

GULF County



43 miles of pristine shorelines

It's been said that the journey is more important than the destination. But we believe one trip to these 43 miles of pristine shorelines and you'll agree with the locals that Gulf County, Florida offers the best of both.

The towering dunes and sparkling sands of St. Joseph Peninsula State Park led to a ranking as America's #1 Beach, in 2002. Just a bit off the beaten path, Gulf County welcomes families to our uncrowded beaches and pet friendly paradise. With affordable beachfront rental homes, historic inns and charming shops, we offer all that vacationers dream about. So, take a journey and let us be your guide while you explore beyond the Florida you know.

What better way to bring families and friends together than to enjoy a holiday getaway to a peaceful beach retreat. Plan to visit during the first weekend in December for Christmas on the Coast. This hometown style event centers around the shopping and dining district and brings the seasonal fun downtown. Start the day with a 5K Reindeer Run followed by an area favorite, the SaltAir Farmers' Market. At dark see the tree lighting and parade featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus.

If you can't make it until later in the month, then drive a great rural coastal road, Highway 98 running side by side with the

Gulf of Mexico where miles of white sand beaches stretch along the forgotten coast of Florida. Gulf County and Mexico Beach partner together for one of the biggest night's of the year. On December 31st all the preparations are complete for the New Year's Eve Celebrate Safe, Celebrate Twice event. There is no need to wait another 12 months to celebrate the next New Year. Ring in the New Year twice. The revelry begins in the Eastern Time Zone in Port St. Joe and St. Joe Beach, and then travels west just five minutes to Mexico Beach where the celebration starts all over again an hour later in the Central Time Zone. Where else can you experience two New Year's Eves on the same night? Shuttle buses carry passengers to local hot spots and everywhere in between. Best of all the shuttle buses are free to all riders. Learn more about this night to remember. Contact the Gulf County Tourist Development Council toll free **800-482-GULF (4853)** or online at www.VISITGULF.com for area information and to see more upcoming events. *