



Things to do in Northeast Florida

Downtown

Nestled between skyscrapers and the St. Johns River, downtown Jacksonville's North and South banks have an urban vibe with a cool atmosphere. Fortune 500 companies call the city's core home and during the week thousands of professionals and visitors fill the streets enjoying unique lunch and dining destinations, world-class museums and a dense variety of nightlife options, from dive bars to upscale lounges. If spectator sports are your thing, the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars play Downtown at the Sports Complex, as does the city's minor league baseball team, the Jacksonville Suns. Downtown Museums include the Ritz Theatre & La Villa Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville and the Museum of Science and History.

Downtown Jacksonville boasts 5.6 miles of beautiful Riverfront, including almost 3 miles of Riverwalk, perfect for a stroll or a jog by the River or even one of our famous skyline photographs. There are many ways to get around Downtown, drive and park at one of the more than 43,000 public parking spaces or use public transportation and take the Downtown Trolley or the Skyway. The Skyway connects Downtown's Southbank to its Northbank in less than 5 minutes for free. Another way to move across Downtown is taking a Water Taxi; a small fee gets you from one side to the other and gives you great views of the city and the St. Johns River. To help you find your way, Downtown Ambassadors are always nearby ready to give directions and suggestions to visitors, spot them by their bright orange shirts.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) The Museum of Science and History: MOSH specializes in interactive science exhibits and Northeast Florida history. It is fun for children and parents. Permanent exhibits include "Currents of Time," "Atlantic Tails," "Universe of Science," "Water Worlds," and "The Body Within." Every Friday is \$5 at MOSH. After the Museum, make sure to stop by Friendship Fountain. It is located behind MOSH and offers great views of the city and a great place to relax and spend an afternoon.

1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville FL 32207

www.themosh.com

2) ArtWalk: The first Wednesday of the month Downtown Jacksonville becomes an Arts market with dozens of vendors and more than 30 art galleries open for visitors to discover. ArtWalk runs from 5 to 9 p.m., rain or shine and it spans a 15-blocks radius that includes Hemming Plaza and the Jacksonville Landing with live music and unique food vendors.

www.downtownjacksonville.org

3) AdLib Tours "Top to Bottom Tour": Experience Jacksonville with one of the best tours in the city. Walk to the top and the bottom of the city in this unique and exciting history tour of Jacksonville's core. The tour includes stops at the Wells Fargo building, the top of the Bank of America tower for spectacular views of the city, a trip below the city to an old bank tunnel and a look at Jacksonville's silent movie era with a special video. Do not miss it!

Tuesday 10 - 11:45 a.m.

Meet at the Jacksonville Landing escalators (2 W. Independent Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32202).

www.adlibtours.com

4) Treaty Oak: Perhaps Jacksonville's oldest resident, this 250-year-old Southern Live Oak was here before the city was formed during the 1820's. Its trunk is over 25 feet in circumference and it is over 70 feet tall, some of its branches spread over 90 feet and go underground and rise back up, a real sight to see! The tree is located on the Jessie Ball DuPont Park on downtown's Southbank, a great spot for a picnic or a movie at the park during the spring.

1123 Prudential Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32207

5) The Jacksonville Landing: Perfectly located on the St. Johns River, this shopping and entertainment center hosts over 350 events each year including live music every weekend, Florida/Georgia festivities, the Christmas Tree Lighting and New Year's Eve celebrations. At the Jacksonville Landing visitors can also find an array of locally owned stores and a wide variety of waterfront dining.

2 W. Independent Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32202

www.jacksonvillelanding.com

Getting Here: Downtown, is a 20-minute drive south from Jacksonville International Airport, take I-95 and exit right at Exit 116, Forsyth Street. Continue on Forsyth Street and head east, this will take you into the heart of Downtown.

Riverside & Avondale

Listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, Riverside is one of Jacksonville's oldest and coolest neighborhoods. Voted as one of the country's top 10 Great Neighborhoods, the Riverside/Avondale area has a unique mix of history, culture, charm and modern design. It is a hip part of town with a young population, million dollar waterfront homes and upscale apartment buildings are the norm but there is nothing pretentious about this part of town, instead the vibe here is that of community, urban living and keeping it local.

