

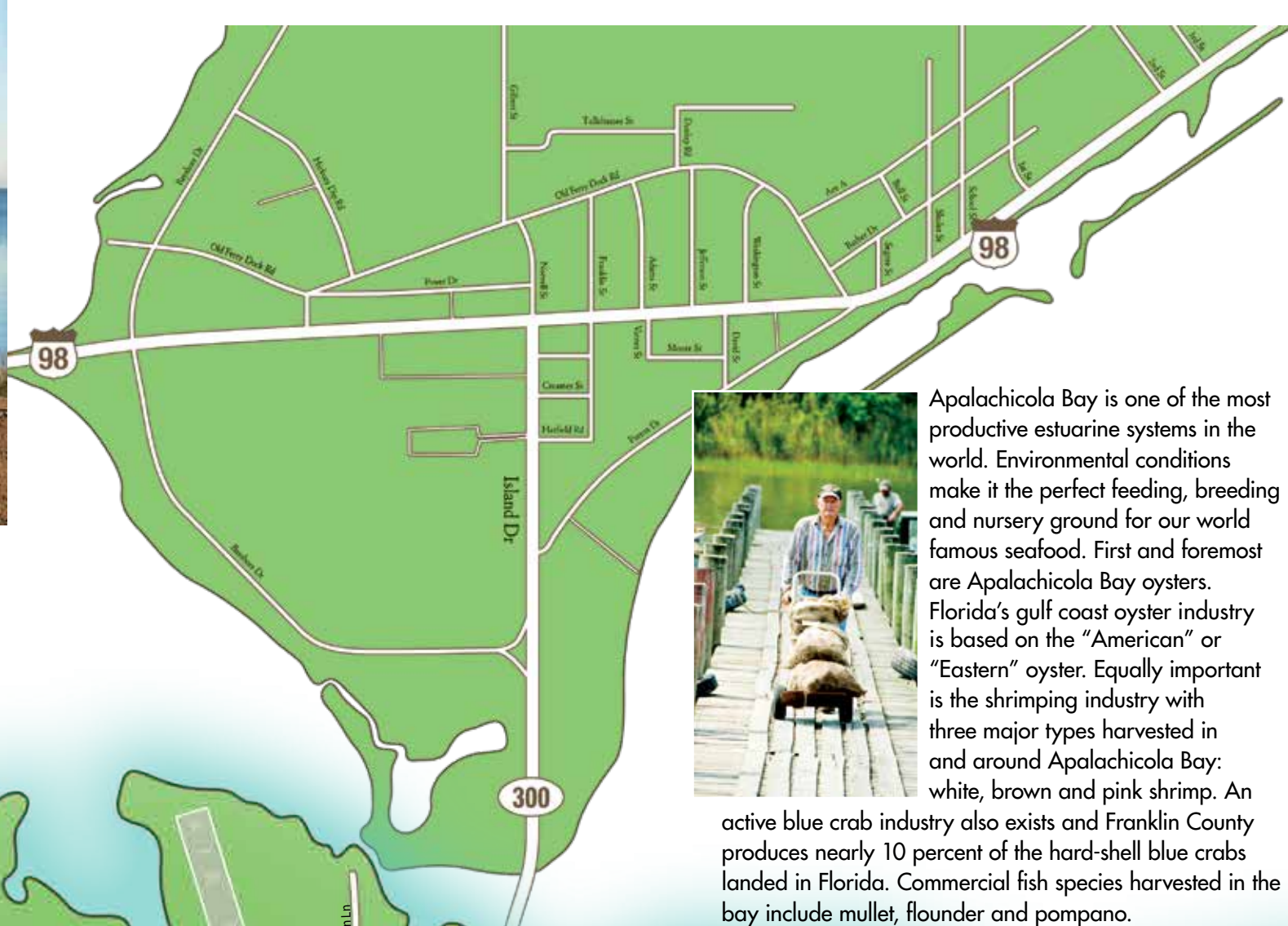


# Eastpoint

Eastpoint is the seafood central hub of Franklin County. This narrow sliver of coastline just across the bay from Apalachicola and St. George Island is lined with rustic seafood houses. In Eastpoint, you can buy fresh local seafood from family-owned markets and eat a fresh seafood meal from restaurants operated by families four generations deep. Eastpoint is considered the Gateway to St. George Island. The area features a popular fishing bridge that parallels the bridge to St. George



Island. To the north, you'll find the Apalachicola National Forest and Tate's Hell State Forest along scenic Highway 65. Eastpoint is also home to the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) and Visitor Center. Considered one of the state's premier research and education facilities, the visitor center features fish tanks, interactive displays and ongoing public education programs and activities.



