.



## Sanderlings

These small gray and white birds that run back and forth along the water's edge actually spend winters in places like Navarre Beach and summers in the Arctic. They have short little legs and stubby thin beaks. All that running around has everything to do with their food source. They wait for waves to retreat and then dash up to peck up invertebrates exposed by the waves.



## Gulls

Graceful and acrobatic, gulls are hardly cautious around humans. They will not hesitate to swoop down and take food right out of your hand. You can find these beautiful seabirds on any beach or bay shoreline, or in and around mangrove trees, seawalls and piers. When you're looking at a flock of seagulls, you're probably looking at several different species that are closely related. Enjoy watching gulls, but please don't feed them.



## Black Skimmers and Terns

Birds begin nesting in April or May and usually finish in August. Black skimmers and terns will make their nests along the causeway. Do not disturb any nests you find. These birds will become very territorial if their nests or their chicks are disturbed. Terns will dive-bomb toward anything they perceive to be a threat. You might notice some reduced speed limits during nesting season. Please obey the speed limit along beach roads to lessen the chance that you may kill a bird or chick.

Photos:  
Heron by Robert Baisden  
Pelican by Brian Lester  
Sanderling by Sandra Emlet  
Black Skimmers and Tern by Sandi Kemp  
Gull by Dickie Williams

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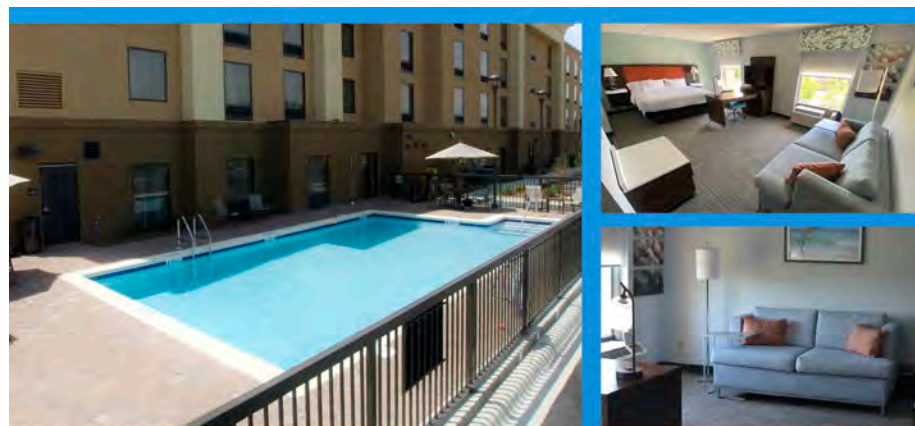
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# Sea Life



## Green sea turtles

Green sea turtles are the largest of all hard-shell sea turtles, and we are fortunate to share our beaches with nesting females. Each year, locals wait with anticipation for the hatchlings to dig out of the nest and make their way to the water. The female sea turtle will choose a location for her nest on the beach and dig with her hind flippers. One female sea turtle can lay between 60 and 160 eggs in her nest, and then will cover them with sand. The eggs take approximately 60 days to hatch, at which time the babies dig out of the nest to find the water.

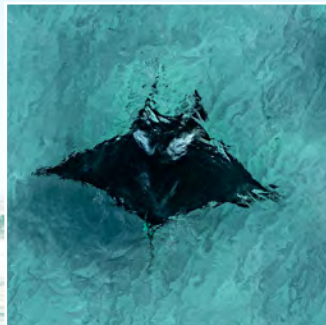


## Jellies

We have a number of types of jellyfish – or “jellies” – that can be found along Navarre Beach throughout the year. Most have nematocysts, or stinging cells, along the tentacles, although some jellies are harmless. The best thing to do is to be aware of your surroundings. If you see jellies, get out of the water and check with the lifeguards to determine if they are the stinging variety. When the stinging cells hit the body, they can leave a red rash. Most jellyfish stings will subside in a short time, but if you have persistent pain, trouble breathing or are sensitive to stings, seek medical attention.

