

RELOCATION GUIDE TO

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Newcomer's Guide for Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau & St. Johns Counties



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Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Lagoon, photo courtesy of St. Johns County

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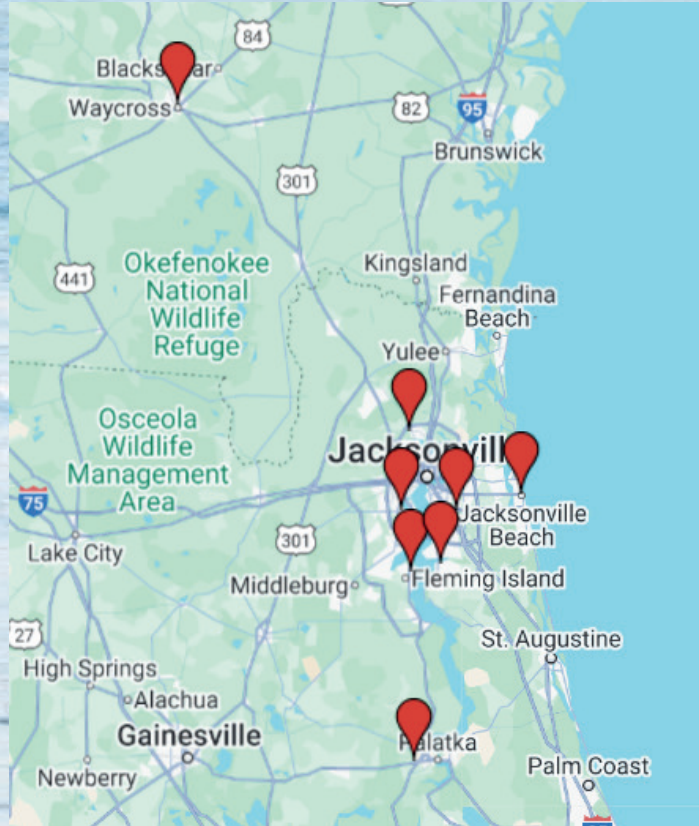
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# Welcome to the First Coast Relocation Guide™!

We are thrilled that you have decided to call the First Coast home! For more than two decades, this guide has helped introduce newcomers such as yourself to the area. With this relocation guide, you hold a wide range of resources to help you acquaint yourself with your new home.

The First Coast is by far the best place to Live, Work and Play. The area is filled with benefits for everyone. We have beautiful weather year-round, gorgeous beaches and highly rated healthcare facilities, among the many other aspects that the First Coast has to offer. Recently, Zillow ranked Jacksonville at No. 4 on their list of buyer-friendly cities for 2026. Over the years, our area has seen great growth in population, with people relocating from all over. With that in mind, the First Coast has worked hard to expand work opportunities, neighborhoods and healthcare options to keep up with the demand. It's not all work here though. The First Coast hosts several events throughout the year. Between the multiple sports teams, annual events, concerts, shows and several other entertainment opportunities, residents have the chance to experience all sorts of fun on the First Coast.

In the Live section, you will find information on the numerous neighborhoods and master-planned communities, broken down by county, to help you find the perfect neighborhood. The five counties on the First Coast are Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. Potential renters will find the apartment living section with information on the current market. Information on our local healthcare options and upcoming expansions can be found in this section.

The Work section highlights the First Coast's foremost industries, including information technology, logistics and distribution, healthcare and finance. We also highlight the area's top employers. In this section, you will find information on transportation options and all major roads and highways in the area. The First Coast is also notable for its strong military presence. Many active-duty military and veterans call the area home. Naval Station Mayport is home to the Navy's Fourth Fleet and the third-largest naval surface fleet concentration area in the nation. Naval Air Station Jacksonville is the largest navy base in the Southeast region.

Having fun on the First Coast is a breeze! With our Play section, residents can find a myriad of different ways to spend their free time. Catch a show at one of the many theaters or cheer on one of the local sports teams. For those who want to spend time in the great outdoors, the First Coast is made up of miles of coastline and has the largest urban park system in the nation. The First Coast is also home to diverse dining options that range from charming cafés to five-star restaurants.

We are so delighted that you have chosen the First Coast as your home! We hope the *First Coast Relocation Guide™* helps you discover everything that makes the First Coast such an amazing place to Live, Work and Play!



**Marzoug (Mark) Al-Amad**  
Founder, Publisher & President



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Northeast Florida! First Lady Casey DeSantis and I are glad you have chosen the Sunshine State as your home. We are confident you and your family will enjoy the natural beauty and charm that make Florida's First Coast unique.

Over the past three years we have seen so many Americans choose to move to Florida because they know that when so many other states were locking people down, in Florida we lifted people up. In Florida, your children have a right to go to school in person, your individual liberties are protected, our environment is thriving, and our law enforcement have our support to keep you safe.

During my time as Governor, we have invested millions to raise the minimum K-12 teacher salary and we have increased salaries for veteran teachers and other instructional personnel, ensuring that we can recruit and retain top teacher talent. During the 2020-2021 school year, every kid in Florida had access to in-person education. To thank Florida's educators who showed up for their students, we also provided \$1,000 bonuses to all teachers and principals in the state. I also signed the Parents' Bill of Rights, which gives parents the vested authority to make decisions about their children's education, upbringing, and health.

We are also keeping your communities safe in Florida by supporting our law enforcement officers and first responders. The Combatting Public Disorder Act, which I signed into law, makes it clear that rioting and civil unrest will not be tolerated in Florida. I also gave \$1,000 bonuses to our law enforcement officers and first responders to thank them for getting out and going to work every day because you can't keep communities safe on Zoom. In the upcoming Legislative Session, we are planning to pass a police recruitment bill to bring more law enforcement officers to Florida.

Florida has no income tax and the lowest per-capita tax burden of any state in the nation, our economy continues to outperform the rest of the country, we continue to invest in our infrastructure, and we have invested more than any administration in history in the conservation of our beautiful environment. We're glad you're here. Welcome to the Sunshine State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis  
Governor



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**DONNA DEEGAN**  
MAYOR

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Dear Neighbor,

As Mayor of Jacksonville, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our incredible city. Whether you're seeking new opportunities, a fresh chapter, or a city where quality of life truly shines, I'm confident you'll find Jacksonville to be a place where you can thrive.

Covering more than 840 square miles, Jacksonville is a city defined by its natural beauty and its remarkable people. The St. Johns River flows through the center of our community, connecting historic neighborhoods, expanding business districts, and miles of riverfront. Our coastline offers more than 22 miles of pristine beaches, and our urban parks system, the largest in the country, provides endless ways to enjoy the outdoors. From the tranquil pathways of our expanding Emerald Trail to afternoons spent kayaking, biking, or picnicking beneath the live oaks, Jacksonville offers outdoor experiences for every lifestyle.



We are a city looking firmly to the future. Jacksonville's economy continues to grow across healthcare, higher education, advanced manufacturing, logistics, and our nationally recognized fintech sector. Our arts and cultural landscapes are thriving, and our sports scene brings excitement with every season from the Jacksonville Jaguars to professional baseball, hockey, basketball, soccer and arena football teams. Strategic investments in downtown revitalization, riverfront parks, workforce development, and small business support are creating a more connected, innovative, and opportunity-rich city for residents and newcomers alike.

In Jacksonville, we remain grounded in service and resilience. Our deep military heritage, diverse faith communities, and generations of families who have chosen to build their lives here shape the welcoming spirit you'll feel throughout our city. Whether you're arriving alone, with family, or ready to begin a new chapter, you'll find a sense of belonging here.

Welcome home.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Donna Deegan

# From the Editor

Greetings from the First Coast! Calling Jacksonville my hometown has never been more special, especially with more of you to call my neighbor! From expansive neighborhoods in our suburbs to popular and trending urban neighborhoods in our downtown, there's a place for everyone. With shimmering beaches to rolling hills in our rural farmlands, along with miles of river that run through the region, there is no shortage of environmental wealth. There is something for everyone here, with an established economic presence that continues to grow. This city offers local businesses a chance to thrive, while also being a conglomerate hub for healthcare, sports and entertainment, shopping, shipping and so much more. We are excited to welcome you here to our stunning First Coast!

One of the most notable characteristics of the city of Jacksonville is that it is the largest U.S. continental city by land mass. In addition to that, there are over 1 million residents that call this First Coast city their home, making Jacksonville the most populated city in all of Florida! With so much to do, and so many people to build communities with, you could spend your whole life getting to know this region.

With 1,100 miles of shoreline and up to 300 miles of scenic riverfront views from the St. Johns River, there is no shortage of aquatic adventuring for our outdoorsmen. There are miles of coastal marshes, beaches and forest habitats that thrive in the region's subtropical climates. With an estimated 270 days of sunshine annually, there are plenty of chances to get acquainted with the First Coast wildlife.

With so much to explore in the First Coast, a must-see is our historic city of St. Augustine, with the scenic walk along the bayfront that displays the glittering

Matanzas Bay to the 330-year-old Castillo de San Marcos. From water-front drinks and dining to the cobblestone streets of Old Town, along with the beautiful Spanish-style colonial architecture, St. Augustine offers a story of culture and deep historical roots, earning its place as the "Nation's Oldest City."

Don't be afraid to shop and dine when it comes to exploring this town; you will never find yourself short of options here. From the catch-of-the-day to sizzling sirloin, restaurants here offer fresh meals to order. Seafood lovers will find a haven in areas like Mayport or St. Augustine. Café hoppers will find locally owned shops with unique vibes, delicious coffee and in-house baked goods. For our shopaholics, the St. Johns Town Center outdoor mall offers more than 175 retailers, including restaurants where you can take a break to sit down and relax. As a Jacksonville native, I love exploring shops and boutiques tucked away in neighborhoods that are walkable, such as Riverside, Murray Hill, San Marco, Fernandina Beach and the Old Town of St. Augustine.

Bringing a family to the First Coast has never been more inviting. Family nights are hosted during sporting events in downtown Jacksonville's stadiums, with family games, food vendors and even fireworks to keep the kids entertained. Get up close with exotic animals at the expansive Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

The First Coast is ever-growing with so much to offer its residents. Finding your community here has never been more attainable. I am so proud to call the First Coast my home, and I hope you'll find your new home here too.

*Again, welcome to the First Coast!*

**Dounya Al-Amad**  
Editor



# 10

There's no doubt about it, the First Coast is one of the best places to live, work and play! With Jacksonville and Northeast Florida offering the largest city by area in the nation, our community blends a friendly, small-town atmosphere with all the perks of big city living. Attracting everyone from young entrepreneurs and growing families to retirees seeking sunshine and relaxation, people from all walks of life are discovering why life on the First Coast feels just right.

## Reasons We Love Calling the First Coast Home

Here are just 10 of the countless reasons the First Coast continues to inspire newcomers to Live, Work and Play here.

### 1. Welcoming Neighborhoods

The First Coast is made up of vibrant, diverse neighborhoods, each with its own charm and character. Whether you're searching for a downtown loft, a coastal cottage, a historic bungalow or a home in a master-planned community, there's something for every lifestyle and budget. Find your perfect neighborhood on page 15.

### 2. Excellent Education

Families will find numerous education options on the First Coast. From award-winning public and private schools to charter, magnet and specialized programs, our area is dedicated to helping every child thrive. Higher education also shines here, with respected institutions like Jacksonville University, University of North Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville and Flagler College. These universities are not only centers of academic excellence but also strong community partners, offering a variety of scholarships, grants and financial aid programs designed to make higher education more accessible. Learn more about education on page 50.



Flagler College, photo by Michael J. Vega, courtesy of Unsplash



A1A, photo by Josh Moore, courtesy of Unsplash

## 5. Proud Military Heritage

The military plays a vital role in shaping our region, along with bringing in so many of the First Coast's newcomers! With Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport, Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, Camp Blanding and Marine Corps Blount Island Command, the First Coast proudly supports thousands of active-duty service members, reservists and civilian personnel. Learn more about our military community on page 93.

## 3. Exceptional Healthcare

World-class healthcare is right around the corner on the First Coast. Our region proudly hosts one of only three Mayo Clinics in the country, along with MD Anderson Cancer Center, Ascension St. Vincent's, Baptist Health and UF Health. Families also have access to world-class pediatric care at Nemours Children's Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital. Find out more about local healthcare on page 68.

## 4. Thriving Business Community

Home to three Fortune 500 companies and over 150 corporate headquarters, the First Coast is a hub for opportunity. Key industries include information technology, logistics, finance, healthcare and the military. Whether you're building your career or starting a business, Jacksonville's dynamic economy is full of promise. Explore more of our businesses on page 80.

## 6. Scenic Beaches

With 1,100 miles of shoreline and 22 miles of sandy beaches, the First Coast is a paradise for beach lovers. Spend your days surfing, kayaking, fishing or simply relaxing under the sun. Each beach community offers its own unique personality—from the laid-back vibe of Jacksonville Beach to the upscale vibe of Atlantic Beach, all the way to St. Augustine Beach with its historic significance and elegance. Find your new favorite beach on page 104.



UNF, photo by Brianna Eisman

## 7. Active Senior Living

With frequent sunshine and oceanside breezes, it's easy to see why so many seniors choose the First Coast for their next chapter. The area offers vibrant retirement communities, engaging senior programs and countless opportunities for recreation, volunteering and connection. Discover more of what Jacksonville has to offer for seniors on page 76.



Seniors enjoying the Jazz Festival, photo courtesy of COJ

## 8. Endless Entertainment

From live concerts and theater to art festivals and local events, there's always something happening here! Enjoy performances at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts or the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Large-scale performances by popular artists are often performed at our VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, with major music artists such as Rihanna, Ariana Grande, MANILOW and more. See more entertainment options on page 117.



EverBank Stadium, photo courtesy of Jacksonville Jaguars

## 9. Sports All Year Long

Sports fans will feel right at home on the First Coast. Cheer on the Jacksonville Jaguars at EverBank Stadium, enjoy hockey with the Jacksonville Icemen or take in America's favorite pastime with the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp. Plus, don't miss iconic annual events like THE PLAYERS Championship, the Florida-Georgia game and the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl. Check out our Sports section for more information on page 122.



St. George Street, photo by Troy Davis, courtesy of Unsplash

## 10. Fantastic Shopping

Whether you love designer labels or local boutiques, the First Coast is a shopper's dream. Browse over 150 stores at the St. Johns Town Center, discover hidden gems in our historic districts of Riverside and Avondale, or even venture to beachside shops for locally sourced finds. Learn more in our Shopping section on page 128.

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park, photo courtesy of COJ



We've created this publication as your guide to exploring and settling into life on the First Coast. From our friendly neighborhoods to our thriving economy and stunning natural beauty, there's so much to love here. Welcome home—we can't wait for you to experience why the First Coast truly is the best place to Live, Work and Play!

# LIVE

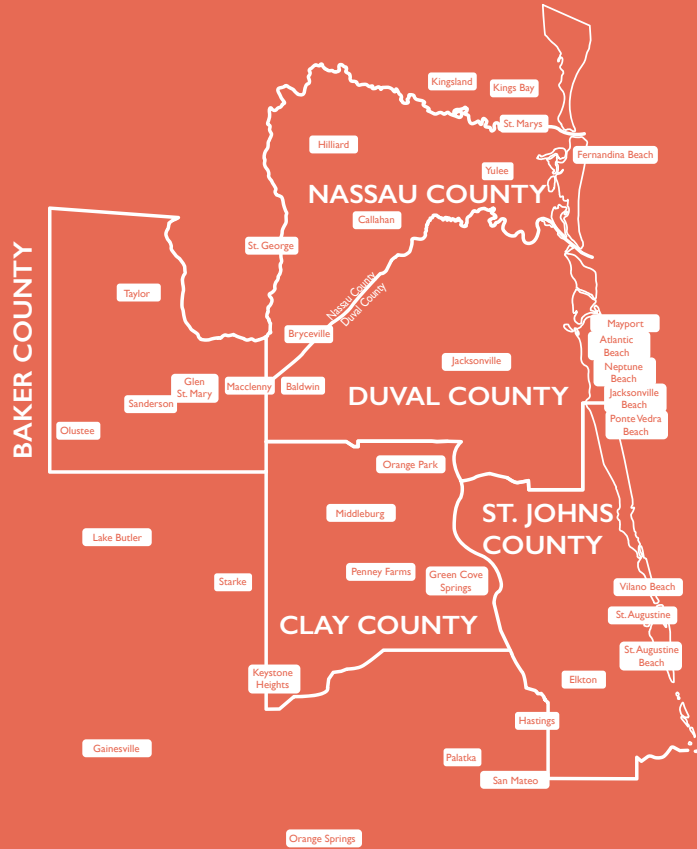
In the Live Section, you'll find all the essential information for day-to-day living on the First Coast.



# Home Sweet Home: First Coast Neighborhoods

The First Coast is filled with welcoming neighborhoods and communities ready to greet newcomers. Whether you're looking for a quiet country home, a breezy beach cottage, a master-planned community, a charming historic property, or a modern condo in downtown Jacksonville, there's a perfect fit waiting for you here.

To help you get acquainted with the region, here's an overview of the neighborhoods within the five First Coast counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns.



San Marco Mural, photo by Stephanie Marty



Amelia Island, photo courtesy of Ameliainland.com



St. Johns River Base, photo by Diana Ferguson



Photo by Seven Pines



Doctors Lake, photo by Diana Ferguson



Estimated  
Population:  
**29,139 (2026)\***



Area:  
**589 square miles**

# BAKER COUNTY

Baker County offers the best of both worlds—a peaceful country setting with the convenience of being close to the city. Just a quick 30-minute drive from downtown Jacksonville, residents enjoy smooth commutes while coming home to quiet woodlands, scenic swamps and wide-open spaces that capture Florida’s natural beauty. Outdoor adventures and friendly critters are part of everyday life here.



Heritage Park Village, photo courtesy of Visit Florida

## GLEN ST. MARY / MACCLENNY

If you're drawn to the charm of small-town living, **Glen St. Mary** and **Macclenny** are wonderful places to call home. From single-family homes and gated communities to properties with generous acreage, Glen St. Mary has much to offer. Nearby Macclenny serves as the Baker County seat, with about 7,300 residents and convenient access to Jacksonville (35 miles away) and the Georgia border (six miles away). The city features a variety of subdivisions, apartments and townhomes, giving newcomers a range of options to settle in comfortably.



Glen St. Mary, St. Marys River Aerial, photo courtesy of Visit Florida

\*Source: Office of Economic and Demographic Research

# CLAY COUNTY

Just southwest of Jacksonville and west of historic St. Augustine, Clay County welcomes residents with a blend of suburban neighborhoods, scenic landscapes and growing communities. Nature lovers especially enjoy its winding trails, abundant wildlife and peaceful waterways that make outdoor living a part of everyday life.



Estimated  
Population:  
**238,605 (2026)\***



Area:  
**644 square miles**



Photo by Matt Padgett, courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

## FLEMING ISLAND

This thriving community continues to draw new residents every year. **Fleming Island** features established neighborhoods like Eagle Harbor, Fleming Island Plantation and Pace Island, each offering beautiful homes and family-friendly amenities. Locals enjoy convenient shopping, dining and entertainment nearby, plus scenic nature trails at Black Creek Park for walking, biking or exploring with your furry friend.

## GREEN COVE SPRINGS

Originally established in 1854 as White Sulfur Springs, **Green Cove Springs** is a friendly riverside city rich in history and Southern charm. Many historic homes line the St. Johns River, while new developments bring fresh energy to the area.

**Granary Park** spans 290 acres with 771 single-family homesites and offers a resort-inspired clubhouse, pool and fitness studio.

**Governors Park** is adding housing with up to 4,000 single-family homes, 2,000 multi-family units and an 18-hole golf course.



Green Cove Springs City Hall building, photo by Diana Ferguson

\*Source: Office of Economic and Demographic Research

Penney Farms, J.C. Penney Statue, photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

Doctors Lake, photo by Diana Ferguson



**“Fleming Island was named the No. 6 best Florida suburb to buy a house in 2025, according to Niche.”**

**Hyland Trail** brings 1,500 homesites and family-focused amenities like a clubhouse, fitness center, resort-style pool, playground and nature trails.

**Lakes at Bella Lago** features 370 single-family homes with lakeside views and resort-style amenities, perfect for families and couples.

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS**

Nestled around its namesake lakes, **Keystone Heights** blends old-town charm with outdoor beauty. Homebuyers will find cozy cottage-style homes, single-family homes and ample land in this peaceful southwest corner of Clay County.

Fleming Island Plantation, photo by Diana Ferguson



**OAKLEAF PLANTATION**

Spanning 6,400 acres, **Oakleaf Plantation** is a welcoming, family-oriented community that offers everything from luxury condos and apartments to affordable single- and multi-family homes. Designed around multiple village-style subdivisions, it's a great place to lay down roots on the First Coast.

**ORANGE PARK**

In the northeastern corner of Clay County, **Orange Park** offers a comfortable mix of big-city convenience and small-town warmth with its pockets of large communities. From riverfront estates along the St. Johns River and Doctors Lake to modern inland communities, there's something for every lifestyle. The area features great shopping, dining, and entertainment, plus quick access to I-295 and NAS Jacksonville.

**MIDDLEBURG**

Located near Black Creek, **Middleburg** blends suburban comfort with a touch of country life. The area's rapid growth has brought new housing options—from family-style homes to apartments—while maintaining its down-home character.



Photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism



St. Johns River Base, photo by Diana Ferguson

# DUVAL COUNTY

Duval County is a place of vibrant variety—from the energy of downtown Jacksonville to peaceful suburban neighborhoods and laid-back coastal living. As the largest city by area in the contiguous U.S., Jacksonville offers something for everyone. To help you explore, the county is divided into four areas: Beaches, North, South and West.



Estimated  
Population:  
**1,079,044 (2026)\***



Area:  
**918 square miles**



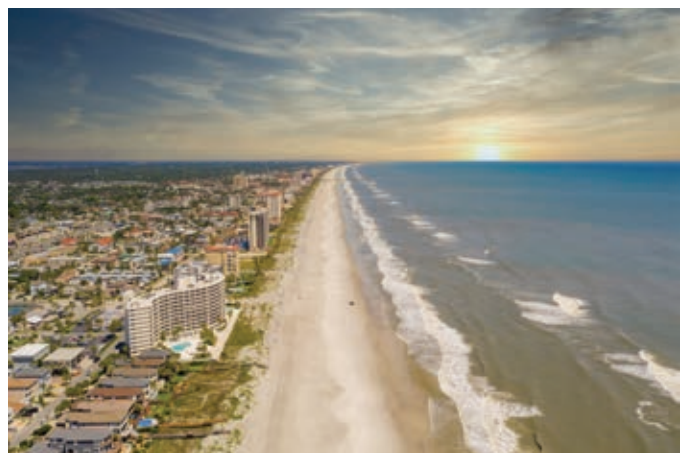
Downtown, photo by Mike Jones, courtesy of Pixels

## DUVAL-BEACHES

The Beaches area combines coastal charm with a lively community spirit. Encompassing Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Mayport, each area offers its own unique characteristics. **Atlantic Beach** contains a beautiful residential scene, with scenic walking and biking trails along the beach, local parks and outdoor events throughout the year. **Neptune Beach**, covering just 2.5 square miles, offers quiet subdivisions filled with classic bungalows and a relaxed seaside

atmosphere that makes this area frequented by locals and visitors alike.

**Jacksonville Beach** is full of life, featuring trendy restaurants, shops and nightlife. Homes here range from beachfront condos to single-family houses. Known for some of the best seafood in Jacksonville, **Mayport**—one of the oldest fishing villages in the nation—remains a beloved local gem, offering single-family homes and apartments. Many residents here are part of the Naval Station Mayport community.



Jacksonville Beach Coast, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

\*Source: Office of Economic and Demographic Research

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## DUVAL-NORTH

### ARLINGTON/FORT CAROLINE

Rich in history and natural beauty, the **Arlington** and **Fort Caroline** area was first settled by Europeans in 1564. Bordered by the St. Johns River, the Intracoastal Waterway and Atlantic Boulevard, this neighborhood offers a wide variety of living options—from single- and multi-family homes to waterfront condos and large floor plan housing, along with several golf community residences.

### NORTHSIDE/OCEANWAY

Located north of downtown, the **Northside** area combines convenience with room to grow. Residents enjoy proximity to Jacksonville International Airport, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, and River City Marketplace—a new favorite spot for shopping and dining. **Oceanway** stretches to the Duval/Nassau County line, offering

neighborhoods with townhomes, apartment communities and growing housing developments.

**Tidewater**, a newer Northside community, features beautiful homes surrounded by oak trees and water views, offering coastal and farmhouse architectural styles. Residents enjoy amenities including a basketball court, resort-style pool, playground and fitness center.

## DUVAL-SOUTH

### INTRACOASTAL WEST

Located between the city and the shore, **Intracoastal West** offers easy access to both. With a variety of apartments, condominiums, subdivisions and retirement communities, this area combines convenience with coastal charm. Residents enjoy nearby shops, restaurants and waterway access. Here you can find **Tamaya**, a master-planned community, featuring elegant homes inspired by Tuscan,

Riverside neighborhood, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Mediterranean and Spanish designs.

### MANDARIN

In Jacksonville's southernmost area, **Mandarin** is a historic neighborhood with river views and tree-lined streets. Once home to author

Harriet Beecher Stowe, it still holds a timeless appeal. Neighboring **Beauclerc** and **San Jose** offer homes ranging from mid-century classics to new builds, all with a welcoming tight-knit community feel.

**SAN MARCO**

Just south of downtown, **San Marco** is one of Jacksonville's most beloved neighborhoods. Its tree-lined streets, boutique shops, coffee spots and art galleries create a lively village feel. Surrounding this neighborhood is the St. John's River, providing scenic walking paths in some of Jacksonville's older communities. The central San Marco Square, home to the Three Lions Fountain, serves as a community gathering spot. Housing options include everything from cozy bungalows and apartments to grand riverfront estates.

**SOUTHSIDE/BAYMEADOWS**

Those seeking variety will feel right at home in **Southside** and **Baymeadows**. This area offers everything from luxury apartments and condos to gated communities and family neighborhoods. Shopping and dining are plentiful, including The Avenues Mall and Town Center, along with corporate and retail centers.

Nearby, **Seven Pines** is a new 1,000-acre master-planned community conveniently located near I-295 and Butler Boulevard. The eco-friendly community of **eTown**, located off 9B, offers sustainable homes and vibrant amenities, including Recharge, a five-acre amenity center with pools, fitness areas, playgrounds, event spaces and a dog park. A wave-powered surf park is planned for 2027. **EverRange**, a new master-planned community from the developers of Nocatee and eTown, has begun development in southeast Duval County to lay its roots for newcomers of Jacksonville.

The growing **Town Center** area offers upscale apartments, townhomes and condos, all within walking distance of Jacksonville's premier shopping, dining and entertainment. Its proximity to the University of North Florida makes it popular among students and young professionals.

