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Walk on the Wild Side: Animal summer, with a twist

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Summertime is officially just around the corner, and while spending time splashing in the waves and laying out on the beach is always fun, don't be afraid to get out there and check out some of the other local activities. If animals or art are your thing, or even if you're just a little curious, the Pensacola area has plenty to offer.

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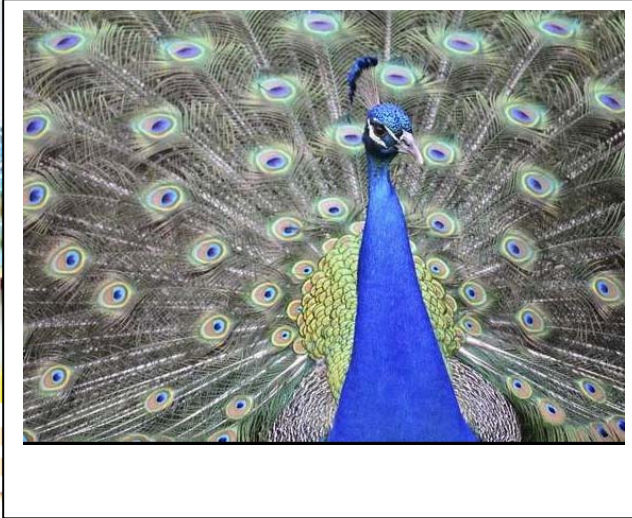
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A Day at the Zoo

"It's a really common misconception that you have to bring your kids to the zoo," said Kayte Wanko, director of The Gulf Breeze Zoo.



"It's not just a place for kids."

With 50 total acres, 20 acres being open preserve, viewed by train and 30 acres walk-through, there is an abundance of flora, fauna, and wildlife to take in.

If you're interested in photography, The Gulf Breeze Zoo is offering "zootography", which is a photography class that will provide insights and instruction into photographing the animals with some behind-the-scenes perks. Native and exotic birds are abundant on the property — this makes bird photography in addition to bird watching a great way to spend the day.



"Plenty of adults really love our petting area," Wanko said. Whether it's feeding a giraffe, camel or petting a goat, the ability to get up close and personal with a variety of animals is a fabulous experience for animal lovers. Strolling along the boardwalk or taking the train ride is a great way to see the free ranging animals.

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Day dates, a girls' afternoon and family outings all have their place at The Gulf Breeze Zoo. While it only takes a few hours to explore the facility, new animals are constantly added — and each visit, no matter what the time of year, can offer a new experience.