



Pensacola: A Freedom 250 Destination for the IVLP

Why Pensacola?

As America's First Settlement (1559) and the site of a key Revolutionary War battle (1781), Pensacola offers international visitors a powerful lens on the founding of the United States and on American excellence since 1776. Our city combines colonial history, military innovation, cultural vitality, and natural beauty, which makes it an ideal location to meet the White House's Freedom 250 objectives.

The Founding of the United States and the American Revolution

- **Colonial Archaeological Trail** – Walking tour of 18th-century sites through downtown Pensacola
- **Fort George** – Site of the 1781 Battle of Pensacola, a decisive Revolutionary War campaign
- **Historic Pensacola Village & Museum of Commerce** – Ticketed experience, Tues–Sat, with living history and guided tours
- **Archaeological Sites** – The University of West Florida (UWF) archaeology program can interpret colonial, Native American, and early American history.
- **Fort Barrancas** (Gulf Islands National Seashore, NPS) – Historic fortifications with Spanish foundations, interpreted by NPS rangers
- **Go Retro “Longest Siege” Tour** – Ticketed event on Thursdays interpreting the 1781 siege and battle
- **Sons of the American Revolution** – Learn about their '250 by 250th' program, honoring Revolutionary War patriots.

American Excellence Since 1776

- **Naval Air Station Pensacola & National Naval Aviation Museum** – WWII, Cold War, and space race heritage
- **Blue Angels Practice Flights** – Aviation excellence and precision
- **Institute for Human and Machine Cognition** – Robotics, AI, and space innovation
- **University of West Florida** – Cybersecurity, archaeology, and research
- **Greater Pensacola Chamber & CO:LAB Pensacola** – Entrepreneurship and innovation
- **Gulf Islands National Seashore & State Parks** – National park system, conservation, and recreation

American Culture & Civic Traditions

- **Exchange Café at Seville Quarter or another landmark venue** – Informal citizen diplomacy conversation tying today’s exchanges to 250 years of people-to-people connections.
- **Volunteer Activity with Ocean Hour** – Show American civic engagement and stewardship
- **Service Project at Fort Barrancas or shoreline cleanup** – Civic pride and environmental stewardship
- **Pensacola Museum of Art, Symphony Orchestra, and Opera** – American creativity on display
- **Food & Music Heritage** – Celebrate local Southern and Creole cuisine at Gallery Night Pensacola and explore live music as part of America’s story through Foo Foo Fest (Oct 30-Nov 10), Monday Night Blues Nights at Seville Quarter, Bands on the Beach (Tuesdays, Apr – Oct), and other weekly delights.
- **Youth Diplomats Engagement** – High school students explore civic values with international participants through diplomatic simulations and discussions and demonstrate how the next generation of Americans is learning and engaging with history

Special 250 Anniversary Tie-Ins

- **Battle of Pensacola Commemoration & Galvez Day (May 8, 2026)** – Honoring Revolutionary War history and international alliances
- **Exchange Café: 250 Edition** – Dialogue with locals over apple pie, celebrating civic traditions
- **Exchange Café on Constitution Day (Sept. 17)** – Exploring the Constitution with students, community members, and visitors
- **Boy Scouts of America Flag Retirement Ceremony** – A patriotic tradition adaptable beyond Flag Day
- **Discussion with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)** – Their '250 by 250th' initiative can serve as a civic exchange focused on volunteer engagement, or SAR members can be invited as Exchange Café participants.
- **Freedom 250 Themed Receptions & Dinner Diplomacy** – Let’s explore what’s the best fit for your group and our calendar.

Quick Reference: Ticketed & Time-Specific Events

Ticketed (Weekly Availability)	Special-Date Observances
Historic Pensacola Village & Museum of Commerce (Tues–Sat)	Battle of Pensacola Commemoration & Galvez Day (May 8, 2026)
Go Retro “Longest Siege” Tour (Thurs)	Exchange Café on Constitution Day (Sept 17, 2026)
Blues Night at Seville Quarter (Mon)	Flag Retirement & Disposal Ceremony – Available on Flag Day (June 14, 2026) and other dates