**DUVAL-WEST**

**DOWNTOWN**

**Downtown Jacksonville** offers vibrant urban and alternative living with lofts, townhomes and riverfront condominiums. Many lofts have been beautifully restored from historic 1920s buildings. With walkable access to bars, restaurants, museums, festivals and concerts, Downtown is the First Coast's cultural and business hub.

**RIVERSIDE/AVONDALE**

Full of historic charm and creative energy, **Riverside** and **Avondale** are among Jacksonville's most distinctive neighborhoods. Residents enjoy local cafes, boutiques, antique shops, art galleries and nightlife spots, all set among beautifully

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restored homes shaded by grand oak trees. Housing ranges from cozy brick duplexes to large historic estates. Adjacent to Avondale is **Murray Hill**, offering a variety of affordable housing from the WWII era, perfect for new families or young couples looking to settle down.

**SPRINGFIELD**

Founded in 1869, **Springfield** is Jacksonville's oldest neighborhood and a true success story of revitalization. Restored mansions and bungalows now line its walkable streets, joined by new coffee shops, bakeries, restaurants and public art that reflect the community's renewed spirit. The annual Porchfest is held here to celebrate music, urban living and the iconic porches of these homes that undoubtedly characterize Springfield.

**WESTSIDE**

The **Westside** features a mix of classic architecture—from Tudor-style homes to waterfront estates—across its many smaller communities, including Baldwin, Maxville, Marietta, Whitehouse and Normandy. The Ortega neighborhood, with its majestic live oaks and beautifully maintained historic homes, offers a timeless Southern atmosphere. Many Westside residents are part of the military community, thanks to nearby Naval Air Station Jacksonville.



Springfield neighborhood, photo by Ken McCray

**“Jacksonville moves up in the top 25 rankings for best U.S. cities for renters per News4Jax.”**

# EverRange: Jacksonville's Newest Blend of Nature, Community and Modern Living



Photos courtesy of EverRange



For those relocating to Northeast Florida and searching for a community that blends natural charm, convenience and modern design, EverRange is emerging as one of Jacksonville's most anticipated new master-planned neighborhoods. Created by The PARC Group, the same award-winning developer behind Nocatee and eTown, EverRange spans roughly 1,000 acres, with an impressive 50 percent of the land preserved as forests, trails, ponds, and open green space. The result is a community built around balance, with the harmony of nature and neighborhood, recreation and relaxation, and timeless Florida character.

Opening in 2026, EverRange will debut with six distinct neighborhoods, each embracing a rustic-modern aesthetic inspired by Old Florida materials and landscapes. Homes in these neighborhoods will cater to a wide variety of lifestyles, from first-time buyers and growing families to those seeking a more low-maintenance environment with a luxury feel. Among its planned residential offerings is Regency at EverRange, a gated 55+ enclave by Toll Brothers, featuring single-story homes with two to four bedrooms, generous garages, private amenities and a clubhouse designed exclusively for its residents. Toll Brothers

will also introduce Mariposa at EverRange, a limited collection of luxury homesites with water and preserve views and spacious floor plans designed for flexible living. Other respected builders, including Dream Finders Homes, are expected to bring additional housing options ranging from town homes to large single-family residences, ensuring that future residents have a broad selection of styles, price points, and layouts.

The community's amenity core, known as The Grove, is planned as a vibrant, resort-inspired retreat positioned at the heart of EverRange.



This expansive center will include a resort-style pool, splash pad, multiple pickleball courts, playgrounds, dog parks for both small and large breeds, a lakeside pavilion, a fishing pond and an interconnected trail system woven through the preserved natural environment. The Station, located at EverRange's main entrance, will serve as the neighborhood's walkable town hub, offering everyday conveniences and casual gathering spaces that enhance the sense of community from the moment residents arrive.

Convenience is also central to EverRange's appeal. Ideally located off U.S. 1 (Philips Highway) between Nocatee and eTown, the community provides quick access to Jacksonville's major employment centers, shopping, dining, healthcare

and recreational destinations, all while maintaining a peaceful, naturally shaded atmosphere. Future plans include a direct connection to The Exchange, eTown's growing shopping center, which will expand access to entertainment, retail and community activities.

With thoughtful planning, preserved natural surroundings and a variety of home options suitable for every stage of life, EverRange is poised to become one of Northeast Florida's standout new addresses. For those considering a move to the region, now is an ideal time to follow development updates, model-home openings and interest list opportunities as the community prepares to welcome its first residents in 2026.



## Seven Pines: Closer to Nature

Built on the land of a former timber farm, Seven Pines is a community where residents can enjoy the beauty of Floridian nature. Spanning 1,000 acres, this peaceful haven is home to majestic trees, quiet parks and glistening lakes. Designed with outdoor living in mind, the community features miles of walking and biking trails that weave through preserved natural areas and around the central lake.

The Seven Pines name derives from the seven Skinner sons who inherited their family's land. The Skinner family once owned about 50,000 acres on the southside of Jacksonville, which they used for everything from family celebrations to hunting expeditions to simple moments of togetherness. Seven Pines carries that legacy forward with a neighborhood built for connection and gathering. Many homes feature welcoming front porches meant to encourage neighborly conversation and the feeling of a close-knit community.

Centrally located near I-295 and Butler Boulevard, Seven Pines offers easy access to major shopping centers, beaches, downtown Jacksonville and the airport. When the community is fully built, it will include approximately 1,600 single-family homes, luxury apartments and more than a million square feet of commercial and retail space. At the end of 2025, Seven Pines reached their goal of selling 500 lots. Homes are crafted by ICI Homes and David Weekley Homes. Those looking to rent can find studio, one-, two- and

three-bedroom apartments and townhomes at Woodside at Seven Pines, which also offers resort-inspired amenities.

Residents enjoy exclusive access to a 34-acre park with a stunning lake, where canoes and kayaks are available for community use. Additional amenities include a 7,900-square-foot clubhouse, fitness center, community pools, parks, playgrounds and thoughtfully designed gathering spaces that enrich daily life.

### **A New Heart for the Community: The Village at Seven Pines**

Adding to the excitement, Seven Pines will soon feature a vibrant village center that will serve as the heart of the community. Known as The Village at Seven Pines, this outdoor, walkable shopping and dining district will include a Publix

as its anchor, along with a mix of restaurants, shops and services. Renderings and early plans show an inviting town-center atmosphere with landscaped walkways, open-air seating and architecturally distinctive storefronts. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026, with the first openings anticipated in 2027. In a major move for the area, Regency Centers—the developer behind the project—plans to relocate its corporate headquarters to the village center, further rooting the development within the community it is helping shape.

The village center is envisioned as more than a commercial hub. It is expected to host concerts, farmers markets, happy hours and even cozy s'mores nights around a fire pit, reinforcing the sense of warmth and belonging that defines Seven Pines.

Recognized by the National Association of Home Builders as one of the top five master-planned communities in the nation, Seven Pines offers endless opportunities to make memories, build connections and enjoy the natural beauty woven into every corner of the neighborhood.





NORTHEAST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

## Welcome To The First Coast

As the voice of real estate for the region, the Northeast Florida Association of REALTORS® (NEFAR) is delighted to welcome you to the First Coast. We know you won't be sorry about your decision to relocate to this area of the Sunshine State. Our region offers many miles of sandy beaches within a vast six-county area that is divided by a mighty river and anchored by the rapidly growing urban landscape of Jacksonville, Florida's largest city and the largest metropolitan area – land-wise – in the nation.

When you live in Northeast Florida, you reside in a place many consider to be a vacation paradise. "Why go somewhere when you already are somewhere?" people often say after moving to the region. Along with warm temperatures and sunny skies, our region is a world-class destination when it comes to eclectic museums, world-renowned street art, freshwater and saltwater fishing, surfing, coastal and ethnic cuisine, craft breweries, and sports abound, both professional and recreational. Jacksonville is home to the NFL's Jaguars while nearby Ponte Vedra is the hometown for both PGA golf and the world tour headquarters of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

Surrounding Jacksonville's urban landscape, which includes the largest park system in the United States, are several colleges and universities as well as the headquarters of some of the nation's top companies. With a strong economy and an increasing foreign business presence, employment opportunities abound. Northeast Florida is also a hub for the healthcare, finance, and insurance industries as well as a military center that employs 17,000 active-duty personnel and civilians. Residents from regions throughout the United States are lured to Northeast Florida due to its affordability, low property taxes, and the absence of a state income tax.

Yes, when it comes to housing, Northeast Florida has it all – oceanfront mansions, waterfront cottages, country-club communities, quaint historic homes, riverfront high rises, and oceanfront condominiums, all with the latest technological advances.

As a newcomer to Florida's First Coast, we suggest you utilize the expertise of a REALTOR®, and that is where the Northeast Florida Association of REALTORS® can help. With our membership of over 12,000 real estate professionals, it is easy to find a housing specialist with proficiency, negotiation skills, connections, ethics, and sales experience to assist you in finding your dream home. To view thousands of properties currently for sale or rent, please visit us at [www.NEFAR.realtor](http://www.NEFAR.realtor).

So, welcome to the neighborhood, and let our REALTORS® help you as you make yourself at home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Glenn East".

**William Glenn East**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northeast Florida Association of REALTORS®

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The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors is the region's largest professional association, representing more than 12,000 members who work in all facets of the real estate industry including residential and commercial sales and property management. It serves the public through support of community affairs programs and seeks to protect private property rights. The Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service is a wholly owned subsidiary of NEFAR. NEFAR is headquartered in Jacksonville, with satellite Service Centers in Orange Park, Jacksonville Beach, and Palatka.

# NASSAU COUNTY

Nassau County welcomes newcomers with its beautiful coastlines, highly rated schools and an inviting sense of community. As one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation, it perfectly balances small-town warmth with modern convenience. From charming downtown streets to stretches of beach, meadow and river, Nassau County offers a lifestyle that's both relaxed and full of possibility.



Estimated  
Population:  
**107,053 (2026)\***



Area:  
**726 square miles**



Fernandina Beach Main Street, photo courtesy of Ameliainland.com

## AMELIA ISLAND/FERNANDINA BEACH

**Amelia Island** is a coastal treasure known for its pristine beaches, world-class golf and friendly local atmosphere. Just a 30-minute drive from Jacksonville, this 13.5-mile barrier island sits on Florida's northern edge, rich in history as the "Isle of Eight Flags."

**Fernandina Beach** offers a wide mix of living options—from historic

homes and cozy cottages to large estates and open land. Residents enjoy easy access to local shops, restaurants and even Florida's oldest saloon.

**Amelia National**, a master-planned golf community, provides luxury living with resort-style amenities including an 18-hole Tom Fazio golf course, a fitness center with spa, pool, lighted tennis courts and a French provincial-style country club.

## CALLAHAN

Located in southwestern Nassau County, **Callahan** combines rural tranquility with convenient access to nearby cities. Spacious properties, single-family homes and welcoming subdivisions give residents room to grow. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy hiking, fishing, biking and golfing in the area's natural surroundings.

## HILLIARD

The town of **Hilliard**, known for its aviation, timber and agricultural

heritage, offers a small-town atmosphere and family-friendly appeal. Home options include single-family residences and apartments, along with available land for those who dream of building custom homes.

## YULEE

Just west of Amelia Island, **Yulee** continues to grow as one of Nassau County's most sought-after communities. Offering a mix of planned neighborhoods,

\*Source: Office of Economic and Demographic Research

**“Amelia Island ... outdoor adventure, rich history, natural beauty, cheery communities, and tranquil beaches combine to create one undeniably awesome locale, according to *Southern Living*.”**

waterfront properties, apartments and condominiums, Yulee provides modern comfort in a peaceful setting.

Within Yulee, the community of **Wildlight** captures the spirit of low-country living. With open-plan homes, bright interiors and wide front porches, it's designed for connection and relaxation. Wildlight includes four neighborhoods—Del Webb

Wildlight, Forest Park, Founder's Park and Hawthorn Park—as well as rental options at The Lofts, The Exchange and Hamlet Wildlight. Half the community's land is dedicated to parks, trails and green space, with amenities such as a community pool and neighborhood events that make it easy to meet your neighbors.

Egan's Creek in Amelia Island, photo courtesy of Ameliainsland.com



Downtown Amelia Island, photo courtesy of Ameliainsland.com



## Tributary: Life on the Water

Welcome to Tributary, a fast-growing community that opened in 2020 on the First Coast. Spanning 1,550 acres, this thoughtfully designed neighborhood offers an experience where you can explore more of Northeast Florida. When complete, Tributary will include around 3,200 homes that range from single-family residences to townhomes and multi-family options. Crafted by trusted builders like David Weekley Homes, Dream Finders Homes, Lennar and Richmond American Homes, there is something for everyone here. Homes start in the \$300s, making Tributary an appealing choice for a wide range of lifestyles.

Conveniently located just two exits north of Jacksonville International Airport and the River City Marketplace, Tributary offers easy access to shopping, dining, entertainment and coastal adventures. This neighborhood's location is just a small drive away from historic Fernandina Beach and

the pristine shores of Amelia Island. At the heart of the community is The Lookout, a stunning lakefront amenity center designed for relaxation and fun. Residents can enjoy a 5,400-square-foot resort-style pool with a spacious sundeck, a state-of-the-art fitness center, pickleball courts, the Adventure Zone



Photo by Tributary

playground and inviting gathering areas perfect for social events. Even four-legged family members have a place to play at Pawsome Dog Park. A dedicated lifestyle director keeps the community engaged with family-friendly events, food truck nights, yoga classes, outdoor activities and more.

Tributary embraces an outdoor-focused lifestyle surrounded by natural waterways and towering evergreens. Just steps away is the 40-acre Tributary Regional Park, offering baseball and multi-purpose fields, a children's playground and wide-open green spaces to explore. The Landing at Boggy Creek offers direct access to the Nassau River, creating endless opportunities for boating, kayaking and fishing.



Dear New Residents,

Welcome to the timeless charm and vibrant community of St. Augustine and St. Johns County! On behalf of the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of REALTORS®, it is my great pleasure to extend our warmest greetings as you embark on this exciting new chapter in our remarkable region.

St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City, is a place where rich history meets modern vitality. Nestled within St. Johns County, our area offers a unique blend of cultural heritage and contemporary amenities, catering to a wide range of interests and lifestyles. From the cobble streets of our historic downtown to the pristine coastline stretching for miles, you'll find a tapestry of experiences waiting to be explored.

As you settle into your new home, you'll discover that our community is a harmonious blend of small-town warmth and the conveniences of a larger city. Our esteemed St. Johns County School District is continually recognized for its academic excellence, making it an ideal place for families. Additionally, our region has earned accolades from reputable sources such as *National Geographic Traveler Magazine* and *CNN Money*, highlighting its appeal as a desirable destination to live, work and retire.

To help you navigate your new surroundings and find the perfect place to call home, our knowledgeable REALTORS® are here to assist you. Whether you're looking to purchase or sell a home or business, our dedicated professionals are ready to support and guide you through the process, ensuring a smooth and successful transition into our community.

I encourage you to visit our website at [sasjcrealtors.com](http://sasjcrealtors.com) to explore our Member Directory and connect with a REALTOR® who can provide personalized assistance tailored to your needs.

Once again, welcome to St. Augustine and St. Johns County. We are thrilled to have you join our community and are committed to making your transition as seamless and rewarding as possible. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Warm regards,

Jeanette Langford, RCE

Chief Executive Officer  
St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of REALTORS®

# ST. JOHNS COUNTY

With a blend of rich history, coastal beauty and thriving new communities, St. Johns County continues to be one of Florida's most desirable places to live. As one of the state's two original counties, it has grown into a vibrant area known for excellent schools, scenic beaches, premier golf and country clubs, along with vibrant, high-end shopping and dining options.



Estimated  
Population:

348,336 (2026)\*



Area:

822 square miles



St. Augustine Beach, photo by Ryan Beirne, courtesy of Pexels

**“According to Niche, St. Johns County is one of the best places to live in Florida!”**

## NORTHERN ST. JOHNS

Northern St. Johns County is flourishing with new neighborhoods and family-friendly communities. The area's A-rated schools and expanding business scene attract newcomers from near and far. **Switzerland** and **Fruit Cove**, located east of the



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County

St. Johns River and south of Mandarin, offer a peaceful, country-like atmosphere with easy access to modern amenities. Residents enjoy parks, historical sites and plenty of

trails for hiking and biking. **Julington Creek** features a range of residential communities, from luxury estates to townhomes and condominiums.

**Nocatee**, one of the country's premier master-planned communities, continues to draw new residents each year with its national recognition for being a best-selling community in Northeast Florida. (For more details, see page 30.)

**Durbin Crossing** spans more than 2,000 acres with spacious homes, top-rated schools and access to parks and golf courses. Two amenity centers, nature preserves and outdoor activities make it a favorite among families.

**SilverLeaf**, an 11,000-acre master-planned community located between County Road 210 and State Road 16, is planned for more than 16,300

\*Source: Office of Economic and Demographic Research



Vilano Beach Pier, photo by Stephanie Marty

## “St. Johns has been named the No. 1 Best County for Florida Families, according to Niche.”

homes and 2.9 million square feet of mixed-use and commercial space.

Residents will enjoy dog parks, pools, tennis and pickleball courts, and more than 4,350 acres of conservation land.

**Shearwater** is a nature-inspired community offering kayaking, a resort-style lagoon, lazy river, tennis courts and an exclusive fitness center, catering its needs to nature lovers and active lifestyles. With new builds from some of the nation’s top builders, renters and buyers are likely to find their new community here.

Along the St. Johns River, **RiverTown** offers multiple neighborhoods—including one for residents 55 and over—with amenities such as a boardwalk, waterfront dining, playground, amphitheater, kayak launch and riverfront trails.

Centered around a beautiful 43-acre lake, **Beacon Lake** combines coastal architecture with family-focused living. Once complete, it will feature 1,280 single-family homes and 196

townhomes surrounded by 358 acres of preserved nature.

**Beachwalk** provides a true resort lifestyle with its 14-acre crystal lagoon, white-sand beaches and West Indies-inspired architecture. Residents enjoy swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking and relaxing at amenities that include a

fitness center, beach club, dog splash park, swim-up bar and tennis courts. A new master-planned community, **The Landings at Saint Johns**, is under construction in the northwest area. It will include 761 homes for active adults and 588 for families, along with more than 50 acres of preserved land and 15 acres of parks.

### PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Located between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean, **Ponte Vedra Beach** offers a relaxed coastal lifestyle with refined charm. Housing options range from oceanfront estates and gated neighborhoods to condos and apartments. Upscale dining, shopping and world-class golf—including TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course, home to THE PLAYERS Championship—make this area a favorite for those seeking luxury and leisure.

### ST. AUGUSTINE

Founded in 1565, **St. Augustine** is the nation’s oldest city and one of Florida’s most picturesque places to live. Residents can stroll through historic streets and landmarks such as Castillo De San Marcos with walkways along the Matanzas Bay,

to the Lightner Museum, the Old Jail and the St. Augustine Lighthouse. The city offers a wide range of housing—from historic homes and coastal condos to planned communities and oceanfront properties.

**TrailMark**, located in St. Augustine, is a tranquil master-planned community surrounded by natural beauty.

Residents enjoy lakeside amenities, a resort-style pool, oak hammocks and walking trails.

### ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH

With miles of white sand and ocean views, **St. Augustine Beach** is a dream for those who love the coastal lifestyle. Residents can enjoy the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail at Anastasia State Park or simply relax by the water. Housing options include residential communities, townhomes and condominiums.

### VILANO BEACH

Just northeast of downtown St. Augustine, **Vilano Beach** offers a peaceful seaside escape. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Tolomato River, residents enjoy fishing, beachcombing, birdwatching and the relaxed pace of coastal living.

Ponte Vedra Beach Blvd., photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com



# The Communities of Nocatee



Nocatee is an award-winning master-planned community located between Jacksonville and St. Augustine in Ponte Vedra. Designed with a village-like feel, this community offers a wide range of living options, from condominiums and townhomes to luxury estates, single-family homes and neighborhoods for residents 55 and over. Residents enjoy being mere minutes from beautiful beaches and stunning golf courses, along with shopping, dining and some of Florida's highest-rated schools.

Splash Water Park



## Woodland Park at Nocatee

Woodland Park is a cozy, 65-townhome neighborhood tucked along Palm Valley Road, just west of Austin Park. Built by Providence Homes, these townhomes range from about 1,421 to 1,884 square feet and start in the low \$400s. Homeowners also enjoy full access to Nocatee's impressive amenities.



## Del Webb Nocatee

Del Webb Nocatee is a vibrant 55-plus community offering 12 Next Gen floorplans. Homes range from 1,529 to 3,361 square feet and start in the mid \$400s, featuring coastal, craftsman and more traditional styles. Residents can enjoy clubs, classes, events, a fitness center, pickleball and tennis courts, along with a lap pool. It's an ideal setting for active adults ready to make the most of every day.



## Crosswinds at Nocatee

Crosswinds is one of the last chances to purchase a newly built home in Nocatee. Offering options for multi-generational living, it features villas and single-family homes from builders like David Weekley Homes, Toll Brothers, Providence Homes and Riverside Homes. Villas start in the high \$400s with 1,635 to 2,450 square feet, while single-family homes start in the high \$400s with 1,690 to 2,550 square feet. Conveniently located near Pine Island Academy, families can walk to the new K-8 St. Johns County school.



## West End at Town Center

The West End places its residents within walking distance from Nocatee's shops, dining and the popular Splash Water Park. This townhome and villa community is designed with modern living in mind. ICI townhomes start in the high \$400s and range from about 1,635 to 1,877 square feet. One- and two-story villas by Dostie Homes and Toll Brothers start in the mid \$500s and offer up to 2,450 square feet.



**Seabrook Village**

Seabrook Village features homes from 1,570 to 2,900 square feet starting in the low \$500s, built by several top builders, including David Weekley Homes, ICI Homes, Toll Brothers and more. Its second phase adds 207 homesites. The community is centered around Seabrook Park, a new amenity area with a pool, dog park and playground.



**Reflections at Seabrook**

Reflections at Seabrook is the final neighborhood within the larger Seabrook area, offering approximately 214 homesites. Floorplans range from 1,570 to 3,296 square feet with prices starting in the low \$500s. In addition to its own Reflections Park, residents are close to Seabrook Park and all the park's outdoor amenities.



**Palm Crest at Seabrook**

Palm Crest offers 100 homesites in the heart of Seabrook Village. Dostie Homes builds residences ranging from 2,616 to 3,145 square feet, starting at \$1 million. Homeowners are able to walk to Seabrook Park, and this residential area is complete with a pool, dog park and playground.



**Coral Ridge at Seabrook**

Coral Ridge features 182 estate-sized homes by David Weekley Homes and ICI Homes. These luxury homes range from 2,813 to 4,800 square feet and start around \$1.1 million. Seabrook Park is just a short bike or golf cart ride away.



**River Landing at Twenty Mile**

River Landing is an exclusive, custom-home neighborhood located along the scenic Intracoastal Waterway within the Twenty Mile community. Here, residents can design and build their dream luxury home on large preserve homesites. Homesites start in the mid \$500s, with homesite-plus-home packages beginning around \$1.8 million.



**The Reserve**

The Reserve is a luxury apartment community offering one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with upscale finishes. Amenities include a modern fitness center, beach-entry pool, dog parks and a clubhouse. Inside each home, residents enjoy granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and contemporary cabinetry with USB-equipped kitchen islands.

**Atwater**

Atwater is an upscale apartment community located just minutes from Ponte Vedra's pristine beaches. Offering one- to three-bedroom floorplans and resort style amenities, Atwater emphasizes wellness and maintenance-free living. Residents can enjoy the fitness club, swim club, community events and onsite services designed to keep everyday life stress free.



**Bainbridge Ponte Vedra**

Bainbridge Ponte Vedra at Nocatee sits conveniently between Jacksonville and historic St. Augustine. It offers luxury one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with high-end finishes, including plank style flooring, quartz countertops, white shaker cabinets and designer lighting. Community amenities include a club-level fitness center, heated resort style pool, community garden and private workspaces ideal for remote professionals.



**Cadence at Nocatee**

Cadence is a 291-unit apartment community that delivers hospitality through onsite concierge support, curated events and resort-like amenities. Features include a zero-entry pool, outdoor kitchen, pet spa, business center, library and over 1,500 square feet of fitness space with a yoga studio. Apartments offer nine-foot ceilings, stainless steel

appliances, granite countertops and vinyl plank flooring.



**Starling at Nocatee**

Starling at Nocatee is designed for seniors seeking an engaging lifestyle. Offering independent living, assisted living and memory care, this community provides personalized support and is conveniently located near Town Center's numerous shops and restaurants.

**Rise at Nocatee**

Rise at Nocatee is a 55 and up active adult apartment community centered around social, independent living. Residents enjoy luxury one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments along with amenities such as a modern luxury pool, fitness center and resident lounge. This location is perfect for staying active and connected.

**Fleet Landing at Nocatee**

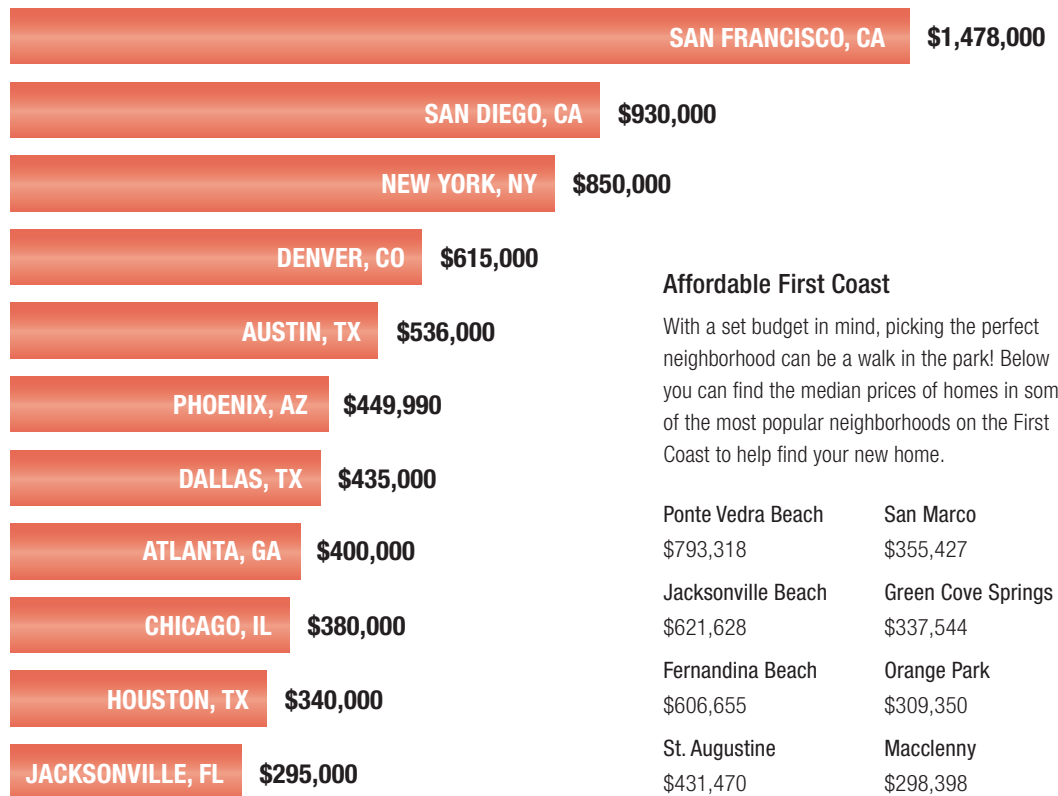
Fleet Landing is bringing a new resort-style retirement community to Nocatee, offering exceptional dining, wellness and social experiences. Independent living apartments and homes will be available in a variety of sizes, all within close proximity to Nocatee's shops, restaurants, and recreation. The project is in its early stages, and construction timelines are still being finalized.



