

YOUR REHOVIA ITINERARY

# Salt Air & Sandy Paws — St. George Island

St George Island, FL 32328, USA

Four days on a barrier island where the Gulf turns turquoise, the oysters are shucked at the dock, and the night sky belongs entirely to you.

 St George Island, FL 32328, USA

 2026-05-22 — 2026-05-25

**DESTINATION**

St. George Island, FL

**BASE**

Beachfront vacation rental, St. George Island

**DATES**

May 22–25, 2026

**PACE**

Full but manageable

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Gulf beach, state park, lighthouse, local seafood, Apalachicola art & brewery, Memorial Day, dark-sky stargazing, dogs along for the ride

**PERFECT FOR**

Two couples seeking an immersive, locally rooted island escape with great food, cold craft beer, and bare feet in the sand


DAY 1 · FRIDAY, MAY 22

## Arrive, Eat Pizza, Breathe

 EVENING

- Cross the bridge onto the island, check in, and claim your porch — crack a drink, let the dogs stretch their legs on the beach, and let the Gulf air do its thing
- Settle in over pizza on the deck with the sound of the water in the background — a proper island arrival
- Swing through Eastpoint on US-98 — BJ's Pizza & Subs is just before the bridge onto the island, making it the perfect grab on the way in: a local legend with a serious following, thick crusts, and zero pretense

 **Dining** BJ's Pizza & Subs — the non-negotiable arrival-night ritual for St. George Island regulars

 *Picking up pizza at BJ's before crossing the bridge means you're eating within 20 minutes of arrival and the whole group can decompress immediately — no restaurant logistics on a travel night.*

DAY 2 · SATURDAY, MAY 23



## The Hike, the Beach & the Golden Hour 🐾


### MORNING

- Weber's Little Donut Shop — step out early and walk or drive the two blocks to this beloved island institution; the donuts are made fresh and the line moves fast, best enjoyed on the beach with coffee in hand
- Morning beach walk with the dogs along the west-end shoreline — St. George's Gulf-side sand is wide, white, and almost completely undeveloped; let the pups run at the waterline before the sun gets serious

### EVENING

- Golden-hour walk with the dogs along the shore as the light goes low and orange — the west-facing Gulf beach on St. George is one of the finest sunset vantages on the entire Florida Panhandle
- Dinner at Blue Parrot Ocean Front Cafe — the island's most iconic waterfront spot, perched right above the Gulf with open-air seating, a long menu of fresh local seafood, and the kind of view that makes a long dinner feel like the right call; this is the dinner you'll talk about on the drive home

 **Dining** Blue Parrot Ocean Front Cafe for a Gulf-view seafood dinner

 *Blue Parrot fills up fast on summer weekends — put your name in early or show up right at opening to snag a table on the water side. Plan the state park visit for mid-afternoon so you're back and freshened up before the dinner crowd builds.*

### DAY 3 · SUNDAY, MAY 24

## Lighthouse, Stars & a Night to Remember ✨

### MORNING

- Bayside Coffee Co. in Eastpoint — a quick five-minute drive over the bridge to what is genuinely one of the best-reviewed coffee stops in the entire area; a calm, unhurried morning coffee before the day opens up
- St. George Island Lighthouse, Museum & Gift Shop — the restored 1833 lighthouse is the island's defining landmark and one of the tallest brick lighthouses in the country; climb the 92 steps for sweeping views of the Gulf, the bay, and the marshes in every direction; the museum inside tells the story of the island's fishing and maritime heritage in a way that actually sticks

### AFTERNOON


- Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park — drive the nine miles to the east end of the island where the park begins and the crowds disappear entirely; this is the best dog-friendly hike on the island, with nature trails winding through pine flatwoods and coastal scrub before opening onto a stretch of undisturbed Gulf beach that feels like a genuine discovery; leashes required on trails but dogs are very welcome
- Explore the Gap Point trail for a quieter, bay-side perspective — a flat, easy walk through salt marsh and coastal forest that the park's casual visitors almost never find

### AFTERNOON

- Beach time and easy exploration — time to wander the west-end beaches with the dogs, swim, or explore the island's quiet streets at your own pace; if the mood strikes mid-afternoon, Paddy's Raw Bar is a short walk from the main beach area — cold drinks, cold oysters, and a laid-back open-air vibe that fits perfectly into an unrushed afternoon

