



Casino Beach



Welcome to Casino Beach, Pensacola Beach's main beach and home to some of our island's most iconic attractions. From fun in the sun and sand by day to dining and bands on the beach after dark, everyone's a winner at Casino Beach.

Directions:

Once you've crossed the scenic Bob Sikes Bridge and exited the toll plaza you'll drive about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and veer to the right at the traffic light. This will put you directly in front of the Casino Beach parking lot. You can't miss the iconic "beach ball" water tower. Parking is free, but plan to arrive early during events and the high season as the parking lot fills up fast.



History:

The modern era of Santa Rosa Island began in 1931 with Casino Beach. After the first bridges opened, locals flocked here to experience a brand-new casino built by the Pensacola Beach Company. Although there wasn't any gambling going on, there was no shortage of good times.

For decades, the casino played host to beauty pageants, boxing matches, fireworks displays, and boat races. There was also a bath house, banquet hall, dance pavilion, restaurant, and 1,200-foot pier. In 1972, the site was demolished, but you can still find some of its salvaged wooden beams at Apple Annie's in the Seville Quarter.



KID FRIENDLY

With its proximity to some of Pensacola Beach's most iconic attractions, Casino Beach has something for all members of the family. The area can get lively during peak season, so the Island Authority has designated the beach just west of the Pier a "family-friendly" zone with no alcohol permitted.



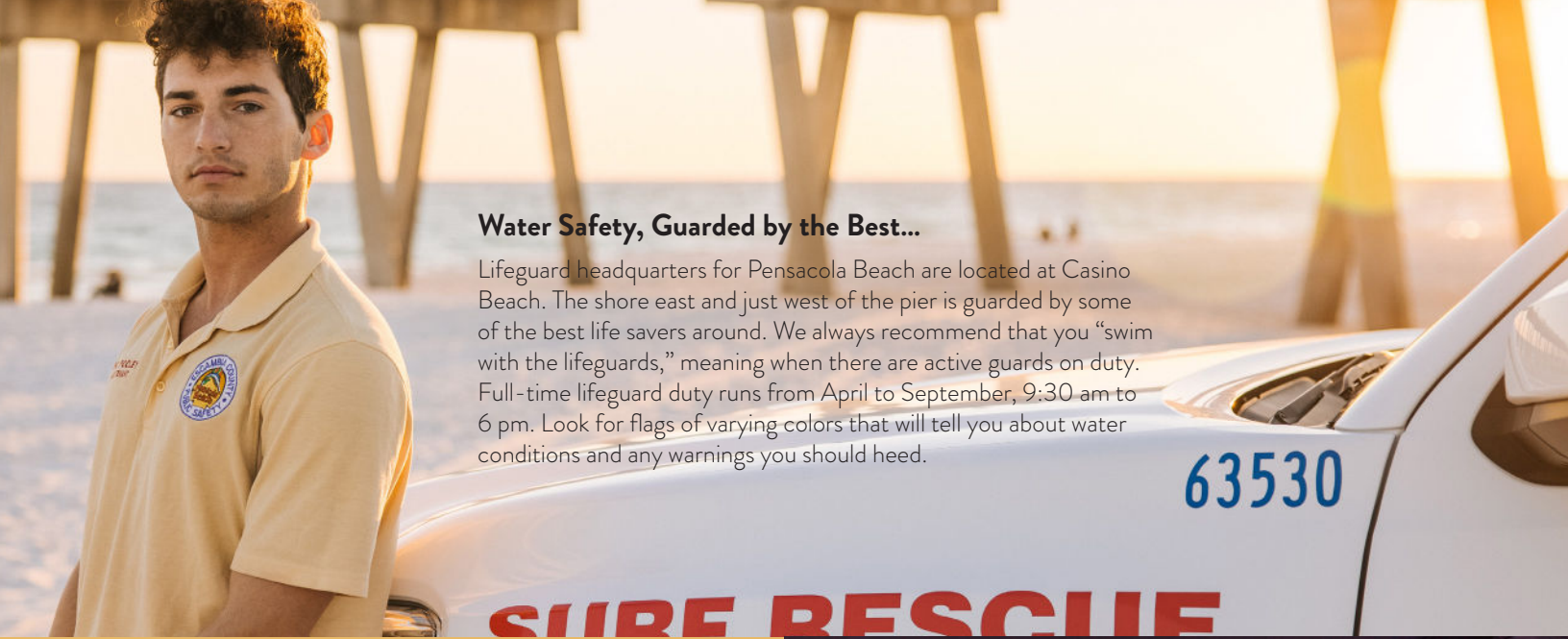
FOOD & DRINK

There are great options for food and drinks right in the heart of Casino Beach. From quick, casual bites at the pier to the more refined dining options of Drift and Casino Bar & Grille, there's plenty of variety to satisfy any appetite. If it's your thirst that needs quenching, there's several Gulf front watering holes on the east side of the pier.



ADULT FUN

The east side of the pier is known for being the most festive zone on Santa Rosa Island. With crowds flocking for peak season and special events, the atmosphere is one of fun. Open alcohol consumption is permitted in moderation, in approved containers (no glass), this excludes the west side of the pier. Whether lounging in the sand or strolling the Casino pavilion pathway, the vibes are loose.



Water Safety, Guarded by the Best...

Lifeguard headquarters for Pensacola Beach are located at Casino Beach. The shore east and just west of the pier is guarded by some of the best life savers around. We always recommend that you “swim with the lifeguards,” meaning when there are active guards on duty. Full-time lifeguard duty runs from April to September, 9:30 am to 6 pm. Look for flags of varying colors that will tell you about water conditions and any warnings you should heed.

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO AT CASINO BEACH

Casino Beach is home to the most iconic stretch of beach and attractions on Santa Rosa Island. With plentiful free parking and a variety of fun on tap, we’ve compiled what we believe to be the top things to do during your visit to our main beach.

1 THE PIER

The Pensacola Beach Gulf Pier has something for everyone, whether you’re an avid angler or looking for some of the best panoramic views that our island has to offer. With our south facing location the sun rises and sets over the gulf nearly year-round. It’s worth the \$1.25 walking access fee to watch the sunset over the shimmering emerald water from the end of the pier. At certain times of the year you’ll see awe-inspiring displays of colors as the bright orange ball dips below the horizon.

2 BLUE ANGELS AIRSHOW

There’s nothing quite like catching the Blue Angels precision acrobatics from a beach chair at Casino Beach. Short of being in the cockpit, it’s as close as you can get to the roaring engines of the U.S. Navy’s flight demonstration squadron. For those who may not know, Pensacola is home base to the Blue Angels. Catching the Blues at Casino Beach is a bucket list item worth checking!

3 BANDS ON THE BEACH

The Gulfside Pavilion at Casino Beach welcomes beachgoers with free concerts, movies, and other live shows. One such staple event series is “Bands on the Beach”. During the summer months various regional bands perform live each Tuesday evening at the pavilion. Bring a chair and your favorite beverage and enjoy the breezy sounds of summer.



4 UFO'S

If you’ve had enough sand and sun for one day, stroll over to UFO’s located on the east side of Casino Beach for an extraterrestrial round of miniature golf. While you’re there, beat the heat in their air-conditioned arcade or grab a tasty ice cream treat.

5 CASINO BAR & GRILLE

For great island bites and craft cocktails with the best views and festive feels, take a load off at Casino Bar & Grille. They serve up some of the finest island inspired fare and craft beverages in a casual beach atmosphere.



For more information, please visit PensacolaBeach.com

