

Things to do while visiting Jacksonville Beach

While you are visiting our area, check out the following sights!

Adventure Landing

1944 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville Beach, Florida
www.adventurelanding.com

On Beach Boulevard just east of the Intracoastal Waterway is Jacksonville Beach's newest attraction. The park includes a water park with slides, a riverway, a go-kart track, miniature golf, laser tag arena, batting cage and an arcade with a wide variety of games. A full snack bar is available for refreshments. The park is open seven days a week from 10 am to 2 am. Prices vary for different activities. For more information call 904-246-4386.



J. Johnson Gallery

177 4th Ave, N.
Jacksonville Beach, Florida
(904) 435-3200

This is a state-of-the-art gallery that showcases work from modern and emerging artists. Drawings, paintings, sculpture, print and multimedia art work are proudly displayed at this Jacksonville Beach gallery. Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday.



Pablo Historical Park & Beaches Historical Museum

425 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville Beach, Florida
(904) 241-5657
www.beachesareahistoricalsociety.com

The park houses a restored 19th century house which was once the home of the station master of the Florida East Coast Railroad terminal at Pablo Beach, a railroad depot which was moved from Mayport, and a

28-ton steam locomotive built in 1911 by H.A. Porter and Company. The museum offers exhibits and archives. The buildings are open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday; donations are accepted. For information please call (904) 241-5657



Players-By-The-Sea Theatre
106 Sixth Street North
Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32250
(904) 249-0289

Jacksonville Beach offers a first-class community theater with wonderful productions from drama, comedy, and musicals. For reservations call 904 249-2022 or visit their website.
www.playersbythesea.org

North on A1A from Jacksonville Beach

Mayport Naval Station

The base is just past the turnoff of North A1A on Atlantic Boulevard, situated on the St. John's River and the Atlantic Ocean. Mayport is home to the 3rd largest naval base in the nation. Dating back to WWII, Naval Station Mayport covers 3,409 acres and is home to many ships including the USS Kennedy.



The Mayport Lighthouse

Located next to the Navy base it served as a welcoming beacon from 1859 to 1929. The lighthouse is currently located on the Navy Base and is not open to the public, but may be viewed from the village of Mayport.

Mayport Ferry

The crossing of the St. Johns River by A1A may be made aboard an auto ferry run by the St. Johns River Ferry Service a division of the Florida Department of Transportation. Everyone gets out of their vehicle to watch the sea birds and an occasional group of porpoises in the river. The fare is \$3.50 each way for automobiles and \$1.00 for pedestrians. www.stjohnsriverferry.com



Across St. Johns River Ferry, North on A1A toward Amelia Island

Kingsley Plantation

11676 Palmetto Avenue, Jacksonville, FL, 32226.

(904) 251-3537

<http://www.jacksonvilleflorida.com/Parks/kingsleyplantation.asp>



The oldest plantation still in existence in Florida is located on Heckscher Drive just north of the Mayport ferry. Now a National Park Service historic site, the location includes the plantation house, which has ranger guided programs and extensive grounds, including the ruins of the slave quarters. Kingsley Plantation is at the northern tip of Ft. George Island at the Ft. George inlet east of Jacksonville off Florida A1A. Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Little Talbot and Big Talbot Island State Parks



Florida's state highway A1A winds north along the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. You cross many bridges where fishing is good, and you can see both bodies of water. The State of Florida has several nature preserves along this road, there is horseback riding available (yes, on the beach), trails for hiking, and beach access for walking and swimming.

Fort Clinch

Located in historic Fernandina Beach off A1A, Fort Clinch is a restored Civil War fort. The fort was built in 1847, and the tour guides pretend they are still living in that time. The first weekend of each month a platoon of "Civil War" soldiers sets up camp at the fort and gives demonstrations. On many weekend evenings there are candlelight tours available by reservation.



In addition to the fort itself, Fort Clinch has campgrounds, oceanfront facilities for swimming and changing, nature trails, picnic areas and an ocean fishing pier. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to sundown all year.

Admission is \$3.25 per vehicle (up to 8 people) and an additional \$1 per person if you want to tour the fort. Camping is available for \$17 per site per night with an additional \$2 charge for electricity. For information call 904-277-7274.

