

Daytrip Ideas from www.OrangeBeach.ws

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Below is a list of ideas for places to go on daytrips from the Orange Beach area. We would like to extend a special thank you to Michael D. Shipler for contributing this list to OrangeBeach.ws. Most of the listings below have hyperlinks. Some of the links are to the websites for the place listed. When we could not find a website for the listing, we provided a link to a website that provides relevant information. If you know of any other places that should be listed on this page please email us at: Services@OrangeBeach.ws.

Baldwin County

Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo 1204 Gulf Shores Pkwy. Subject of the very popular *Animal Planet* series "The Little Zoo That Could". A must see while you are in the area.

Fort Morgan 251-540-7202 Located on Mobile Point 26 miles west of Gulf Shores on Hwy. 180W. Built in 1836, it is a must see as it took part in the Battle of Mobile Bay and has a fine museum. Click here to see photos and read about Fort Morgan from the website of an enthusiast.

Alligator Alley 19942 Hwy 71 in Summerdale. Home of "Captain Crunch", the record holding 13'2" long, over 800 lbs. gator! All of the gators have been rescued from places that are dangerous for their survival. As part of the Florida Nuisance Alligator Removal Program, Alligator Ally transports the animals from unnatural areas to the farm which is designed to give them a natural environment. Come feed the gators at 11AM, 1PM & 4PM.

Antique Malls Many on Hwy. 59 from Loxley to Foley and all over Baldwin County. Click here for a list of antique stores in Baldwin County powered by Yellow Book.

Tanger Factory Stores 800-523-6873 Hwy. 59 south of Foley – over 120 factory stores Click here for a list of stores

Indian and Sea Museum 251-981-8545 A nice small museum celebrating the maritime history of the area – just off Hwy 161 & Oak Ridge Dr. in the Orange Beach City Hall complex.

Blakeley Confederate Memorial Park 251-580-0005 On Hwy 225, 5 miles north of Spanish Fort. Walk some of the best-preserved earthworks in the South.

Spanish Fort Located just north of I-10 on Mobile Bay at Hwy 31. Now a large sub division, but you can drive through and see pieces of the original earthworks. Ft. McDermott is on the left at the entrance.

Fort Mims Located in north Baldwin County in the community of Tensaw, just off Hwy. 59. The fort is no longer there, but signs tell the story of the largest Indian massacre in U.S. history. You can also read about the Fort Mims massacre on Wikipedia.org by clicking [here](#).

Red Eagle's Grave 251-937-5665 Leader of the attack on Ft. Mims, off Hwy 59 just south of Little River on Dixie Landing Road, follow the signs.

Baldwin County Heritage Museum 251-986-8375 In Elberta in SE Baldwin County. A museum keyed to our agricultural heritage. 25521 Hwy 98.

Foley Railroad Depot and Museum In downtown Foley just east off Hwy 59 (Gulf Beach Hwy.)

Grand Hotel and Confederate Rest On Scenic Hwy 98 on the Eastern Shore, south of Fairhope. The hotel is one of the best in the country and was the site of a Confederate Hospital during the War. Confederate Rest is a Cemetery just south of the hotel.

Weeks Bay National Reserve 251-928-9792

Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge 251-540-7720

Dauphin Island

Fort Gaines 251-861-6992 On Dauphin Island, 3 miles across the Bay from Pleasure Island & accessible from Fort Morgan by the [Mobile Bay Ferry](#). This Fort is well preserved and was involved in the Battle of Mobile Bay. Definitely worth seeing. The ferry ride is fun, too.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab 251-861-7500 Great for kids or the whole family. The sea lab is just a short distance from Ft. Gaines. Live marine exhibits.

City of Mobile

City of Mobile Museum 251-208-7569 In the Southern Market/Old City Mall National Historic Landmark, 111 S. Royal St. Three hundred years of history housed in a beautiful Italianate building which opened in 1858.

Adm. Raphael Semmes House 806 Government St. Built in 1859, purchased by the City of Mobile in 1871 and presented to the retired Admiral of the Confederate States Navy, Raphael Semmes. Not open for tours but worth a drive-by while in town.

Exploreum Museum of Science and Imax Theater 251-208-6873 Located at 65 Government St, this is a regional science center with a full scale chemistry lab where visitors can participate in experiments. Domed Imax theater.

Local History & Genealogy Library 251-208-7093 - 704 Government St.