# Home Sales Comparison

In today's market, moving to a new city can feel overwhelming, especially with the cost of homes varying from place to place. According to Redfin, home prices in the United States were up 1.2 percent in 2025, but in Jacksonville the median sale price of a home is down 1.7 percent, making it a standout opportunity for buyers. To give you a clear picture of how Jacksonville stacks up against other metro areas, here is the current median price of a home in cities across the U.S.

**Redfin reported in October 2025 that U.S. home prices were up 1.2 percent compared to last year, selling for a median price of \$439,701.**



### Affordable First Coast

With a set budget in mind, picking the perfect neighborhood can be a walk in the park! Below you can find the median prices of homes in some of the most popular neighborhoods on the First Coast to help find your new home.

Ponte Vedra Beach	\$793,318	San Marco	\$355,427
Jacksonville Beach	\$621,628	Green Cove Springs	\$337,544
Fernandina Beach	\$606,655	Orange Park	\$309,350
St. Augustine	\$431,470	Macclenny	\$298,398

Source: <https://www.redfin.com/us-housing-market>

Source: [www.zillow.com/home-values](http://www.zillow.com/home-values)



Photo courtesy of Pexels

## Bang for Your Buck

First Coast neighborhoods and communities offer an array of homebuying options that meet any budget. Median ranges listed include homes such as condos, typical single-family housing and luxury waterfront homes. Below are some developments in the First Coast area that may be perfect for you!

### CLAY COUNTY

- Eagle Harbor  
\$300s - \$900s
- Fleming Island
- Granary Park  
\$300s - \$600s
- Green Cove Springs

- Hyland Trail  
\$250s - \$500s
- Green Cove Springs

- Lakes at Bella Lago  
\$400s - \$600s
- Green Cove Springs

### DUVAL COUNTY

- eTown  
\$300s - \$1.2 million
- Southside
- Seven Pines  
\$500s - \$1.0 million
- Southside

- Tamaya  
\$500s - \$1.0 million
- Intracoastal
- Tidewater  
\$600s - \$1.2 million
- Northside

### NASSAU COUNTY

- Amelia National  
\$500s - \$900s
- Fernandina Beach

- Amelia Park  
\$500s - \$1.1 million
- Fernandina Beach

- Tributary  
\$300s - \$600s
- Yulee

- Wildlight  
\$250s - \$800s
- Yulee



Photo by Dana Ferguson

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

- Beachwalk  
\$400s - \$900s
- St. Johns
- Durbin Crossing  
\$300s - \$900s
- St. Johns
- Nocatee  
\$500s - \$900s
- Ponte Vedra

- RiverTown  
\$400s - \$900s
- St. Johns
- Shearwater  
\$300s - \$1.0 million
- St. Augustine
- SilverLeaf  
\$300s - \$1.1 million
- St. Johns

\*\*\* Housing prices may fluctuate pending current housing market, and new home site availability may vary. Please check with builders and your realtor for availability.

# Getting Settled: The 411 on the First Coast



Photo courtesy of Pexels

County	Type	Name	Website
<b>BAKER</b>	County/City Information	Baker County	<a href="http://www.bakercountyfl.org">www.bakercountyfl.org</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	County/City Information	Glen St. Mary	<a href="http://www.glenstmary.govoffice.com">www.glenstmary.govoffice.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	County/City Information	Macclenny	<a href="http://www.cityofmacclenny.com">www.cityofmacclenny.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Fire/Rescue	Baker County (Volunteer)	<a href="http://www.bakercountyfl.org">www.bakercountyfl.org</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Fire/Rescue	Macclenny	<a href="http://www.cityofmacclenny.com">www.cityofmacclenny.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Police/Sheriff	Baker County Sheriff's Office	<a href="http://www.bakerso.com">www.bakerso.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Electricity	Clay Electric Cooperative (CEC)	<a href="http://www.clayelectric.com">www.clayelectric.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Electricity	Florida Power & Light	<a href="http://www.fpl.com">www.fpl.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Electricity	Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation (OREMC)	<a href="http://www.oremc.com">www.oremc.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Garbage	City of Macclenny	<a href="http://www.bakercountyfl.org/collectionsites.php">www.bakercountyfl.org/collectionsites.php</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Natural Gas	TECO Peoples Gas	<a href="http://www.peoplesgas.com">www.peoplesgas.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Water & Sewer	City of Macclenny	<a href="http://www.cityofmacclenny.com/departments.html">www.cityofmacclenny.com/departments.html</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	County/City Information	Clay County	<a href="http://www.claycountygov.com">www.claycountygov.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	County/City Information	Green Cove Springs	<a href="http://www.greencovesprings.com">www.greencovesprings.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	County/City Information	Keystone Heights	<a href="http://www.keystoneheights.us">www.keystoneheights.us</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	County/City Information	Orange Park	<a href="http://www.townoforangepark.com">www.townoforangepark.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Fire/Rescue	Clay County Fire Rescue	<a href="http://www.claycountygov.com/community/fire-rescue">www.claycountygov.com/community/fire-rescue</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Police/Sheriff	Clay County Sheriff's Office	<a href="http://www.claysheriff.com">www.claysheriff.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Police/Sheriff	Green Cove Springs Police Department	<a href="http://www.greencovesprings.com/236/Police">www.greencovesprings.com/236/Police</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Police/Sheriff	Orange Park Police Department	<a href="http://www.townoforangepark.com/p/residents/police">www.townoforangepark.com/p/residents/police</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Electricity	City of Green Cove Springs	<a href="http://www.greencovesprings.com/213/Electric">www.greencovesprings.com/213/Electric</a>

JEA, photo by Diana Ferguson



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<b>CLAY</b>	Electricity	Clay Electric Cooperative (CEC) (Fleming Island, Green Cove Springs, Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Orange Park, Penney Farms)	<a href="http://www.clayelectric.com">www.clayelectric.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Electricity	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Green Cove Springs, Orange Park)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Garbage & Recycling	City of Green Cove Springs	<a href="http://www.greencovesprings.com/249/Public-Works">www.greencovesprings.com/249/Public-Works</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Garbage & Recycling	FCC Environmental Services (Fleming Island, Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Orange Park)	<a href="https://fccenvironmental.com/clay-county/">https://fccenvironmental.com/clay-county/</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Garbage & Recycling	Republic Services (Penney Farms)	<a href="http://www.republicservices.com">www.republicservices.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Garbage & Recycling	WM (Orange Park)	<a href="http://www.wm.com">www.wm.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Natural Gas	TECO Peoples Gas (Middleburg, Orange Park)	<a href="http://www.peoplesgas.com">www.peoplesgas.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Water & Sewer	Clay County Utility Authority (Fleming Island, Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Orange Park)	<a href="http://www.clayutility.org">www.clayutility.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Water & Sewer	City of Green Cove Springs	<a href="http://www.greencovesprings.com/279/Water-Wastewater-Division">www.greencovesprings.com/279/Water-Wastewater-Division</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Water & Sewer	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Green Cove Springs, Orange Park)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Water & Sewer	Town of Orange Park	<a href="http://www.townoforangepark.com/p/residents/utility-services">www.townoforangepark.com/p/residents/utility-services</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	County/City Information	Duval County/Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.jacksonville.gov">www.jacksonville.gov</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	County/City Information	Atlantic Beach	<a href="http://www.coab.us">www.coab.us</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	County/City Information	Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org">www.jacksonvillebeach.org</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	County/City Information	Neptune Beach	<a href="http://www.nbfl.gov">www.nbfl.gov</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Fire/Rescue	Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department	<a href="http://www.myjfrd.com">www.myjfrd.com</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Fire/Rescue	Jacksonville Beach Fire Department	<a href="http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/214/fire-marshals-office">www.jacksonvillebeach.org/214/fire-marshals-office</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Police/Sheriff	Atlantic Beach Police Department	<a href="http://www.coab.us/25/Police-Department">www.coab.us/25/Police-Department</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Police/Sheriff	Jacksonville Beach Police Department	<a href="http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/436/police-department">www.jacksonvillebeach.org/436/police-department</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Police/Sheriff	Jacksonville Sheriff's Office	<a href="http://www.jaxsheriff.org">www.jaxsheriff.org</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Police/Sheriff	Neptune Beach Police Department	<a href="http://www.nbfl.gov/police-department">www.nbfl.gov/police-department</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Electricity	Beaches Energy Services (Neptune Beach)	<a href="http://www.beachesenergy.com">www.beachesenergy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Electricity	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Atlantic Beach)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>

<b>DUVAL</b>	Electricity, Water & Sewer	Beaches Energy Services (Jacksonville Beach)	<a href="http://www.beachesenergy.com">www.beachesenergy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Electricity, Water & Sewer	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Baldwin, Jacksonville)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Garbage & Recycling	City of Atlantic Beach	<a href="http://www.coab.us/15/Public-Works">www.coab.us/15/Public-Works</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Garbage & Recycling	City of Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste">www.jacksonville.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Garbage & Recycling	City of Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/297/public-works">www.jacksonvillebeach.org/297/public-works</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Garbage & Recycling	Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. (Neptune Beach)	<a href="http://www.nbfl.gov/waste-recycling">www.nbfl.gov/waste-recycling</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Natural Gas	TECO Peoples Gas (Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach)	<a href="http://www.peoplesgas.com">www.peoplesgas.com</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Water & Sewer	City of Atlantic Beach	<a href="http://www.coab.us/14/Public-Utilities">www.coab.us/14/Public-Utilities</a>
<b>DUVAL</b>	Water & Sewer	City of Neptune Beach	<a href="http://www.nbfl.gov/finance-utilities/pages/utilities">www.nbfl.gov/finance-utilities/pages/utilities</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	County/City Information	Nassau County	<a href="http://www.nassaucountyfl.com">www.nassaucountyfl.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	County/City Information	Callahan	<a href="http://www.townofcallahan-fl.gov">www.townofcallahan-fl.gov</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	County/City Information	Fernandina Beach	<a href="http://www.fbfl.us">www.fbfl.us</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	County/City Information	Hilliard	<a href="http://www.townofhilliard.com">www.townofhilliard.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Fire/Rescue	Nassau County Fire Rescue	<a href="http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/122/Fire-Rescue">www.nassaucountyfl.com/122/Fire-Rescue</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Police/Sheriff	Fernandina Beach Police Department	<a href="http://www.fbfl.us/109/Police">www.fbfl.us/109/Police</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Police/Sheriff	Nassau County Sheriff's Office	<a href="https://nassauso.com/">https://nassauso.com/</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Electricity	Florida Power & Light (Callahan, Hilliard, Yulee)	<a href="http://www.fpl.com">www.fpl.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Electricity	Florida Public Utilities (Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach)	<a href="http://www.fpuc.com">www.fpuc.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Electricity	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Yulee)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Electricity	Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation (OREMC) (Callahan, Hilliard)	<a href="http://www.oremc.com">www.oremc.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Garbage & Recycling	Meridian Waste (Callahan)	<a href="http://www.meridianwaste.com">www.meridianwaste.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Garbage & Recycling	WM (Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach, Hilliard, Yulee)	<a href="http://www.wm.com">www.wm.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Water & Sewer	City of Fernandina Beach	<a href="http://www.fbfl.us/114/Utilities">www.fbfl.us/114/Utilities</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Water & Sewer	Hilliard Water Department	<a href="http://www.townofhilliard.com/publicworks/page/water-sewer">www.townofhilliard.com/publicworks/page/water-sewer</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Water & Sewer	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Yulee)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Water & Sewer	Town of Callahan	<a href="http://www.townofcallahan-fl.gov/water-wastewater-sanitation">www.townofcallahan-fl.gov/water-wastewater-sanitation</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	County/City Information	St. Johns County	<a href="http://www.sjcfl.us">www.sjcfl.us</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	County/City Information	Ponte Vedra Beach	<a href="http://www.pvmsd.org">www.pvmsd.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	County/City Information	St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.citystaug.com">www.citystaug.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	County/City Information	St. Augustine Beach	<a href="http://www.staugbch.com">www.staugbch.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Fire/Rescue	St. Johns County Fire Rescue	<a href="http://www.sjcfl.us/departments/fire-rescue/">www.sjcfl.us/departments/fire-rescue/</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Fire/Rescue	St. Augustine Fire Department	<a href="http://www.citystaug.com/1129/Fire-Department">www.citystaug.com/1129/Fire-Department</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Police/Sheriff	St. Augustine Beach Police	<a href="http://www.sabpd.org">www.sabpd.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Police/Sheriff	St. Augustine Police Department	<a href="http://www.citystaug.com/1131/Police-Department">www.citystaug.com/1131/Police-Department</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Police/Sheriff	St. Johns County Sheriff's Office	<a href="http://www.sjso.org">www.sjso.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Electricity	Beaches Energy Services (Ponte Vedra Beach)	<a href="http://www.beachesenergy.com">www.beachesenergy.com</a>

<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Electricity	Florida Power & Light (Hastings, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach)	<a href="http://www.fpl.com">www.fpl.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Electricity	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Julington Creek, Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Augustine)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Garbage & Recycling	City of St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.citystaug.com/518/Trash-Recycling">www.citystaug.com/518/Trash-Recycling</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Garbage & Recycling	City of St. Augustine Beach	<a href="http://www.staugbch.com/publicworks/page/sanitation">www.staugbch.com/publicworks/page/sanitation</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Garbage & Recycling	Republic Services (Julington Creek, Ponte Vedra Beach)	<a href="http://www.republicservices.com">www.republicservices.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Garbage & Recycling	WM (Hastings)	<a href="http://www.wm.com">www.wm.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Natural Gas	TECO Peoples Gas (Hastings, Julington Creek, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach)	<a href="http://www.peoplesgas.com">www.peoplesgas.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Water & Sewer	City of St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.citystaug.com/529/Utilities">www.citystaug.com/529/Utilities</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Water & Sewer	Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Julington Creek, Ponte Vedra Beach)	<a href="http://www.jea.com">www.jea.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Water & Sewer	St. Johns Utility Department (Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Augustine Beach)	<a href="http://www.sjcfl.us/departments/utility-department/">www.sjcfl.us/departments/utility-department/</a>
<b>INTERNET &amp; TV PROVIDERS</b>	Cable & Satellite Television	Comcast	<a href="http://www.xfinity.com">www.xfinity.com</a>
	Cable & Satellite Television	DIRECTV®	<a href="http://www.directv.com">www.directv.com</a>
	Cable & Satellite Television	Dish Network	<a href="http://www.dish.com">www.dish.com</a>
	Cable & Satellite Television	Windstream Communications (Nassau, St. Johns)	<a href="http://www.windstream.com">www.windstream.com</a>
	Internet	AT&T (Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns)	<a href="http://www.att.com">www.att.com</a>
	Internet	Comcast	<a href="http://www.xfinity.com">www.xfinity.com</a>
	Internet	HughesNet	<a href="http://www.hughesnet.com">www.hughesnet.com</a>
	Internet	IQ Fiber (Clay, Duval)	<a href="http://www.iqfiber.com">www.iqfiber.com</a>
	Internet	NEFCOM Internet (Baker)	<a href="http://www.nefcom.net">www.nefcom.net</a>
	Internet	Windstream Communications (Nassau, Hastings)	<a href="http://www.windstream.com">www.windstream.com</a>

## First Coast Libraries

Our local libraries are wonderful resources, offering far more than just books. Many provide programs for all ages, including children's activities, book festivals and a variety of educational classes. They also serve as community hubs where people can learn, explore and connect with others who share their interests. Our libraries offer excellent opportunities for volunteering, allowing community members to give back while supporting valuable programs.



### Baker County

Emily Taber Public Library  
[www.newriverlibrary.org/etpl](http://www.newriverlibrary.org/etpl)

### Clay County

Clay County Public Library System  
[www.claycountygov.com/community/library](http://www.claycountygov.com/community/library)

### Duval County/City of Jacksonville

Jacksonville Public Library  
[www.jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org)

### Nassau County

Nassau County Public Library  
[www.nassaureads.com](http://www.nassaureads.com)

### St. Johns County

St. Johns County Public Library System  
[www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org)

## Good-to-Know Info

# Relocating to the First Coast: What New Residents Should Know

Moving to a new city or state can be exciting and thrilling, but with a new state comes different state-specific regulations. If you're new to the First Coast, here's some good-to-know info for car owners and homeowners.

### Car Insurance

Florida law requires all registered vehicles to carry minimum coverage of \$10,000 Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and \$10,000 Property Damage Liability (PDL). This minimum applies to all vehicles, even those that are inoperable, unless the license plate is surrendered. More information is available at [www.flhsmv.gov/insurance](http://www.flhsmv.gov/insurance).

### Driver's License and Vehicle Registration

When you establish residency in Florida, including starting a job or enrolling a child in public school, you must register any out-of-state vehicles in Florida within 10 days. This includes obtaining a Florida license plate, registration certificate and registration decal. Additionally, new residents must obtain a Florida driver's license within 30 days of establishing residency to avoid fines or penalties. Visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) for more details.

### Property Taxes and Homestead Exemption

Property taxes on the First Coast are typically due in March, with delinquent payment rates beginning on April 1. Discounts are available for early payment, with a maximum 4 percent discount on taxes paid in November. As deadlines and discount tiers may vary by county, it's important to confirm details with your local tax collector's office.

Florida residents who own or occupy a home as their permanent residence on January 1 may qualify for a homestead exemption of up to \$50,000. The first \$25,000 applies to all property taxes, including school taxes, while the additional \$25,000 applies only to the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000 and affects non-school taxes. Applications are due by March 1 at your local Property Appraiser's office. In 2025, Florida's Amendment 5 went into effect, adjusting part of the homestead exemption for inflation to provide homeowners with an additional tax break.

### Termite Protection

Termites are common in Florida and can cause significant damage, which homeowner's insurance does not cover. Hiring a licensed pest control company for inspection and treatment is strongly recommended. Correctly identifying the type of termite is important to ensure proper treatment. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) regulates and licenses pest control operators under the Florida Structural Pest Control Act (Chapter 482, Florida Statutes) and enforces compliance with federal pesticide laws. More guidance can be found at [www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Health-and-Safety/Protect-Your-Home-from-Pests](http://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Health-and-Safety/Protect-Your-Home-from-Pests).

## First Coast Tax Collector's Offices

### Baker County

32 N. 5th St., Macclenny  
[www.bakertaxcollector.com](http://www.bakertaxcollector.com)

### Clay County

477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs  
[www.claycountytax.com](http://www.claycountytax.com)

### Duval County

231 E. Forsyth St., Jacksonville  
<https://taxcollector.jacksonville.gov/>

### Nassau County

86130 License Rd.,  
Fernandina Beach  
[www.nassautaxes.com](http://www.nassautaxes.com)

### St. Johns County

4030 Lewis Speedway,  
St. Augustine  
[www.sjctax.us](http://www.sjctax.us)



Photo courtesy of Pexels

## Volunteer Opportunities

The First Coast is home to numerous chapters of well-known service clubs and organizations, including Kiwanis International, Lions Club International, Knights of Columbus, Rotary Club and the Junior League of Jacksonville, all offering meaningful ways to get involved. Local hospitals such as UF Health, Mayo Clinic, Baptist Health, Nemours and Wolfson also welcome enthusiastic volunteers, giving you the chance to make a real difference in your community. Volunteering is a rewarding way to connect with others, develop new skills and contribute to causes you care about. Below are resources to help you find a volunteer opportunity near you, and don't forget to check out our list of animal shelters on page 47.

### AARP

<https://local.aarp.org/jacksonville-fl/volunteering>

### American Red Cross North Florida Region

[www.redcross.org/local/florida/north-florida/volunteer.html](http://www.redcross.org/local/florida/north-florida/volunteer.html)

### Catholic Charities Jacksonville

[www.ccbjax.org](http://www.ccbjax.org)

### Clay County Volunteer Service

<https://volunteer.claycountygov.com/>

### JaxCorps

[www.jacksonville.gov/departments/employee-services/volunteer-services](http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/employee-services/volunteer-services)

### Nonprofit Center of

Northeast Florida  
[www.nonprofitctr.org](http://www.nonprofitctr.org)

### United Way of Northeast Florida

[www.unitedwaynefl.org](http://www.unitedwaynefl.org)

### Volunteer Florida

[www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org)

# The First Coast by Numbers



## Median Property Value

and percentage of Homeownership

### BAKER COUNTY

\$305,922

79.8%

### CLAY COUNTY

\$333,045

76.6%

### DUVAL COUNTY

\$290,970

57.6%

### NASSAU COUNTY

\$476,004

82.6%

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

\$489,167

82.4%



## Median Household Income

Poverty Rate  
12.8%

### BAKER COUNTY

\$67,872

Poverty Rate  
8.8%

### CLAY COUNTY

\$82,242

Poverty Rate  
13.9%

### DUVAL COUNTY

\$65,579

Poverty Rate  
6.8%

### NASSAU COUNTY

\$84,085

Poverty Rate  
5.9%

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

\$100,020



## Total Employment

and percentage of Persons Age 25+ With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

### BAKER COUNTY

6,156

14.1%

### CLAY COUNTY

45,941

27.6%

### DUVAL COUNTY

495,479

32.2%

### NASSAU COUNTY

21,488

32%

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

77,518

47.4%



## Estimated Population

Median Age  
38.1

### BAKER COUNTY

30,108

Male: 52.7% Female: 47.3%

Median Age  
40.2

### CLAY COUNTY

240,786

Male: 49.4% Female: 50.6%

Median Age  
36.7

### DUVAL COUNTY

1,071,485

Male: 48.5% Female: 51.5%

Median Age  
46.3

### NASSAU COUNTY

107,173

Male: 49.6% Female: 50.4%

Median Age  
44

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

348,346

Male: 49% Female: 51%

Sources:  
[www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts)  
<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/florida>  
[www.rockethomes.com/real-estate-trends](http://www.rockethomes.com/real-estate-trends)  
<https://www.zillow.com/home-values>

## Looking for Your Spiritual Home?

To help you find a religious community in your new hometown, we've compiled the following list of main organizations for several different religions and denominations on the First Coast. Visit their website to find a place of worship that is the right fit for you.

11th Episcopal District of the AME Church

[www.ame11th.org](http://www.ame11th.org)

Bahá'í Community Center of Jacksonville

[www.jaxbahai.org](http://www.jaxbahai.org)

Buckman Bridge Unitarian

Universalist Church

[www.bbuuc.org](http://www.bbuuc.org)

Diocese of St. Augustine

[www.dosaf.com](http://www.dosaf.com)

Episcopal Diocese of Florida, The

[www.diocesefl.org](http://www.diocesefl.org)

Florida Baptist Convention

[www.flbaptist.org](http://www.flbaptist.org)

Florida Conference of the United

Methodist Church, The

[www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org)

Florida Jacksonville Mission of the

Mormon Church

[www.mymission.com/lds-missions/florida-jacksonville-mission](http://www.mymission.com/lds-missions/florida-jacksonville-mission)

Hindu Society of North East Florida

[www.hsnef.org](http://www.hsnef.org)

Islamic Center of Northeast Florida

[www.icnef.org](http://www.icnef.org)

Jacksonville Quaker Worship Group at the Beach

[www.jacksonvillefriends.org](http://www.jacksonvillefriends.org)

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida

[www.jewishjacksonville.org](http://www.jewishjacksonville.org)

Karma Thegsum Chöling Jacksonville

[www.ktcjax.org](http://www.ktcjax.org)

Maitreya Kadampa Buddhist Center

[www.meditationinjacksonville.org](http://www.meditationinjacksonville.org)

Presbytery of St. Augustine

[www.staugpres.org](http://www.staugpres.org)



Islamic Center of Northeast Florida, photo by ICNEF

# Driving Stats



Photo by Jonathan Heimer

## Commute Times to Downtown Jacksonville in Minutes

- Amelia Island - 41-45
- Arlington - 11-15
- Atlantic Beach/Jacksonville Beach - 30-45
- Baymeadows - 21-25
- Callahan - 31-35
- Fernandina Beach - 36-40
- Fleming Island - 36-40
- Green Cove Springs - 41-55
- Intracoastal - 26-35
- Julington Creek/Fruit Cove - 41-45
- Macclenny - 41-45
- Mandarin - 31-35
- Mayport - 30-50
- Middleburg - 41-45
- Orange Park - 41-45
- Ponte Vedra Beach - 26-40
- Riverside - 6-10
- San Marco - 6-10
- Southside - 16-20
- St. Augustine - 45-50
- World Golf Village - 36-40
- Yulee - 41-45

## Miles from Downtown Jacksonville to Other Major Florida Cities

- Daytona Beach - 89
- Fort Lauderdale - 326
- Fort Myers - 299
- Gainesville - 72
- Key West - 503
- Miami - 344
- Naples - 334
- Orlando - 141
- Pensacola - 359
- Sarasota - 253
- St. Petersburg - 223
- Tallahassee - 164
- Tampa - 201
- West Palm Beach - 284

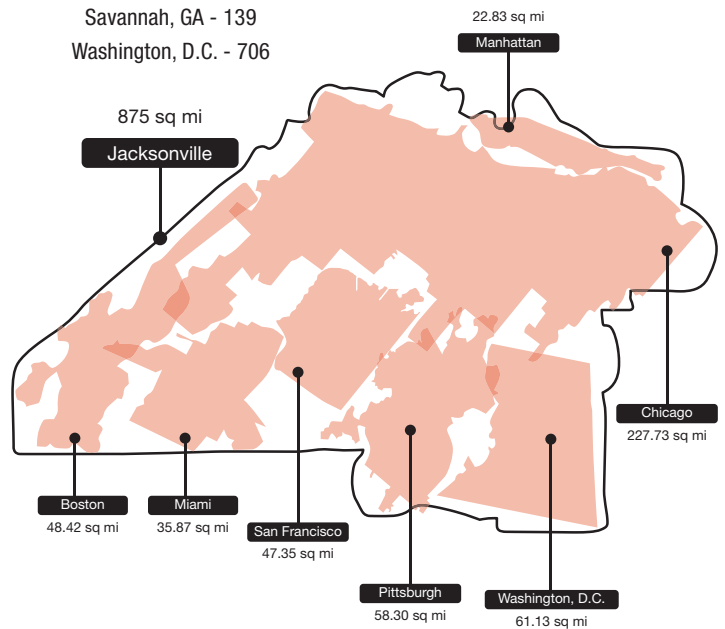
## Miles from Downtown Jacksonville to Other Major Cities in the Southeast

- Atlanta, GA - 346
- Baltimore, MD - 744
- Birmingham, AL - 492
- Charleston, SC - 239
- Charlotte, NC - 385
- Louisville, KY - 766
- Memphis, TN - 730
- Nashville, TN - 595
- New Orleans, LA - 547
- Richmond, VA - 599
- Savannah, GA - 139
- Washington, D.C. - 706

**How many major U.S. cities can you fit in Jacksonville?**



Photo by Stephanie Marty





Mace Creek Apartments, photo by Dana Ferguson

## First Coast Apartment Living

The First Coast offers an inviting mix of sunshine, beachside living, and a growing city full of opportunity, making it an ideal place for anyone looking to rent an apartment. Jacksonville, now the 10th-largest city in the U.S. with just over 1 million residents, continues to expand its residential rental market to meet the needs of the many newcomers. Whether you're drawn to urban conveniences or prefer the quiet charm of nearby coastal neighborhoods, Jacksonville offers a wide range of apartment options to suit every lifestyle. With its welcoming community and endless amenities, it's easy to feel right at home here.

