



Destination: *Destin!*

There's lots to see and do in this Florida paradise

by Jan Ross, *Staff Writer*

If Destin, Fla., has never been a destination for you, you should immediately change that. Sugar-white sand beaches, gorgeous water, fabulous resorts and restaurants and spas, along with an outlet mall, make this truly a paradise of a destination.

I visited two locations when I was in Destin last summer. The first was the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, a huge resort area with accommodations of every size and restaurants, entertainment and beautiful beaches right on the property. We stayed in a condo in the Village of Baytown Wharf. When we stepped into the gorgeous, very large accommodation with a full kitchen, a big living room

and dining area, a master suite with a huge tub and shower, another bedroom with a full bath and a balcony overlooking the scenic bay, we were very pleased. When you are ready to go to the beach, just hop on one of the trams that run all over the resort.

From casual cheeseburgers at a sidewalk cafe to a very fancy meal, you can find it all in the pedestrian mall lined with shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. We enjoyed dinner at Bistro Bijoux one night, one of the many restaurants located in the Village of Baytown Wharf. In a fine-dining atmosphere with linen-covered tables and a decor reminiscent of a French bistro, we dined on delicious shrimp and other delicacies.

Dinner at Acme Oyster another night was much more casual but just as delicious. Specializing in fresh oysters but also offering a variety of delicious seafood, this restaurant is open, airy and furnished with casual checkered tablecloths and friendly servers.

We spent a wonderful day at the Silver Shells Resort and Spa getting pampered within an inch of our lives. We had relaxing massages, scrubs and facials and then spent time relaxing by the lovely pool before we were served a delicious lunch.

The Presidential Suite at the Henderson Park Inn was our next Destin destination. With one of the best locations in Destin, right beside Henderson Beach State Park, this



beautiful inn has gray cedar shakes, lovely wooden floors, oriental carpets and luxurious furnishings. Our suite was huge with gorgeous, comfortable furnishings. It had a beautifully appointed living room with a big flat-screen TV, an office area with a big desk, a dining table and French doors that led out to a large wooden deck, complete with outdoor furniture, that overlooked the beautiful beach area. The bedroom had a king-size bed and was also beautifully decorated.

A full breakfast is included, as well as a box lunch every day. Make a reservation for dinner at The Beachwalk Café, the onsite restaurant located in the elegant dining room with huge windows overlooking the incredible ocean view.

All your needs have been anticipated and provided for here. Beach towels, beach chairs, drinks, free bicycles? All provided.

The inn is located only about a mile from one of the best shopping outlets anywhere, the Silver Sands Outlet Mall. It has every store you can imagine, and you can spend an entire day prowling from one end to the other.

It is your destiny: You will enjoy every second you spend in Destin!