

# MUST SEE

36 PAGES OF THINGS TO SEE AND DO DURING  
YOUR STAY ON FLORIDA'S FORGOTTEN COAST

## camping the coast

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 3

HOLIDAY  
2020

RV DESTINATIONS | TACO MADNESS

SHOPPING GUIDE | WINTER FISHING

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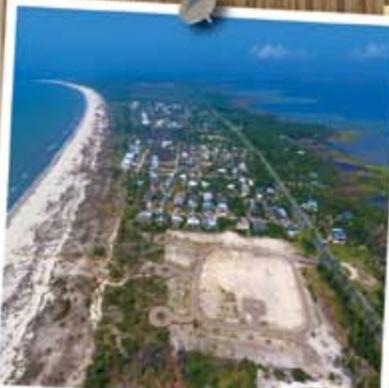


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## CAMPING THE COAST BY DANIEL ANDERSON

*Old Florida's popularity with RV enthusiasts is on the rise. The number of facilities accommodating campers grows every year, and offerings at different parks vary wildly. Looking for an affordable, quiet hideaway? An amenity-rich resort? How about a base camp for adventure? You'll find them all when you camp the coast!*

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## TACOS EIGHT DAYS A WEEK BY DANIEL ANDERSON

*Taco madness has taken hold of Florida's Forgotten Coast. Innovative regional chefs have transformed this simple staple of Mexican cuisine into an incredible variety of palate-pleasing creations. These tacos deliver a delicious fusion of international influence, culinary tradition and local flavor that can be enjoyed every day!*

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## OLD FLORIDA SHOPPING GUIDE COMPILED BY DANIEL ANDERSON

*Four distinct categories – Outdoors & Adventure, Apparel & Accessories, Savories & Sustenance, and Home Accents & Works of Art – and dozens of retail destinations. Must See's Old Florida Shopping Guide is an up-to-date snapshot of the region's dynamic retail landscape!*

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## FORGOTTEN COAST FISHING BY DANIEL ANDERSON

*A Seasonal Guide: Part 3 of 3. Florida's Forgotten Coast is home to a year-round fishery that attract anglers from all over the country. Fishermen ply local waters in search of trophy species and top-notch table fare. This month-by-month guide shares the "what, when, where and how" information critical to regional fishing success.*





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Must See is published by  
Must See Media, LLC  
P.O. Box 1014  
Port St. Joe, FL 32457  
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For more information about *Must See*, visit [MustSeeMagazine.com](http://MustSeeMagazine.com).

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Printed in U.S.A.

## ON THE COVER



View of St. Vincent Island from Indian Pass Campground.

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# Camping the Coast

BY DANIEL ANDERSON

When I was a kid, camping meant a tent pitched in the woods, a canteen of tepid water, dry food and a sleeping bag to curl up in. Luxuries like a hot meal, or a change of clothes, were never even a consideration. My oh my, how times have changed! Since then, the evolution of the RV has given rise to what is now one of the USA's fastest growing industries. Factor in the tiny house movement, downsizing, remote employment and the Covid-19 pandemic...is it any wonder that interest in the RV lifestyle is at an all-time high?

The nationwide proliferation of RV parks afford RV owners (and renters) an amazing array of opportunities. People can work, live, explore and vacation almost anywhere. Florida's Forgotten Coast is no exception. From weekenders to full-timers, RVs are rolling in to the region in record numbers. The area's appeal is no mystery. Our sandy beaches, fantastic fishing, great weather and quaint communities are just too tempting. For RV visitors, however, that's not quite enough – they also need a place to park.

Fortunately, Old Florida has them covered. A dozen different RV destinations dot the coastline from Mexico Beach to Carrabelle. Each has its own character, but they all

## OLD FLORIDA RV PARK AMENITIES

	EL GOVERNOR RV PARK	OLD SALT RV PARK	AQUA BAY RV PARK	PRESNELL'S RV RESORT	WATER'S EDGE RV PARK	INDIAN PASS CAMPGROUND	ST. GEORGE ISLAND STATE PARK	COASTLINE STATE PARK	COASTLINE RV RESORT	CARRABELLE BEACH RV RESORT	HO-HUM RV PARK
NUMBER OF SITES	66	28	14	70	16	29	60	31	30	80	52
MAX LENGTH (FT)	75	55	42	65	70	50	43	45	45	60	75
30 / 50 AMP ELECTRIC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WI-FI / TV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
WATER / SEWER HOOKUPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	WATER ONLY	WATER ONLY	✓	✓	✓	✓
DUMP STATION						✓	✓				
BATH HOUSE	✓	✓	COMING SOON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ON-SITE LAUNDRY	✓	✓	COMING SOON	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
CLUBHOUSE					✓				✓	✓	✓
SWIMMING POOL					✓			COMING SOON	✓	✓	
PET FRIENDLY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PICNIC AREA	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BBO GRILLS	✓						✓		✓	✓	
CAMPFIRE RINGS		✓		✓		✓					
BEACH ACCESS	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓	
BOAT RAMP				✓		✓	✓				
FISHING PIER									✓		✓
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have a few things in common. They're all pet friendly, they all offer 30 and 50 amp electrical service, and they all supply full water/sewer hookups (with two exceptions where dump stations are on site).

Unfortunately, one facility is currently closed. Hurricane Michael destroyed the campground at **St. JOSEPH PENINSULA STATE PARK**. Plans to reopen are in the works, but a timeline has not been established. More information was not available at press time.

Michael also wiped out the **EL GOVERNOR RV PARK** in Mexico Beach. The little beach town has proven resilient, though, and

ongoing recovery efforts are remarkable. The El Governor RV Park, completely renovated and accepting guests, is just one example. It's a brand new facility from the ground up, and offers access to the white sandy beach just across Highway 98. The El Governor welcomes big rigs (up to 75 feet in length) and small, with seven pull-throughs and a total of 66 sites in all. The beach and Gulf are still beautiful, the people and businesses are thrilled to have visitors in town, and daily progress made in the storm-ravaged town is inspiring.