Amelia Island Museum of History

Located in Fernandina Beach, the Amelia Island Museum of History is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers museum tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Walking tours of historic Fernandina Beach can be scheduled by appointment. Call 904-261-7378 for more information.

Fernandina Beach

www.ameliaisland.org

A quaint historic town on Amelia Island with a city dock on the St. Mary's River. Many antique stores, restaurants, and historic homes can be found. The drive up A1A from the ferry to Fernandina Beach takes about 45 minutes and is well worth the drive.

South on A1A from Jacksonville Beach



Guana Tolomoto Mantanzas Reserve

<http://nerrs.noaa.gov/GTM/Highlights2.html>

The Guana Tolomoto Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve encompasses nearly 55,000 acres of salt marsh and mangrove tidal wetlands, oyster bars, estuarine lagoons, upland habitat and offshore seas in Northeast Florida. The coastal waters of the GTM Reserve are important calving grounds for the

endangered Right Whale. Manatees, Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons find refuge in the reserve.

The Guana River portion, previously known as Guana River State Park, is located on Highway A1A just south of Ponte Vedra Beach. This scenic and versatile 2,200 acre reserve offers hiking, bicycling, salt water and fresh water fishing, bird watching, beach access and parking. The park is located on a barrier island that is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by

the Intra-Coastal Waterway. The park contains a variety of habitats that are home to a diversity of wildlife. Over 240 species of birds have been identified, including bald eagle and osprey.

The Guana River area in the preserve is a popular fishing spot offering opportunity to catch red fish, black drum, flounder and trout as well as shrimp and blue crab. The park also offers 40 miles of trails for, biking and hiking in a hardwood hammock and pine flatwoods. Entrance to the park is \$2 per car and contains a variety of habitats. Boat launching is available in Guana River or Guana Lake with a 10 horsepower restriction. The park is open seven days a week.

St. Augustine

www.visitoldcity.com



St. Augustine is a short ride south on A I A from the Beaches and is a great day trip. It is even close enough to drive down for dinner or a brunch. The city's wide variety of restaurants appeal to many tastes.

The nation's oldest permanent settlement is a popular destination. While local folk sometimes stop to visit one of the many attractions there, the shopping, restaurants and cultural activities are also high on the lists of return visitors. The restored area contains a number of small shops and is a favorite browsing area for shoppers. During the year various skits, musical presentations and events are held in the restored area with a current listing, available at the Visitors Information Center. The restored Spanish Quarter is also located here.

Among the attractions in St. Augustine are the St. Augustine Alligator Farm, the Fountain of Youth, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, the Castillo de San Marcos, the Lightner Museum, the Oldest House. The St. Augustine Sightseeing Train and horse-drawn carriage guides offer tours of the city while several boats offer sight-seeing trips around the harbor.



The Visitors Information Center has a film about the city, brochures maps. Nearby is St. George Street, the restored area of St. Augustine, where streets are closed to traffic. To find the center, just stay on AIA South and you'll see it across the street from Ripley's. Info: (904) 825-1000.

While visiting St. Augustine, visit Whetstone Chocolate

Northeast Florida's largest chocolate factory, Whetstone, offers free tours to the public. The tours are self-guided and a complimentary sample is given as part of the tour. The factory is located on Coke Road just off State Road 312 in St. Augustine. Tour hours are 10 am to 5:30 P.M., Monday through Saturday. Recommended times are between 10 am and 2:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Guided tours are available by reservation for groups. Call (904) 825-1700 for more information.



St. Augustine Lighthouse

11 Lighthouse Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32080
(904) 829-0745

www.staugustinelighthouse.com

Climb the tower to the top of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and explore the exhibits offered at the Lighthouse Museum. Spectacular 360 degree views of the ocean and St. Johns River. The facility is open seven days a week from 9 AM until 6 PM. Last tickets to climb are sold 15 minutes prior to closing time. The lighthouse is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

Fort Matanzas

Fort Matanzas is between St. Augustine and Marineland on AIA and was the scene of a bloody clash between the French and Spanish in 1565. The park is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visitors can take a free boat ride to the restored fort on Rattlesnake Island. For information call (904) 471-0116.



