

PENSACOLA MULTICULTURAL GUIDE  
[VISITPENSACOLA.COM](http://VISITPENSACOLA.COM)





## Welcome

If you seek a destination that offers the perfect balance of relaxation and adventure, culture and inclusivity, look no further than Pensacola.

The beautiful and vibrant Pensacola Bay Area of today was shaped by the many cultures that have left their special mark on this community. Established in 1559 by Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna, Pensacola holds the title of America's first settlement. In addition, we're looking forward to celebrating Escambia County's bicentennial anniversary in 2021. Pensacola has a rich history - and you can see it in our architecture, taste it in our cuisine, and experience it in the diverse faces of the people who make this area so uniquely wonderful.

Wade in the emerald-green water along Johnson Beach in Perdido Key, and learn about the fallen African American war hero the beach is named after. Explore a pre-Civil War fort at Ft. Pickens on Pensacola Beach and learn about its most famous prisoner, Apache Chief Geronimo. Stroll through the urban residential areas of North Hill to see a history of architecture in Pensacola. Some of the city's oldest houses reside here, showing off Spanish, French and British colonial influences, as well as antebellum and Victorian styles.

Enjoy live music and gourmet soul food in the Belmont-DeVilliers district and learn about the historic neighborhood's musical legacy during segregation. Explore Pensacola's vast naval heritage on board Pensacola Naval Air Station in West Pensacola: from the 18th century structures of Fort Barrancas to the 19th century Pensacola Lighthouse to one of the 21st century's most visited museums in Florida - the National Naval Aviation Museum.

Enjoy the thriving nightlife scene on Palafox Street in the heart of downtown Pensacola, or enjoy a quiet cup of coffee while overlooking one of the "10 Great Streets in America," as named by the American Planning Association. Discover eclectic neighborhoods all over the Pensacola Bay Area, each with unique cultural influences that shape our community.

You choose your pace. You choose your adventure. Being the oldest European settlement in the country, we have more than 450 years of fascinating history to explore. We invite you to experience this cultural treasure for yourself, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,  
Steve Hayes, President  
Visit Pensacola



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## CALL US OR STOP BY!

Visit Pensacola Visitor Information Center: 1401 E. Gregory St. (off 17th Ave.)  
 Located in Wayside Park on the east side of Hwy. 98 at the mouth of the Pensacola Bay  
 Bridge. (850) 434-1234 or (800) 874-1234

Perdido Key Visitor Information Center: 15500 Perdido Key Dr. (850) 602-9279



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Rob Overton, Board Chairman  
 Steve Hayes, President



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Find valuable local business connections through the Gulf Coast  
 Minority Chamber of Commerce at [www.gcmcc.info](http://www.gcmcc.info). (850) 438-3993



# GETTING HERE IS EASY, LEAVING IS THE HARD PART

## Tips to Getting Around Pensacola the Local Way

While walking is a key form of transportation around the beach and downtown, you can get from one to the other in a variety of ways. Travel like a local and get the most out of your stay with these handy tips.





**BY AIR** — With more than 100 daily flights and non-stop service to 16 cities and 19 airports, Pensacola International Airport is your gateway to the Gulf Coast and the Pensacola Bay Area. The airport's convenient location offers easy access to the vibrant downtown historic area and our award-winning, sugar-white beaches. [flypensacola.com](http://flypensacola.com)



**PENSACOLA BEACH ISLAND TROLLEY** — Travel island-style and discover all the fun things to see and do on Pensacola Beach. During peak season, enjoy free trolley service to nearly three dozen stops along the beach from the east to the west end of the island. The service is ADA compliant and has bike racks. Trolleys run seven days a week from 4 p.m. to midnight, Memorial Day – Labor Day. [visitpensacolabeach.com](http://visitpensacolabeach.com)



**PENSACOLA BAY CRUISES** — Enjoy a relaxing, scenic cruise aboard one of the two double decker boats that connect Downtown Pensacola to Pensacola Beach and the Gulf Islands National Seashore – Fort Pickens. The boats, named *Turtle Runner* and *Pelican Perch* by local school children, can hold 150 passengers, with each leg of the trip taking approximately 35-45 minutes. This is a unique way to enjoy the waterways of Pensacola and get to where you're going. [cruisepb.com](http://cruisepb.com)



**REAL-TIME RIDE SHARING** — As a progressive city, the Pensacola Bay Area has many ride-sharing programs including Uber, Lyft, zTrip, and traditional taxi services to take you wherever you want to go. Ride sharing removes the trouble of parking and lets you relax in the passenger seat.



**ESCAMBIA COUNTY AREA TRANSIT (ECAT)** — From humble beginnings using mule-drawn cars in 1884, to a thriving county-wide system, ECAT continues to meet the needs of residents and visitors alike. ECAT spans routes throughout the county, making it simple for any traveler to get where they're going. All transportation is ADA accessible and includes bike racks. [goecat.com](http://goecat.com)



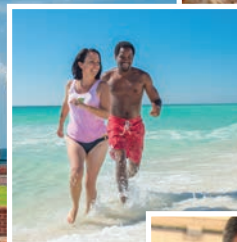
Pensacola Beach Trolley



# THE MANY FACES OF PENSACOLA



Plaza de Luna



The face most visitors think of first is sun-kissed and coated with an almost imperceptible spray of sand. She's got a pair of dark sunglasses perched over her forehead and a souvenir Bushwhacker cup in her bag. She's planning to eat some fresh seafood later tonight.

Yes, we all love that face of Pensacola, but there are lots of other important faces, the faces of communities that have thrived in Pensacola for generations.

History reminds us of the face of a man who was Pensacola's first visitor, Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna. Luna founded Pensacola in August 1559 – six years before St. Augustine was settled and nearly a half century before the English established Jamestown.

