EXPLORE | DISCOVER | CONNECT

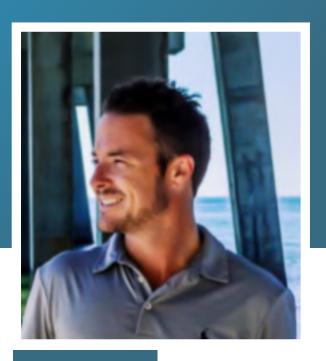
# INSIDER'S GUIDE TO

GULF SHORES | ORANGE BEACH | FORT MORGAN | FOLEY | FAIRHOPE | DAPHNE | SPANISH FORT









Thank you for reaching out to the Ballard Sweat Team for your Gulf Shores, Alabama real estate needs. We are happy to serve you in any capacity regarding the opportunity to own the property of your dreams.

Feel free to contact me or look in to our Vault for buying and selling resources.

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# **GET TO** KNOW **GULF SHORES** ballard@gulfshorespropertysearch.com

#### GULF SHORES LIFESTYLE

Gulf Shores is a beautiful city located at the end of Hwy 59 South of Foley, AL and just like the welcome sign says it truly is a small town with a big beach. Whether you want peaceful seclusion, an adrenaline rush or bustling night life, you'll be sure to find it on Alabama's Gulf Coast. This area is the perfect getaway and has a little something for everyone.

Nestled in a protective bay on the Gulf of Mexico, Gulf Shores is a popular spot for boating, fishing, and many other water sports. Our beautiful, warm weather means you can enjoy the beach year round. With plenty of opportunities for shopping and long walks on the beach, you're sure to fall in love with Gulf Shores from the moment you set foot here.

#### GULF SHORES REAL ESTATE

Gulf Shores contains single-family homes and duplexes that are mostly primary residences or second homes. There are waterfront properties resting on the Gulf or a little lagoon. Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Want to see a home in person?

### BON SECOUR

#### **GULF SHORES**

#### GET TO KNOW BON SECOUR

The area is the epitome of easy living with fishing being the main priority of the day. The name "Bon Secour" is derived from the French phrase meaning "Safe Harbor" due to the secluded location on the inside coast of the Fort Morgan peninsula of Southern Alabama.

Home to one of the largest shrimp companies in the region, Bon Secour still maintains an eclectic and cozy feel. Simplicity and southern comfort combine to create a truly unique community. The pace is slow and the fishing is good in Bon Secour, AL!

The area is located in between Foley and Gulf Shores, on the west side of Highway 59. Starting from the Intracoastal Bridge in Gulf Shores it extends north to County Road 10. There are other county highways that lead to Bon Secour including County Road 4, also called Oyster Bay Road, County Road 6, and County Road 8. One can drive to the beach within 10-20 minutes or to the Eastern Shore in about 30 minutes.



#### SEARCH GULF SHORES BON SECOUR REAL ESTATE

Situated right at the intersection of Mobile and Bon Secour Bay, these welcoming residences put the "community" in the term waterfront community. Just a few of the neighborhoods in this area include Martyn Woods, Sunset Bay, and River Pines. Want to see a home in person? Search <u>gulfshorespropertysearch.com</u>

### WEST BEACH GULF SHORES

#### LIFESTYLE

Gulf Shores West Beach has long been a favorite for family vacations. It is one of the oldest and best known beach spots in Baldwin County. Home to a majority of gulf front condo buildings and homes, this area has experienced solid growth over the last three decades. It stretches for more than 6 miles along the sugar white beaches of the Gulf. It also home to the south shore of the Little Lagoon. If you are not directly on the waterfront, don't worry. There are numerous public-access beach points that are easily reachable from nearly anywhere in West Beach.



#### SEARCH WEST BEACH REAL ESTATE

Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Want to see a home in person? Contact us at the email below. gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### EAST BEACH GULF SHORES

#### LIFESTYLE

Whether playing in the pool, boogie boarding on the beach, or fishing the surf, there are numerous options to keep you busy in the East Beach area. In addition to the sandy beaches, Gulf State Park is a major attraction in this part of Gulf Shores. The park offers a fishing pier, 25 miles of trails, a golf course, miles of quiet beaches, and kayak and bike rentals, just to name a few, so be sure to pay it a visit! For buyers looking for an affordable beach home, look in this area first. Most of the homes are older beach cottages. Some are used as rentals, while even more are used as traditional second homes.