Just down the road in St. Joe Beach, the **OLD SALT RV PARK** has recovered from the



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SUGAR HILL CAMPGROUND : ST. GEORGE ISLAND STATE PARK

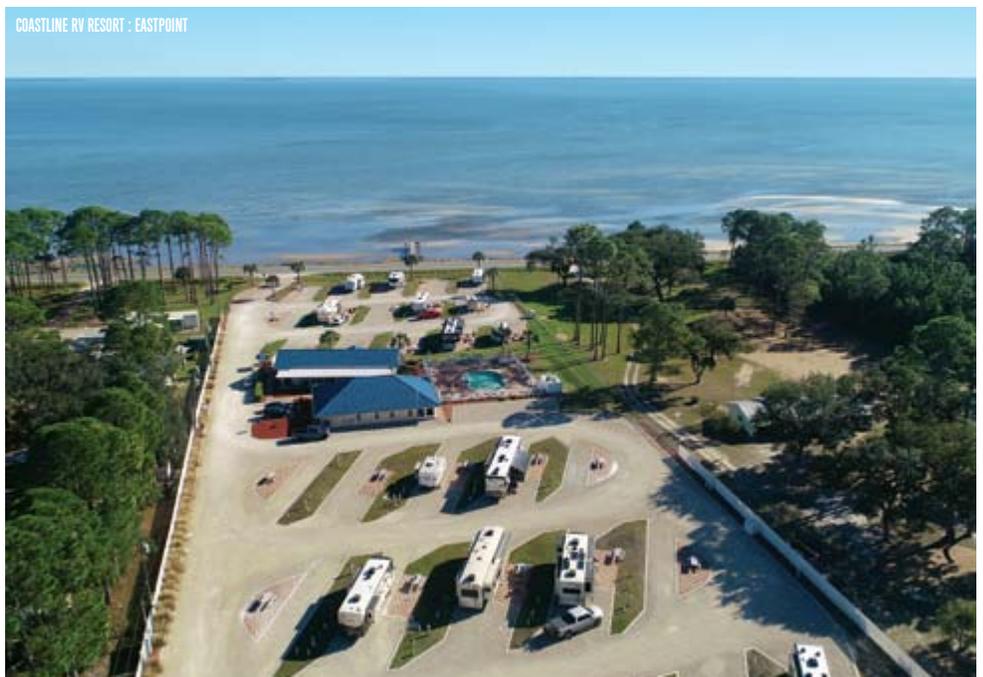
storm as well. Less than 1/4 mile from the Gulf and beach, 28 sites accommodate rigs up to 55 feet long in a well-kept facility with lots of privacy. The walk to the beach is short and scenic, and *The Honor Walk* at Gulf County Veteran's Memorial Park is just a few blocks south on Highway 98 at Beacon Hill.

Tucked away in Highland View, just north of Port St. Joe and one block off beautiful St. Joseph Bay, **AQUA BAY RV PARK** is Gulf County's newest RV destination. So new, in fact, that several park amenities are still in the works – the bath house, laundry, party

deck and playground are scheduled for completion in 2021. The 14-site facility welcomes motor coaches, travel trailers and 5th wheels up to 42 feet long, and is just one mile from public beach access and two miles from downtown Port St. Joe.

Head south from Port St. Joe toward Cape San Blas, and you can't miss **PRESNELL'S RV RESORT**. Presnell's is the very definition of an RV vacation destination. Located directly on the calm, clear waters of St. Joseph Bay, there may be no better base camp for exploring Gulf County's natural wonders. World-class fishing, scalloping, snorkeling,

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CARRABELLE BEACH RV RESORT : CARRABELLE

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Around the bend and a few miles east of Cape San Blas, Indian Pass is home to two unique camping facilities. **WATER'S EDGE RV PARK** sits just across County Road 30A from the world-famous Indian Pass Raw Bar. The small park – just 16 sites – offers amenities that rival much larger facilities, including an on-site general store. Every site at Water's Edge overlooks the waving marsh grasses and winding waterways of Indian Lagoon.

Make your way to the easternmost point of Indian Pass, and you'll find the **INDIAN PASS CAMPGROUND** when you run out of road.

Arguably the most beautiful spot on the Forgotten Coast, this secluded hideaway is surrounded by the waters of Indian Lagoon, Apalachicola Bay, and the pass itself. Sites vary in size and character – some nestle under shady canopies of palm and oak, while others perch on a bluff overlooking St. Vincent Island. No park offers better beach access, and there is a public boat ramp right outside the park entrance. The campground offers 29 sites in all, and can handle RVs up to 50 feet in length.

Want to *really* get away? The Sugar Hill Campground at **ST. GEORGE ISLAND STATE PARK** may be the escape you're seeking. Sixty sites ideal for unplugging await campers at Sugar Hill. The only things within walking distance are beautiful barrier island landscapes, Gulf of Mexico beach access, picnic pavillions, and the shallow flats of Apalachicola Bay.

Things are a bit more civilized at Eastpoint's **COASTLINE CAMPGROUND**. Thirty-one RV

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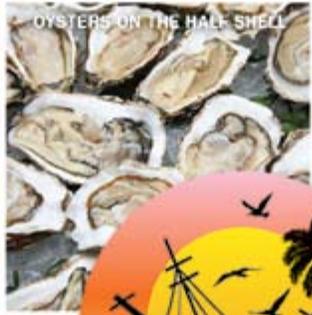
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sites accommodating rigs up to 45 feet long overlook Apalachicola Bay. Each spacious site has a concrete patio and picnic table, and there's even an outdoor recreation area and on-site restaurant. If that's not enough, a new swimming pool is coming soon!

Just 800 feet to the east, the **COASTLINE RV RESORT** offers even more amenities. This luxury park has 30 RV sites with attractive brick paver patios, picnic tables and, in some cases, BBQ grills. There is a recreation room, fitness center, swimming pool, bath house, laundry, 100 foot pier, gift shop, and clubhouse with a full kitchen and screened porch. Each site has room to spread out, and the resort welcomes rigs up to 45 feet long.