Riverside's "Five Points" area is a bohemian neighborhood with funky coffee shops, outdoor cafés, one-of-a-kind shopping, nightclubs, antique stores and more. In the last year, a new food & beer district has emerged on King Street, locally owned restaurants, bars and breweries are calling the street home and bringing hundreds of visitors of all ages each weekend. Some of the options include Intuition Ale Works Brewery, The Garage, Soup's On, Pele's Wood Fire, Lola's and Kickbacks.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) Memorial Park in Riverside: This is the perfect spot for a quiet picnic under the shade of an old Oak or perhaps for a fun game of flag football. Design by the famous Olmsted brothers, responsible for New York City's Central Park, Memorial Park sits next to the St. Johns River and gives visitors gorgeous views of the river and offers an oasis of peace and calm just feet away from Margaret Street and all of its shopping. The park is open from dusk till dawn seven days a week.

1620 Riverside Avenue

www.riversideavondale.org/

2) The Riverside Arts Market: Held under the Fuller Warren Bridge every Saturday, the market is a great place to find unique local art pieces, enjoy live music, taste fresh foods and buy organic produce. You can take the Water Taxi from downtown or drive and park for free at nearby garages. The Market is open from 10 to 4 p.m. every Saturday March through December.

715 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32204

<http://riversideartsmarket.com/>

3) The Shoppes of Avondale: High-end boutiques, antique stores and upscale dining options can be found along St. Johns Avenue in the core of Historic Avondale. You can find everything from gardening supplies, bicycles, shoes, jewelry, children's clothes and house décor to chocolate and specialty spices. After all that shopping it's time to eat! Indulge your cravings and try a new option at the Shoppes called W90+, a store dedicated to fine wines, cheese and bread. Then have lunch at The Brick and try any of their delicious dishes and for dessert head over to Biscotti's for a slice of cake or two.

3567 St Johns Avenue, Jacksonville FL 32205

<http://shoppesofavondale.com/>

4) The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens: The Cummer is the largest fine art museum in Northeast Florida. The permanent collection at the Museum includes over 6,000 works of art dating from 2100 B.C to the 21st Century. The permanent collection includes Old Master and American paintings and a world-renowned collection of Meissen porcelain. Equally impressive are the spectacular gardens in at the Cummer. There are three flower gardens on the museum grounds, the oldest dating back to 1903. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is closed Mondays and free to the public on Tuesdays from 4-9 p.m.

829 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32204

www.cummer.org

5) Visit the King Street Food & Beer District: There are so many options on this Street that you will have to spend a few days here to indulge in all of them. From great lunch options like Soup's On and Carmine's Pie House, to fun and unique dining destinations like Lola's Burrito Joint, Pele's Wood Fire and Kickbacks Gastropub and its extensive beer list. And speaking of beers, on King Street you can find two of Jacksonville's breweries, Intuition Ale Works and Bold City Brewery and also several bars and clubs that sell local beers including The Garage, The Loft and Dahlia's Pour House with 14 different Florida breweries and 85 taps!

District begins at 1522 King Street and ends on 720 King Street Jacksonville, FL 32204

Getting Here From Downtown: Take Riverside Avenue (State Road 221) southwest for two miles. For Five Points shopping area, turn right onto Post Street and then to Park Street. To Avondale, continue on Riverside Avenue and take a left on King Street to St. Johns Avenue.

San Marco

Located just minutes away from Downtown's Southbank is the historic neighborhood of San Marco. Stroll along San Marco Square and you'll discover incredible dining of every kind, upscale trendy clothing boutiques and sensational art galleries. Theatre Jacksonville, the oldest community theatre in the country dating back to 1938, is also located within the square. Don't miss the San Marco fountain of lions that reflect the neighborhood's association with the Venice, Italy business district. Save your appetite and visit the new San Marco dining district, it includes some of Jacksonville's best restaurants including bb's, Bistro AIX, The Grotto, Mathews and Taverna.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) Watch the Sunset at Riverfront Park: This acre-long park along a quiet San Marco block gives visitors a perfect location to watch the majestic Jacksonville sunsets and spot dolphins and even manatees on the River. The park has a few benches and parking along the road. Popular with fishermen, the small yet perfectly situated park is a prime spot for a lazy afternoon. Other frequently visited spots for sunset lovers are the Jim Rink Park and the Greenscape Celebration Park in San Marco.

