

America's Best Little Beach Towns

Boca Grande, FL

This Edenic escape on the Gulf of Mexico is a real slice of Old Florida, with whimsically named streets such as Damnificare, a much-photographed lighthouse watching over Gasparilla Island State Park, and long, quiet beaches touched by gentle surf.

Stay: **The Gasparilla Inn**, a member of the Historic Hotels of America and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is the classic resort and comes complete with a golf course. It's closed during the hottest months, though; the best alternative is its sister property, the **Innlet**, which features a waterside restaurant and a relaxed vibe.

Eat: A funky Florida spot with character, **Temptation**—think murals of leaping tarpon and a neon martini sign—serves local grouper, pompano, and soft-shell crabs.

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Paul Costello