 EVENING

- Dinner at Paddy's Raw Bar on the island — a laid-back open-air spot with cold oysters, cold drinks, and views of the sound; the menu is straightforward and fresh, and the vibe is exactly what you want on a Sunday night: no pretense, just good Gulf seafood with the group
- After dinner, return for the night's signature moment: *\*\*stargazing from the beach in front of your rental\*\** — St. George Island sits in one of the darkest coastal corridors on the Gulf Coast; after 9:30pm in late May, the Milky Way is visible to the naked eye on a clear night; bring a blanket, kill the porch lights, and let your eyes adjust — this is the unexpected highlight of the trip, the moment that makes the island feel genuinely remote and extraordinary

 **Dining** Paddy's Raw Bar for oysters and Gulf seafood on the island

 *The lighthouse has timed-entry climbing slots that sell out on busy weekends — book online through the lighthouse's official site before you arrive; it's open Thursday–Monday, and May 24 (Sunday) availability is less pressured than Saturday, but reserve in advance to be safe.*

## DAY 4 · MONDAY, MAY 25

## Memorial Day — Art, Brewery & the Road North


 MORNING

- Weber's Little Donut Shop or Bayside Coffee Co. — one last quick stop for coffee and a pastry before the day gets rolling

 AFTERNOON

- One last lunch at Red Pirate Family Grill & Oyster Bar on US-98 in Eastpoint — a beloved waterfront spot on the Apalachicola Bay side with raw bar service, cold beer, and a shaded porch that makes saying goodbye to the coast genuinely hard
- Pack up the rental, load the dogs, and cross the bridge toward Apalachicola — 20 minutes west on US-98 and you're in one of the most characterful small towns on the Gulf Coast
- The Pearl — Art for Everyone on Commerce Street: a genuine local gallery with rotating original work and a strong sense of the region's artistic identity — the kind of place where you might actually buy something worth hanging
- The Sea Grape Gallery on Water Street is a short walk away and worth pausing at — focused, beautifully curated, and a lovely contrast to the bigger tourist shops nearby
- Eastpoint Beer Company back on US-98 in Eastpoint — one of the area's best-reviewed craft breweries with an easy-going tap room and a solid lineup of Gulf Coast-inspired ales and lagers; a perfect Memorial Day afternoon stop with the dogs before pointing the cars toward Montgomery; dogs are welcome on the outdoor patio

 **Dining** Red Pirate Family Grill & Oyster Bar for a final waterfront lunch, Eastpoint Beer Company for a Memorial Day craft beer send-off

 *The Apalachicola–Eastpoint corridor sits directly on US-98 toward I-10 and Montgomery, so this entire departure block flows naturally in the direction of home — no backtracking required.*

*St. George Island has a way of slowing time down — the kind of place where a morning walk turns into an hour, dinner stretches until the stars appear, and four days somehow feels both full and unhurried. Caroline and your crew are leaving with sand in your bags, dogs that slept like logs, the smell of Gulf air in your memory, a Milky Way moment over the water that no photograph will fully capture, and the memory of the lighthouse climb framing the bay in golden light. That's the island doing exactly what it does best.*

## WHERE TO STAY

The west-end village stretch of St. George Island — within walking distance of W. Gulf Beach Drive, Weber's Donut Shop, and the island's main cluster of restaurants and shops, with direct beach access and the calm of a residential neighborhood just steps from the Gulf

## VACATION RENTAL

A beachfront or beach-access rental on the west end puts you within a five-minute walk of every on-island restaurant and shop, keeps the dogs happy with easy morning access to the sand, and gives the group a shared porch or deck to watch the stars come out over the Gulf each night — the kind of space that makes a four-person couples trip actually feel like one.

[Explore stays](#)

## WORTH BOOKING

## Guided Kayak Tour of St. George Sound

St. George Island

Paddle the calm bay-side waters through tidal creeks and seagrass flats with a local guide — outstanding for wildlife spotting (dolphins, ospreys, roseate spoonbills) and a totally different perspective of the island than the Gulf side offers; several outfitters operate seasonal tours from the island's bay shore

[View experience](#)[See options](#)

## Sunset Dolphin Cruise

Apalachicola Bay

A 90-minute boat tour out of Eastpoint or Apalachicola at golden hour — dolphins are reliably present in the bay in late May and watching the sun drop

[View experience](#)[See options](#)

behind the St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge from the water is one of the region's great experiences