### What to do if you are stung by jellyfish:

- Rub sand on the injury. This will help to remove the stinging cells and allow for relief.
- Pour vinegar on the sting site. This will break down the cells. Repeat as needed.
- There are a number of commercial products available at local drug stores to help reduce the pain of a sting.



## Stingrays

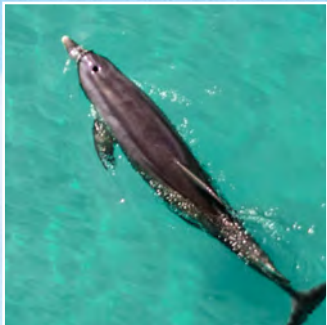
Stingrays are in the shark family and, although not usually aggressive, many species have a sharp, serrated barb at the base of the tail. Stingrays seem to cruise gracefully through the water. However, they feed in the sand and can be found buried in sandy areas, which makes them hard to see and that can cause problems for beachgoers. Swimmers can step on the stingray and could get hit with the barb as the animal swims away. The best way to protect swimmers from this is to do what is known as the “stingray shuffle.” While walking along in the water, shuffle your feet along the sand. This will frighten the stingray away before you have a chance to step on the fish.



## Sharks

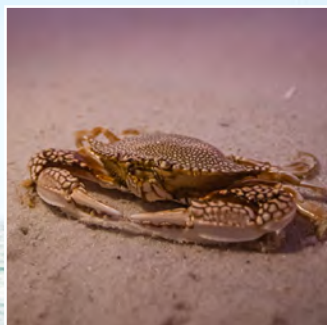
First and foremost, the chance of a shark encounter along the Emerald Coast of Florida is very rare. You have a greater chance of getting struck by lightning or bitten by a dog. Sharks eat fish and other marine life, not people. When swimming, it is important to remember that the Gulf is a wilderness, not a swimming pool. Use common sense when enjoying this vast body of water. There are precautions you can take to avoid a shark encounter:

- Avoid swimming in areas where people are fishing.
- Don't swim in murky waters or between dusk and dawn
- Don't swim while wearing shiny jewelry (the reflection looks like fish scales).



## Dolphins

If you're on vacation here, you have probably come to play in the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. Bottlenose dolphins, frequently seen swimming just offshore, feel the same way about the clear blue waters. “They are very playful,” said Wade Jeffrey, an oceanographer who works at University of West Florida. “They are very social if they can find something to play with.” You might see them riding the compression waves in front of a boat or chasing a fishing boat, calculating the odds of a free meal. You won't see them too close to shore since dolphins are large mammals but keep an eye on the horizon when you're sitting on the beach. They're out there. And just like the human population of Navarre Beach, our dolphins are a mix of local animals and others just passing through.



## Ghost Crabs

Ghost crabs, commonly seen scurrying into holes on the beach, are not dangerous to humans but can pinch if provoked. They may go in the water but cannot swim.

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An aerial photograph of a residential community, likely a golf course or resort area. The foreground and middle ground are filled with numerous houses, mostly single-story, with various roof colors (brown, grey, white). The houses are interspersed with lush green trees and landscaping. In the background, a large, calm body of water (likely a lake or bay) stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky. The water is a deep blue color. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant climate.

# STAY A WHILE.

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1991, 28, 1, 1-14.

An aerial photograph of a coastal residential neighborhood. The houses are large, multi-story homes with various roof colors (blue, orange, grey) and are surrounded by lush green lawns and trees. In the background, a sandy beach and the ocean are visible under a clear blue sky. The text 'STAY A WHILE LONGER.' is overlaid in large white letters at the top, and 'REAL ESTATE/SALES' and 'REALESTATENAVARRE.COM' are overlaid in white letters on a dark grey banner at the bottom.

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One of the best parts about a trip to Milton is the wonderful mix of small-town feel and Florida beauty. Admire blocks of charming homes and storefronts that lead to the beautiful Blackwater River waterfront. Stroll through the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza. Go full-steam ahead and learn about old rail travel in our renovated depot. You'll enjoy every minute of exploring this walkable town. If you're looking for a place with classic Florida charm, look no further than Historic Milton.

