Welcome to Baldwin County

I'm so glad you're here—whether you're planning a move, considering a second home, or just exploring life on the Gulf Coast, this guide will help you get the most out of your trip.

Baldwin County isn't just one place. It's a mix of beach towns, small Southern cities, riverfront retreats, and growing family-friendly communities—all with their own personality. What they share: warm people, sunny skies, and a laid-back lifestyle that allows room for ambition, creativity and a strong sense of community.

This itinerary is meant to guide your time here:

- You'll find places to eat (and some hidden gems I think you'll love)
- You'll explore different neighborhoods and get a feel for what life could be like here
- Understand the unique personalities of our communities

 from Gulf Shores to Spanish
- Know what to ask, where to go, and what matters most when buying here
- And you'll have time to relax, reflect, and make this more than just a house hunt

I've included my favorite stops, helpful questions to ask along the way, and tips to make the most of your visit. Whether you're drawn to Foley's energy, Fairhope's charm, or Daphne's convenience, there's something here that will feel like home—let's find it together.

1. Orientation: Where You're Staying vs. Where You Might Live

Here's a quick breakdown of the most popular areas to explore during your visit:

Here is a <u>link</u> to all the <u>new construction neighborhoods</u> by builder as you go:

Foley (Currently the fastest growing and most popular for buyers)

- New construction neighborhoods, lower insurance costs (especially Gold Fortified homes)
- Close to the beach without the premium pricing
- Shopping, entertainment, and infrastructure are expanding fast
- Great for: investors, families, and second-home buyers

🮨 Fairhope

- Walkable downtown with boutiques, bay views, and a creative, artsy energy
- Known for charm, front porches, and Southern storybook vibes

- Tighter resale market and higher price points, but strong long-term value
- Great for: buyers looking for a primary home, lifestyle change, or historic charm

膱 Daphne & Spanish Fort

- Family-friendly with excellent schools and commuter access to Mobile or Pensacola
- Mix of new construction and established neighborhoods with sidewalks and parks
- Popular for full-time residents relocating from larger metros
- Great for: those needing city proximity with a suburban feel

Gulf Shores & Orange Beach

- Vacation and second-home appeal with beach access
- Condo vs. single-family balance, and a variety of STR investment options
- Be aware of higher insurance premiums and maintenance costs
- Great for: beach lovers, STR investors, and second-home buyers

2. Know This Before You Go

You're not just house-hunting—you're lifestyle-hunting.

This visit is about more than checking square footage. It's your chance to *feel* the pace of life here, test out the commute, walk the pier, ask a stranger where to get gumbo. You're doing research—but you're also collecting clues about what life could look like and where you feel most at home.

A few tips to keep in mind:

- Hurricane season runs from June to November. It's important to ask about roof age, elevation, and most importantly fortification. Insurance rates can vary wildly based on these factors.
- Gold Fortified roofs can lead to major insurance savings. Most new homes offer this—some resales don't. I'll help you spot the difference.
- Traffic is time, day, and season sensitive—especially near the beach. Try driving around on a weekday and a weekend to see how things really feel.
- Foley and Daphne are booming—but that growth can look different from one street to the next. I'll help you spot the hidden pockets of value.

- Short-Term Stays (1–3 Months)
 - If you're planning an extended visit to Baldwin County before making a move, Park
 Place Apartments in Foley offers fully furnished, flexible lease options just minutes from shopping, restaurants, and the beach. It's a comfortable home base where you can settle in, explore neighborhoods at your own pace, and get a feel for day-to-day life here without rushing into a decision.
- Many Airbnbs and vacation rentals—especially in the off-season—will also offer discounted monthly rates. I keep a list of local owners and properties who are open to longer stays, so if you're interested, let me know and I can connect you with those options.

■Download these and take a look before you Tour:

- Hurricane & Insurance Guide (PDF)
 Understand risks, roof ratings, and what it means for your monthly payment. Check out real quotes to see the differences.
- Neighborhood Tour Notes Form
 Use this printable or digital form to keep track of what you saw, liked, and want to revisit.

Not sure where to start? Text me your arrival date and what kind of home you're dreaming of—I'll help you map out a custom tour.

3. Amanda's Favorite Places to Eat in Baldwin County

Organized by town — because yes, we take food seriously around here.