Luna's colony brought not only Europeans to Pensacola, but also as many as 200 free and enslaved Africans, as well as natives from Mexico. Of course, de Luna's party was met with a local population of Native Americans.



Juliee Cottage

From the very beginning, the story of Pensacola has been the narratives of the different faces and various communities here interacting and growing together. The French and English followed the Spanish, and finally the Americans. Each community makes its own mark and leaves its own stories worthy of telling and experiences worth savoring.

The new millennium brought new faces to Pensacola. The number of people who identify as Latino in our area has more than doubled since 2000. Latinos in Pensacola enjoy their own local Spanish newspaper, as well as special Spanish nights at local restaurants and the annual Latino Festival.

The faces of Ray and Henry Hillyer are also notable visages in Pensacola's story. The Hillyer's were a local gay couple in the 1960s whose annual parties for LGBTQs evolved into the massive Memorial Day weekend events that bring LGBTQs to Pensacola from across the South. Today, local LGBTQs enjoy a community of night clubs, restaurants, houses of worship, and more.



Consider the face of Juliee Panton, a free black businesswoman in Pensacola who worked to help slaves gain their freedom. There is also Pensacola's Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., the first African American four-star general in the U.S. Air Force. Think of the faces of the protestors who led a lunch counter sit-in in downtown Pensacola in the 1960s, leading to the restaurants being desegregated.

Yes, Pensacola has many faces. This guide will detail how these and other influences have shaped our community and how you can experience them.

We have broken out the points of interests that tell the stories of the diverse and multicultural interests of Pensacola into geographic areas of the city. As you explore each neighborhood, you'll find unique influences and stories of African Americans, LGBTQs, Latinos, and other fascinating people from across the globe, including those who have come here from India, Greece, and Italy.

For instance, more details about Chappie James's childhood home and museum is discussed in the East Pensacola section. What to expect at the Stamped Film Festival, Pensacola's annual LGBTQ movie experience, is included in the Downtown section. The Uptown section includes information about the Filipino-American Association of Pensacola and its Fil-Am Community Center, which is a hub of Asian/Pacific Islander activities like traditional kamayan hand-eaten meals, Chinese New Year celebrations, and the annual Fiesta Filipino. Turn the pages to find the stories the many faces of Pensacola have to tell.



# Something for Everyone

Whether you're visiting as a group for a class or family reunion, enjoying an impromptu couple's getaway, or traveling solo, you'll find an eclectic mix of experiences to explore in Pensacola.

Beyond the sugar-white beaches and world-class seafood, you can enjoy the sea breeze in your face and a bird's-eye view with a breathtaking parasailing adventure, have fun splashing around on a jet ski, or on a sunset dolphin cruise. You can even rent a pontoon boat or charter a fishing vessel to take your adventure into your own direction.



## Pensacola can do low key, too.

Take in nature with a walk, jog, or bike ride along the paved paths in the Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa areas of Gulf Islands National Seashore on Pensacola Beach. In Perdido Key, Big Lagoon State Park offers trails in a natural setting that, with more than 23 species of migratory birds, is part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail.

In downtown Pensacola, you can rent a bike, or even a Segway, to see historic sites, like the place where Andrew Jackson accepted control of Florida from the Spanish, or tour the vibrant community breweries.





Beach Ball Water Tower  
Casino Beach - Pensacola Beach



Pensacola Postcard  
12th Ave. at Scott St.

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

The Beach Ball Water Tower and the Pensacola Postcard are great spots to capture your Pensacola experience. Tag your photos with [#experiencepcola](#) and share on social media.

## There is lots of fun to be had in Pensacola indoors.

The museums, art galleries, and entertainment venues in downtown Pensacola are almost innumerable, and no visit to Pensacola is complete without a trip to the National Naval Aviation Museum at the Navy base.

Every member of your family will bounce with excitement at Sky Zone, an indoor trampoline park. Pensacola has several adventurous escape rooms and you can create your own unique work of art, and enjoy a glass of wine, at Painting with a Twist.



Painting With A Twist

# Johnson Beach, A Hero's Legacy in Perdido Key



Johnson Beach



When visitors use one of Perdido Key's most popular beach parks, they are using an amenity named for a fallen African American war hero.

Army Pvt. Rosamond Johnson, Jr., of Pensacola, was just 15 when he enlisted and only 17 when he died in the Korean War. On July 26, 1950, he brought two soldiers to safety and was killed when he returned to rescue a third.

Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds he sustained while saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

At the time of his death, the area known today as Johnson Beach was the only beach park in Escambia County designated for black use. Johnson had used that beach, so it was fittingly named in his honor. His sacrifice is recognized by a monument at the park and a wreath-laying ceremony every spring.







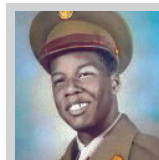
Big Lagoon State Park



## #EXPERIENCECOLA

Fish, oysters, or shrimp? Perdido Key's restaurants deliver when seafood cravings strike. Some will even cook up your own catch of the day.

Johnson Beach, which became part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore in 1971, is ideal for water-based recreational activities and hiking. The area is known for the Discovery Nature Trail, a raised boardwalk that is about half a mile long that takes visitors through dunes, pine trees, and salt marsh outlooks. The park also includes two large parking lots, restrooms, outdoor showers, and picnic pavilions.



Rosamond Johnson

In 2016, Johnson Beach was named the No. 2 National Park Beach by *USA Today*. Since Perdido Key is an island – the Spanish name translates directly as “lost key” – legends have long held that pirates of the 17th and 18th centuries buried treasure on the shores here because it was difficult to find, and shoals in the narrow mouth made entering the bay tricky.

