Thank you so much for choosing the Alabama Gulf Coast for your vacation. This guide is filled with information to help make your stay as great as possible, including:

**beach eats**
- 4 Top 5 Family Friendly Restaurants
- 6 Top 5 Spots for Fresh Seafood
- 8 4 Down Home Spots for Barbecue
- 9 5 Best Spots for Sweet Treats
- 10 Top 5 Pizza Restaurants
- 11 5 Fun Spots for Unique Beach Eats

**rainy day activities**
- 14 11 Best Rainy Day Activities

**nightlife**
- 18 Top 8 Spots for Music & Nightlife

**nature**
- 22 5 Great Spots for Nature Lovers

**festivals & events**
- 25 Top 2020 Events

**shopping**
- 27 7 Sensational Spots for Shopping

**golf**
- 30 5 Championship Golf Courses

**fishing**
- 33 5 Ways to Fish Gulf Shores & Orange Beach

ABOUT SPECTRUM RESORTS
We’re 100% positive the world would be a better place if everyone spent a few days each year reconnecting and creating happy memories. Spectrum Resorts is the onsite rental management company at Turquoise Place and The Beach Club Resort & Spa. With added value benefits including resort discounts on dining and shopping and the area’s only Clean Bed Guarantee (a freshly laundered duvet with every stay), and so much more, each Spectrum Resorts vacation is carefully designed to be a worry-free experience for your family.
beach eats
There’s no shortage of family-friendly restaurants in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. From kid-friendly fare to pirate ships and limbo contests, we’re rounding up our favorite spots for an experience the entire family will love.

**LULU’S**
200 East 25th Ave, Gulf Shores, AL 251-967-5858
LuLu’s Gulf Shores offers a classic American menu with lots of local specialties. More than a restaurant, LuLu’s is a high-energy destination. There’s a ropes course, an arcade, face-painting, beach volleyball, a sand and water play area, hoola-hoops, and more. And with multiple outdoor bars around the complex, parents can enjoy a cocktail and listen to live music while the kids have a blast. They also have a dedicated allergy menu to accommodate all kinds of special diets.

**WOW Factor:**
You never know who might pop in at LuLu’s! Owner Lucy Buffett, the “Crazy Sista” herself, may stop in and treat you to some of her signature “gumbo love.” Her brother, Jimmy Buffett, has also been known to drop in for an impromptu concert and a Cheesburger in Paradise.

**THE HANGOUT**
101 E. Beach Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL 251-948-3030
Located on the sugar-white sand beaches of Gulf Shores, The Hangout is the place for non-stop action and family fun. They offer seafood, salads, burgers, sandwiches, and more. And, the whole family will enjoy the courtyard featuring a sandpit, foosball table, ping pong, and a giant foam machine. The Hangout hosts regular competitions and activities, live music, and a daily “Pirate and Princess Breakfast” all summer long! Listen or the DJ to call for the limbo contest and foam parties are held every hour.

**WOW Factor:**
Check out all the walls and ceiling lined with rubber ducks, Matchbox cars, Pez dispensers, and all sorts of toys! It’s a throwback to Mom and Dad’s childhood.
GT’S ON THE BAY
26189 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL
251-980-8400
With its prime location overlooking Wolf Bay, GTs on the Bay offers a blend of unique dishes and local favorites. Enjoy a stone hearth pizza and craft beer, or creole linguini with a specialty cocktail. Whatever you order, you’re sure to see stunning views and hear live music. The kids will stay busy in GTs large play area that includes a wooden pirate ship, a sand pit and toys.

**WOW Factor:**
Take a walk on the long pier and enjoy the gorgeous sunset over the Bay. The kids will also love the 5,000-gallon fish tank in the middle of the restaurant.

TACKY JACKS
27206 Safe Harbor Dr, Orange Beach, AL
251-981-4144
Tacky Jacks offers a full breakfast, hearty appetizers, salads, wraps, burgers, fresh seafood, chicken and steak entrees, and more. Kids will have fun writing their name on a colorful strip of tape and searching for just the right spot to place it. These pieces of tape cover nearly every surface in the restaurant! Accessible “by land or by sea,” Tacky Jacks has locations in Orange Beach, Gulf Shores and Fort Morgan. The Gulf Shores location features a large play area for the kids and even an outdoor pool table.

**WOW Factor:**
Try to catch a peek of the dolphins frolicking in the water below the outdoor decks at the Orange Beach location.

THE VILLAGE LAWN AT THE BEACH CLUB
925 Beach Club Trail, Gulf Shores, AL
251-224-3650
The Village Lawn is a summer hub for food, family and fun. Open seasonally, it’s located on the north end of The Beach Club in Fort Morgan, just outside of Gulf Shores. There are four food trucks with something to please each person in the family, including Mexican, barbecue, panini sandwiches, and Hawaiian shaved ice. There’s also nightly live music, games, kid’s activities and more.

**WOW Factor:**
Families will love the laid-back vibe and “hang out on the lawn” atmosphere, complete with picnic tables or bamboo mats to sit on and dine. The kids will stay entertained with life-sized games, activities and crafts.
TOP 5 Spots for Fresh Seafood on Alabama’s Beaches

You can’t come to the beach without feasting on delicious, Gulf seafood. Whether you’re looking for a traditional basket of fried shrimp or something more exotic like wahoo ceviche, you won’t be disappointed in the choices available at Orange Beach and Gulf Shores restaurants.

COBALT
28099 Perdido Beach Blvd,
Orange Beach, AL
251-923-5300
Cobalt in Orange Beach features fresh, coastal cuisine at its finest. From its beautiful waterfront location under the Perdido Pass bridge, guests can catch the sunset while savoring the restaurant’s popular Firecracker Shrimp, local oysters, Tuna & Avocado Stack, or Pecan Fried Catfish.

WOW Factor:
It’s difficult to beat the fantastic service and spectacular view of the water from every table. Get a table outdoors and watch the boats come and go.

