



## The Southeast: Sun Belt & Tourism

The Gulf States of the Southeast region- Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana- are part of a larger region called the Sun Belt. The Sun Belt stretches across the southern part of the United States from Virginia to California.

In this region, many cultures have settled and created a unique heritage. For example, African-Americans and French Cajuns have created a blended culture in the present-day state of Louisiana. For example, the city of New Orleans is called the “Birthplace of Jazz”.

The Sun Belt continues to attract new residents and tourists who enjoy the cultures and climate. Also, many older people from other regions retire and move to the Sun Belt where they can enjoy outdoor activities year around.

The beaches of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico are important to the region’s economy. “Tourism” is the selling of products and services to people who visit a place for relaxation and fun. Each year, millions of tourists come to the theme parks and golf courses of the Sun Belt. Some are even interested in the space program and come to visit the rocket center in Huntsville, Alabama, or the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

