

GULF SHORES · ALABAMA

FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

The Gulf Shores Beach Trip Guide

7 can't-miss things to do, for couples and families

Sugar-white sand, emerald water, and plenty to do

Gulf Shores sits on Alabama's Gulf Coast, where white-sand beaches meet warm, clear water. Days here can be as slow or as busy as you like: sunrise walks on the beach, dolphin cruises, a state park with miles of trails, a zoo, and sunset dinners with your toes in the sand.

We put together the top attractions, numbered in the order we would do them, with tips for couples and families. Print it, pin it to the fridge, and tick them off during your trip.

Beaches · Wildlife · Family fun · Date ideas · Sunset spots

Inside this guide

1. Gulf Shores Public Beach
2. Gulf State Park & Pier
3. Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo
4. Dolphin Cruises
5. The Wharf, Orange Beach
6. The Hangout
7. Go-Karts & Family Fun Parks



EVERYONE

Gulf Shores Public Beach

The postcard Gulf Shores view: soft white sand, turquoise water and plenty of room to spread out. Walk the boardwalk, play sand volleyball, or grab a drink at the beach bars along the path.

Good to know: Easy access from Highway 59. Go early for the best spot and the calmest water.



COUPLES FAMILIES

Gulf State Park & Pier

A 6,000-acre coastal park with a two-mile beach, 900+ acres of freshwater lakes and more than 27 miles of paved trails. Rent bikes around Lake Shelby, then walk the Gulf State Park Pier at sunset.

Good to know: The pier is a favorite sunset spot. Arrive just before dusk.



WHERE TO STAY

Wake up steps from the Gulf

Emerald Tide Reserve is a 2-bedroom, 2-bath beachfront resort condo in Gulf Shores with Gulf views, three pools (one indoor heated) with a lazy river, two hot tubs, and a climate-controlled skywalk to the beach in about 2 minutes. Sleeps 6. Baby and kid friendly, with a Pack 'n Play and high chair.

Book direct and see live pricing **emeraldtidereserve.com**



FAMILIES

Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo

A 25-acre accredited zoo with 500+ animals, from Bengal tigers to camels and alligators. Catch the daily keeper chats, add an optional lemur, sloth or kangaroo encounter, or let little ones feed the petting zoo.

Good to know: The petting zoo is for kids 3 and up. Plan a morning visit to beat the heat.



COUPLES FAMILIES

Dolphin Cruises

Hop aboard a dolphin-watching cruise from The Wharf in Orange Beach and look for bottlenose dolphins at play. Choose a daytime cruise with the kids or a sunset sail for two.

Good to know: Sun Lady Dolphin Cruises lets you bring your own cooler. No glass containers.

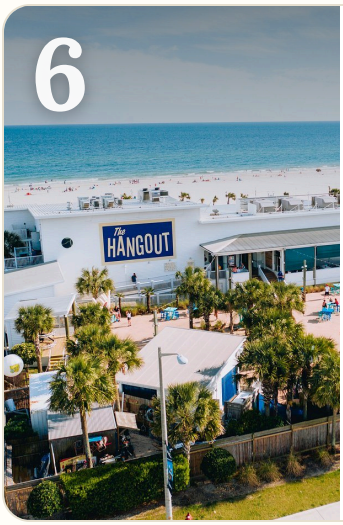


COUPLES FAMILIES

The Wharf, Orange Beach

A lively entertainment district with year-round activities, shops, dining and a giant Ferris wheel. It is a short drive from Gulf Shores and the perfect evening out after a beach day.

Good to know: Pair it with a dolphin cruise, since the boats leave from here.



EVERYONE

The Hangout

A laid-back beachfront restaurant with daily live music, bonfires and contests. Order a seafood boil, gumbo or a po'boy and eat with your toes near the sand.

Good to know: Great for a casual family dinner or a sunset drink as a couple.



FAMILIES

Go-Karts & Family Fun Parks

The Track Family Fun Park in Gulf Shores has six go-kart tracks, mini golf and rides. Adventure Island in Orange Beach adds bumper boats and glow golf. Perfect for a rainy afternoon.

Good to know: Check each park's website for hours, height rules and ticket options.

Hours, prices and availability change. Check each attraction's website before you go.

