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The Daytona Beach Area: World-Class Culture for All Tastes

Daytona Beach, Fla. -- From international music festivals to acclaimed museums, the Daytona Beach area is home to a stellar selection of enriching cultural activities and attractions that are sure to please even those with the most discriminating tastes.

Music Festivals

The Daytona Beach International Festival brings year-round cultural performances to the Daytona Beach area. Its biennial musical extravaganza is a 17-day festival that features a variety of entertainment including music, dance and comedy. The DBIF, which is highlighted by performances from the London Symphony Orchestra, returns to the area April 16 through May 2, 2009.

The **Daytona Beach Symphony Society** annually hosts a season of classical concerts featuring world-renown guest conductors and symphony orchestras. Each year, the society also sponsors **Winterfest**, a classical music festival. Over the years, Winterfest has featured performances by the Boston Pops, Teatro Lirico D'Europa, Czech Symphony Orchestra, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Museums & Art Galleries

Daytona Beach is home to several acclaimed museums and galleries. The **Southeast Museum of Photography** displays rotating and permanent exhibits highlighting cultural and historical issues. The 10,000 square-foot museum is one of only 12 museums of its kind in the U.S. and one of fewer than 30 in the world. SMP exhibitions have traveled to such respected institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Carpenter Center at Harvard, and the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford.

The **Museum of Arts and Sciences**, one of the finest multi-topical museum facilities of its kind in Florida, is one of Daytona Beach's most important gems. Housing some of the finest 18th and 19th century antiquities, the largest Cuban art collection outside of Cuba, permanent and traveling exhibitions, the Center for Florida History, a new children's science center and a planetarium, the museum offers hours of sophisticated and enjoyable entertainment. Each November, the museum's guild presents the **Halifax Art Festival** along Beach Street in downtown Daytona Beach. This juried art show features more than 240 artists and food vendors, and also includes a student art competition, children's activities, live entertainment and more.

For maritime lovers, the Daytona Beach area has one of Florida's finest nautical museums at the **Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum**. The museum houses maritime artifacts,

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educational exhibits, and a rare Fresnel Lens exhibit.

The Casements, John D. Rockefeller's former winter home, now serves as the City of Ormond Beach's cultural center and museum. Featured exhibits include the Hungarian Culture Room and one of the finest exhibitions of Boy Scout memorabilia in the U.S. Also in Ormond Beach is the **Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens**. Featuring rotating exhibits by acclaimed artists, this museum is set amid a lush tropical botanical garden complete with a gazebo, labyrinth, fountains, ponds and waterfalls.

Visitors can learn more about the area's local history – from its native inhabitants to famous former residents – at the **Halifax Historical Museum** in downtown Daytona Beach.

Art galleries dot the Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach and New Smyrna Beach areas. The work of local artists can also be found at the **Daytona Beach Art League**, located on Palmetto Avenue in downtown Daytona Beach. Founded in 1932, the Daytona Beach Art League is the area's oldest arts organization.

Theater & Film

Theater lovers won't want to miss the Broadway in Daytona Beach series presented throughout the year at historic **Peabody Auditorium**. The Peabody's Broadway in Daytona Beach series features national traveling productions of "Great White Way" favorites. In addition, the Peabody hosts concerts and comedy shows year-round.

Another Daytona Beach tradition is the **Daytona Playhouse**. Established in 1947, the Daytona Playhouse provides a creative outlet for local thespians by staging plays and other theatrical performances from June to September.

Throughout the year, movie buffs can enjoy award-winning independent and foreign films presented by **Cinematique of Daytona** at the Bookstore Café in Ormond Beach. Cinematique also presents special outdoor events such as Movies Under the Stars at City Island Park in Daytona Beach. In addition, the organization annually presents the **Daytona Beach Film Festival** each fall.

Dance

Visitors can now enjoy modern dance performances by the area's newest arts organization - **Surfscape Contemporary Dance Theater**. In addition, each December, the area's oldest dance organization, the **Daytona Beach Civic Ballet**, presents *The Nutcracker* at the Peabody Auditorium.

Live Music & Concerts

Music thrives in the Daytona Beach area, offering visitors and locals a variety of free and paid musical performances.

Each spring and summer, free concerts are held beachside at the oceanfront **Daytona Beach Bandshell**, a historic landmark built in 1937 by the Federal Works Administration. The free concerts are held on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from April through October and feature jazz, Dixieland, big band, blues, folk music and other musical genres appealing to a wide range of tastes and preferences.

Live music performed by local musicians can be found at several Daytona Beach hotels as well as restaurants and nightspots along the city's major entertainment districts including Beach Street in downtown Daytona Beach, Main Street, Seabreeze Boulevard and Ocean Walk Shoppes.

The **Daytona Beach Ocean Center** convention and entertainment complex also presents a variety of concerts and entertainment options year-round.

Rising Stars

Catch the stars of tomorrow when students attending area colleges present theater productions and musical showcases, most of which are free and open to the public. Theater productions and concerts presented by the students and faculty of Daytona State College take place at the beautiful, \$29 million **News-Journal Center** in scenic downtown Daytona Beach. Free choral programs presented by the students of Bethune-Cookman University are held at the **Mary McLeod Bethune Performing Arts Center**.

For a free Daytona Beach area *Arts Map* and *Visitors Guide* filled with information on cultural events, attractions and activities, phone 1-800-854-1234 (U.S. & Canada only), 1-386-255-0415 or visit www.culturallydaytonabeach.com.

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