

FAMILY REUNIONS

Today's families are often scattered throughout the country and don't often have a chance to get together. Many are choosing to hold their family reunions at a neutral location such as the beach or in a wooded cabin.

Navarre Beach, just 12 miles long, offers a quiet and convenient location for family reunions. A variety of beach houses, townhouses and condominiums are available for rental on the island. Most require a three-night stay.

Just over the bridge in Navarre are several hotels suitable for shorter stays including the newly opened Hampton Inn, Best Western (located on the Santa Rosa Sound) and the Comfort Inn (features a conference center). Family members with RVs, travel trailers and pop-up campers can choose from three RV resorts in Navarre including Emerald Beach RV Park, Navarre Beach Campground and Magnolia Beach Campground.

Most families choose a relaxed approach when at the beach hosting just a few group events and letting individuals choose their own activities. Group events are often held at an area restaurant, picnic pavilion on the mainland or the beach or in the meeting room at one of the larger accommodations.

Catering is offered by several local grocery stores and restaurants.

A variety of activities will keep everyone happy from bike rides, jet skis, sailboats, kite flying, surfing, spa visits, golfing, antique shopping and more.

Many families also choose to have a local photographer document their special time at the beach. Recommended wear are a collared white shirt and khaki shorts or pants.

Northern Santa Rosa County, dubbed Florida's Canoe Capital, features a bevy of nature-based activities. Adventures Unlimited offers a variety of lodging options. The Schoolhouse Inn can be rented as a group cabin or individually. There are also private cabins, tent and RV spots available on site. Activities range from a challenge ropes course to kayaking, canoeing and tubing down the Coldwater Creek and Blackwater River. Catering is available.

Those planning a summer family reunion should reserve space a year in advance. Thanksgiving and Easter are also popular times for family get-togethers.

Details: www.FloridaBeachestoRivers.com or 800-480-7263.