According to MMG's market snapshot, Jacksonville's rental market showed strong demand through Q3 2025, with 5,215 units absorbed during the first three quarters of the year. The city now ranks third in annual apartment absorption, outperforming larger markets such as Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Average rent in Q3 settled at \$1,474, a 1.2 percent decrease, as operators introduced concessions to help fill units amid limited new apartment supply. Together, these trends suggest Jacksonville is entering a more balanced rental period after several years of heavy construction aimed at meeting strong housing demand. The Southside submarket continues to lead the region in development, with 4,100 new units

delivered in the past year, making it the most active area for new apartments on the First Coast.

### Advantages of Apartment Living

Across the First Coast, apartment options abound to fit a variety of lifestyles and budgets. From studios to four-bedroom units, apartments can accommodate single renters, couples, roommates and families alike.

Many residents choose renting over buying for several reasons. While owning a home has its benefits, apartment living offers distinct advantages:

**Cost:** Renting is often more affordable than a mortgage. You won't need to worry about property taxes, homeowner's insurance,

association fees or large down payments. Utilities are typically lower in smaller units, making monthly expenses easier to manage.

**Maintenance:** Apartments eliminate the stress of repairs and upkeep. Landlords handle broken appliances, plumbing issues and landscaping, giving residents more free time to relax and enjoy life.

**Amenities:** First Coast apartments often feature gyms, playgrounds, dog parks, game rooms, pools, grills and more. Many units also include modern finishes like stainless-steel appliances, hardwood floors and granite countertops, luxuries that can be costly in a home.

**Safety:** Security is a priority, with gated entrances, passcodes and

sometimes on-site guards. Close neighbors provide added vigilance, making apartments appealing for seniors or those living alone.

**Location:** Apartments provide more options in preferred neighborhoods, often near jobs, schools, shops and restaurants. This flexibility makes it easier to find a convenient location without compromise.

**Community:** With neighbors nearby, it's easy to connect and participate in community events like pool parties, barbecues and holiday celebrations. These activities help newcomers make friends quickly.

**Flexibility:** Renting allows you to explore a new area before committing to a home purchase. Short-term leases and the ability to relocate

**“Whether you dream of a cozy suburban street, a charming historic nook, a sun-kissed beach town or the serene stretches of the countryside, the First Coast’s five counties are ready to welcome you home.”**



Photo courtesy of Pexels

easily make apartments ideal for temporary placements, job changes or life transitions.

### **Finding Your Perfect Neighborhood**

Choosing the perfect place to call home takes time, and exploring the neighborhoods of Jacksonville’s First

Coast is part of the fun. Whether you’re drawn to charming historic districts, friendly suburbs, beachside communities or the peaceful countryside, the five counties of the First Coast offer something for everyone.

If history and character are what you seek, Riverside and Avondale are two of Jacksonville’s oldest and most beloved neighborhoods. Here, tree-lined streets lead to unique shops, cozy cafes and a variety of dining options, all within walking or biking distance.

For those who love city living, downtown Jacksonville offers modern apartments with stunning views of the river and skyline.

For a true taste of the Florida lifestyle, nothing beats living steps away from the sand. Coastal gems like Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, Fernandina Beach and St. Augustine offer a wide range of apartments and the unbeatable feeling of the ocean at your doorstep.

If convenience and vibrant living are your priorities, the Southside/Baymeadows area and St. Johns Town Center are ideal. These neighborhoods feature newer apartment complexes with easy access to some of the city’s best shopping, dining and entertainment. With the University of North Florida and Florida State College at Jacksonville mere minutes away, these areas are also popular with students.

For a closer look at all the unique neighborhoods across the First Coast, turn to page 15 to explore the many options available.

### **Preparing for Your New Apartment**

When searching for an apartment, a good first step is to tour complexes. Many apartments offer both virtual tours on their websites and in-person visits. It’s best to contact the leasing office or landlord ahead of time to schedule an appointment. Keep in mind that most complexes require a valid ID to allow tours, so have one ready when you visit.

Before moving in, it’s important to understand what the apartment complex requires to start the leasing process. Typically, renters must complete an application and provide proof of income or employment, such as recent pay stubs or a current W-2. Many complexes have income requirements that must be met. Some may also request contact information for a previous landlord to run a background check. While not always mandatory, renter’s insurance is sometimes required to protect against events like floods, fires or hurricanes.

If you plan to bring a pet, check that the community is pet friendly. Renting usually involves upfront costs, including application fees, deposits and pet fees. Don’t forget to ask if the complex offers discounts or specials for active-duty military, students or employees of major local companies.

### **Senior Apartment Options**

The First Coast offers a wide variety of apartment communities designed for those 55 and older, making it easy to find the perfect place to call home. From Ponte Vedra and Nocatee to eTown, Stillwater, Tamaya, Mandarin and beyond, there are upscale, comfortable apartments tailored for active, vibrant seniors.

These communities go beyond just a place to live—they offer thoughtful amenities made with seniors in mind. Enjoy spacious apartments, heated pools, yoga studios, cozy lounges and media libraries. Many communities also provide opportunities to try new hobbies or connect with neighbors through lifestyle programs, community gardens, craft rooms and more.

For a full guide to 55-plus apartments in the area, pick up a copy of the *Jacksonville Senior Services Directory* at your local library or senior center, or visit

[www.heritagepublishinginc.com](http://www.heritagepublishinginc.com).



**The Waterford at Mandarin**

- 1, 2, & 3 Bedrooms
- Pet-Friendly
- Gourmet Kitchens
- Lakeside Views
- Vaulted Ceilings
- Large Kitchen Pantry
- Large Walk-in Closets
- Fitness Center
- Children's Playground
- Dog Park

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**COVENTRY PARK**  
APARTMENTS

- Lakeside Fireplace
- Theater Room
- Walk-in Closets
- Cyber Cafe
- Pet-Friendly
- 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms
- Decorator Pendant Lights
- Fitness Center
- Children's Playground
- Gourmet Kitchens

**(904) 299-1219**  
6650 CORP. CENTER PKWY.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216



Ascend at Clay Town Center, photo by Diana Ferguson

## First Coast Apartment Association

The First Coast Apartment Association (FCAA) serves the apartment industry through education, legislation and professional networking. As the fourth-largest apartment association in Florida, FCAA continues to expand its membership and range of services. FCAA offers a variety of credential and certification programs, along with workshops and seminars covering topics such as leasing, marketing, landlord-tenant law, fair housing, maintenance, technology and more. In addition, the association provides legislative advocacy at local, state and national levels, helping members stay informed and engaged with industry-related policies. For more information, visit [www.fcaaonline.com](http://www.fcaaonline.com).

### Florida Apartment Association Apartment Stats for the Jacksonville MSA

Apartment Vacancy	9.1%
Construction Starts	2,590
Net Absorption	3,758
Delivered Units	6,500
Effective Rent Per Unit	\$1,488
Apartment Unit Inventory	122,385

\*As of Q2 2025

# Your Backyard Retreat: Enjoy Outdoor Living on the First Coast



Photo courtesy of Lifetime Enclosures

Welcome to Jacksonville, where the sunny skies and warm weather invite you to spend more time outdoors! There's something magical about enjoying fresh air, the soothing sounds of nature and the simple joy of outdoor living. From relaxing with a morning coffee on your deck to hosting friends and family for a backyard barbecue, creating an outdoor retreat is the perfect way to embrace life on the First Coast.

Gone are the days of plain backyards with just a grill and a few chairs. Today, outdoor living spaces are an extension of your home. With comfy seating areas, sparkling string lights, full kitchens, bars, firepits and even outdoor TVs, you can make your perfect modern backyard. Jacksonville homeowners have endless options for furniture, from classic wood to weatherproof synthetic pieces that are designed to withstand constant sunshine and rain. Adding a glass enclosure, vinyl enclosure, patio cover, awning or screen enclosure can create privacy, protect your furniture and make your outdoor space comfortable year-round.

Planning your backyard oasis is a chance to make your home truly yours. Picture a cozy seating area for conversation, a kids' play zone or even a thriving garden with fresh herbs and vegetables. An outdoor kitchen can be both practical and luxurious, perfect for entertaining while adding value to your home. With appliances like side burners, grills,

refrigerators and more, plus thoughtful lighting for evening gatherings, your backyard can become the heart of your home.

Adding color and life with flowers, plants and shrubs makes your outdoor space even more inviting. Many residents enjoy planting pollinator-friendly flowers to attract birds, bees and butterflies. Hardscape elements like stone paths or garden borders can add charm and structure, making your backyard feel like a personal sanctuary.

Whether you're looking to relax, entertain, or create a playful space for the family, your backyard can become your favorite part of your home. With over 36 years of experience and more than 18,000 satisfied customers, Lifetime Enclosures in Jacksonville is here to help turn your outdoor dreams into reality. From lanais and screen enclosures to sunrooms and outdoor kitchens, their team can guide you every step of the way, all while providing a free estimate to get you started. Don't

forget to check out Lifetime Flooring, for all your indoor and outdoor flooring needs!

Make your backyard a warm, welcoming retreat that reflects your lifestyle and invites everyone to enjoy the beauty of Jacksonville living.

**“Whether you’re looking to relax, entertain, or create a playful space for the family, your backyard can become your favorite part of your home.”**

ENJOYMENT FOR A *Lifetime*...



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- SUNROOMS
- PATIO COVERS
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[LifetimeFlooringJax.com](http://LifetimeFlooringJax.com)

# Playing Ruff



Photo by Monica Silvestre, courtesy of Pexels



Photo by Smau Difrnt, courtesy of Unsplash

It's time to get some sun and spend some time with your beloved furry friend! Check out one of the First Coast's local dog parks and pet-friendly beaches.

## Dog Parks

### Atlantic Beach Dog Park

*Atlantic Beach*

[www.coab.us/463/Atlantic-Beach-Dog-Park](http://www.coab.us/463/Atlantic-Beach-Dog-Park)

### Aurora's Dog Park

*Fernandina Beach*

<https://nassauhumane.org/dog-park/>

### Davis Park

*Ponte Vedra Beach*

[www.sjcf1.us/parks\\_trails/davis-park](http://www.sjcf1.us/parks_trails/davis-park)

### Deleon Shores Park

*Ponte Vedra*

[www.sjcf1.us/parks\\_trails/deleon-shores-park](http://www.sjcf1.us/parks_trails/deleon-shores-park)

### Ed Austin Regional Dog Park

*Arlington*

[www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation)

### Joe Pomar Park

*St. Augustine*

[www.sjcf1.us/parks\\_trails/joe-pomar-park](http://www.sjcf1.us/parks_trails/joe-pomar-park)

### John Gorrie Dog Park at Riverside Park

*Riverside*

<https://riversideavondale.org/john-gorrie-dog-park>

### Leonard Abess Park

*Arlington*

[www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation)

### Nassau Crossing Dog Park

*Yulee*

[www.nassaucountyfl.com/1394/Nassau-Crossing](http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/1394/Nassau-Crossing)

### Nocatee Community Park

*Ponte Vedra*

[www.sjcf1.us/parks\\_trails/nocatee-community-park](http://www.sjcf1.us/parks_trails/nocatee-community-park)

### Oceanway Park

*Oceanway*

[www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation)

### Orange Park Dog Park

*Orange Park*

[www.townoforangepark.com/p/residents/parks/dog-park](http://www.townoforangepark.com/p/residents/parks/dog-park)

### Paws Dog Park

*Jacksonville Beach*

[www.jacksonvillebeach.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Paws-Dog-Park-8](http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Paws-Dog-Park-8)

### Poochie's Park

*Orange Park*

<https://poochiespark.com/>

### Ron Parker Park

*St. Augustine*

[www.sjcf1.us/parks\\_trails/ron-parker-park](http://www.sjcf1.us/parks_trails/ron-parker-park)

### Springfield Park Dog Park

*Springfield*

[www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation)

### Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park

*Westside*

[www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation)

### Treaty Park

*St. Augustine*

[www.sjcf1.us/parks\\_trails/treaty-park](http://www.sjcf1.us/parks_trails/treaty-park)

### Veterans Park Dog Park

*St. Johns*

[www.sjcf1.us/parks\\_trails/veterans-park](http://www.sjcf1.us/parks_trails/veterans-park)

## Pet-Friendly Beaches

### American Beach

Must be leashed

### Atlantic Beach

Must be leashed unless both pet and owner are in the water

### Crescent Beach

Must be leashed

### Fernandina Beach

Must be leashed

### Jacksonville Beach

Must be leashed

April 1 to Sept. 30 - dogs not permitted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Oct. 1 to March 31 - dogs permitted any time

### Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

Must be leashed

Permitted in designated areas

### Mayport Beach

Must be leashed

Dogs permitted daily until dusk

### **Mickler's Beachfront Park**

Must be leashed

### **Neptune Beach**

Must be leashed

Dogs permitted between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round

### **Peters Point Beachfront Park**

Must be leashed

### **Ponte Vedra Beach**

Must be leashed

### **St. Augustine Beach**

Must be leashed

### **Usina Beach**

Must be leashed

### **Vilano Beach**

Must be leashed

Orange Park Dog Park, photo by Diana Ferguson



## **Wildlife Rehabilitation Programs**

Local wildlife is an important part of our area, especially with the abundance of parks and preserves on the First Coast. For those seeking a unique opportunity, consider volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation center to help native wildlife such as opossums, squirrels, raccoons and foxes. There are several places on the First Coast where people can volunteer and even foster orphaned and injured wildlife. Remember not to interact with wildlife without guidance from a local wildlife rehabilitation center. These rehabilitations are run by licensed professionals who have extensive experience handling wildlife.

**Ark Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc., The**  
[www.thearkrescue.org](http://www.thearkrescue.org)

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**  
<https://myfwc.com/get-involved/volunteer/regional-programs/ne-region>

**OtterSpace Wildlife**  
[www.otterspacewildlife.com](http://www.otterspacewildlife.com)

**Sea Turtle Hospital at Whitney Laboratory**  
[www.whitney.ufl.edu/conservation--sea-turtle-hospital](http://www.whitney.ufl.edu/conservation--sea-turtle-hospital)

**Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida**  
[www.wildlifecoalition.com](http://www.wildlifecoalition.com)

# **Pet Adoption Locations and Events**

The First Coast is a great place to find the perfect pet! With pet adoption events, local shelters and veterinary services throughout the area, you're bound to find your new furry best friend!

## **Animal Shelters**

**Animal Care and Protective Services**  
[www.jacksonville.gov/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care-protective-services](http://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care-protective-services)

**Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue**  
[www.aylasacres.org](http://www.aylasacres.org)

**Baker County Animal Control**  
[www.bakercountyfl.org/animals.php](http://www.bakercountyfl.org/animals.php)

**Clay County Animal Services**  
[www.claycountygov.com/community/animal-services/adoption](http://www.claycountygov.com/community/animal-services/adoption)

**Clay County Humane Society**  
[www.clayhumane.org](http://www.clayhumane.org)

**Froggy's Cat Rescue**  
[www.froggycatrescue.com](http://www.froggycatrescue.com)

**Jacksonville Humane Society**  
[www.jaxhumane.org](http://www.jaxhumane.org)

**Nassau County Animal Services**  
[www.nassaucountyfl.com/1445/Animal-Services](http://www.nassaucountyfl.com/1445/Animal-Services)

**Nassau Humane Society**  
[www.nassauhumane.org](http://www.nassauhumane.org)

**S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, Inc.**  
[www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com](http://www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com)

**Safe Animal Shelter**  
[www.safeanimalsshelter.com](http://www.safeanimalsshelter.com)

**St. Augustine Humane Society**  
[www.staughumane.org](http://www.staughumane.org)

**St. Johns County Animal Control**  
[www.sjcfil.us/departments/animal-control](http://www.sjcfil.us/departments/animal-control)

**Wags & Whiskers Pet Rescue, Inc.**  
[www.wwpetrescue.org](http://www.wwpetrescue.org)

## **Adoption Events**

Jacksonville Pet Adoption Festival  
[www.jaxhumane.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.jaxhumane.org/upcoming-events/)

Petco Love Statewide Mega Adoption Event  
[www.megaadoptflorida.com](http://www.megaadoptflorida.com)

PetSmart Charities National Adoption Week  
[www.petsmartcharities.org/adopt-a-pet/adoption-events](http://www.petsmartcharities.org/adopt-a-pet/adoption-events)

*Many shelters are full and are looking for fosters. This is a great way to test the waters and provide temporary care for pets in need while they wait to be placed in their forever homes.*



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

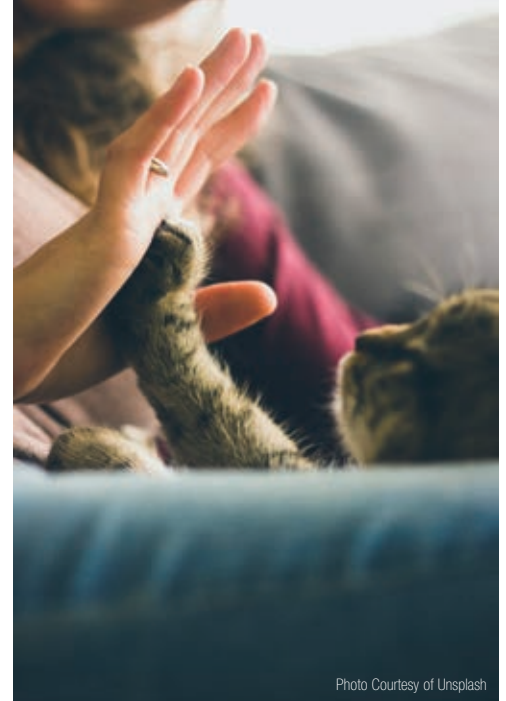


Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

# Grab Your Sunglasses! First Coast Weather



Jacksonville Beach, photo by Josh Moore, courtesy of Unsplash

Blue skies and beach days! The First Coast is home to beautiful weather almost all year long. With picture-perfect weather from November until April, residents may still need to grab an umbrella for some rain showers during the summer. The winters are mild, with temperatures ranging from the mid-40s to the mid-60s. Some early risers may even find a sprinkling of frost on the ground during the winter. Summer rays illuminate over Florida, offering temperatures that range from the mid-70s in the evenings to mid-to-high 90s in the daytime. Nevertheless, rain or sunshine, there is always something fun to do here on the First Coast!

## Beat the Heat! Ways to Cool Down This Summer

- The First Coast's 60-plus miles of beaches and waterways include 50 public boat ramps.
- Suit up! There are more than 30 public pools located throughout the First Coast, including the Cecil Aquatic Center.
- Kayak on the St. Johns River, at Hanna Park or on Amelia Island.
- Visit splash parks at Sunshine Playground, Hanna Park, Wiley Road Playground, Losco Regional Park, Abess Park, the Jacksonville Zoo, Spring Park, the St. Johns County Pier and more.
- Roll away the day at one of over 15 bowling alleys and roller-skating rinks.

## Rain, Rain, Go Away!

- Bounce the day away at an indoor trampoline park. Check out our list on page 121.
- Shop for the latest trends at our indoor malls, including the Avenues Mall and Orange Park Mall.
- With 38 libraries throughout the First Coast, check out some books from your local branch.
- Visit museums like the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.
- Immerse yourself in the thrilling adventure of one of our many escape rooms or relieve some stress at one of our rage rooms or axe throwing centers.

## AVERAGE HIGH/LOW TEMPERATURE

MONTH	HIGH	LOW
January	60.9°F	35.9°F
February	73.5°F	49.2°F
March	76.3°F	49.7°F
April	84.1°F	59.3°F
May	90.4°F	66.9°F
June	92.2°F	71.9°F
July	94.8°F	74.9°F
August	91.7°F	74.7°F
September	88.0°F	68.1°F
October	80.1°F	60.7°F
November	77.3°F	47.9°F
December	69.5°F	44.7°F

## AVERAGE RAINFALL BY INCHES

MONTH	INCHES
January	2.56
February	3.2
March	3.3
April	2.95
May	3.17
June	6.97
July	6.47
August	7.44
September	6.61
October	3.42
November	2.36
December	2.81

## Weather Prep

### Storm Preparations

Being prepared with emergency supplies and a plan can help reduce the stress of an oncoming storm. Assemble a disaster supply kit, including a first aid kit and at least a three-day supply of food and water, and keep it in an easily accessible place. Items such as flashlights and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio are helpful to stay up to date on comprehensive 24-hour weather forecasts. Keep a full tank of gas and plan multiple travel routes out of the area. Besides learning your evacuation zone, keep in mind that if an evacuation does occur, highways, bridges and roads may close.

Protect your home by boarding up glass doors or windows with plywood or installing hurricane shutters. Collect any loose objects from the yard, as they are a hazard and could fly away during high winds. The local emergency management or planning/zoning office can alert you if you live in a potential flood zone and give suggestions for additional preparation, such as getting sandbags to prevent water from getting into your house.

### HURRICANES

Hurricane season begins in June and lasts until the end of November and, although most common during those months, hurricanes can form throughout the year. With three peninsulas, Florida gets the brunt of the storms on its coastlines, which are most threatened by these storms. As the most western point on the U.S. Eastern Seaboard, Northeast Florida receives fewer hurricanes than other parts of the state.

#### Weather Terms to Know:

**Hurricane:** winds 74 mph and above.

#### Hurricane Warning:

hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours in or near the warning area.

#### Hurricane Watch:

hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours in or near the watch area.

**Tropical Depression:** maximum sustained wind speed of 38 mph.

#### Tropical Disturbance:

originates in the tropics or subtropics and maintains an identity for 24 hours.

**Tropical Storm:** maximum sustained wind speeds of 39 to 73 mph.

#### Hurricane Categories:

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is used by meteorologists to define a hurricane's category and determine safety measures that residents should take for hurricane preparation or even evacuation. This categorization scale doesn't determine other possible hurricane-related effects such as storm surge, tornadoes or flooding due to the increase of rain.

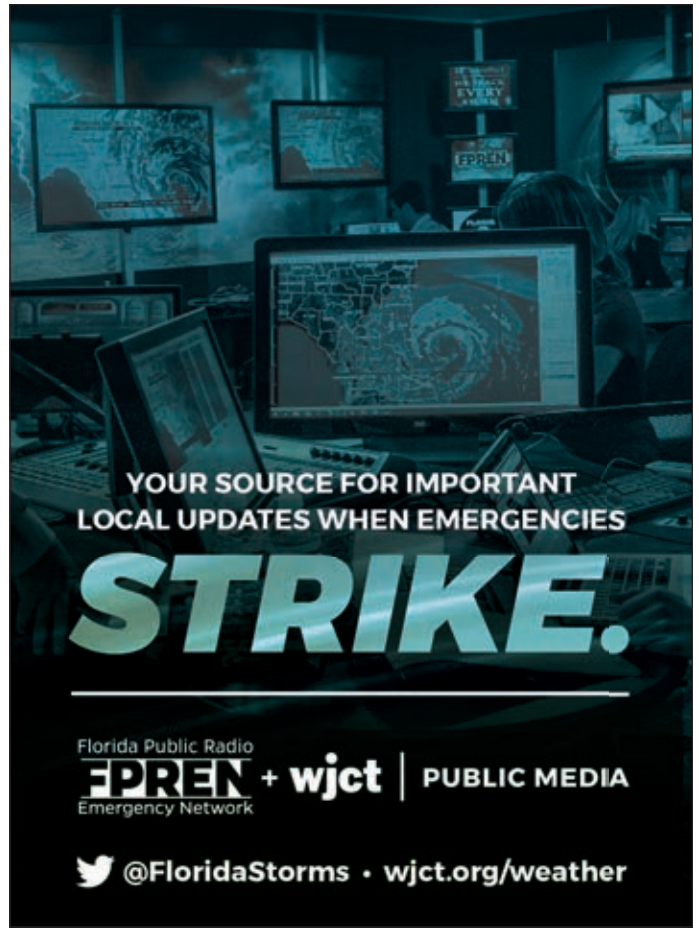
**1: minimal; 74 to 95 mph winds**

**2: moderate; 96 to 110 mph winds**

**3: extensive; 111 to 129 mph winds**

**4: extreme; 130 to 156 mph winds**

**5: catastrophic; 157 mph and higher winds**



#### Local and State Resources

**Baker County:** [www.bakerso.com](http://www.bakerso.com)

**Clay County:** [www.claycountygov.com/community/emergency-management](http://www.claycountygov.com/community/emergency-management)

**Duval County/City of Jacksonville:** [www.jaxready.com](http://www.jaxready.com)

**Nassau County:** [www.onenassau.com](http://www.onenassau.com)

**St. Johns County:** [www.sjcfcl.us/departments/emergency-mgmt](http://www.sjcfcl.us/departments/emergency-mgmt)

**Florida Division of Emergency Management:** [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

#### TORNADOES

Compared to the Midwest, tornadoes on the First Coast aren't nearly as strong but can still cause significant damage. Tornadoes can reach 300 mph with an average forward speed of 30 mph. If a tornado warning is issued, take shelter indoors away from the storm. When inside a building or home, stay away from windows in an inner room such as a bathroom or closet. Crouch low to the ground and cover your head with your hands. Stay aware of severe weather in the area, as tornadoes can develop quickly, and advanced warning isn't always possible.