901 Landon Avenue

2) Dinner and a Movie at the San Marco Theater: This is the only place in town where you can enjoy dinner, drinks and a movie. Built in 1938, the San Marco Theater has been restored to reflect its golden years and it is now a popular destination for families and couples looking for a different night out. The menu includes freshly made pizzas, paninis, quesadillas and a great beer and wine selection.

1996 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207

www.sanmarcotheatre.com

3) The San Marco Art Festival: Two days of art in the streets as San Marco Boulevard closes to traffic and opens to art lovers. Vendors from across the nation gather in the historic San Marco Square with sculptures, paintings, pottery and jewelry to delight visitors. The festival is free and open to the public, it takes place in April and then again in November.

1974 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207

4) The San Marco Dinner District: Truly some of Jacksonville's best dining options are in this neighborhood. Bistro AIX offers rustic flavors with a modern and elegant twist, it is one of the city's dining gems, locally owned and operated since 1999. In the heart of the San Marco Square visitors can find Taverna, established in 2009, this restaurant specializes in seasonal European cuisine. The atmosphere is rustic yet sophisticated. When it comes to upscale dining, Mathews offers a diverse and elegant menu showcasing local ingredients. Matthew's Restaurant has been a recipient of the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Restaurants award each year since 1999.

www.facebook.com/SanMarcoDinning

5) Peterbrooke Chocolatier Production Center: Take a tour of this local chocolate factory and see how these decadent treats, including their famous chocolate covered popcorn, are made. Self guided tours are free, guided tours are just \$1.

Call the Peterbrooke Chocolate Factory Store at (904) 398-2489 for available dates.

www.peterbrooke.com/

Getting Here from Downtown: Take the Acosta Bridge south across the river. Exit onto San Marco Boulevard and continue for a mile. Arrive at the San Marco Square. Free parking available.

Springfield

Located adjacent to Downtown Jacksonville is the historic Springfield neighborhood. An up-and-coming residential area filled with restored old homes and local charm. The original Springfield development dates to 1869; at one point it was the city's wealthiest neighborhood. Currently it is in the middle of a rebirth, in 2011, Southern Living named Springfield one of "The South's Best Comeback Neighborhoods". Majestic Oaks provide protective shade along Springfield's residential streets; this neighborhood gives visitors a window into Jacksonville's past and the city's effort to preserve its history.

Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) Sweet Pete's: Make your own candy canes and taffy, all natural, organic and gluten free. Sweet Pete's is a locally owned and operated Candy and Ice Cream Shop, offering gourmet chocolates, candies and even vegan and gluten free sweet options.

1922 Pearl Street, Jacksonville FL 32206

www.sweetpete.net

2) Three Layers Cafe: Offering bistro lunches and delicious desserts, this neighborhood café is open 7-days a week and has a beautiful patio bar with an extensive selection of wine and local beers.

1602 Walnut Street, Jacksonville FL 32206

www.threelayersacoffeehouse.com

3) Confederate Dog Park: A special place for Jacksonville's furry visitors. This is Jacksonville's only city-owned off leash Dog Park. It has close to 3 acres of green space. The park has two areas, one for small breeds and a larger area for large dogs. The park is free and open to all breeds. It also has benches and shaded areas for the human companions.

956 Hubbard Street, Jacksonville FL 32206

Getting Here from Downtown: Go north on Ocean Street, turn left onto E State Street/US-1 N then take the first right onto N Main Street/US-1 and that leads to the heart of Springfield.

Mandarin & The Westside

Along the St. Johns River and South of San Marco you will find the Mandarin neighborhood. The mostly residential area is brimming with commerce and big box stores. Cross the Buckman Bridge and on the other side of the River from Mandarin, visitors will find the Westside, a mostly commercial area home to the Naval Air Station Jacksonville; it is one of two naval bases in Jacksonville. NAS is the founding location of the Blue Angels.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) Clark's Fish Camp: This is waterfront dining taken to the next level. Servicing visitors for over 30 years, Clark's Fish Camp has a great reputation in Jacksonville for being the place-to-go to enjoy fresh seafood at a relaxed atmosphere. Their menu includes favorites like oysters, shrimp and crab legs and call of the wild options like crocodile, gator, ostrich and snake. Something for everyone!