From prehistoric yellow pine forests to a prospering industrial mill to Civil War devastation, the Blackwater River State Park is a popular destination for outdoor lovers. Visitors can drift down the Blackwater River in a canoe, kayak or tube, camp along the river or Coldwater and Sweetwater creeks, and hike forest trails, including the historic Jackson Red Ground Trail, a nearly 23-mile segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail which travels one of the earliest Indian and settler trade routes. That trail is named for Gen. Andrew Jackson, who marched troops along the trail on a trip from Apalachicola to Pensacola in 1818. For more information about Blackwater River State Park, visit [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/blackwater-river-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/blackwater-river-state-park).

An aerial photograph of a downtown street intersection. A prominent red brick building with white-trimmed windows and a flat roof is the central focus. To its right is a white building with a red awning. The street features crosswalks, traffic lights, and a black car. In the background, a body of water is visible, with a lighthouse situated on a small island or pier. A flagpole with the American flag stands near the waterfront.

Adventures Unlimited is a popular attraction for families, honeymooners, friends and many more. The campground boasts a Zip Adventures Canopy Tour, where adventure seekers can soar through the tree-tops of Northwest Florida and over Coldwater Creek on nearly a mile of zip lines, some as high as 65 feet in the air. At Adventures Unlimited, you have the opportunity to experience canoeing unlike anywhere in the world. The spring-fed rivers flow at an average depth of 2 to 3 feet (some places are 6 feet deep or deeper) over a soft, sandy bottom through a pristine state forest. White sand beaches dot the banks, which are perfect for swimming, sunning and picnicking. Adventures Unlimited also has nearly 100 acres on its Wilderness

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## Local History

### Fort Pickens

Fort Pickens is the largest of four forts built to defend Pensacola Bay, Florida and its Navy yard. Construction on the fort began in 1829 and was completed five years later in 1834. Fort Pickens enjoyed a long life of active duty, as it was used until the 1940s. Historic Fort Pickens is open from 8 a.m. to sunset and its Visitor Center is open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. March through October. For more information, call 850-934-2600.

### Naval Air Station Pensacola

Naval Air Station Pensacola is known as the “Cradle of Naval Aviation” and features the Naval Aviation Museum and IMAX, a lighthouse and Fort Barrancas, built by the Spanish in 1797. Hours: Museum: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. IMAX: first movie is at 9:30 a.m. then shown every hour 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [www.navalaviationmuseum.org](http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org) for more information.

### Pensacola Museum of Art

The museum, housed in the Old City Jail, features works predominantly from the 20th and 21st centuries. The museum is at 407 S. Jefferson Street. For more information, call 850-432-6247 or visit [www.pensacola.museumofart.org](http://www.pensacola.museumofart.org).

### Historic Pensacola Village

The Historic Pensacola complex encompasses 8.5 acres and includes the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Museum, the Pensacola Children’s Museum, the Museums of Commerce and Industry, Voices of Pensacola Multicultural Center, Old Christ Church and Historic Pensacola Village. For more information, visit [www.historicpensacola.org](http://www.historicpensacola.org) or call 850-595-5985.

### Historic Magnolia Grill

Savor authentic Italian-style seafood amongst history at the Magnolia Grill in Fort Walton Beach. Located at 157 Brooks Street SE, “the museum that serves food” features dozens of artifacts from Camp Walton’s early years including typewriters that once told the news of the day and photos of a simpler time. In 1910, Dr. G.G. French ordered a house from a catalog that boasted construction with minimal carpentry skill required. Every piece, down to the nails, shipped by train and barge. Now come and enjoy a bowl of gumbo or blackened chicken fettuccine Alfredo while taking in the history of area. Call 850-302-0266 for more information.