The purported swashbuckling history of Perdido Key is a theme of the area's philanthropic-focused Mardi Gras krewe, the Pirates of Lost Treasure. Members of the krewe hold various events to raise money for a Secret Santa program for local children.

The pirate krewe coordinates a flotilla of boats every year in celebration of Fat Tuesday that set off from Perdido Key and wind up at the Flora-Bama Lounge.

## JOHNSON BEACH MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Rosamond Johnson Beach (African American)**  
133333 Johnson Beach Rd.

## TRAILS

**Discovery Nature Trail**  
Located within the Johnson Beach park area

**Big Lagoon State Park**  
12301 Gulf Beach Hwy.

## EVENTS

**Mardi Gras (French)** - February/March

**Rosamond Johnson Day (African American)** - May





©Pensacola News Journal

## How the Rainbow Wave Hit Pensacola Beach

One of the busiest weekends of the year on Pensacola Beach can trace its roots to a gay couple who just wanted to get their mail.

What? Here's the story:

Ray and Henry Hillyer, a gay couple in 1960s Pensacola, wanted to subscribe to national LGBTQ publications, but such publications could draw undue attention from postal inspectors. Thinking a woman would raise less suspicion, they enlisted a female friend to open a Post Office box under the fictitious name Emma Jones. It worked. Friends who met to read the magazines came to call themselves the Emma Jones Society.

Eventually, the Emmas decided to invite out-of-town LGBTQs for a holiday celebration. Their first Pensacola Beach Party was on July 4, 1965. By the early 1970s,

thousands attended annually. In 1974, a radio DJ called Pensacola a "gay capital," spurring a crackdown that ended the tradition.

The spirit of Emma Jones was reborn in the early 1990s when LGBTQ tourists began to flock to Pensacola for Memorial Day parties, clubbing, and sun worshiping. Today, Memorial Day weekend is one of Pensacola Beach's busiest weekends every year. Of course, Pensacola Beach welcomes LGBTQs every day of the year. Unofficially, the beaches just east of Portofino Beach Resort are where many local LGBTQs congregate. Just look for the rainbow flags and kites.



Fort Pickens



To see other influences on Pensacola Beach, look to Fort Pickens, a historic military structure that is now part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Built largely by slaves, it opened in 1834. Apache Chief Geronimo and other prisoners from the Indian Wars were jailed there in the 1880s.

Another icon of Pensacola Beach is located along Fort Pickens Road: the 10-foot cross standing high on the dunes on the south side of the road. The cross, built in 1959 as part of the 400th anniversary of Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna's arrival in Pensacola, commemorates the first Christian service in what became the United States.

The Americanized French experience of Mardi Gras is also alive on Pensacola Beach. The Krewe of Wrecks hosts a series of events every year, culminating with a parade. For examples of multicultural cuisine that help flavor Pensacola Beach, visit Café NOLA and Cosse's On The Beach for cajun and creole fare, and try the sushi at H2O and Flounder's Chowder House.



Pensacola Beach Cross

## PENSACOLA BEACH MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

### **Ft. Pickens (Multicultural)**

1400 Fort Pickens Rd.

### **Beach Cross (Hispanic)**

Past Holiday Inn Express on Ft. Pickens Rd.

## TRAILS

### **Footprints in the Sand Eco Trail**

Pensacola Beach

### **Pensacola Bay Cruises**

- Pensacola Beach Boardwalk
- Fort Pickens

## EVENTS

### **Mardi Gras (French)**

February/March

### **Memorial Weekend Pensacola Beach**

(LGBTQ) – May



# Heritage, History, and Culture Drive Downtown Pensacola

With a statue of Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna standing sentinel at the intersection of downtown's main artery and Pensacola Bay, it's easy to see that Pensacola is centered around its heritage. Busts and statues pepper downtown Pensacola, telling our colonial and antebellum stories. As recently as 2018, volunteers raised money to build a 19-foot bronze statue of Spanish General Bernardo de Galvez, who wrestled Pensacola from the British in 1781. The new monument, which shows Galvez atop a horse, is at the intersection of Palafox and Wright Street.

## TRAILS

**Colonial Archaeological Trail**  
330 S. Jefferson St.

**Pensacola Maritime Trail**  
Various sites - Main St./Bayfront Pkwy.

**African American Heritage Trail**  
Various sites - Downtown Pensacola

**Emerald Coast Tours**  
18 E. Garden St.

**Go Retro Tours**  
610 N. Spring St.



Historic Pensacola Village

The communities of early Pensacola are the setting for the Historic Pensacola Village, a complex of historic homes and buildings in downtown operated by the University of West Florida Historic Trust.

Among the buildings there, you will find the 1805 home belonging to Julee Panton, a free black businesswoman. Panton operated a business selling candles and pastries, but she also helped many slaves gain their freedom. Downtown also commemorates some important acts of resistance from the 20th century, as well.





Palafox Street

From 1960 to 1962, African American protestors conducted sit-ins at downtown Pensacola department store lunch counters, demanding the restaurants be integrated. As a result of the sit-ins, and an accompanying boycott of downtown businesses, the lunch counters were finally integrated on March 12, 1962.

The events are remembered in a historical marker located on Palafox Place near Garden Street, outside the former site of Woolworth's department store.

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Capture your Pensacola experience with a photo at one of these iconic Downtown Pensacola spots. Tag your photos with [#experiencepcola](#) and share on social media.



T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Museum  
330 S. Jefferson St.



Wish You Were Here Mural  
Romana St. at Palafox St.



Foo Foo Wings Mural  
Garden St. at Palafox St.

