

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Explore the Great Outdoors of Florida's Emerald Coast

Adventure abounds in Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island

DESTIN-FORT WALTON BEACH-OKALOOSA ISLAND, Fla. – Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Okaloosa Island offer some of the greatest outdoor adventures and Florida recreation. The area's more than 20 miles of shoreline consists of sugar-white sand beaches, emerald-green water, and a portion of the pristine Gulf Islands National Seashore, plus protected bays and bayous, five beachfront parks, and 12 beach access ways with plenty of opportunities for visitors to explore, swim and play. From sport fishing and boating, to snorkeling and diving, to birding and wildlife viewing, to golfing and watersports galore, there's no shortage of fun to be had in the great outdoors of Florida's Emerald Coast.

The sugar-white sand and vibrant emerald-green waters are the focal point of any getaway here. Amazing sea life can be seen in the water while paddle boarding, snorkeling or walking along the pier. Visitors can enjoy seeing dancing dolphins, loggerhead sea turtles and other large fish, which are all common along the shores of the destination. Intertwined among its beautiful beaches are protected preserves like Henderson Beach State Park, which features 6,000 square feet of shoreline and over a mile of walking trails, perfect for scouting out any number of other protected species in the preserve.

The 100-Fathom Curve draws nearer to Destin than to any other spot on the Gulf Coast, providing for the quickest deep-water access on the Gulf, which attracts one of the widest arrays of marine life in Florida. Come explore artificial reefs, wrecks and a limestone shelf at depths of up to 90 feet. Many local dive shops offer lessons, certification classes and a wide variety of excursion activities. Choose from any number of local area purveyors to take a sail, go snorkeling, shelling, snuba or scuba diving in the Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island's beautiful emerald green waters.

Home to the largest fishing fleet in the U.S., if you've ever wanted to go deep-sea fishing, now's your chance. While many know Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island for the family-friendly beaches and activities of the area, fishermen have long known the destination for its near guarantee of a good catch. From the depths of the breathtaking Gulf of Mexico to the sleepy bayous, beautiful sound and pristine waters of the Choctawhatchee Bay, there is an abundance of fish to be caught here year-round.

Nature lovers flock to the beaches, waters and parks of the Emerald Coast every year to go bird watching, hiking and dolphin watching. Nearly 60 percent of the beach in this area is preserved in perpetuity. There's no shortage of lush foliage to admire while experiencing the beauty of ancient forests, pristine estuaries and majestic shorelines. Explore the stunning beaches of Okaloosa Island, the Gulf Island National Seashore or

the Choctawhatchee Bay. Hike or kayak at Turkey Creek Park or Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park, where there are freshwater rivers and bayous.

Sunny skies, coastal breezes and lush landscapes make Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Okaloosa Island a paradise for golfers of all skill levels, year-round. From challenging links designed by world-renowned architects to panoramic enticements engineered by Mother Nature, visitors will have a great time golfing at any of the destinations eight championship golf courses and country clubs.

ABOUT DESTIN, FORT WALTON BEACH AND OKALOOSA ISLAND

<http://www.emeraldcoastfl.com>

Discover the sugar-white sand and emerald-green water of Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island, Florida. Enjoy more than 20 miles of pristine beaches, Gulf-to-Table seafood, abundant watersport activities, championship golf, lively nightlife, and numerous attractions designed to thrill all ages. Plus, open-air shopping, nature parks and preserves, annual festivals and events year-round, there's truly something fun for everyone. Known as the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village," Destin is the perfect place for anglers of any skill level to drop a line. Indulge in fresh, local dining at its best with delicious seafood caught straight from the Gulf only hours before it reaches the plate. The destination is an outdoor recreation mecca offering snorkeling and diving, legendary fishing, and boating any adventurer will enjoy. With eight gorgeous golf courses in the area, nothing beats teeing off in paradise. Thanks to its unique sugar-white sand that squeaks beneath your feet and the iconic, calm emerald-green water, the area is known as the Heart of Florida's Emerald Coast. Whether it's lounging on one of our world-renowned beaches or unwinding at an area spa, nowhere else in the world gives visitors the freedom to lose themselves and completely relax quite like Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island. The Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS) offers nonstop flights from 21 cities across the U.S., making it quick and easy to hit the tranquil beaches of the Heart of Florida's Emerald Coast!

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