Apalachicola Bay is one of the most productive estuarine systems in the world. Environmental conditions make it the perfect feeding, breeding and nursery ground for our world famous seafood. First and foremost are Apalachicola Bay oysters. Florida's gulf coast oyster industry is based on the "American" or "Eastern" oyster. Equally important is the shrimping industry with three major types harvested in and around Apalachicola Bay: white, brown and pink shrimp. An active blue crab industry also exists and Franklin County produces nearly 10 percent of the hard-shell blue crabs landed in Florida. Commercial fish species harvested in the bay include mullet, flounder and pompano.

# St. George Island



St. George Island is a 22-mile barrier island that hosts some of Florida's most beautiful and serene beaches. With no high rises anywhere, SGI is an unspoiled island with a laid-back attitude. There are beaches on the gulfside and miles of marsh, inlets and oyster bars on the bayside. The uncrowded beaches are perfect for sunning and shelling, the clear gulf waters invite swimming and fishing, and the pristine bay marshes feature extraordinary wildlife and sunset viewing. Rent a kayak, boat, bicycle or scooter.

St. George Island is pet-friendly. Many of the vacation homes welcome well-behaved pets as do several restaurants. You may bring your pet to the beach if they are on a leash. Please note pets are not allowed on the beaches within the St. George Island State Park.

## Accessible to All

Many of the public beaches in Franklin County are accessible to all. The St. George Island State Park is equipped with non-motorized beach wheelchairs, electric beach wheelchairs, a recumbent floating wheelchair and mobility mats allowing unobstructed beach, bay and campground access within the park. St. George Island's Lighthouse Park features a mobi-mat at the public beach access point. The Bald Point State Park on Alligator Point also features mobi-mats as does the Carrabelle Beach Park.



## Historic Lighthouses

**Cape St. George Lighthouse.** The Cape St. George Lighthouse stands at the center of St. George Island. It is the fourth reconstruction of the lighthouse that was originally erected in 1833 on neighboring Cape St. George Island. Beach erosion ultimately caused its collapse in 2005. In 2008, the lighthouse was successfully relocated and rebuilt in its current location. A replica of the original Lighthouse Keeper's House, built next to the lighthouse, features a museum and gift shop.

**Crooked River Lighthouse.** For 120 years the Crooked River Lighthouse has been a guiding light for sea travelers navigating the treacherous pass between Dog and St. George Islands. The 103-foot iron and steel landmark was acquired by the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association and the City of Carrabelle in 2001 and became the focal point of a public park. A replica of the Keeper's House serves as a museum and gift shop is located onsite. An annual Lantern Fest is held here in October.



## Protect the Turtles!

Beginning early summer, several species of sea turtles including loggerhead, green and leatherback sea turtles arrive to the beaches of Franklin County to dig their nests and lay eggs along the dune line. During nesting season, sea turtle volunteers canvas the beaches daily for turtle tracks, mark and protect nests with screen and monitor the incubation process. Visitors can help by turning off outdoor lights and by removing belongings from the beach each evening. Beach chairs, coolers, canopies and floats often become barriers to nesting turtles and to the hatchlings.

Franklin County has a Leave No Trace Ordinance that requires chairs, umbrellas and equipment to be removed nightly from the public beaches in order to help mama turtles more easily navigate the beaches to nest and allow hatchlings a clear path back to the water from their nests in the dunes.



## Fishing

Come wet a hook and get salty in one of Florida's best kept fishing spots. The unique topography of the Apalachicola River and Bay systems, along with the county's gulf coast location, provides diverse marine habitats and some pretty interesting fishing! There are local marinas located throughout the county, providing access to the Gulf of Mexico, Alligator Harbor, Apalachicola Bay, Apalachicola River and its many tributaries. Public boat ramps are plentiful throughout the county and anglers who pull a boat in, can easily find local accommodations. Visit [Floridasforgottencoast.com](http://Floridasforgottencoast.com) for a complete list of fishing and tour-based charters as well as for a comprehensive list of marinas, boat ramps and tackle supplies.



## Outdoors

Welcome to an eco-adventure in Franklin County. Eighty-one percent of Franklin County is publically owned, giving us a huge back yard to share with you. And that's not even counting our front yard, St. George Sound and the Gulf of Mexico. If your adventure involves camping, hiking and paddling, you have come to the right place. Visit online for a complete list of camping, hiking and paddling sites as well as boat rental businesses.



