



FRESH CATCHES, LOCAL INGREDIENTS AND CREATIVE SPECIALITIES PROVIDE DINERS WITH A TRUE TASTE OF FLORIDA'S EMERALD COAST

From Gulf-to-Table dishes to Southern fare with a twist, the distinctive flavors of Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island delight generations of visitors

Destin/Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. – Part of what makes any destination unique is the distinct flavors travelers can experience during their visit, and the [Heart of Florida's Emerald Coast](#) – Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island – does just that. With an abundance of Gulf-to-Table seafood many local restaurants offer a wide selection of fresh catches, brought in daily by local fishermen. Aside from menu items that diners may come to expect from a visit to the region, such as Grouper and Mahi-Mahi, travelers can enjoy specialty “catch of the day” menus. For non-seafood lovers, restaurants also offer traditional and contemporary American fare, from burgers and steaks to regional cuisine that’s distinctly southern, paired expertly with locally crafted beers and custom cocktails.

For decades, the Heart of Florida’s Emerald Coast has been home to North America’s largest fishing fleet. At any given time, there are more than 20 kinds of edible fish to be caught off the Emerald Coast shores. The destination’s legendary charter fishing fleet, comprised of more than 140 vessels, brings in thousands of pounds of fish each day. The abundance of catch and the area’s rich heritage has inspired the region’s chefs and attracted visitors to the destination for decades.

After returning from a day on the water, visitors have many options to “Dock and Dine” in the Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Island area, with restaurants along the Gulf of Mexico and Destin Harbor offering plenty of dock space to pull right up and walk in. A top, long-standing option is [Dewey Destin’s Seafood Restaurant](#), a local dive on the water, offering picturesque views and some of the best seafood in town. Other popular locations include [The Gulf on Okaloosa Island](#) and [Dock on the Island](#).

For a truly memorable dining experience, many local restaurants offer a “cook your catch” service to mark the end of a successful day spent fishing. Smoked, grilled, fried, or blackened restaurants, such as [Harry T’s](#), [Jackacuda's](#) and [Harbor Docks](#) are ready to prepare a feast cooked to please the palates of all ages.

Moving inland, those looking for true farm-to-fork options will be happy to taste the locally grown produce, sourced directly from the area’s many family-owned farms and served same day, in local

restaurants like [Formula Fresh](#), [The Local Market](#) and [Camille's](#).

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.

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