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Gulf County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · PANHANDLE & EMERALD COAST

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REGION

Panhandle & Emerald Coast

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

**Port St. Joe,
Wewahitchka, Mexico
Beach**

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A lightly developed coast, bay and river communities and a renewed Port St. Joe create a relaxed Gulf lifestyle.

Lifestyle: Quiet coast · Fishing · Small towns

Gulf County by the numbers

Population Census estimate	15,131	At the last full count 2020 Census	14,192
Median age	46.9	Aged 65 and over	23.7%
Under 18	15.1%	Median household income	\$61,179
Median home value what owners estimate	\$250,000	Homeownership	80.8%
People per household	2.11	Average commute	24.1 minutes

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, published January 2026, read September 19, 2026. Survey figures are estimates; median home value is what owners estimate their home is worth, not a sale price.

Communities to compare

Port St. Joe

Start with Port St. Joe to understand the established center, nearby services and everyday rhythm within Gulf County.

Mexico Beach

Walk or drive through Mexico Beach at different times of day to judge traffic, neighborhood character and access to outdoor space.

Wewahitchka

Use Wewahitchka to compare housing patterns, main-road access and the shopping or medical stops used during a normal week.

Places that reveal the county

T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

A narrow sand peninsula with the Gulf on one side and St. Joseph Bay on the other, and a wilderness preserve at the far end.

Dead Lakes Recreation Area

A 6,700-acre swamp forest of standing dead cypress near Wewahitchka, in the country's tupelo honey capital.

Salinas Park

A free county beach park on both sides of the Cape San Blas road, with a boardwalk over the dunes and the main horse access to the beach.

Historic Downtown Port St. Joe

A paper mill town that lost its mill and rebuilt itself around the water, on the coast Floridians call the Forgotten Coast.

William J. 'Billy Joe' Rish Recreation Area

A hundred-acre beach park built for visitors with disabilities and their families, named for the legislator who fought for it.

Constitution Convention Museum State Park

The place where Florida's first constitution was written in 1838, in a town that had vanished by 1844.

Cape San Blas Lighthouse

An 1885 iron skeleton tower that lost three predecessors to storms, moved whole to Port St. Joe in 2014 and open to climb.

St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

Five and a half thousand acres of sandhill, flatwoods and salt marsh kept undeveloped to protect the water quality of St. Joseph Bay.

St. Joe Beach

A quiet west-facing beach community about ten minutes from Port St. Joe, sitting right on the line between two time zones.

Beaches in Gulf County

Always verify current parking, fees, water quality, lifeguard coverage and posted rules before leaving.

Mexico Beach

WindMark Beach

T. H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Beach

Salinas Park Beach

St. Joe Beach

Cape San Blas Beach

Indian Pass Beach

Where to check

Florida disaster preparedness maps · Official evacuation-zone, route and storm-surge planning maps.

floridadisaster.org

Florida school accountability reports · Current state school and district accountability information.

fldoe.org

Florida community health data · County-level public health indicators and community reports.

flhealthcharts.gov

Florida housing resources · State resources for homebuyers, renters and local assistance programs.

floridahousing.org