## Birding

Franklin County offers outstanding birding year round. In the spring this is first land for the trans-gulf migrants and the different species of shore birds. During the summer the diversity in habitat provides for species from rails in the salt marsh to osprey and eagles in the highest trees. The fall brings the migration as the cool weather pushes masses of birds to the south. Franklin County is the winter home of many species including ducks, loons and other water birds.



## Beaches

Franklin County features more than 250 miles of white-sand beaches. Gulf beaches feature gently rolling surf; bay beaches offer nature and privacy. Some beaches are perfect for families and some are great for fishing. The St. George State Park beaches are consistently ranked among America's Top Ten rankings by "Dr. Beach."







Located along North Florida's Gulf Coast, Franklin County is Florida's Forgotten Coast. Here you'll find a unique coastal culture with family friendly beaches, fascinating history and fresh Apalachicola Bay seafood. The Franklin County Visitor Map is a snapshot of the areas and includes activity ideas for your visit.



Want to learn more?  
Visit us online at [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org) and download the Florida's Forgotten Coast App to keep up with events and specials.



Whether it's a quaint beach cottage, a luxurious beachfront villa, hotel, inn or campsite, you'll find a large selection of accommodations along Florida's Forgotten Coast.

Scan the code at right to begin your vacation planning.



## Museums & Parks

### APALACHICOLA

**Apalachicola Center for History, Culture & Art**

86 Water Street

**Chesnut Street Cemetery**, Avenue E

**Chapman House Museum**, 82 Sixth Street

**Fort Coombs Army**, 66 4th Street

**Fort Gadsden Historic Site**, Apalachicola National Forest  
850-643-2282

**Franklin County Maritime Heritage Museum** Highway 98

**Holy Family Cultural Center**

203 Dr. Frederick Humphries St.

**John Gorrie Museum State Park**

46 Sixth Street, 850-653- 9347, [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org)

**Orman House Museum**

177 Fifth Street, 850-653-1209, [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org)

**Raney House Museum**

128 Market Street, 850-653-1700

[apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org](http://apalachicolahistoricalsociety.org)

**Veterans Memorial Plaza**

230 Market Street, 850-653-1318

[threeservicemenstatuesouth.org](http://threeservicemenstatuesouth.org)

### CARRABELLE AREA

**Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum**

1873 Highway 98, Carrabelle Beach

850-697-8575, [campgordonjohnston.com](http://campgordonjohnston.com)

**Crooked River Lighthouse**

**Park and Keeper's House Museum**

1975 West Highway 98, 850-697-2732

[crookedriverlighthouse.org](http://crookedriverlighthouse.org)

**Carrabelle History Museum**

106 Avenue B South East, 850-697-2141

[carrabellehistorymuseum.org](http://carrabellehistorymuseum.org)

**Bald Point State Park** 146 Box Cut Rd, Alligator Point, FL

[floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/bald-point-state-park](http://floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/bald-point-state-park)

