

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

Arts, Culture and Historical Events in Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Island

DESTIN/FORT WALTON BEACH/OKALOOSA ISLAND, Fla. (July 11, 2018) – There are so many things that come to mind when you think of the Heart of Florida’s Emerald Coast, for instance sugar-white sand, emerald-green water and fleet-fresh seafood from the Gulf. This stretch of paradise, made up of Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island, also has a vibrant arts & culture scene and rich maritime history and culture.

Top arts, culture and historical events in Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Island are:

Destin Fishing Rodeo, Oct. 1-31, 2018

October features the annual Destin Fishing Rodeo, which is a month-long fishing competition. This 67-year old signature-fishing tournament highlights the diversity of fishing in Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Okaloosa Island’s rich emerald green waters. It’s a must-fish tournament for locals and visitors alike in “The World’s Luckiest Fishing Village.” While many visitors come to try their luck in the competition, the rodeo is a great time for all. The hub for activities is at AJ’s Seafood and Oyster Bar, which hosts the daily weigh-ins and where on-lookers can cheer for captains and anglers that come into the Harbor. Daily competition and weigh-ins keep the action going all month long.

<http://destinfishingrodeo.org/>

Destin Seafood Festival, Oct. 5-7, 2018

Where there is good fishing, there is great seafood. In Destin, known as the “World’s Luckiest Fishing Village”, not only is there great fishing, there is amazing seafood. Now in its 40th year, the Destin Seafood Festival highlights many of the acclaimed locally owned restaurants, and the variety of fresh local Gulf seafood in Destin. Stroll down the Destin Harbor, along the beautiful Destin Harbor Boardwalk, and get a sampling of the amazing local culinary offerings, live music on three different stages, and so much more. Admission is free and open to the public, with VIP packages and passes, with unlimited tasting and prime seating options, available for purchase online.

<http://www.destinseafoodfestival.com/>

Mattie Kelly Festival of the Arts, Oct. 27-28, 2018

One of the Southeast’s premier art festivals, the two-day signature 23rd annual Festival of the Arts showcases the original artwork and art exhibits of nearly 200 total artists (including the juried and collaborative exhibits) from 13 different states featuring a diverse palette of artistic styles in 22 different art mediums. Additional cultural amenities include, live entertainment, Kid’s ArtStop (free interactive art station) adult and student collaborative art exhibit of over 85 emerging and seasoned artists, Cuisine on the Green (multiple food vendors) and a Wine & Beer Garden. There is \$10,000 in artist’s cash prizes awarded in 28 categories from Best In Show to People’s Choice Award, to name the two most coveted awards.

<https://www.mattiekellyartsfoundation.org/destinfloridaeventsartfestival.html>

ABOUT DESTIN, FORT WALTON BEACH, OKALOOSA ISLAND (www.emeraldcoastfl.com)

Discover the sugar-white sand and crystal-clear, emerald-green water of Northwest Florida’s Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island, or as we like to call it, the Heart of Florida’s Emerald Coast. 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. Indulge in fresh, local dining at its best with delicious seafood caught straight from the Gulf of Mexico only

hours before it reaches your plate. Plus, open-air shopping, nature parks and preserves, annual festivals and events year-round, there's truly something fun for everyone.

FB: [@FloridasEmeraldCoast](#)

IG: [@emeraldcoastfla](#)

TW: [@EmeraldCoastFLA](#)