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The people of Seaside, FL have an unusual way of preparing for this

Any Excuse for a Party, Apparently: The 8th Annual Hurricane Party in Seaside, Florida

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By Jan Ross

You know what's a lot better than an actual hurricane? Better than buying batteries and bottled water and nailing the windows shut and checking on the generator? Not having an actual hurricane, and instead having a hurricane party.

You see what I did there? Hurricane? No. Hurricane party? Yes.

How many of you saw "The Truman Show"? Yeah. Me too. How many thought that was just the coolest little town – aside from the whole his life is all a sham and how sad is that – and would just love to visit if only a place like that really existed?

Well guess what?

Seaside actually exists. And it looks pretty much just like that. In fact, that entire coast of beaches which comprise the South Walton area, approximately 20 miles north of **Panama City Beach**, is pretty much just like that. Gorgeous. Scenic. Friendly. Beautiful beachside homes, great local seafood restaurants, and did I mention gorgeous? I have been to my fair share of Caribbean beaches and I can personally guarantee that the squeaky clean, sugar white sand beaches and aquamarine water of this area stacks up to any of them.

The Hurricane Party at **Bud & Alley's Waterfront Restaurant and Rooftop Bar** in Seaside Florida is the 8th annual event which will include food, fun, entertainment and a great evening. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with drinks and hors d'oeuvres and there will also be a live and silent auction. The best thing about this epic event is that all the proceeds will go to Children's Volunteer Health Network, Inc., an organization which offers free medical care to children with little or no health insurance.

Once you have made your plans and bought your tickets, look for a hotel somewhere in **Santa Rosa Beach**. The beach is right next door to Seaside making it easy to get to Bud & Alley's for the Hurricane Party.

Once you have made your plans and bought your tickets, make a reservation at one of the many lovely hotels in the area. **South Walton** is actually made up of a collection of 15 different beaches, each of which is unique and each of which is equally lovely.

Stay right in Seaside or try Santa Rosa Beach, right next door to Seaside, which has lots of great shops and restaurants, and will be a great location for you to easily get to Bud & Alley's for the Hurricane Party. All the beach locations offer the white sands of the **Gulf of Mexico** as a backdrop to your stay.

When you are ready for something more active than lying in your beach chair watching the waves – although that sounds like a perfect day to me - head to nearby **Destin** and spend a day shopping at the **Silver Sands Factory Mall** where you will find over 100 designer outlet stores – in fact, it's the nation's largest outlet center. This is the perfect place to pick up that new Coach purse you have been wanting. I have one myself. Or possibly two or three. Or more. Hey – it's a deal!

When you are sufficiently exhausted from shopping and ready for dinner, head to **Baytown Wharf** in the nearby Sandestin Resort for dinner at the Marlin Grill. Order the pan-fried grouper and prepare for a meal that is closer to a religious experience than a repast. I don't know how they turn that fish into a buttery, crispy, melt-in-your-mouth delight, all I know is that I want some. Right now.

If that new Coach purse has not provided quite enough satisfaction, try a spa day at the Silver Shells Spa. Our full day of pampering even included a relaxing lunch out by their private pool. If there is a better experience than relaxing by a gorgeous pool after a massage and a lovely lunch while someone brings you ice water with lemon slices floating in it, I have not discovered it yet.

So basically, you should eat, drink, party, shop and relax. Pretty much anything other than get ready for a hurricane.

Remember. Hurricane? No. Hurricane party? Oh, yeah.

Planning a trip to the South Walton area? Check DealAngel results for [Panama City Beach](#) or for [Destin, FL](#)

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