### Indian Temple Mound Museum

In 1962, the Indian Temple Mound Museum opened as the first municipally owned and operated museum in Florida. More than 1,000 artifacts of stone, bone, clay and shell are housed there, as well as one of the finest collections of prehistoric ceramics in the Southeast. The museum is at 139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach. Visit <https://fwb.org/347/Indian-Temple-Mound-Museum> for more information.

### Destin History and Fishing Museum

Preserving and honoring the history of Destin, the Luckiest Fishing Village in the World, with an extensive collection of antique fishing rods and reels – including an original Penn Reel that belonged to Ernest Hemingway; the oldest seine fishing boat still in existence; award-winning examples of fish caught in Destin; as well as vintage photographs of early settlers, captains and their boats, businesses and more. The museum is at 108 Stahlman Avenue, Destin. Call 850-837-6611 or visit [www.destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org](http://www.destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org).

### Air Force Armament Museum

Experience the aviation warfare armament from the early days of World War I right through to today’s high-tech planes and bombs. Inside, you’ll find an extensive collection of weaponry and interactive displays that will amaze and intrigue. Outside displays include vintage military aircraft including the fastest plane ever built - the SR-71 Blackbird! Admission is free. The museum is at 100 Museum Drive, Eglin Air Force Base. For more information, call 850-651-1808 or visit [www.afarmamentmuseum.com](http://www.afarmamentmuseum.com).

### Battleship USS Alabama

History meets heroism from World War II to Iraqi Freedom. At Battleship Memorial Park you walk the decks of a mighty battleship, go below in a World War II submarine, view cockpits of combat aircraft, see a Vietnam River Patrol Boat and a plane like the one flown by the Tuskegee Airmen! The battleship is at 2703 Battleship Parkway, Mobile, Alabama. For more information, call 251-432-0261.



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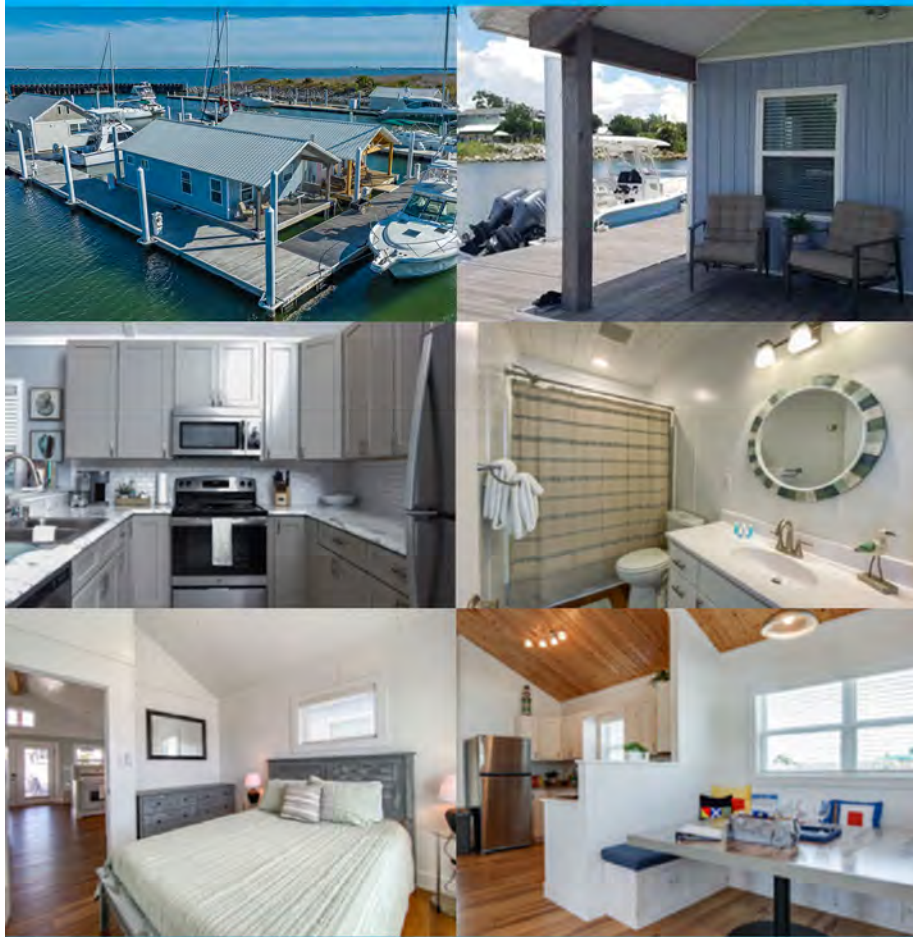
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The Magnolia Grill epitomizes old-time Fort Walton. Climb the stairs on the front porch, step inside and immediately you're immersed in local history.