#### Weather Terms to Know:

**Tornado Warning:** tornado sighted or indicated on radar.

**Tornado Watch:** tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area.

**Waterspout:** tornado that forms over warm water.

# Education

## BAKER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



[www.bakerk12.org](http://www.bakerk12.org)  
 904-259-6251  
 270 South Blvd. E., Macclenny  
 Superintendent Wyatt Milton  
 904-259-0401  
[john.milton@bakerk12.org](mailto:john.milton@bakerk12.org)  
 Baker County has a commitment to “prepare individuals to be lifelong learners, self-sufficient and responsible citizens of good character.” The district’s students compete in many academic and athletic competitions statewide, nationwide and even internationally. Baker County also has the Baker County Adult Education Center, which provides those looking to further their education with working skills ranging from GED and ACT preparation to Paraprofessional and CNA training.

## CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS



[www.oneclay.net](http://www.oneclay.net)  
 904-336-6500  
 900 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs  
 Superintendent David Broskie  
 904-284-6510  
[david.broskie@myoneclay.net](mailto:david.broskie@myoneclay.net)  
 Clay County Schools have an important vision to prepare lifelong learners for success in a global and competitive workplace and in acquiring applicable life skills. This A-rated district was ranked No. 4 of the Best School Districts of Florida by Niche in 2025. This school year, 55 public schools serve more than 39,000 students.

## DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



<https://dcps.duvalschools.org>  
 904-390-2000  
 1701 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville  
 Superintendent Dr. Christopher Bernier | 904-390-2115  
[bernierc@duvalschools.org](mailto:bernierc@duvalschools.org)  
 Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) is the sixth biggest school district in Florida. The district offers Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) courses and dual enrollment courses. DCPS serves more than 130,000 students. Each day, faculty and staff work together to make sure “that every student is inspired and prepared for success in college or a career, and life.” Duval County earned its first A rating in 2025.

## NASSAU COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



[www.nassau.k12.fl.us](http://www.nassau.k12.fl.us)  
 904-491-9900  
 1201 Atlantic Ave.,  
 Fernandina Beach  
 Superintendent Dr. Kathy Burns  
 904-491-9902  
[burnska@nassau.k12.fl.us](mailto:burnska@nassau.k12.fl.us)  
 The Nassau County School District aims to help build a strong educational foundation throughout each child’s educational career. The school district was ranked an A district for the 2024-25 school year and is ranked No. 9 by Niche for Best School Districts in Florida. The county offers AP courses, as well as numerous extracurricular activities.

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



[www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)  
 904-547-7500  
 40 Orange St., St. Augustine  
 Superintendent Dr. Brennan Asplen  
 904-547-7502  
[brennan.asplen@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:brennan.asplen@stjohns.k12.fl.us)  
 The St. Johns County School District is one of the top districts in Florida and was rated No. 1 by Niche for 2026. The county offers AP, IB, AICE and Advanced Via Individual Determination programs for their students. The district is part of the CHARACTER COUNTS! effort, which works to instill positive character traits in their students, including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Total Number of Students **238,832**

**BAKER COUNTY**  
4,763

**CLAY COUNTY**  
39,116

**DUVAL COUNTY**  
130,054

**NASSAU COUNTY**  
12,575

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**  
52,324

Total Number of Public Schools **305**

**BAKER COUNTY**  
12

**CLAY COUNTY**  
55

**DUVAL COUNTY**  
159

**NASSAU COUNTY**  
24

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**  
55

**“Three First Coast school districts are ranked on Niche’s 2026 Best School Districts in Florida list: St. Johns County at No. 1, Clay County at No. 8 and Nassau County at No. 9.”**

\*According to the Florida Department of Education as of 10/29/2025

# Private Schools



Bolles School San Jose, courtesy of Bolles School

County	Name	Phone	Website
<b>BAKER</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	<a href="http://www.atriumschool.org">www.atriumschool.org</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/bhohw/">www.facebook.com/bhohw/</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	<a href="http://www.elaaschool.org">www.elaaschool.org</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Faith Baptist Academy	904-259-3230	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/FaithBaptistAcademyPatriots">www.facebook.com/FaithBaptistAcademyPatriots</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	PathFinders Christian Academy	904-800-7103	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/p/PathFinders-Christian-Academy-100038608849896/">www.facebook.com/p/PathFinders-Christian-Academy-100038608849896/</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Annunciation Catholic School	904-282-0504	<a href="http://www.annunciationcatholic.org">www.annunciationcatholic.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	<a href="http://www.atriumschool.org">www.atriumschool.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Berean Christian Academy	904-773-8404	<a href="http://www.bccanes.org">www.bccanes.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Black Creek Christian School	904-282-4033	<a href="https://blackcreekonline.com/black-creek-christian-school.html">https://blackcreekonline.com/black-creek-christian-school.html</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/bhohw/">www.facebook.com/bhohw/</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Calvary Christian Academy	904-282-2068	<a href="http://www.calvarycares.net/calvary-christian-academy">www.calvarycares.net/calvary-christian-academy</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Christian Home Academy	904-276-3339	<a href="http://www.christianhomeacademy.info">www.christianhomeacademy.info</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Christy Fowler Academy of Excellence	904-385-9447	<a href="https://sites.google.com/view/cfae-education/home">https://sites.google.com/view/cfae-education/home</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Citizens High School	800-736-4723	<a href="http://www.citizenshighschool.com">www.citizenshighschool.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Differentiated Learning Center	904-637-1400	<a href="http://www.dlcpriateschool.com">www.dlcpriateschool.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy	904-770-5329	<a href="https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep">https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	<a href="http://www.elaaschool.org">www.elaaschool.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Faith Christian Academy	904-276-1300	<a href="http://www.fcaflorida.com">www.fcaflorida.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	GEERS Exceptional Education Center	904-297-4055	<a href="http://www.geersrobotics.org">www.geersrobotics.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Grace Episcopal Day School	904-269-3718	<a href="http://www.geds.net">www.geds.net</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Haile Academy of Higher Learning	904-881-8524	
<b>CLAY</b>	Heritage Christian Academy	904-343-1561	<a href="http://www.hbcacademy.org">www.hbcacademy.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Kanvas Academy	904-644-7451	<a href="http://www.kanvasacademy110.com">www.kanvasacademy110.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	LATAM Global School	877-977-3772	<a href="http://www.latamglobalschool.com">www.latamglobalschool.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Morningstar Christian School	352-473-3159	
<b>CLAY</b>	Pinewood Christian Academy	904-272-6408	<a href="http://www.pcaknights.org">www.pcaknights.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Sonlight Christian Academy	904-660-5348	<a href="https://sonlightchristianacademy.com">https://sonlightchristianacademy.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Springs Academy, Inc.	904-531-9669	<a href="https://springsacademy.org">https://springsacademy.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	St. Johns Country Day School	904-264-9572	<a href="http://www.sjcds.net">www.sjcds.net</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Al-Furqan Academy	904-559-9121	<a href="http://www.alfurqanacademy.org">www.alfurqanacademy.org</a>

<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	<a href="http://www.atriumschool.org">www.atriumschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Beaches Chapel School	904-241-4211	<a href="http://www.beacheschapelschool.com">www.beacheschapelschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/bhohw/">www.facebook.com/bhohw/</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Career Prep Academy of Beachside	866-867-3730	<a href="http://www.careerprepworkforce.org">www.careerprepworkforce.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Colossal Academy Jacksonville	904-758-8895	<a href="https://colossalacademyjacksonville.com">https://colossalacademyjacksonville.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Discovery School	904-247-4577	<a href="http://www.dmsonline.org">www.dmsonline.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy	904-770-5329	<a href="https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep">https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	<a href="http://www.elaaschool.org">www.elaaschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Episcopal School of Jacksonville - Beaches Campus	904-246-2466	<a href="http://www.esj.org">www.esj.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Foundation Academy, The	904-493-7300	<a href="http://www.foundationacademy.com">www.foundationacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Montessori Tides School	904-241-1139	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/p/Montessori-Tides-School-100074779689720/">www.facebook.com/p/Montessori-Tides-School-100074779689720/</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	New Leaf School for Change	904-246-9100	<a href="http://www.newleafschool.com">www.newleafschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	St. Paul's Catholic School - Jacksonville Beach	904-249-5934	<a href="http://www.stpaulscatholicsschool.com">www.stpaulscatholicsschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Alexander Preparatory Academy	904-419-3427	<a href="https://apascholar.com">https://apascholar.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Arlington Kindergarten	904-743-4034	<a href="https://arlingtonkindergarten.com">https://arlingtonkindergarten.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	<a href="http://www.atriumschool.org">www.atriumschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Bethel Holiness Academy	904-781-5400	
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/bhohw/">www.facebook.com/bhohw/</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Career Prep Academy of Northside	866-867-3730	<a href="http://www.careerprepworkforce.org">www.careerprepworkforce.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Chatman's Early Learning Christian Academy	904-751-9803	
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Christ The King Catholic School	904-724-2954	<a href="http://www.ctkschooljax.com">www.ctkschooljax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy	904-770-5329	<a href="https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep">https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	East Pointe Christian Academy & Preschool	904-641-8323 ext. 104	<a href="http://www.epcajax.com">www.epcajax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	<a href="http://www.elaaschool.org">www.elaaschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Eunice Christian Private School	904-351-6610	<a href="https://eunicechristianprivateschool.com">https://eunicechristianprivateschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Faith Academy	904-714-0040	<a href="http://www.faithacademyow.com">www.faithacademyow.com</a>

# LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES



Courtesy of Bolles

At The Bolles School, excellence is the foundation of every aspect of the student experience, preparing learners for futures filled with limitless opportunities.

Founded in 1933, The Bolles School is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school with four campuses and more than 1,800 students from Pre-K through Grade 12, all of whom are inspired to explore boldly, think critically and lead with empathy. From rigorous academics and championship athletics to vibrant arts programs and global learning experiences, Bolles students are encouraged to discover their passions and pursue them with confidence.

A shining example of the School's commitment to immersive, hands-on learning is the Frank R. Sanchez & Hope and Dana E. Fender Center for Innovation, which opened last fall on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus. This three-story, 47,000-square-foot facility houses the School's science, math and technology programs, offering expansive spaces for advanced courses in robotics, computer programming, information technology, engineering and design.

Just as Bolles fosters innovation in learning, it also cultivates a global perspective through its diverse student population. Students represent 74 countries and speak 25 languages, bringing a wealth of perspectives to campus life. The Resident Life Program, which includes boarding students from 40 countries and 14 states, adds depth to the

day student body's culturally rich environment. In the 2026-27 school year, the program will grow to double the girls' boarding capacity through a dorm expansion project made possible by the Gund family. Academically, Bolles offers courses in five world languages and 30 Advanced Placement courses, guided by expert faculty who spark intellectual engagement and help students uncover their unique interests and academic strengths. The School's comprehensive fine and performing arts program provides courses in drama, dance, visual arts, chorus, music and band. Among middle and upper school students, 70 percent enrolled in fine and performing arts classes this year, while 100 percent of lower school students are involved in art, music and theater instruction.

Athletics at Bolles are world-renowned, with 27 sports in middle school and upper school. Bolles Swimming has been represented at every Olympics since 1972, with a total of 67 Bolles students, former students and Bolles Sharks competing over the years. Bolles' Olympic history now includes 15 medalists, winning a total of 36 medals—including 21 gold.

At Bolles, students benefit from an *All Things Possible* approach to learning. With a foundation in courage, integrity and compassion, they are empowered to realize their potential and embrace the limitless opportunities ahead. Whether in the classroom, on the stage or on the field, Bolles students are prepared not just for college—but for a life of purpose, leadership and impact.



Courtesy of Bolles

Courtesy of Bolles

<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Grace Lutheran School	904-928-9136	<a href="http://www.gracelutheraneagles.org">www.gracelutheraneagles.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Holy Spirit Catholic School	904-642-9165	<a href="http://www.hscatholicschool.com">www.hscatholicschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Hopewell Christian Academy	904-288-9700 ext. 2	<a href="https://hopewellchristianacademy.org">https://hopewellchristianacademy.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Kreative Academy	904-764-8821	<a href="http://www.kreativeschools.com">www.kreativeschools.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	La Core Christian Academy	904-574-9870	<a href="http://www.lacoreschools.org">www.lacoreschools.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Little Country School, The	904-757-8200	<a href="http://www.littlecountryschool.com">www.littlecountryschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	New Berlin Road Christian Academy	904-751-6411	<a href="https://nbrchristianacademy.com">https://nbrchristianacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Parsons Christian Academy Elementary	904-745-4588	<a href="http://www.pclions.org">www.pclions.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Parsons Christian Academy Middle/High School	904-516-4578	<a href="http://www.pclions.org">www.pclions.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Resurrection Catholic School	904-744-1266	<a href="http://www.resurrectionschooljax.com">www.resurrectionschooljax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Soaring Scholars Academy	904-510-2660	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567301828150">www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567301828150</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	St. Patrick Catholic School	904-768-6323	<a href="http://www.stpatrickjacksonville.org/school">www.stpatrickjacksonville.org/school</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Victory Christian Academy	904-764-7781	<a href="https://vcasoldiers.com">https://vcasoldiers.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Way Christian Academy, The	904-695-0531	<a href="https://thewayca.org">https://thewayca.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	A Child's Place Montessori School - Southpoint	904-733-5797	<a href="http://www.achildsplace.info">www.achildsplace.info</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Academie de Montessori	904-398-3830	<a href="http://www.academie-de-montessori.org">www.academie-de-montessori.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Al-Furqan Academy	904-645-0810	<a href="http://www.alfurqanacademy.org">www.alfurqanacademy.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Assumption Catholic School	904-398-1774	<a href="http://www.assumptionjax.org">www.assumptionjax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	<a href="http://www.atrumschool.org">www.atrumschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Baymeadows Christian Academy	904-733-3400	<a href="http://www.bbcjx.org">www.bbcjx.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Bishop Kenny High School	904-398-7545	<a href="http://www.bishopkenny.org">www.bishopkenny.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/bhohw/">www.facebook.com/bhohw/</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Blessed Trinity Catholic School	904-641-6458	<a href="http://www.blessedtrinitycatholicschool.org">www.blessedtrinitycatholicschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	<b>Bolles School, The</b> ▶ see our Inside Front Cover	<b>904-733-9292</b>	<b><a href="http://www.bolles.org">www.bolles.org</a></b>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Brooke House Academy	407-720-4235	<a href="http://www.brookehouseacademy.com">www.brookehouseacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Builders of the Faith Preschool & Academy	904-772-0277	<a href="http://www.buildersofthefaith.com">www.buildersofthefaith.com</a>

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<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	CES Academy	904-254-6428	<a href="http://www.ces-schools.net/jacksonville">www.ces-schools.net/jacksonville</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Christ's Church Academy	904-268-8667	<a href="http://www.ccajax.org">www.ccajax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Christian Heritage Academy	904-733-4722	<a href="http://www.chajax.org">www.chajax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Cornerstone Christian School	904-730-5500	<a href="http://www.csjax.org">www.csjax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Covenant School of Jacksonville, The	904-265-7474	<a href="http://www.wearecovenant.org">www.wearecovenant.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy	904-770-5329	<a href="https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep">https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	<a href="http://www.elaaschool.org">www.elaaschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Episcopal School of Jacksonville - Munnerlyn Campus	904-396-5751	<a href="http://www.esj.org">www.esj.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Faith First Preschool	904-672-7723	<a href="http://www.faithfirstpreschool.com">www.faithfirstpreschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Father's H.a.r.b.o.r. Academy	904-306-9579	<a href="http://www.fathersharboracademy.com">www.fathersharboracademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Guidepost Montessori	904-385-8222	<a href="http://www.guidepostmontessori.com/schools/baymeadows-jacksonville-fl">www.guidepostmontessori.com/schools/baymeadows-jacksonville-fl</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Harvest Community School	904-997-1882	<a href="http://www.hcsjax.org">www.hcsjax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Holy Family Catholic School	904-645-9875	<a href="http://www.hfcatholicschool.com">www.hfcatholicschool.com</a>

<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Impact Christian Academy	904-652-1441	<a href="http://www.icajax.com">www.icajax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Jacksonville Country Day School	904-641-6644	<a href="http://www.jcde.com">www.jcde.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	LifePoint Academy of Seventh-Day Adventists	904-268-2433	<a href="http://www.lifepointacademy.com">www.lifepointacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Martin J. Gottlieb Day School	904-268-4200	<a href="http://www.dubowgottlieb.org">www.dubowgottlieb.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	My Academy	904-980-8337	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/myacademyinc/">www.facebook.com/myacademyinc/</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Pablo Academy	904-412-3362	<a href="http://www.pabloacademy.org">www.pabloacademy.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Polaris Global Academy	518-441-8183	<a href="http://www.polarisglobalacademy.com">www.polarisglobalacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	<b>Providence School</b> ▶ see our ad page 55	<b>904-223-5270</b>	<b><a href="http://www.prov.org">www.prov.org</a></b>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Reach Academy	904-268-9111	<a href="http://www.reachacademyjax.com">www.reachacademyjax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	SAMi Academy Science and Math Institute	904-573-0883	<a href="http://www.samiacademy.com">www.samiacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	San Jose Catholic School	904-733-2313	<a href="http://www.sanjosecatholicsschool.com">www.sanjosecatholicsschool.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	San Jose Episcopal Day School	904-733-0352	<a href="http://www.sjeds.org">www.sjeds.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Seacoast Christian Academy	904-722-1738	<a href="http://www.scajax.org">www.scajax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	St. Joseph Catholic School	904-268-6688	<a href="http://www.stjosephcs.org">www.stjosephcs.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Temple College Preparatory	904-598-0078	<a href="http://www.templecollegeprep.com">www.templecollegeprep.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Torah Academy of Jacksonville	904-268-7719	<a href="http://www.torah-academy.com">www.torah-academy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	University Christian School	904-737-6330	<a href="http://www.ucsjax.com">www.ucsjax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Academy of Excellence, The	904-779-0177	<a href="http://www.theaoejax.com">www.theaoejax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Academy of Scholars	904-274-1107	<a href="https://academyofscholarsinc.org">https://academyofscholarsinc.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	America's Little Leaders Junior Academy	904-240-1864	
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Argyle Christian Preschool & Kindergarten	904-778-4838	<a href="http://www.myacpk.com">www.myacpk.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Arise Institute	904-330-4440	<a href="https://sites.google.com/view/ariseholistic">https://sites.google.com/view/ariseholistic</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Ark Academy	904-410-0339	<a href="https://arkacademy.education">https://arkacademy.education</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Aspire to Inspire Leadership Academy	904-980-6760	<a href="https://aspiretoinspireagency.com">https://aspiretoinspireagency.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	<a href="http://www.atriumschool.org">www.atriumschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Austin Christian Vocational Academy	904-647-5065	<a href="http://www.austinwarriors.org">www.austinwarriors.org</a>

<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Bible Baptist Academy	904-765-5111	<a href="http://www.biblebaptistacademy.wordpress.com">www.biblebaptistacademy.wordpress.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Bishop John J. Snyder High School	904-771-1029	<a href="http://www.bishopsnyder.org">www.bishopsnyder.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/bhohw/">www.facebook.com/bhohw/</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Career Prep Academy of Westside	866-867-3730	<a href="http://www.careerprepworkforce.org">www.careerprepworkforce.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Cedar Creek Christian School	904-781-9151	<a href="http://www.cccsjax.org">www.cccsjax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Cedar Hills Baptist Christian School	904-772-0812	<a href="http://www.chbcs.org">www.chbcs.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Changing Lives Christian Academy	904-425-4494	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/clcajax">www.facebook.com/clcajax</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Chatman's Academy	904-237-5617	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/ChatmansAcademy">www.facebook.com/ChatmansAcademy</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Destiny Preparatory Academy	904-403-8585	<a href="http://www.destinyprepacademy.com">www.destinyprepacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy	904-770-5329	<a href="https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep">https://coachjonline.wixsite.com/turnerprep</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Eagle's View Academy	904-786-1411	<a href="http://www.evajax.com">www.evajax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	<a href="http://www.elaaschool.org">www.elaaschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Engaging Young Minds Academy	904-551-1283	<a href="http://www.engagingyoungmindsacademy.com">www.engagingyoungmindsacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Ephesus Junior Academy	904-765-3225	<a href="http://www.ephesusjunioracademy.org">www.ephesusjunioracademy.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Episcopal School of Jacksonville - St. Mark's Campus	904-388-2632	<a href="http://www.esj.org">www.esj.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Esprit de Corps Center for Learning	904-924-2000	<a href="http://www.edccenterforlearning.com">www.edccenterforlearning.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Fields of Art Christian Academy	904-713-8260	<a href="http://www.fieldsofartchristianacademy.com">www.fieldsofartchristianacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	First Coast Christian School	904-777-3040	<a href="http://www.fccsjax.org">www.fccsjax.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Good Shepherd Christian Academy	904-768-1580	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/GSChristianAcademy">www.facebook.com/GSChristianAcademy</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Grace Christian Academy	904-266-9532	<a href="http://www.gbcbaldwin.org/grace-christian-academy">www.gbcbaldwin.org/grace-christian-academy</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Growing Minds Academy	904-317-2942	<a href="http://www.growminds.org">www.growminds.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Guardian Catholic School	904-765-6522	<a href="http://www.guardiancatholic.com">www.guardiancatholic.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Heart to Heart Christian Academy	904-783-8631	<a href="http://www.h2hacademy.com">www.h2hacademy.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Icon Preparatory School	904-552-1005	<a href="http://www.jacksonville.iconprep.org">www.jacksonville.iconprep.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Jacksonville Christian Academy	904-783-2818	<a href="http://www.jcajacksonville.org">www.jcajacksonville.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Joshua Christian Academy	904-388-2227	<a href="http://www.jcacademy.org">www.jcacademy.org</a>

<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Livingway Christian Academy	904-765-8700	www.livingwaychristian.com
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	MAI Leadership Academy	855-624-5323	www.maileadershipacademy.com
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Millennial Christian School	904-772-6400	www.millcs.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Minds of the Future Academy	904-683-3971	https://mindsofthefutureacademy.com
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	New Beginnings Christian Center	904-786-3178	www.nbcajax.com
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	North Florida Educational Institute North Campus	904-764-0084	www.nfei.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	North Florida Educational Institute West Campus	904-574-8059	www.nfei.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Old Plank Christian Academy	904-783-4888	www.oldplankca.com
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Potter's House Christian Academy High School	904-695-2837	www.phcalions.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Potter's House Christian Academy Elementary	904-786-0028	www.phcalions.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	<b>Riverside Presbyterian Day School</b> ▶ see our ad page 2	<b>904-353-3459</b>	<b>www.rpds.com</b>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Sacred Heart Catholic School	904-771-5800	www.shcsjax.com
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	St. Matthew's Catholic School	904-387-4401	www.stmatthewscs.com
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	St. Paul's Catholic School - Riverside	904-387-2841	www.spsjax.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	TDH Christian Academy	904-575-4957	www.tdhofjax.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Temple Christian Academy	904-778-8655	www.templechristian.net
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Trinity Christian Academy	904-596-2460	www.tcajax.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	West Meadows Baptist Academy	904-786-2711	www.wmbanavs.org
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Zarephath Academy	904-632-1330	www.zcajax.org
<b>NASSAU</b>	Amelia Island Montessori School	904-261-6610	www.ameliaislandmontessori.com
<b>NASSAU</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	www.atriumschool.org
<b>NASSAU</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	www.facebook.com/bhohw/
<b>NASSAU</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	www.elaaschool.org
<b>NASSAU</b>	Faith Christian Academy	904-321-2137	www.fcaangels.com
<b>NASSAU</b>	Fernandina Beach Christian Academy	904-491-5664	www.fernandinachristianacademy.com
<b>NASSAU</b>	Lindisfarne Hall	904-206-0962	www.lindisfarnehall.com
<b>NASSAU</b>	Ogburn School, The	904-990-8419	www.ogburn.org
<b>NASSAU</b>	Sonshine Christian Academy	904-879-1260	www.sonshinechristian.com
<b>NASSAU</b>	St. Michael Academy	904-321-2102	https://smacad.org/
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Acton Academy Ponte Vedra	404-993-1396	https://actonacademypv.com/
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Apex Christian Academy	904-824-8114	www.apexchristian.com

<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Ark Christian Academy	904-810-2005	<a href="https://arkchristianacademystaug.org">https://arkchristianacademystaug.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Atrium School	561-247-5726	<a href="http://www.atriumschool.org">www.atriumschool.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Beacon of Hope Christian School	904-797-6996	<a href="http://www.beaconeagles.net">www.beaconeagles.net</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/bhohw/">www.facebook.com/bhohw/</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	<b>Bolles School, The</b> ▶ see our Inside Front Cover	<b>904-733-9292</b>	<b><a href="http://www.bolles.org">www.bolles.org</a></b>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	BridgeHaven Academy	904-687-6072	<a href="https://bridgehavenacademy.org">https://bridgehavenacademy.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Cathedral Parish School	904-824-2861	<a href="http://www.thecathedralparishschool.org">www.thecathedralparishschool.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Collage Day School	904-900-1439	<a href="http://www.collagedayschool.org">www.collagedayschool.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	ELA Academy	904-282-3522	<a href="http://www.elaaschool.org">www.elaaschool.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Free Kids Academy	860-940-9598	<a href="https://freekidsacademy.com">https://freekidsacademy.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Island Prep	904-547-2996	<a href="http://www.islandprep.com">www.islandprep.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Mandala School, The	904-373-0743	<a href="https://themandalaschool.org">https://themandalaschool.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Matanzas Christian Academy	904-794-1623	<a href="http://www.matanzasacademy.com">www.matanzasacademy.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Moultrie Montessori School	904-826-0216	<a href="http://www.moultriemontessori.com">www.moultriemontessori.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Palmer Catholic Academy	904-543-8515	<a href="http://www.pcapvb.org">www.pcapvb.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Pioneer School, The	904-209-5891	<a href="http://www.staugustinepioneer.com">www.staugustinepioneer.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Prodigy at Treaty Oaks	904-687-0024	<a href="http://www.prodigylearn.com">www.prodigylearn.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	San Juan Del Rio Catholic School	904-287-8081	<a href="http://www.sjdrparish.org">www.sjdrparish.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	St. Gerard Campus	904-829-5516	<a href="https://stgerardcampus.org">https://stgerardcampus.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	St. John's Academy	904-824-9224	<a href="http://www.stjohnsacademy.com">www.stjohnsacademy.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	St. Joseph Academy Catholic High School	904-824-0431	<a href="http://www.sjaweb.org">www.sjaweb.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Star Song School	541-914-4849	<a href="http://www.starsongschool.com">www.starsongschool.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Turning Point Christian Academy	904-824-0744	<a href="http://www.tpchristianacademy.com">www.tpchristianacademy.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Veritas Classical School	904-810-1050	<a href="https://veritasclassicalschool.org">https://veritasclassicalschool.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Victory Preparatory School	904-810-0535	<a href="http://www.victoryprep.net">www.victoryprep.net</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Washington Classical Christian School	904-342-7105	<a href="https://washingtonccs.com">https://washingtonccs.com</a>



