

## The Panhandle

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Pensacola & Pensacola Beach 428
Fort Walton Beach & Destin 438
Panama City Beach 444
Cape San Blas & Port St Joe447
Apalachicola 448
St George Island 450
Tallahassee 452
Cedar Key 460

### **Best Places** to Eat

- Up the Creek Raw Bar (p449)
- Indian Pass Raw Bar (p448)
- Peg Leg Pete's (p436)
- → Five Sisters Blues Cafe (p435)
- Firefly (p446)

# Best Places to Stay

- → WaterColor Inn & Resort (p442)
- Water Street Hotel (p449)
- → Hibiscus Coffee & Guesthouse (p442)
- Aunt Martha's Bed & Breakfast (p440)
- Island Hotel (p462)

#### Why Go?

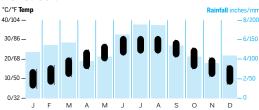
Take the best bits of the Deep South – friendly ('howdy y'all!') people, a molasses-slow pace, oak-lined roads and fried green tomatoes – then add sugar-white beaches, clear natural springs and bountiful seafood and you're beginning to conjure up the magnificent, diverse and highly underrated Florida Panhandle: so overlooked in the bigger Florida picture that we almost want to keep it to ourselves.

Dig your toes into the endless miles of impossible white sands and azure waters of the Gulf Coast, gallery-hop in pretty Pensacola with its surprising wealth of history and understated class, fish the primeval Steinhatchee, explore the rugged wilderness of St Vincent Island and be sure to bunker down for some slow, balmy nights in charming Apalachicola. Too chilled? Head on over to gaudy Panama City Beach and suck down Jell-O shots with the spring-breakers.

Consider it road-trip heaven.

## When to Go

#### Pensacola



#### Mar & Apr Spring-breakers descend upon the gulf to party.

May-Oct Steamy temps: accommodations fill fast. Sweltering heat eases: vacationing families depart.

**Nov-Feb** Low season: the Panhandle is all yours at bargain rates.



#### GULF OF MEXICO



## The Panhandle Highlights

- 1 Feasting your eyes on the luminous gulf waters of Grayton Beach State Park (p441), home to the country's most beautiful heaches
- 2 Embracing your inner romantic in **Apalachicola** (p448), the gulf's most charming town.
- 3 Marveling at the deathdefying maneuvres of **Blue**
- Angels (p432), then getting hands-on with the amazing exhibits at the National Museum of Naval Aviation (p432) in Pensacola.
- Getting laid-back in Cedar