COAST RESTAURANT & SUSHI BAR AT THE BEACH CLUB
453 Beach Club Trail,
Gulf Shores, AL
251-224-3600
A panoramic, waterfront view of the Gulf of Mexico and fresh, locally-sourced seafood make Coast Restaurant & Sushi Bar a top pick. Enjoy new interpretations of classic dishes and a daily selection of fish fresh from the Gulf or indulge in a mouth-watering steak. Seating is available indoors or outdoors on the 2,700-square-foot veranda. The veranda is the perfect spot to catch a Gulf Shores sunset.

WOW Factor:
You’ll find fresh sushi that guests have called “the best they’ve ever had.”
FISHER’S AT ORANGE BEACH MARINA
27075 Marina Rd,
Orange Beach, AL
251-981-7305
Fisher’s at Orange Beach Marina offers two distinct dining experiences: the casual Dockside and the upscale Upstairs. Both offer outstanding local seafood and stellar service. Whether you choose a shrimp and oyster po’boy at the relaxed, open-air Dockside, or a craft cocktail and jumbo seared scallops at the luxurious Upstairs, you will be treated to a delicious meal in an inviting atmosphere.

WOW Factor:
Watch the yachts cruise in and out of the marina as you enjoy one of Fisher’s craft cocktails. Order up a dozen locally sourced Murder Point Oysters, which the chef refers to as “butter babies” for their buttery taste and texture.

FISHER’S AT ORANGE BEACH MARINA

GULF SHORES STEAMER
27267 Perdido Beach Blvd, Suite 115, Orange Beach, AL
251-948-6344
The Gulf Shores Steamer specializes in steamed and grilled seafood – nothing fried. They also offer a delicious selection of grilled fish, steaks, chicken, burgers and sandwiches. The Steamer serves up combination platters that can feed two to four (or more!) people, like the Shrimp & Crab Combo or the “Bucket O’ Reds.” After a day at the beach, this is the place to grab some fresh seafood in a laid back, coastal atmosphere.

WOW Factor:
The Orange Beach restaurant is uber casual with large portions and nothing fried.

GULF SHORES STEAMER

ORIGINAL OYSTER HOUSE
701 Gulf Shores Pkwy,
Gulf Shores, AL
251-948-2445
A giant alligator and bright, beachy décor greet you at the Original Oyster House. This family-friendly spot features a variety of fresh, local seafood, steaks, chicken, salads and pasta with simple yet flavorful spices and sauces. You’ll also find several shops in the complex to browse before or after your meal. The restaurant is a local’s favorite offers one of the biggest salad bars on the beach.

WOW Factor:
The Orange Beach restaurant lives up to its name and offers award-winning oyster dishes that’ll you’re your mouth water. You can also create your own seafood platter.
Down-Home Spots for Delicious Barbecue

Beach and barbecue go hand-in-hand! Pack a picnic of savory barbecue for the beach or dine in at one of these top spots for mouthwatering goodness.

BLUE WATER BBQ
4780 Wharf Pkwy, Suite F-101, Orange Beach, AL 251-256-0081
The motto at Blue Water BBQ is “less waiting, more eating.” This casual, cafeteria-style restaurant and saloon offers delicious, smoked meats, sliced to order, with all the fixins. Just order at the counter and your food is out in minutes. Grab a bite, then explore The Wharf where there are lots of shops and activities to keep the family busy!

WOW Factor: Blue Water BBQ gets top marks for its quick and easy service. Take-out to enjoy on the beach or the boat.

HOG WILD BEACH & BBQ
911 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL 251-600-9453
Hog Wild is passionate about good barbecue. Everything is handmade, and all their sauces are made from scratch. They offer counter service with a beachy theme and a cozy, casual atmosphere. Don’t miss their acclaimed “Wild Fries” or “Cait’s Tater Salad.”

WOW Factor: Unique, homemade barbecue and a fun mural of surfing pigs makes Hog Wild a must-visit spot.

PICNIC BEACH
128 East 1st Ave, Gulf Shores, AL 251-540-0117
Picnic Beach offers Southern barbecue with a healthy twist in a unique, eclectic atmosphere. They use only prime meats and focus on organic, sustainable ingredients that are healthy and flavorful. In addition to the Gulf Shores restaurant's classic smoked meat platters, Picnic Beach features smoothies, organic cocktails, acai bowls, vegetarian- and gluten-free options, and even a Bison Burger. Seating is available on the deck or inside on their grassy turf.

WOW Factor: Families love the indoor, grassy turf where you can kick off your shoes, grab a table, or lay a blanket down and have a picnic! The fresh-squeezed juices are a must-order drink.

MOE’S ORIGINAL BBQ
25603 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL 251-981-7427
This self-proclaimed “BBQ beach shack” is an unassuming spot to enjoy great BBQ, beer and sides. There is seating inside and on the outdoor deck, and the restaurant often features live music in their backyard. And, since all smoking is done on homemade barrel pits in the attached smokehouse, the smell is divine!

WOW Factor: You’ll find solid, down-home comfort food and a relaxed atmosphere.
We hope you packed your sweet tooth, because these treats will be difficult to pass up during your Gulf Shores vacation! The beach is loaded with fun spots to get your sweets fix and these are five of our favorites.

**THE YARD MILKSHAKE BAR**
3800 Gulf Shores Pkwy, #218, Gulf Shores, AL 251-948-0121
The Yard Milkshake Bar is the place to go for Instagram-worthy milkshake creations. When you arrive, grab a menu and wax pencil at the door. Mark off your desired ingredients – your base milkshake flavor topped with your choice of cupcakes, brownies, cookies, cereals, sauces and more! Then place your order at the register and have a seat. They’ll bring your creation to your table.

**WOW Factor:**
These delicious creations are amazing to look at – it’s even fun waiting and watching what everyone else gets! Be prepared for a wait.