#### SEARCH EAST BEACH REAL ESTATE

The East Beach area is home to some of the most well-known vacation condo buildings in Gulf Shores, including Lighthouse, San Carlos, and Seawind. These newer buildings have been nicknamed "Rental Machines" because of the large rental income opportunity they deliver. Search <u>gulfshorespropertysearch.com</u>

### CENTRAL BEACH

**GULF SHORES** 

#### LIFESTYLE

The area known as Central Gulf Shores has seen its fair share of growth within the past 10 years. As Gulf Shores has continued to welcome more and more seasonal guests and new residents, the city has definitely evolved to provide for this outstanding growth. The central area of Gulf Shores is one of the oldest communities on the island. Unusually varying elevations trademark this small area of mostly older homes surrounded by many small, local businesses. Within a portion of this area, the city has imparted rent restrictions regarding short-term rentals. Much of this area is situated on the Lagoon and is an excellent place for permanent or retirement living.



#### SEARCH CENTRAL BEACH REAL ESTATE

This area contains older single-family homes that are mostly primary residences or second homes. Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Want to see a home in person?

Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### NORTH BEACH

**GULF SHORES** 

#### LIFESTYLE

There is always something fantastic for all ages in the Gulf Shores North area! For golfers, the Arnold Palmer designed Craft Farms course offers 36 holes of championship play. Meanwhile, if shopping is on your agenda, then head over to the Pelican Place Shopping Center, where you'll find many nationally and locally owned retailers. In addition to the great shopping, Pelican Place also offers the Cobb Movie Theatre that features 14 different screens. Oddly enough, they even sell adult beverages. After strolling through the lovely outdoor shopping area of Pelican Place, head south 1 mile to LuLu's at Homeport Marina for a delicious lunch and a one of a kind view of the barges and boating vessels traveling the Intracoastal Waterway



#### SEARCH NORTH BEACH REAL ESTATE

Gulf Shores North is mostly comprised of permanent residents living in traditional single family homes within subdivisions. However, there are also townhomes, condos, and apartments found here. From luxury golf course living to moderately priced garden homes, there is a perfect place for buyers with all budgets that want to call this area home. Want to see a home in person? Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### WEDGEWOOD GULF SHORES

#### LIFESTYLE

Take a stroll through the newly revived Waterway District that is located along the Intracoastal Canal. While there, drop by Acme Oyster House for some chargrilled half shells before enjoying a frozen bushwhacker at Tacky Jacks. There is a public boat launch in the Waterway District too. Although this is one of the busiest launches in Gulf Shores if you live in Wedge Wood, you are one step ahead of the traffic. So grab the fishing poles and head to the great fishing found in the reefs in Mobile Bay.

The children will be entertained for hours at the numerous parks located around the Bodenhamer Recreational Center. There is a playground area, skate park, and ball fields. The onsite pavilion provides a great venue for birthday parties too. Just make sure to call ahead and reserve your date.



#### SEARCH WEDGE WOOD REAL ESTATE

Because nearly all of the people who live in the Wedge Wood community are permanent residents, most streets are dotted with traditional homes. Many are ranch or cottage style houses that were built with larger households in mind. Prices range from the mid \$100k's to \$500k for homes. There are only a handful of condo and townhome developments in Wedge Wood. However, they are often very affordable. It is one of the few places in Gulf Shores where a buyer can purchase a nice condo or townhome for less than \$100k. Want to see a home in person?

### EAST GULF SHORES

#### **GULF SHORES**

#### LIFESTYLE

In East Gulf Shores, you can enjoy all the charm and excitement of Gulf Shores just minutes from home. Mark your calendar for Mardi Gras in mid-to-late January to early March, the Hangout Music Fest in early May, fireworks on the beach during the Fourth of July, Back to School Beach Bash in August, and the Halloween Family Fun Night, just to name a few.

For shopping, take your pick of waterfront restaurants or hidden gems along Highway 59. A short drive away is The Pelican Place at Craft Farms, a shopping center anchored by Target, Cobb Theater, and a handful of big-box retailers.



#### SEARCH EAST GULF SHORES REAL ESTATE

East Gulf Shores has the hustle and bustle along the edges but is quiet and secluded inside this part of Gulf Shores, so if you're looking for an area close to the fast paced world but also want the luxury to retreat to calm quiet areas too this is the area for you.