Downtown is also an important community for Pensacola's LGBTQs. Pensacola's three LGBTQ bars – the Roundup, Cabaret, and Chizuko – are all located downtown. Also, the Pensacola PRIDE Festival in the Park, Pensacola's annual LGBTQ pride festival, is staged for a Saturday in June every summer at Seville Square. Likewise, the Stamped Film Festival brings LGBTQ movies to downtown's

Pensacola Little Theatre every August.

These are just a taste of what downtown Pensacola has to offer. Downtown is such a thriving, dynamic part of Pensacola, we have also broken it into smaller neighborhoods. On the coming pages, we'll introduce you to the particular attractions and amenities in the Belmont-DeVilliers, North Hill, Palafox, Seville, and Hawkshaw districts.

## DOWNTOWN EVENTS

### FEBRUARY/MARCH

- Mardi Gras (French)

### MARCH

- McGuire's St. Patrick's Day Festivities (Irish)
- O'Riley's Pub Crawl (Irish)

### APRIL

- Crawfish Festival (Creole)
- JazzFest (African American)

### JUNE

- Fiesta Days (Multicultural)
- Pensacola PRIDE (LGBTQ)

### AUGUST

- Stamped Film Festival (LGBTQ)

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Gulf Coast Summerfest (Multicultural)

### OCTOBER

- Festa Italiana (Italian)

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- Foo Foo Festival (Multicultural)

### NOVEMBER

- Back on the Blocks Festival (African American)
- Tastes of Japan (Asian)
- Pensacola Stompfest (African American)



Belmont-DeVilliers Mural

## Belmont-DeVilliers Sings Through the Generations

The Belmont-DeVilliers district of downtown Pensacola is an area with a distinctive cultural history that continues to inform the experience of the community today. During segregation, Belmont-DeVilliers – known colloquially as “The Blocks” – was a hub for the local African American community.

Establishments like the Bunny Club, Saber Club, Abe’s 506 Club, and the adjoining Savoy Ballroom were part of the “Chitlin’ Circuit.” Performers like Louis Armstrong, James Brown, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Ike and Tina Turner, Fats Domino, and B.B. King performed at Abe’s.







Five Sisters Blues Café

Abe's closed in 1981. A pub called Chizoku, an LGBTQ-friendly bar, is housed in Abe's old location now. In January 2019, Belmont-DeVilliers was designated as an official stop on the Mississippi Blues Trail by the Mississippi Blues Commission because of the musical legacy here, with a historic plaque displayed outside of Five Sisters Blues Café.

The 21st century has brought a resurgence to Belmont-DeVilliers, with new businesses, like Five Sisters, and efforts at

historic preservation. Murals by local artist Carter J. Gaston illustrate important African Americans from Pensacola's history. Every November, the Back On The Blocks festival brings music, barbecue, and partying to neighborhood streets.

Belmont-DeVilliers is also home to Pensacola's annual Latino Festival. Join in the celebration and experience authentic Latino food, live entertainment, and vendors offering Latino-heritage merchandise.

The structure known today as the Belmont-DeVilliers Building was home to a bar, grocery store, furniture shop, and upholstery store before becoming Gussie's Record & Variety Shop in 1968. WBOP radio – one of the first black radio stations in the area – was on the second floor, broadcasting R&B and gospel. Today, the building's tradition of music lives on at the Five Sisters Blues Café, located on the ground floor. The restaurant serves gourmet soul food, exhibits posters from Abe's, and is often filled with the tunes of live music.

## BELMONT-DEVILLIERS MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Abe's 506 Club, Former Site (African American)**  
506 W. Belmont St.

**Bunny Club, Former Site (African American)**  
500 W. Belmont St.

**Deep Water Elk's Lodge (African American)**  
304 N. Coyle St.

**Greater Sardis Baptist Church (African American) • Reus/Wright St.**

**Mississippi Blues Trail Marker (African American) • Belmont/DeVilliers St.**

**Mt. Zion Baptist Church (African American)**  
528 W. Jackson St

**Saber Club, Former Site (African American)**  
Belmont St.

**St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church (African American) • 500 N. Reus St.**

**Talbot Chapel AME Zion Church (African American) • 425 N. Reus St.**

**Islam Temple Aeaonms Pha NBR (Islam)**  
704 N. A St.

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Strike a pose in front of the Mississippi Blues Trail Marker or The Belmont-DeVilliers Mural. Tag your photos with #experiencepcola and share on social media.



Mississippi Blues Trail Marker Belmont/DeVilliers St.



Belmont-DeVilliers Mural Belmont/DeVilliers St.



## North Hill's History of Heritage

In 1763, the first Jews known to come to Florida picked Pensacola. More than a century later, in 1876, Eastern European immigrants founded Temple Beth-El in what is now Pensacola's North Hill neighborhood.

Temple Beth-El is the oldest dedicated Jewish house of worship in all of Florida, with some of the original families still represented in the congregation today. The temple has inhabited three buildings, all located at the same location, with the current art deco facility dating to the 1930s.

### NORTH HILL MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Allen Chapel AME Church (African American)** • 500 N. Guillemard St.