The **CARRABELLE BEACH RV RESORT** sits directly across Highway 98 from Carrabelle Beach, where funky beach pavillions recall simpler times, and the shoreline is just a few steps away. Carrabelle Beach is dog and fishing friendly, but those aren't the only reasons this wonderful RV destination is so popular. Eighty sites with lush landscaping accommodate RVs up to 60 feet in length. Guests at the resort enjoy a large, sparkling swimming pool, a fenced dog run and pet play area, a safe and modern playground for kids, a fish cleaning station, an on-site convenience store and much more.

Just east of Carrabelle along the water, the **HO-HUM RV PARK** awaits road-weary campers. The facility offers 52 RV sites for rigs up to 75 feet long, a 250-foot fishing pier, a 1/2 mile walking beach and easy access to the water. The beautiful St. James Bay Golf Resort is nearby, too.

Camping the coast, from Mexico Beach to Carrabelle, lets RVers experience all that the region has to offer. With 11 unique facilities and almost 500 individual RV sites, finding a place to "park it" is no problem at all. 🏡



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[www.theLaundryBasket.biz](http://www.theLaundryBasket.biz)

# GOLF GETAWAYS

at St James Bay Golf Club



**ESCAPE** to Florida's hidden golf gem. Make a day of it, enjoy 9 holes before dinner, spend the night, or join us for an extended stay. Special offers and packages make it easy and affordable!

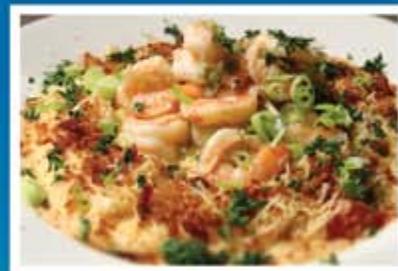
The 18-hole Championship Golf Course is designed in harmony with nature, winds through stunning native terrain, and is open for play 7 days a week.

Accommodations – our 2 & 3 bedroom Condos and Studio Villas – are unique in the region, with vaulted ceilings, luxurious amenities and panoramic golf course views.

Award-winning dining awaits at the Crooked River Grill, where locally-sourced *Coastal Comfort Cuisine* and southern hospitality are served in equal abundance.



Luxury Condominium Accommodations



Shrimp & Grits at the Crooked River Grill



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[www.STJAMESBAY.com](http://www.STJAMESBAY.com)

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**\$35**  
 PER PERSON + TAX

OFFER INCLUDES: 9 HOLE GREEN FEE, GOLF CART RENTAL AND \$15.00 DINNER CREDIT.

OFFER VALID: EVERY TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY AFTER 2:00PM. EXPIRES MARCH 31, 2020. LIMITATIONS MAY APPLY. 🍷

# TACOS

## EIGHT DAYS

# A WEEK

BY DANIEL ANDERSON



COCHINITA PIBIL TACOS : QUATRO LOCOS TACOS & CANTINA : PORT ST. JOE

Sometimes, a seven-day week just isn't enough – and if you like tacos, that time is now. Read on for eight straight days of incredible variety and tremendous taste served on tortillas!

### COCHINITA PIBIL TACOS

*Quatro Locos / Port St. Joe*

Downtown Port St. Joe has a brand new eatery, and it is something special. *Quatro Locos Tacos & Cantina* brings a little slice of Mexico to Old Florida. You'll find authentic Mexican cuisine, daily specials, indoor and outdoor seating, a full bar and 150 minutes of happy hour every day – beware of the “towers!” Start the eight-day week off right with the *Cochinita Pibil* – a traditional taco from southern Mexico. Marinated pork is wrapped in banana leaves with oranges and red onions, then slow-baked to tender perfection. Pulled and served on lightly grilled corn tortillas with cilantro, pickled onions and habanero chili, you won't find it anywhere else north of the border.



TROPICAL TUNA TACOS : UP THE CREEK RAW BAR : APALACHICOLA

### TROPICAL TUNA TACOS

*Up The Creek Raw Bar / Apalachicola*

From a culinary standpoint, Apalachicola's *Up The Creek Raw Bar* transports you from Mexico to the Pacific Rim on day two. The *Tropical Tuna Tacos* feature fresh Yellowfin Tuna cubed and served (raw or seared) on a toasted flour tortilla, topped with roasted pineapple, poblano & red peppers, cabbage slaw and a squeeze of tangy lime. Drizzled with asian poke sauce and served with your choice of side, these hand-helds are a delicious departure from traditional tacos. The view's not too bad, either!

the  
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PORT ST JOE  
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**BUFFALO SHRIMP TACOS**

*The Brick Wall / Port St. Joe*

On day three, *The Brick Wall* in Port St. Joe takes you to the bayou – and brings the heat – for *Buffalo Shrimp Tacos*. Plump White Gulf Shrimp are breaded with Zatarain's New Orleans-Style Fish Fri and flash-fried in vegetable oil. Tossed in Sweet Baby Ray's Buffalo Sauce, they're served on grilled flour tortillas with fresh romaine lettuce, diced garden tomato and white onion, and Wisconsin cheddar cheese. A generous helping of crispy fries helps to counteract the heat.



BUFFALO SHRIMP TACOS : THE BRICK WALL : PORT ST. JOE

**ANCHO PORK TACOS**

*The Tap Room / Apalachicola*

On day four, head back to Apalachicola and make your way to *The Tap Room* at The Owl Cafe. Belly up to the bar, whet your appetite with a local craft beer from the Oyster City Brewing Company, and order the *Ancho Pork Tacos*. Chef Melvin Myers starts with premium pork dry-rubbed with cajun seasoning. "We smoke it five hours, and then boil it down with garlic and onions before pulling," Melvin said. Then he got cagey. "A lot goes into it after that..." he trailed off. Mention was made of smoked ancho chili peppers, cumin and tomatillo. It's no wonder he keeps the recipe quiet. Stuffed into a grilled flour tortilla, topped with a salsa of jalapenos, roma tomatoes, lemon juice and red onion, and finished with cilantro and diced onions, these tacos are downright addictive – especially when paired with one (or more) of sixteen icy-cold craft beers on tap.