East Gulf Shores contains mostly single-family homes, apartments, and limited duplexes. Most properties here are used as a permanent residence or as a second home. Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com



#### Fairhope - Daphne Malbis - Spanish Fort

#### **LIFESTYLE**

The largest of the Eastern Shore towns, and largest in Baldwin County, is Daphne. With a population of nearly 26,000, it has seen a nearly 50 percent increase in the number of residents. It has all you might expect, from banks to grocery stores to a Jubilee festival in the summer, one of the key standouts of this area. To the south is Fairhope, known for its dedication to the arts. This includes a number of galleries featuring local artisans as well as outdoor sculptures.

If it's history you are after, check out Spanish Fort and historic Malbis. The site of a Civil War battlefield, colonial era homes, and Native American homelands dating back thousands of years can all be found in the little town of Spanish Fort, home of the Interstate 10 bridge to Mobile. Named to the National Register of Historic Places, historic Malbis is the site of the glorious Malbis Memorial Greek Orthodox Church and the still-standing structures of a plantation established by Jason Malbis in the early 1900s. When coming to the beach region, be sure to take some time and look at all the riches the Eastern Shore has to offer.

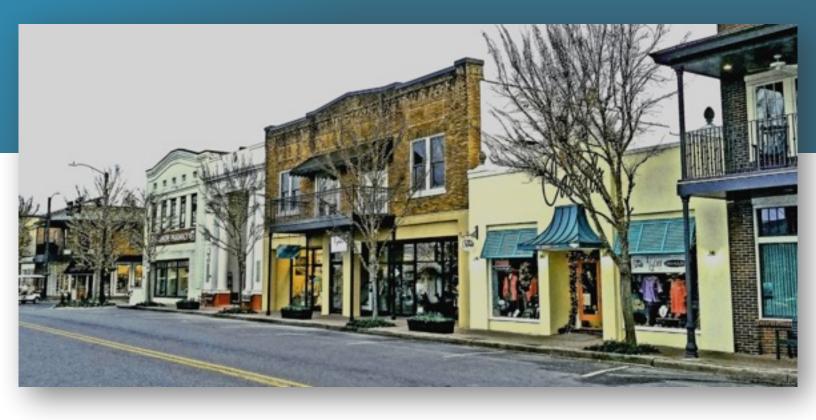
The Eastern Shore contains single-family homes as well as detached properties, including condominiums. Waterfront homes are sought-after in communities like Spanish Fort, Daphne, and Fairhope.

### FAIRHOPE EASTERN SHORE

#### LIFESTYLE

Fairhope includes the Municipal Pier and Park, a nearly 1,500-foot structure jetting into Mobile Bay that is considered Fairhope's "town square." Dating back to 1894 and rebuilt after it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, the square welcomes visitors with a park and rose garden, while diners can grab a bite halfway down the pier. It's also a popular spot for walking, fishing, and checking out a pelican or two.

The city has about 15,000 residents, has above-average schools among counterparts in Baldwin County, and is also a haven for flowering plants of all kind. Want to see a home in person?



#### SEARCH FAIRHOPE REAL ESTATE

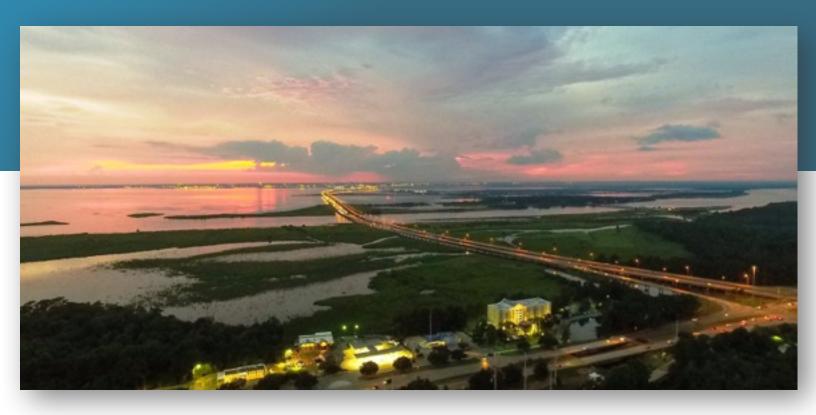
Fairhope predominantly contains single-family homes, with a limited number of condo developments. Most all of these are primary residences, with only a handful being used as a vacation home. There are a limited number of waterfront properties that rest on Mobile Bay and on Fish River. Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Search <u>gulfshorespropertysearch.com</u>



#### LIFESTYLE

Daphne, on the eastern portion of Mobile Bay, is known as the Jubilee City. The quaint location, full of historic homes and beachfront fishing camps, is home of the Jubilee Festival.