Some of the photographs and plaques tell the Rice Family history; other faded, black and white photos by the late Arturo Mennillo tell the story of a 40's-era Fort Walton, before the condos, before the outlet malls, and especially before the gaudy and often cavernous T-shirt and souvenir stores. The Emerald Coast has been peopled by colorful characters and the Magnolia Grill preserves their stories for all to see.



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## Gulf Breeze Zoo

Located at 5701 Gulf Breeze Parkway, the zoo is more than 50 acres, and home to more than 1,000 animals. Catch a ride on the Safari Line train through the 30-acre preserve of free-roaming animals in their natural habitat. The zoo also offers animal encounters so you can get up close and personal with giraffe, rhinos, a hippo, sloth and more.



## Navarre Beach Marine Science Center

Provides hands-on marine science opportunities that encourage a deeper understanding of our coasts and ocean for students. They seek to stimulate student interest in science and teach the importance of caring for the marine environment. Since its opening in 2009, the Station has been host to well over 4,000 students and community members.

## Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge

Check out the Emerald Coast Wildlife's Education Center and meet the animal ambassadors and find a unique souvenir in the gift shop. They are located at 3051 Cloptons Circle in Navarre and open to the public Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

Founded in 1994, the refuge has grown to a nationally recognized state and federally permitted wildlife rehab center. ECWR takes in an average of about 1,700 animals per year. ECWR's mission is education, conservation, and rehabilitation for the welfare of Florida's natural fauna.



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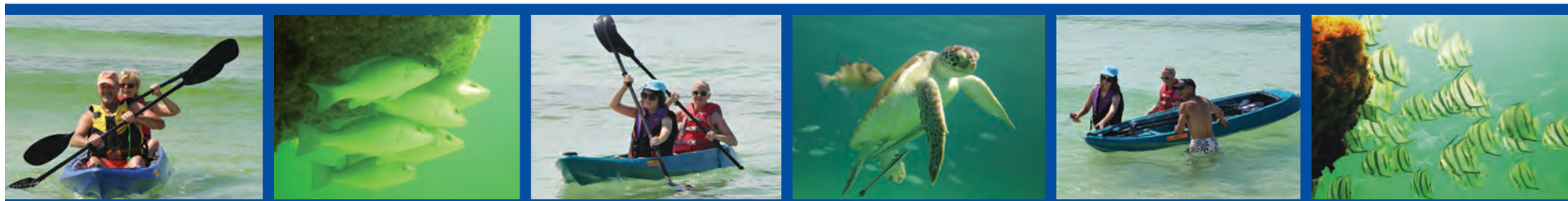
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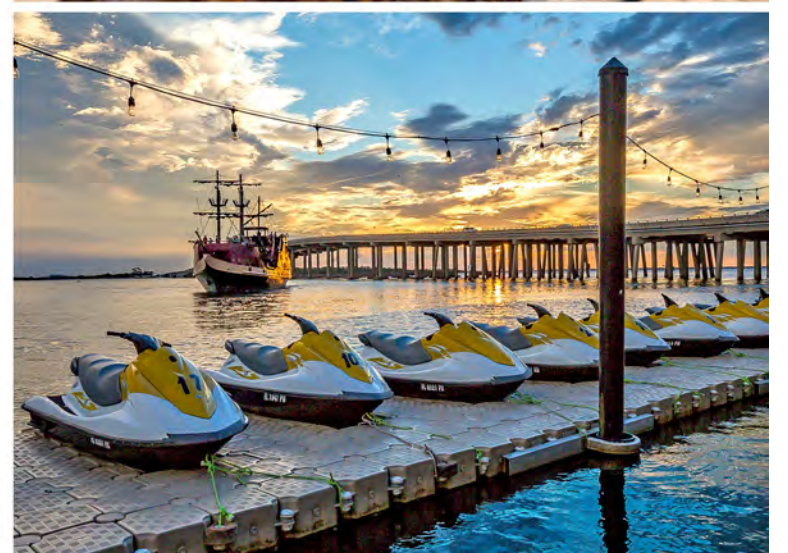
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*Navarre Beach Magazine* is the only nationally distributed newsstand magazine that focuses on Navarre Beach and the surrounding Navarre area.