ANCHO PORK TACOS : THE TAP ROOM : APALACHICOLA

**MAHI-MAHI TACOS**

*Provisions / Port St. Joe*

It's day five, and *Provisions* in downtown Port St. Joe is serving *Mahi-Mahi Tacos*. Owner and chef Antonio Perez makes sure every meal at his Reid Avenue restaurant is a treat – the Paella and Betty Spaghetti are legendary – and these tacos are no exception. He starts with fresh-cut filet strips of marinated Mahi-Mahi pan-sautéed in canola oil with rich blackening spices. Layered onto grilled flour tortillas with citrus & mandarin orange-marinated cabbage and two kinds of rice, they're served with creamy chipotle mayonnaise, a pair of juicy lime wedges and yellow rice on the side. Enjoy them with wine at your table, a cocktail at the bar, or a beer on the patio – the service and atmosphere are among the best in Old Florida.

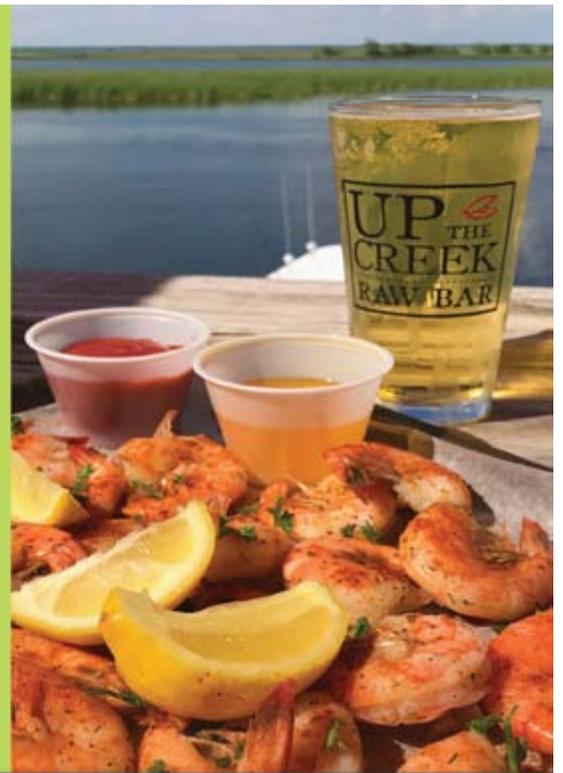


MAHI-MAHI TACOS : PROVISIONS : PORT ST. JOE



# UP THE CREEK RAW BAR

Casual waterfront dining in a laid back atmosphere! Up the Creek serves traditional raw bar fare including oysters on the half shell, chilled peel-n-eat shrimp and fresh seafood baskets along with upscale house specialties. Up the Creek has a dozen beers on tap, wine and a full liquor bar featuring specialty drinks of the day. Enjoy the River City's best view from indoor, bar & pet-friendly outdoor seating.



Overlooking the Creek, River and Bay at 313 Water Street in Apalachicola

850-653-2525   
UpTheCreekRawBar.com



**Provisions**, one of the Forgotten Coast's most popular eateries, is known for creative coastal cuisine, inspired international flavors and savory southern specialties. Established in 2005, we serve fresh, beautifully-prepared foods rich in cultural diversity with craft beer, fine wine and cocktails.

Serving lunch & dinner Monday thru Saturday year round in Downtown Port St. Joe.



222 REID AVENUE  
PORT ST. JOE  
850.229.9200  
PROVISIONSFL.COM

# DESTINATION DINING

at St James Bay Golf Club



Gulf Shrimp & Bay Scallop Alfredo

*"We stumbled across this restaurant quite by accident. Great food and service in a lovely setting with golf course views!"*

★★★★★ GOOGLE REVIEW

## THE CROOKED RIVER GRILL

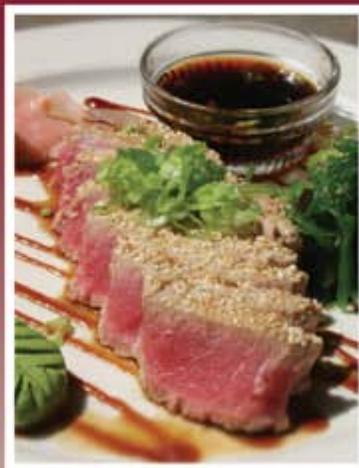
serves up *Coastal Comfort Cuisine* and southern hospitality in equal abundance. Cozy up to the bar for a cocktail or local craft beer. Enjoy locally-sourced seafood, daily specials and outstanding service. A special dining experience awaits just off the beaten path – east of Carrabelle at St James Bay Golf Club.



# CROOKED RIVER GRILL

RESERVATIONS AND INFO:  
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GRILLED SHRIMP TACOS : THE STATION RAW BAR : APALACHICOLA



BLACKENED FISH TACOS : LYNN'S RAW BAR : EASTPOINT



"THE ORIGINAL" KILLER FISH TACOS : KILLER SEAFOOD : MEXICO BEACH

## GRILLED SHRIMP TACOS

*The Station Raw Bar / Apalachicola*

The Station Raw Bar in Apalachicola has quickly become a landmark Old Florida eatery. The character-rich facility and hi-vis location attract many first-time customers, but it's the friendly service and good food that keep them coming back for more. The Station's *Grilled Shrimp Tacos* – try them on day six – are a prime example. Wild-caught local shrimp are grilled in Cavender's Greek Seasoning and butter, and then folded into a grilled flour tortilla with fresh lettuce, ripe tomato, cheddar & jack cheeses, and house-recipe remoulade. Served with chilled cole slaw and crispy french fries, they're almost as simple as they are delicious.

## BLACKENED FISH TACOS

*Lynn's Raw Bar / Eastpoint*

It's day seven, and its gotta be Tuesday, because that's the only time you'll get tacos at Lynn's Raw Bar in Eastpoint. Work out your schedule and make it happen – you won't be sorry. The *Blackened Fish Tacos* at Lynn's are exceptional for three reasons. First off, they are made exclusively with filet of Speckled Hind, a small grouper prized for outstanding taste and texture. Second, these tacos are big – twice the size of any other taco in this feature. Third, the sriracha ranch dressing is just...ridiculous. The filets are blackened with Zatarain's spices, and piled on to an oversized grilled tortilla with lettuce, tomato, mozzarella cheese and purple onion. Drizzled with sriracha ranch, Lynn's tacos are served solo and sideless – each one a meal in itself.

