



An Eco-Getaway In An Untouched Florida Paradise

Navarre Beach and Santa Rosa County Provide the Perfect Holiday for the Conscious Traveler

A charming locale with access to wide-open, dream-worthy beaches and endless night skies — sounds like the stuff of travel lore, but there is such a spot nestled in Florida’s Panhandle that makes for the ideal eco-escape. [Santa Rosa County](#), known for being one of Florida’s most undiscovered and untouched destinations, is the perfect place to visit for a getaway that leaves a small footprint, feels good and enriches the soul.

This extraordinary oasis, known as “Florida’s Most Relaxing Place,” offers visitors the opportunity to explore two unique ecosystems that northwestern Florida is renown for — the protected shoreline of the Gulf Islands with it’s white sand dunes and emerald-hued waters and the open and seemingly endless longleaf pine forests that run alongside the clear, fresh waters of the Blackwater River and Coldwater Creek. Santa Rosa County and Navarre Beach is located in northeast Florida 17 miles from Fort Walton Beach to the east, and 17 miles from Pensacola Beach to the west.

Bordering Navarre on two sides is a portion of the pristine [Gulf Islands National Seashore](#), a protected stretch of coast that is untouched and boasts beautiful, turquoise seas that splash upon smooth white sands and dunes. There is no bustling boardwalk to crowd your escape to the National Seashore, but do check out the [Navarre Beach Marine Park](#), with an educational marine science station, sea turtle conservatory, and near shore reefs.

Favorite beachside activities include renting motor scooter and paddleboard rentals from [Sage Paddleboard Company](#) and heading out to the man made artificial reefs that are found just offshore. There are, in fact, three different artificial reefs around Navarre Beach: [East Sound Side Reef](#), [West Sound Side Reef](#), and the [Gulf Side Reef](#). They are all relatively close to each other near the Navarre Beach Marine Park on Navarre Beach off of Gulf Blvd. Whether you want to snorkel or dive, no place has better, wetter fun than the Navarre Beach Marine Sanctuary and Artificial Reefs. At all the reefs, you’ll encounter incredible marine life like sea turtles, urchins, jellyfish, octopuses, coral and colorful fish.

When looking for an eco-friendly locale in north Florida, nothing compares to the unique experience of glamping at Coldwater Gardens near Milton, Florida. Coldwater Gardens is a secluded agritourism destination located on 352-acres. The property is a fully sustainable retreat focusing on education, recreation and the exploration of nature and agricultural practices. The gardens themselves span five acres, and guests are invited to wander, observe and purchase veggies, eggs and honey from the gardens. Coldwater Gardens implements several advanced food growing methods including: aquaponics, hydroponics, Shiitaké mushroom cultivation on natural logs, and honeybee farms.

The luxury tents feature queen-sized beds, mini-refrigerators and an eclectic mix of furnishings. The Tiny House Cabana provides the perfect balance of both comfort and nature with its climate-controlled bedroom and full bathroom, along with a covered outdoor kitchen and dining space. The Modern Treehouse sits among the dense, draping magnolia canopy, and offers a stunning view of the magnificent evening sunsets.

Other housing options include the ever-popular glamping tents with a view of the pine savanna. These tents feature a queen-sized Tempurpedic bed with linens, hardwood floors, electricity, water boiler, coffee maker, outlets and more. Guests can unzip the tarp door and become one with nature while surrounded by all of life's little comforts. The Creekview Platform campsite boasts a deck with a fire ring and staircase leading to your own private sandbar. This is the ideal option if you're looking for a more traditional camping experience under a veritable blanket of stars. This part of northwest Florida is known for its dark night skies.

Recreational highlights include swimming, tubing and kayaking along the sandy beaches and clear, spring-fed waters of Coldwater Creek.

Destination images [here](#).

About Santa Rosa County

Located between Pensacola and Destin/Fort Walton Beach, Florida's Most Relaxing Place — whose communities include Navarre Beach, Gulf Breeze, historic Milton — is an easy drive from most anywhere in the Southeast. Santa Rosa County features Florida's most relaxing beaches that have soft, pearl white sand and emerald waves, breathtaking sunsets and inland waterway adventures to savor at an unrushed pace in a laid-back atmosphere. Pensacola International Airport is just 30 miles away with air service provided by American, Delta, United, US Airways and Southwest, while Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport is 25 miles away and is serviced by Allegiant Airlines, American and Delta. Accolades: **FamilyVacationCritic.com** ranks Navarre Beach #2 of "10 Best Family Beaches for 2019," and included it in their 2019 ranking of "10 Secret Florida Vacation Spots You Never Knew About." **TripAdvisor 2020 Travelers Choice** award winner and TripAdvisor also included Navarre Beach in its "25 best beaches in the US 2019" list at #12, **MSN** calls Navarre Beach a "Spring Break Destination to Escape the Crowds" 2018; **USA Today** cited it among "The Best Uncrowded Snorkeling Beaches in Florida." **TravelLemming.com** honored Navarre Beach as one of the Top 30 Emerging Destinations globally for 2020. In 2017 Navarre Beach rated #6 out of 365 worldwide beaches by

Travel+Leisure magazine, and was also listed as one of “The South’s Best Tiny Towns” by **Southern Living Magazine**.

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