## Apalachicola Bay Oyster Tasting & Shucking Experience

Eastpoint waterfront

Several working oyster houses along the Eastpoint waterfront offer informal shucking demonstrations and straight-from-the-boat tasting; ask at Lynn's Quality Oysters about any group tasting arrangements — a genuine behind-the-scenes look at Florida's most celebrated oyster fishery

[View experience](#)

[See options](#)

## Beachcombing & Shell Hunting

St. George Island's Gulf beaches

Late May is prime season for shells on St. George — tiger teeth, sand dollars, and rare specimens wash up regularly; the east end near the state park is the most productive area; bring a mesh bag and plan an hour-long hunt with the dogs

[View experience](#)

[See options](#)

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

A few things that will make your trip smoother, more enjoyable, and more local.

#### ACCESS & ENTRY

- Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park charges \$6 per vehicle (up to 8 people); the staffed entrance gate is open 8am–sunset daily — pay by cash or card on arrival; no advance reservation required for day use
- The St. George Island Lighthouse has timed-entry climbing slots that sell out on busy weekends — book online through the lighthouse's official site before you arrive; it is open Thursday–Monday; reserve at least one week in advance for holiday-weekend certainty
- Eastpoint Beer Company and Red Pirate Family Grill & Oyster Bar may adjust hours for Memorial Day (May 25) — call or check their social pages the day before to confirm; holiday Monday modifications are uncommon but possible for smaller operators

#### DINING & RESERVATIONS

- Blue Parrot Ocean Front Cafe does not take reservations — it's first-come, first-seated; arrive within the first 15 minutes of opening (typically 11am) on a Saturday to secure a Gulf-side table; the wait can stretch to 45 minutes by noon on a weekend
- Paddy's Raw Bar is a relaxed walk-in spot — the afternoon and early-evening windows between 3–6pm offer the best chance at a table without a significant wait; it's a casual raw bar, so flexibility is part of the charm
- Red Pirate Family Grill & Oyster Bar fills up quickly on holiday weekends — arrive before 12:30pm for lunch or expect a 30–45 minute wait; the patio is shaded and the wait is worth it

**DOG-FRIENDLY TIPS**

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- Dogs are welcome on St. George Island's main beach but must be on a leash — the island does not have designated off-leash areas; early morning (before 9am) is the best window for a relaxed, crowd-free walk with the dogs
- Inside Dr. Julian G. Bruce State Park, dogs are permitted on all nature trails and the bayside areas on a 6-foot leash; they are not permitted in swim areas but the Gap Point trail and picnic areas are fully dog-welcoming; bring plenty of water for the dogs as May heat can be intense by afternoon
- Eastpoint Beer Company's outdoor patio is dog-friendly — a great spot for the departure day brewery stop; always bring water for the dogs as May temperatures on the Panhandle can reach the mid-to-upper 80s by early afternoon
- BJ's Pizza & Subs allows leashed dogs outside on arrival night — convenient if the group wants to keep the dogs close while grabbing pizza

**GETTING AROUND**

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- The bridge from Eastpoint onto St. George Island is the only way on or off — there is no traffic signal and it moves quickly, but during Memorial Day weekend expect brief backup on Sunday evening and Monday afternoon as visitors depart; if you're heading out Monday after 2pm (post-checkout), you'll be in the main outbound flow, so factor in a 15-minute buffer
- The island is small and easily navigable by car; most west-end spots are within a 5-minute drive of each other; the state park at the east end is a 15-minute drive from the west-end village
- Apalachicola and Eastpoint sit 20–25 minutes west of the island on US-98, which feeds directly onto I-10 toward Montgomery — your entire departure day block flows in the direction of home without a single mile of backtracking

**WEATHER & TIMING**

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- Late May on St. George Island means high temperatures in the mid-to-upper 80s with Gulf water already warming into the low 80s — ideal for swimming; afternoon thunderstorms are possible, typically brief and clearing by evening; keep an eye on the forecast for the stargazing night (Sunday, May 24) and choose that evening for the best Milky Way visibility
- Memorial Day weekend is one of the busiest weekends of the year on the island — grocery stores and the island's few shops can sell out of basics by Saturday afternoon; stock your rental with any essentials (sunscreen, dog food, beverages) on Friday evening before everything gets picked over
- The bridge can experience brief congestion during departures Monday afternoon (May 25); leaving after 2pm puts you in the main outbound window, so plan to depart after that time to match the natural traffic flow