Fairhope

- The Warehouse (Breakfast/Lunch) Casual-chic breakfast spot with great coffee and build-your-own bowls. Go early if you want the lemon-blueberry muffin—they sell out fast.
- **Nini Square's** (Breakfast/Lunch) Locals' secret for scratch-made lunches and creative plates. The name may be small, but the flavors are bold.
- Panini Pete's (Breakfast/Lunch) Tucked inside the French Quarter courtyard. The beignets are not optional. Neither is the fresh mozzarella. Plenty of NOLA charm to be found here.

- Buckey's at The Grand (Cocktails/Appetizers) Piano Bar at The Grand Hotel = bay breezes and old-school elegance. Great spot to pause between neighborhoods and feel fancy.
- **Little Bird** (Cocktails/Appetizers) Cozy and creative. Great for wine and cheese boards before dinner or just a little midweek reset.
- Wash House (Upscale Dinner) Tucked-away fine dining in an unassuming shack with linen tablecloths and crab cakes that'll make you rethink your standards.
- Cammie's Old Dutch (Hidden between Fairhope and Foley) (Dessert) A Mobile classic with a secret satellite freezer in Fairhope—if you find it, you win the day.
- **Sunset Pointe** (Lunch/Dinner) Bayfront spot with breezes, boats, and a laid-back seafood menu. Order the crab claws.
- Red or White (Dinner) Wine shop meets mini- restaurant. Great for shareables, charcuterie, and a good glass of something. Get there early, they fill up quick and don't take reservations.
- **Tamara's** (Lunch/Dinner) A Fairhope staple with a wide menu and local following. Good mix of comfort food and Southern seafood and portions are large enough to share.
- **Ben's BBQ** (Lunch/Dinner) No-frills BBQ joint. If you see smoke and smell ribs, follow your nose.

Daphne

- **Southwood Kitchen** (Lunch/Dinner) You can grab a drink at the bar and feel like you belong—even if you just got to town. Try the elk tenderloin.
- **Press & Co** (Coffee/Healthy Lunch) Green juices, hearty bowls, and a very Instagrammable interior. If you're a kale person, you'll be happy here.
- **Sugar Kettle** (Southern Blue Plate Breakfast/Lunch) No-frills, no pretense, just fried chicken and mashed potatoes like your Southern aunt would make (if you had one). Their homemade spicy pickles are worth the trip.
- Whit's Frozen Custard (Dessert) It's smoother than ice cream, comes in rotating flavors, and might just change your dessert allegiance.
- Taco Mama (Tacos) Loud, fun, easy and delicious. Grab a margarita while you wait.
- **Dragonfly Foodbar** (Tuesday Tacos) Go on a Tuesday. Order weird tacos. Be happy.

Spanish Fort

• Cheryl's Cafe (Lunch Only 11-2) – Hidden gem for early lunch with locals. Think meat-and-three, pies, and sweet tea refills without asking.

→ Foley

• Lambert's Café (Southern Food / Tourist Must) – Home of the "throwed rolls." Yes, it's touristy, yes, it's kitschy. It's everything you want from a Southern roadside legend.

- Local and Co (Lunch/Dinner) A stylish addition to Foley's food scene. Think craft cocktails, chef-driven plates, and a beautifully designed interior. Great date night, girls' lunch spot, and my kids love it too. Literally something for everyone with this atmosphere and menu.
- **Taco Fiesta** (Tacos) No-frills and no regrets. Quick lunch or takeout spot when you want something spicy and satisfying.
- **Tin Top Restaurant & Oyster Bar** (Dinner) Tucked away in Bon Secour with a down-home feel and upscale seafood on the River. Known for oysters, crab cakes, and back porch vibes.

