

The Green Flash



Each sunset is glorious in its own way. But every once in a while, the setting sun puts on a show that is truly awesome. When conditions are just right, a breathtaking **flash of green** will appear on the crest of the sun. Should you blink in this moment, you may miss it completely.

Indian Shores is one of the best places in the world to be treated to spectacular sunsets over the Gulf of Mexico. Even if you don't witness the **flicker of green**, you will still enjoy a fun time on the beach with good company in a great spot.



What causes it?

The light from the sun is made up of different colors as seen in rainbows. The light spectrum is made of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet light.



As light passes into the atmosphere, it slows down and is bent toward the surface of the earth. As the sun sets, red, orange and yellow light are bent the least and disappear first. The blue, indigo and violet light is scattered by the atmosphere. This is why the sky appears blue. Although green light is in the middle of the spectrum, more green gets through the atmosphere and that's why we see a **green flash** at sunset.

So **green light** - the **green flash** - will normally be the last thing you see as the sun disappears below the horizon. This colorful display is most readily seen on a very clear, cloudless day and will last from a fraction of a second to a few seconds.

TAKE CARE!

As the sun is still bright but dipping below the horizon, be careful not to stare into the brightness directly. We all know that is not good for the eyes and it will also cause you to start seeing spots. You want to have clear vision to catch the *green flash* at just the right moment.

