

Tourist Attractions on Pensacola Beach

Pensacola Beach reminds visitors of two important things: the World is beautiful and daily routine needs occasional escaping. Indeed, tourists leave the beach when they are thoroughly soothed, relaxed, and rejuvenated. Perhaps its attractions made the US build Fort Pickens just two miles away. Interestingly, the beach is located near the western end of Santa Rosa Island, a forty-mile long island that shields Pensacola Bay from the waves of the Gulf of Mexico. Remarkably, this island of many beaches is so narrow that when the calm waters of the bay tire beach revelers, they simply cross the street to reach the waves of the gulf. This article describes the low cost and easily accessible tourist attractions on Pensacola Beach and its vicinity.

The main attraction at Pensacola Beach is the beach itself for its sugar-white, powdery sand; clear waters; and sand dunes adorned with sea oats. The sand is amazingly so soft that it squeaks under the feet. Visitors enjoy playing and relaxing in the water and on the sand, and viewing the sand dunes. They play beach games such as football and volleyball; and swim in the calm waters of the bay. Water sports enthusiasts rent equipment and snorkel to see fish, crabs, starfish, and sand dollars; go for sea kayaking; and take scenic boat trips. Children activities include cycling, snorkeling, water park rides, pier fishing, building sand castles, and snowmen, looking for dolphins, learning various water activities, and riding on the electric trolley. The low traffic makes the beach family friendly. Whereas some parts of the beach have lively crowds and are idyllic for family holidays, other parts are quiet and ideal for romance. Occasionally, couples wed on the beach.

The second attraction at the beach is the proximity of essential services. In fact, visitors access all essential services necessary for them to live right at the beach. These services include accommodation, real estate, banking, church, and laundry. For instance, luxurious villas, beach houses, cottages, and condominiums line the beach. Furthermore, beach bars, shopping malls, restaurants, hotels, and other entertainment spots surround the beach.

The Quietwater Beach Boardwalk, for instance, is a special setting because various facilities are concentrated in a small area at the northern entrance of Pensacola Beach, near the Bob Sikes Bridge. The boardwalk has bars, restaurants, shops, and theaters. Other establishments include gift shops, fine pizza, dining parlors, and a department store. Tourists visit Quietwater to enjoy playing in shallow calm waters and frolicking in the sand. From the hot beach, they step onto the boardwalk for shopping, entertainment, refreshments, fun, and food.

Popular establishments at the Quietwater Beach Boardwalk include Bamboo Willie's, Hemingway's Island Grill, Flounder's, and Capt'n Fun's Beach Club. Bamboo Willie's is popular for refreshments because of its open cabana style hang out and frozen drinks. For fine dining, visitors go to Hemingway's Island Grill and Flounder's, respectively located at the northern and southern ends. The boardwalk has three stages for live entertainment. The open-air stage at the center of the boardwalk is the most famous because it is the oldest. The stage at Capt'n Fun's Beach Club hosts live R&B and contemporary rock and is very popular with young people. Bamboo Willie's has the third stage and hosts live music artists on weekends. Artists use these stages to provide the boardwalk with a vibrant nightlife.

Another special setting is on the gulf side across the street from the Quietwater Beach Boardwalk. It has a family style game room, restaurants, miniature golf, a dance club, and an open-air stage. Like all beaches on the island, this setting is also attractive for its pristine white sand beach and a beautiful emerald green strip of the ocean bordering the beach. Visitors enjoy various activities include hiking, swimming, collecting seashells, bird watching, sailing, and fishing.

The third attraction at the beach is a spectacular flying show performed by the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels. The precision flying team performs aerial stunts over the Gulf of Mexico twice a year on a Saturday around mid July and November. Pensacola Beach is good place to watch these breathtaking aerial and heights displays, and visitors who happen to be at the beach, at the time, watch it free of charge.

For time away from the beach, tourists visit Fort Pickens, the forth Pensacola Beach attraction. The massive, brick fortress is located at the western end and gulf side of Santa Rosa Island, not far from Pensacola Beach. It attracts many visitors because of its rich history, abundant wildlife, and spectacular views. Moreover, the area around the fort is a national park with a fishing pier, white sand beaches, a campground, and nature trails. Furthermore, the fort has a museum, and an aquatic preserve. Visitors listen to accounts of its history, inspect the cannons, and see a variety of wild life including several bird species, armadillos, red foxes, and rabbits.

The attractions make Pensacola Beach a delightful destination with many family friendly entertainment activities. Indeed, it is the place to visit for a slow summer vacation. In fact, visitors find it impossible to resist a repeat visit to this premier tourist destination.