

Florida Specialist News

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2nd Quarter 2009

Dollar and Thrifty - Travel agents can put their rewards into overdrive with *double points* when they book with Dollar or Thrifty. Agents earn up to ten points per rental on an American Express®-branded reward card upon booking. *Double points* are earned as follows:

- 3-4 day car rental = 2 points
- 5-6 day car rental = 4 points
- 7+ day car rental = 10 points

Enjoy your points on qualified rentals in the U.S. and Canada between 4/20/09 and 5/31/09, with travel by 7/31/09. Every point earned is equal to one dollar. Sign up now to get a head start on making extra cash. If you're not a member, sign up today for free at mydailydividends.com

Attraction Action

TARPON TALES and SPORT FISHING in Early Florida - examines the phenomena of sport fishing from the late 1800's to the 1930's on the west coast of Florida. While sitting in a Hemingway era fighting chair, a visitor's fantasy of the "great catch" will be enhanced by vintage photographs, mounted fish, rods, Edward vom Hofe reels, lures, tackle, gear, nets and souvenir tarpon scales. The Henry Plant Museum's exhibit Tarpon Tales and Sport Fishing in Early Florida opens March 27, 2009 and continues through December 27, 2009. For more information call 813.254.1891 or visit www.plantmuseum.com.

The von Liebig Art Center in Naples - presents the *National Art Encounter 2009* exhibition May 16 through July 12. The juried awards exhibition highlights recent work in installation, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and works on paper. The art center at 585 Park Street is open daily. For more information call 239.262.6517.

The Ultimate Source of Boating Excursions - has a fleet of one hundred charter boats spread across the state that are waiting to take your clients on anything from eco-tours to the fishing trip of a lifetime. Our website is very travel agent friendly and allows you to search by city and date of departure and has prices clearly listed. All of our professional captains are US Coast Guard licensed and have years of experience to share. For more information visit www.usobe.com, email vwaller@usobe.com or call our national reservation desk at 843.224.8197.



What A Deal!

Florida Space Coast Office of Tourism - has joined with Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Complex to once again offer its popular Kennedy Space Center Hotel Packages this spring and summer. The packages offered through more than 18 local hotels feature special discounted rates which include one or two nights of accommodations and 2 free tickets to tour the only place in the world where you can experience a shuttle launch. Rates start from \$115 a night and several of the hotels are offering additional perks such as free transportation to the center and hot buffet breakfast. To view the packages visit <http://www.space-coast.com/kennedyspacecentervacation>

Gulf Key Properties - are offering Low Season Rates starting April 18 to June 27. Currently we still have several Last Minute Deals for a week or less in early April. Take advantage of these SPECIALS !!! For more information contact Gulf Key Properties at www.VisitEnglewood.com, call 941.698.0600, or email us at Sales@VisitEnglewood.com.

Mike Ditka Resorts Runaway Beach Club Resort - is a Caribbean style resort located just three miles from Walt Disney World. We provide family friendly atmosphere with plenty of daily activities for the little ones. Mike Ditka Resorts offers a childrens zero entry pool with fun water features, poolside activities, "dive-in" movies, basketball court, Playstation 2 rentals, and complimentary shuttle to Disney Theme Parks. Our villas are extremely spacious with plenty of room for everyone, plus more. Mike Ditka Resorts will offer a 20% travel agent commission and rates starting at \$79 to our guests. We are located at 3000 Bonfire Beach Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34746, for more information call toll free 888.512.2200, or visit our website www.TheMikeDitkaResorts.com. Offers good April – June 2009.



Palm Island Resort - on Florida's southwest gulf coast at Cape Haze is offering a "**weekend extender**" package April 15 – September 30, 2009 that gives guests reserving a Friday and Saturday night stay, Sunday night for FREE. This offer, which excludes holiday weekends, is for new reservations and cannot be combined with any other offer and is subject to availability at the time of booking. For additional information and reservations, visit www.palmisland.com or call toll free 866.568.2073.