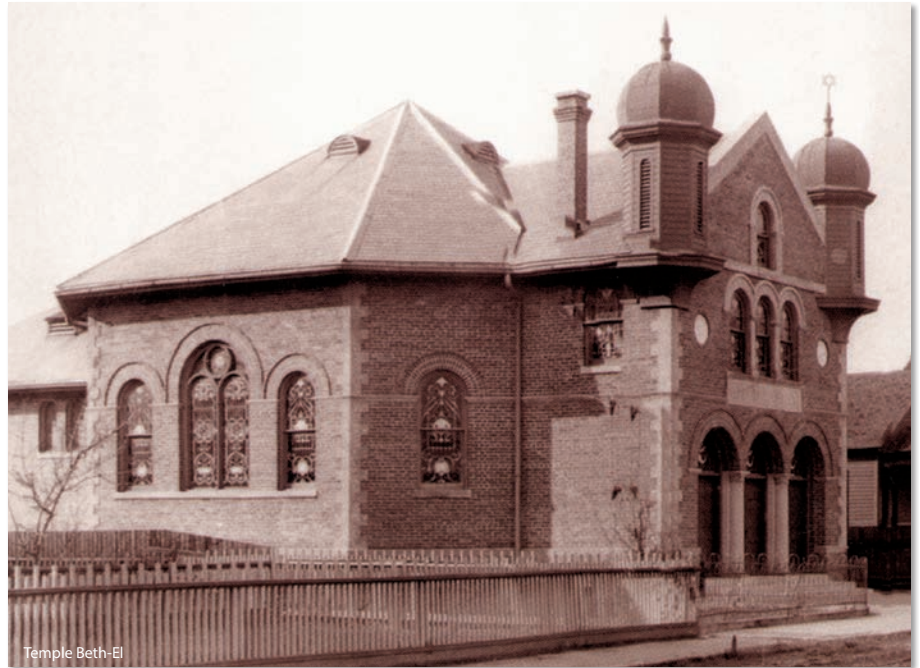
**Gen. Bernardo de Galvez Monument (Spanish)** • Palafox/Wright St.

**Christ Episcopal Church (Multicultural)**  
18 W. Wright St.

**Fort George (Hispanic)**  
501 N. Palafox St.

**Temple Beth-El (Jewish)**  
800 N. Palafox St.

**Pensacola Jewish Federation (Jewish)**  
800 N. Palafox St.



Temple Beth-El

Beth-El Cemetery, located several blocks away from the temple, also dates to the 1870s. Temple Beth-El is just one example of the deep history that grounds North Hill – so named because of its strategic location to defend Pensacola in colonial times.



A monument and partial re-creation of the British Fort George sits atop North Hill. Led by General Bernardo de Galvez, the Spanish defeated the British there in 1781. A 19-foot bronze statue of Galvez was unveiled nearby in 2018 (pictured left). Today, just take a walk through the urban residential areas of North Hill to see a history of architecture in Pensacola. Some of the city's oldest houses are in North Hill, showing off Spanish, French, and British colonial influences, as well as antebellum and Victorian styles.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza

## Palafox, the Beating Heart of Downtown Pensacola

Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza is the heart of the Palafox neighborhood downtown. The red-brick park, situated in the median of Palafox Street, centers around a bust of the Nobel Peace Prize winner. The plaza was dedicated on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 18) in 1993. MLK Plaza has been the site of demonstrations on a myriad of issues, but it is best known as the home to the Palafox Market, an open-air farmers and arts market open every Saturday.

In addition to being the site of many of Pensacola's entertainment venues, award-winning restaurants, and excellent boutiques, Palafox is also home to some of the most historic sites in the state.

Plaza Ferdinand, located at Palafox and Government Street, marks the location where Andrew Jackson accepted control of Florida from Spain in 1821. King Ferdinand VII led Spain at the time.

At the southern end of Palafox, on the edge of Pensacola Bay, the circular Plaza de Luna centers around a statue of Spanish explorer and Pensacola founder Don Tristan de Luna, who established America's first European settlement here in 1559.



### DOWNTOWN MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza (African American)** • 100 block of N. Palafox St.

**Plaza de Luna Park (Hispanic)**  
900 S. Palafox St.

**Plaza Ferdinand VII (Hispanic)**  
S. Palafox St. at Government St.

**Saenger Theatre (Multicultural)**  
118 S. Palafox St.

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church (African American & Creole)**  
140 W. Government St.

**T.T. Wentworth, Jr. State Museum (Multicultural)** • 330 S. Jefferson St.

**First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Vietnamese Church Service (Asian)**  
500 N. Palafox St.



# Spanning the Centuries in Seville

Seville Square and the neighborhood around it have been in continual use for more than 235 years. St. Michael's Cemetery – the second oldest in Florida – dates to 1781 during Pensacola's second Spanish period. As our colonial port city drew immigrants from around the world during the 18th and 19th centuries, St. Michael's served as the city's only burial ground until 1876. The cemetery is home to about 3,200 graves, each reflecting diverse nationalities, cultures, and religions such as Spanish, French, African American, British, Confederate, and even Norwegian.

Today, Seville Square is the hub of the Seville neighborhood. The square is surrounded by restaurants, shops, and other businesses. Every year, it serves as home to numerous festivals and concerts.



Seville Square

## SEVILLE MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**African American Heritage Society**  
(African American) • 200 Church St.

**St. Michael's Cemetery** (Multicultural)  
6 N. Alcaniz St.

**St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association Meeting Hall** (African American & Creole)  
416 E. Government St.

**Voices of Pensacola Multicultural Center** (Multicultural) • 117 E. Government St.

**UWF Historic Trust**  
120 Church St.

**Historic Pensacola Village** (Multicultural)  
205 Zarragoza St.

**Julee Pantan Cottage Museum** (African American) • 210 E. Zarragoza St.

**Museum of Commerce** (Multicultural)  
201 Zarragoza St.

**Museum of Industry** (Multicultural)  
200 Zarragoza St.

**Old Christ Church** (Multicultural)  
405 S. Adams St.

The neighborhood is also home to the Historic Pensacola Village, a program of the University of West Florida Historic Trust aimed at preserving and exploring Pensacola's cultural history.

Historic Pensacola Village includes 28 properties located within the parameters of the original Spanish and British forts in downtown Pensacola. Among the historic buildings is the 1805 home of Julee Pantan, a free black woman who helped slaves escape bondage. The village includes several museums, as well as the Voices of Pensacola Center, a multicultural center that showcases the city's diversity. Exhibits there explore the cultural groups that have helped shape Pensacola. Voices also offers an oral history recording room where additional stories can be archived.



