

## Gulf Coast Businesses Undaunted by Oil Spill

Ventura, CA—While State, Federal, and private organizations battle the large oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, local businesses and RV Parks and Campgrounds are struggling to get the word out to travelers that the Gulf Coast is open for business.

“All the media coverage has hurt businesses around here,” says Michele Richards, owner of **Bay Hide Away RV & Camping Resort**, in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. “People are listening to the news and thinking that it is unsafe to travel here, and it’s not.”

Reports still indicate that main oil slick is more than 50 miles from most of the Gulf Coast, and the 72 hour trajectory produced by NOAA shows that the main slick will stay away from much of the coast.

Of the five states that comprise the American Gulf Coast—Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida—almost all are keeping their beaches open and encouraging travelers to visit. All nine of the Louisiana coastal parishes are open, according to the Louisiana Office of Tourism, and are continuing to provide great attractions, restaurants, and accommodations. As of today, all of Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches are open, and campers can still enjoy inshore fishing, swimming, and water activities with confidence. No effects of the oil spill have been seen on Florida’s, Texas’, or Alabama’s coastlines, and RV Parks and Campgrounds in those states are looking forward to a busy holiday weekend.

“Fortunately, we are still seeing strong interest in our resort,” says Tripp Keber, COO of **Bella Terra of Gulf Shores**, in Foley, AL, “but we are trying to be a rally point for the RV Community in letting everyone know that the beaches are open, and we are ready for business.” To that end, **Bella Terra** has coordinated an effort by RV Parks—including **Emerald Coast RV Beach Resort** and **Anchor’s Aweigh RV Resort**—to work with the Chamber of Commerce and the RV community in getting travelers and volunteers down to the region.

“We are encouraging RVers across the country to get involved down here on the Gulf Coast,” said Anne Stephens of **Anchor’s Aweigh RV Resort**. “The collective effort from area parks and resorts working together in unison to rally support will have a positive impact on not only the region, but the desire and ability of RVers to assist.”

While the Gulf of Mexico oil spill will likely hurt many coastal industries, the beauty, the history, and the excitement of the area still remains intact, and should entice RVers and campers to come and experience one of the most breathtaking regions of the country.

To learn how you can get involved, visit [www.BellaTerraRVResort.com](http://www.BellaTerraRVResort.com) or call (866) 475-7746

To plan your trip to the Gulf Coast, visit [www.gulfcoast.org](http://www.gulfcoast.org)

Or [www.gulfshores.com](http://www.gulfshores.com)

Or [www.louisianatravel.com](http://www.louisianatravel.com)

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