

“Must Do” Beach Destination

New Cottages & Beach Pavilion Now Open at Gulf State Park

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Gulf State Park for the grand opening of 11 new cottages and the 10,000-square-foot beach pavilion.

“Adding new cottages and a beach pavilion makes Gulf State Park an ideal beach destination for families,” said Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley. “Now families can enjoy an affordable beach getaway that includes spectacular new lodging, white sand beaches, birding and other outdoor adventures in one place—Gulf State Park.”

The 11 new lakeside cottages feature three bedrooms and three baths along the shoreline of Lake Shelby. Prices range from \$150 to \$209 per night. Each cottage also features a screened porch, charcoal grill and picnic table.

In addition to the new upscale cottages, Gulf State Park also offers 15 rustic lakeside cabins ranging from \$83 to \$150 per night. Cabin and cottage guests also have full access to two new “Tots Lots” play areas for children, fishing piers and fish cleaning stations.

Guests who prefer a forest surrounding can choose from four additional small cabins located in the wooded areas of Gulf State Park. Prices range from \$56 to \$100 per night. All cottage and cabin prices vary by season, type of cabin or cottage and length of stay.

The beach pavilion includes half open-air spaces and half enclosed to accommodate a snack bar, restrooms with showers and storage. The open-air portion provides a 180-degree view of the beach, perfect for watching the sunset or hosting formal ceremonies.

“The pavilion allows families to host reunions, weddings and birthday celebrations,” said Herb Malone, President of the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau. “This further shows that the beach is back along Alabama’s Gulf Coast.”

Gulf State Park visitors also enjoy many other amenities within the park including an 18-hole championship golf course, camping, nature trails and birding spots. Lake Shelby, a 900-acre lake, is once again open for boating, fishing and swimming. Maps of the park and campground are available online at www.alapark.com.

Also planned at Gulf State Park is a new 350-room hotel and a convention center to accommodate 2,000 people, as well as the rebuilding of the pier destroyed by Hurricane Ivan. **DA**

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PHOTOS BY JERRY DE BIN

For more information:

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1. & 2. The exterior of the new cottages along Lake Shelby.
3. One of two new play areas for children.
4. & 5. The handsomely furnished interior of the new cottages.
6. Each cottage has a deck that overlooks Lake Shelby.
7. The new beach pavilion is suitable for weddings, reunions and other gatherings.

LOCATION: **Gulf State Park**



BILLY POPE