© Gulf Shores & Orange Beach

- The Perch (Dinner/Cocktails) Located upstairs at The Lodge at Gulf State Park.
 Sunset views, upscale cocktails, upsale menu with a sustainable twist to go along with the State-Park Theme. I bring all my out of town guests here or family when we celebrate.
- Woodside Restaurant (Lunch/Brunch) Casual, family-friendly, and inside the Gulf State park. Think picnic tables, live music, and Southern comfort food with a fresh twist.
- **Zeke's Restaurant** (Lunch/Dinner) Marina-side dining with fresh seafood and great vibes. Grab a table outside if the weather's right. Definitely one of my favorite spots.
- **Big Fish Restaurant & Bar** (Dinner) Sushi and seafood in an upscale-casual setting. A go-to for locals and a hidden gem for visitors.
- **Coastal Orange Beach** (Lunch/Dinner) Vibrant atmosphere, beachfront views, and a killer grouper sandwich.
- **Ships Harbor Grill** (Brunch) Mimosas, Gulf breezes, and shrimp & grits done right. Worth the wait. Also opened downstairs for lunch, and upstairs for dinner. I just prefer the brunch.
- The Speak Easy (Cocktails only) behind the jewelry store in the Wharf, this is a hidden gem. Grab a cocktail and then catch a show at the Wharf or just a tune down at the Sandshaker if you love live music.

(Coming soon: Elberta and even more hidden gems!)

4. Neighborhood Discovery: Sample Touring Itineraries

Every buyer is different—but these three curated driving tours will help you explore Baldwin County with purpose (and a little fun).

Want to see more options? View the full list of new construction neighborhoods and builders here:

<u> View New Construction Neighborhoods</u>

Coastal Convenience Route (Foley + Gulf Shores)

For buyers who want beach proximity, great prices, and newer homes

Under \$350K:

- Heritage Landing (Adams Homes) Minutes from the new Publix and OWA, with wide streets and sidewalks.
- River Oaks (DSLD) Quieter side of Foley, easy access to 59 and less traffic.
- Paxton Farms (DR Horton) Entry-level homes in a peaceful area with strong value potential.
- Live Oak Village (55+) Amenitized, gated, and close to the hospital. Popular with retirees.

\$350K-\$500K:

- **Hidden Lakes** Community pool, sidewalks, and close to the Foley Beach Express.
- **Primland** Mix of DR Horton and 68 Ventures. Golf cart friendly.
- Cottages at Craft Farms Near shopping, golfing, and a quick beach day drive.

\$500K+:

- **The Retreat at Bon Secour** Gated, nature-focused, and tucked away. Ideal for buyers wanting privacy with beach access nearby.
- Stop for lunch at Woodside (inside Gulf State Park) and take a short bike ride while your there or grab a drink at sunset at The Perch to discuss your findings of the day.
- Scenic Drive Tip: Enter Gulf State Park off 59 and cruise the backroads near Oyster Bay for old-school beach charm.

Artsy + Walkable Route (Fairhope)

For buyers who want storybook charm, walkability, and historic homes

Under \$350K:

- Laurel Brook (Dr Horton Homes) Wooded lots, quiet streets, and tucked into nature.
- **Fairhope Falls** Access to Fairhope schools and community pool, with a more approachable price tag.

\$350K-\$500K (ish): Fairhope is more expensive, so this category stretches a bit

- Old Battles Village Tree-lined streets, sidewalks, and community pool.
- Fairhope North Easy access to town, with a good mix of home styles.
- Rock Creek Villas Golf-course adjacent living with less upkeep.

\$500K+:

- The Verandas Custom homes with a pool, trails, and stunning landscaping.
- Fruit & Nut District Classic Fairhope. If one's available, go see it.
- Fox Hollow or Battles Trace Higher-end communities with mature trees and elegant homes.
- Coffee or lunch stop: Panini Pete's or The Warehouse.
- Scenic Drive Tip: Take Scenic 98 and detour through Magnolia Beach neighborhood for water views.

Suburban + Commuter Route (Daphne + Spanish Fort)

For buyers prioritizing schools, access to Mobile, and long-term resale

Under \$350K:

 Lake Forest (Older homes)- Largest subdivision in the state with multiple pools and amenities. Low HOA dues. Have to see it for yourself, you know you've seen these homes on Zillow!

Churchill or Bellaton (Older Phases) – Daphne staples with sidewalks and sense of community.

- Savannah Woods (DSLD) Well-built and peaceful.
- **Stonebridge (DR Horton)** Large master-planned neighborhood with pools, splash pad, and more.

\$350K-\$500K:

- Blackstone Lakes Newer homes with neighborhood lakes and walking trails.
- French Settlement Craftsman style charm and good layouts.
- **Jubilee Farms** Gorgeous amenities with Clubhouse and waterslide, over 350 acre neighborhood with large inventory homes available.