### ST. GEORGE ISLAND

**Cape St. George Lighthouse Park**

2 East Gulf Beach Drive, 850-927-7745, [stgeorgelight.org](http://stgeorgelight.org)

**Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park**

1900 E Gulf Beach Dr, 850-927-2111

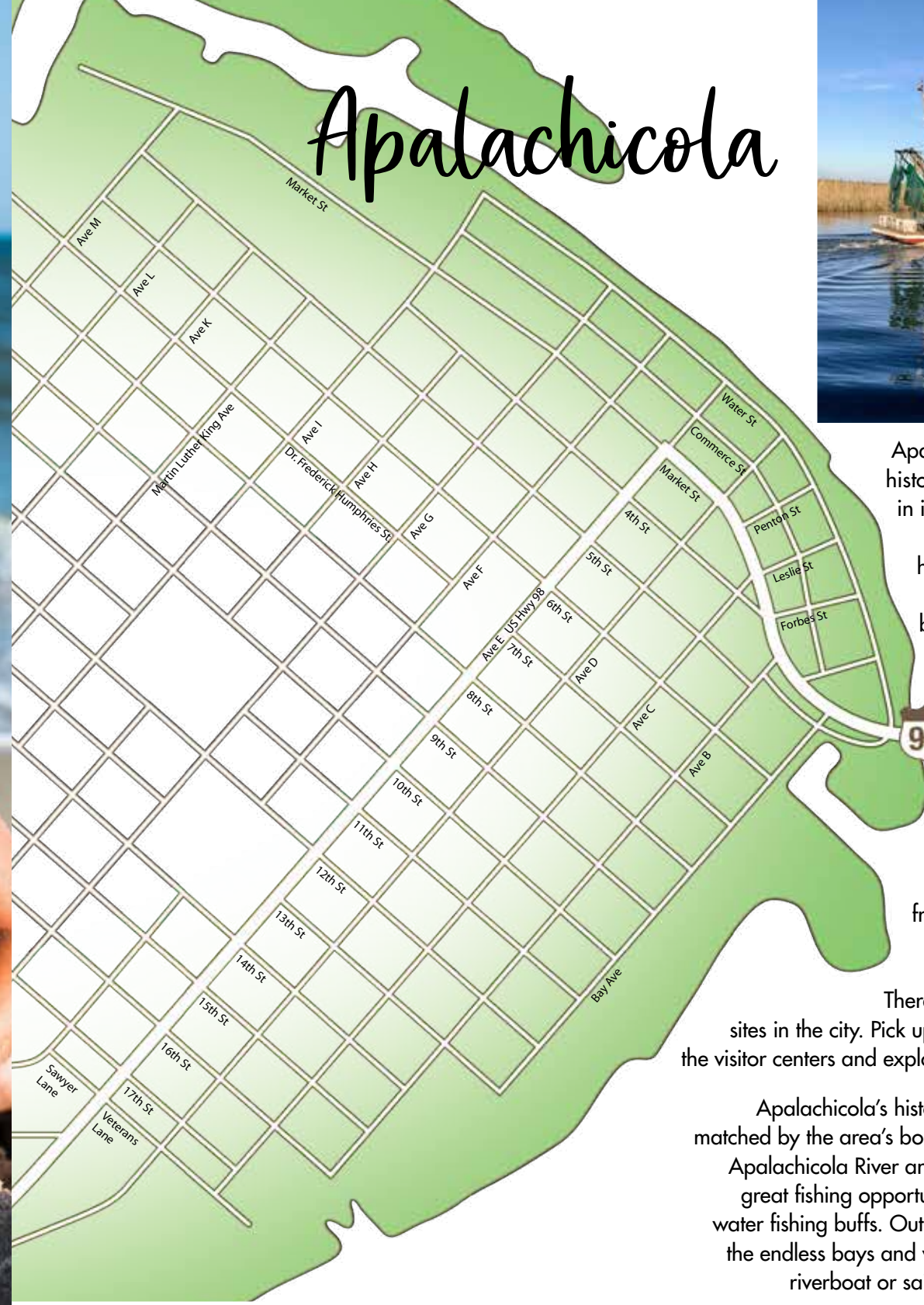
[floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/dr-julian-g-bruce-st-george-island-state-park](http://floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/dr-julian-g-bruce-st-george-island-state-park)

## Franklin County, Florida Visitor Maps

ALLIGATOR POINT  
APALACHICOLA CARRABELLE  
EASTPOINT ST. GEORGE ISLAND



[FloridasForgottenCoast.com](http://FloridasForgottenCoast.com)