Each edition of Navarre Beach Magazine offers a deep dive into all things Navarre Beach including:

- PLACES TO VISIT
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# Military Presence



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For full show schedule and more information on the Blue Angels, please visit [www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil).

Hurlburt Field is home to the Air Force Special Operations Command. The 1st Special Operations Wing has a long, distinctive history. Hurlburt Field was originally designated as Auxiliary Field No. 9, one of the original small pilot and gunnery training fields built on the sprawling Eglin Air Force Base complex in the 1940s. The 1st SOW was redesignated the 16th SOW on Oct. 1, 1993, by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, as part of Air Force-wide unit renumbering. The mission of the 16th SOW continued to provide a rapid reaction force for global special operations and to train aircrews to instruct and assist allied forces in all phases of special air operations.

On Nov. 16, 2006, the Air Force re-designated the 16th SOW back to the 1st SOW. Hurlburt Field is proud of its history and it stands ready to perform its unique mission "Any Time, Any Place."

Eglin Air Force Base is located southwest of Valparaiso, Florida, and covers 463,128 acres. Eglin AFB was established in 1935 as the Valparaiso Bombing and Gunnery Base. It is named in honor of Lt. Colonel Fredrick I. Eglin (1891-1937), who was killed in a crash of his Northrop A-17 pursuit aircraft on a flight from Langley to Maxwell Field, Alabama. Eglin is the home of the Air Armament Center (AAC) and is one of three product centers in the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC). Serving as the focal point for all Air Force armaments, the AAC is the center responsible for the development, acquisition, testing, deployment and sustainment of all air-delivered weapons.

The 33rd Fighter Wing "Nomads," an associate unit at Eglin Air Force Base, was re-designated under Air Education and Training Command on Oct. 1, 2009. As the first of its kind in the Department of Defense, the joint wing is responsible for F-35 A/B/C (Joint Strike Fighter) pilot and maintainer training for the Marine Corps, the Navy, the Air Force and, in the future, at least eight coalition partners.

The area is also home to soldiers from the Army 7th Special Forces Group. The Air Force-owned, Army-occupied land just north of Eglin and west of Duke Field, sports 500 acres of land. The facility officially opened its gates on May 2, 2011, and is home to more than 2,200 active duty soldiers and 3,000 dependent spouses and children. The 7th SFG has nearly 500 soldiers deployed across 10 countries and in three different battle theatres.

The site now occupied by Naval Air Station Pensacola has a colorful historical background dating back to the 16th century when Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna founded a colony here on the bluff where Fort Barrancas is now situated. Construction began in April 1826, and the Pensacola Navy Yard became one of the best equipped in the country. Today, the Pensacola Naval Complex in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties employs more than 16,000 military and 7,400 civilian personnel. Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., is the busiest Naval Air Station in the world, responsible for an estimated 46 percent of the Naval Air Training Command's total flight time and more than 11 percent of Navy and Marine Corps total flight time. More than 1,200 personnel complete their initial flight training every year. NAS Whiting Field and Training Air Wing Five have an outstanding and unmatched safe flying record. The station has served as a naval aviation training facility since it was established as a naval air auxiliary station in July 1943. Its present mission is to train student naval aviators in the primary and intermediate phases of fixed-wing aviation, and in the advanced phases of helicopter training.