\$500K+:

- Stillwater Estates— High-end finishes with large lots community lake, pool.
- **Timber Creek** Upscale custom homes in a golf course community with 2 pools, near the mall and convenient to all major roads.
- Lunch stop: Press & Co in Daphne or Cheryl's in Spanish Fort
 Scenic Drive Tip: Cruise over Bayfront Drive to Village Point for a picnic or sunset view.

Route 1: New Construction – Value & Variety

Ideal if you're looking under \$500K and want to compare different towns and builder offerings.

Start in Gulf Shores:

- **Valor at Gulf Shores** (starting in the high \$400s): Newer neighborhood with modern finishes, energy efficiency, and a beach-proximate address.
- Raylee Farms (DR Horton) Jasmine Model (\$465K): Amenity-rich community with a country feel.

Then head to Foley:

• Roberts Cove – Denton & Cali Models (\$365K–\$400K): Amenities + gym. Great for budget-conscious buyers wanting DR Horton options.

Drive by:

• **Primland**: Look for resale opportunities in a walkable neighborhood with a clubhouse and pool.

Then head to Fairhope and Daphne:

- Maronda: No amenities, but tons of floor plan flexibility including 3-car garage options
- A Laurel Brook (Fairhope side): Wooded feel, tucked away.
- Fairhope Falls or Harvest Green East/West: Amenity-rich with pool, trails, and Fairhope Schools.

Final stops:

- **Stonebridge** (Spanish Fort): New construction + resale. One of the few with its own elementary school.
- Savannah Estates: DSLD, Gold Fortified, and in a guiet section of Daphne.

View the New Construction Neighborhood Comparison Spreadsheet

₹ Route 2: Higher-End Homes (\$500K+)

This is for buyers seeking more space, more privacy, and often access to premium amenities or unique locations.

Start in Fairhope:

• **Battles Trace**: Gated neighborhood in The Colony with Lakewood Club membership. Golf, tennis, and a stunning pool.

Head north to Spanish Fort:

• **Stillwater**: Custom homes, large lots, mature trees, and community pool/tennis.

Then drive to Gulf Shores:

- Retreat at Bon Secour- waterfront community with a mix of Custom Homes next to the up and coming Legendary Marina and Gulf Shores walking bridge
- Valor at Gulf Shores: A brand-new neighborhood with the most resort-style amenities of any of the new neighborhoods in Gulf Shores. energy-efficient homes and stylish floor plans close to everything.

Let me know which of these stand out—and we'll create a custom route just for you.

5. What to Explore in Fairhope

- **Fairhope Municipal Pier & Park** Walk the bluff-side gardens, fish off the pier, or catch sunset from the benches. The view of Mobile Bay here is postcard-worthy.
- **Downtown Fairhope** Explore boutiques, bookstores, cafés, and art galleries. It's walkable, charming, and packed with locally owned gems.
- Fairhope Museum of History Located in the historic city hall, this free museum shares Fairhope's unique utopian roots and quirky past.
- Eastern Shore Art Center A rotating showcase of Gulf Coast artists. Free to visit and often features classes and events.
- **Marietta Johnson Museum** Learn about Fairhope's progressive education movement, born right here in the early 1900s.
- Fairhope splash pad and park- a must-play if traveling with kids

🌸 A Full Day in Fairhope – Sample Itinerary

Time Activity

Morning

Start with coffee and a lemon-blueberry muffin at **The Warehouse**, then stroll downtown shops and grab a second latte (or a prosecco) while browsing books in the Book Cellar

Late
Morning

Walk the **Municipal Pier and Park**, breathe in that Mobile Bay air,

and browse the Eastern Shore Art Center nearby.

Lunch

Grab a table at **Panini Pete's** or a slice of Pizza at Nini Squares to

re-energize

Afternoon

Visit the Fairhope Museum of History, explore the Marietta

Johnson Museum, or just take a scenic drive through the Fruit &

Nut District—Fairhope's most charming residential neighborhood
and make your way down Scenic to the Grand Hotel.

Dinner

End the day with a bay breeze and a martini at **Buckey's at The Grand**, or a full white-linen experience at **Wash House**.

Late night snack

Sneak in a scoop at **Cammie's Old Dutch** or wine and charcuterie at **Little Bird** or **Red or White**. (Just don't make it too late as things in Fairhope start shutting down around 8:30)

If you are a night owl, there is some great live music to be heard at the Bone & Barrel or if it is Football season, you can catch the game at Tamaras or the Monkey Bar.