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## Charter Schools

County	Name	Phone	Website
<b>CLAY</b>	Clay Charter Academy	904-406-1607	<a href="http://www.claycharter.org">www.claycharter.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Florida Cyber Charter Academy @ Clay	855-748-4737	<a href="https://flcca.k12.com">https://flcca.k12.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	St. Johns Classical Academy	904-458-8240	<a href="http://www.stjca.org">www.stjca.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Florida Cyber Charter Academy @ Duval	855-748-4737	<a href="https://flcca.k12.com">https://flcca.k12.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Seaside Charter Beaches	844-973-2743	<a href="http://www.seasidecharter.org">www.seasidecharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Becoming Collegiate Academy	904-619-2461	<a href="http://www.becomingschools.org">www.becomingschools.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Biscayne MYcroSchool	904-301-4367	<a href="http://www.biscaynehs.com">www.biscaynehs.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Florida Cyber Charter Academy @ Duval	855-748-4737	<a href="https://flcca.k12.com">https://flcca.k12.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Global Outreach Charter Academy - Discovery Campus	904-551-7104	<a href="https://discovery.glacademy.us">https://discovery.glacademy.us</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Global Outreach Charter Academy - Intercoastal Campus	904-650-2100	<a href="https://intercoastal.glacademy.us">https://intercoastal.glacademy.us</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Global Outreach Charter Academy - High School Campus	904-267-3007	<a href="https://highschool.glacademy.us">https://highschool.glacademy.us</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Jacksonville Classical Academy - Fort Caroline Campus	904-302-9052	<a href="http://www.jaxclassical.org">www.jaxclassical.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Lone Star MYcro School	904-725-5998	<a href="http://www.jaxlonestarhs.com">www.jaxlonestarhs.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Seacoast Charter Academy	904-562-4780	<a href="http://www.seacoastcharteracademy.org">www.seacoastcharteracademy.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Seaside Charter North	844-973-2743	<a href="http://www.seasidecharter.org">www.seasidecharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Somerset Academy Eagle Campus	904-503-0661	<a href="http://www.somersetjax.com">www.somersetjax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Bold City Education - San Jose Primary	904-425-1723	<a href="https://boldcityed.org/san-jose-primary/welcome/">https://boldcityed.org/san-jose-primary/welcome/</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Bold City Education - San Jose Prep	904-667-4110	<a href="https://boldcityed.org/san-jose-prep">https://boldcityed.org/san-jose-prep</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	BridgePrep Academy of Duval	904-694-2660	<a href="http://www.bridgeprepduval.com">www.bridgeprepduval.com</a>

<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Cornerstone Classical Academy	904-481-8163	<a href="http://www.cornerstoneclassical.org">www.cornerstoneclassical.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Duval Charter Scholars Academy	904-724-1536	<a href="http://www.duvalcharter.org">www.duvalcharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Duval Charter School at Baymeadows	904-271-4127	<a href="http://www.baymeadowscharter.org">www.baymeadowscharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Duval Charter School at Coastal	904-512-6757	<a href="http://www.coastalcharter.org">www.coastalcharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Duval Charter School at Flagler Center	904-899-1010	<a href="http://www.flaglercharter.org">www.flaglercharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Duval Charter School at Mandarin	904-440-2901	<a href="http://www.mandarincharter.org">www.mandarincharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Duval Charter School at Southside	904-423-5348	<a href="http://www.southsidecharter.org">www.southsidecharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	River City Science Academy - Elementary	904-855-8010 ext. 2	<a href="https://rivercityscience.org">https://rivercityscience.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	River City Science Academy - Innovation	904-855-8010 ext. 3	<a href="https://rivercityscience.org">https://rivercityscience.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	River City Science Academy - Intracoastal	904-855-8010 ext. 5	<a href="https://rivercityscience.org">https://rivercityscience.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	River City Science Academy - Mandarin	904-855-8010 ext. 4	<a href="https://rivercityscience.org">https://rivercityscience.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	River City Science Academy - Middle-High	904-855-8010 ext. 1	<a href="https://rivercityscience.org">https://rivercityscience.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	River City Science Academy - Southeast	904-855-8010 ext. 6	<a href="https://rivercityscience.org">https://rivercityscience.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Seaside Charter Mandarin	844-973-2743	<a href="http://www.seasidecharter.org">www.seasidecharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Duval Charter School at Westside	904-421-0250	<a href="http://www.westsidecharter.org">www.westsidecharter.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Duval MYcro School	904-783-3611	<a href="http://www.duvalmycroschool.org">www.duvalmycroschool.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Jacksonville Classical Academy - Riverside Campus	904-288-7732	<a href="http://www.jaxclassical.org">www.jaxclassical.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	KIPP Bessie Coleman Academy	904-683-6643	<a href="https://kipppjax.org/kipp-jax-impact-academy">https://kipppjax.org/kipp-jax-impact-academy</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	KIPP Impact Academy	904-683-6643	<a href="https://kipppjax.org/kipp-jax-impact-academy">https://kipppjax.org/kipp-jax-impact-academy</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	KIPP VOICE Academy	904-683-6643	<a href="https://kipppjax.org/kipp-jax-impact-academy">https://kipppjax.org/kipp-jax-impact-academy</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	School of Success Academy	904-573-0880	<a href="http://www.schoolofsuccessacademy.org">www.schoolofsuccessacademy.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Wayman Academy of the Arts	904-309-6840	<a href="https://ymcatigeracademy.org">https://ymcatigeracademy.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	YMCA Tiger Academy	904-695-9995	<a href="http://www.waymanacademy.org">www.waymanacademy.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	St. Augustine Public Montessori School	904-342-5350	<a href="http://www.stamontessori.org">www.stamontessori.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Treaty Oaks Preparatory Academy	904-236-6890	<a href="http://www.treatyoaksprep.org">www.treatyoaksprep.org</a>

## First Coast Early Learning and Voluntary Prekindergarten Resources

Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer free prekindergarten to all 4-year-olds, regardless of family income. Since the program began in 2005-06, more than 2.6 million children have benefited from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK). According to the Florida Department of Education, children who attend VPK are more prepared for kindergarten than children who do not. The VPK Specialized Educational Services Program is available for families who have age-eligible children with disabilities.

First Coast parents have a wide range of options available from private, public and faith-based providers, as well as specialized instructional services providers. Below is a list of resources to help get you started on your search for the best early learning options for your children.

Early Learning Coalition of Duval  
[www.elcduval.org](http://www.elcduval.org)

Early Learning Coalition of North Florida  
[www.elcnorthflorida.org](http://www.elcnorthflorida.org)

Florida Association for the Education of Young Children  
[www.flaeyc.org](http://www.flaeyc.org)

Florida Department of Education  
Division of Early Learning  
[www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning](http://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning)

Florida Head Start Association  
[www.flheadstart.org](http://www.flheadstart.org)

## First Coast Childcare Resources

Finding the right childcare doesn't need to be stressful. The First Coast has plenty of state-funded and private childcare options with stimulating curriculums, trained staff and safe facilities.

Child Care Aware of America  
[www.childcareaware.org/state/florida-6/](http://www.childcareaware.org/state/florida-6/)

Episcopal Children's Services  
[www.ecs4kids.org](http://www.ecs4kids.org)

Florida Association for Child Care Management  
[www.faccm.org](http://www.faccm.org)

Florida Department of Children and Families  
[www.myflfamilies.com](http://www.myflfamilies.com)

## Resources for Stay-at-Home Parents

The First Coast is full of resources for stay-at-home parents, whether it's a support group or early learning tools so you can prepare your kids for school.

Circle of Parents  
[www.circleofparents.org](http://www.circleofparents.org)

Division of Early Learning  
[www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/](http://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/)

Healthy Families Florida  
[www.healthyfamiliesfla.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesfla.org)

Parent Academy  
<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/o/dcps/page/parent-academy>



Photo courtesy of Pexels

# Programs for Learning Differences

## CLAY COUNTY

### Broach School

#### Orange Park

<https://broachschool.com>

For more than 50 years, the Broach School has helped students with special needs such as anxiety, ADHD, specific learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disabilities and more.

### Lighthouse Christian School

#### Middleburg, Orange Park

[www.lighthousechristianschool.net](http://www.lighthousechristianschool.net)

Lighthouse Christian School offers smaller class sizes and individualized lessons to help students who may learn differently grow. Many of their students are able to go on to higher learning institutions.

### Seven Bridges School

[www.sevenbridgeschool.org](http://www.sevenbridgeschool.org)

Seven Bridges School caters to students with average to above-average intelligence who have differences in learning styles. They offer a wide range of subjects, electives and extracurriculars.

## DUVAL COUNTY

### DUVAL-NORTH

**Greenwood School .....904-726-5000**

[www.greenwoodjax.org](http://www.greenwoodjax.org)

Greenwood School provides a challenging and supportive education to middle and high school students with learning differences. Through adaptive, multisensory instruction in a positive, safe and secure environment, students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their highest potential in the classroom and beyond.

### Lighthouse Christian School

#### Arlington, Northside

[www.lighthousechristianschool.net](http://www.lighthousechristianschool.net)

Lighthouse Christian School offers smaller class sizes and individualized lessons to help students who may learn differently grow. Many of their students are able to go on to higher learning institutions.

### DUVAL-SOUTH

### Alden Road Exceptional Student Center

<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/o/aresc>

Alden Road focuses on creating a positive learning environment that promotes self-advocacy, self-determination and self-esteem. The student center

uses a variety of curriculums to meet the students' needs.

### Broach School

#### South

<https://broachschool.com>

For more than 50 years, the Broach School has helped students with special needs such as anxiety, ADHD, specific learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disabilities and more.

### Center Academy

#### St. Johns Bluff

[www.centeracademy.com](http://www.centeracademy.com)

This private school offers a multitude of specialized programs for students grades four through 12 with learning differences. The school utilizes small classroom sizes so teachers can accommodate students' individual needs and learning styles.

### Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech

[www.clarkeschools.org/florida/](http://www.clarkeschools.org/florida/)

The Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech offers programs and resources for children ranging from infants to school age who are deaf or hard of hearing. The school also offers support for the families of their students.

### DePaul School of Northeast Florida

[www.depaulschool.com](http://www.depaulschool.com)

The DePaul School of Northeast Florida works with students between second and eighth grades who have dyslexia. The school utilizes a multisensory, Orton-Gillingham approach to address their students' needs.

### Great Strides School

[www.greatstridesrehab.com](http://www.greatstridesrehab.com)

Great Strides School is part of Great Strides Rehabilitation and offers Applied Behavior Analysis and several types of therapy, including occupational, speech, physical and music. Their class sizes are small, making it easier for the teachers to follow an individualized curriculum.

### Jacksonville School for Autism

[www.jsakids.org](http://www.jsakids.org)

Using an "outside of the desk" method, this school works to prepare students with autism for adulthood through early childhood development, vocational and enrichment programs.



Photo courtesy of Pexels

### Lighthouse Christian School

#### Mandarin

[www.lighthousechristianschool.net](http://www.lighthousechristianschool.net)

Lighthouse Christian School offers smaller class sizes and individualized lessons to help students who may learn differently grow. Many of their students are able to go on to higher learning institutions.

### Little Star Center

<https://littlestarjax.com>

The Little Star Center aims to prepare students with autism for the future using individual and group instruction, as well as social skills training.

### Mainspring Academy

[www.mainspringacademy.org](http://www.mainspringacademy.org)

Mainspring Academy offers a specialized education for students aged 5 through 22 with intellectual and developmental differences. The school also offers art, fitness and music enrichment classes, as well as extracurriculars.

**Morning Star School**

[www.morningstar-jax.org](http://www.morningstar-jax.org)

Since 1956, Morning Star School has served children with learning differences using differentiated educational strategies to work with students based on their individual needs. The school also offers courses in religion, speech and language, physical education, art and music.

**North Florida School of Special Education**

[www.northfloridaschool.org](http://www.northfloridaschool.org)

The North Florida School of Special Education serves children and adults from ages 6 to 22 who have intellectual and developmental differences. The school offers a comprehensive academic program for students, as well as postgraduate programs including vocational training, internships and more.

**DUVAL-WEST**

**Broach School**

**Westside**

<https://broachschool.com>

For more than 50 years, the Broach School has helped students with special needs such as anxiety, ADHD, specific learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disabilities and more.

**Lighthouse Christian School**

**Dinsmore, Westside**

[www.lighthousechristianschool.net](http://www.lighthousechristianschool.net)

Lighthouse Christian School offers smaller class sizes and individualized lessons to help students who may learn differently grow. Many of their students are able to go on to higher learning institutions.

**Mount Herman Exceptional Student Center**

<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/o/hesc>

The Mount Herman Exceptional Student Center works with students who have intellectual disabilities from ages 3 to 21. The school focuses on the student's abilities to encourage growth in academics, communication, independent functioning and social skills.

**Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center**

<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/o/phes>

Palm Avenue challenges their students and helps them obtain the skills necessary to lead independent and active lives using enriching and educational real-life experiences.

**NASSAU COUNTY**

**Lighthouse Christian School**

**Callahan**

[www.lighthousechristianschool.net](http://www.lighthousechristianschool.net)

Lighthouse Christian School offers smaller class sizes and individualized lessons to help students who may learn differently grow. Many of their students are able to go on to higher learning institutions.

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**Broach School**

**Ponte Vedra**

<https://broachschool.com>

For more than 50 years, the Broach School has helped students with special needs such as anxiety, ADHD, specific learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disabilities and more.

**Center Academy**

**Julington Creek**

[www.centeracademy.com](http://www.centeracademy.com)

This private school offers a multitude of specialized programs for students grades four through 12 with learning differences. The school utilizes small classroom sizes so teachers can accommodate students' individual needs and learning styles.

**Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind**

[www.fsdgbk12.org](http://www.fsdgbk12.org)

The only school of its kind in the state of Florida, this school serves students with hearing and visual impairments. Fully accredited and tuition-free, it offers K-12th grade classes on campus, as well as a Pre-K early learning center.

**St. Johns Community Campus**

**St. Augustine**

[www.arcsj.org/services/community-campus/](http://www.arcsj.org/services/community-campus/)

The Community Campus is an affiliate program of The Arc of St. Johns designed to mimic a four-year extended educational track for students with IDD or other qualifying ESE measures. With the students' unique learning styles taken into consideration in all lessons, they believe "every person can make informed choices with positive exposure to interesting experiences."



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# Adult Education



Jacksonville University, photo by Diana Ferguson

Here on the First Coast, those looking to continue their education beyond high school are fortunate to have several options to comb through to find the perfect program. Whether you're looking to train for a career in aviation or pursue your PhD, there's something here for you!

**Chamberlain University Jacksonville Campus**  
[www.chamberlain.edu/nursing-school/florida/jacksonville](http://www.chamberlain.edu/nursing-school/florida/jacksonville)

Chamberlain University offers a BSN nursing program at its Jacksonville campus. With no prerequisites, students can learn through both traditional and online experiences. Day, evening and weekend options are also available.

**Concorde Career Institute**  
[www.concorde.edu/campus/jacksonville-florida](http://www.concorde.edu/campus/jacksonville-florida)

For more than 50 years, Concorde Career Institute has trained health care professionals in career-focused programs such as Nursing, Dental Assisting, Medical Office Administration, Physical Therapist Assistant, Surgical Technology, Sonography and more. Located in the heart of Jacksonville, Concorde uses a blended learning model to provide diploma and associate degree programs designed to help students successfully move from the classroom into real-world careers.

**Conservative Theological University**  
[www.conservative.edu](http://www.conservative.edu)

The Conservative Theological University, established in 1982, is certified by the Council of Private Colleges of America and is a member of the Florida

Council of Private Colleges. They offer degrees ranging from associates to PhDs that focus on Biblical education.

**DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine**  
[www.lmunet.edu/debusk-college-of-osteopathic-medicine/do/dcom-in-orange-park](http://www.lmunet.edu/debusk-college-of-osteopathic-medicine/do/dcom-in-orange-park)

The DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (DCOM-Orange Park) will be bringing the area its first 4-year medical school. This will expand Lincoln Memorial University's commitment to placing primary care physicians in area of health care needs to the First Coast through a newly renovated, 85,000-sq-ft, state of the art facility for a class of 100 in the fall of 2026.

**Edward Waters University**  
[www.ew.edu](http://www.ew.edu)

Founded in 1866, Edward Waters University (EWU) is the first Historically Black College in the state of Florida. There are seven bachelor's degree programs to choose from, including Science and Mathematics, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Business Administration, Communications and Criminal Justice. There are also three master's degree programs: Cybersecurity, Education Policy and Advocacy and Public Administration.

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**  
<https://worldwide.erau.edu>

A national leader in aviation, aerospace and STEM, Embry-Riddle offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate degrees in Aviation, Aerospace, Business, Engineering and Security. Three of the highly ranked Worldwide Campus locations are right here on the First Coast at Cecil Airport, NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport.

**First Coast Technical College**  
[www.fctc.edu](http://www.fctc.edu)

First Coast Technical College (FCTC) aims to provide career, technical and adult education to meet the changing needs of students and businesses as well as the workforce. With two campuses in St. Augustine, the college offers a variety of programs, including Agriculture, Health Sciences, Hospitality and Tourism, Human Services, Law and Applied Cybersecurity.

**Flagler College**  
[www.flagler.edu](http://www.flagler.edu)

For more than 50 years, the former Hotel Ponce de León has offered an exceptional education "through a challenging, inclusive, and supportive academic community" in the oldest city in the nation,

## Adult Education

St. Augustine. The college offers 39 majors for a bachelor's degree, two pre-professional programs and two master's degree programs.

### **Florida Aviation Career Training, Inc.**

<https://floridaaviationcareertraining.com/>

Florida Aviation Career Training, Inc. (FACT) is a great choice for those new to aviation, as well as seasoned pilots. Experienced instructors work with students to provide one-on-one personalized training to focus on an individual's needs. The school prepares students to pass the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) exams.

### **Florida Gateway College, Public Safety Training Center**

[www.fgc.edu/academics/programs/public-safety-training-criminal-justice](http://www.fgc.edu/academics/programs/public-safety-training-criminal-justice)

Florida Gateway College has a 50-acre training complex in Olustee that houses the Law Enforcement Academy, Corrections Academy, Emergency Medical Services Academy and Fire Academy. Students at the Olustee campus also get hands-on experience with advanced technological equipment like the MILO training system for virtual, interactive training scenarios and the Anatomage Table, which allows students to perform simulated operations on digital bodies.

### **Florida State College at Jacksonville**

[www.fscj.edu](http://www.fscj.edu)

Established in 1965, Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) has eight campuses throughout Duval and Nassau counties. The campuses offer associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, technical certificates and more. Degrees include Human Services, Behavioral Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics, Technology, Science, Manufacturing and Construction, Public Safety, Health Sciences, Education, Arts and Communication, Business and Design.

### **FORTIS College**

[www.fortis.edu/campuses/florida/orange-park](http://www.fortis.edu/campuses/florida/orange-park)

With staff and instructors dedicated to the success of each individual student as well as the greater community, FORTIS College's Orange Park campus has programs for Nursing, Practical Nursing, Medical Assisting, Surgical Technology and Dental Assisting.

### **Jacksonville Theological Seminary**

[www.jts.edu](http://www.jts.edu)

For over 35 years, the Jacksonville Theological Seminary has offered graduate degrees in religious studies for both education and training in ministry work. Several areas of study include Theology, Religious Education, Biblical Studies, Divinity and more.

Flagler College, photo courtesy of St. Johns County



### **Jacksonville University**

[www.ju.edu](http://www.ju.edu)

Located on the banks of the St. Johns River, Jacksonville University (JU) is a small private college that was recognized as one of the top 40 Regional Universities in the South by *U.S. News & World Report*. The university has more than 100 majors and minors within their four colleges. In 2025, the university unveiled the cutting-edge Terry Family Foundation Anatomage Lab, featuring the Anatomage Table, a revolutionary 3D anatomy and virtual dissection system that allows students to explore human anatomy through interactive, digital visualization.

### **Logos University**

[www.logos.edu](http://www.logos.edu)

Logos University is an online and distance learning institution that urges its students to become leaders in their communities and churches. The university offers associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and certificates in a variety of religious studies.

### **St. Johns River State College**

[www.sjrstate.edu](http://www.sjrstate.edu)

Founded in 1958, St. Johns River State College has locations in three areas of the First Coast: Orange Park, Palatka and St. Augustine. The college provides education for those 16 and older and allows high school students to receive college credit with the early college program. The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and offers bachelor's and associate degrees, as well as various certificates.

### **Trinity College of Jacksonville**

<https://tcj.edu/>

Trinity College of Jacksonville, formerly Trinity Baptist College, has provided students with a Christian-based education for more than 50 years. With a mission to prepare students for life ministry, it offers general and professional studies, liberal arts and graduate studies in addition to vocational ministry programs. The college partners with Trinity Christian Academy and Trinity Baptist Church to give students local opportunities.

### **University of North Florida**

[www.unf.edu](http://www.unf.edu)

The University of North Florida (UNF) offers a variety of degrees within six colleges, including the College of Education and Human Services, the College of Computing, Engineering and Construction, the College of Arts and Science, the Coggin College of Business, the Brooks College of Health and the Hicks Honor College. UNF has been ranked as a Top Public Institute and a Best Graduate School by *U.S. News & World Report*.

### **University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences**

[www.usa.edu](http://www.usa.edu)

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences offers degrees from the College of Health Sciences and Administration, the School of Nursing and the College of Rehabilitation Science. Their courses utilize cutting-edge technology and hands-on experience to best prepare their students for their future. Recently, USAHS moved its St. Augustine campus to a newly designed, state-of-the-art facility set on 14 acres of scenic parkland.



As the president of the Duval County Medical Society (DCMS), Florida's oldest professional organization for physicians, I want to personally welcome you to the First Coast. With a mission of "helping physicians care for the health of our community," our physician members strive to make a difference in the neighborhoods where we live and work.

If you've recently moved to the area and are looking for a new team of physicians to care for you and your family, we encourage you to visit our website at [dcmsonline.org](http://dcmsonline.org) and select "Find a Physician" on our homepage. Your search will find doctors who joined the DCMS to actively contribute to the overall health and quality of life in Duval County. In recent years, DCMS members have helped coordinate free vaccination programs for our neighbors without health insurance and provided medical care to those in need through outreach programs such as WeCareJax and Volunteers in Medicine.

Many DCMS members work locally, in Tallahassee and in Washington, D.C. to advocate for healthcare legislation that benefits both physicians and patients. We have members serving in leadership positions of many other professional organizations on a state and national level, as well as past presidents of the Florida Medical Association, American Medical Association and World Medical Association!

If you're a physician moving to the area, I look forward to meeting you in person and working with you professionally. I encourage you to visit our website to learn more about what our organization is doing in our community and beyond. Below are just a few reasons to join the DCMS and get involved:

- Professional Advancement & Resources: Stay ahead in the field of medicine with access to continuous learning and educational opportunities.
- Networking & Collaboration: Build relationships with fellow physicians and healthcare professionals through a variety of networking events. DCMS fosters a supportive community where you can share knowledge and receive guidance to help navigate the challenges of your medical career.
- Advocacy & Influence: Be part of a collective voice advocating for healthcare policies that matter. DCMS represents the interests of physicians and their patients, working tirelessly to shape healthcare legislation and create a positive impact on the healthcare landscape.
- Community Engagement: DCMS organizes outreach programs and awareness campaigns, allowing you to contribute to and enhance the well-being of the local population.
- We're Here For You: Through the DCMS Foundation, our LifeBridge: Physician Wellness Program provides a voluntary and confidential resource for you to connect with a counselor experienced in addressing physician burnout and emotional stress. DCMS members also have access to our LifeBridge counselors for career and life coaching!

As you can see, there is a lot happening at the Duval County Medical Society — more than I can capture in this brief letter. Once again, welcome to Jacksonville, the First Coast, and hopefully soon, to the DCMS community. Please feel free to reach out to me or the DCMS staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Timothy Groover, MD, MBA, FASA, CPE, FACHE.*  
2025/2026 President  
Duval County Medical Society



Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, photo by Stephanie Mary

# First Coast Medicine: A Healthcare Destination

The First Coast offers residents some of the greatest healthcare facilities in the U.S. with world-class hospitals, cutting-edge technologies and well-trained and dedicated providers. The medical care on the First Coast is so revered that it brings in national and international visitors.

## BAKER COUNTY

### Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital

Boasting “big city resources in a small town hospital,” Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital and their team of healthcare professionals utilize state-of-the-art technology to provide care to Baker County. Visitors in need of routine checkups and sick visits also have access to the Baker Rural Health Clinic and Dopson Family Medical Center located on the hospital campus.

cardiology services, minimally invasive surgery and many more services. The hospital was A-rated in safety by The Leapfrog Group in 2024.

### HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital

HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital is one of the top hospitals in the area and has been nominated for numerous awards, including America’s 100 Best Hospitals by Healthgrades for the second consecutive year. The hospital includes 433 inpatient beds; 40 intensive care unit beds; nine

labor, delivery and recovery room suites; and a Level II neonatal intensive care unit.

### Kindred Hospital North Florida

With 73 beds, Kindred Hospital North Florida offers specialized care for patients who may need long-term care or those who have experienced an acute injury or illness. Their acute rehabilitation unit is comprised of 14 beds and is designed to serve patients who have acute injuries or debilitating illnesses.

## CLAY COUNTY

### Ascension St. Vincent’s Clay County Hospital

Ascension St. Vincent’s has consistently been recognized as one of the top hospital systems in the country. Their full-service, 134-bed Clay County hospital offers emergency care, surgical care, heart and vascular services, lung care, cancer services and more. *U.S. News & World Report* named the hospital as Best Hospital for Maternity Care in 2026.

### Baptist Medical Center Clay

Fleming Island is home to Baptist Medical Center Clay, a full-service hospital that offers cancer care,



Village Square at Fleming Island Plantation, photo by Diana Ferguson



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### DUVAL-BEACHES

#### **Baptist Medical Center Beaches**

Just minutes from the beach, Baptist Medical Center Beaches offers the only 24/7 emergency services in the area and is home to advanced medical and surgical care. There, patients have access to the state-of-the-art surgical pavilion and the luxurious Labor and Delivery Center. *U.S. News & World Report* has recognized the hospital as a High-Performance Hospital.

#### **Mayo Clinic**

Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic is one of three in the U.S. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Mayo Clinic has the most top-ranked specialties in Florida. Mayo Clinic patients have access to cutting-edge technology and world-class medical teams. The hospital provides care in numerous specialties and is known for their cancer treatment, cardiovascular care and transplant medicine services.