While military aircraft are a common sight for folks relaxing along Navarre Beach, the Blue Angels also take regular trips through the area.

## Military Aircraft IDs





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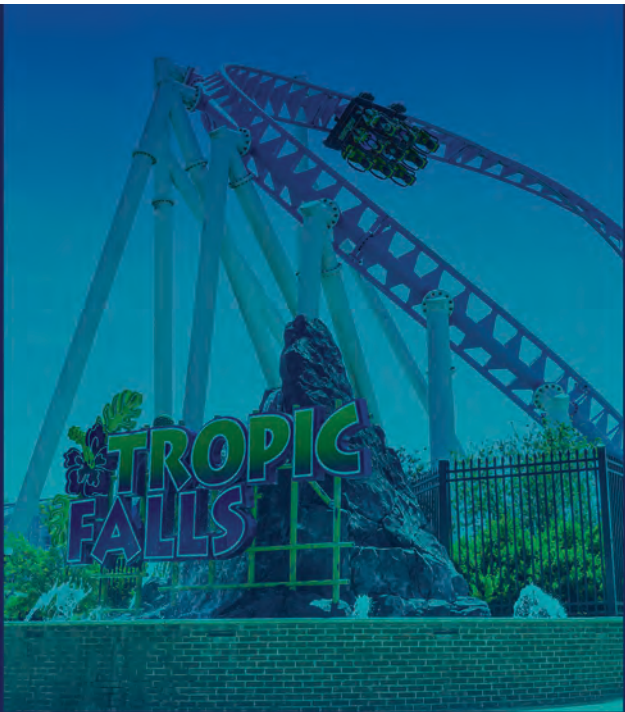
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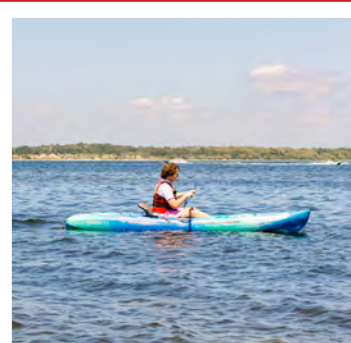
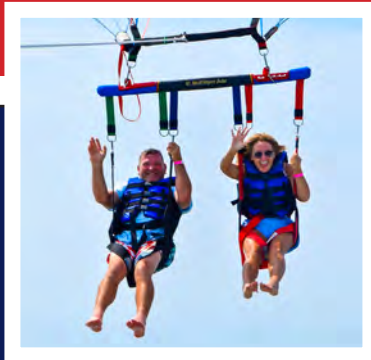
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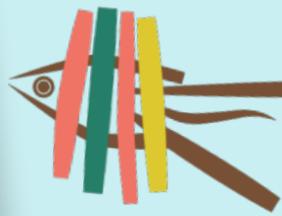


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Rollins Distillery is an innovative and award-winning distillery in Gulf Breeze that produces hand-crafted local spirits.

During the height of the pandemic, Rollins Distillery rose to the occasion and jumped at the opportunity to help their community. To help deal with a shortage of hand sanitizer, father and son duo Paul and Patrick Rollins started producing hand sanitizer at their distillery to help keep families safe during COVID-19. They ended up producing and distributing more than 2000 gallons to the local community. Rollins Distillery, located at 5680 Gulf Breeze Parkway, strives to give precise focus to every facet of the distilling process. The finished product is the result of a detailed procedure involving ingredients, equipment and passion for quality rum and vodka and whiskey.

"We want to create a foundation of quality products," said Patrick. Their liquor is hand-crafted, locally made and has won multiple awards last year from the American Distilling Institute and the American Craft Spirits Association, including Best in Class, Best in Category and a double gold medal. The distillery's Esprit de Krewe Rock N' Rum, which is sweetened with rock candy, took home a gold medal. Rollins Distillery's Esprit de Krewe Cane Vodka was awarded a silver medal at the institute's 2020 Craft Spirit Awards.

