

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — WHERE THERE'S A TREASURE TROVE TO DISCOVER: HIDDEN BEACHES, SUNKEN TREASURE, DINING GEMS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, Fla. – Discovering a semi-secluded beach is like uncovering hidden treasure. And in Indian River County, part of Florida's Treasure Coast, you don't have to dig too deep to locate a real gem. Whether you choose to enjoy a day at an uncrowded beach or one with lots of action, know Indian River County has many beautiful beaches, but as an added bonus also does not permit buildings on the beach to be higher than the highest palm tree, ensuring unobstructed views of the shoreline. Some notable public beaches include: **Jaycee Beach** which boasts the county's longest boardwalk and a beautiful oceanfront park with sand volleyball court, picnic areas, grills and a Seaside Grill; while **Humiston Park** features tables in the shade, grills, kids' playground and numerous dining spots/shops just steps away. Both are on Ocean Drive, Vero and have lifeguards on duty daily. Or you can embark on a surfing safari at **Sebastian Inlet State Park**, one of the premiere surf spots on the eastern US. Sebastian Inlet also features three miles of beautiful beaches and is a favored spot for catching snook, redfish, bluefish and Spanish mackerel. The [public beaches](#) aren't all lifeguarded, but many provide facilities such as parking, free boat launching, restrooms, etc. Facilities vary from beach to beach, especially at low-key gems like **Conn Beach**, **Golden Sands Park** or **Rounds Island Park** where you may spy a manatee.



Many famous shipwrecks occurred off the coast of Vero Beach centuries ago. Their submerged remains are still there today. Treasure hunters have salvaged millions of dollars in gold coins and valuable artifacts from those wrecks, much of which is on view at local museums, and some of which is for sale. But treasure hunting in Indian River County is not just for well-funded professional salvage operations. It's for visitors too. Here are a couple of fun facts. On **Sea Grape Trail Beach**, a wreck is so close to shore that after storms you may find shards of pottery and small coins washed up on the beach. One wreck sunk with 70 pounds of emeralds on board. Only

three pounds have been recovered. (Got your scuba gear handy?) Folks with metal detectors are a common sight on the beaches of Indian River County. They're not hoping to stumble across a lost bracelet or loose change. They're hunting for real treasure. For more adventurous types, scuba divers and snorkelers can easily reach these wrecks. Or landlubbers can visit a local treasure museum:

**McLarty Treasure Museum.** Located on a lovely stretch of A1A on the barrier island north of Vero Beach, this museum is part of Sebastian Inlet State Park, so visitors can make a day of it. The museum focuses on the history of the 1715 Spanish treasure fleet (see history below), and features all manner of artifacts — coins, jewelry, tools, weapons — as well as videos (including an A&E Network production, *The Queen's Jewels and the 1715 Fleet*) and exhibits. The McLarty is both highly entertaining and an immersive history lesson. 13180 N. Hwy A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32963 (772) 589-2147. **Mel Fisher's Treasure Museum.** Named after a renowned treasure hunter, this unstuffy museum and gift shop located on the Indian River contains a theater, dioramas, photos, dive site maps, and lots and lots of treasure and artifacts pulled from Spanish shipwrecks of

the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. From gold coins and silver bars to candle sticks and rosary beads, this attraction offers a lively look back into a particularly swashbuckling period of Florida history. The gift shop offers a bounty, from inexpensive re-creation coins to authentic silver coins that can run \$10K. 1322 US Hwy 1, Sebastian, (772) 589-9875.

To combine treasure seeking, beachcombing and **good eats**, the SS Breconshire, a steamship built in England in 1833, was carrying cargo en route from New York when it hit a reef and wrecked on April 30, 1894. Today it rests a quarter mile out from the popular **Ocean Grill Restaurant**. The wreck is located in only about 12 feet of water. At low tide, a watchful eye can still see the bow of the ship peeking out from below the surf. The Boiler may not contain a lot of actual treasure, but it's certainly an Indian River County cultural treasure.



Other dining discoveries for you include: **Mulligan's Beach House Bar & Grill** — This is a place where, if you desire, you can sip a brew and eat fish and chips under a thatched roof with your toes in the sand. (Or you can opt for deck or indoor seating.) This casual, family-friendly place serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. This is one of six Mulligan's locations on Florida's east coast — but it just doesn't fit our definition of a chain.

<https://www.mulligansbeachhouse.com/>. **The Tides** — This Zagat-rated fine dining establishment is located a couple blocks from the water. It's also been honored with a Wine Spectator Award of Excellence. Upscale but not stuffy. <https://www.tidesofvero.com/>. **Cobalt** — Part of the Kimpton Vero Beach Hotel & Spa, Cobalt offers three distinct settings: poolside grill, the lounge or beachfront dining room. The innovative, seafood-intensive menu reflects the fresh, local ingredients of Florida's Treasure Coast. The Kimpton also features **Heaton's Reef**, an alfresco bar and grill — an ideal gathering spot that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and is known for its terrific happy hours. <http://www.cobaltrestaurant.com/>. **The Wave Kitchen & Bar** — Ensclosed in Gloria and Emilio Estefan's Costa d' Este Beach Resort & Spa, this open-kitchen restaurant offers customizable menu options; fresh, locally sourced seafood and produce; and Cuban specialties from the Estefan Kitchen Cookbook. [https://www.costadeste.com/verobeach\\_restaurants/wave\\_kitchen\\_bar/](https://www.costadeste.com/verobeach_restaurants/wave_kitchen_bar/)

**About Indian River County:** Situated along Florida's Treasure Coast on the Atlantic Ocean, the communities of Vero Beach, Sebastian and Fellsmere are the geographical starting point for the Florida tropics, with winter temperatures rarely dipping below 70° (21°C). The county is centrally located 70 miles south of the Kennedy Space Center and 135 miles north of Miami. The destination resides at the intersection of green and glamorous, with 100,000 conservation acres, 26 miles of pristine beaches and a treasure trove of cultural attractions. Hotels and resorts with rooftops no higher than swaying palm trees support the destination's motto "Sunrises, not High Rises." Road trippers can easily access the destination via I-95, the Florida Turnpike or Route 60. It is also convenient to Orlando International; Orlando-Melbourne International, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood, and Miami International airports. Vero Beach Regional Airport is served by Elite Airways with direct flights from Newark, N.J., and Asheville, N.C. <https://visitindianrivercounty.com/>. Follow, Share and join us on our never-ending journey via social media @VeroBeachCVB. Tag the town you're visiting: #LoveVeroBeach #LoveFellsmere #LoveSebastian

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