12903 Hood Landing Road, Jacksonville FL 32258

www.clarksfishcamp.com

2) The Comedy Zone: Nationally known comedians bring their shows to Jacksonville's Comedy Zone. It is located inside the Ramada Inn off San Jose Blvd. Food and drinks available at every show.

3130 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257

<http://comedyzone.com>

3) Mandarin Museum and Walter Jones Historical Park: The 10-acre riverfront park is home to an 1876 farm complex with picnic areas and a citrus grove. Guided tours of the farm are available, call (904) 268-0784 for reservations.

11964 Mandarin Road, Jacksonville, FL 32223

<http://mandarinmuseum.net/>

4) Mandarin Park: This 37-acre park has 2 miles of nature trails, a fishing pier and a boat ramp off Julington Creek. It also has 12 picnic areas and 6 playgrounds. It has free parking on site.

14780 Mandarin Road , Jacksonville FL 32223

5) The Jacksonville Equestrian Center: A premiere facility for regional and national events showcasing the best in horse competitions. It is regarded as one of the best equestrian facilities on the east coast. When horse shows are not in town, the Equestrian Center hosts a wide range of entertainment events like mud-runs and other athletic competitions.

13611 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32221

www.jaxevents.com/venues/Jacksonville%20Equestrian%20Center/

Getting Here from Downtown: Go South on I-95 for 11 miles. Take I-295 west and exit at San Jose Blvd. South.

Arlington & Southside

These two areas of Jacksonville are more residential, as close to suburbia as it gets in our town, but next to the apartment complexes and business centers you will find dozens of popular attractions, nightclubs, entertainment centers, movie theaters, fine dining, state parks and historic places. Arlington is one of the first areas in the United States visited by Europeans; it was the site of the French Fort Caroline in 1564, nowadays the Fort Caroline National Memorial is there for visitors to enjoy. The Southside and Arlington are the largest areas in town, to get around public buses have frequent routes between the most popular attractions and malls.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve: 46,000 acres of history and adventure. You can boat, Jet Ski, swim, fish and hike in this unspoiled coastal wetland. See the beautiful salt marshes, coastal dunes and the hardwood hammocks that populate the Preserve and discover what Florida looked like 6,000 years ago! The Preserve is also home to the Fort Caroline National Memorial -a replica of the Fort built by French settlers more than 500 years ago- and also Kingsley Plantation, the last remaining Plantation house in the state of Florida. Both historic locations are open to the public, private tours are available with reservations. The Preserve and all of its attractions can be reached by boat or car.

12713 Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville FL 32225

www.nps.gov/foca

2) Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens: Located in the heart of Arlington, the Arboretum gives visitors a chance to explore Jacksonville's native fauna and flora. This 120-acre urban woodland has close to 3-miles of hiking trails thru a series of distinct ecological habitats. It is a great place for a morning workout routine. The Arboretum is open all week and it is free to all visitors. Parking, bathroom and camping facilities are available on site.

1445 Millcoe Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32225

www.jacksonvillearboretum.org

3) St. Johns Town Center: This beautiful open-air shopping Mecca has more than 1-million square miles of retail and dining options, from high-end retailers like Tiffany & Co. and Louis Vuitton to discount giants Target and Ross and more than 150 brand name specialty stores. Dining options include P.F. Chang's, The Cheesecake Factory, Ted's Montana Grill and Seasons 52. Close to the St. Johns Town Center is the Tinseltown area, with a movie theater and local shops and also the Avenues Mall, another great local shopping center.

4663 River City Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32246

www.simon.com/mall/?id=857

4) The Alhambra Theatre and Dining: This is the nation's oldest continually operating professional dinner theater; it is also one of the few remaining ones. Enjoy Broadway style live theater with a fine dining experience all in one place. Many of the Alhambra's performers have worked on Broadway participating in national and international tours. The Alhambra is perfect for a date night.