Daphne has seen a nearly 50 percent jump in its population since 2000, making it the most populous municipality in Baldwin County. It has all one might expect from a standard city such as numerous banks and grocery stores as well as access to a major highway, Interstate Route 10 to be exact.



#### SEARCH DAPHNE REAL ESTATE

Daphne's waterfront properties are popular picks among buyers, but the area also offers a wide variety of single-family homes, townhouses, and condominiums. Lots are plentiful, as well. The communities are just as diverse, ranging from low-maintenance condominium complexes to golf course communities to new construction neighborhoods. Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### MALBIS EASTERN SHORE

#### LIFESTYLE

This story of this land dates back to the early 1900s when Jason Malbis came from Chicago to settle this rural area near the eastern shores of Mobile Bay. Born in Greece, Jason started a 10,000-acre plantation that prospered and grew to include farmland, livestock, an electric power plant, an ice plant, and a turpentine still as well as providing the environment for Greek culture to grow. Although much of the plantation land has since been sold some of the original buildings remain, providing a historic record of plantation life in Alabama. The Greek identity of the land also adds to this record, lending to the plantation's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. You don't have to sacrifice your convenience to shopping and dining just to live in a quiet rural area. Recent growth has brought several high-profile retailers into the Malbis area, especially with the development of Eastern Shore Center along AL-181. You can find everything you need within the community, including a Sam's Club, Lowe's Home Improvement, Cracker Barrel, and various other restaurants. Want to see a home in person?



#### SEARCH MALBIS REAL ESTATE

Malbis is an unincorporated community, so its homes often have a Daphne address. You can find anywhere from cozy cottage homes to larger suburban houses in this area, though vacant lots are still available for you to build your dream home. A country club community, Timber Creek Golf Club, is located in the Malbis area as well.

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### SPANISH FORT

#### EASTERN SHORE

#### LIFESTYLE

Historic Blakely State Park combines a diverse natural features and an abundance of history. The grounds are the site of the last major battle of the Civil War and also has remnants of the early Alabama town of Blakely, colonial era homes, and Native American settlements going back thousands of years. The bridge to Mobile stretches from the shores of this city, named for a Spanish fort from the Revolutionary war. It's also home to ecological wonders as part of the Mobile Bay Delta.

Spanish Fort has a population of about 8,300, which is an increase of more than a 1,000 from 2010. The small city is known as a bedroom community and it has among the best performing schools in Baldwin County.



#### SEARCH SPANISH FORT REAL ESTATE

Established communities and new construction subdivisions are sprinkled throughout Spanish Fort. Given the city's recent growth, you can find plenty of available lots in your preferred location. As for Spanish Fort's waterfront homes, these properties can be found on the bay, on the river, or on a stocked lake (like those in The Lakes community). Search <u>gulfshorespropertysearch.com</u>



#### LIFESTYLE

Nestled along the gorgeous banks of Wolf Bay you will find the city of Foley, Alabama. Foley is a beautiful waterfront town that has properties and attractions that are sure to delight visitors and residents alike. Whether you are spending the day taking advantage of the Tanger Outlets, enjoying the outdoors at John B. Foley Park, or taking advantage of the proximity to Wolf Bay, there is no shortage of things to do in Foley. Foley residents also enjoy a convenient commute to Mobile! With just a 45 minute drive, residents can enjoy all of the attractions and opportunities of the city.

