

Ecotourism

Venture outside to enjoy some fresh air and incredible scenery – it's the perfect way to experience Panama City in its most natural state, with rich biodiversity and a favorable climate.

Full-day itinerary 1

Start your day with breakfast at **Bayou Joe's Marina & Grill**, 112A E. 3rd Court, a laid-back dockside restaurant tucked right in the heart of Massalina Bayou Marina. Offering delicious food with a rustic water view, Bayou Joe's is unlike any other waterfront dining option in Panama City with 180-degree views of the water. You can access the restaurant by car or by boat, just dock to the side of the restaurant and climb through the full size sliding windows!

[Bayou Joe's Marina & Grill](#) – (850) 763-6442

After breakfast, pack your sunscreen and beach gear for a trip to **Shell Island**. Shell Island is an undeveloped barrier island occupying a 7 mile stretch between the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrew Bay. Only accessible by boat, it's pristinely white beaches, natural dunes, and emerald color of the water attract locals and visitors alike. Shell Island is a protected natural preserve and completely uninhabited, so it's likely you will run into a range of wildlife and coastal creatures.

You can schedule a guided tour or rent a boat for a trip around St. Andrew Bay and to Shell Island. The warm waters around the island are home to friendly bottle-nose dolphins. Make sure to be on the lookout and you might get the chance to swim with them! Once on the island, there's endless amounts of fun to be had! Shelling, snorkeling, fishing, and maybe even a sea turtle sighting! Relax and enjoy the sunshine on your adventure!

NEARBY GUIDE AND RENTAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

[AAA Jet Ski Rentals & Tours](#), 5611 US Highway 98, (850) 541-6879 - unguided rentals & partial tours

[Ashely Gorman Shell Island Cruises](#), 5701 W Hwy 98, (850) 785-4878 - dolphin tours, snorkeling

[Capt. Salty Charters](#), 1201 Beck Ave., (850) 624-8893 – dolphin tours, fishing

[Fair Trades Charters](#), 3151 W. 10th St., (850) 625-0205 – sailing charters, sunset cruises

[Family Tradition Boat Charters](#), 1201 Beck Ave., (850) 819-4610 – deep sea fishing

[Panama City Dolphin Seafari](#), 1 Harrison Ave., (850) 358-1013

[Panama Yachting Tours](#), 3151 W. 10th St., (850) 890-7428 – sunset cruises, overnight tours, snorkeling

[Scotty Boat Rentals](#), 5611 W. U.S. Hwy. 98, (850) 872-1714 – jet ski tours, fishing, pontoon boat rentals

Take a lunch break at one of the many local restaurants in Panama City.

The Shipyard Grill at Sun Harbor Marina, 5505 Sun Harbor Rd., situated at the foot of the Hathaway Bridge, offers multi-level dining, themed drinks and regional beers, with live entertainment on the outdoor patio. It features upscale yet relaxed American fare highlighted by fresh local seafood with a hint of Greek and Caribbean fusion.

Located on the site of a former WWII shipyard, the Wainwright Shipyard, the nautically-themed restaurant pays tribute to its history with memorabilia and artifacts displayed throughout. Downstairs diving memorabilia includes a hand-cranked air compressor and helmets next to a fish feeding station for kids. Check out the restaurant's Facebook page for a peek at the menu, hours, and other details.

[The Shipyard Grill at Sun Harbor Marina](#) - (850) 640-0900

Uncle Ernie's Bayfront Grill & Brew House, 1151 Bayview Ave., offers more than just amazing food with a great view of the bay! You'll feel the history of the quaint restaurant as soon as you walk in the door. Previously a family home built in the late 1800s, it is one of the oldest in St. Andrews, and the walls are filled with photos and memorabilia. Arrive by land or by sea, and enjoy the laid back atmosphere at Uncle Ernie's!
[Uncle Ernie's Bayfront Grill & Brew House](#) - (850) 763-8427

Eat like a local at **Hunt's Oyster Bar**, 1150 Beck Ave., and witness firsthand the skill of Honor Allen, a 20-something oyster-shucking whiz who won the 2016 U.S. National Oyster Shucking Championship in Maryland. His amazing ability to shuck a dozen oysters in one minute have earned him a trip to Ireland to compete in the 2017 International Championship. Hunt's Oyster Bar is a local institution housed in a bright yellow bungalow with a decrepit wooden boat beached out front – just what you'd expect from an old-time Northwest Florida oyster shack.

Visit the restaurant's website to learn more and see their menu.

[Hunt's Oyster Bar](#) – (850) 763-9645

After lunch, take a stroll through **Bay Memorial Park**, Florida Ave. and Garden Club Dr., a walking and nature park of over 13 acres. Surrounded by lush landscape, the park is home to a variety of small wildlife. At the park is a 1 mile walking loop, and is also located next to Al Helms Dog Park. The Bay Memorial Park is a dedicated war memorial park with a flag and memorial on site.

[Bay Memorial Park](#)

Located just minutes from St. Andrew Bay is **Sweet Bay Wetlands**, 19th St. and Michigan Ave., a nature park with boardwalks and walking trails winding throughout a wooded wetland area with designated wildlife observation areas.

[Sweet Bay Wetlands](#)

Full-day itinerary 2

Enjoy a homemade breakfast at **The Bagel Maker** in Downtown Panama City, 41 W. 4th St., where everything is made from scratch daily. They serve a variety of breads, bagels, cream cheeses, sweets, and even smoothies!
[The Bagel Maker](#) - (850) 215-7501

Spend the day leisurely paddling **Econfina Creek**, known as one of Florida's most beautiful canoe trails. Econfina Creek is a family friendly trip located less than an hour north of Panama City in Youngstown, Florida. With six major spring areas, you can swim and snorkel in the crystal clear, sandy bottomed springs. Lush vegetation and unique honeycomb limestone banks also surround the area. You can rent single or double kayaks and shuttle service is also provided on site. Pack a picnic with snacks and plenty to drink and enjoy a couple hours in the springs!

[Econfina Creek](#) - 5641 Porter Pond Rd, Youngstown, FL 32466 - (850) 722-9032



After arriving back to Panama City, relax with dinner and live entertainment at **Little Village**, 2808 W. 12th St. Known as a place where you can trade in the sun and sand for shade and serenity, Little Village is host to a low-key waterside outdoor café, Finns Island Style Grub, that serves local brews and succulent, well-stuffed fish tacos.

Little Village - (850) 215-8780

For more information and trip planning assistance, please call Destination Panama City at (850) 215-1700 or visit us online at destinationpanamacity.com. Be sure to request a free Visitors Guide!

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