



## Gulf Shores has new kayak, dolphin tours

Published: Sunday, March 27, 2011, 8:00 AM Updated: Monday, March 28, 2011, 7:45 AM



By **Deborah Storey, The Huntsville Times**



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GULF SHORES, ALABAMA -- Some new attractions along the Alabama Gulf Coast this season include:

Alabama Kayak Tours - Paddle inshore waters and discover native wildlife, or hook the big one on an inshore or Gulf fishing trip with Captain Chris Nelson; 251-379-5143, [alabamakayadventures.com](http://alabamakayadventures.com)

Shipp's Harbour Grill - Serving fine seafood, this restaurant will cook your catch and has a full bar with recommended martinis. They are also known for their prime filet with jumbo lump crab cake and garlic butter; 27842 Canal Road, Orange Beach, 251-981-9891, [shippsharbourgrill.com](http://shippsharbourgrill.com)

Orange Beach Art Center and the Hot Shop - First public glass-blowing studio in Alabama, with resident glass artist San Cornman. They offer classes for visitors to create their own and also sell local art; 26389 Canal Road, Orange Beach, 251-981-2787, [orangebeachartcenter.com](http://orangebeachartcenter.com)

### Dolphin tour

Recently, the nature tourism initiative introduced the nationally recognized Dolphin SMART program to local tour operators. Originally established in Key West, Fla., this program encourages the responsible viewing of these unique creatures and offers an education and training program to businesses that wish to become Dolphin SMART-recognized.

The Alabama Gulf Coast is one of only a handful of areas throughout the nation to offer this program, which is a partnership between NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary and National Marine Fisheries Service, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and the Dolphin Ecology Project. The program is made possible in Alabama through the support of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and others. To learn more about the program, visit [sanctuaries.noaa.gov/dolphinSMART](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/dolphinSMART).

Captain Bill Mitchell and Cetacean Cruises of Orange Beach, 25991 W. Perdido Ave., is the area's only Dolphin SMART tour provider; 251-550-8000, [captbill@gulftel.com](mailto:captbill@gulftel.com), [cetaceancruises.com](http://cetaceancruises.com)

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