To introduce further complexity into their product, Rollins also is currently aging some of their spirit in ex-bourbon and ex-cognac barrels, as well as ex-calvados, an apple brandy from France.

The Wandering Whiskey Project is the latest line of spirit available at Rollins Distillery.

"That is a line of spirit that features sourced whiskey that we have blended or finished in different barrels," Patrick said. "We didn't make the whiskey, we're just finding it, blending it, finishing it. It's called Wandering Whiskey Project because it's wandered about, gone to different distilleries."

Paul, a retired naval aviator with a degree in chemistry who flew F/A-18 Hornets, was looking to produce a product that could be sold elsewhere and that would be desired in good times and in bad times and would be easily transportable.

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That led him to the distillery business.

Since being founded in 2011, Rollins Distillery has completed a years-long process of finding a proper warehouse, gaining a license to distill and conducting three years of research and development. The Distillery brought its first bottle of spirits to the market in January 2016.

The brand prides itself on using only Florida ingredients in its products. Florida offers a perfect climate for growing sugar cane, the source of the molasses that is the basic ingredient of the Rollins' spirits.

"We are 100 percent a Florida distillery by making everything from South Florida molasses," Patrick said. "The products we make are from things we can find locally or regionally."

Both father and son have the spirit-crafting process mastered, from the initial molasses fermentation to the transfer of the spirits to the final distilling process. This involves two 30-gallon stills for Rollins vodka products, and they use their brand-new 150-gallon still for their rum products. The Rollins duo will never hesitate to tell you there is always more to learn.

The distillery's products have been featured in area restaurants such as the Fish House and IRON in Pensacola as well as being available for purchase at local liquor stores such as Aloha Liquor Store, Navarre Liquors and Beach Liquors. Rollins Distillery offers tours of the distilling process and taste testing.

Tours and tastings are offered Monday through Friday from 12-5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [rollinsdistillery.com](http://rollinsdistillery.com) to schedule tours to see the distilling process for yourself. Rollins also offers cigars by consignment.

"People like to visit the actual locations of distilleries or breweries because it is in a sense buying local. In the long term, we would like to create a destination distillery, a place that people can visit and is something that the region is proud of," Patrick said.

The Rollins are thrilled to be expanding their office, and they recently bought a new 150-gallon still that will triple production capacity.

"By increasing our capacity, not only will we be able to sufficiently meet demand, but we will be able to produce some excess product that we can reserve and set aside for experimenting on new things, which is really exciting to think about," Patrick said.


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## Scooters Fish House in Yelp Top 20

By Hansen Hasenberg

[hansen@navarrepress.com](mailto:hansen@navarrepress.com)

Scooter's Fish House has been named in Yelp's list of the Top 100 seafood restaurants in the United States. Not only did Scooter's make the top 100, they finished 18 overall.



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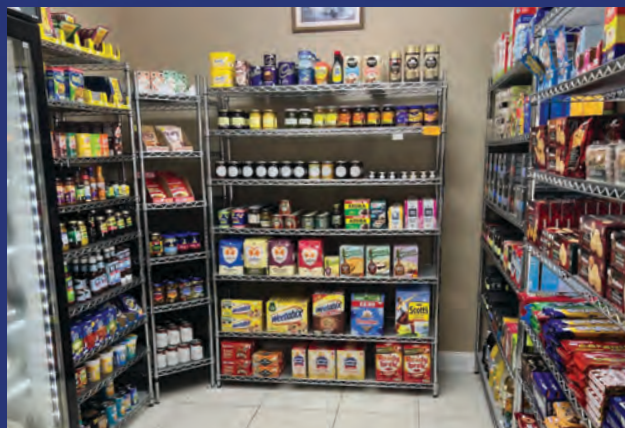
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One coupon per group, per visit.

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