

Events Year Round

WINTER

There is something quite alluring about winter on the beach. Our moderate climate allows for great long walks in mostly solitude. The island may feel deserted, but it is never desolate.

CELEBRATE A COASTAL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

Our holiday celebrations resonate with small town charm – with a Christmas Pageant and Parade, lighting of the Christmas Tree and a Holiday Boat Parade. The Island art galleries and shops also host open houses to complete the holiday calendar. Of course, an added benefit is your proximity to Bellingrath Gardens' Magic Christmas & Lights and it's just a short trip to downtown Mobile's New Year's Eve MoonPie Drop.

An Island holiday is a wonderful way to ring out the old and ring in the new. www.townofdauphinisland.org

MARDI GRAS ON THE ISLAND

While Mobile rightly lays claim to the title as the home of Mardi Gras in America, anecdotal evidence suggests that the first celebrations occurred right here on Dauphin Island. Regardless, our Mardi Gras celebrations kick off the carnival season each year with parades on the first two Saturdays of the season (beginning about a month before Fat Tuesday). The Krewe de la Dauphine on February 2 in 2019 while the People's Parade rolls on February 9.

www.townofdauphinisland.org

WINTER WEDNESDAYS AND CAMELLIAS AT BELLINGRATH GARDENS

Enjoy special programs at the Gardens during the cold season. Each Winter Wednesday program covers a special feature of the Gardens or Home, tips for making your garden more spectacular or guest lectures from renowned members of the horticultural and gardening world. Winter is also camellia season making Bellingrath a beautiful place to visit all year long.

www.bellingrath.org

SECOND SUNDAYS AND MONDAYS

Art Does It! art gallery hosts a monthly guest artist with live music and refreshments on the second Sunday of each month and Youth Art Club on the second Monday. Artdoesit.com

LAST FRIDAY ART NIGHT

Happens- yes – on the last Friday of the month all year long. Presented by the Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council. www.dauphinislandarts.org

STIRRING THE SAND

A regular story-telling event, on a regular irregular basis as well as art classes for adults and kids. Presented by the Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council. www.dauphinislandarts.org

BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY 5K RUN

Starts at Historic Fort Gaines with a cannon blast, winds around the island and ends back at the fort with a post-race celebration.

productionsbylittleredhen.com

CHILI, WINGS & WILD CARD COOK-OFF

This benefits the historic Little Red School House and Dauphin Island Elementary. It's a spirited local competition for the People's Choice favorites of each of these dishes which leads to a fair amount of trash talking among the teams. Hosted by Pirates Bar & Grill. www.piratesbarandgrill.com



SPRING

Visit Dauphin Island in the spring and you're treated to fabulous weather and a full calendar of entertaining events.

BELLINGRATH GARDEN AZALEA BLOOM OUT

Tour the Gardens during the spectacular azalea season, when the blooms of 250,000 azaleas are at their peak! Beginning March 1, check the "Azalea Watch" page on bellingrath.org for daily updates to help you plan your visit. Children will love the colorful Easter Egg Hunt on the Great Lawn (Saturday, April 13, 2019). The community is invited to the Gardens' annual Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at 6:30 a.m. on Live Oak Plaza at the Bellingrath Home. Guests are also invited to tour the award-winning Rose Garden when the flowers are in their first spring bloom after their winter pruning.

MOBILE POPS CONCERT

The Mobile Pops Concert at Water Tower Plaza takes place on the second Saturday of April and is sponsored by the Town, the DI Chamber of Commerce and the Dauphin Island Foundation. Admission is free.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The Island celebrates Easter with community Easter Egg Hunts and a Sunrise Easter Service at Fort Gaines (April 21 in 2019) which is truly uplifting. www.dauphinisland.org/fort-gaines

NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL

March 30th. Coinciding with the unveiling of educational marker at Shell Mound Park, the goal of the festival is to educate the public regarding the cultures that existed in the area during the 16th-19th centuries. Featuring hands on demonstrations, living history exhibits, and storytellers. Presented by Dauphin Island Heritage & Arts Council. Dauphinislandarts.org

THE 17TH ANNUAL ST. FRANCIS ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