6. Rainy Day Adventures

Even when the skies aren't cooperating, Baldwin County delivers. Whether you're dodging a summer storm or just need a break from the heat, here are your top rainy-day escapes:

• **OWA Indoor Water Park (Tropic Falls)** – A full-blown waterpark... indoors! This tropical oasis in Foley is packed with slides, a wave pool, and warm temps year-round. Great for

families or kids-at-heart.

- Naval Aviation Museum (Pensacola) Just over the state line, this museum is one of the best in the nation. Full-size jets, Blue Angels history, immersive exhibits, and it's free. It's a must, even if you're not an aviation buff.
- **Mobile Museum of History** Tells the story of Alabama's Gulf Coast through interactive displays, rotating exhibits, and beautiful architecture. Educational but never boring.
- Alabama Contemporary Art Center (Mobile) A sleek, modern art space tucked into downtown Mobile. Expect rotating exhibitions, edgy installations, and an artist or two roaming the halls.
- Local Antique Shops & Galleries If you're in Foley or Fairhope, duck into vintage stores and artist co-ops. You might stumble upon a treasure (or at least a dry place to regroup with a coffee in hand).

7. Best Places to Catch Live Music

This is hands-down one of the things I *love* most about living here. You don't have to chase the music in Baldwin County—it finds you.

Here are the top places to experience local talent, surprise shows, and big-name acts:

→ Fairhope Favorites:

- The Book Cellar Don't let the name fool you. This cozy wine bar and café hosts
 acoustic sets in the early evening, often wrapping up before 8:00 PM. It's like NPR with a
 cocktail.
- District Hall Cool cocktails, candlelight vibes, and a rotating lineup of local singer-songwriters. Date night win.
- Home Farm Seasonal and magical. Dine under the stars with a rotating cast of live musicians. Feels like something out of a Nancy Meyers movie.
- **Bone & Barrel** When you're ready to crank things up, this local bar delivers late-night live music with zero pretension and lots of fun.
- Live at Five (Fairhope) This ticketed concert series brings in national talent to a Southern stage under the stars. Last year? Counting Crows and Red Clay Strays. This year? Wilco, JJ Grey & Mofro, and more.

₯ Daphne/Spanish Fort:

- Manci's Antique Club (Daphne) A local icon with old-school charm and some of the best live music in town. Expect blues, country, and Southern rock in a funky, vintage setting. Food, drinks, and dancing—all in one historic spot.
- The Waterfront Restaurant & Lounge (Daphne) Tucked on the bay with gorgeous views and a laid-back atmosphere. Live music pairs perfectly with a cocktail and sunset over the water. Think Jimmy Buffett meets Baldwin County.

Gulf Shores / Orange Beach:

- The Wharf Amphitheater Big-name artists like Kenny Chesney, Dave Matthews, and Chris Stapleton light up this outdoor venue. Pro tip: book early- I linked the calendar for you!
- The Sandshaker at The Wharf Known for its laid-back beach vibes, frozen drinks, and local cover bands that get the party started.
- Flora-Bama Lounge (on the line) Iconic. Rowdy. Legendary. Live music every day across multiple stages—morning, noon, and way past night.

№ Mobile & Beyond:

- **Soul Kitchen (Mobile)** High-energy club shows with indie rock, soul, and touring artists. Old school loud, fun, brings you back in time a bit and always memorable.
- **Saenger Theatre (Mobile)** A historic gem with a velvet-curtain vibe. From symphonies to singer-songwriters, there is a wide variety to be found here.

8. Outdoor & Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures

Because not every day is a beach day—and that's part of what makes Baldwin County so special. There's always something to explore that doesn't involve sand in your shoes (unless you want it).

Here are my favorite ways to experience the outdoors like a local:

Laid-Back Nature Escapes

Perfect for peaceful mornings, quiet reflection, or a slow family stroll:

• Graham Creek Nature Preserve (Foley)

Over 500 acres of wetlands, trails, and boardwalks. You'll find kayaking on Wolf Bay, archery ranges, a butterfly garden, and disc golf. Bring bug spray and your sense of wonder. Grab a hot dog when you're tired, just before your cross the bridge at the brand new Billy's Gourmet hot dogs (just opening up their 3rd location in Baldwin County)

Blakeley State Park (Spanish Fort)

A historic battleground turned nature haven. An abandoned Ghost town on the River Delta, here you can explore Civil War sites, hike forested trails, and take a Delta cruise through one of the richest ecosystems in North America. End with some fresh seafood on the Causeway at R &R.

