



TIPS ON TRIPS



Travelers “Go Green” At Autumn Tides Celebration

(NAPSA)—Sustainable tourism is on the rise. With 66 percent of the U.S. adult population interested in environmentally responsible travel (according to a study by Yankelovich), visitors are seeking destinations that adopt sustainable platforms.

Beaches of South Walton, a destination located along Northwest Florida’s Gulf Coast, places a great emphasis on sustainable and green practices.

During the quieter fall months, the Autumn Tides celebration in Beaches of South Walton highlights sustainability and incorporates events that showcase the region’s unique ecosystems and habitats, environmental stewardship, options for organic dining and shopping and local culture.

In addition to enjoying popular events, such as the Flutterby Festival, which celebrates the colorful migration of the monarch butterfly, visitors will enjoy spectacular fall sunsets, comfortable temperatures and exceptional seasonal rates.

The celebration kicks off Labor Day weekend and continues through November and features a number of signature events, including:

- SunDancer Adventure Triathlon & Biathlon (Sept. 22), celebrating the area’s vast amount of natural land through individual and relay teams competing in a 9-mile mountain bike race, 1.5-mile canoe competition and a 5.5-mile run.
- South Walton Community Yard Sale (Oct. 4), where everything old is new, and reusable, on the streets of Seaside.

Responsible Tourism Guidelines

1. Support the local economy—Shop boutique shops and seek out small businesses.
2. Know the source of your food—Frequent restaurants that use local produce and purchase locally grown food.
3. Conserve our valuable resources—Turn off lights, as well as faucets, hoses and outdoor showers when not in use.
4. Observe the natural environment—Be sensitive to nesting turtles and birds and take an eco-tour.
5. Contribute to the destination—Donate left behind items or volunteer with one of the local environmental groups.

Source: Beaches of South Walton, Florida



• MountainFilm on Tour at WaterColor (Nov. 7-8), from Telluride Film Festival that features works by independent filmmakers celebrating community, adventure, culture and environmental preservation.

Highlighted events in the 2008 lineup include, the Back to Nature Festival (Oct. 17-19), which features a weekend of outdoor activities exploring the vast natural habitats and ecology of Beaches of South Walton; the Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival (Sept. 12-14) returns for its fifth year with dinners, wine tasting events and seminars; and Autumn Tides Month at Silver Sands, which celebrates 2008 artist of the year, Donna Burgess, at the nation’s largest designer factory store center.

For a complete lineup of this year’s events, visit www.autumntides.com.