*"Hawkshaw"*  
Pensacola, Florida  
19~U.S.A.~39



In pre-Columbian times, Native Americans are also believed to have lived in Hawkshaw. In 1985, the University of West Florida unearthed artifacts dating to 150 C.E. from the Deptford native culture.

## Hawkshaw, a Working-Class Community



Veterans Memorial Park



Hawkshaw Lagoon Memorial

Hawkshaw is not a name you see around Pensacola much these days. In the early 1800s, the Hawkshaw neighborhood was a working class, African American community in downtown in the area where Bayfront and Romana meet today.

While much of the neighborhood has been redeveloped, the Historic John the Baptist Church dates its founding to 1846. Inaugurated as the First Baptist Colored Church of Pensacola, the congregation counted both free blacks and whites as members in the years before the Civil War. The church was preserved through both the Civil War and Jim Crow laws, and still thrives today.

Redevelopment brought new purpose. Hawkshaw now includes the Veterans Memorial Plaza. The plaza's focal point is the Wall South, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Across from the Veterans Plaza, Hawkshaw Lagoon Memorial Park serves as the National Memorial for Missing Children. A pedestrian bridge leads to an observation deck and the memorial's sculpture.



Historic John the Baptist Church

### HAWKSHAW MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Veterans Memorial Park (Multicultural)**  
200 S. 10th Ave.

**National Missing Children's Monument (Multicultural)** • 499 Bayfront Pkwy.

**Pensacola Korean Methodist Church (Asian)** • 901 E. Gadsden St.

**Historic John the Baptist Church**  
101 N. 10th Ave.

# East Pensacola's American Pioneer

The first African American to achieve the rank of four-star general in the U.S. Air Force was born in East Pensacola, and you can visit the house where he grew up.

Born in 1920, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., was one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He flew more than 100 combat missions during the Korean War and went on to become the commander of NORAD in Colorado.

The Chappie James Museum is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Not only did James grow up in the shotgun house, but his mother, Lillie Anna James, used the home as a school for black children.



Chappie James Museum and Flight Academy

## EAST PENSACOLA MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Chappie James Museum and Flight Academy (African American)**  
1608 Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.

**Chimney Park (Multicultural)**  
Scenic Hwy.

**B'nai Israel Synagogue (Jewish)**  
1829 N. 9th Ave.

## TRAILS

**Bay Bluffs Park**  
3400 Scenic Hwy.

East Pensacola also includes some of the oldest and most beautiful homes in Pensacola, as well as some delicious cultural fare, like the traditional Italian food at Bonelli's Café Italia or authentic Mexican dishes at Tacos Mexicanos. For a distinctive LGBTQ experience, try the Drag Queen Brunch at the Vineyard.

East Pensacola, which hugs Escambia Bay, has the picturesque coastline Bay Bluffs Park as well as Chimney Park, which includes the ruins of an industrial chimney that was burned during the Civil War.



Tacos Mexicanos





BonFest

## The Asian-Pacific Connection in Uptown Pensacola



Filipino-American Association

Pensacola can trace its Asian and Pacific Islander connections back to at least the 1960s. In 1968, the group that came to be known as the Filipino-American Association of Pensacola was founded. Today, the association keeps a busy schedule of events at its Fil-Am Community Center in Uptown Pensacola. The Fil-Am Community Center offers traditional kamayan hand-eaten meals, annual Chinese New Year celebrations, the annual Fiesta Filipino, beauty pageants, holiday parties, and more.

Asian culture is also represented in Uptown Pensacola with the Japanese-themed BonFest Pensacola. BonFest, presented annually for more than a decade, brings Japanese food, music, dance, and arts to Pensacola every September with festivities at Booker T. Washington High School. Authentic Asian food is also in abundance in Uptown Pensacola, with traditional Vietnamese fare available at Tu-Do and Pho Golden Palace, and a selection of Japanese choices at Sake Café, Ichiban, and Sushi Masa.

### UPTOWN PENSACOLA MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Brit Ahm Messianic Synagogue (Jewish)**  
6700 Spanish Trail

**Pensacola Chabad Jewish Center (Jewish)**  
3512 Sotogrande Ct.

**Islamic Center of Northwest Florida (Islam)**  
3445 E. Johnson Ave.

**Filipino-American Association of Pensacola (Asian)** • 234 W. Oakfield Rd.

### EVENTS

**BonFest (Japanese)** – September



Pensacola Lighthouse

## EVENTS

**Greek Festival (Greek)**  
October

## TRAILS

**Tarkiln Bayou Preserve**  
2401 Bauer Rd.

**Bayou Marcus Wetlands**  
3011 Fayal Dr.

**Jones Swamp Preserve**  
198 Patton Dr.

## West Pensacola – A Melting Pot of Culture

West Pensacola is the area of town most closely associated to Pensacola's Navy heritage. Pensacola Naval Air Station includes lands visited by Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna in 1559. The structures of Fort Barrancas on the base date to 1787. Today, the base is an active training facility, but includes historic assets that focus on the Navy's history and impact in Pensacola and beyond.

One of the most visited museums in Florida, the National Naval Aviation Museum showcases more than 150 restored aircrafts. The museum also offers innumerable artifacts from presidential memorabilia to astronaut space suits, as well as flight simulators and more. The museum is a great place to watch Blue Angels practices and get autographs from the Blues themselves.

The base is also home to the Pensacola Lighthouse. The lighthouse was built in 1859 and stands 191 feet above sea level, with 177 steps to the top of the tower. A museum is in what was once the keeper's quarters.