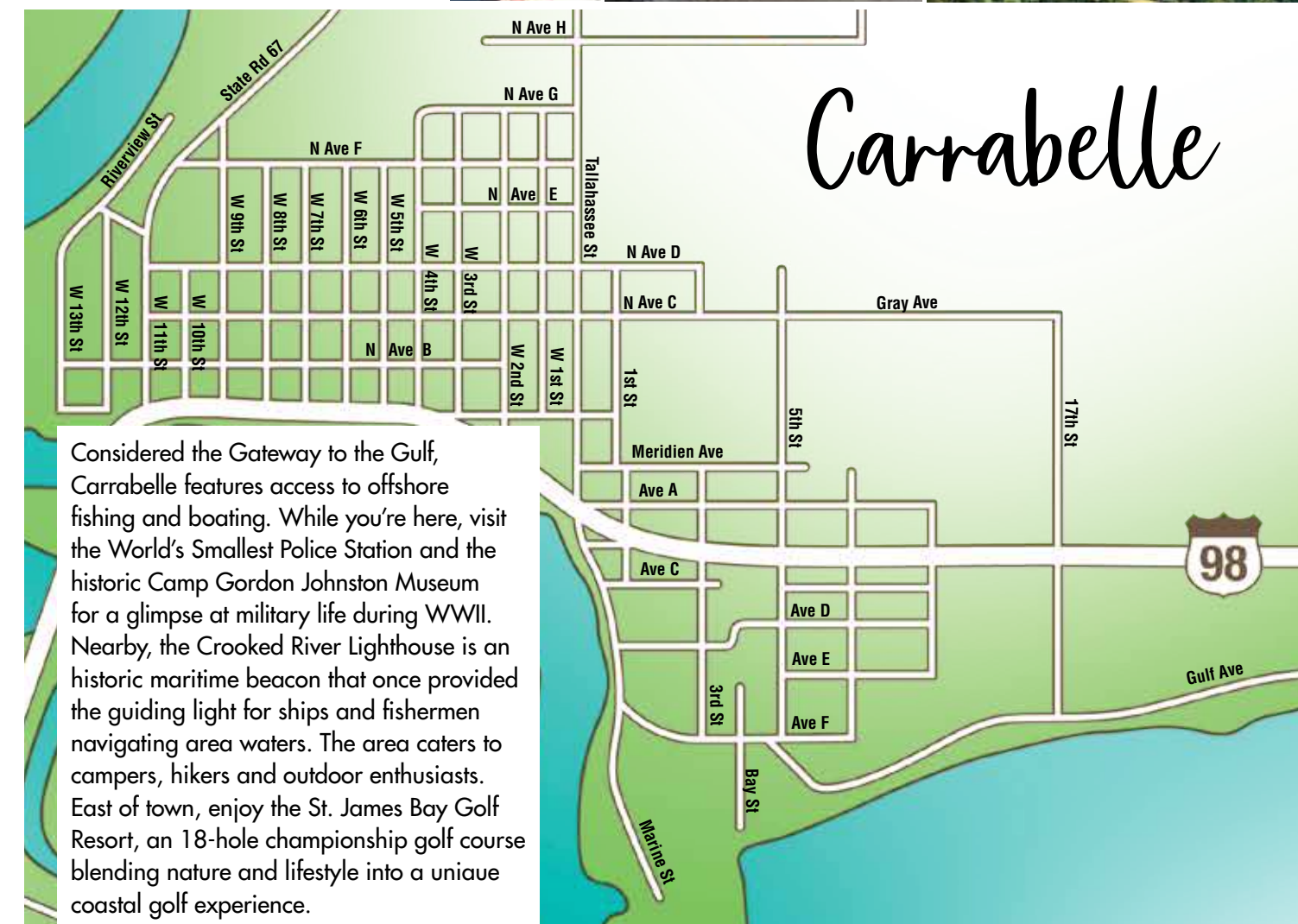


Apalachicola boasts a maritime history and culture best reflected in its working waterfront. There you'll see bustling seafood houses, weather-worn shrimp boats and stately brick buildings that once served as 19th century chandleries, net factories and warehouses.

The town features meticulously restored hotels and B&Bs as well as luxury waterfront accommodations plus plenty of restaurants serving the freshest seafood on the coast. Tour the historic district and shop in unique boutiques.

There are more than 900 historic sites in the city. Pick up a walking tour brochure at the visitor centers and explore this historic town on foot.

Apalachicola's history and maritime culture are matched by the area's bountiful natural resources. The Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay provide great fishing opportunities for both fresh and salt water fishing buffs. Outdoor enthusiasts can explore the endless bays and waterways by kayak, canoe, riverboat or sailboat while in Apalachicola.



Considered the Gateway to the Gulf, Carrabelle features access to offshore fishing and boating. While you're here, visit the World's Smallest Police Station and the historic Camp Gordon Johnston Museum for a glimpse at military life during WWII. Nearby, the Crooked River Lighthouse is an historic maritime beacon that once provided the guiding light for ships and fishermen navigating area waters. The area caters to campers, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. East of town, enjoy the St. James Bay Golf Resort, an 18-hole championship golf course blending nature and lifestyle into a unique coastal golf experience.

## Alligator Point

Alligator Point is located at the eastern-most end of Franklin County. This narrow beach peninsula boasts eight miles of quiet shoreline and unparalleled fishing. The "Point," as it is referred to, is nestled between the Gulf of Mexico and Alligator Harbor, a pristine estuary known for its clam harvesting. The sea oat-covered sand dunes, marsh habitats and easy accessibility make Alligator Point perfect for birding and wildlife observation. There is a wide range of vacation rental options as well as a full service marina with fishing charters. The area features the Bald Point State Park, an annual stopover for migrating birds and butterflies.

