

## 250520 BRA GULFPORT NIGHT FESTIVAL N ART SHOW



The Gulfport Night Market is a lively evening market held year-round on the first Friday and third Saturday of each month from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in downtown Gulfport. Formerly known as First Friday Art Walk and IndieFaire, this refreshed event features local artists, makers, and small businesses offering handmade art, crafts, clothing, jewelry, pet products, and packaged artisan foods.





Plan on arts and crafts and throw in some great food and entertainment and you are getting close to what this festival is all about. Make sure you plan for at least two or three hours minimum to enjoy everything that is provided.





The festival has a little bit of everything. There are arts and crafts, snacks, gourmet and fast foods , fashions and vintage wear. There is really something for everyone here.

Totally pet friendly bring your significant other or favorite pet with you. It's welcoming and outdoors. There is lots to see and shop to your drop.

Vendors are friendly and well organized. There is cash and card purchase available. I know you'll find something to buy as I did repeatedly.





Everything I bought here was of the first class variety. Did I mention that they had desserts. If you have a sweet tooth then this may or may not be a good place for you to come; it certainly will be if you plan on satisfying that desire.

Seriously, there are lots of snacks available and certainly as many sweets and tasty dessert says your heart could desire. Vendors are local and the products are all handmade. You could say that they are a little bit pricey, but you get what you pay for.

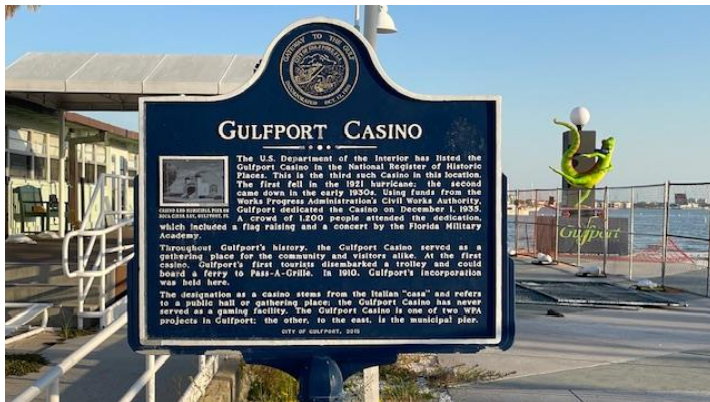






Did I mention live music? Oh yes, they have that as well. As you walk along you can hear music coming from the different venues, much of it live. As you stroll along the sidewalk as you can see musicians will spill out onto the open air. Feel free to tip as this is a great way to earn a living as an artist but they need all the financial help that we can give them. And besides they provide such a fantastic ambiance that they should be rewarded with a good tip.





Did I mention storm damage ? Oh yes there is residual storm damage from the two hurricanes that hit the area this past year. Don't let this keep you from coming. There may be many people that will be hesitant to visit because they feel that the damage is preventing normal activities. As you can see nothing is further from the truth and Florida and Gulfport bounce back.







Did I mention the quaint atmosphere? Oh yes definitely this is throwback country. Many of these buildings date from the early part of the 1900s. They have been beautifully maintained and are vintage art deco structures preserve the for your enjoyment. Come on in and it will feel like you're back in the 1960s or 70s again. The stores are beautifully decorated and well stocked.

Did I mention free samples? Oh yes, all the vendors offer free samples. No you could be 'that guy' That goes from table to table getting all the free food, desserts and snacks you can get. But I am sure that the majority of visitors will find something good to purchase once they've followed their taste buds and gotten a free sample. I certainly did.





I did mention the restaurants ! There is lots to choose from and we chose the drunken Taco. They have alcohol free corona and you can make your own Mexican michelada. The tacos here are excellent. The chicken wings are the best that we've ever tasted if you're hungry then this could be a good venue for you. Otherwise there are plenty of other options available of every type of variety. You'll certainly find something good to eat here I am sure.







Did I mention that it stays open through the early evening? Oh yeah, and as the sunsets the atmosphere completely changes. The soft music floats from one venue to another and the vendors light up their booths with candles and soft lighting. All the restaurants , bars and cafes remain open. You can shop and snack and eat here all the way through 8:00 or 9:00 PM.

So don't miss out. Make a plan to come. I get all my Christmas and birthday gifts at these markets. I will spend 40 to 50 even \$60.00 per gift but go to Amazon and spend the same and see what you get. For an extra personal touch I asked permission and take a photograph of the artist that made the gift and include that with the present when I provided. Can't get more personal than that.



THE END