

## HISTORY & NATURE

Named **America's Best Beach** in 1995 by Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, St. Andrews is well known for its sugar white sand and crystal-clear emerald green water. This 1,260-acre park is located on a peninsula with over 1.5 miles of beach on the Gulf of Mexico and Grand Lagoon. Natural communities in the park include dunes, marshes, scrub and pine flatwoods. Each community is home to plants and animals that adapt to the conditions they inhabit.

The park's uplands are characterized by rolling white sand dunes separated by low swales of either pine flatwoods or marshes. The dunes and beach are formed of quartz sand originally derived from the Appalachian Mountains. As the mountains eroded over millions of years, rivers and streams carried the sand southward. Long shore currents then deposited the sand on the beach and barrier islands. Dunes closest to the coast are commonly covered with sea oats. Dunes found farther inland are covered with sand pine, scrub oaks, rosemary, and other hardy plants and play an important role in preventing erosion during intense storms.

Salt marshes are found in areas with light wave action and tides. They are made up of short plants including grasses. Salt marshes transfer nutrients from land to sea and back as fresh water and tides move across them. Though freshwater marshes seem similar to salt marshes, they are not affected by tides. This lack of tidal influence creates distinctly different plant and animal life in the freshwater marshes.



## ST. ANDREWS STATE PARK

4607 State Park Lane  
Panama City, FL 32408  
850-708-6100

### PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks, intoxicants and hunting are prohibited.
- To become a volunteer, inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at 800-326-3521, or visit [ReserveAmerica.com](http://ReserveAmerica.com).
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

[FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org)

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# ST. ANDREWS STATE PARK

*Voted America's Best Beach*



**FLORIDA  
STATE PARKS**

*...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>*

## EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Welcome to St. Andrews State Park, where visitors may wish to sun or walk along the shores of this pristine barrier island. **Shuttles** run across the channel from the mainland to Shell Island in spring and summer, and tickets are available at the park concession.

**Swimming** is a favorite activity in the clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico where wave action adds to the excitement. Swimming in the shallow, protected pool behind the jetty is relaxing, while **snorkeling** is an adventure in either swimming area. The extensive shoreline and rock jetties offer excellent opportunities to study marine life.

**Fishing** opportunities include pier jetty and surf fishing. Catches include Spanish mackerel, redfish, flounder, sea trout, bonita, maui maui and bluefish. A **boat ramp** is located on Grand Lagoon near the fishing pier. The **concession** offers snacks, souvenirs and limited grocery items for campground guests.

Two **campground** loops are situated in the pinewoods near Grand Lagoon. There are 176 sites with electricity, water, **picnic tables** and grills. The sites will accommodate camping units ranging from tents to rigs up to 40 feet. Campfire programs are offered seasonally. A tent camping area for non-profit, organized youth groups is also available. Certain fees and restrictions apply. Picnic facilities are found in several locations in the park with the main picnic area near the fishing pier on Grand Lagoon.



# St. Andrews State Park

-  Amphitheater
-  Beach
-  Bicycling
-  Boating
-  Boat Ramp
-  Boat Tours
-  Campfire
-  Camping
-  Primitive Camping
-  Canoeing
-  Concession
-  Fishing
-  Hiking
-  Parking
-  Pavilion
-  Picnicking
-  Playground
-  Restrooms
-  Showers
-  Snorkeling
-  Swimming
-  Environmental Interpretive Center

## Directions

St. Andrews State Park is three miles east of Panama City Beach off state road 392 (Thomas Drive).

