



FORT WALTON BEACH, FL AREA INFORMATION

Home to Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach is part of the Emerald Coast’s 24 miles of white-sand beaches, vibrant waters and attractions. A top destination for year round activity, Fort Walton Beach offers a glimpse into a storied past of diverse inhabitants — indigenous people, Spanish explorers, and pirates, to name a few — as well as a vision of the future. Museums that delve into the history of Fort Walton Beach, as well as marvels of modern weaponry, are waiting to be discovered, with wonderful shopping and dining in between.

Overview

- [Official website](#)
- [Visitors website](#)
- [Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Area Hospitals](#)
- Population 21,897 (2017) 190,000 in Okaloosa County
- mild winters, hot summers



Transportation

By Car

Most residents have a car for access to many of Florida’s beautiful beaches, islands and parks. The City of Fort Walton Beach is intersected by three major highways including US 98, SR 85 and SR 189.



Public Transportation

- [OCT](#) (Okaloosa County Transit) bus services provide public transportation throughout the city and surrounding communities.

By Air

- Ft. Walton Beach Airport, located about 9 miles away

Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the US public-school system is determined by the age of the child. School districts are usually very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the deadline requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability, and contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

- [Okaloosa County School District](#) offers traditional neighborhood schools and Magnet Schools for language immersion, science-based, and International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programs.
- 8 [private schools](#) in Fort Walton Beach serve 929 students.

Additional Resources

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Area Recreation

With a sizable museum dedicated to the legacy of the United States Air Force, [Air Force Armament Museum](#) is an experience for visitors of all ages, featuring 29 aircraft on display, an extensive collection of weaponry and the many armaments the Air Force has used since its branch was founded in 1947.

Another attraction is the [Fort Walton Temple Mound](#), built and rebuilt by the Mound Builder Culture from 1400-800 BC. Every time a new chief was named, a new mound was built on top of the existing one as part of a ceremony. Today, the mound stands at 12 ft and spans 223 by 220 feet at its base.

The Indian Temple Mound Museum anchors [Heritage Park & Cultural Center](#) that includes the Fort Walton Temple Mound, Camp Walton Schoolhouse Museum, Garnier Post Office Museum, and the Civil War Exhibit Building.

The [Emerald Coast Science Center](#) showcases new Robotics exhibits, Hurricane Simulator, Natural Gas Exhibit and more.

[Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park](#) is home to dolphins, penguins and alligators.

The City of Fort Walton Beach has two 18-hole championship golf courses, and of course, some of America's most beautiful beaches, just minutes away.

- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Culture and Museums](#)
- [Nature and Parks](#)



Driver's License

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [Florida Safety and Motor Vehicles](#).

Your IOR Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.