

Spring in Destin and Fort Walton Beach

Take a sneak peak at what spring season looks like on the Emerald Coast and you'll find outdoor activities, attractions and events abound in Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island this time of year. From parasailing and jet skiing, to boating adventures and world-class golf, to marine shows at the Gulfarium and water slides at Big Kahuna's Water Park, to dining alfresco on fresh seafood and viewing gorgeous sunsets from the 1,200ft pier; spring season is always a special time to visit.

A golf getaway in Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Okaloosa Island, Florida is a great way to get outside and enjoy some incredible weather. Spring is a great time to visit Florida, with comfortably warm days and cool, calm evenings. Explore eight gorgeous, lush golf courses and clubs, and discover an array of other activities as well, from lounging on the beach to reeling in the fishing story of a lifetime.

For anglers, it's a great time to try their luck in the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village," with March being a good time to catch cobia and offshore tuna, April being prime time to hook king mackerel, redfish, sheepshead, flounder and speckled trout, and in May, the triggerfish, mango and white snapper are biting.

Take your love of seafood to new heights with a meal straight from the Gulf of Mexico. Whether they prefer to reel in your own or simply sample the catch of the day, diners can enjoy the highest quality seafood available year-round in Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island. An exceptional meal here though means more than just fantastic food. Raise a glass to the local brews and breweries not found anywhere else. Visit local favorite McGuire's Irish Pub for its nightline and entertainment, and of course its highly praised beer brewed by the pub itself; the area also features two respected and accomplished breweries, Props Brewing in Fort Walton Beach and Destin Brewery.

Some top events taking place this spring that are not to be missed, include:

APRIL

Kitty Hawk Kite Festival

March 31 – April 1 | 10:00am – 4:00pm

KittyHawk.com/event/fly-spring-fort-walton-beach-fl/

Say hello to spring at the Kitty Hawk Kites annual Fly Into Spring Kite Festival at The Boardwalk on Okaloosa Island. In addition to experiencing the sight of 25-to-100-foot larger-than-life show kites of all sizes and shapes, this FREE two-day, high-flying event features professional stunt kite flying, demonstrations and lessons, and a family fun fly that is perfect for kite enthusiasts of all ages.

21st Annual Destin Cobia Tournament

March 1 – April 30, 2018 | 7:00am – 8:00pm

EmeraldGrande.com/events

The 21st Annual Destin Cobia Tournament presented by Harborwalk Marina attracts hundreds of anglers competing to catch delicious cobia. The tournament begins when the first cobia is caught and ends on April 30.

Emerald Coast Volleyball Week

April 18-22, 2018

EmeraldCoastVolleyball.com/ecvw.htm

Get 'set' for one of the largest four-player beach volleyball tournaments in the U.S., officially kicking off again this year on April 18 with five days chock full of tournaments, parties and fun. Come on out

to watch the players in action and for some fun in the sun. All of the week's events are open to the public and sure to be a great time for all!

MAY

Cinco de Mayo Pub Crawl

May 5-6, 2018 | 6:00pm – 1:00am

EmeraldCoastFL.com/things-to-do/upcoming-events/cinco-de-mayo-pub-crawl/

We're throwing a fiesta on the Destin Harbor! Grab your friends for the annual Cinco de Mayo Pub Crawl. With your Pub Crawl Pass enjoy exclusive drink specials all night long at all the festive stops. Tickets cost \$10 with proceeds benefiting TBD.

Destin's Annual Blessing of the Fleet

May 10, 2018

TheChurchofDestin.com

A 60+ year tradition, the Blessing of the Fishing Fleet is a week-long annual celebration. Charter fishing boats, captains, mates, and others who earn their living on the Gulf are blessed for safe passages and bountiful catches. The week includes a Children's Fair, the Blessing of the Marketplace, the Blessing of the Youth Concert, a fish fry and live entertainment.

Memorial Day Concert Celebration

May 26-27, 2018 | Entertainment starts at 7:00pm, Fireworks at 9:00pm

Celebrate Memorial Day at HarborWalk Village! Its time for flip-flops, sun tans and SUMMER! Kick off summer with live music all weekend long and fireworks over the Destin Harbor.

Fat Tuesday Parade

May 29 – August 14, 2018 | Entertainment begins at 6:30pm, Parade at 8:30pm

EmeraldGrande.com/fat-tuesday-parades/

Who wants some beads?! Join us for Fat Tuesday every Tuesday during the summer until August 14th as HarborWalk Village transforms into The Big Easy. Enjoy dazzling floats, colorful costumes, street performers and float riders tossing handfuls of beads and swag! Enjoy free live music on the main stage before the parade!

Red, White, and Blue Hero Celebration

May 31 – August 16, 2018 | Ceremony at 7:00pm, Fireworks at 9:00pm

EmeraldGrande.com/red-white-blue-heros-celebration/

The Red, White & Blue Hero Celebration happens each Thursday during the summer, starting May 31 until August 16th. A celebration of local heroes includes a presentation of the colors, celebration ceremony, a WWII vintage airshow and entertainment by the Village Belles followed by fireworks over the Destin Harbor.