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Falling for Pensacola: Adventure, Festivals and Local Charms Await in this Must-See Coastal City

It's fall. The temperatures are finally mellowing to a "comfortable-to-do-stuff-outside" point and you've got that one extra personal day you need to use before the end of the year. Pensacola is the ideal place to get away for an extended autumn weekend.

Day One

Your weekend begins on Pensacola Beach. Of course, our sugar-white beaches and emerald-green waters are always a great option. But if you're looking for more fun in the sun, the whole family will enjoy an adventure at Premier Adventure Park. You can make your agenda as mild as go-carts and kayaks or as wild as parasailing and jet skiing. You can even rent a pontoon boat to enjoy the bay for the day.

You should also plan a visit to the Pensacola Beach Gulf Pier. The pier is home to a great community of local fishermen who are always more than happy to let visiting anglers know what's biting. However, the 1,471-foot pier is also a great place just to take a walk. It's one of the best places on the beach to see a sunset or sunrise.

Day Two

On day two, Downtown Pensacola is your destination. Plan to Uber or park in one place and walk — as the many museums, galleries, restaurants and parks are all on a very walkable grid. The area where Florida became part of the U.S. in 1821 is in downtown Pensacola at Plaza Ferdinand. The T.T. Wentworth, Jr., Florida State Museum and a host of other museums tell Pensacola's stories. You'll find the Pensacola Museum of Art as well as numerous local galleries, jewelers and boutiques within just a few blocks.

On any given weekend, an array of festivals and events will be at your fingertips. From the decadent taste of the Pensacola Seafood Festival to the creative influence of Foo Foo Festival and numerous activities in between, there is something for everyone.

Day Three

The final day of your long weekend will take you to Naval Air Station Pensacola, which welcomes visitors to several public amenities. Located on the base, the National Naval Aviation Museum boasts more than 150 restored aircraft as well as many artifacts. The facility includes 350,000 square feet of exhibit space as well as 37 acres outdoors. It also offers a restaurant, a gift shop, flight simulators and a Giant Screen movie theater.

Almost directly across the street from the aviation museum is the Pensacola Lighthouse and Museum, an actual functional lighthouse that dates to 1859. You may climb the 177 spiral steps to the lantern room for a spectacular view of Pensacola Bay and the islands. The lighthouse is a great place to watch Blue Angel practices. The lighthouse also hosts periodic tours, ghost hunts and other special events. That's your extended fall weekend in Pensacola. It's a personal day well-spent.

About Visit Pensacola

Visit Pensacola is the destination management organization for Escambia County which includes Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and Perdido Key. With over 450 years of rich history and 18 miles of sugar-white sand beaches bordered by the emerald-green waters of the Gulf of Mexico, visitors from all over the world are lured to our



pristine shores every year. Visit Pensacola supports the community vision of tourism by serving as the central body responsible for building tourism as an economic engine for our community through leadership, connection, collaboration, and communication.

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