• Village Point Park & Boardwalk (Daphne)

A hidden gem with a boardwalk through marshland leading to Mobile Bay. Watch for osprey, walk under live oaks, and pack a picnic for the bluff. Finish off with a healthy snack at Press & Co or grab a beer and some wings at Manci's.

Bayfront Park (Daphne)

Just down the hill from the neighborhoods above—catch a sunset or spot dolphins from the pier. There's even a small beach area where locals dip their toes.

🚣 Adventure Time (for Big Kids & Little Ones)

Feeling active? These are the spots where you'll want your sneakers or your kayak:

Bike Trails at Gulf State Park

Over 28 miles of paved paths through dunes, forests, lakes, and marshes. Rent bikes at the park entrance or bring your own and make a day of it.

Kayak or Paddleboard on Graham Creek, Wolf Bay or Fish River

They have Kayaks right by the water you can rent like a vending machine to try it out. Once you fall in love, rent one from a local company for the a day or a week. These calm, scenic waters are perfect for paddling—especially in the early morning when the light is golden and the fish are jumping.

Disc Golf at Graham Creek

Two full courses through forest and field. Even if you've never played, it's worth trying just to wander the grounds.

Weeks Bay Pitcher Plant Bog Boardwalk (Magnolia Springs)

Super short, super cool. An easy walk through carnivorous plant territory—kids and science lovers will be into it.

Chill Day Trips + Quaint Detours

All within an hour's drive—low-key fun with high memory potential:

Magnolia Springs

A one-street town with mail delivered by boat. Stroll the oak-lined streets and grab lunch at Jesse's (reservation recommended!). Truly worth the drive.

Bon Secour

A sleepy fishing village with shrimp boats, shaded roads, and unbeatable oysters. Tour the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge while you're there and then grab lunch at Tin Top.

Elberta

Home to the twice-annual **Elberta German Sausage Festival**, but don't wait for the fair. Stop by **Sweet Home Cheese Farm** or browse funky local shops for vintage finds. Take a scenic detour to **Barber Marina**—not just a boatyard, but a roadside curiosity destination. You'll find: Giant *dinosaur statues* in the woods, Alabama's Stonehenge, and many more quirky things!

Fairhope's Fruit & Nut District

Even if you're not house hunting in this area, the drive alone is worth it. It's like stepping into a Southern novel.

9. 🎉 Seasonal Events to Plan Around

Baldwin County isn't just beautiful—it knows how to throw a party. If you're timing your visit or just daydreaming about what life here looks like throughout the year, these events give you something to circle on the calendar (and maybe build your travel plans around).

🎭 Mardi Gras (January–February)

Yes, Mobile is the original home of Mardi Gras (even before New Orleans!), and Baldwin County keeps the tradition alive with its *own* local parades. Think family-friendly daytime and a few night time celebrations, marching bands, elaborately decorated floats, and beads flying faster than you can catch them.

Best towns to catch a parade: Fairhope, Daphne, Gulf Shores, and Orange Beach.

National Shrimp Festival (October – Gulf Shores)

One of the Gulf Coast's most iconic festivals. Picture four days of fresh shrimp cooked every way imaginable, live music on multiple stages, arts & crafts vendors, and a sandcastle competition. It brings in over 250,000 people—and somehow still feels small town.

 ← Pro tip: If you're thinking about an STR (short-term rental) investment, this weekend gives you a glimpse at peak-season demand.

The Wharf Events (Year-Round – Orange Beach)

The Wharf isn't just a shopping and dining destination—it's home to some of the biggest events on the coast:

- Boat & Yacht Show (March) Dream-worthy vessels, from sleek speedboats to luxury yachts.
- Car Show (February) A must-see for classic car lovers and curious browsers alike.
- Winter Wonderland (December) Ice skating, light shows, and festive shops.
- Plus: concerts all summer long at the Wharf Amphitheater.

🌭 Elberta German Sausage Festival (March & October – Elberta)

It's exactly what it sounds like—and more. Local volunteers grill thousands of hand-stuffed sausages, and there's live music, crafts, and a beer garden to keep the fun rolling. A quirky, charming slice of Baldwin County culture. Take a scenic detour to Barber Marina!

