

Reefs close to shore are located on the East Coast of Florida from Sebastian to St. Lucie Inlet. They are generally shallow - anywhere from 6 ft to 20 ft in depth. When conditions are favorable (calm seas with little or no swells) nearly every beach access in the area has reefs which can be accessed from the shore. When the sea is rough, these areas can be dangerous and usually provide no visibility when there is any type of swell or wave. This is because shallowness of the reefs and the fact that there is no filtering effect of the water. Clarity is generally due to a week or more of flat, calm seas where the turbidity settles to the bottom. A calm sea is usually due to west winds or a southwest wind which gives us a bit of a current pushing in the clearer Gulf Stream waters. The dive and snorkel conditions maybe hard to predict and tend to change rapidly- Divers should watch the wind, local beach cams and surf reports for indications of westerly or very light winds. Summertime is best for favorable conditions, but sporadic clear spells happen year round. Calling for dive conditions is always recommended. Or Sign up for the Clear Water reports at www.deepsix.com we will send you an E-Mail of the dive conditions.

The Following is a listing of known dive sites accessible by public and semi public beaches. Semi public meaning that there may or may not be parking nearby, but if found, you can walk to the beach via an accessible walkway. Remember, a diver down flag is required at all times while persons with snorkeling or scuba equipment are in the water. Salt water licenses are required for collecting.

Scan the QR codes for links to videos taken while diving at these sites!



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QR links to videos from Local Beach Dives

Bathtub Reef



Pepper Park



Bryn Mawr Beach



Tiger Shores Reef



Jensen Beach Reef



Georges Valentine



Fredrick Douglas



Treasure Coast Beach Dive Sites

Ft. Pierce, St Lucie, Jensen Beach, Stuart

1. Avalon State Park
2. Pepper Park
3. Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park
4. Fredrick Douglas Beach
5. Middle Cove
6. Walton Rocks
7. Jensen Beach
8. Bryn Mawr
9. Tiger Shores
10. Santa Lucia
11. Georges Valentine Wreck
12. The Rocks
13. Bathtub Reef





Treasure Coast Shore Dive Guide Ft. Pierce to Stuart



1 Avalon State Park

This small state park has a beach access, rest room facilities and a paved parking lot. No Spearfishing is allowed from the beach since it's a state park but lobstering is permitted. Large lime stone ledges start 100' off the beach and run north and south for miles. 10-20' deep in most spots.

2 Pepper Park (1715 Wreck Urca De Lima) (11 miles S. of 17th St. Causeway on A1A) This is a more popular beach dive site located north of Ft. Pierce. It is a large beach with plenty of parking, lifeguards and facilities. The reef begins about 150 feet from the beach reaching 10 to 15 feet of depth. There is good lobstering and Spearfishing is OK. The further offshore the better the reefs get with higher ledges and more activity.

3 Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park

This location has been rated as the top state park in Florida more than once. A large park with all the facilities for picnicking, fishing, surfing, diving and snorkeling. The jetty extends 500 yds from the beach and is made of large granite boulders encrusted with life and makes for great snorkeling. Natural limestone reef begins about 2/3rds the way out of the jetty, about 150 yards and continues north for miles. Large lobster have been caught here up to 15lbs. Spearfishing is prohibited since it's a state park.

4 Fredrick Douglas Beach

This site is located on a remote stretch of A1A just south of Ft. Pierce. Plenty of parking, shower and restroom facilities. Expect quite a walk from the car to the water, about 100 yards. The reef starts within 20' of the beach and extends in all direction as far as the eye can see— as far south as the Middle cove access 2 miles south. Treasure hunting teams have been seen scouting this area and rumor has it an old wreck sits just offshore. Great area for lobster, Spearfishing and avoiding crowds

5 Middle Cove

this beach access has no facilities, just a parking lot. The reef that starts here continues north to Fredrick Douglas beach about 2 miles up the coast. Large limestone ledges with plenty of cracks and crevasses for lobster to hide are intersected by sandy patches where rays rest on the bottom. The reef starts close to shore and extends out as far out. Spearfishing is good too

6 Walton Rocks (11 miles S. of Sea Way Dr. on A1A) (5 miles N. of Jensen Beach Causeway on A1A) This is another large beach area with plenty of parking, lifeguards and facilities. The reef is only 50 feet from the shoreline in about 6-10 feet of water. As you progress toward the north, the reef is a little farther from shore and the water becomes deeper. Caution should be used on days with surge.