## KILLER FISH TACOS

*Killer Seafood / Mexico Beach*

For seven days, we've bounced around the region and discovered a full week's worth of scrumptious tacos. Day eight, however, is reserved for 'the original.' Michael Scoggins, owner of *Killer Seafood* in Mexico Beach, has been serving them the same way since February 23, 2004. *Killer Fish Tacos* start with fresh Yellowfin Tuna marinated in house-made Teryaki and grilled to order. Then, you have two choices to make! Lettuce, tomato & cheese or Killer Cole Slaw & cheese. Flaky corn tortillas or soft flour tortillas. Drizzle your version with spicy taco sauce, and prepare to dig in to a local legend. It's the perfect end to an extended week of Forgotten Coast taco madness – eight days of fantastic flavor and Old Florida culinary adventure. 🌮



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CAPE SAN BLAS' BEACH SUPERSTORE!

# OLD FLORIDA SHOPPING GUIDE

COMPILED BY DANIEL ANDERSON

## FOUR DISTINCT CATEGORIES

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OF RETAIL  
DESTINATIONS

## OUTDOORS & ADVENTURE

IF THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND IT

### BLUEWATER OUTRIGGERS

Huge selection of outdoor gear for fishing, hunting and camping including marine and trailer supplies, kayaks, firearms, coolers, sportswear, sunglasses and more.

121 Hwy 98 / Port St Joe

### THE CAPE TRADIN' POST

A nice selection of fishing equipment and supplies for surf, bay and camp. Sunscreen, insect repellent, swimwear, toys and more!

4975 Cape San Blas Rd / Cape San Blas

### DALY'S WATERSPORTS

The Forgotten Coast's one-and-only dive shop! SCUBA sales, rentals, charters, air & nitrox, service, spearguns, and equipment and apparel for snorkel, surf and skim.

317 Hwy 98 / Port St Joe

### FISHERMAN'S CHOICE

Franklin County's fishing headquarters! Rods, reels, tackle, fishing licenses, live and frozen bait, and hunting supplies.

330 Hwy 98 / Eastpoint

### ISLAND OUTFITTERS

Island Outfitters offers saltwater-proven bait, tackle, equipment and apparel along with kayak and SUP rentals.

235 East Gulf Beach Dr / St George Island

### JOURNEYS OF ST. GEORGE ISLAND

SGI's adventure company! Fishing charters. Guided boat, kayak and SUP tours. Boat and golf cart rentals. Kayak and SUP sales and rentals. Bait, tackle and apparel, too!

240 East 3rd St / St George Island

### MEXICO BEACH MARINA

Mexico Beach's full-service marina is back in business! Ethanol-free fuel and the finest in fishing and boating gear from Pelagic, Yeti, Costa, Penn, Shimano and more.

3904 Hwy 98 / Mexico Beach

### OUTCASTERS

Apalachicola's new Bait & Tackle Shop offers a great selection of rods, reels, tackle for every discipline, live shrimp and the region's biggest variety of frozen baits for both inshore and offshore fishing.

631 Hwy 98 / Apalachicola

### SCALLOP COVE

Complete line of rods, reels, live bait, artificials and tackle located on Cape San Blas. Fishing licenses and scalloping gear as well as pontoon boat, kayak, SUP, bike and beach rentals.

4306 Cape San Blas Rd / Cape San Blas

# APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

IF THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND IT

## BACKSTREET TRADING COMPANY

Outdoor gear and apparel from Columbia and Salt Life along with accessories, jewelry, hats, gifts and home décor.

94 Market St / Apalachicola

## BEE INSPIRED TOO

Jewelry, women's clothing, and artisan goods including cards, invitations, home accessories and original works of art!

56 Commerce St / Apalachicola

## BEACH PLANET

Cape San Blas' largest selection of resort attire, beachwear, sunglasses, hats and more. Brands including Salt Life, Ray-Ban, Southern Tide, Reef, Cobian and more.

4266 Cape San Blas Rd / Cape San Blas

## BOUTIQUE BY THE BAY

Affordable, fashionable clothing and accessories for women and men in downtown Port St. Joe since 2011.

416 Reid Ave / Port St Joe



## BLUEWATER OUTRIGGERS

Outdoor apparel, technical clothing, swimwear, shoes, sunglasses, jewelry and more in Old Florida's outdoor superstore.

121 Hwy 98 / Port St Joe

## COAST

Eye-catching apparel, accessories, footwear, jewelry and gifts with a unique seaside flavor in downtown Apalachicola.

85 Market St / Apalachicola

## DEEP SOUTHERN BOUTIQUE

Carefully selected women's clothing, accessories, jewelry and gifts offered up with an abundance of personality. Every girl's dream closet! *Now in two locations!*

77 Market St / Apalachicola

128 East Pine Ave / St George Island

## EMERALD COAST JEWELRY

An outstanding selection of jewelry ranging from fine to fun, including incredible blue diamonds and exclusive local charms in white gold, yellow gold and sterling silver.

234 Reid Ave / Port St Joe

## ESTATE JEWELRY & LOAN

A fantastic collection of gold, silver, diamonds, fine jewelry, one-of-a-kind collectibles and watches by Rolex, Cartier, Tiffany, David Yurman, Bvlgari and more.

401 Reid Ave / Port St Joe

## FUSS

A local original! Tops, dresses, skirts, shorts, leggings, bags, shoes, jewelry and accessories by Free People, Peggy Grey, Hobo and many more.

205 Reid Ave / Port St Joe

## GO FISH!

Clothing, jewelry, baby items, and home décor in bright, fresh colors sourced primarily from the indigenous people of developing nations.

25 Ave D / Apalachicola

## GRADY MARKET

Upscale and casual clothing & accessories for everyone. Home décor and accessories, t-shirts, luggage and unique gifts.

76 Water St / Apalachicola

## ISLAND OUTFITTERS

Resortwear from Toad & Co., Fish Hippie & Fresh Produce. Technical apparel from Simms, Huk, Kühl, Howler Bros. & AFTCO. Footwear, sunglasses, hats, t-shirts, more!

