

WELCOME TO PENSACOLA FLORIDA

WHERE COASTAL CHARM MEETS VETERINARY EXCELLENCE



**Veterinary EMERGENCY
Referral Center**



Nestled along Florida's scenic Gulf Coast, Pensacola blends small-city charm with big opportunities. Known for its white-sand beaches, vibrant arts scene, and historic downtown, it's a place where Southern hospitality meets laid-back coastal living. From boating and paddleboarding to concerts under the stars, Pensacola offers a balance of work, play, and community that's hard to beat.

At the center of it all is the **Veterinary Emergency Referral Center (VERC)**—a full-spectrum emergency and specialty hospital providing around-the-clock care. At VERC, you're joining more than a hospital—you're joining a purpose-driven team committed to innovation, compassion, and improving the lives of pets and their families.

For veterinary professionals looking to grow their expertise, collaborate on advanced cases, and live life by the water, VERC and Pensacola offer an unmatched blend of career opportunity and lifestyle.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOLADES FOR PENSACOLA

Pensacola's mix of natural beauty, safety, and cultural vibrancy has earned it national attention as one of the most desirable coastal cities in the country.



#1 Best Coastal City in America to Live In
– Recognized by Consumer Affairs for affordability, beauty, and community life.



Top 10 Best Places to Live in Florida – Forbes Advisor praised Pensacola for its mix of history, modern amenities, and quality of life.



#4 Safest City in the U.S.
– Ranked by U.S. News & World Report for low crime and family-friendly neighborhoods.



Top 8 Best Small Cities in the U.S. (2023) – Condé Nast Traveler highlighted Pensacola's coastal appeal and vibrant downtown scene.

COST OF LIVING & HOUSING

Pensacola offers an enviable blend of affordability and coastal lifestyle, making it a rare gem among beach cities. With housing about 25% below the national average, residents can enjoy ocean breezes without the sky-high prices found elsewhere on the Gulf or Atlantic coasts.

- **Median Home Price:** ~\$296,000 (2025)
- **Rent (1-Bedroom Apartment):** ~\$1,330/month
- **Overall Cost of Living:** ~14% lower than the national average



COASTAL CLIMATE & LIFESTYLE

Life in Pensacola moves to the rhythm of the waves. With mild winters, warm summers, and over 220 days of sunshine a year, the city invites you outdoors year-round. Locals spend their mornings walking along Palafox Pier, afternoons kayaking on Bayou Texar, and evenings watching the sun set over the Gulf.

Whether you're attending Gallery Night, browsing the Palafox Market, or catching the Blue Angels streaking across the sky, Pensacola embodies a balance of natural beauty and lively community spirit.



LOCAL SCHOOLS

Pensacola provides families access to high-quality education across both public and private systems, supported by a strong sense of community and enrichment opportunities.

Pensacola's educational landscape is rich with options across Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, offering strong public and private schools alongside respected higher education institutions.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS (ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT)

- **Pensacola High School** – International Baccalaureate (IB) World School known for its academic rigor.
- **Washington High School** – Strong athletics and college-prep curriculum.
- **Escambia High School** – Known for technical and vocational excellence.
- **J. M. Tate Senior High School** – Offers unique agriculture and engineering programs.
- **N. B. Cook Elementary School** – Academic excellence and strong community involvement.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS (SANTA ROSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT)

- **Gulf Breeze High School** – Highly ranked for academics and extracurriculars.
- **Navarre High School** – Focused on college readiness and leadership development.
- **Pace High School** – Top-performing school with strong academics and athletics.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- **Pensacola Catholic High School** – Prestigious private school focused on academic achievement and service.
- **Aletheia Christian Academy** – PreK–12, faith-based education with small class sizes.
- **East Hill Christian School** – Emphasis on academics, character, and community engagement.
- **West Florida Baptist Academy** – Private Christian school located in nearby Milton.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- **University of West Florida (UWF)** – Public research university known for innovation, business, and health sciences.
- **Pensacola State College** – Offers associate and bachelor's programs with accessible tuition.



PARKS & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Pensacola's outdoor offerings range from beach escapes to forest trails—all minutes from home. Pensacola is also within easy reach of top regional destinations—Biloxi, New Orleans, Tallahassee, and Atlanta—all just a few hours' drive away.

