

# communities



COURTESY OF VISIT FLORIDA-PINE ISLAND

## Off the beaten path

Make the most of your next vacation by discovering an entirely different Florida! Far away from theme park thrills, crowded parking lots and time-consuming line ups - a slower-paced and more scenic excursion awaits the unhurried traveler.

### [Atlantic Coast] **Indian River County**

>>**LOCATION** 1 1/2 hours south of Daytona

>>**AREA ACTIVITIES** Many of today's travelers are in search of that piece of paradise that offers safe beach areas for their children, luxurious accommodations and an overall memorable experience without crowds.

A highlight of Indian River County is Vero Beach, which was recently deemed by a national publication, for the second time, one of the "100 Great Towns in America".

**In fact...** Vero Beach is experiencing a marvelous renaissance with the advent of new hotels, shops, and dining experiences.

The communities of the Sebastian River Area border the headwaters of the St. John's River - adjacent to the Barrier Island and Atlantic Ocean, and nestle quietly between Vero Beach and Melbourne on the Indian River Lagoon. A walk along Sebastian's Riverfront takes you past old fish houses whose salty aromas recall times past, dockside restaurants where a view of the famous pelican is guaranteed and marinas harboring pleasure boats of all sizes. The unspoiled natural beauty of Sebastian is recognized for top fishing, surfing, skydiving, and watersport enthusiasts.

>>**ACCOMMODATIONS** Some of Vero Beach's latest openings include the Vero Beach Hotel & Club, the Boutique Caribbean Court Hotel, the Country Inn & Suites and Costa d' Este, owned by entertainment and hospitality entrepreneurs Gloria and Emelio Estefan.

772-567-3491 | [www.indianriverchamber.com](http://www.indianriverchamber.com)

### [North] **Madison County**

>>**LOCATION** 1 hour east of Tallahassee

>>**AREA ACTIVITIES** With just a little over 3,000 permanent residents, the community of Madison has been designated as one of the "Best Little Towns in Florida" by Visit Florida, and serves as the county seat. Nestled along Georgia's border, Madison features centuries-old landmarks, homes and antique shops. The community invites historians to fully enjoy the area's unique history by wandering through, admiring and photographing more than 50 identified landmarks of this historic district. From the gracious mansions dated back to the 19th century and relics of the technology that gave life to the agricultural basis of their economy, a special brochure, available at the Chamber of Commerce, provides the dates and ownership of each

**HISTORIC, NATURAL,  
CHARMING,  
AND MOST OF ALL FRIENDLY!**

**MADISON COUNTY FLORIDA**



**APRIL IS FESTIVAL TIME IN  
MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA!**

**April 4th, 2009**

Join friends from all over as they come together to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of the Town of Lee**. The event starts with a home cooked breakfast from 7 AM to 9 AM followed with the annual Lee Day Parade. Live entertainment, children's activities, clowns, arts and crafts and more are all available at the Centennial Anniversary of the "Little But Proud" town of Lee, Florida.

**April 17 & 18, 2009**

The Madison County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism invites everyone to come and enjoy the **28th Annual Four Freedoms Festival** held in Downtown Madison. Madison County's largest event of the year features a huge parade, arts and crafts booths, live entertainment and all kinds of games for young and old held around Madison's historic County Courthouse. This is the Must See Patriotic Event of the year for Madison County.

For additional information about these and other exciting Madison County events, visit [www.madisonfl.org](http://www.madisonfl.org)



877-272-3642

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featured structure, along with the important architectural details.

While self-exploring Madison County take time to admire the smaller communities that make up this pristine destination. The town of Lee "Little, But Proud," will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary on April 4, 2009 with a giant parade and festival! Greenville, Pinetta, Cherry Lake, Lovett, and Eridu are highlighted with historic monuments, cemeteries and burial grounds dating back to the late 1600s and are the final resting places of some soldiers who fought in America's Revolutionary War.

**>>ACCOMMODATIONS** The historic Grace Manor Bed and Breakfast, a Queen Anne Victorian Inn, features an aesthetic blend of antique furnishings in each of its four double guest rooms.

For travelers wanting a more rustic experience, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park features kids playgrounds, activities and a nostalgic outdoor experience within Madison County's great outdoors. Several other Bed & Breakfast facilities are scheduled to open in the spring of 2009.

850-973-2788 | [www.madisonfl.org](http://www.madisonfl.org)

[Southwest] **Pine Island**

**>>LOCATION** 30 minutes from Fort Myers

**>>AREA ACTIVITIES** Pine Island consists of five unique and unspoiled communities.

Neighborhoods are known by their street names - the "fish" streets, "tree" streets, "boat" streets and more. Malatcha, the gateway to Pine Island, is an historic fishing village and artist community. It's also the home to the "World's Fishingest Bridge" where anglers cast all day and night for the many fish that teem in the local water. Pine Island Center is the hub of island activity and holds the shopping centers, tennis courts, museum and library. St. James City, the most developed area, is the home to over half the island's population. Pineland, rich in agricultural resources, offers many historic buildings, including one of the world's smallest post offices and has one of the largest marinas on the island. Bokeelia has an abundance of fruit farms and palm tree farms, an 18-hole golf course, fishing pier, and several marinas who offer service to outer islands.

**Must Do!** Each July for several days, the islanders play host to more than 10,000 people who arrive for the largest celebration of the year, Mangomania, which features local fruits, exotic plants and farm goods, in addition to the area's plethora of cultural and artistic talent. For more information visit [www.mangomani-afl.com](http://www.mangomani-afl.com).

239-283-0888 | [www.pineislandchamber.org](http://www.pineislandchamber.org) \*



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**Pine Island**  
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**March 13-14 & April 10-11**  
**Art, Music and More**

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- FREE CONCERT Friday by local songwriters
- Artist Showings & Exhibits
- Workshops & Hands-on Demonstrations
- Pine Island Merchants Discounts

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