235 East Gulf Beach Dr / St George Island

## JOSEPH'S COTTAGE

Coastal lifestyle apparel and accessories along with curated home décor, accents, furniture, upholstery, rugs, candles, jewelry and locally-produced merchandise.

403 Reid Ave / Port St Joe

## LA ROBE BOUTIQUE

Upscale shopping for dresses, jewelry, purses and shoes with a little extra pizzazz. Located in historic downtown Apalachicola.

*Now in a new location!*

87 Market St / Apalachicola

## MARILYN BROGAN JEWELRY

A one-woman studio offering original designs and sustainable fine jewelry. Each piece is handmade from recycled precious metals and ethically-sourced gemstones.

236 Water St / Apalachicola

## MAGNOLIAS BOUTIQUE

A great selection of jewelry, accessories, bags, shoes and fashion apparel including rompers, sundresses, graphic tees, tanks, halters, jeans, pants, shorts and more!

407-A Reid Ave / Port St Joe

## OYSTERCATCHER

A small boutique packed with fabulous finds, *Oystercatcher* favors independent American designers working in beautiful, comfortable fabrics. Discover something new every time you visit!

79 Market St / Apalachicola

## RIVERLILY

Fabulous bath & beauty products, cool clothing, vintage-inspired *Riverlily* earrings, fragrant candles, and all things mermaid!

78 Commerce St / Apalachicola

### SEASIDE COTTON

Great selection of apparel, accessories, shoes and gifts. Brands including Southern Marsh, Articles of Society, Lucky Brand, Karlie, more!  
112 Franklin Blvd, Ste 100 / St George Island

### SGI THREADS

Turn your closet into an endless vacation! Well-made, well-fitting, island inspired clothing in beach styles with surprising details and work-to-weekend versatility.  
127 Commerce St / Apalachicola

### SGI TRADING COMPANY

A gigantic selection of swim wear, resort apparel, sunglasses, hats, t-shirts, jewelry and more. Top brands including Huk, Salt Life, Ray-Ban, Simply Southern and more!  
101 Franklin Blvd / St George Island

### TWO GULLS

Casual collection of coastal-inspired gifts and resortwear. Jams World, Cottonways, Flax, Fresh Produce, more! *Four convenient Old Florida locations!*  
201 West 6th St / Carrabelle  
240 US Hwy 98 / Eastpoint  
235 West Gulf Beach Dr / St George Island  
2802-D Hwy 98 / Mexico Beach

### UP THE STREET

The gift shop at Up The Creek Raw Bar outgrew the restaurant and moved – you guessed it – up the street! An eclectic mix of t-shirts and apparel, toys, jewelry, artwork, skin care products and much more. Brand names including Columbia, Bimini Bay, Salt Life and many more.  
29 Avenue E / Apalachicola

### WALTER GREEN

The region's most unique selection of women's clothing and largest swimwear collection. Trendy fashions that can be any combination of funky, fun and functional.  
151 Hwy 98 / Port St Joe

### WHITE SANDS SALON & BOUTIQUE

Located in the Markets at Mexico Beach with a great selection of salon products, apparel and jewelry. The perfect place to get pampered at the beach!  
2802-E Hwy 98 / Mexico Beach



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**IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU PROBABLY DON'T NEED IT!**

# Cape Tradin' Post

CAPE SAN BLAS, FLORIDA



The Cape Tradin' Post is your connection to civilization while staying on Cape San Blas, at Indian Pass or in St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Offerings begin with a full line grocery including **Top Quality Meats Cut on Premises**, fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs and dairy products, soft drinks, juices, cold beer, a great wine selection, champagne, bagged ice and much more!



The Tradin' Post also has t-shirts, apparel and hats by *Costa*, *Peace Frogs*, *Salt Life*, *Bimini Bay* and *Life is Good*, performance sunglasses by *Costa*, footwear, beach towels, and a great gift and souvenir selection. A variety of toys, games and sun care products guarantee fun-filled days along the shore. Scalloping supplies, snorkel gear, floats, and a quality selection of **Bait & Tackle** make for unforgettable days on the water.



With all the activity, it's easy to work up an appetite. Luckily, the Cape Tradin' Post has you covered all day long! Start out with tasty breakfast biscuits, donuts and coffee. At lunch and dinner,

enjoy steakhurgers, wraps, flatbreads, subs, wings and *Hunt Brothers Pizza*.

Then, finish up with hand-dipped ice cream and other frozen treats!



**BAIT & TACKLE**



**THE ONLY LIQUOR STORE ON CAPE SAN BLAS!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

Located on the Gulf Side  
North of the Rocks at

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**850.229.8775**



# SAVORIES & SUST

IF THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR,

## APALACH OLIVE OIL COMPANY

An exciting addition to Old Florida's culinary landscape! Fifty varieties of ultra premium Olive Oils and Balsamic Vinegars are bottled on site, and are available for sampling and purchase.

31 Ave E / Apalachicola

## BETSY'S SUNFLOWER

Gourmet goodies and everything to go along with them! Kitchen gadgets, bowls, cookware, linens, aprons, platters, picnicware, BBQ accessories, more!

238 Water St / Apalachicola

## BOTTOM'S UP

Downtown Apalachicola's "booze shop!" The store is filled with all of your favorite brands, unique and hard-to-find spirits, fine wine, local craft beer and quality cigars. Find a grown-up gift...or treat yourself!

76 Market St / Apalachicola

## THE CAPE TRADIN' POST

The *Cape Tradin' Post* is home to the only liquor store on Cape San Blas – and it may surprise you. An excellent variety of beer and wine along with a liquor selection that includes exotics and super-premiums! The Tradin' Post also offers superior hand-cut meats and fresh produce.

4975 Cape San Blas Rd / Cape San Blas

## THE HAUGHTY HERON

Along with package beer, wine & liquor sales, *The Haughty Heron* features a full-service bar, walk-in humidor, indoor & outdoor seating, and live music on stage in the beer garden.