Oakleigh House Museum and District 251-432-1281 Located at 355 Oakleigh Place, costumed guides lead you through the Oakleigh House Complex, an intimate experience of 19th century Gulf Coast living in an authentic setting. Oakleigh's three house museums interpret three aspects of daily living in mid-19th century: society, servant, and working class.

Bragg/Mitchell Mansion 251-471-6364 Located at 1906 Springhill Ave. & surrounded by a grove of stately live oaks, the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion is one of the Gulf Coast's grandest antebellum mansions. When it was built in 1855 by Judge John Bragg, the house was the center of the lively social life of the thriving cotton port of Mobile. Today, the mansion is the most photographed building in Mobile and offers a rare opportunity to glimpse life as it was lived in the Old South. It is frequently booked for weddings and private parties, so call ahead for the tour schedule.

Phoenix Fire Museum 251-208-7554 - 203 S. Claiborne St.

Magnolia Cemetery & Confederate Rest 251-432-8672 - 1202 Virginia St. Listed in National Register of historic Places.

Fort Conde & Museum 251-208-7304 - 150 S. Royal St. Fort Conde protected Mobile and its citizens for 100 years from 1723-1820. It was built by the French as defense against British and Spanish attack on the strategic location of Mobile & its Bay. In 1820, the fort was removed and the current Fort Conde, about 1/3 of the the original fort recreated in 4/5 scale, opened on July 4, 1976.

Carlen House Museum 251-470-7768 - 54 S. Carlen St. A restored Creole cottage built in 1842, containing some of its original furnishings.

Conde-Charlotte Museum House 251-432-4722 - 104 Theatre St. It was built in 1822-24 as the City's first official jail and courthouse between the south bastions of Fort Conde. In the mid 1800's, the old jail property was converted into a residence, known as Kirkbride House. It is now a fascinating house museum furnished to depict Mobile's history. It contains some of its original furnishings.

Richards DAR House Museum 251-208-7320 - 256 N. Jochim St. This 1860 restored Italianate style townhouse was built by Charles G. Richards and contains early Victorian and Empire furnishings. This spacious ante-bellum dwelling speaks of the cultivated tastes of the time, from magnificently carved Carrara marble mantels, to double parlors and a reception hall. It has a beautiful formal garden.

Catholic Cemetery 251-479-5305 located at 1700 Martin Luther King Dr., it is the burial site of Adm. Raphael Semmes.

Battleship Memorial Park 251-433-2703 Located on the Causeway near downtown Mobile. This military Memorial Park features the USS Alabama Battleship, submarine Drum, H. L. Hunley submarine replica, aircraft and military hardware displays.

Bellingrath Gardens and Home 800-247-8420 or 251-973-2365 Located on Bellingrath Road south of I-10, this was the country home of the Bellingrath family (one of the early Coca-Cola distributors). Mrs. Bellingrath was an avid gardener who traveled throughout Europe admiring the estates and gardens. She hired a prominent architect to design their gardens. They are called the 'Charm Spot of the South'. The home contains most of its beautiful original furnishings. The Christmas display is spectacular. Can be reached via the Mobile Bay Ferry at Fort Morgan.

New York Times article about the [History of Mobile](#).

Pensacola, FL

Naval Air Station (NAS) Considered the best duty station in the US Navy, NAS Pensacola has a lot to offer. From the Naval Air Museum to Ft. Barrancas. Plan on spending at least half a day.

National Museum of Naval Aviation & Imax Theater 800-327-5002 Great for the whole family.

Fort Barrancas Near Naval Air Museum. Held by Confederate troops at the beginning of the War, it is the only fort of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Operated by the National Park Service. Fort San Carlos – connected to Ft. Barrancas, this is an old redoubt built by the early Spanish.

'USS Forrestal' Aircraft Carrier This is a training carrier for Navy pilots. When in harbor, it is usually open for tours.

T.T. Wentworth Museum 850-595-5985 On Seville Square in downtown Pensacola, originally the 1908 City Hall building, it is a virtual treasure trove of historic artifacts, Americana, and West Florida history. The museum houses two floors of permanent and traveling exhibits and a children's hands-on exhibit, the Discovery Gallery, located on the third floor. Plan an exciting trip to historic downtown Pensacola today!

St. Michael's Cemetery Corner of Alcaniz and Garden Streets, in the northern section of the historical district. Formally surveyed by the Spanish in 1807, St. Michael's Cemetery may have been used as a burying ground as early as the mid 18th century. Monuments and mausoleums, plain cement slabs, ovan tombs and table memorials are reflective of a society that represented a disparate community. The burial site of CSA Navy Secretary Stephen R. Mallory and other notables.