12000 Beach Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32246

www.alhambrajax.com

5) Dog Wood Park Jacksonville: Thinking of our furry visitors, Dog Wood Park is a 42-acre swim and Play Park for dogs and their human companions. Named one of the "Top 10 Dog Parks You Need to See in Your Lifetime" by Dogster.com, Dog Wood Park is one of the largest fenced dog parks in the nation. Non-members must pay a fee.

7407 Salisbury Rd. S. Jacksonville, FL 32256

www.jaxdogs.com

Getting Here from Downtown: Take the Mathews Bridge east; it will become the Arlington Expressway. Then, exit north at University to enter Arlington. Continue unto Southside Blvd. (Hwy. 115) to enter Southside.

Northside & The Airport

Three of Jacksonville's main travel hubs –the Jacksonville International Airport, the Amtrak station and the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal- are located in this area. Dozens of hotels populate the area as well as the Jacksonville Port and several factories. Despite the high number of business in the area the Northside is a residential area with many historic neighborhoods.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) The River City Marketplace: This is the Northside's largest shopping center. Located 5 minutes from the Jacksonville International Airport, this open-air plaza has more than 70 restaurants and stores and also features a movie theater. Stores include Bed, Bath and Beyond, Old Navy and Lowe's.

13141 City Station Dr #123, Jacksonville, FL 32218

2) The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens: Home to more than 1,800 rare and exotic animals, the Jacksonville Zoo is Northeast Florida's most visited cultural attraction. See gorillas, lions and giraffes, pet stingrays and pygmy goats and enjoy majestic gardens inside this modern Zoo with southern charm. In 2014 the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens will celebrate its 100th Birthday and a special celebration is in the works!

370 Zoo Parkway, Jacksonville, FL 33218

www.jacksonvillezoo.org

3) Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary: A forever home for lions, tigers, pumas and dozens of other big cats that once belonged to circuses, closed zoos and private owners. Catty Shack Ranch offers visitors a truly unique and only in Jacksonville experience. Go on a guided tour of the big cats enclosures and experience their special bond with Director, Curt LoGiudice. Curt, not only talks to the big cats but he pets them, kisses them, feeds them by hand and even goes inside their cages and cuddles with them. Visitors can witness nightly feedings and get to see once struggling animals live in a comfortable and beautiful environment.

1860 Starratt Road, Jacksonville, FL 32226

www.cattyshack.org

4) The Budweiser Brewery: Open for complimentary public tours daily, the Budweiser Brewery gives visitors a unique look inside an actual working factory. The Brewery produces 250 million 12oz packages per month of beer. Visitors can enjoy the free tour or for a small fee take a more in depth look at the brewing process with the Beermaster Tour and beer tasting. Another cool and inexpensive option at the Brewery is Beer School, a fun and informative experience that teaches visitors the steps to a better beer experience.

11 Busch Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32218

www.budweisertours.com/z01/index.php/jacksonville/overview

5) The Talbot Islands State Parks: Camp, hike, swim, bike, fish, kayak, surf, discover and enjoy one of Jacksonville's most beautiful locations. The Talbot Islands –Little Talbot and Big Talbot- offer visitors the chance for the eco-adventure of a lifetime. With more than five miles of white-sandy beaches, Little Talbot is one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier islands in Northeast Florida; it has a three-mile hiking trail and a paved path for bicycles. It also offers a full camping facility with 40 campsites, fresh water, laundry facilities and two bathhouses. Big Talbot is a natural preserve perfect for bird-watching, photography and exploring. Kayak Amelia, at Big Talbot, offers visitors Kayak rentals and guided tours of the beautiful marshes. If you are at Big Talbot don't skip a trip to Boneyard Beach, it is famous for the live oak and cedar tree skeletons on the beach.

Little Talbot: 12157 Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32226

www.floridastateparks.org/littletalbotisland

Big Talbot: State Road A1A North, Jacksonville, Florida 32226

www.floridastateparks.org/bigtalbotisland

Getting Here from Downtown: To reach the airport and the River City Marketplace, take I-95 north and exit on 363B/Duval Road. For the Zoo, take I-95 and exit on Zoo Parkway, this same road becomes Hecksher Drive and leads you into the Talbot Islands.

