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Celebrate Summer with Six Scrumptuous Southern Seafood Dinners

by TFB EDITORS on AUGUST 23, 2012

By Jan Ross

I was preparing some corn for dinner the other night and I started wishing I had some of the incredibly delicious sweet corn you can order at The Crab Shack on Georgia's Tybee Island.

Ever.

And this got me to thinking about some of the great food I've enjoyed this summer. Soon I'd come up with a list that I want to share with my fellow Baby Boomers. The food was wonderful and the locations where it was devoured added immeasurably to the experiences.

If you are ever traveling or vacationing anywhere near these locations, stop by and have a meal. You will be so happy that you did. And that's a promise.

Sandy Bottoms on Amelia Island

I'd never heard of Amelia Island, Florida, before I visited there just recently. What a shame because it's a lovely place! Stay downtown in the historic district at the Hampton Inn and Suites, drop by the shop called Twisted Sister for some darling and very reasonably priced costume jewelry, take a river cruise with Amelia River Cruises to see manatees and wild horses.

However you choose to spend your time, be sure to include a stop at the Sandy Bottoms Beach Bar and Grill. Arrive early enough to enjoy the incredible beach sunset from the deck and order the fried local shrimp and scallops. You may want to order an extra side of the hushpuppies because they are just that good. It will be difficult to order another side after you scarf that one down because they make each batch fresh and hot and, by the time you get them, you will have devoured the best shrimp and scallops you will ever eat. Besides, those incomparable hushpuppies are best eaten with your seafood.

The Crab Shack on Tybee Island

When you visit Tybee Island, Georgia, stay at one of the Mermaid Cottages and visit the Lighthouse, but be sure to add a visit or two to the Crab Shack. The first time I went, I made the mistake of ordering a sandwich instead of the Low Country Boil for which they are justifiably famous. I never made that mistake again. Get the shrimp, sausage, and corn boil, but don't order the plain boiled new potatoes. Get the "Smashed Taters," which are much better. If you have a good size



The Crab Shack's sweet corn tops a plate of grilled shrimp, sausage and potatoes.



The oceanfront view from Sandy Bottoms Beach Bar & Grill.



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group, you can order one of the huge Low Country Boils, which come with the addition of boiled crawfish.

Sit on the huge deck, enjoy the view of the local marshes, and relish the cool breeze from all the ceiling fans. Peel the shells off those spicy fried shrimp and throw them right into a trash can conveniently located in the middle of the table. And enjoy a whole bunch of that sweet corn for me.

[Spanky's in Savannah, Georgia](#)

Spanky's has locations on Tybee Island and in Savannah. I recommend the Savannah location because you can wander along [River Street](#) and check out all the little shops. If you're staying in Savannah, make it the [River Street Inn](#), a wonderful historical inn located right on River Street and right near Spanky's.

Spanky's has an extensive menu, but as far as I'm concerned, the best thing on it is the grilled shrimp quesadilla. Made from delicious, locally caught grilled shrimp, with cheese and bacon on a fresh tortilla, it's absolutely fantastic.

[The Marlin Grill, Miramar Beach, Florida](#)

When you're in this area, stay at the [Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort](#), shop at the fabulous [Silver Sands](#)



The grilled grouper sandwich.

[Outlet Mall](#) for some great deals, but be sure to visit the Marlin Grill in Baytowne Village for its incredible grouper. I've eaten their pan-fried grouper twice now and I still can't figure out how they make that fish so crisp, so succulent, and so tender that it just falls apart in your mouth. It comes with lump crab meat, fresh shrimp, and some sort of lemon butter sauce that is absolutely incomparable. You must try it. And keep snagging the fresh bread from the bread basket girl who offers it to you. You will love fresh, hot bread slathered with butter.

[Schooners in Panama City, Florida](#)

Don't even try to stay in downtown Panama City because the traffic is horrendous. Stay at the [Wyndham Bay Point Resort](#) where you can relax at one of the five pools or take a free shuttle out to the lovely white sand beach of Shell Island.

But when you're ready for a great seafood dinner, head to Schooners right on the beach in Panama City and sit on the deck to watch the sunset. First, order the Thai Shrimp Wraps, which come with some delicious, sweet dipping sauce. After you've polished that off, get the grilled grouper sandwich and prepare to be amazed.



The Low Country Boil



Grilled Shrimp Quesadilla



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[Lulu's at Gulf Shores, Alabama](#)

If you're in Gulf Shores, stay at the [Perdido Beach Resort](#), enjoy the sugar-white sand, and spend some time at Lulu's. It's a huge, family-friendly place with places for the kids to play, live music, and the best seafood in the area. Order their famous onion rings for the whole table. The portion is huge so you have to share. Then get the fried fish and fries basket and chow down as you enjoy the view of the water, the cool breeze, and the beach music that sets the perfect beach mood.

What about you? Have you enjoyed a wonderful seafood dinner lately? Where and when? Perhaps in New England? On the West Coast? Tell us about it (and make our mouths water!) in the Comments section.



Lulu's famous Onion Rings

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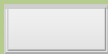
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