National Naval  
Aviation Museum

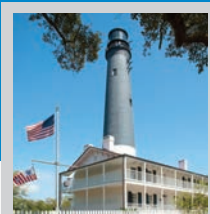




Every fall, on the second weekend in October, everyone in Pensacola becomes a little Greek. The event known today as the Pensacola Greek Festival started in 1959 as a fundraising dinner for Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Since then, the festival has grown into a three-day extravaganza of feasting and dancing. The food is the star of the festival, with the menu including roast lamb, lamb shanks, baked chicken, dolmathes, moussaka, pastitsio, spanakopita, tiropita, and Greek salads. There are entirely different serving areas for grilled items, like gyros, and for desserts, like baklava, Napoleons, and other pastries. The festival, held on the church grounds in West Pensacola, also includes live Greek musicians, examples of Greek children's dancing, complete with traditional costumes, and a large black-and-white checkered dance floor where everyone is invited to join in the group Greek dance.

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Capture the West Pensacola experience at these iconic sites. Tag your photos with **#experiencepcola** and share on social media.



Pensacola Lighthouse and Museum



Ft. Barrancas



Barrancas National Cemetery



National Naval Aviation Museum

One sure way to connect to a community is to study their dead. Founded in 1876 by a local Masonic Order, St. John's Cemetery is among Pensacola's oldest and most diverse cemeteries still in use today. St. John's served as Pensacola's primary burial site for 100 years and is the final resting place for some 20,000 souls on its 26-acre grounds.

The Native Paths Cultural Heritage Museum in West Pensacola, founded by Perdido Bay Tribe Chief Bobby Johns Bearheart nearly three decades ago, was created for the purpose of honoring, learning, and teaching about the Pensacola Bay Area's Southeastern Muscogee

Creek heritage through art and education.

West Pensacola is also the place to go in Pensacola if you are looking for Asian groceries, with places like Saigon Oriental Market and Deli and Bien Dong Oriental Market. International restaurant options include Indian cuisine at Spice and Spirits, Italian food at Paisano's Pizza, and the Kyoto Japanese Steakhouse.



Perdido Bay Tribe

## WEST PENSACOLA MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS AND SITES

**Perdido Bay Tribe Museum (Native American)** • 3300 Beloved Path

**Ft. Barrancas (Hispanic)**  
3182 Taylor Rd.

**Barrancas National Cemetery (Multicultural)** • 1 Cemetery Rd.

**Pensacola Lighthouse & Museum**  
2081 Radford Blvd.

**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church (Greek)** • 1720 W. Garden St.

**St. Johns Cemetery (Multicultural)**  
301 N. G St.

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church (Asian – Vietnamese)**  
3295 Barrancas Ave.

**St. Thomas More Catholic Church (Asian – Vietnamese)**  
3295 Barrancas Ave.

**First Korean American Baptist Church (Asian – Korean)**  
2410 W. Fairfield Dr.

**Al-Islam Dawah Center (Islam)**  
1550 Barrancas Ave.

# Asian Meets Mediterranean in North Pensacola

Pensacola is lucky to have the University of West Florida as a repository for multicultural resources. UWF's Japan Center, on the college's main campus in North Pensacola, encourages members of the university and wider communities to take interest in Japanese culture.

The Center's Japan House displays Japanese artifacts and art and serves as a venue for demonstrating Japanese culture and traditions. The house includes a traditional Japanese tearoom and viewing garden.

## NORTH PENSACOLA MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**UWF Japan Center (Asian – Japanese)**  
11000 University Pkwy.

**Japan House (Asian – Japanese)**  
11000 University Pkwy.

**Korean Community Presbyterian (Asian – Korean)** • 8770 University Pkwy.

**Macedonia Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Cantonment** • 2285 Stacey Rd.

**Buddhist Temple – Chua Dieu de Temple**  
off Nine Mile Rd. • 9603 Nims Ln.

## TRAILS

**Edward Ball Nature Trail at UWF**



UWF Japan Center

Asian culture is also represented in North Pensacola at the Chua Dieu de Temple, a Buddhist house of worship founded in 1993. At the time, many of its members were refugees from South Vietnam.

If you're looking for international culinary excursions in North Pensacola, be sure to try Founaris Bros. for traditional Greek and Mediterranean fare. Founaris has been pleasing local crowds with their manicotti special and gyro pizzas since 1981. For Italian in North Pensacola, try Petrella's Italian Café, named for a family of restaurateurs who trace their lineage to Italy via New York.



Chua Dieu de Temple  
©Pensacola News Journal





Alger-Sullivan Historical Society Museum



Old 100 Steam Locomotive



Welcome to Century Florida Mural

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

All aboard the Old 100 steam locomotive for an iconic Century photo, or snap a picture in front of the new Welcome To Century wall mural. Tag your photos with #experiencecola and share on social media.

## A Century – And More

The community of Century can trace its roots to settlers who arrived in the area just after the Civil War. However, the town hasn't always been called Century. After the war, a small group of freed slaves settled in a community called Teaspoon near the Florida-Alabama state line. In 1878, Teacup Baptist Church, a black congregation, began meeting there.

The Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company opened nearby in 1900, and when the white lumber company workers began moving to the community, they referred to it as Century, with a nod to the dawn of the 20th century. History of the Century area is featured at the area's three museums, including the Leach House Museum & Historic District Headquarters. History takes center stage in Century every May with Sawmill Day, opening the museums for tours, special exhibits, entertainment, food, and more.

Teacup Baptist still exists today, now called Pilgrim Lodge Missionary Baptist Church. It's one of the oldest churches in North Escambia County.