**MATT’S HOMEMADE ICE CREAM**
701 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL 251-540-1233
Matt’s features homemade, creamy ice cream in 40 different flavors ranging from the basic to the creative. Choose from cones, cups, floats, splits, shakes, and Old-Fashioned Sodas, and enjoy their classic ice cream parlor setting. Whether you choose classic vanilla or go for the more adventurous flavors like Creole Praline, you’ll leave with a satisfied sweet tooth.

**WOW Factor:**
Try some edible glitter on your ice cream for a sparkly treat!

**CITY DONUT**
26651 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL 251-981-3688
Glazed donuts, cake donuts, and iced donuts, oh my! At City Donut, bakers work through the night to provide made-from-scratch donuts every morning. They also offer fresh, roasted coffee and a full espresso menu. Their donut variety and quantities change daily and often sell out before closing time, so be sure to get there early for the best selection.

**WOW Factor:**
With specialties such as candy bar donuts, glazed croissants, and cereal-topped donuts, you never know what unique, incredible flavors you might find.

**BUZZCATZ COFFEE & SWEETS**
25689 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL 251-980-2899
Go for their breakfast and take home a sweet treat for later! BuzzCatz is a cozy spot featuring fantastic coffee and hearty, satisfying breakfasts, as well as cakes, pastries, biscuits, cookies and more. They also serve a lite lunch menu all day long.

**WOW Factor:**
The onsite pastry chef crafts unique takes on kid-friendly favorites, including a flaky, house-made Pop Tart!

**KILWIN’S AT THE WHARF**
4751 Main St, Unit F113, Orange Beach, AL 251-981-3120
Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of fresh-made confections at Kilwin’s. The sweet shop boasts friendly service, Mackinac Island style fudge, and plenty of chocolate-dipped treats made right in the store. Or, grab a scoop of one of the 28 flavors of Original Recipe premium ice cream, served in a warm, house-made waffle cone.

**WOW Factor:**
Step inside Kilwin’s and watch the show – they make most of their products right inside the store!
Sometimes seafood just doesn’t fit the bill. Whether you’re in a rush or just want a great slice of pizza, we’re spilling the sauce on five spots for a slice of pizza perfection.

**CRICO’S PIZZA AND SUBS**
309 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL 251-948-3100

For fresh pizza, subs and salads, don’t miss Crico’s. This traditional pizza place serving Gulf Shores for more than 20 years offers a huge range of pizzas for everyone in the family including veggie pizza and the carnivore’s favorite topped with Italian sausage, pepperoni, bacon and Canadian bacon plus jalapeno peppers and onions. Or, build your own! More than a dozen subs and crisp, cold salads are offered. Dine-in, take out or relax and call for delivery.

**WOW Factor:**
Try the all-you-can-eat lunch buffet loaded with a variety of pizzas.

**PAPA ROCCO’S PIZZA AND OYSTER BAR**
101 W. 6th Ave, Gulf Shores, AL 251-948-7262

Papa Rocco’s has earned awards from best raw oysters and best pizza to best happy hour and coldest beer. Don’t miss the oysters, but there’s also a huge variety of Italian specialties, seafood, sandwiches, burgers and everything else for anyone ready to eat hearty. Known locally as the nightspot to party, Papa Rocco’s serves beer, wine and specialty cocktails and stays open until midnight.

**WOW Factor:**
Try the In-House Lasagna. It’s handmade with six layers filled with fresh ricotta, mozzarella, marinara sauce, crumbled sausage and meatballs, all topped with red gravy and smothered in mozzarella cheese. Yum.

**ROTOLO’S PIZZERIA**
25755 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL 251-981-8891

The pizza tastes fresh because it is fresh. Rotolo’s makes its dough from scratch every day and has for 20 years. Now with three area locations, count on Rotolo’s for pizza, pasta, calzones, soups, salads, sandwiches and more – all with a tasty twist of originality sure to please even the most seasoned palate. You can also craft your own pizza from a choice of sauces and toppings.

**WOW Factor:**
Rotolo’s In-House Lasagna is handmade with six layers filled with fresh ricotta, mozzarella, marinara sauce, crumbled sausage and meatballs, all topped with red gravy and smothered in mozzarella cheese. Yum.

**MAMA LOTTIE’S PIZZA – GULF SHORES**
2200 E 2nd St Unit J, Gulf Shores, AL 251-948-1050

Choose from more than a dozen different pizzas including Mama Lottie’s signatures like Bacon Cheeseburger, Buffalo Ranch and Chicken Alfredo or build your own from a long list of toppings. They come in four sizes from nine-inch personal pizza to a whopping 18-inch pizza to feed the whole crew. If you’re feeding a crowd, Mama Lottie’s is the place! Calzones, pasta and gluten-free pizza are also available. A second Mama Lottie’s location offers the same in Orange Beach.

**WOW Factor:**
Start with the Volcano Bread. It’s Italian bread erupting with garlic, pepperoni and hot sauce.

**THE VILLAGE HIDEAWAY AT THE BEACH CLUB**
925 Beach Club Trail, Gulf Shores, AL 251-224-3650

When the pizza oven at The Village Hideaway fires up, delicious things happen! Choose from a great selection of elevated flatbreads like the Chicken Parma Piadine with pesto and mozzarella cheese filled with chicken, prosciutto, Kalamata olives, romaine and parmesan. If you’re in the mood for a classic, The Carnivore can’t be beat. This Fort Morgan restaurant is located at The Beach Club and serves a selection of craft beer, salads, sandwiches and seafood.

**WOW Factor:**
Play while you wait! Take a swing on the HD Golf Simulator or challenge the kids to a game of pool. The kids will also love the arcade and video gaming section.
Every Gulf Shores and Orange Beach restaurant offers something special, whether it’s the view, a fun dish or the friendly atmosphere. But, there are some restaurants that take the “unique” element up a notch. We’ve narrowed it down and are sharing our favorites with you.