For the past 17 years, the St. Francis Arts & Crafts Festival has heralded the end of winter and the beginning of the Island's real seasons. The longest running art event on the island, it is held the third weekend in April on the grounds of the Episcopal Church with more than 50 local and regional artists showing and selling their work. www.dauphinislandchamber.com

ANNUAL GUMBO FESTIVAL AND COOK-OFF

Hosted by the Dauphin Island Chamber at the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo site. It features a dozen or so of the area's top gumbo chefs competing for your vote and Island bragging rights. www.dauphinislandchamber.com

DAUPHIN ISLAND SAILING REGATTA

The Regatta takes place over the last weekend of April. Cohosted by the Fairhope, Mobile and Buccaneer Yacht Clubs, the race creates a beautiful vista of colorful sails in the waters of Mobile Bay. www.fairhopeyachtclub.com www.bucyc.com www.mobileyachtclub.com

DAUPHIN ISLAND VETERANS ASSOCIATION CHILI COOK-OFF

Held each April at the Pelican Pub to support local veterans.

SUNDAY SUNSET CONCERT AT THE FORT

Fort Gaines plays host on May 5 to the opening of the 2019 Sunday Sunset Concert Series (which moves to West End Beach for the summer). Donation is \$5. www.townofdauphinisland.org



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SUMMER

Yes, it's vacation season and the island is bustling and that's why you're here. Add these events to your schedule to enhance your Dauphin Island experience

DAUPHIN ISLAND'S MONTHLY SUNSET CELEBRATION

The Sunday Sunset Concerts are held at West End Beach beginning Memorial Day Weekend. Celebrating the natural beauty and the Island's designation as the "Sunset Capital of Alabama," the concerts begin about 90 minutes before the sun goes down. Music and beach lovers are invited to bring lawn chairs, snacks, beverages and a laid-back attitude to the West End Beach. Admission is only \$5 per person. Children under 12 are free. All proceeds benefit the Island's Little Red School House project. The August concert boasts a Jamaican vibe as part of the annual Dauphin Island Reggae Weekend.

www.townofdauphinisland.org,
www.alabamacoasting.com



The sounding of the conch at sunset celebrates the end of wonderful day on the Sunset Capital of Alabama and the promise of a sunrise and a new day.

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT WEST END BEACH

Outdoor family movie night sponsored by the Town weekly throughout the summer. "Jaws" is always scheduled for July 4th weekend.

www.townofdauphinisland.org

THUNDER ON THE BAY

Thunder on the Bay is an annual "celebration" of the Battle of Mobile Bay which takes place in May and August at Fort Gaines.

www.dauphinisland.org/fort-gaines

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

The Town sponsors a fireworks display each year. People can also make the short drive to Grand Bay for its annual Watermelon Festival.

www.townofdauphinisland.org

www.grandbaywatermelonfestival.org

ALABAMA DEEP SEA FISHING RODEO

The largest fishing tournament in the world. Founded in 1929, the fishing rodeo now attracts over 3,000 anglers and 75,000 spectators. The Rodeo takes place the 3rd weekend of July.

www.adsfr.com

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FALL

Arguably the best season of the year... nice weather, smaller crowds, and a calendar chock-full of fun events!

ARTSEALAB FESTIVAL

A collaboration between ArtDoesIt and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, this unique festival's goal is to raise awareness of the Gulf's beauty, resources and ecological challenges it faces. The kick-off event is Forks & Corks, a culinary competition among area high schools.

www.artsealab.org

www.artdoesit.com

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Fort Gaines is open all year round and regularly host reenactors for authentic "Day in the Life of" demonstrations with WWII the focus in October. The fort also hosts the annual Renaissance Festival each October.

www.dauphinisland.org/fort-gaines

www.townofdauphinisland.org

JAZZ IN THE FORT

The finale of the Sunset Concert series returns to Fort Gaines in October.

www.dauphinisland.org/fort-gaines

www.townofdauphinisland.org

ANNUAL GULF SEAFOOD GALA

Presented by the Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council A celebration of Alabama Gulf Seafood and the rich heritage and culture that surround it.

THE DAUPHIN ISLAND ART TRAIL

Held the second Saturday in October, the event is presented by the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce. It includes more than 50 local and regional artists spread around the island at 11 retail locations. Art Trail is free and open to the public with a free shuttle for those who don't want to drive or bike.

www.dauphinislandchamber.com

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