Fairhope Arts & Crafts Festival (March – Downtown Fairhope)

This juried festival is nationally ranked and takes over downtown Fairhope every spring. Over 200 artists line the streets, along with food trucks, music, and that unmistakable "Fairhope vibe." It's the perfect excuse to stroll, shop, and sip a mimosa on the sidewalk.

OWA's entertainment district hosts themed weekends and holiday festivals—Mardi Gras parades, summer foam parties, Halloween spooktaculars, and more. Great for kids, but adults love it too.

A ticketed outdoor music series in downtown Fairhope featuring national and regional acts. Past lineups include Counting Crows, Red Clay Strays, Wilco, and JJ Grey & Mofro. Bring a blanket, grab a local beer, and settle in for some serious talent under the stars.

Want a personalized events calendar that aligns with your house-hunting trip? Just ask—I'll send over a list with event dates and local lodging tips.

10. 腌 Local Essentials: Where to Stock Up

Yes, we have Target. But we also have farmers markets where the shrimp were caught this morning, oysters with their own fan club, and grocery stores that boil crawfish for you while you shop. Here's your go-to list for living deliciously in Baldwin County:

Grocery Stores

Rouses Market (Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Daphne, Spanish Fort)

- Grocery store with a Cajun flair. Known for:
 - Boiling your crawfish or providing the fixings to do it yourself
 - Louisiana staples, gourmet-to-go meals, and excellent beer/wine selection
 - Friendly staff who won't blink when you ask how to make étouffée

Publix (Multiple locations)

- A Southern staple for consistent quality and customer service. Known for:
 - Excellent produce, bakery, and deli (do not sleep on the pub subs

 –great take for your day out in the sun)

Pharmacy, online ordering, and curbside convenience

Piggly Wiggly (Fairhope)

- Not your average Pig. Go just so you can say you did. Known for:
 - A shockingly good wine and cheese selection
 - Sushi grab-and-go case
 - Local premade casseroles, dips, and seafood from Lartigue's Market inside

Walmart & Target

Standard essentials, household goods, and grocery basics. Daphne has a Super Target;
 Walmart locations are spread county-wide.



Murder Point Oysters

- Found at **The Butcher at 3 Arrows Market** (Spanish Fort) and *coming soon* to Fairhope
 - Famous Gulf oysters with a buttery finish—served at restaurants across the Southeast
 - Worth trying raw, grilled, or in pasta

Fresh Seafood Distributors (Daphne)

- Tucked-away local favorite with incredible selection and prices
 - I usually take whatever they recommend that day

Lartigue's Seafood Market- freestanding location in Fairhope (and a satellite store inside Piggly Wiggly, Fairhope)

- One of the most reliable places to grab fresh shrimp, snapper, crawfish when in season, and more without hitting the dock

Billy's Seafood (Bon Secour)

- Old-school dockside seafood market—shrimp, crab, and more straight off the boat

Blalock Seafood & Specialty Market (Orange Beach)

- Beach-adjacent seafood and gourmet grocery with everything you need for a coastal feast

Farm Markets & Local Provisions

Foley's Coastal Alabama Farmers & Fishermens Market (Every Saturday)

- Just named the **#2 farmers market in the country!** Fresh Gulf seafood, produce, baked goods, artisan wares, and live music. A must-visit for anyone considering moving to Foley. **Mosley's Meats (Daphne)**
- Butcher shop with marinated meats, specialty items, and grill-ready cuts

Allegri Farm Market (Daphne)

- Farm-fresh produce, local honey, handmade sauces, pies, and seasonal favorites

Hazel's Market (Daphne)

- Local stop for fresh flowers, produce, plants, gourmet foods, and gifts

Burris Farm Market (Loxley)

- Well known for strawberries, fresh pies, and a true country market experience

11. What to Ask Yourself as You Explore

Sprinkle reflection prompts:

- "Could I see myself living here full-time, part-time, or just visiting often?"
- "What does a perfect weekend look like—and does this area support it?"
- "How far is the beach... really?"
- "Would I be happy here in July? Or January?"

12. Let's Make the Most of Your Trip

Once you've had a chance to explore, I'd love to hear what stood out.

Shoot me a quick message or text with your favorite neighborhood so far—or the one you're still wondering about.

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