**THE GULF**
27500 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL
251-424-1800
The Gulf is cozy, captivating and chill. The kitchen is housed in shipping containers and the seating is outdoor only. The bar, picnic tables, and couches on the sand beckon you to gather, sit and relax. The Gulf-front view is unparalleled and the food is scrumptious, with a choice of burgers, fish and chicken sandwiches, tacos, fresh local seafood, salads and more.

**WOW Factor:**
All music is played on vinyl records. The Gulf offers top-notch views, great food and unique, beachy seating area.

**THE RUBY SLIPPER CAFÉ**
24151 Perdido Beach Blvd, Orange Beach, AL
251-800-7470
The Ruby Slipper Café brings New Orleans flair to its breakfast, lunch and brunch offerings. The Orange Beach restaurant offers incredible food, unique breakfast cocktails, and a friendly, welcome-home vibe. Don’t miss the Pig-Candy Bacon!

**WOW Factor:**
Here, you’ll find incredible Benedicts served on buttermilk biscuits rather than English muffins. You’ll have a hard time choosing just one, so go for the Peacemaker to mix and match.
SASSY BASS CRAZY DONUTS
132 West 1st Ave, Gulf Shores, AL
251-948-3838
Ready for something wild and crazy? Sassy Bass Crazy Donuts features quirky combinations like their double cheeseburger with candied bacon served on glazed donuts. Or maybe a pizza glazed donut? Each day they serve up new, eclectic combos, so you never know what you’re going to find!

**WOW Factor:**
Made for adventurous eaters, this is the wackiest donut experience in existence.

ANCHOR BAR & GRILL
4575 South Wilson Blvd,
Orange Beach, AL
251-200-0250
The menu may be small, but Anchor Bar & Grill is consistently recommended by locals for its ambiance, excellent seafood, and beautiful waterfront setting. The restaurant is housed in a unique boat-hull design. Located at Hudson Marina, guests will find several water sport rentals nearby and the kitchen will cook your catch after your fishing excursion.

**WOW Factor:**
Their Whiskey Brisket Tots are legendary!

RUM SISTERS
25405 Perdido Beach Blvd, Suite 5,
Orange Beach AL
251-517-0444
Rum Sisters was born after a secret family recipe for rum cake received an overwhelming response from guests at a private event. Their luscious alcohol-infused cakes are made in signature beach-inspired flavors such as Bushwacker, Drunken Money, Island Time, and Twisted Sista. They have gluten-free cakes, too!

**WOW Factor:**
It's not just a cake, it's an experience. Purchase six mini cakes and try multiple flavors.

Your Beach Eats Guru: Shannon Entin
Shannon Entin is a travel and entertainment blogger and podcaster. Feeling most at home when on the road, she loves road trips and outdoor adventures and is always ready to veer off the interstate to investigate a quirky attraction, sample a local delicacy, or tour a TV or movie filming location. Shannon shares her adventures at TheTVTraveler.com and StingerUniverse.com. Shannon has visited the Alabama Gulf Coast numerous times and always finds a new favorite restaurant or dish during her trips.
rainy day activities
Rainy Day Activities the Whole Family will Love

Rainy days at the beach can be the perfect opportunity to explore all the indoor fun Gulf Shores and Orange Beach has to offer. From art to arcades and movies to museums, there’s tons of fun to be had on those days when you can’t put your toes in the sand!

**BREAKOUT GAMES ESCAPE ROOM**
4776 Main St, Space L-208, Orange Beach, AL 251-929-8300
Your team assembles in a themed room. The game master explains the challenge and locks you in. You’ve got 60 minutes to escape your adventure by cracking codes, solving puzzles and following clues with your family and friends. It’s safe, beat-the-clock fun that will keep your adrenaline pumping.

**WOW Factor:** Breakout’s Escape Rooms offer puzzles at all levels so every age can be challenged and have fun.

**ARENA THE NEXT LEVEL**
4720 Main Street, Suite 201, Orange Beach, AL 251-224-5297
Located at The Wharf in Orange Beach, Arena The Next Level is a 4,000-square-foot laser tag arena. They also offer Bazooka Ball, where foam balls are shot out of modified paintball guns. Vests and full face masks are provided to make this a safe and fun game for everyone.

**WOW Factor:** Try “Mission Possible” and duck, dive and weave your way through a high-tech room full of lasers designed to test your spy skills.

**FAT DADDY’S ARCADE**
24565 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, AL 251-980-1050
Fat Daddy’s features more than 80 arcade games, from classic to interactive to skillful. Collect points by playing games, then redeem your points for prizes like candy, Nerf toys, stuffed animals, electronics and more.

**WOW Factor:** Fat Daddy’s is a clean, safe environment for kids to hang out, have some fun, and enjoy a snack.
GULF BOWL
2881 South Juniper Street, Foley, AL
251-943-4575
Bowling is a terrific rainy-day activity, but this isn’t just a bowling alley. Gulf Bowl also offers a multi-level laser tag arena, an indoor ropes course, an arcade, pool tables and a restaurant, the Captain’s Choice Lounge. Order up a serving of Ranch Fries and challenge your crew to a game.

WOW Factor:
The ropes course is located above the arcade, making it double the fun to participate and to watch!

THE FACTORY
18948 Oak Road West,
Gulf Shores, AL
251-202-0900
The Factory is the place to jump, climb, swing and slide to your heart’s content. They offer trampolines, a ninja warrior course, batting cages, foam pits, trampoline dodgeball, trampoline basketball, arcade games, and more. With the motto “Play now. Grow up later,” The Factory is fun for the whole family.

WOW Factor:
Not into jumping? Parents can sit in massage chairs and watch while the kids tire themselves out!

THE VILLAGE HIDEAWAY
AT THE BEACH CLUB
925 Beach Club Trail, Gulf Shores, AL
251-224-3650
“When it rains, we pour.” Head over to The Village Hideaway at The Beach Club Resort & Spa for an extensive collection of craft beers, wine selections, specialty cocktails, and a varied menu of salads, burgers, seafood, chicken, wings, and pizza. And the food is just the beginning of the fun. The Village Hideaway also offers an HD Simulator where you can sharpen your golf and baseball skills. The kids will also love the arcade, Xbox consoles, billiards and shuffleboard.