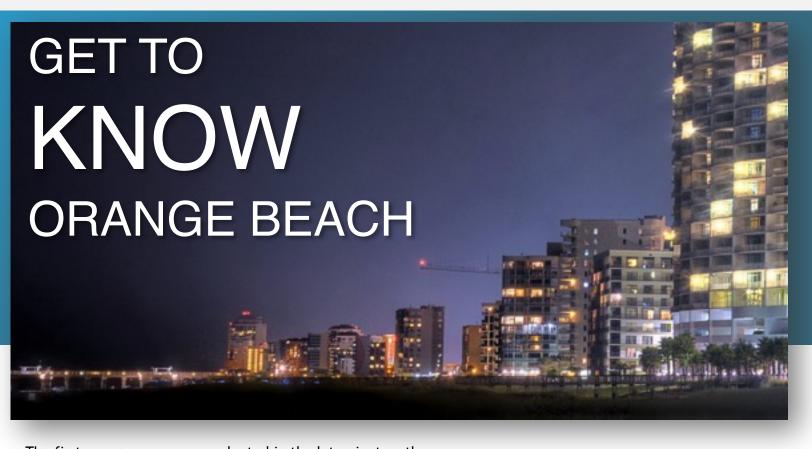


#### SEARCH FOLEY REAL ESTATE

Foley offers single-family homes and condominiums that are ideal for either primary homes or second homes. Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Want to see a home in person? Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### ORANGE BEACH

ORANGE BEACH NEIGHBORHOODS



The first orange groves were planted in the late nineteenth century from which the town derived its name. Located on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, Orange Beach offers miles of sugar-white sand beaches and access to the interior bays and bayous lying just north of Perdido Pass. Visitors can also enjoy a lengthy list of other attractions including Adventure Island, deep-sea fishing, Orange Beach golf center, Alabama Gulf Coast zoo, Waterville USA, and the Wharf.

Orange Beach is comprised of the neighborhoods of Cotton Bayou, Terry Cove, Perdido Beach, Alabama Point Beach, Bear Point, Central West Orange Beach,

#### SEARCH ORANGE BEACH REAL ESTATE

Orange Beach is well known for offering single-family homes, condo buildings, and duplexes for both primary residences or second homes. Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Want to see a home in person? Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### TERRY COVE

#### **ORANGE BEACH**

#### LIFESTYLE

Dockside dining on the rooftop of Shipps Harbor Grill makes for a great afternoon with friends. If you dry dock your boat at Sportsman Marina, then you are only a few steps away from jumping aboard and heading to the islands of Terry Cove for some sun bathing and fun. Both Robinson and Bird Island are just a few minutes away by boat from nearly any location in Terry Cove, as well. The City of Orange Beach purchased the Robinson Island in 2003 to preserve it from development. Today the island is a sanctuary for birds & wildlife and is used by residents and visitors as a park/ recreational area.

In addition, a large number of recreational facilities owned and maintained by the City of Orange Beach are found here. The Public Library, Senior Activity Center, and the Art Center are located within this community, just to name a few



#### SEARCH TERRY COVE REAL ESTATE

There are numerous condo buildings, townhomes, and traditional homes within Terry Cove that dot the Bay and Canal Front waterways. Prices for older waterfront homes start in the mid \$200k's, while larger estate homes sell well into the millions. There are also communities within this area that are not directly on the water, and can sometime be found as low as \$150k. Search <u>gulfshorespropertysearch.com</u>

### PERDIDO BEACH

#### ORANGE BEACH

#### LIFESTYLE

One of the best attributes of this area is its location. Being situated between Orange Beach, AL and Perdido Key, FL there is always something fun to the West or to the East!

The Jellyfish Bar in Perdido Key is home to the Martini Festival which attracts crowds annually. Of course there is never a dull moment at the world famous Flora-Bama Lounge and Package. All of the Gulf side condominiums have direct access to the Gulf of Mexico and most of the homes north of State route 182 have River access. If not, there are public access points throughout Perdido Beach.



#### SEARCH PERDIDO BEACH REAL ESTATE

Perdido Beach is made up of many beachside condominiums, but there are also single family residential homes, cottages, and townhomes on the north side of State Route 182. Want to see a home in person?

Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### ALABAMA POINT BEACH

#### ORANGE BEACH

#### LIFESTYLE

There is much to be said about an area as beautiful as Alabama Point Beach and many things happening at all times of the year! One of the most priceless luxuries this area offers is a sunrise beach stroll along some of the most coveted sandy shoreline in existence. There is hardly any better way to start the day. After a fantastic stroll, head over to Hazel's Family Seafood Restaurant for the best breakfast buffet around.