Marineland



www.marineland.net

9600 Oceanshore Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL 32080
(888) 279-9194 x 116 or (904) 471-1111

Reservations@marineland.net

Further south of St. Augustine is Marineland, the world's first oceanarium which hosts a 1.3 million gallon series of dolphin habitats. Here you can visit dolphins up-close in their aquatic world, or even swim with the beautiful creatures. There are several types of programs to choose from. General admission is \$5.00, and \$2.50 for children 12 and under. Open seven days at week from 8:30 AM until 4:30 AM.

In Jacksonville



Alhambra Dinner Theatre

12000 Beach Blvd,
Jacksonville, Florida
(904) 641-1212

West on Beach Boulevard and over the Intracoastal Waterway, you find dinner theatre at its best! Broadway shows in an intimate setting with great dining. www.alhambradinnertheatre.com



Cummer Museum & Gardens

www.cummer.org

Located at 829 Riverside Ave., the Cummer Museum features changing exhibits of the works of the nation's and the world's top contemporary artists, and a fine and varied permanent collection. The museum is also famous for its fabulous gardens. Hours are Sunday 2 to 5 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for military and senior citizens and children. For information, call (904) 356-6857.

Museum of Contemporary Modern Art Jacksonville

www.mocajacksonville.org

The museum's new facility is in Hemming Plaza at 333 North Laura Street. In addition to galleries, it will have a cafe and museum shop. For museum and membership information, call (904) 366-6911. The art museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 adults, \$2 for senior citizens and students, free for children under 6. For information on any exhibit or activity call (904) 398-8336.

Museum of Science and History

www.themosh.org



The Museum of Science and History (MOSH) which includes the Alexander Brest Planetarium, is a family-oriented facility at 1025 Museum Circle on the Southbank Riverwalk in Jacksonville. It features numerous exhibits of interest for all ages. Many are hands-on and change regularly. The planetarium presents a variety of education and entertainment shows daily. The museum is open Monday through Friday weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Information, (904) 396-7062.



Downtown Jacksonville

Visit downtown Jacksonville and enjoy the St. Johns River by river or sky. Take the river ferries to explore both sides of the Riverwalk where museums, restaurants, and shops abound.

Ride the JTA Skyway from multiple stations throughout downtown, the riverbank, and the Jaguars stadium.



Jacksonville Landing

Jacksonville Downtown Riverfront

(904) 353-1188

www.jacksonvillelanding.com

The Jacksonville Landing is a must visit offering waterfront dining, entertainment and shopping complex featuring 9 restaurants, 10 food court merchants, and more than 30 specialty retail stores. Located on the Northbank of the St. Johns River in the heart of downtown Jacksonville.

HOURS:

Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 8:00 pm

Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday
12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

<http://www.jaxzoo.org/home.asp>

The Jacksonville Zoological Park is located on Heckscher Drive on the North side of Jacksonville and has an extensive collection of animals, birds and reptiles. The zoo's major exhibits include Safari Lodge, Birds of the Rift Valley, Plains of East Africa, Great Apes of the Work, Range of the Jaguar, Wild Florida, Meerkats, and Australian Adventure. It offers a Wildlife Carousel, train ride through the zoo, refreshments, and the Safari Lodge.



The zoo is open daily from 9 am to 5 P.M. except Thanksgiving and Christmas day. Gates close for admission one hour prior to closing. Children under 2 are FREE, AAA and military 10% discount. Free parking and boat access. For more information call (904) 757-4463.



Fort Caroline National Monument

Fort Caroline on the banks of the St. Johns River was settled by the French Huguenots in 1564 and is the site of the first Protestant colony in the New World. The 130-acre memorial is located in East Arlington off Fort Caroline Road. It features a replica of the original fort, a museum with French and Indian artifacts and several nature trails which provide excellent hiking. The nearby Roosevelt Area has additional nature trails.

Fort Caroline is open every day except Christmas from 9 am to 5 pm. There is no admission charge. For more information call (904) 641-7155.

Fort Caroline is ten miles east of Jacksonville and can be reached by traveling east on Florida 10, turning on St. Johns Bluff Road, then Monument Road, and proceeding east on Fort Caroline Road.

Anheuser Busch Brewery

The Anheuser Busch Brewery in Jacksonville offers free tours of the plant, complete with hospitality room and gift shop. Tour hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. Reservations needed for groups of 15 or more. For more information call (904) 751-8118.