WOW Factor:
The family will forget the rain with tasty food, unique drinks, 11 flat screen TVs and loads of gaming options.

MOVIE THEATERS
Cobb Pinnacle: 3780 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL
251-923-0100
AMC Classic Wharf: 23151 Wharf Lane, Orange Beach, AL
251-981-4444
Rainy days are the perfect time to catch the latest movie. Both of these theaters are clean, comfortable, and offer all the yummy concessions movie-goers need! Get extra deals on ticket prices and concessions on Tuesdays at AMC Classic Wharf.

WOW Factor:
AMC is located at The Wharf with plenty of shopping and dining options nearby. Pinnacle offers an extensive food menu and beer for its 21+ patrons.
NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM
1750 Radford Blvd., Pensacola, FL
850-453-2389
Aircraft, exhibits, flight simulators, a giant screen theater and more await you at the National Naval Aviation Museum. Tour the museum on your own or choose a guided tour where you'll learn from retired military volunteers who have lived the history. From June to early November, the world-famous Blue Angels practice in the skies over the museum.

WOW Factor:
The Blue Angels 4D Experience lets you be a part of a Blue Angels air show with action-packed aerial images, interactive seats, and exciting special effects.

BLUE GIRL BEADING
2200 East 2nd Street, Suite F, Gulf Shores, AL
251-968-5900
The entire family will enjoy searching through the multitude of gorgeous beads and creating a unique piece of jewelry. There are tons of one-of-a-kind pieces made by local jewelers, and the instructors will personally guide you in creating a work of art! What better souvenir is there than one you made yourself? Blue Girl Beading offers classes and open beading time – be sure to check their website or call for their current schedule.

WOW Factor:
With a huge selection of beads, findings, shells, sea glass, clasps, cording, chain, and tools, Blue Girl Beading is an awesome family activity for a rainy day – or any day!

COASTAL ARTS CENTER
26389 Canal Road
Orange Beach, AL
251-981-2787
The Coastal Arts Center offers exciting, hands-on artistic experiences. Try your hand at the pottery wheel – or hand-craft your own clay creation – at The Clay Studio. Or, hone your creativity with hot glass blowing at The Hot Shop. The Center also offers classes and workshops for kids, teens and adults. Be sure to call ahead to confirm class availability and make a reservation.

WOW Factor:
The beautiful facility and grounds inspires artists with its scenic view of Wolf Bay.

SPECIALTY SHOPPING AND RELAXATION AT THE WHARF
23101 Canal Rd Orange Beach, AL
251-224-1000
The Wharf is the ultimate shopping and dining destination where you can pamper yourself at a spa or salon, enjoy dinner and a movie, or engage in a little retail therapy. Check out High Cotton Bath Company where they offer 40 bath and body products and more than 200 fragrances that you can mix and match to create your own unique spa product to take home!

WOW Factor:
The locally-owned boutiques and one-of-a-kind shops will delight shoppers of all ages.
nightlife
**BIG BEACH BREWING COMPANY**
300 E. 24th Ave., Gulf Shores, AL 251-948-2337
With 12 craft beers on tap, the laid-back, open-air taproom at Big Beach Brewing is a favorite of the locals. They don’t serve food, but you are welcome to bring your own or order delivery! In addition to their comfortable bar, table seating, and fireplace, they have a large outdoor space with picnic tables, swings and games. Kids are welcome, though the staff does recommend adults-only after dark. They also offer brewery tours.

**WOW Factor:**
Big Beach Brewing Company’s “tank to tap” operation features eight 300-gallon tanks behind the bar that are tapped directly to ensure the freshest beer around!

**FLORA-BAMA LOUNGE**
17401 Perdido Key Dr. Pensacola, FL 251-980-5118
The legendary Flora-Bama (located on the border of Florida and Alabama) is widely known as the World’s Most Famous Beach Bar. This “honky-tonk” has five stages for live music, so there’s always something for everyone. Or sit out on the beach-front bar, sip a famous Bushwacker, and enjoy the sunset. The Flora-Bama has its own shuttle servicing Perdido Key and Orange Beach, so you don’t have to drive.

**WOW Factor:**
The enormity and variety of spaces at the Flora-Bama make it feel something like a living history museum. Take some time to wander through, look at the décor covering the walls and ceiling, and see what you might discover!

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**Hot Spots for Music & Nightlife**

The fun doesn’t end when the sun goes down! Grab your friends, your significant other, or the whole family (at some spots), and head to these hot spots in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. Take a seat at the bar, hit the dance floor, or relax and enjoy live music under the stars.
LIVE BAIT
24281 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL
251-974-1612
Live Bait has three different areas to enjoy your entertainment of choice. Inside the restaurant you’ll find a live band. “The Club” has a DJ and dancing. Out at the Tiki Bar, karaoke gets everyone singing and dancing. And their many bars have plenty of TVs to enjoy the game.

WOW Factor:
You get three different venues in one! Start inside with live music and dinner, then move out to the Tiki Bar to sing, and finish your night with dancing at The Club.

FLYING HARPOON
23479 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL
251-981-8100
Looking for a late-night spot the locals love? The Flying Harpoon has been called a “hidden gem dive bar.” It’s small, and has limited seating and parking, but don’t let the size deceive you. They offer delicious New Orleans cuisine and fresh, local seafood. The Flying Harpoon has locations in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach and serves a full menu until 1 AM. The bar is open until 2 AM. As their website says “If you get to try us, you will never forget us.”

WOW Factor:
Excellent food and service with an authentic, local ambiance.

LUCY BUFFETT’S LULU’S
200 East 25th Avenue
Gulf Shores, AL
251-967-5858
More than a restaurant, LuLu’s is a high-energy destination. With live music every night and multiple outdoor bars around the complex, parents can enjoy drinks and tunes while the kids have their own fun at one of the many kid-focused activities, including the Mountain of Youth ropes course. It’s the perfect blend of entertainment for the over 21 crowd and teens, tweens and toddlers.