7 Jensen Beach (Directly from the Jensen Causeway on A1A)

This marks the northern edge of a narrow strip of natural limestone reef that runs south for approximately 5 miles. It is about 200yds from shore so make sure to be a strong swimmer and have a dive flag. The reef runs from the northern life guard tower south to the old Holiday Inn hotel. The ledge is relatively narrow here, maybe 20-30' wide in places. The depth is about 15-20 feet. There are some large lobsters which have been found here along with turtles. There is also good spearfishing and tropical fish are abundant.

8 Bryn Mawr Beach (2661 NE Ocean Blvd

Jensen Beach) This location is a continuation of the narrow ledge system that starts around Jensen beach. About 200-300yds offshore, this location should only be dive by strong swimmers. Expect a 20 minute swim out to the reef and consider a kayak. This site has some of the best structure in the area and is also one of the biggest and widest reefs around. The ledges here spread out much wider then other areas and start in 15' If you see sand dollars you have gone too far. Large concrete I-beams have been dropped here providing excellent structure for wildlife. Great Spearfishing and lobstering. North and south bound currents have been observed here and should be taken into account when planning a dive

9 Tiger Shores Beach (1337 NE Ocean Blvd Stuart)

This is the south end of a narrow ledge system that stretches north to Jensen beach. About 200 yards offshore a small inshore facing ledge sits in 18-20'. Strong swimmers only. The lime stone rocks spread out similar to Bryn Mawr to the north before funneling back together. Just past the rocks are more concrete I-beams, although there are not as many as Bryn Mawr and much more scattered. Lobster, tropical fish

10 Santa Lucia

Shallow snorkeling site with reefs very close to shore. Small ledges and rocks provide structure for fish. Great for beginners or days with low visibility since the reef is shallow and very close to shore. The reef starts about 50 yards offshore.

11 Georges Valentine Wreck @ House of Refuge (4.8 miles S of Jensen Causeway on A1A) (Turn into MacArthur Blvd) This is an old coastal rescue station which has been turned into a museum. The valentine wreck sits about 150 yards offshore straight out from the first out crop of rocks south of the house. There Parking is limited and recommended on the south side of the House. Use extreme caution in this area since there are rocky cliffs on the beach and submerged rocks in the water. Don't dive on days with surge or waves. It is a good area for tropicals. Sank in 1904 during a storm

12 The Rocks/ Chastain Beach (5.6 miles S. of Jensen Causeway on A1A) (Turn into MacArthur Blvd) This is a unique and interesting dive site. The parking is limited and there are restrooms, showers and BBQ grills. The entry must be made from a dune crossing which goes directly into the water. Use caution because it is quite shallow and you must walk over the rocks to reach deeper water. Snorkel out until you reach deeper water. This area is just outside the bathtub reef with excellent reef structure approximately 100 feet from shore with a depth of 15 feet. The better reef continues to the south

13 Bath Tub (6 miles S. of Jensen Causeway on A1A) (Very end of MacArthur Blvd) This is the last beach dive site located on Hutchinson Island and by far the most popular snorkel and dive site around. There is a large beach with plenty of parking, facilities and lifeguards. On the inside of the "bathtub", the depth is only 2 feet, and very difficult if not impossible to swim over the reef to the other side. The reef is exposed at low tide and care should be taken to avoid walking on it. The reef is alive and damaged by foot traffic. To access the outside, plan your dive around high tide, walk about 150 feet past the south end of the beach and wade in, snorkel to the south until you can see an opening through the reef. The second and third reefs are excellent and are within 150 feet from the shore. The reef structure builds to the south. There is excellent lobstering, spearfishing and tropicals. The reef starts in 3' and slopes to a max depth of 21'

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