

# SouthEast Getaway Travel Newsletter

April 2010

## In this issue

[Tampa/ St.Petersburg, FL](#)

[Gulf Shores, Alabama](#)

[The Outer Banks, NC](#)

[Travel Help](#)

Tampa/ St.Petersburg,  
FL



Tampa/St. Petersburg FL - Overview Florida's west coast provides an array of outdoor activities in a beautiful, natural setting. There are rolling, pine covered plains as well as white sand beaches and barrier islands. Camping, fishing, swimming, boating, and snorkeling are always available. The Gulf Coast has calm, warm waters and endless white sand beaches with memorable sunsets. The crystal clear springs further inland have drawn visitors for many years. The resort towns to the south, including Sarasota, are equally popular with seasonal visitors and permanent residents.

The city of Tampa is a well developed metropolis, with attractions for visitors of all ages. The area has recently seen the addition of a world-class art museum dedicated to the work of the surrealist painter Salvador Dali. The Tampa Museum of Art boasts its own collection from around the world. Nearly 7,000 objects of art are displayed in its many galleries. The \$84 million Florida Aquarium is a dazzling landmark which is drawing an increasing number of visitors to Tampa. In addition to cultural and educational offerings, Tampa has a vibrant nightlife with many restaurants and clubs from which to choose.

The Ybor District is Tampa's own Little Havana. The wrought iron gates and cobblestone streets lend charm to the area. Of course, no visit to Tampa would be complete without a visit to Busch Gardens, the amusement park and zoo built by the famous brewery. It is a popular family attraction to which visitors return year after year. Tampa has many more museums and attractions that await those who visit the Florida Gulf Coast. Here, a day's itinerary might include breakfast at a waterside cafe, time at Busch Gardens and the Florida Aquarium, a streetcar ride to Channelside for shopping, and a Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Devil Rays, or Lightning game. The Tampa Bay area is a vacation paradise where life is sunny and warm, with a distinct (though temperate) change of seasons and hours of enjoyment for the whole family!

[For Accommodations in Tampa/St. Petersburg](#)

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Dear Harry,

Beach, beach, oh beach, here we come. From the Outer Banks of NC, to the Grand Strand of Myrtle Beach, SC to the crystal sand of Destin and Gulf Shores the Southeast offers some of the best beaches anywhere. Check them out and then book your reservations now for the best accommodations. Don't wait until it is too **LATE!!**

## • Gulf Shores, Alabama



Warm water, salt air, sparkling white sand stretching to the horizon line, fabulous sunrises and sunsets: these are just a few guaranteed ingredients of the exceptional vacation that awaits visitors to aptly named Pleasure Island. Gulf Shores, located on Pleasure Island, has grown since the bridge connecting the island to the mainland was constructed in 1933. Residents and visitors have been drawn to the areas beautiful sandy beaches, mild climate and numerous business opportunities. Traditionally regarded as a tourist resort community, Gulf Shores is now home to 5000 year round residents. Tourists raise the population during the busy summer months to over 40,000, yet it retains a delightful, small town atmosphere

The warmth of the Gulf waters makes water sports possible year round. Other popular activities are deep sea fishing, bird watching and hiking. Off the beach, families enjoy the water slides, bungee towers, miniature golf, the zoo, and the go-cart tracks. The area also boasts some of the most attractive and most challenging golf courses in the country. This is an ideal spot for family vacation fun on the Gulf Coast. Waterfront activities occupy the Spring and Summer months. Fireworks light up the beaches on summer evenings as the City of Gulf Shores sponsors 4th of July celebrations. The Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo is also held in July at nearby Dauphin Island. The Gulf Shores Shrimp Festival in the fall is always well attended.

Historic Fort Morgan and the battleship USS. Alabama are in nearby Mobile, and Ft. Morgan hosts Civil War day camps and reenactments in the summer. There are also plays, concerts, sporting events, historic home tours, and of course, Mardi Gras. Restaurants in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach & Perdido Key serve the freshest and finest of seafood in every season. For those seeking nature-based travel opportunities, Gulf Shores has the adventure you're looking for! Hiking, biking, canoeing and sailing are all there within local parks and recreational facilities. Comprised mostly of quartz, Alabamas beaches are some of the most beautiful in the world. It is easy to lose track of time in any season exploring these shores. The Alabama coast has mild temperatures throughout the seasons. Not surprisingly, the first and foremost activity available at all times is pure relaxation in a fabulous setting. Indoors or out, from music to history, sports to festivals, parades to plays, there are activities for the entire family in Gulf Shores at any time of the year.

[For Accommodations in Gulf Shores, Alabama](#)

## • The Outer Banks, NC



The Outer Banks is a 200-mile (320-km) long string of narrow barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina, beginning in southeastern corner of Virginia Beach on the east coast of the United States. They cover approximately half the northern North Carolina coastline, separating the Currituck Sound, Albemarle Sound, and Pamlico Sound from the Atlantic Ocean.

The Outer Banks is a major tourist destination and is known for its temperate climate and wide expanse of open beachfront. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore has four campgrounds where visitors may camp. The Wright brothers' first flight in a powered, heavier- than-air vehicle took place on the Outer Banks on December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills near the seafont town of Kitty Hawk. The Wright Brothers National Monument commemorates the historic flights, and First Flight Airport is a small, general- aviation airfield located there

The English Roanoke Colony-where the first person of English descent, Virginia Dare, was born on American soil-vanished from Roanoke Island in 1587. The Lost Colony, written and performed to commemorate the original colonists, is the longest running outdoor drama in the United States and its theater acts as a cultural focal point for much of the Outer Banks. The treacherous seas off the Outer Banks and the large number of shipwrecks that have occurred there have given these seas the nickname Graveyard of the Atlantic. The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum is located in Hatteras Village near the United States Coast Guard facility and Hatteras ferry.

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