WOW Factor:
This is truly the perfect family-friendly spot where kids can play in the sand, at the arcade, or on the ropes course while the adults enjoy drinks and music.
SPECTRA LIGHT & SOUND SHOW AT THE WHARF
23101 Canal Rd Orange Beach, AL 251-224-1000
SPECTRA is a high-energy, choreographed, light and music show that will engage audiences of all ages. The Wharf is flooded with light as Main Street is transformed into a magical stage where the palm trees come to life! Shows typically run every half hour between 8:30 and 9:30. But come early and enjoy all The Wharf has to offer – from eating to playing to shopping!

WOW Factor:
Shows incorporate different themes such as pirates, the great blue sea, patriotism, holiday shows and even a Baby Shark show for the kids!

NIGHTLIFE AT OWA
1501 South OWA Blvd., Foley, AL (251) 923-2111
Spend an evening at Downtown OWA in nearby Foley. Whether you love Las Vegas-style shows or need some comedic relief, you’ll find both at OWA. Legends in Concert is known for its elaborate sets, special effects and over-the-top costumes. Purchase your tickets early to see some of your favorite Legends impersonators, including Bruno Mars, Reba McEntire and Garth Brooks. Elvis may even make an appearance! When you’re not at a Legends concert, treat your group to Brandon Styles Live, the Gulf Coast’s #1 variety show.

WOW Factor:
While you’re there, stop to see one of the nightly fountain shows with synced lights and music.

THE HANGOUT
101 E. Beach Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL 251-948-3030
If you’re looking for non-stop fun for the whole family, The Hangout has it. Games, contests, ping-pong, foosball, four square, giant beach chairs, a huge sand pit, and a fire pit. There’s great live music on their main stage, and if you want to make this a couples-only evening, music plays on late into the night.

WOW Factor:
The Hangout has direct access to the beach if you want to go searching for ghost crabs after dark.

Planning a night on the town in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach?
There’s no reason to drive! Choose one of the many taxi and shuttle services, or use your favorite ride-share app. There are lots of Lyft and Uber drivers ready to serve you!
nature
GULF STATE PARK
20115 State Hwy. 135, Gulf Shores, AL
251-948-7275
Gulf State Park is a treasure trove of opportunity for the nature lover, with beaches, camping, hiking, biking, fishing, geocaching, paddling and more. The Nature Center is a living museum of plants and animals that are native to the Gulf Coast region.

WOW Factor:
Check out the Nature Center’s educational programs, guided walks, and the Angler Academy at Gulf State Park Pier for a family-friendly class on saltwater fishing.

BON SECOUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
12295 State Highway 180, Gulf Shores, AL
251-540-7720
With some of Alabama’s last remaining undisturbed coastal barrier habitat, this refuge is a must-visit for nature lovers. It consists of nearly 7,000 acres of coastal lands and protects several endangered species. Visitors can enjoy four trails with more than six miles to explore, as well as educational programs, boating, and fishing.

WOW Factor:
The refuge is a haven for birdwatchers in the spring and fall seasons. More than 370 species of birds have been documented on the refuge!

Great Spots for Nature Lovers
Biking, hiking, birding and more await nature lovers visiting Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. Get out and explore the miles of trails, fascinating habitats and beautiful landscapes!
HUGH S. BRANYON BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL
Various trailhead locations in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach
251-981-1180
Fifteen trails, six distinct ecosystems, and all the beauty of Alabama’s Gulf Coast region are available to enjoy on this nature trail system in Gulf State Park. Explore more than 28 miles of paved, multi-use paths through marshes, swamps, and forests. And you’re sure to spot incredible flora and fauna... from wildflowers and needle palms to woodpeckers and alligators!

WOW Factor:
Don’t miss the Butterfly Garden and the Boulder Park – fun for the kids and the kids at heart!

WADE WARD NATURE PARK
500 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL
251-968-1420
If you’re looking for a short nature excursion, the elevated boardwalk at Wade Ward Nature Park provides beautiful views of the wetlands, waterways and wildlife.

WOW Factor:
The dry, wooden walkway is perfect for families that want to get closer to nature, but don’t want to hike or bike a longer distance.

COASTAL ALABAMA BIRDING TRAIL
Various locations
More than 430 bird species have been documented in Alabama, and the Coastal Alabama Birding Trail is the place to find many of them. The trail features six birding loops totaling more than 200 miles, with each loop covering a different ecological region.

WOW Factor:
In addition to birdwatching, these trails offer excellent viewpoints and nature experiences in the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach area.
2020 events
TOP 2020 Events in Gulf Shores & Orange Beach

2020 is hopping with great events on Alabama’s beaches. Whether you love a great arts and crafts show or are looking for a toe-tappin’ good time, you’ll discover a festival that ticks all your boxes in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

46TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ART
March 14-15, 2020
Orange Beach Waterfront Park, 26389 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL 251-981-ARTS (2787)
This family-friendly event is a celebration of visual, performing, musical and culinary arts. The Festival of Art is a juried art show with more than 100 artists working in oils, acrylics, pottery, wood, glass, jewelry, mixed-media, pencil, metal, photography and more! There’s a Kids Art Alley for hands-on fun, plus tons to see, hear, touch, taste and experience.

WOW Factor:
Festival goers also enjoy local fare at the culinary arts court and live music in a gorgeous setting among the 100-year-old oak trees that line Wolf Bay.

THE WHARF BOAT AND YACHT SHOW
March 20-22, 2020
The Wharf
23101 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL 251-224-1900
Displaying more than 150 wet slip boats and yachts and over 650 sport and console boats on land, this show has something for everyone. The event offers fishing and boating seminars, kids art classes, live music, and exhibitor displays from the world’s best boating, fishing, watercraft, marine electronics and accessory companies.