117 Sailor's Cove Dr / Port St Joe

## LOOKOUT LOUNGE

The Lookout Lounge is back in business in its new St. Joe Beach location (formerly Paradise Craft House & Grill). Package liquor sales and friendly service are back at the beach 7 days a week!

8066 W Hwy 98 / St Joe Beach

# ENANCE

THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND IT

## LYNN'S QUALITY OYSTERS

The smoked Mahi-Mahi fish dip is the world's finest! Spread a little on a Captain's Wafer and drizzle it with hot sauce – it just doesn't get any better! The fresh retail seafood is outstanding, too – stone crab claws, scallops, oysters, shrimp, freshly caught fish and much more.

402 Hwy 98 / Eastpoint

## OYSTER CITY BREWING COMPANY

Apalachicola's fantastic craft brewery serves 'em up icy cold every day – Mill Pond Dirty Blonde, Hooter Brown Tupelo Honey Ale, Apalach IPA, MANGrOve Pale Ale, seasonal brews and more. Take home 64 oz. growlers, 32 oz. cans or 3-packs to go!

17 Ave D / Apalachicola

## THE PORT FINE WINE & SPIRITS

Domestic, imported and craft beers. Fine wine and champagne. Gulf County's best selection of liquor. All in a brand new facility located in the heart of Port St. Joe.

411 Monument Ave (Hwy 98) / Port St Joe

## SCALLOP COVE GENERAL STORE

Quench your thirst and satisfy your appetite at *Scallop Cove*. There's a great selection of beer and wine, a "growler station" featuring local craft beer, fresh donuts daily, breakfast biscuits, pizza, subs, and even hand-dipped Blue Bell ice cream!

4310 Cape San Blas Rd / Cape San Blas

## ST. JOE SHRIMP COMPANY

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280 Water St / Apalachicola

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81 Market St / Apalachicola

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16 Ave D / Apalachicola

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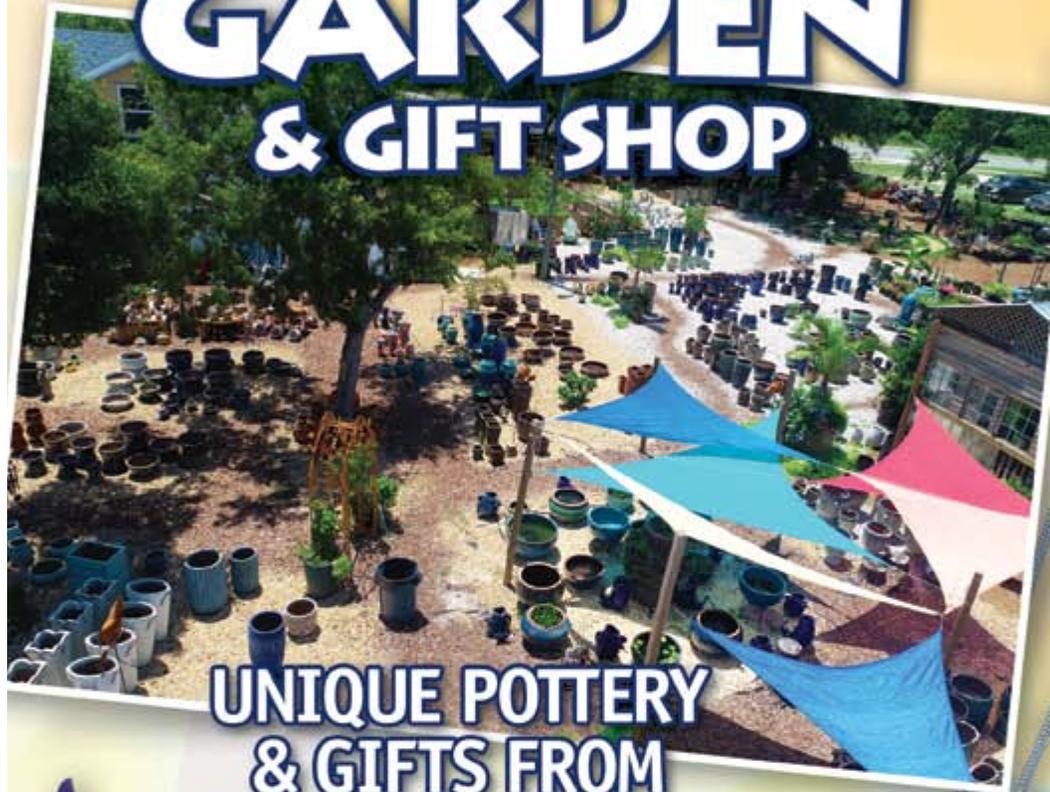
45 Ave D / Apalachicola

### WENDY PATRICK DESIGN SHOP

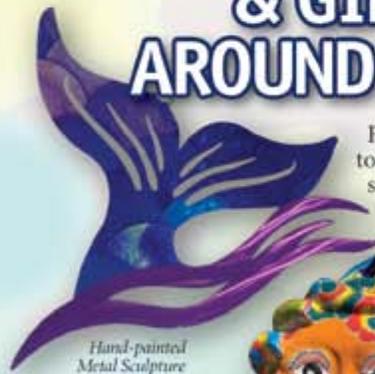
A downtown PSJ store with a fantastic collection of locally-created art, interior accents, furnishings, jewelry and more. The theme is purely coastal, and that's no accident – owner and designer Wendy Patrick makes coastal interiors her focus.

200-B Reid Ave / Port St Joe

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# FORGOTTEN COAST FISHING

BY DANIEL ANDERSON

A SEASONAL GUIDE: PART 3 OF 3

**T**he waters of Florida's Forgotten Coast attract anglers from all over the world. The year-round fishery targets a cyclical parade of trophy species and top-notch table fare. Some species are a constant presence, while others come and go with the changing seasons. Knowing what to target when, where and how, is critical to fishing success – and this guide will help. Part 3 will have you catching fish from September through December. If you missed Part 1 (January through April) or Part 2 (May through August), you can try to track down back issues of *Must See* Vol. 14 No. 1 & No. 2, or view them online anytime at [www.MustSeeMagazine.com](http://www.MustSeeMagazine.com).

