



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**ECP NOMINATED FOR USA TODAY 10BEST AWARDS FOR
SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR**

*Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport returns to the Best Resort Airport ballot
after a top-five finish in 2025*

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (September 7, 2026) — For the second year in a row, USA TODAY has nominated Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) for a 10Best Readers' Choice Award in the Best Resort Airport category. Public voting opens Monday, September 7, 2026, at noon EDT, and you can vote for ECP using [this link](#).

ECP placed fourth nationally in the category last year. This year's nomination comes as the Airport marks the busiest year in its history and breaks ground on its largest expansion since opening.

The USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards recognize the best of the best across travel and lifestyle categories. Nominees are selected by a panel of experts and reviewed by USA TODAY 10Best editors, and the public votes for the winners.

The Best Resort Airport nomination speaks to ECP's location — less than 30 minutes from white sand beaches and warm Gulf waters — and to how easily travelers move from the Terminal to Panama City, Panama City Beach, South Walton, Destin, Seaside and Fort Walton Beach. With daily nonstop service from American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines, vacations begin the moment passengers step off the aircraft.

"Being nominated two years running is a reflection of what this region has built together," said Will Cramer, Chair of the Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport Board of Directors. "A vote for ECP is a vote for Northwest Florida, and we hope our neighbors and our visitors will cast one every day."

ECP welcomed 1,937,224 passengers in 2025, an all-time record and a 3.1 percent increase over the previous year. In January, the Airport broke ground on an 80,000-square-foot North Terminal expansion that will add three gates, four baggage claim carousels, additional concessions and seating, and a relocated and expanded TSA checkpoint. In May, ECP was awarded an \$8 million federal Airport Terminal Program grant to support the project.

The Airport has also invested in the details that make a beach trip feel like a beach trip before passengers ever reach the sand. The new ECP FlyBrary is a free take-a-book, leave-a-book library inside the Terminal launched in partnership with the Northwest Regional Library System. The Wheels Up Summer Music Series brings live local music to departing travelers, and ECP sponsors the 30A Songwriters Festival.

The public is encouraged to vote daily for ECP until voting closes Monday, October 5, at noon EDT. Winners will be announced on the USA TODAY 10Best website.

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About Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport

Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) is located less than 30 minutes from Panama City Beach, Panama City and the beaches of South Walton. Today, with service from American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines, ECP provides daily, nonstop flights to Atlanta (ATL), Austin (AUS) Baltimore (BWI), Boston (BOS), Charlotte (CLT), Chicago (MDW/ORD), Columbus (CMH), Dallas (DAL/DFW), Denver (DEN), Houston (HOU/IAH), Kansas City (MCI), Nashville (BNA), New York City (LGA), St. Louis (STL), Washington DC (DCA), and one-stop to worldwide destinations. The first international airport to be built in more than a decade, ECP provides Northwest Florida communities with first-class facilities and was strategically developed for major economic development opportunities. ECP is the gateway to visitors seeking Northwest Florida's famous beaches.