WOW Factor:
Check out the fun, but competitive, Fighting Chair Competition! For only $10 per person, challenge your friend (or foe!) to a “tug-o-war” in the Release Marine offshore fighting chairs. Proceeds go to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

INTERSTATE MULLET TOSS & GULF COAST’S GREATEST BEACH PARTY
April 24-26, 2020
Flora-Bama, 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key, FL 850-492-0611
This legendary beach party has nothing to do with the mullet haircut. A mullet is a popular local fish that is said to have mystical properties. During this event, partygoers can throw a mullet from a 10-foot circle in Florida across the state line into Alabama. The party lasts all weekend with different mullet-tossing times and food, drink, music and fun at all times.

WOW Factor:
Besides being one gigantic beach party, the mullet toss raises money for local youth charities.
HANGOUT MUSIC FEST
May 15-17, 2020
101 E Beach Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL
251-948-3030
Consistently recognized as one of the best music festivals in the US, the Hangout Music Fest is a three-day beach party like no other. This multi-genre music festival features A-listers like the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Post Malone and Billie Eilish, along with tons of unique experiences, carnival rides and amazing food, all taking place on the beautiful white-sand beaches of Gulf Shores.

WOW Factor:
Don’t miss the “experiences” which include Roller Disco, a Tropical Spa, the Beach Hammock area and morning yoga classes.

BLUE MARLIN GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE GULF
July 15-19, 2020
The Wharf, 23101 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL
251-224-1900
The stakes are high, and the competition is higher in this championship that has been called the “Superbowl of Sportfishing.” Boats go out in the morning to catch large fish like Blue Marlin and Tuna. Weigh-ins and festivities happen in the evenings, with substantial cash prizes and money raised for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

WOW Factor:
Over 100 hours of musical entertainment from all genres will keep you signing and eating all weekend!

49TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SHRIMP FESTIVAL
October 8-11, 2020
Gulf Shores Main Public Beach, 101 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL
251-968-7200
Enjoy trying dozens of traditional and inventive shrimp dishes, along with all kinds of other food, drinks, more than 300 arts and crafts vendors, music, and fun. This festival is also home to the Little Miss Shrimp Festival Pageant, the Singing for Scholarships competition, a sand sculpture contest and 5K and 10K races.

WOW Factor:
Stick around after the main show to meet the Blue Angels pilots and get autographs!

THE HANGOUT OYSTER COOK-OFF, CRAFT SPIRITS AND BEER WEEKEND
November 6-8, 2020
101 E. Beach Blvd., Gulf Shores, AL
251-948-3030
An unforgettable weekend of fresh oysters, seafood, craft beer, celebrity chefs and live music await you at the annual Oyster Cook-Off. Other events include a shucking competition, a Bloody Mary competition, and an amateur oyster cooking competition. This event serves over 100,000 oysters to guests in one day!

WOW Factor:
This year’s event promises to be better than ever, offering a one-of-a-kind culinary experience with Champion Pitmaster Chris Lilly and celebrity chef Aaron Sanchez creating a world-class barbecue dinner menu paired with rare bourbons and wine. Tickets for this experience are limited and sold separately, so get yours soon!
shopping
Sensational Spots for Shopping

Need some retail therapy? Gulf Shores and Orange Beach have what you’re looking for. Here’s where to shop for the perfect souvenir, a unique wardrobe item, or even something handmade by you!

**THE WHARF**
23101 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, AL 251-224-1000
The Wharf is the ultimate shopping and dining destination where you can enjoy dinner and a movie or engage in a little retail therapy. Check out High Cotton Bath Company where they offer 40 bath and body products and more than 200 fragrances that you can mix and match to create your own unique spa product to take home!

**WOW Factor:**
After dark, The Wharf is flooded with dancing lights and music as Main Street is transformed into a magical stage where the palm trees come to life during the SPECTRA Light & Sound Show!

**TANGER OUTLETS**
2601 S McKenzie Street, Foley, AL 251-943-9303
From American Eagle to Hot Topic and Sunglass Hut to Zales, the Tanger Outlets offer a complete shopping experience with all your favorite stores. In fact, you’ll find more than 120 stores loaded with fun fashions and housewares.

**WOW Factor:**
If you’re shopping with the kids, check out Tanger Mini Golf and the carousel.

**THE VILLAGE MERCANTILE AT THE BEACH CLUB**
925 Beach Club Trail, Gulf Shores, AL 251-224-3660
The Mercantile has a large selection of boutique clothing, beach attire, jewelry, gift items, logo wear and a variety of sundries. Whether you want high fashion or casual resort wear, they have something for the whole family.

**WOW Factor:**
If you forget to pack a swimsuit or even sandals for your beach vacation, the vast selection at The Village Mercantile will surely have you covered.
PELICAN PLACE AT CRAFT FARMS
3800 Gulf Shores Parkway,
Gulf Shores, AL
251-975-0554
Pelican Place is anchored by popular retailers like Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond, and offers specialty boutiques, souvenirs and gifts. Grab a bite to eat at one of the casual dining restaurants, then end your day with a movie or enjoying a cocktail at this open-air shopping center.

WOW Factor:
Don’t miss the premium movie theater experience at the ultramodern Cobb Pinnacle 14 Theaters, complete with Wall to Wall Screens and Stadium High-Back Rockers.

SANROC CAY
27267 Perdido Beach Blvd.,
Orange Beach, AL, 251-981-5423
SanRoc Cay offers upscale, boutique shopping and fine dining in a beautiful marina setting. Find home décor, clothing, shoes, accessories, a salon and more. Relax in their courtyard and enjoy the view as boats come and go in the marina.

WOW Factor:
Specialized beach fashions and handmade items make SanRoc Cay a unique place to shop.

SOUVENIR CITY
217 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL
251-948-7280
Family built and operated since 1956, Souvenir City is an iconic shopping spot in the heart of Gulf Shores. T-shirts, jewelry, bags, beach towels, home décor and more await you at this mecca for souvenir shoppers.

