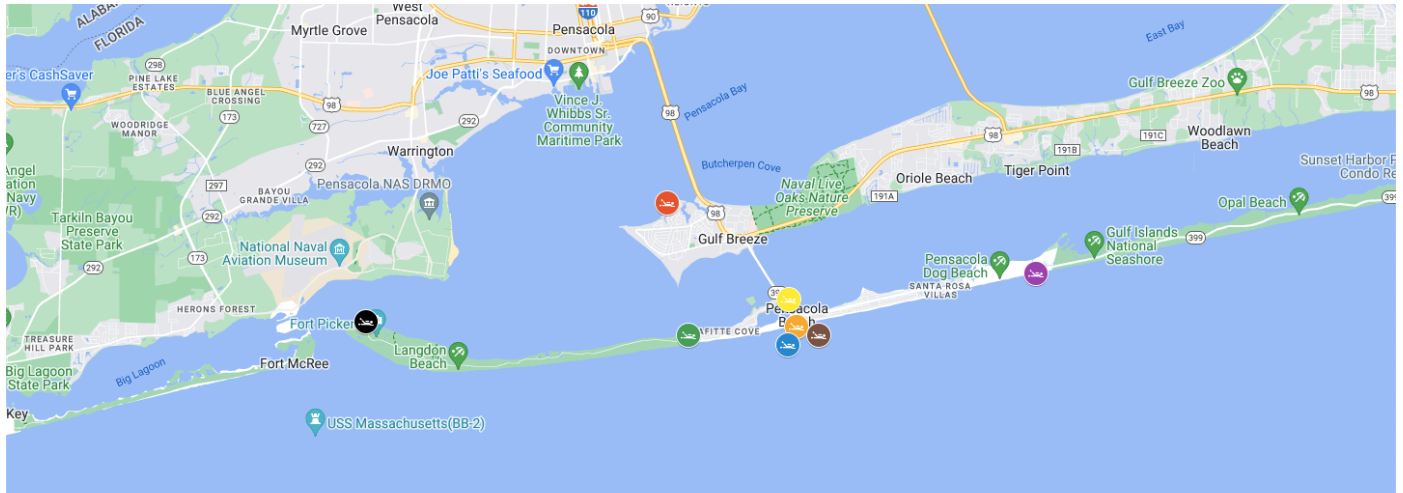




SNORKEL SITES

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850-748-2882

Travelers Choice | Best Places | Pensacola Beach



Fort Pickens Jetty: 1400 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach

The Jetty is on the north side of the island, across the bay from Pensacola. Snorkelers should head to the west of the pier where Fort Pickens Road forms a 90-degree curve. The tug *The Sport*, which sank during a 1906 hurricane, is in shallow water just past the entrance to Gulf Islands National Seashore. Going further west, snorkelers can spot the wreck of the *Norwegian Catherine*. It ran aground in 1894 and its remains lie in about 15 feet of water.

Deadman's Island: Woodland Park, 2 Highpoint Dr, Gulf Breeze

Deadman's Island Snorkeling Trail features the natural resources and historical artifacts found in the water surrounding the island. You'll need a kayak or paddle board for this adventure as it is only accessible by water. The Deadman's snorkeling trail has six underwater educational kiosks and is maintained by the City of Gulf Breeze. Park at Woodland Park, paddle through a serene Gulf Breeze neighborhood to the bay, then a short paddle to the right brings you to the island.

Quietwater Beach: 400 Quietwater Beach Rd, Pensacola Beach

Southeast of Pensacola, the snorkeling at Quietwater Beach is ideal for families and beginner snorkelers. There are also numerous informational signs that teach about our aquatic marine life. You'll see four poles marking the corners of the designated snorkeling zone.

Park West: (Bay Side) 1235 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach

Southeast of Pensacola, the snorkeling at Pensacola Beach Bay Snorkel Reef offers the chance to explore a large offshore artificial reef. This reef (aka Park West Snorkel Reef Bay Side) was installed by the Escambia County Marine Resources Division in water ranging from 7 to 10 feet deep. During an artificial reef snorkeling dive off Pensacola Beach, you may encounter a large quantity of marine life. Park West has a huge free parking lot, located on the right, just before entering Fort Pickens.

Casino Beach: 41 Fort Pickens Rd, Pensacola Beach

Casino Beach is the center of Pensacola Beach, look for the giant beach ball water tower. On calm days enjoy the relaxing beach, float in the surf and explore the ocean floor. You can go pretty far out and still be in waist deep water. This is an ideal spot for snorkelers of all ages.

Jacobi Reef: Casino Beach 41 Fort Pickens Rd, Pensacola Beach

The Jacobi Reef is just off Pensacola's public beach and west (left) of the Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier. Look for rows of concrete pilings in about 10 feet of water. The shifting sands from storms periodically cover and uncover the pilings. Snorkeling in the Gulf is almost year round, with the water usually calm from April through October, and water temperature staying around 80 degrees.

Pensacola Beach Reef: Casino Beach, 41 Fort Pickens Rd, Pensacola Beach

Approximately 150 yards east (right) of the Pensacola Beach fishing pier, the sunken site of the old Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier has become an artificial reef for marine life. Snorkelers will spot sea turtles, nurse sharks, flounder and more under about 12 feet of water. A little further east of the reef, there is a shipwreck in about 15 feet of water which is partially covered with sand.

Park East: (Beach Side) Pensacola Beach Snorkeling Reef, Pensacola Beach

The snorkeling at Pensacola Beach Gulf Snorkel Reef offers the chance to explore a large offshore artificial reef. The Pensacola Beach Gulf Snorkel Reef (aka Park East Snorkel Reef) was installed by the Escambia County Marine Resources Division about 500 feet offshore in 2011. This close to shore reef is located about 1.4 miles to the east of the Portofino Resort. During an artificial reef snorkeling dive off Pensacola, you may encounter a large quantity of marine life. To find the artificial reef, there are orange-tipped, range finding poles placed into the sand at the easternmost tip of Park East. You must use the snorkel vest and Dive Flag buoy provided by Swell Ride.

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