This area definitely has something for everyone! There are many locally owned storefronts with a wide range of goods from interiors to fishing bait and tackle. Speaking of fishing, head over to Zeke's Marina for a fishing charter with anyone of their skilled fleet members.

This area provides for a complete range of activities and The Wharf is approximately a 7-10 minute car ride from the heart of the beach. Laser tag, concerts, Ferris wheel, cinema...the list goes on and on



#### SEARCH ALABAMA PPOINT BEACH REAL ESTATE

There are mostly condos in this area but there are some beach houses. Some single family residences are located on the north side of the beach road also. Most properties you will find in this area are waterfront and if not waterfront, generally have very nearby deeded or public access. Want to see a home in person?

Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### BEAR POINT

ORANGE BEACH

#### **LIFESTYLE**

Being surrounded with Arnica Bay to the North and Bayou St. John to the South, Bear Point is a great area for boating and fishing! Just a quick boat ride across the bay is Pirates Cove where the Bush wackers and Cheeseburgers are a local staple!

The Bear Point community is home to Bear Point Marina and Flippers Restaurant and Bar. Captain Bo Cordle offers Sailboat Cruises out of Bear Point Marina at various times during the day. Whether you would like to set up a primary residence in Bear Point or make a property your secondary vacation home, this area is ideal.



#### SEARCH BEAR POINT REAL ESTATE

The properties in Bear Point consist of single-family residence homes and cottages. Want to see a home in person? Search <u>gulfshorespropertysearch.com</u>

### ONO ISLAND

#### ORANGE BEACH

#### LIFESTYLE

Ono Island is the epitome of lavish Gulf Coast living! The island POA provides many fantastic amenities for residents of all ages, including tennis courts, a children's playground, swimming pool, exercise classes, and a boat launch for those residents without water access. The Ono Island Men's and Ladies Clubs provide an outlet for residents to become socially involved within the community! In addition to all of the island-based recreation, Ono is just a short drive from fantastic shopping and dining at San Roc Cay to the west in OBA and Villagio in Perdido Key, FL to the east. As a matter of fact, the Jellyfish Bar at Villagio hosts an exciting Martini Festival annually! For the avid golfer or the fun-loving amateur, Lost Key Golf Club is merely minutes from Ono heading east on 182. Lost Key is a par 71 signature designed championship course.



#### SEARCH ONO ISLAND REAL ESTATE

The island is approximately 5.5 miles long and is an amazing community for a variety of lifestyles as it is private and gated. It is governed by an elected Board of Directors of the Property Owners Association. Want to see a home in person? Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

### ROMAR BEACH

#### ORANGE BEACH

#### LIFESTYLE

This area provides so many options for enjoyment along the Gulf Coast. Convenience is one of the most motivating factors of Romar Beach. There are three grocery stores within the area and many other local storefronts as well! Fat Daddy's Arcade and Adventure Island provide hours of entertainment including go carts and mini golf for the kids after a fun day at the beach. There's also plenty of nightlife entertainment for adults as well. Live Bait and Live Bait Too offer live music every night of the week during peak seasons and the world famous Flora Bama is a quick cab ride away! Approximately 5 or 6 miles to the east is Lost Key Golf Club.



#### SEARCH ROMAR BEACH REAL ESTATE

The Romar Beach area features condominiums, duplexes, and beach homes. Want to see a home in person? Search <u>gulfshorespropertysearch.com</u>



### GET TO KNOW FORT MORGAN

If you are a historical buff, just like playing golf, or like seclusion without being in the middle of nowhere, this is the place for you. Located to the West of Gulf Shores, this is a quiet and predominantly undeveloped area. Some consider it remote; others consider it quaint and not too busy. It features a 12 mile long beach on the Gulf Side and over 15 miles of coastline on Bon Secour Bay at the North side of the Peninsula. At the end of Fort Morgan Road is nothing but history. This is a place where famous battles have taken place and people have been made famous for their words and actions.

#### SEARCH FORT MORGAN REAL ESTATE

The Fort Morgan area of Gulf Shores features gulf front homes and condos, excellent fishing trips from the Gulf Shores Marina, and two extraordinary golf courses, Kiva Dunes and the Peninsula. Use these popular home searches and available listings to find your dream home. Want to see a home in person?

Search gulfshorespropertysearch.com

## OWN YOUR PARADISE

Have a Question About Real Estate in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach? Let Us Know. We Can Help!

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