The Beaches & Mayport

Bring your flip-flops and pack that sunscreen, Jacksonville has 21 miles of wide, uncrowded, white-sandy beaches that offer visitors majestic sunrises and star filled nights. Visitors will find plenty to do, with diverse water activities, restaurants, nightlife hotspots, souvenir shops and oceanfront hotels blending into the scene without crowding views of the shorelines in Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach and Mayport. Our beaches are a great place to surf, paddleboard, kayak, kite surf, boat, swim and fish. At 1,300 feet, the Jacksonville Beach Fishing Pier features a 20-foot wide wooden deck and is a great spot to watch the fishermen reel in their latest catches or watch surfers catch a perfect wave. Spectators can visit the pier for \$1; children 6 and younger are admitted for free. There is plenty of free parking at the beaches and two city-owned lots that charge a small fee during the summer. The Sea Walk Pavilion, just a few feet from the Ocean, frequently host free music festivals and movie nights.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) Beaches Town Center: Enjoy casual and upscale dining options as well as a happening nightlife scene in a beautiful beach setting where Atlantic and Neptune Beach meet. It is a quaint and relaxed shopping and dining hub with a mix crowd of young and young at heart. The Beaches Town Center is across the street from One Ocean Spa and Resort and its delicious Azurea restaurant as well as beach favorite Pete's Bar inside the Seahorse Oceanfront Inn.

200 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida 32266

<http://beachestowncenter.com/>

2) Adventure Landing & Shipwreck Island Waterpark: A family attraction just minutes from the water, Adventure Landing offers visitors dozens of exciting entertaining options like miniature golf, laser tag, go-karting and an arcade with every popular game imaginable. During the summer, the waterpark features a lazy river, a wave pool, 4 extreme slides and a play village for younger visitors. During the winter the water park becomes a WinterFEST complete with nightly snowfalls and an outdoor ice skating rink.

1944 Beach Blvd. Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

www.adventurelanding.com

3) Intracoastal Eco-Tour: Where the St. Johns River and the Atlantic Ocean meet, the Intracoastal Waterway provides visitors a unique and direct connection to Jacksonville's natural habitat. Several companies like Jax Water Tours and Crazy Fish offer eco-tours where visitors can spot dolphins, manatees, local birds and enjoy beautiful sunsets and the refreshing coastal breeze. The tours offer relaxation just minutes away from city life.

www.jaxwatertours.com

www.crazyfishjax.com

4) TPC Sawgrass: Jacksonville has over 1,220 holes of golf and the beaches provide the ideal spot for golf vacations. Northeast Florida is home to over 70 public and private courses, one of the most beautiful ones is TPC Sawgrass, home to THE PLAYERS championship and the PGA TOUR headquarters. Golf lovers will find two courses inside TPC Sawgrass, both open to the public for a fee.

10 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

www.tpc.com/tpc-sawgrass

5) The Beaches Museum & History Park: See photos from Jacksonville Beach in the 50's, see an exhibit on what the beaches used to look like, see the story of Northeast Florida's top surfers, visit Jacksonville's beach first chapel all at the Beaches Museum. It is a great way to spend an afternoon after soaking up the rays on the sand.

381 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

www.beachmuseum.org

Getting Here from Downtown: Take the Mathews Bridge to the Arlington Expressway/Atlantic Blvd. east until you reach A1A. Turn right to go to Neptune and Atlantic Beach, left for Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra Beaches.

Amelia Island & Fernandina Beach

This tiny barrier island is relaxation central, a golf and spa haven for leisure and business travelers. The island's only city, Fernandina Beach, is a charming historic town known for its artwork, antiques, boutiques and Shrimp Festival every spring. A 45 minute ride from Downtown Jacksonville, this destination makes for a great day trip.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) Horseback Riding on the Beach: Amelia Island is one of the few places in all of Florida where you can ride horses on the beach. Located at the Amelia Island State Park, Kelly Seahorse Ranch, offers guided horseback tours on the beautiful white-sandy beaches of southern Amelia Island.

