

fort morgan alabama visitors guide

Fort Morgan Alabama Visitors Guide

Fort Morgan, Alabama, is a historic gem located at the mouth of Mobile Bay, known for its rich history, stunning coastal views, and recreational activities. This picturesque destination is perfect for travelers seeking a blend of relaxation and adventure. Whether you're interested in exploring historical sites, enjoying outdoor activities, or simply soaking up the sun on beautiful beaches, Fort Morgan has something for everyone. This comprehensive visitors guide will provide you with all the information you need to make the most of your trip to Fort Morgan, Alabama.

Getting There

Fort Morgan is conveniently located just a short drive from Gulf Shores, Alabama. Here's how to reach this coastal paradise:

1. **By Car:** The most common way to get to Fort Morgan is by car. From Gulf Shores, take AL-180 West, which will lead directly to Fort Morgan. The scenic drive along the coast is a delightful experience.
2. **By Air:** The nearest major airport is Pensacola International Airport (PNS), located approximately 50 miles away. From the airport, you can rent a car or take a shuttle service to reach Fort Morgan.
3. **By Ferry:** For a unique experience, consider taking the Mobile Bay Ferry from Dauphin Island to Fort Morgan. This scenic ferry ride offers beautiful views of the bay and the surrounding areas.

Where to Stay

Fort Morgan offers a variety of accommodation options to suit different budgets and preferences. Here are some popular choices:

Vacation Rentals

- **Beachfront Condos:** Many vacation rentals offer stunning views of the Gulf of Mexico. These condos typically come equipped with kitchens, making them ideal for families.
- **Beach Houses:** Renting a beach house can provide a more spacious option for larger groups. Many of these homes are located right on the beach, allowing for easy access to the shore.

Hotels and Inns

- **Fort Morgan Beach Resort:** This resort offers comfortable rooms with modern amenities and is just

a short walk from the beach.

- Gulf Shores Hotels: Although not directly in Fort Morgan, several hotels in Gulf Shores are just a short drive away, offering additional amenities and dining options.

Historical Attractions

Fort Morgan is steeped in history, and visitors can explore several historical sites that tell the story of the area.

Fort Morgan State Historic Site

- Overview: Fort Morgan was built in the early 19th century and served as a military fort during the Civil War. The fort played a crucial role in the defense of Mobile Bay.
- Visitor Information: The site is open to the public, and guided tours are available. Visitors can explore the fort's well-preserved structures and learn about its history through informative displays.

Mobile Bay Ferry

- Overview: The ferry service not only provides transportation but also a glimpse into the area's maritime history. The ferry connects Fort Morgan to Dauphin Island, making it a convenient option for exploring the surrounding regions.
- Experience: Enjoy breathtaking views of the bay and spot dolphins during your journey.

Outdoor Activities

Fort Morgan is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Here are some of the top activities to enjoy while visiting:

Beaches

- Fort Morgan Beach: This pristine beach offers soft, white sand and clear waters, perfect for sunbathing, swimming, and beachcombing.
- Gulf State Park: Just a short drive away, this state park features beautiful beaches, hiking trails, and picnic areas.

Fishing and Boating

- Fishing: Fort Morgan is a popular spot for fishing enthusiasts. Both shore fishing and charter fishing trips are available for those looking to catch local species like redfish, snapper, and grouper.

- Boating: Rent a boat or join a guided tour to explore the waters of Mobile Bay. Kayaking and paddleboarding are also popular options.

Golfing

- Kiva Dunes Golf Club: This championship golf course is located near Fort Morgan and offers stunning views of the Gulf Coast. The course is known for its challenging layout and beautiful scenery.

Dining Options

After a day of exploration, you'll want to refuel at one of Fort Morgan's dining establishments. Here are some local favorites:

Seafood Restaurants

- Tacky Jacks: A casual beachfront restaurant known for its laid-back atmosphere and delicious seafood. Try their famous fish tacos or shrimp po'boys.
- The Beach Club: Located within a resort, this restaurant offers an upscale dining experience with a focus on fresh, local seafood.

Local Cafés and Bistros

- Fort Morgan Pizza: A family-friendly spot offering a variety of pizzas, salads, and sandwiches. Perfect for a quick and satisfying meal after a day at the beach.
- The Blue Girl Bakery: Stop by for delicious pastries, breakfast items, and coffee. The bakery features locally sourced ingredients and offers a cozy atmosphere.

Events and Festivals

Fort Morgan hosts several events throughout the year that celebrate its culture and community. Here are a few annual highlights:

1. Fort Morgan Day: A celebration of the fort's history featuring reenactments, guided tours, and family-friendly activities.
2. Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival: Held annually in nearby Gulf Shores, this festival features colorful hot air balloons, live music, and local vendors.
3. Fishing Tournaments: Various fishing tournaments are organized throughout the year, attracting anglers from around the region.

Tips for Visitors

To make the most of your trip to Fort Morgan, keep the following tips in mind:

- Plan Ahead: During peak seasons, accommodations can fill up quickly. It's advisable to book your stay in advance.
- Pack for the Weather: Fort Morgan enjoys a warm climate, but be prepared for sudden rain showers. Bring sunscreen, hats, and appropriate clothing for outdoor activities.
- Check Local Regulations: Familiarize yourself with local fishing and boating regulations to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

Conclusion

Fort Morgan, Alabama, is a captivating destination that offers a perfect blend of history, natural beauty, and outdoor adventure. Whether you're exploring the historic fort, relaxing on the beach, or indulging in fresh seafood, Fort Morgan promises an unforgettable experience. With this visitors guide in hand, you're ready to embark on a journey filled with discovery and delight in this charming coastal town. So pack your bags and get ready to create lasting memories in Fort Morgan!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the top attractions to visit in Fort Morgan, Alabama?

The top attractions in Fort Morgan include Fort Morgan Historic Site, the beautiful beaches, and the nearby Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.

What is the best time of year to visit Fort Morgan, Alabama?

The best time to visit Fort Morgan is during the spring and fall when the weather is mild and outdoor activities are more enjoyable.

Are there any family-friendly activities in Fort Morgan?

Yes, families can enjoy activities like beachcombing, visiting the historic fort, fishing, and exploring nature trails in the nearby wildlife refuge.

What types of accommodations are available in Fort Morgan?

Fort Morgan offers a range of accommodations including beach houses, vacation rentals, hotels, and campgrounds.

Is Fort Morgan a good destination for water sports?

Absolutely! Fort Morgan is great for water sports such as kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, and

boating due to its access to the Gulf of Mexico.

What historical significance does Fort Morgan hold?

Fort Morgan played a crucial role in the Civil War and is a well-preserved historic site that provides insights into military history and coastal defense.

Where can visitors find dining options in Fort Morgan?

Visitors can find dining options ranging from casual seafood shacks to fine dining restaurants, many of which offer views of the Gulf.

Are there any events or festivals in Fort Morgan throughout the year?

Yes, Fort Morgan hosts various events including local seafood festivals, holiday celebrations, and historical reenactments at the fort.

How can visitors get to Fort Morgan from major nearby cities?

Visitors can reach Fort Morgan easily by car from major nearby cities like Gulf Shores and Mobile, with well-marked roads leading to the area.

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