

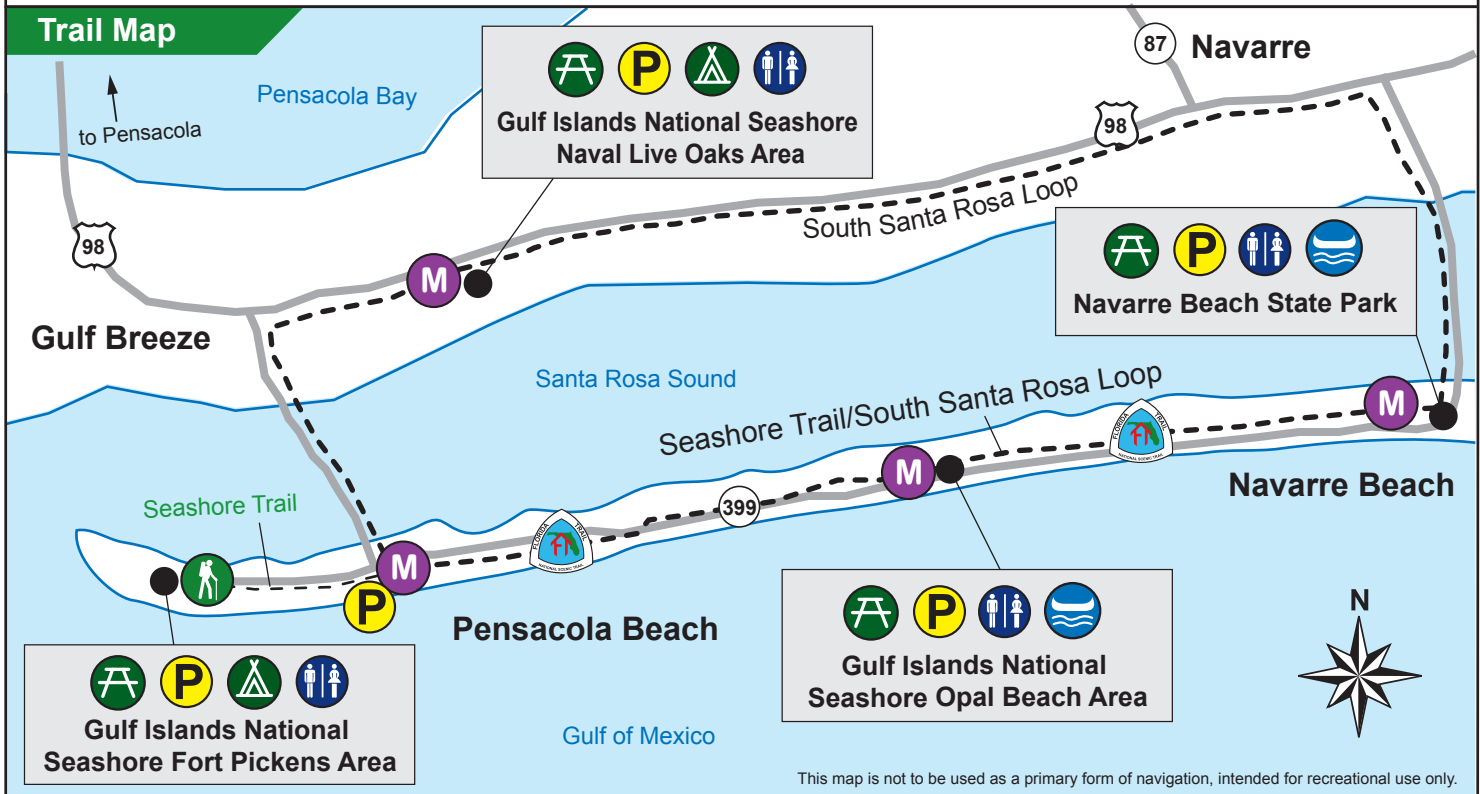
# 21. Santa Rosa Loop Trail

## Legend

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  Trailhead (Hiking) |  Rest Rooms  |  Shelter       |
|  Ranger Station     |  Camping     |  Florida Trail |
|  Parking            |  Picnic Area |  Canoe Launch  |



## Trail Map



This map is not to be used as a primary form of navigation, intended for recreational use only.

## Description

*Hiking, Biking, Inline Skating • 40 miles • Multi-use Paved Trail*

Created for joggers, cyclists, inline skaters, and hikers, this multi-use trail begins at the Navarre Beach Nature walk, traverses through scenic Gulf Islands National Seashore, crosses the Pensacola Beach Bridge, and returns through Gulf Breeze along U.S. Highway 98 to Navarre. It is simply a trail that encompasses the beauty of the area, with gigantic sand dunes and expansive views of the Gulf of Mexico. The trail east of Naval Live Oaks along Highway 98 does not include a separate trail. This part meanders through several neighborhoods and eventually leads to Highway 98. The last third of the trail is still in development.

**Landscape & Wildlife:** This trail lets you discover two different terrains of the Gulf Islands National Seashore: The gulf side (beach) and the sound side (Intra-coastal Waterway).

- **Gulf side:** This unspoiled beach stretch is known for its breathtaking white quartz sand, and clear emerald Gulf waters. Gulf Islands National Seashore offers nature lovers eight miles of federally protected, undeveloped shoreline – the longest continuous stretch of protected beach in Northwest Florida, perfect for sun seekers, birdwatchers and outdoor enthusiasts. The shoreline boasts sand so clean and powdery white it literally squeaks under traveler’s toes. The warm Gulf waters also attract a plethora of fish, making the region famous for the beloved pastime of fishing. Gigantic dunes and clusters of sea oats border the way for hikers, bikers, and inline skaters.

- **Sound side:** Part of Gulf Islands National Seashore, the Naval Live Oaks Area preserves 1,400 acres for educational and recreational opportunities. The park is named after the beautiful oak trees that grow along the Intra-coastal Waterway, Santa Rosa Sound. Draped at times in Spanish moss, these huge trees can grow up to 50 feet in height and live as long as 300 years. This mainland forest community offers hikers and bikers a likely encounter with wildlife. Commonly spotted animals include five-line skinks, gray squirrels, and a variety of birds such as osprey, belted kingfishers, and woodpeckers. Vegetation along its trails include hickory, southern magnolia, red basil, conradina, and more

**Access/Directions:** Although the beginning of the loop is at Navarre Park (on Highway 98, west of Navarre Beach Bridge), the trail can be accessed at several points because of the paralleling highways (SR 399 on the gulf side and Hwy 98 on the sound side).