WOW Factor:
Did you even visit Gulf Shores and Orange Beach if you didn’t get a photo inside the giant shark’s mouth?

THE ORIGINAL OYSTER HOUSE BOARDWALK
701 Gulf Shores Pkwy.,
Gulf Shores, AL, 251-928-2620
What began as an extension of the Original Oyster House restaurant has become a delightful boardwalk shopping and dining destination. Stores such as the Original Oyster House Trading Company, Geez Louise Boutique, Matt’s Homemade Ice Cream, Retro Road Trip and Speakeasy Spirits offer a selection of gifts, candles, t-shirts, jewelry, toys and more.

WOW Factor:
Southern charm, souvenirs, sweets, and sauces make this a perfect spot to do a little shopping after dinner.
golf
Championship Golf Courses Near Alabama’s Beaches

Enjoy the unparalleled beauty of the Gulf Coast landscape on these top-rated, championship golf courses during your next vacation in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. The layouts will challenge – but not intimidate - you, and the variety and visual appeal will relax you. You can even up your game with a lesson from a PGA golf pro while you’re here! Inquire at the course or browse their websites for current rates and specials, as well as lessons from a golf pro.

KIVA DUNES GOLF COURSE
815 Plantation Dr., Gulf Shores, AL
866-540-7100
1 mile from The Beach Club Resort & Spa
20 miles from Turquoise Place
Kiva Dunes has long been recognized as the most challenging and enjoyable course in Alabama. This 18-hole course is located on a beautiful property tucked between the Gulf of Mexico and Mobile Bay and is the closest to The Beach Club Resort & Spa.

WOW Factor:
Kiva Dunes is rated the #1 course in Alabama with golfers describing it as pristine, immaculate, and tough, but fair.

CRAFT FARMS GOLF RESORT
3840 Cotton Creek Circle, Gulf Shores, AL, 888-567-1652
15 miles from The Beach Club Resort & Spa
9 miles from Turquoise Place
Craft Farms offers 36 holes of tree-lined, rolling fairways. The 18-hole Cotton Creek golf course and the 18-hole Cypress Bend golf course are the only courses in Alabama designed by Arnold Palmer.

WOW Factor:
After your golf game, visit the plantation-style Clubhouse and enjoy gorgeous views of the live oaks dripping with Spanish moss.
PENINSULA GOLF & RACQUET CLUB
20 Peninsula Blvd, Gulf Shores, AL 251-256-0122
7 miles from The Beach Club Resort & Spa
14 miles from Turquoise Place
Rated 4½ stars by Golf Digest and selected as one of the “most memorable and enjoyable” courses in the southeast, Peninsula offers a great layout for golfers of all skill levels. The 27-hole championship course was designed by veteran golf course architect Earl Stone.

WOW Factor:
Peninsula offers three distinctive nines that boast a dramatically different playing experience each time.

GULF SHORES GOLF CLUB
520 Clubhouse Drive, Gulf Shores, AL 251-968-7366
12 miles from The Beach Club Resort & Spa
10 miles from Turquoise Place
Gulf Shores Golf Club was the first course built in Gulf Shores. It was redesigned in 2005 to lengthen the course and add a few sharp doglegs, additional bunkers, and numerous water features. This par 71, 18-hole championship course will be enjoyed by both the novice and the enthusiast.

WOW Factor:
Gulf Shores Golf Club has been consistently rated in the top 15 courses in all of Alabama by Golf Advisor.

LOST KEY GOLF CLUB
625 Lost Key Drive, Pensacola, FL 850-549-2160
29 miles from The Beach Club Resort & Spa
9 miles from Turquoise Place
Lost Key is an Arnold Palmer course located between historic downtown Pensacola, Fla., and the sugar-white sand beaches of Turquoise Place. Each golf hole includes five sets of tees and offers players of all skill levels a unique visual and strategic playing experience.

WOW Factor:
This par 71 championship course features the new Sea Dwarf Paspalum grass from the tee through the green for the optimum in quality playing surfaces and green speeds.
fishing
CHARTER FISHING
Orange Beach is home to the largest charter fishing fleet in the southeast with more than 100 captains providing everything you need for a hassle-free fishing experience. The waters are also home to one of the largest artificial fishing reefs in the country! Choose from deep sea, inshore and near-shore fishing with trips ranging from four hours to overnight. Contact any marina for more information.


KAYAK FISHING
For a peaceful, immersive fishing experience, kayak fishing is the way to go. Grab your rod and check out Little Lagoon on West Beach in Gulf Shores, considered a hidden treasure offering shelter and a variety of fish. The experienced and adventurous should look at the Dixey Bar, a large sand bar between the Gulf of Mexico and Mobile Bay. There can be strong currents, but the catches are worth the work! Anglers can give kayak fishing a go on their own or hire a guide.

PIER FISHING
Gulf State Park boasts the second-longest pier on the Gulf of Mexico with 2,448 feet of fishing space and a fish cleaning station! With features such as covered seating for the concession area, indoor tackle and souvenir retail, comfort stations at the midpoint of the pier, and wheelchair-accessible rail fishing, the Gulf State Park Pier is ideal for pier fishing enthusiasts. Rod and reel rentals are available.

Find reel fun at Gulf State Park, 251-967-3474.

BOWFISHING
Looking for a little more excitement? Hunt down your next catch with a thrilling Bowfishing excursion! Your captain will provide an assortment of bows and will instruct you on shooting, or gigging, your fish. Bowfishing can be done day or night, with night often being more successful – not to mention fun! Anglers have caught flounder, mullet, black drum, skipjack, stingrays, and more.


SHORE FISHING
What better place to shore or surf fish than the 32 miles of gorgeous beaches in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach? All you need is a rod and reel, bait and a license to cast your line from the beautiful shores of the Gulf Coast. Enjoy the view from the sand, or wade in the water a bit and relish the quiet solitude. Recommended spots to shore fish include Perdido Pass, the Intercoastal Waterway off Canal Road, Boggy Point and Fort Morgan.