Teacup Baptist Church

## CENTURY MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS, AND SITES

**Alger-Sullivan Historical Society Museum (Multicultural)**  
4th St.

**Pilgrim Lodge Missionary Baptist Church (African American)**  
7000 Jefferson Ave.

## EVENTS

**Sawmill Day – May**

# ESCAMBIA COUNTY MAP



Barrancas National Cemetery



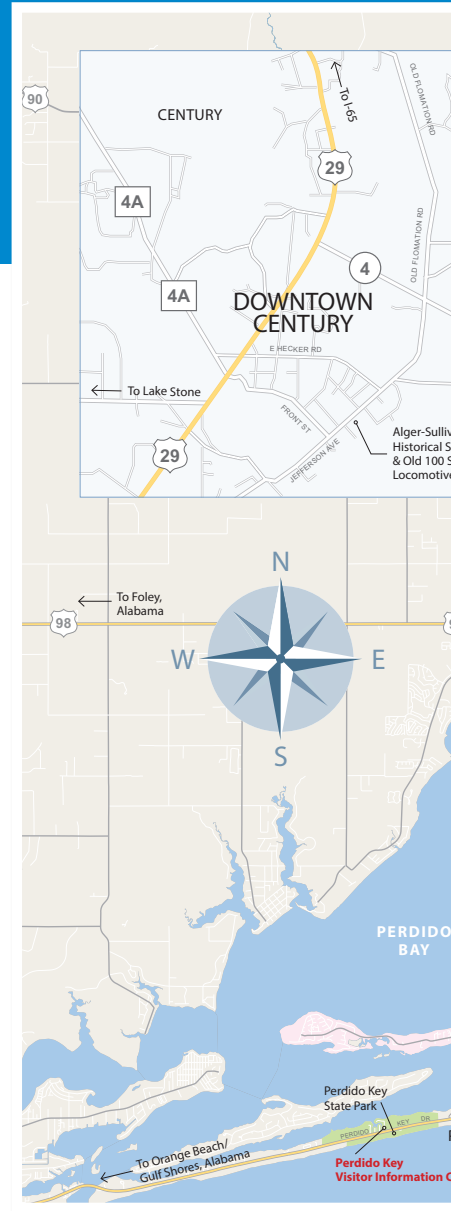
Fort Barrancas



Fort Pickens

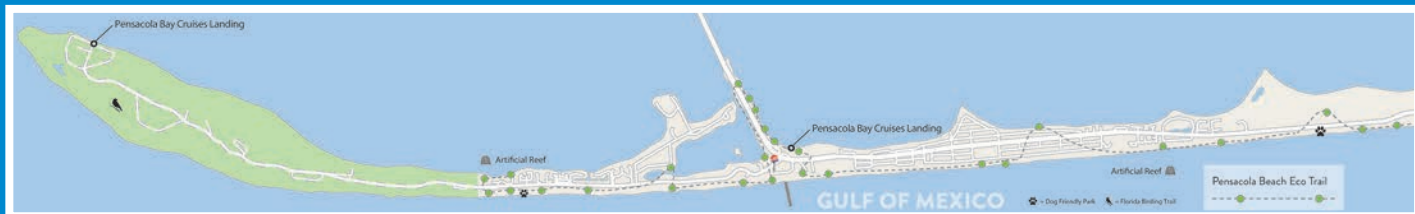
- 1 Baptist Hospital
- 2 Barrancas National Cemetery
- 3 Cordova Mall
- 4 Fort Barrancas
- 5 Fort Pickens
- 6 Naval Live Oaks Reservation
- 7 Navy Shopping Center

- 8 Pensacola Christian College
- 9 Pensacola State College
- 10 University of West Florida
- 11 Sacred Heart Hospital
- 12 University Town Plaza
- 13 West Florida Hospital
- 14 VA Medical Center













## DOWNTOWN PENSACOLA MAP

Old Christ Church

### VINCE J. WHIBBS, SR. COMMUNITY MARITIME PARK –

A favorite spot for locals, this waterfront park on Pensacola Bay features a playground and amphitheater.

- Blue Wahoos Stadium

**NORTH HILL DISTRICT** — This area with rolling hills and ancient oaks is home to historic churches, homes, and monuments.

- Alabama Square
- Allen Chapel AME Church
- Bernardo de Galvez Monument
- Christ Episcopal Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Fort George
- Governor Perry House
- Lee Square

**BELMONT-DEVILLIERS DISTRICT** – Steeped in black history, this neighborhood is home to favorite dining spots, public art murals, historic homes, and churches.

- Abe's 506 Club Former Site
- Blue Dot Barbecue
- Bunny Club Former Site
- Deep Water Elks Lodge
- Five Sisters Blues Café
- Greater Sardis Baptist Church
- Mississippi Blues Trail Marker
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church
- Saber Club Former Site
- St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
- Talbot Chapel AME Zion Church
- UWF Innovation Institute

**PALAFIX DISTRICT** — The shopping, dining, and nightlife hub of Downtown Pensacola.

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza
- Pensacola Children's Museum
- Pensacola Cultural Center
- Pensacola Museum of Art
- Plaza de Luna
- Plaza Ferdinand VII
- Saenger Theatre
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church
- St. Michael's Catholic Church
- T.T. Wentworth, Jr. State Museum

**PENSACOLA HISTORIC DISTRICT** — Home to numerous historic sites and homes, this area is anchored by Seville Square, a lovely park that plays host to many festivals and events.

- African American Heritage Society
- Bartram Park
- Fountain Park
- Pensacola M.E.S.S. Hall
- Seville Square
- St. Michael's Cemetery
- St. Michael's Creole Benevolent Association Meeting Hall
- UWF Historic Trust
- Colonial Archaeological Trail
- Historic Pensacola Village
- Julee Panton Cottage
- Museum of Commerce
- Museum of Industry
- Old Christ Church
- Voices of Pensacola



**CONNECT WITH US** — Follow us on social media  
and dive into the Pensacola experience. #experiencepcola