Golf enthusiasts can enjoy a par-breaking package through December 15, 2009, that features 15% off villa rentals for 4 night stays, a free golf cart at the resort for 4 days, a discount card to Riverwood Golf Club and free welcome drink after the first round of golf. This special offer, which excludes holiday weekends and peak periods, cannot be combined with any other offer and is subject to availability at the time of booking. For additional information and reservations, visit www.palmisland.com or call toll free 866.568.2073

TradeWinds Island Resorts - The TradeWinds Island Grand on St. Pete Beach recently added a family-friendly Beef O'Brady's to their already extensive list of dining options. The Beach Perks program especially for travel agents is still in effect and provides several benefits to travel agents including 50% off personal travel based on availability, advance notice of special value dates for clients and 15% commission. The program also provides clients with the Vacationing Gourmet Card, good for 20% off food and beverage purchases at all 14 TradeWinds dining and entertainment venues. For more information on Beach Perks, please visit the TradeWinds designated Travel Professionals Web site - www.justletgotravel.com.

What's New

Allegiant Air - began nonstop service from Knoxville and Greenville/Spartanburg into the Charlotte County Airport (PGD) in Punta Gorda in March. Allegiant is the second airline to begin service at PGD. Direct Air, which began service in November, offers direct flights from select Northeastern and Midwestern cities including Worcester, Mass.; Myrtle Beach; and Rockford, Ill. Visit us at www.allegiantair.com.

Country Inn & Suites - by Carlson opened in Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands in February. The brand new 93-room hotel is conveniently located off I-75 at exit 170 in Port Charlotte. Country Inn & Suites is part of the Look to Book program where in addition to commissions, travel agents earn rewards. For additional information contact Prashant Patel at 941.235.1035 or cx_poch@countryinns.com. The property's website is <http://www.countryinns.com/portcharlottefl>.

Lee House Bed & Breakfast Inn - opened in historic Downtown Pensacola featuring stunning views of Pensacola Bay and Seville Square from its Southern-style wrap-around porches. Eight unique suites are appointed with luxurious bedding and bathrooms. The inn features a gourmet kitchen with spacious sitting rooms, a courtyard, meeting space and bicycles for guests. For more information call 850.912.8770, or visit our website www.leehousepensacola.com.

Rick Treworgy's Muscle Car City - opened in Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands in early March. See row upon row of restored, colorful, and gleaming classic cars in a collection of nearly 200 automobiles of every era dating back to the 1920s. The major focus is on the "muscle cars" of the mid 60s to early 70s – the Pontiac GTOs, Chevy Corvettes, Oldsmobile Cutlass 442s, Chevelles, Camaros and high-horsepower Impalas that revved up the imaginations of teens and young adults all over America. The museum includes a cafe and gift shop. Admission Fee: \$10 per person. 3811 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, FL. For additional information contact April Treworgy at 941.575.5959, email us at Mccity1@aol.com, or visit our website <http://www.musclecarcity.net>.

Solé Inn and Suites - opened on Palafox Street in the heart of Downtown Pensacola. Visitors can walk to downtown attractions, shops and restaurants from the 1950s-style, retro hotel. Rates start at \$89 and include complimentary cocktails from 5 to 7 p.m. and breakfast. For more information call 850.470.9298, or visit our website <http://www.soleinnandsuites.com/>.



The Beach Club at Siesta Key – A new resort on Siesta Key offers studio, one- or two-bedrooms units, just steps from the beautiful quartz-crystal beaches. This new resort features modern décor, mixed with the youthful attitude of the world-famous destination, making this chic resort one of the most desired accommodations on Siesta Key. Decorated using clean lines and bright colors, all while remaining inviting and engaging, this resort includes all that is signature to ResortQuest Southwest Florida. Each unit features a full-size kitchen, large flat-screen TV, modern décor, Avonite countertops and stainless steel appliances. For more information visit our website <http://www.resortquestsiestakey.com/rental/complex.html?ID=80> or call toll free 866.527.3107.