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ENJOY AN ECO-FRIENDLY VACATION AT ROSEMARY BEACH



With consumer interest in “green” living at an all-time high, Rosemary Beach, the neo-traditional town on northwest Florida’s Gulf Coast, has become a perfect case study in incorporating “green” concepts into the design and function of a community.

The numerous aspects of the “green” lifestyle that Rosemary Beach supports are a great way for visitors to incorporate sustainable techniques into their homes, communities and lifestyles—including their vacation choices.

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When Rosemary Beach was being developed, architects and developers made sure the community's natural topography was not disturbed. Instead, roadways were laid to conform to the natural contours of the land and were designed to discourage driving by residents and visitors. Developers used pervious, or permeable concrete for pavement throughout the town, which allows water to filter through to the sand below and eliminates the need for unsightly storm water drains or holding ponds.

The winding, narrow streets are lined by scrub oaks, which were planted along the edge of the pavement and branch out into the roadways forcing the flow of traffic to slow down. As a means of transportation, Rosemary Beach encourages residents and visitors to walk or ride their bikes along the various footpaths and boardwalks to the Town Center, beach, pools, restaurants and shops. Now, that's a way to lower emissions!

Rosemary Beach also has progressive landscape codes, which designate the use of native plant life to provide habitat for native wildlife. As an added benefit, the native plantings provide root systems that are supportive to the sandy foundation and dune lines, which ultimately provide a natural level of protection against erosion and storm damage. These plants also are low-maintenance and naturally-occurring, and do not require the use of fertilizers or additional watering.

Rosemary Beach actively reduces noise pollution throughout the community by limiting construction work and the use of lawn maintenance equipment. Builders are only permitted to work on construction sites Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Also, Rosemary Beach prohibits any landscape that is not native to the area on individual properties—this eliminates the need for homeowner's to use lawn maintenance equipment because they are not permitted to have grass.

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Rosemary Beach building codes designate that only natural and genuine materials are used in construction, and no paints are permitted – only water-based stains can be used. Utilities are placed underground and out of site, as to not disturb the natural beauty of the area. Also, each homeowner is responsible for proper handling of runoff water maintenance.

Rosemary Beach also made a commitment to protect the environment by not building beyond the coastal construction control line, or buffer zone, landward of the beach. In keeping with that commitment, nine dune walkovers have been built providing both residents and guests beach access. These walkovers protect the fragile dune system and prevent erosion and washout during storms and are unobtrusive, simple and functional.

Common green areas located throughout the town provide a great place for picnicking, reading a good book, playing an impromptu game of croquet, or simply enjoying quality down time for couples, families or friends. These green spaces are professionally maintained with a non-toxic fertilization process.

An elaborate butterfly garden is located at West Kingston Road, in the Northwest corner of Rosemary Beach. This garden was conceived as a display garden that would emphasize the significance of the native landscape. A wooden walkway weaves through colorful plantings that lure butterflies.

Restaurants located throughout Rosemary Beach are also doing their part in going “green.” Amavida Coffee, a family owned shop, runs on the motto “Love for Life” and produces locally roasted, 100 percent natural Fair Trade Certified coffee.

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Restaurant Paradis uses locally grown products and fresh Gulf seafood, which allows for the menus to change with the seasons. Paradis has become an eco-friendly restaurant by producing its own sparkling and still waters—filtered to 0.5 microns, which allows for trace minerals to remain—and serving the water in signature blue, reusable, glass bottles. The restaurant also uses compostable carry-out containers.

Summer Kitchen Café uses sustainable products for its to-go boxes, soda cups, coffee cups, menus, to-go bags and trash bags. The restaurant also uses a hot water heater timer, which shuts off the hot water tank from 10:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.; has a reflective roof that helps insulate the building; and has a solar roof vent, which lowers the use of electricity. Summer Kitchen Café also uses eco-friendly suppliers for its poultry, eggs, beef and paper products.

The closest airport for visitors traveling to Rosemary Beach, Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, is set to be the nation’s “greenest airport.” Opening in May 2010, the airport is being constructed with sustainable materials, will feature a landscape design that will not require supplemental irrigation and will have the nation’s first LEED Certified airport terminal.

For those who desire a vacation experience that embraces “green” living practices, look no further than Rosemary Beach. With more than 200 one-of-a-kind rental cottages and carriage houses, designed by such premier architects as Richard Gibbs, George Israel and Douglas Patrick Luke, and with original interior design by leading designers including Phillip Sides and John Fernandez, selecting an amazing cottage rental is anything but ordinary!

To inquire about reservations, consumers can call Rosemary Beach Cottage Rental Company toll-free at **888-855-1551**, or visit the Rosemary Beach website at www.rosemarybeach.com.

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