A ROMANTIC GETAWAY

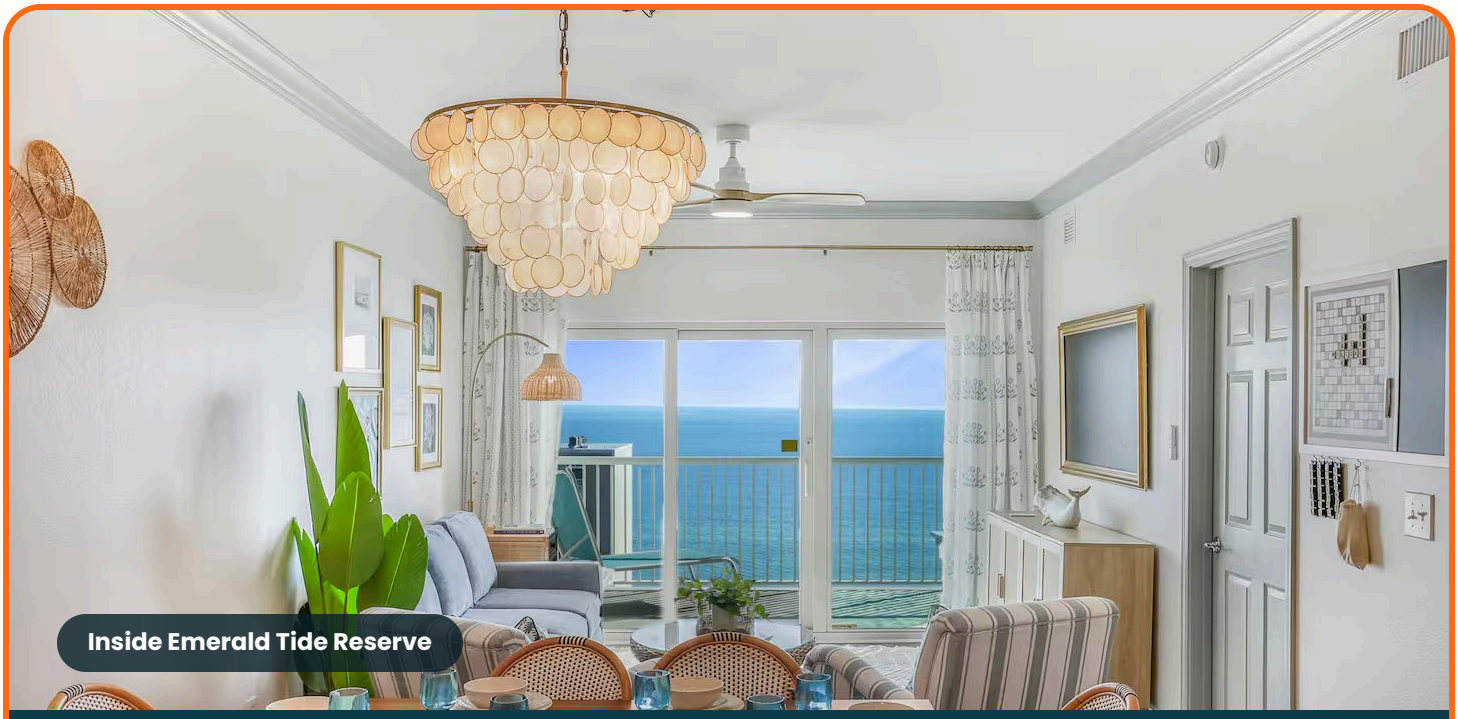
Couples' 7-day plan

1. **Day 1:** Arrive, settle in and watch the sunset from the beach.
2. **Day 2:** Beach morning, then the Gulf State Park Pier at sunset.
3. **Day 3:** Dolphin cruise, then an evening stroll at The Wharf.
4. **Day 4:** Slow day. Pool, lazy river and hot tub, then dinner at The Hangout.
5. **Day 5:** Rent bikes and ride the Gulf State Park trails around Lake Shelby.
6. **Day 6:** Sleep in, long beach afternoon, then live music and a sunset drink at The Hangout.
7. **Day 7:** One last beach walk before check-out.

FUN FOR EVERY AGE

Family 7-day plan

1. **Day 1:** Arrive, settle in and splash in the pool.
2. **Day 2:** Public beach and sandcastles, pool time back at the condo.
3. **Day 3:** Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo.
4. **Day 4:** Dolphin cruise, then the Ferris wheel at The Wharf.
5. **Day 5:** Go-karts and mini golf at the family fun parks.
6. **Day 6:** Lazy river and pool day, then dinner at The Hangout.
7. **Day 7:** Last beach morning and sandcastle, then check-out.



Inside Emerald Tide Reserve

Ready for your Gulf Shores getaway?

Check live availability and book direct with your hosts, Joey and Liz.

emeraldtidereserve.com

Emerald Tide Reserve · Beachfront resort condo · Sleeps 6 · Gulf Shores, Alabama