## SEPTEMBER

Although I look forward to summertime fishing every year, it's still a relief when the season ends. So many boats on the water. Chaos at the ramps and marinas. By mid-August, I'm always ready to catch my breath. When September rolls around, and sanity is restored, it's time to go fishing again – but in a more leisurely manner. Of course, it helps that three of my favorite target species are in season – Amberjack, Triggerfish and Gag Grouper. These three are usually quite cooperative, so a well-planned excursion into the Gulf of Mexico should fill the fishbox in short order.

You'll find the Amberjack and Triggerfish together, hovering around high profile structure in 75 to 125 feet of water. Get in position just upcurrent from the wreck or reef, and stay there. Toss over a few chunks of cut bait, or hang a bag of chum off the stern – the fish will come to you. If visibility is good, you'll see fish darting and flashing in the slick. If not, you may have to fish on faith. Fear not! The fish will be there.

For Amberjack, use heavy duty gear. Fish in the 25-40 pound range are common, and beasts up to 70 pounds are not unheard of. Large circle hooks, tough leaders and frisky live baits such as pinfish and blue runners



are your best bets, but whole frozen calamari squid will work, too. There's no need to send baits all the way to the bottom – half way down is usually plenty. Often, hungry AJs will gulp down baits within sight of the boat. Brace yourself! These “reef donkeys” are strong, stubborn fighters. Keepers have to be 34 inches long at the fork in their tail, so measure harvested fish carefully.

A different strategy is required for notoriously sneaky Triggerfish. Small sharp circle hooks and a supply of frozen chunk baits are all you need. Baits dropped quickly will be stolen on the way down, so lower your bait into the chum slick slowly, keeping tension on

APALACHICOLA

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the line. When you feel that first peck, reel gently. At the first sign of real pressure, pull smoothly and firmly to set the hook. Triggerfish have tough mouths, but this method virtually guarantees a hookup. Minimum size to harvest Triggerfish is 15 inches long at the fork, and the bag limit is just one fish per angler, but they are among the finest table fare the Gulf of Mexico has to offer.

Once your quota of Triggers and AJs has been met, it's Grouper time. Lower profile structure and naturally occurring hard bottom in waters at least 100 feet deep should be your destination. Stout rods, powerful reels, sharp circle hooks and lots of lead – at least 8 ounces – are required. Live baits like Squirrelfish or Pinfish work well for Gag Grouper, but large cut baits including chunks of Bonito or Mackerel catch fish, too. Drop your rig all the way to the bottom, wind up until you feel the weight of your sinker, and wait. When a Gag takes it, you'll know. Start reeling and don't stop! Once a Gag Grouper realizes it's hooked, it darts for cover in an attempt to "ledge up." Keeping the pressure on thwarts the fish's attempts at escape. Get it to the boat quickly – hooked Gags are a favorite meal for opportunistic sharks and dolphins.

### OCTOBER

Everything is on the move in October, and fishing opportunities abound. Offshore, pelagic gamefish of all kinds are on the feed before beginning their annual migrations south. Deepwater Grouper ease closer to

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DINNER FOR FOUR DOORMAT-STYLE : NOVEMBER 2020

shore as the steamy shallows cool off. Giant Tarpon depart the beaches and passes, and schools of Mackerel vacate nearshore waters in search of warmer climes. In the bays, Flounder and slot-size Redfish inch toward the Gulf as water temperatures decline, while massive Bull Reds dive into deep channels and passes.

When the weather cooperates, October is perfect for bluewater trolling. Mahi-Mahi, King Mackerel, Wahoo and Blackfin Tuna are plentiful...and hungry. I vary the baits in my spread, because I like to catch them all. Squid or feather chains with a hook in the last bait stay close to the boat (50 and 75 feet back) on either side – trolling weights or downriggers help them get noticed if fish are holding at depth. On the outriggers, it's medium-sized Ballyhoo or feathers at 125 and 150 feet. For the shotgun (the central bait back 200 feet) I like a big horse Ballyhoo or Bonito strip skirted in purple and black – Wahoo can't resist it! Trolled over structure or along rips and weed lines at 6-8 knots, you may find yourself fighting a Sailfish, Yellowfin Tuna, or even a Marlin.

## NOVEMBER

Flounder. Always delicious, in November they're also big and easy to find. Every nearshore reef, wreck or structure is likely to hold Flounder at this time of year. Put a hefty egg sinker on a Carolina rig, hook a feisty Bull Minnow through the nose, and drop it to the bottom near the edge of the structure. Nearby Flounder will quickly

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RED GROUPER : DECEMBER 2019



Mullet, Ladyfish and Pinfish all work well. Cut off the tail, then hook them through the mouth and out the head. Drop to the bottom and wait. Your screaming reel will let you know when you're in the right spot. Most Bull Redfish run 32-38 inches – anything over 40 inches is a monster. They're too big to keep, but they sure are fun to catch. Handle and

release them carefully – they're getting ready to spawn over nearshore wrecks and reefs in the Gulf.

### DECEMBER

As Winter takes hold of the region, inshore fishing slows down drastically. Bluebird December days are perfect for quick trips into the Gulf, however, and may have you seeing "red." Red Grouper abound in depths from 50 to 150 feet on natural ledges and rocky bottom. Use a setup just like you did for Gags back in September, but instead of

live bait, send down strips of Bonito or large chunks of Mackerel. Apparently, Red Grouper are lazy, and prefer not to be bothered with running down live quarry. When you hook one, keep the pressure on to avoid cut-offs. If you reach your two per angler limit, switch to a dropper rig with smaller baits and round out your catch with tasty Vermillion Snapper.

Old Florida is truly a fisherman's paradise. Month after month, all year-round, prized trophy species and fantastic table fare await anglers. What are you waiting for? 

move in for any easy meal. The initial strike can be quite powerful, but only the biggest Flounder put up much of an extended fight. Experienced fishermen net their catch boatside – Flounder frequently hang on to baits without being hooked, and then let go as they are pulled from the water.

Bull Redfish, on the other hand, probably won't fit in your net! In November, target them on the outflow side of passes and deep channels. All you need is a knocker rig with plenty of weight to fight the current, a big circle hook, and some fresh cut bait.

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