7500 First Coast Hwy, Amelia Island, FL 32034

www.kellyranchinc.net

2) Fort Clinch State Park: A military post during the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and World War II, Fort Clinch is one of the most-well preserved 19th century forts in the nation. Daily tours are offer to the public. There are camping facilities as well as a 6-mile hike and bike trail in the Park.

2601 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

www.floridastateparks.org/fortclinch/

3) Amelia River Cruises & Charters: This guided boat tour offers visitors views of Fernandina's historic waterfront, a close look at wild horses on Cumberland Island and the history of Amelia Island. It is a unique Coastal experience with several tours offered, including an Eco-tour, Sunset tour and a History/Nature tour. Dolphins, manatees, wild horses and local birds can be seen during the tours.

1 North Front Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

www.ameliarivercruises.com

4) SkyCoast Adventures Helicopter Tour: See Fernandina Beach from way up high! This helicopter tour offers gives visitors spectacular views of Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Enjoy this natural paradise from a bird's view perspective and become one with the coastal scenery.

650 Airport Road, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

www.skycoastadventures.com

5) American Beach: A historic beach of great importance for the African-American community. It was created as Florida's first vacation haven for African-American visitors back in 1935, before desegregation. The weekend getaway and resort community is now on the National Registry of Historic Places.

www.historicamericanbeach.com

Getting Here from Downtown: Take I-95 north to A1A and follow the signs to Amelia Island.

St. Augustine & Ponte Vedra

St. Augustine is the nation's oldest city, founded by the Spanish in 1565. It is filled with historical landmarks like the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and the Fountain of Youth Archeological Park. And it is not all history, St. Augustine Beach is a beautiful coastal community and just north of it visitors will find Ponte Vedra, a luxurious community with golf courses and pristine beaches.

5 Attractions You Can't Miss:

1) World Golf Hall of Fame and IMAX Theater: A destination for the golf and history lover. Combining historic artifacts, interactive exhibits and personal players' memorabilia, the Hall of Fame celebrates the history, players and sport of golf. The annual induction ceremony, commemorating players and golf contributors, is open to the public. After you tour the museum, visit their IMAX Theater with Hollywood blockbusters and independent documentaries.

One World Golf Place, St. Augustine, FL 32092

www.worldgolfhalloffame.org

2) St. Augustine Premium and Prime Outlets: Just off I-95 you will find this bargain shopper's paradise. With stores like Gucci, Juicy Couture, Kate Spade, Gap Outlet, Anne Taylor Factory store and Banana Republic, shoppers will find great deals on dozens of labels and stores.

Premium Outlet: 2700 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092

www.premiumoutlets.com/outlets/outlet.asp?id=55

Prime Outlet: 510 Prime Outlets Boulevard, St. Augustine 32084

www.staugoutlets.com

3) St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum: Open seven days a week, the Museum houses over 800 authentic pirate artifacts as well as treasures collected from shipwrecks across the world. The Pirate Museum has several exhibits including "Welcome to Port Royal", with artifacts collected from Jamaica some 300 years ago, the "Captain's Cabin" with journals and original artifacts from real pirates as well as one of only two authentic pirate flags in existence. Another popular exhibit is "Hollywood Pirates", with memorabilia from Hollywood blockbusters like "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Treasure Island".

12 S Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084

www.piratesoul.com

4) Ripley's Believe It or Not!: This is Ripley's first Believe It or Not! Museum. It has over 800 unique and weird exhibits. Some reports say the Museum is also haunted. Ripley's also offers a nightly Ghost Train Adventure Tour in downtown St. Augustine.

19 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084

www.ripleys.com/staugustine/

5) St. Augustine Alligator Farm: For more than 100 years, visitors have gotten the opportunity to experience one of Florida's native predators, the alligator, in its natural habitat thanks to the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. Now the Farm is the only facility in the world that exhibits at least one living specimen of all 23 crocodile species. A new attraction at the Farm is the "Crocodile Crossing" zip line, taking visitors above the crocodile enclosures for a thrilling experience.

999 Anastasia Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32080

www.alligatorfarm.com

Getting Here from Downtown: Take I-95 south then head east on State Road 16 to St. Augustine. From there Ponte Vedra is 17 miles north on A1A.