### DUVAL-NORTH

#### **UF Health North**

Located in north Jacksonville, this medical campus features an inpatient hospital, an adult and pediatric

emergency room, and 12 state-of-the-art labor and delivery suites. UF Health North is also home to more than 30 specialty services and recently opened a new patient tower that includes six floors and 124 patient rooms.

#### **UF Health Rehabilitation Hospital - North**

This 48-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital located within UF Health North provides individualized and comprehensive rehabilitation care for adult patients with a variety of diagnoses. Rehabilitation services include hand therapy, lymphedema therapy, oncology rehabilitation services, orthopaedic and sports medicine rehabilitation, pelvic floor physical therapy and more.

### DUVAL-SOUTH

#### **Ascension St. Vincent's Southside Hospital**

Since 1873, Ascension St. Vincent's Southside Hospital has been serving patients from across the First Coast and country. The hospital offers many services, including the Performance Orthopedics and Spine Specialty Hospital, heart and vascular services, the Family Birth Place, a Level II NICU and a 24/7 emergency department. The hospital

was named a 2026 High Performing hospital for Maternity Care by *U.S. News & World Report*.

#### **Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville**

Ranked as No. 8 in Florida and No. 17 in the Southeast for Best Regional Hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville is known for their high levels of care, top-rated doctors and cutting-edge technology. It is home to the Baptist Heart Hospital, the only freestanding hospital for heart and vascular care in the area, as well as the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, which offers clinical trials, state-of-the-art technology, targeted therapies and precision oncology.

#### **Baptist Medical Center South**

Baptist Medical Center South is home to a pediatric Wolfson Children's emergency room, stroke center, surgery center, imaging, an adult emergency room, wound center and more. A leader in minimally invasive procedures, they have resort-like amenities and access to world-class technology.

#### **Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital**

Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital is comprised of two campuses, University and Bartram. Brooks

Rehabilitation Hospital is ranked No. 19 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. The hospital is also CARF-accredited in stroke, spinal cord injury, pediatrics, pain, general rehabilitation and brain injury. The University Campus is a 170-bed hospital that provides top rehabilitation care for patients needing different types of therapy, including physical, occupational and cognitive rehabilitation. The Bartram Campus has 60 beds and offers many services for orthopaedic conditions, brain injuries, non-traumatic spinal cord injuries, stroke and medically complex conditions.

#### **Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Jacksonville**

This 50-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital offers speech, occupational and physical therapy services, as well as 24-hour care. The hospital specializes in, but is not limited to, neurological, orthopaedic, stroke and spinal cord injury rehabilitation. It was recently named America's Most Awarded Leader in Inpatient Rehabilitation by *Newsweek* and Statista for the sixth consecutive year.

#### **HCA Florida Memorial Hospital**

For more than 55 years, HCA Florida Memorial Hospital has served the First Coast. It is a 454-bed, full-service, acute care medical facility. It is home to an accredited Chest Pain Center, Bone and Joint Center, certified Stroke Center and the Special Beginnings maternity center. For three years, this

hospital has been ranked among America's Best 250 Hospitals by Healthgrades.

#### **Nemours Children's Health**

Working with Wolfson Children's Hospital, UF Health and Mayo Clinic, Nemours helps provide children with life-changing care. The main campus connects via skybridge to Wolfson's and provides Nemours with ORs and inpatient units. It has a nationally accredited Cystic Fibrosis Care Center and has been recognized for its cancer program and neurology and neurosurgery program.

#### **PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Jacksonville**

PAM Health is a long-term acute care hospital that provides personalized clinical and medical services for patients who may require a longer recovery time. The hospital offers services for behavioral health, stroke, wound care and many more.

#### **Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital Jacksonville**

Patients at Reunion Rehabilitation are offered an individualized care plan that includes results-oriented therapies. Rehabilitation services include care for brain injuries, orthopaedic injuries, strokes, amputation and other various ailments. The campus also includes amenities such as high-tech therapy gyms and an outdoor courtyard for relaxing and therapy purposes.

#### **River Point Behavioral Health**

River Point Behavioral Health treats mental health and substance abuse problems using multiple

types of therapy through inpatient, outpatient and partial hospitalization programs. The hospital offers services for both children and adults.

#### **Wekiva Springs Center**

Wekiva Springs Center offers outpatient and inpatient services for mental health and substance abuse programs for adults and seniors. Medical professionals utilize personalized care plans to help patients achieve stability and promote long-term recovery.

#### **Wolfson Children's Hospital**

Wolfson Children's Hospital is the only full-service tertiary hospital for children in the area. The hospital works closely with Mayo Clinic, Nemours Children's Health and University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville to provide the best resources and care for patients. The hospital is also part of Baptist Health. Wolfson was ranked as one of the Best Children's Hospitals for Neurology and Neurosurgery, as well as Pediatric and Adolescent Behavioral Health by *U.S. News & World Report*.

#### **DUVAL-WEST**

##### **Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital**

Since 1916, Jacksonville has been home to Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital. The hospital offers many services for patients that include cardiovascular, lungs, brain and spine care. It also has a 24/7 emergency department. Ascension St. Vincent's was recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as a Best Regional Hospital for 2025-2026.

##### **Naval Hospital Jacksonville**

Active-duty personnel, veterans, retired military members and their families can find service at Naval Hospital Jacksonville. The military hospital provides a variety of services including primary care, mental health care, dental care, preventative care, as well as urgent and emergency care. It has consistently received The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Hospital Accreditation.

##### **North Florida Rehabilitation Hospital**

The North Florida Rehabilitation Hospital is a 50-bed inpatient acute rehabilitation hospital that offers specialized treatment to patients who may be recovering from stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, neurological conditions, amputations and orthopaedic injury.



Mayo Clinic, photo by Stephanie Marty

### UF Health Jacksonville

Affiliated with the University of Florida, UF Health Jacksonville is the region's premier academic health center. Collectively, UF Health physicians offer more than 100 advanced specialty and subspecialty services. This full-service hospital is also home to the area's only Level I adult and pediatric trauma center, as well as a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, an adult and pediatric emergency room and a Chest Pain Center.

### NASSAU COUNTY

#### Baptist Medical Center Nassau

Nassau County's only hospital, Baptist Medical Center Nassau, is known for its cutting-edge technology and its wide range of services. The hospital has providers specializing in 29 different areas who can offer a full spectrum of care for their patients. The hospital provides care for the First Coast as well as southeast Georgia.

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

#### Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County Hospital

The St. Johns Ascension location is a Primary Stroke Center backed by leading cardiovascular, orthopaedic and surgical specialists, and offers a wide range of services for patients, including cancer care, cardiology care, obstetric and gynecological care, neurology care and more.

#### Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of St. Augustine

This 40-bed rehabilitation hospital offers neurological, orthopaedic, stroke and spinal cord injury rehabilitation, among others. Patients have access to private rooms, a courtyard and advanced rehabilitation technologies. It is accredited by The Joint Commission.

#### UF Health Flagler Hospital

Located in St. Augustine, UF Health Flagler Hospital recently received recognition from the American Heart Association for their commitment to stroke patient care. The 335-bed hospital has also earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for primary stroke care centers, national accreditation for its total hip and total knee replacement programs, accreditation from the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, and Center of Excellence designation for its bariatric surgery center.

UF Health Flagler Hospital, photo courtesy of UF Health



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### VA Healthcare on the First Coast

The First Coast is also home to multiple VA clinics. These facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art technology and offer laboratory and pathology services, mental health care, physical medicine and rehabilitation, various therapies, primary care and others. There are also programs for PTSD, substance abuse and social work.

### Dentistry on the First Coast

There is an abundance of dental care options along the First Coast. Residents can choose from well-known dental companies or locally owned practices that range from general dentistry to specialized dental care, including orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics and more. Information about First Coast dental practices can be found online or in the *Jacksonville & Northeast Florida Healthcare Guide*.

# First Coast Hospitals



HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital, photo by Diana Ferguson

County	Name	Address	Website
<b>BAKER</b>	Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital	159 N. 3rd St., Macclenny	<a href="http://www.edfraserhospital.com">www.edfraserhospital.com</a>
<b>BAKER</b>	Northeast Florida State Hospital	7487 S. SR 121, Macclenny	<a href="http://www.myflfamilies.com/services/samh/treatment-services/northeast-florida-State-Hospital">www.myflfamilies.com/services/samh/treatment-services/northeast-florida-State-Hospital</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County Hospital	1670 St. Vincent's Way, Middleburg	<a href="https://healthcare.ascension.org">https://healthcare.ascension.org</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Baptist Medical Center Clay	1771 Baptist Clay Dr., Fleming Island	<a href="http://www.baptistjax.com">www.baptistjax.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	Kindred Hospital North Florida	801 Oak St., Green Cove Springs	<a href="http://www.kindredhospitals.com">www.kindredhospitals.com</a>
<b>CLAY</b>	HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital	2001 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park	<a href="http://www.hcafloridahealthcare.com">www.hcafloridahealthcare.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Baptist Medical Center Beaches	1350 13th Ave. S., Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.baptistjax.com">www.baptistjax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-BEACHES</b>	Mayo Clinic	4500 San Pablo Rd. S., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.mayoclinic.org">www.mayoclinic.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	UF Health North	15255 Max Leggett Pkwy., Jacksonville	<a href="https://ufhealthjax.org/locations/uf-health-north">https://ufhealthjax.org/locations/uf-health-north</a>
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	UF Health Rehabilitation Hospital - North	15255 Max Leggett Pkwy., 2nd & 3rd Fls., Jacksonville	<a href="https://rehabhospitals.ufhealth.org">https://rehabhospitals.ufhealth.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Ascension St. Vincent's Southside Hospital	4201 Belfort Rd., Jacksonville	<a href="https://healthcare.ascension.org">https://healthcare.ascension.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville	800 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.baptistjax.com">www.baptistjax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Baptist Medical Center South	14550 Old St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.baptistjax.com">www.baptistjax.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital - Bartram Campus	6400 Brooks Bartram Dr., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.brooksrehab.org">www.brooksrehab.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital - University Campus	3599 University Blvd. S., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.brooksrehab.org">www.brooksrehab.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Jacksonville	11595 Burnt Mill Rd., Jacksonville	<a href="https://encompasshealth.com">https://encompasshealth.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	HCA Florida Memorial Hospital	3625 University Blvd. S., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.hcafloridahealthcare.com">www.hcafloridahealthcare.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Nemours Children's Health	807 Children's Way, Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.nemours.org">www.nemours.org</a>



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<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Jacksonville	4901 Richard St., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.pamhealth.com">www.pamhealth.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital Jacksonville	12645 Salina Dr., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.reunionrehabhospital.com">www.reunionrehabhospital.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	River Point Behavioral Health	6300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.riverpointbehavioral.com">www.riverpointbehavioral.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Wekiva Springs Center	3947 Salisbury Rd., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.wekivacenter.com">www.wekivacenter.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Wolfson Children's Hospital	800 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.wolfsonchildrens.com">www.wolfsonchildrens.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital	1 Shircliff Way, Jacksonville	<a href="https://healthcare.ascension.org">https://healthcare.ascension.org</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Naval Hospital Jacksonville	2080 Child St., Jacksonville	<a href="https://jacksonville.tricare.mil">https://jacksonville.tricare.mil</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	North Florida Rehabilitation Hospital	7775 Volunteer Way, Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.northfloridarehabhospital.com">www.northfloridarehabhospital.com</a>
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	UF Health Jacksonville	655 W. 8th St., Jacksonville	<a href="https://ufhealthjax.org">https://ufhealthjax.org</a>
<b>NASSAU</b>	Baptist Medical Center Nassau	1250 S. 18th St., Fernandina Beach	<a href="http://www.baptistjax.com">www.baptistjax.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County Hospital	205 Trinity Way, St. Johns	<a href="https://healthcare.ascension.org">https://healthcare.ascension.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of St. Augustine	65 Silver Ln., St. Augustine	<a href="https://encompasshealth.com">https://encompasshealth.com</a>
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	UF Health Flagler Hospital	400 Health Park Blvd., St. Augustine	<a href="https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-flagler-hospital">https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-flagler-hospital</a>



Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, photo by Stephanie Mary

## Freestanding Emergency Rooms

County	Name	Address
<b>CLAY</b>	Baptist & Wolfson Clay Emergency Room	1771 Baptist Clay Dr., Fleming Island
<b>CLAY</b>	HCA Florida Middleburg Emergency	2562 Blanding Blvd., Middleburg
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Ascension St. Vincent's Emergency Care - Arlington	9820 Hutchinson Park Dr., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	Baptist & Wolfson North Emergency Room	11250 Baptist Health Dr., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	HCA Florida Atlantic Emergency	11850 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-NORTH</b>	UF Health Emergency & Urgent Care Center - New Kings	11277 New Kings Rd., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	Baptist & Wolfson Town Center Emergency Room	4085 Town Center Pkwy., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	HCA Florida Mandarin Emergency	10910 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-SOUTH</b>	UF Health Emergency & Urgent Care Center - Baymeadows	11251 Lamb Tail Ln., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Ascension St. Vincent's Emergency Care - Westside	8083 Parramore Rd., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	Baptist & Wolfson Oakleaf Emergency Room	9868 Family Pl., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	HCA Florida Normandy Park Emergency	5773 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	HCA Florida Park West Emergency	6477 103rd St., Jacksonville
<b>DUVAL-WEST</b>	UF Health Emergency & Urgent Care Center - Lane Avenue	888 Lane Ave. S., Jacksonville
<b>NASSAU</b>	Baptist & Wolfson Nassau Crossing Emergency Room	462600 SR 200, Yulee
<b>NASSAU</b>	HCA Florida Yulee Emergency	462541 SR 200, Yulee
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	Baptist & Wolfson St. Augustine Emergency Room	461 Outlet Mall Blvd., St. Augustine
<b>ST. JOHNS</b>	HCA Florida Julington Creek Emergency	42 Doctors Village Dr., St. Johns

# Healthcare on the First Coast is Flourishing!



UF Health Durbin Park Medical Office Building rendering, courtesy of UF Health

The First Coast is experiencing a growth in economic and job opportunities that is unprecedented. These circumstances have set the stage for the healthcare industry to expand and thrive in a multitude of ways. Currently, there are a variety of developmental projects underway, including hospital expansions designed to address the increasing population and need for care on the First Coast.

## **AdventHealth**

AdventHealth is making its mark in St. Johns County with plans for an 88-bed hospital and new emergency department slated to open in 2026. In 2025, the hospital system purchased properties in the World Commerce Center in St. Augustine for \$13.14 million. AdventHealth State Road 207 ER will include 12 beds and will offer care 24/7. AdventHealth also recently opened its first clinic in St. Johns County off of Plantation Island Drive, a 3,000-square-foot multispecialty facility that brings world-class healthcare to the area.

## **Baptist Health**

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville has begun adding a 123,000-square-foot, four-story emergency and patient tower that will be shared with Wolfson Children's Hospital. The McGehee Family Tower will help expand access to a wide range of care for adults and children, including pediatric trauma, chest pain, stroke, complex illnesses and behavioral health crises.

In August 2025, it was announced that \$4.5 million in state funding would be allocated to support expanding labor and delivery services at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville to meet the demand for

advanced maternal and infant care. The expansion will add 12 delivery rooms, an eight-bed OB triage/emergency room with 24/7 care, operating suites for immediate surgical needs, as well as an antepartum unit for high-risk mothers.

## **Brooks Rehabilitation**

Beginning in 2026, Brooks Rehabilitation will start on three major projects designed to address the increasing need for physical rehabilitation services. These projects include expanding the Bartram campus, as well as the Orange Park outpatient clinic, and doubling the capacity of Helen's House. The projects will cost approximately \$68 million and bring 150 jobs to the First Coast.

## **UF Health**

UF Health Durbin Park is on track to open in Fall 2026. This \$285 million project anticipates adding 2,000 jobs to the area. It will include a 150-bed hospital, a multidisciplinary medical office building and an ambulatory surgery center. The hospital will focus on orthopaedics, neurosurgery, cardiovascular medicine and women's services. Once fully complete, the 395,000-square-foot hospital will include acute, intensive and emergency care;

operating rooms; and an imaging suite and hybrid labs for interventional procedures.

UF Health Jacksonville has broken ground on the Leon L. Haley Jr., MD, Emergency and Trauma Center, located on the UF Jacksonville campus. This project will be completed in five stages, with stage one focusing on increasing the amount of emergency and trauma rooms from 78 to 125. Stages two through five will include renovating the emergency room and will add new equipment, a behavioral health space and new radiology section.

**There are a variety of developmental projects underway, including hospital expansions designed to address the increasing population and need for care on the First Coast.**

# 1 Reasons the First Coast is the Best Place for Seniors!

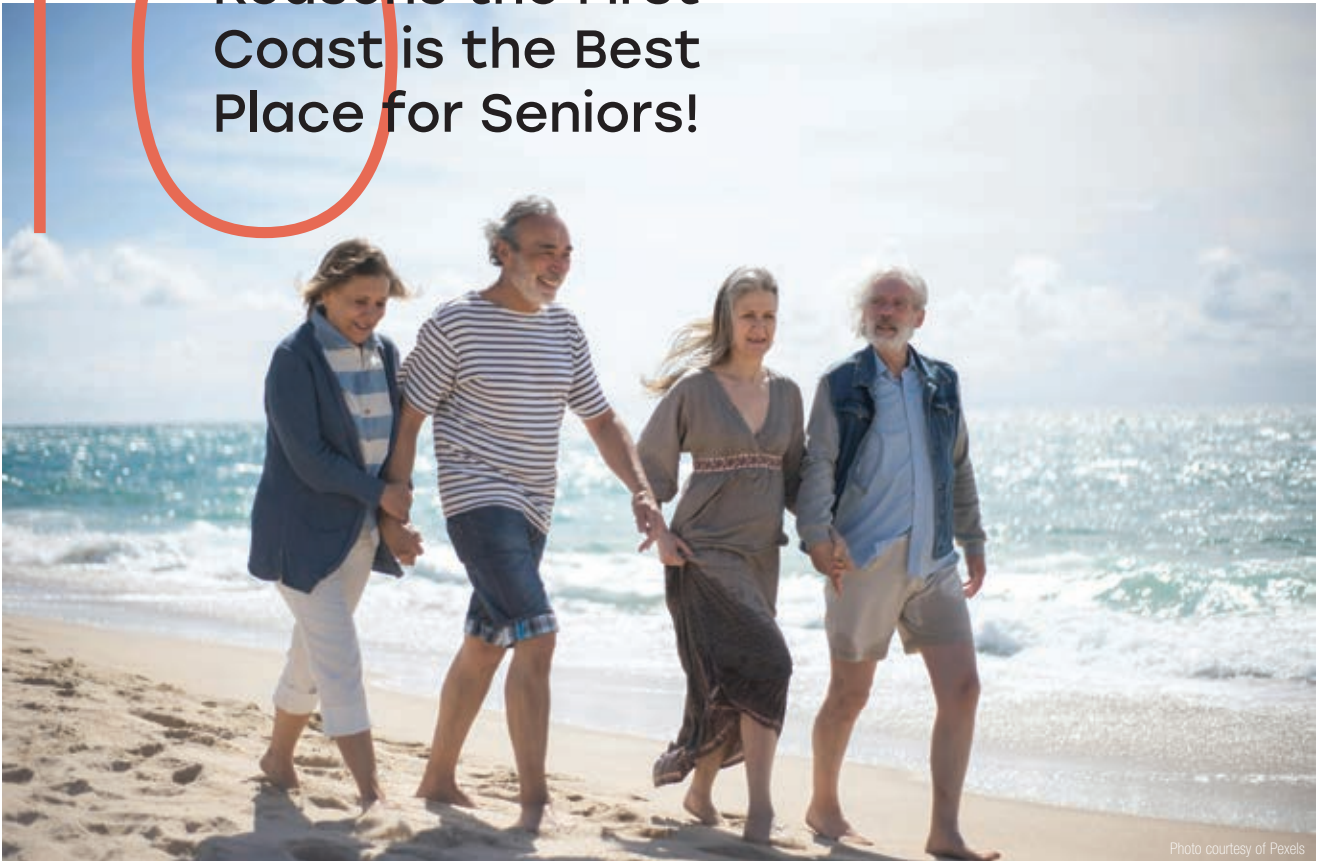


Photo courtesy of Pexels

## 1. Retirement-worthy weather!

One of the top things we're famous for here on the First Coast is our beautiful weather all year long. Seniors can enjoy the outdoors year-round with our sunny summers and mild winters.

## 2. The affordability!

A major draw for potential residents is the First Coast's low cost of living. The area is below the national average. Public and private pensions, individual retirement accounts, 401(k)s and Social Security have no state taxation or state income tax.

## 3. Healthcare!

The First Coast has some of the best healthcare facilities in the region. It is home to Ascension St. Vincent's, Baptist Health, HCA Florida Healthcare, Mayo Clinic and UF Health Jacksonville. There are also VA clinics in Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

## 4. Vibrant adult communities!

There are several different types of adult communities seniors can choose from depending on their needs, wants and budgets. Many offer resort-style amenities and recreational options.

## 5. Senior centers!

Stay active and social at one of the several senior centers in the region. They offer classes, events, meals and more. You can find a list of senior centers on page 77.

## 6. Volunteer opportunities!

Connect with the community and help others by volunteering. The First Coast has several programs and organizations that welcome senior involvement, including the Foster Grandparents Program, Catholic Charities and Seniors on a Mission, Inc.

## 7. Gorgeous parks!

Seniors who love the outdoors have endless opportunities to explore on the First Coast. Jacksonville is home to the largest urban park system in the country, and the region has several gorgeous state parks that are eager to be discovered.

## 8. Attractions!

There's no room for boredom on the First Coast. Many of the attractions here offer senior discounts, including the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

## 9. Sports!

Sports are a big part of the First Coast, and seniors can enjoy watching anything from NFL football to rugby. The First Coast is also home to several golf courses and hosts THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

## 10. Our location!

The First Coast has a prime location within driving range of hot spots like Daytona Beach, the Gulf Coast and Orlando. If you're wanting to go a bit farther, then the Jacksonville International Airport can fly you to nearly anywhere in the world!

# First Coast Senior Centers



Frances Padgett Arlington Senior Center, photo courtesy of COJ

## Exciting Annual Senior Events!

The City of Jacksonville hosts several events throughout the year for seniors. Up-to-date information can be found at [www.jacksonville.gov](http://www.jacksonville.gov), the City of Jacksonville Senior Services Division Facebook page or by calling 904-255-5667.



Senior Heart Walk, photo courtesy of COJ

### BAKER COUNTY

Baker County Council on Aging  
 Friendship Center ..... 904-259-2223

### CLAY COUNTY

Clayton & Mildred Revels  
 Senior Center ..... 904-284-3134  
 Keystone Heights Senior Center..... 352-473-7121  
 Middleburg Senior Center ..... 904-291-3520  
 Orange Park Senior Center..... 904-269-4731

### DUVAL COUNTY

#### DUVAL-BEACHES

Bennie Furlong Beaches  
 Senior Center ..... 904-255-6730  
 Neptune Beach Senior  
 Activity Center ..... 904-749-0068

#### DUVAL-NORTH

Frances Padgett Arlington  
 Senior Center ..... 904-255-6733  
 Jim Fortuna Senior Center..... 904-255-6844  
 Leroy D. Clemons Senior Center .... 904-255-6737  
 Oceanway Senior Center ..... 904-255-6855

### DUVAL-SOUTH

Mandarin Senior Center ..... 904-255-6750  
 Pine Forest Senior Center ..... 904-255-6230  
 Southside Community Center ..... 904-255-6940

### DUVAL-WEST

Carvill Senior Center ..... 904-255-6650  
 Charlie T. Joseph Senior Center .... 904-255-6822  
 J.S. Johnson Senior Center ..... 904-255-6755  
 Lane Wiley Senior Center ..... 904-255-6644  
 Lincoln Villa Senior Center..... 904-255-6811  
 Mary L. Singleton Senior Center .... 904-255-6666  
 Maxville Senior Center ..... 904-255-6744  
 Riverview Senior Center ..... 904-255-6797

### NASSAU COUNTY

Janice Ancrum  
 Senior Life Center ..... 904-261-0701  
 Westside Senior Life Center ..... 904-845-3331

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Coastal Community Center ..... 904-209-3636  
 Hastings Senior Center ..... 904-209-3694  
 PLAYERS Community  
 Senior Center, THE ..... 904-209-3659  
 River House ..... 904-209-3655  
 Trout Creek Senior Center ..... 904-209-3658

### Bash at the Ball Field

Seniors can enjoy a day out and a Jumbo Shrimp baseball game. Admission to the game and a traditional ballpark meal is free.

### Fish-A-Thon

The annual Fish-A-Thon is held at Hanna Park and includes games, contests and more. Awards are given to seniors for catching the largest and smallest fish, most fish, prettiest fish and ugliest fish.

### Holiday Festival for Seniors

Seniors can ring in the holiday season with dinner, dancing and entertainment at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

### Jacksonville Senior Games

Those 50 and older can come together and celebrate fitness. Seniors can compete in many games and events at several venues throughout Jacksonville.

### Senior Expo

Twice a year, the City of Jacksonville hosts the two-day expo where seniors can acquire information on programs and resources that are available in the area. They also offer free health screenings.

### Senior Prom

Held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, the Senior Prom has been a First Coast staple for over 30 years. Seniors can enjoy live music, dinner, dancing and even door prizes.

### Walk for Senior Wellness

Enjoy a scenic one-mile walk along the downtown Southbank Riverwalk to celebrate senior fitness and wellness. Lunch is offered afterwards.

## Pickleball on the First Coast

Pickleball is a big hit with seniors! This mix of tennis, badminton and ping pong is a fantastic way to keep in shape and stay social. Below are First Coast pickleball resources.

First Coast Pickleball  
<https://firstcoastpickleball.org/>  
 Florida Team Pickleball League  
[www.ftpli.org](http://www.ftpli.org)

Jax Pickleball Store  
[www.jaxpickleballstore.com](http://www.jaxpickleballstore.com)  
 USA Pickleball Association  
[www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org)

# A Place to Call Home: Choosing the Right Senior Living Option

There are many living options for seniors moving to the First Coast, but it's important to know which option is the best fit for your specific needs. Deciding on living arrangements can feel overwhelming, but understanding the differences between each type is a good place to start. Take the time to tour different communities or facilities and ask about what services are provided and any extra costs.

Senior residents have several living options on the First Coast, no matter their specific needs. While deciding on the exact living arrangement can be overwhelming, a breakdown of the types of options can be found on this page to ease some of those feelings.

## Assisted Living Facilities

Assisted living facilities are a great long-term care option for seniors able to live independently. Seniors who need help with daily activities but don't require intensive care may be best suited for an assisted living facility. Multiple levels of care can be provided depending on these needs. Staff members are trained to assist residents with tasks such as bathing, cooking, dressing, taking medication, shopping and more. Many of the facilities are structured like apartment buildings with a shared common space where many host social and recreational activities.