- **Big Lagoon State Park** – Swimming, camping, and birdwatching with Gulf views.
- **Perdido Key State Park** – Serene beaches and coastal dune trails.
- **Gulf Islands National Seashore** – Historic forts, trails, and sugar-white sands.
- **Fort Pickens & Fort McRee** – Part of Pensacola's deep military and coastal history.
- **Play Pensacola Parks & Recreation** – Offers outdoor programs from archery to paddle sports.
- **Bayview Park & Community Center** – Kayak launches, dog park, and walking trails.
- **Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail** – World-class golfing just an hour away.
- **Blackwater River State Forest** – Canoeing, camping, and scenic trails.

LOCAL DINING

Pensacola's culinary scene celebrates its coastal heritage—where fresh Gulf seafood, Southern classics, and global flavors come together. Whether you're looking for a dockside meal, fine dining downtown, or a hidden local gem, every bite tells a story of the city's culture and charm.

- **Flora-Bama Yacht Club** – Laid-back Gulf-front dining with live music and seafood platters.
- **Peg Leg Pete's** – Iconic oyster house and local favorite.
- **The Jellyfish** – Coastal eatery known for sushi and creative seafood dishes.
- **Jaime's Local Seafood Shack** – Food truck favorite serving fresh, local catch.
- **Global Grill** – Tapas and fine dining with Mediterranean flair.

DESSERT DESTINATIONS

When the sun sets over the Gulf, Pensacola's dessert scene offers the perfect way to end the day. From hand-dipped fudge and homemade cheesecake to local bakeries serving southern-style sweets, these favorites are a treat for locals and visitors alike.

- **Chrisoula's Cheesecake Shoppe** – Famous for handcrafted cheesecakes in over 100 flavors.
- **Bubba's Sweet Spot** – Ice cream, fudge, and nostalgia downtown.
- **Craft Gourmet Bakery** – Pastries, breads, and small-batch desserts.
- **Kilwins** – Beachfront shop with fudge, chocolates, and ice cream.
- **Szotski's Cheesecakes** – Mini cheesecakes in 300+ creative varieties.

TOP LOCAL SUBURBS FOR LIVING

Pensacola's surrounding areas offer a mix of suburban comfort, rural tranquility, and coastal proximity—perfect for every lifestyle.

IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY:

- **East Hill** – Historic homes, walkable streets, and vibrant community events.
- **North Hill** – Architectural charm and proximity to downtown.
- **Beulah** – Spacious new developments and easy access to major roadways.
- **Navy Point** – Waterfront neighborhood with parks and walking trails.

IN SANTA ROSA COUNTY:

- **Pace** – Top-rated schools and growing retail and dining scene.
- **Gulf Breeze** – Coastal suburb with excellent schools and quick beach access.
- **Navarre** – Relaxed, family-oriented beach town with strong community pride.
- **Milton & Jay** – Peaceful, rural lifestyle surrounded by natural beauty.

LIVE MUSIC, THEATRE & EVENTS

Pensacola's entertainment scene blends coastal charm with big-city creativity. From outdoor concerts to elegant theater nights, the arts thrive here.

- **Bands on the Beach** – Free weekly concerts April through October along Pensacola Beach.
- **Bands on Blackwater** – Live music on the river in downtown Milton.
- **Saenger Theatre** – Historic venue featuring Broadway tours, candlelight concerts, and national acts.
- **Pensacola Little Theatre** – Home to musicals, comedies, and community productions.
- **Pensacola Opera, Symphony & Ballet Pensacola** – Year-round performing arts institutions.
- **The Wharf Amphitheater (Orange Beach, AL)** – Major touring concerts just 45 minutes away.
- **Candlelight Concerts at the Saenger** – Intimate, immersive live music experiences.





WHY VETERINARY EMERGENCY REFERRAL CENTER IN PENSACOLA?

VERC of Pensacola is more than a hospital—it's a place where teamwork, purpose, and passion drive everything we do. As a leading 24/7 emergency center, VERC provides advanced medicine backed by a collaborative, growth-oriented culture. Team members enjoy the opportunity to expand their clinical skills, mentor others, and make a real impact on pets and families—while living in one of the most beautiful and affordable coastal communities in America.

Here, you can build an extraordinary career and an equally extraordinary life.



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