

History & Nature

Named by Dr. Beach (Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman) as **America's Best Beach** in 1995, 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.

Freshwater marshes are similar to salt marshes at first glance; however, freshwater marshes are not affected by tides. As a result the plant and animal life in freshwater marshes differ from that in salt marshes.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

St. Andrews State Park

4607 State Park Lane
Panama City, Florida 32408
(850) 708-6100

FloridaStateParks.org

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. Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

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St. Andrews State Park

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Florida State Parks - "America's First Three-Time Winner"

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Welcome to St. Andrews State Park. 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. Tickets are available at the park concession. This 700-acre parcel of St. Andrews State Park remains, for the most part, undeveloped.

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.



Directions

Three miles east of Panama City Beach off state road 392 (Thomas Drive).