## Skilled Nursing Facilities

Seniors in need of round-the-clock medical care may be best suited for skilled nursing facilities. These facilities are equipped to offer treatment from registered nurses, therapy services from physical, occupational or speech therapists, plus a physician on staff to supervise the patients' care. The facilities also offer short-term services for people recovering from an injury or illness,

or long-term services requiring more intensive care. Memory care facilities, a type of skilled nursing facility, specialize in caring for seniors with Alzheimer's, dementia and other memory-related issues.

## Retirement Communities

Retirement communities are best for seniors who can live independently and don't require assistance with daily tasks from staff members. These communities include active adult communities, independent living communities and 55-plus communities. There are many different types of housing options like apartments, condos and single-family homes. Several communities will have amenities like gyms, pools, golf courses, transportation and food options on site. Some may also include housekeeping and meal prep services if needed.

*For a comprehensive list of these facilities and communities, check out the Jacksonville Senior Services Directory at [www.heritagepublishinginc.com](http://www.heritagepublishinginc.com) or pick up a copy in person at your local library or senior center.*



Photo courtesy of Pexels

# WORK

In the Work Section, see what makes the First Coast such a great place to work and do business.





Photo by Anna Cook, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

## Northeast Florida Businesses: Built for Growth

With more than 150 corporate, regional and divisional headquarters operating in the area, the First Coast attracts a wide range of business sectors from around the country. Recognized as one of the fastest-growing business regions in the country, the First Coast remains an affordable and competitive option for companies, supported by Florida's favorable tax structure. The state does not have personal income tax, tax on business inventories or corporate franchise tax on capital stock.

A competitive average commute time of 26 minutes, shorter than many major metropolitan areas, further enhances Northeast Florida's appeal for employers and talent alike. Jacksonville International Airport continues to expand, offering non-stop service to more than 50 domestic and select international destinations, with convenient connections to every major global market and record-setting passenger traffic in recent years.

Jacksonville continues to rank among the nation's top cities for careers and business growth. The city is home to four Fortune 500 headquarters and six Fortune 1000 companies, supported by a regional labor force of approximately 860,000 workers. Jacksonville consistently appears

in national rankings for job growth, startup activity and economic momentum. This has earned recognition from organizations such as WalletHub, MoneyGeek and *The Wall Street Journal* in recent years.

Nearly 20 major banks, insurance companies and investment service firms listed on the Fortune Global 500 maintain operations on the First Coast. With sustained growth in financial services, fintech and professional services, the region has firmly established itself as a financial and business powerhouse in the Southeast.

Florida's tax environment remains highly favorable for both businesses and individuals.

### Florida Offers Sales and Use Tax Exemptions on:

- Aircraft parts, modification, maintenance and repair, as well as the sale or lease of qualified aircraft
- Certain boiler fuels, including natural gas, used in manufacturing
- Commercial space activity, including launch vehicles, payloads, fuel and qualifying equipment used at Spaceport Florida
- Electricity used in the manufacturing process
- The labor component of qualified research and development expenditures
- Labor, parts and materials used in the repair of or incorporation into machinery and equipment
- Machinery and equipment used by new or expanding Florida businesses to manufacture, produce or process tangible personal property for sale
- Machinery and equipment used predominantly in research and development

- Production companies engaged in Florida-based film, television, streaming, commercial video and sound recording production
- Semiconductor, defense and space-technology manufacturing equipment transactions

### Florida Does Not Have:

- A state personal income tax
- A state-level property tax
- Sales and use tax on co-generation of electricity
- Sales tax on raw materials incorporated into a final product for resale, including non-reusable containers and packaging
- Sales tax on most manufacturing machinery and equipment
- Sales and use tax on goods manufactured in Florida for export outside the state
- Property tax on goods-in-transit for up to 180 days
- Property tax on business inventories
- Corporate income tax on Subchapter S-corporations
- Corporate income tax on limited partnerships
- Corporate franchise tax on capital stock

# Business is Booming on the First Coast!

With deep-water ports, a highly skilled workforce and strategic access to national and global markets, Northeast Florida continues to solidify its reputation as a prime destination for business growth. Each year, more companies decide to expand to the First Coast, drawn by its infrastructure, talent pool and pro-business environment. Jacksonville is increasingly positioned as a global business hub, with companies from more than 30 countries operating across logistics, manufacturing, technology and finance. Below are several recent investments highlighting the region's ongoing economic expansion.



Photo courtesy of Johnson & Johnson Vision

## Anderson-DuBose Chooses Jacksonville for Southeast Expansion

Leading food service distributor Anderson-DuBose Company is investing \$60 million in a new cold and dry foods storage facility in Northwest Jacksonville to support more than 300 McDonald's restaurants across the Southeast. Known as Project Bobcat, the facility is expected to create 109 high-quality jobs, with construction scheduled for completion by December 2026.

"By expanding our footprint into Jacksonville, we can better meet the burgeoning demand for cold and dry food service storage in the Southeast and revolutionize distribution support operations for our valued customers," Anderson-DuBose Chief Operating Officer Mike Boddy said in a JAXUSA news release. "Anderson-DuBose appreciates Norfolk Southern's commitment to this joint growth opportunity for both of our companies."



## Hermeus Selects Jacksonville for Hypersonic Aircraft Testing

Atlanta-based aerospace company Hermeus is further anchoring Northeast Florida's role in advanced manufacturing and innovation with plans to open a new hypersonic engine testing facility at Cecil Airport on Jacksonville's Westside. The High Enthalpy Air-Breathing Test Facility (HEAT) will be the company's largest and most technologically advanced

test site and is expected to become a national asset for hypersonic testing.

The facility will support the development of hypersonic aircraft engines capable of reaching five times the speed of sound. Hermeus has invested \$130 million in the project and plans to bring 100 new high-wage jobs to the region by 2028. The Jacksonville site will be the company's fifth engine development location nationwide and will include two engine test cells, an office building and a hush house. "We're getting bigger, but we needed space to do that," said Glenn Case, co-founder and Chief Technologist of Hermeus, in a JAXUSA news release. "Florida was the right place to do it."

## HOLON Establishes Autonomous Shuttle Manufacturing Facility

HOLON, a manufacturer of autonomous electric shuttles, is launching its first production plant in Jacksonville, further diversifying the region's advanced manufacturing base. The approximately 500,000-square-foot facility on the Northside is expected to open in 2026 and will focus on producing autonomous movers designed to support sustainable, emission-free shared mobility. The project reflects growing investment in transportation innovation while addressing urban congestion, climate change and demographic shifts.

## Pearl Square Development Confirms Publix

Publix has confirmed it will open a grocery store in the NorthCore area of Jacksonville known as Pearl Square. This will be the first Publix store in downtown Jacksonville. With a pharmacy, deli and bakery planned, the 31,000-square-foot store will be the ground-floor space of a building planned to also include a 15-story residential tower with about 250 apartments and integrated parking

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State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

## University of Florida Brings Graduate Campus to Downtown Jacksonville

The University of Florida has obtained over 25 acres of land in the historic LaVilla area of Jacksonville to build a graduate campus. The campus will offer graduate-level programs in business, health sciences, engineering, law and architecture, with plans to launch classes in existing facilities by fall 2026. The project is expected to create 4,000 construction jobs over its first two phases, and the campus will support approximately 250 jobs upon completion.

“We are excited to partner with the University of Florida to make this campus a reality,” said Mayor Donna Deegan. “The City of Jacksonville is committed to being on the cutting-edge of workforce development and building a thriving downtown where our citizens can learn, live, work and play. This campus and the degrees that will be offered are another monumental step towards Jacksonville being a national leader in the industries that will shape our collective future.”

## First Coast U.S. Headquarters of Foreign Corporations

Adecco Group North America	City Facilities Management	Medius Software
Staffing/Recruiting	Refrigeration Facilities Management	Paysafe
Association of Tennis Professionals	Höegh Autoliners	Payment Technology
Professional Sports	Shipping	Soft Batteries Manufacturing
Buffet Crampon USA	KLS Martin	
Musical Instruments	Manufacturing	

with 400 spaces. Construction is expected to begin in 2026, and the store is anticipated to open by 2028.

The Publix project is part of Pearl Square, Gateway Jax's \$750 million, multiproperty development. Pearl Square plans include 1,250 new residential units and the revitalization of the historic Ambassador Hotel, along with about 200,000 square feet of retail tenants, including restaurants and fitness operations. The project also plans to create new public spaces with widened and shaded sidewalks, public park spaces and a curbside festival street.

## Publix Brings Pharmaceutical Manufacturing to St. Johns County



Publix is expanding the First Coast's life sciences footprint with plans for a state-of-the-art pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in St. Johns County. The \$145 million central fill facility will be located at Legend Point Logistics Crossing and is expected to be operational in 2026. The project will create approximately 115 jobs by the end of 2026, with the potential to grow to 400 jobs by 2034, underscoring the region's long-term growth outlook.



JAX Chamber, photo by Diana Ferguson

## Chambers of Commerce in the 5-County Region

Baker County Chamber of Commerce 20 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny www.bakerchamberfl.com	Nassau County Chamber of Commerce 961687 Gateway Blvd., Ste. 101-G, Fernandina Beach www.islandchamber.com
Clay County Chamber of Commerce 2042 Park Ave., Ste. 111, Orange Park www.claychamber.com	St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce 100 Southpark Blvd., St. Augustine www.sjcchamber.com
JAX Chamber 3 Independent Dr., Jacksonville https://jaxchamber.com	

Photo by Connor Scott Momanus, courtesy of Pexels

# Homegrown Companies

Home to the headquarters of four Fortune 500 companies—CSX, Fidelity National Information Services (FIS), Fidelity National Financial and Landstar System—along with Fortune 1000 leaders such as Regency Centers and Rayonier, the First Coast has firmly established itself as a national business hub. More than 150 companies have chosen the region for their regional, divisional or corporate headquarters, drawn by its suitable location, talent pipeline and pro-business environment.



GATE Nocatee store, photo courtesy of GATE Petroleum

2G Energy, Inc. <i>Energy Conversion</i>	Availity <i>Healthcare Technology</i>	Community First Credit Union <i>Banking Services</i>	ERC <i>Collections Agency</i>
Acosta Sales and Marketing <i>Marketing</i>	Baker Distributing Company <i>Distribution</i>	Concealment Express <i>Manufacturing</i>	EverBank <i>Banking and Mortgage</i>
Advantus Corp. <i>Manufacturing</i>	Bank of America <i>Banking &amp; Financial Services</i>	Craig/is Ltd. <i>Insurance Services</i>	Famous Amos Restaurant <i>Restaurant</i>
AGX Freight <i>Transportation</i>	Baptist Health <i>Healthcare</i>	Crowley Maritime <i>Transportation</i>	Fanatics, Inc. <i>Retail</i>
A.J. Johns, Inc. <i>Construction</i>	Beaver Street Fisheries, Inc. <i>Wholesale Distribution</i>	Crucial Care <i>Urgent Care Centers</i>	Fidelity National Financial <i>Financial Services</i>
All Florida Safety Institute <i>Driving School</i>	Beeline <i>IT</i>	CSI Companies <i>Staffing Services</i>	Fidus Construction <i>Construction</i>
Allstate <i>Insurance</i>	Brightway Insurance <i>Insurance Services</i>	CSX Corporation <i>Transportation</i>	Finxact <i>Banking Software</i>
Alternate Energy Technologies, LLC <i>Manufacturing</i>	Brooks Rehabilitation <i>Healthcare</i>	David Dobbs Enterprises <i>Manufacturing</i>	Firehouse Subs <i>Restaurant</i>
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier (ARC) <i>Logistics</i>	Bubba Foods <i>Food</i>	D.R. Horton <i>Home Builders</i>	First Professionals Insurance <i>Insurance</i>
Amports <i>Automotive Services</i>	Burkhardt Sales and Services <i>Wholesaler</i>	Dream Finders Homes <i>Home Builders</i>	FIS <i>Financial Technology</i>
APL Logistics Warehouse Services <i>Distribution</i>	Cain & Boltman, Inc. <i>Logistics</i>	Drummond <i>Marketing</i>	Flagler <i>Property Development</i>
APR Energy <i>Energy Supplier</i>	Capital Markets Cooperative <i>Financial Consulting</i>	Duos Technologies <i>IT Services</i>	Fleet Readiness Center Southeast <i>Aerospace</i>
ArdentX <i>Logistics</i>	Carlisle Interconnect Technologies <i>Manufacturing</i>	Dun & Bradstreet <i>IT Services</i>	Florida Army National Guard <i>Military</i>
Ascension St. Vincent's <i>Healthcare</i>	CEVA Logistics <i>Logistics</i>	Duval Motor Company <i>Auto Sales</i>	Florida Blue <i>Health Insurance</i>
Ash Properties <i>Commercial Real Estate</i>	Circle K South Atlantic <i>Gas Stations</i>	Early Upgrade <i>Electronics</i>	Forcura <i>Software</i>
Astadia <i>IT Consulting</i>	Citibank <i>Banking &amp; Financial Services</i>	Elkins Construction <i>Construction</i>	Formativ Health <i>Healthcare Management</i>
AT&T <i>Telecommunications</i>	Citizens Property Insurance <i>Insurance</i>	Emtec, Inc. <i>IT Services</i>	Fortegra <i>Insurance</i>
Atrium Windows and Doors of Florida <i>Manufacturing</i>	City Facilities Management Holdings <i>Facilities Management</i>	Encore Development <i>IT Services</i>	GATE Petroleum <i>Petroleum Products</i>

## Homegrown Companies

CSX Headquarters, photo courtesy of CSX



GEE Group <i>Staffing Solutions</i>	Larry's Giant Subs <i>Restaurant</i>	Pilot Pen Corporation of America <i>Manufacturing</i>	Shore Manufacturing <i>Cleaning Products</i>
Genplant <i>Energy Services</i>	Liberty Landscape Supply <i>Landscaping</i>	PGA Tour <i>Professional Sports</i>	Standard Pacific Homes <i>Home Builders</i>
Global Access Corp. <i>ATM Solutions</i>	Lift Power <i>Wholesale Industrial Products</i>	PGA Tour Entertainment <i>Video Production</i>	Stellar <i>Construction</i>
Greenshades Software <i>Software Development</i>	Logistic Services International <i>Aviation Training</i>	PRI Productions <i>Special Events Production</i>	Suddath <i>Relocation Services</i>
GuideWell <i>Medicare Administration</i>	Mac Papers and Packaging <i>Manufacturing</i>	Q-PAC <i>Manufacturing</i>	Swisher International Group, Inc. <i>Manufacturing</i>
Haskell <i>Construction</i>	Magellan Transport Logistics <i>Logistics</i>	RailPros <i>Training Services</i>	Total Distribution, Inc. <i>Logistics</i>
HC Brands <i>Manufacturing</i>	Main Street America Group, The <i>Insurance</i>	Rayonier, Inc. <i>Land Management</i>	Tote Maritime <i>Transportation and Distribution</i>
Healogics <i>Wound Care Services</i>	Mayo Clinic <i>Healthcare</i>	Redwire <i>Space Conglomerate</i>	Trailer Bridge <i>Transportation</i>
Home Depot Pro, The <i>Wholesale Distribution</i>	McKesson <i>Medical Supplies</i>	Regency Centers <i>Real Estate</i>	Treace Medical Concepts <i>Surgical Treatment Development</i>
iDeal Aluminum Products <i>Manufacturing</i>	Medtronic <i>Manufacturing</i>	Reynolds, Smith & Hills <i>Construction</i>	Unison Industries <i>Manufacturing</i>
iVenture <i>IT Services</i>	Meridian Technologies <i>IT Services</i>	Revalize <i>Supply Chain Technology</i>	US Assure <i>Insurance</i>
Iluka Resource <i>Manufacturing</i>	Miller Electric Company <i>Electrical Contractor</i>	Riley Gear <i>Manufacturing</i>	VAC-CON <i>Manufacturing</i>
International Baler Corporation <i>Manufacturing</i>	MOBRO Marine, Inc. <i>Construction Equipment</i>	RF-Smart <i>Software Development</i>	Vacation Rental Pros <i>Vacation Home Rentals</i>
ISF <i>IT Services</i>	NAQ Global <i>Manufacturing</i>	Ring Power <i>Construction Equipment</i>	Venus Swimwear <i>Apparel</i>
JEA <i>Utilities</i>	Nateen <i>Manufacturing</i>	RISE: A Real Estate Company <i>Residential Real Estate</i>	Village Bread <i>Bakery</i>
JinkoSolar <i>Manufacturing</i>	Natural Life Collections <i>Wholesales</i>	Roadway Worker Training <i>Rail Industry Services</i>	Vulcan Materials Company <i>Construction Aggregates</i>
Johnson & Johnson Vision <i>Optical Products</i>	Nemours Foundation <i>Nonprofit</i>	Rogers Towers, PA <i>Law Firm</i>	VyStar Credit Union <i>Financial Services</i>
JPMorganChase <i>Banking &amp; Financial Services</i>	Newfold Digital <i>Internet Design Services</i>	Ronco Group <i>Manufacturing</i>	W & O Supply, Inc. <i>Shipping</i>
Kitchens Seafood <i>Seafood Processor</i>	NGA Human Resources <i>Consulting Services</i>	Rubix Foods <i>Food Services</i>	W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc. <i>Mechanical Contracting</i>
KLS Martin USA <i>Manufacturing</i>	Nivel Parts & Manufacturing <i>Manufacturing</i>	Rulon International <i>Manufacturing</i>	Watson Realty Corp. <i>Real Estate</i>
Landstar System, Inc. <i>Transportation</i>	One Call <i>Workers Compensation Services</i>	RYAM <i>Chemical Products</i>	Wells Fargo <i>Banking and Financial Services</i>
	Optimum Healthcare IT <i>Healthcare IT</i>	Safariland <i>Manufacturing</i>	Winn-Dixie Company, The <i>Grocery Distribution</i>
	Patriot Rail Company <i>Logistics and Distribution</i>	Saft America <i>Manufacturing</i>	Woody's BBQ <i>Restaurant</i>
	Perdue Office Interiors <i>Furniture</i>	Sally Dark Rides <i>Manufacturing</i>	Wounded Warrior Project <i>Veteran Rehabilitation</i>
	Persown <i>Healthcare</i>	Scott McRae Automotive Group <i>Auto Dealership</i>	Zimmer Biomet CMF and Thoracic <i>Manufacturing</i>
		SEMCO Southeastern Metals <i>Manufacturing</i>	

# Businesses By County

## Large Employers by County



GATE store, photo courtesy of GATE Petroleum



Deutsche Bank, photo by Diana Ferguson

### BAKER COUNTY

Baker County Medical Services  
 Macclenny Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
 Swift Transportation  
 Walmart  
 Walmart Distribution Center

### CLAY COUNTY

Andromeda Systems, Inc.  
 Applied Business Solutions  
 Ascension St. Vincent's Clay  
 AT&T  
 Bestbet Orange Park  
 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital  
 Home Depot  
 General RV  
 Kelly Services  
 Kindred Hospitals East  
 Lowe's  
 Parallon  
 Paychex PEO  
 Pegasus Technologies  
 Publix Supermarkets  
 Vac-Con, Inc.  
 Vallencourt Construction

Walmart  
 Winn-Dixie

### DUVAL COUNTY

Aetna  
 Allegis Group  
 Ally Financial  
 Amazon  
 Ascension St. Vincent's  
 AT&T  
 Bank of America  
 Baptist Health  
 Brooks Rehabilitation  
 Citi  
 Citizens Property Insurance  
 Coggin Automotive Group  
 Comcast  
 Contemporary Services Corporation  
 Crowley  
 CSX Corporation  
 Deutsche Bank  
 Fanatics  
 Fidelity Investments  
 Fidelity National Financial  
 FIS  
 Fleet Readiness Center Southeast  
 Flightstar Aircraft Services

Florida Blue  
 GAI Consultants, Inc.  
 GATE Petroleum  
 GCA Services Group, Inc.  
 GuideWell  
 Haskell  
 HCA Florida Memorial Hospital  
 Intercontinental Exchange  
 Johnson & Johnson Vision  
 JPMorganChase  
 Landstar  
 Mac Papers  
 Mayo Clinic  
 McKesson  
 Miller Electric Company  
 Nemours Children's Health  
 One Call  
 Prudential Financial  
 Publix Jacksonville Warehouse  
 Remedy Intelligent Staffing  
 Swisher International Group, Inc.  
 UF Health  
 UPS  
 VyStar Credit Union  
 Wells Fargo  
 Winn-Dixie Company, The

W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc.

### NASSAU COUNTY

Baptist Medical Center Nassau  
 Omni Amelia Island Resort  
 Rayonier Advanced Materials  
 Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island  
 WestRock

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Carlisle Interconnect Technologies  
 D.R. Horton  
 Flagler College  
 Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind  
 Hydro Extrusion  
 KeHE Distributors  
 Northrop Grumman  
 PGA TOUR  
 Ponte Vedra Inn & Club  
 Ring Power  
 Sawgrass Resort Marriott  
 UF Health Flagler Hospital  
 Vicar's Landing  
 Westminster Woods on Julington Creek

# Money, Money, Money!

The First Coast's diverse range of job opportunities makes it an attractive destination for career seekers. As employment markets continue to shift, understanding local pay trends can play a key role in career decisions. Below is a look at several professions on the First Coast and how their salaries compare with national averages.



**FINANCIAL MANAGERS**  
 3,940 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$166,700 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$180,470 | U.S. Mean



**GENERAL AND OPERATIONS MANAGERS**  
 17,480 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$123,910 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$133,120 | U.S. Mean



**LAWYERS**  
 3,790 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$130,300 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$182,760 | U.S. Mean



**MANAGEMENT OCCUPATIONS**  
 51,670 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$125,300 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$141,760 | U.S. Mean



**SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, APPLICATIONS**  
 6,270 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$129,410 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$144,570 | U.S. Mean



**LEGAL OCCUPATIONS**  
 6,970 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$101,230 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$137,680 | U.S. Mean



**MANAGEMENT ANALYSTS**  
 6,510 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$96,570 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$114,710 | U.S. Mean



**COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS**  
 3,020 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$104,850 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$116,810 | U.S. Mean



**SECURITIES, COMMODITIES AND FINANCIAL SERVICES SALES AGENTS**  
 4,160 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$82,490 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$110,400 | U.S. Mean



**LOAN OFFICERS**  
 2,360 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$82,580 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$83,360 | U.S. Mean



**HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL OCCUPATIONS**  
 52,150 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$99,500 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$105,220 | U.S. Mean



**COMPUTER AND MATHEMATICAL OCCUPATIONS**  
 22,710 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$102,550 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$113,140 | U.S. Mean



**SALES REPRESENTATIVES, WHOLESALE AND MANUFACTURING, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTS**  
 720 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$98,810 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$114,520 | U.S. Mean



**ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING OCCUPATIONS**  
 9,280 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$92,830 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$103,980 | U.S. Mean



**ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS**  
 7,020 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$86,780 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$93,520 | U.S. Mean



**MARKET RESEARCH ANALYSTS AND MARKETING SPECIALISTS**  
 3,740 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$81,520 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$86,480 | U.S. Mean



**INSURANCE SALES AGENTS**  
 3,130 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$78,520 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$81,510 | U.S. Mean



**BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OCCUPATIONS**  
 57,070 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$87,670 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$93,680 | U.S. Mean



**PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS**  
 5,120 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$100,960 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$108,100 | U.S. Mean



**REGISTERED NURSES**  
 18,470 | Total Jacksonville Employees  
 \$85,930 | Jacksonville Mean  
 \$98,430 | U.S. Mean

Photo courtesy of Johnson & Johnson Vision



Photo by Hieu on Unsplash

# Top 50 Employers on The First Coast



Crowley containership, photo courtesy of JAXPORT



Florida Blue GuideWell Campus, photo courtesy of Florida Blue

**1. Naval Station Mayport**

15,100 employees  
Box 280032, Mayport  
<https://cnrse.cniv.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Mayport>

**2. Naval Air Station Jacksonville**

14,390 employees  
6801 Roosevelt Blvd.,  
Jacksonville  
<https://cnrse.cniv.navy.mil/Installations/NAS-Jacksonville>

**3. Baptist Health**

12,000 employees  
800 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville  
[www.baptistjax.com](http://www.baptistjax.com)

**4. Mayo Clinic**

8,450 employees  
4500 San Pablo Rd. S.,  
Jacksonville  
[www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org)

**5. Amazon Fulfillment Center JAX2**

8,000 employees  
12900 Pecan Park Rd.,  
Jacksonville  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**6. Bank of America**

8,000 employees  
50 N. Laura St., Jacksonville  
[www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com)

**7. UF Health Jacksonville**

7,261 employees  
655 W. 8th St., Jacksonville  
<https://ufhealthjax.org>

**8. Florida Blue**

5,700 employees  
4800 Deerwood Campus Pkwy.,  
Jacksonville  
[www.floridablue.com](http://www.floridablue.com)

**9. Winn-Dixie Company, The**

5,700 employees  
8928 Prominence Pkwy.,  
Ste. 200, Jacksonville  
[www.winndixie.com](http://www.winndixie.com)

**10. Fleet Readiness Center Southeast**

5,350 employees  
101 Wasp St., Jacksonville  
<https://frcse.navair.navy.mil>

**11. Citi**

5,070 employees  
14000 Citicards Way,  
Jacksonville  
[www.citi.com](http://www.citi.com)

**12. UPS**

4,500 employees  
4420 Imeson Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com)

**13. JPMorganChase**

3,900 employees  
112 W. Adams St., Ste. 101,  
Jacksonville  
[www.jpmorganchase.com](http://www.jpmorganchase.com)

**14. GATE Petroleum Company**

3,700 employees  
9540 San Jose Blvd.,  
Jacksonville  
[www.gatepetro.com](http://www.gatepetro.com)

**15. Johnson & Johnson Vision**

3,500 employees  
7500 Centurion Pkwy. N.,  
Jacksonville  
[www.jjvision.com](http://www.jjvision.com)

**16. Brooks Rehabilitation**

2,800 employees  
3599 University Blvd. S.,  
Jacksonville  
[www.brooksrehab.org](http://www.brooksrehab.org)

**17. Ascension St. Vincent's Southside**

2,720 employees  
4201 Belfort Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.healthcare.ascension.org](http://www.healthcare.ascension.org)

## Top 50 Employers on The First Coast

### 18. AT&T

2,600 employees  
4663 River City Dr., Ste. 101,  
Jacksonville  
www.att.com

### 19. HCA Florida Memorial Hospital

2,600 employees  
3625 University Blvd. S.,  
Jacksonville  
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com/  
locations/memorial-hospital

### 20. CSX Corporation

2,530 employees  
500 Water St., Jacksonville  
www.csx.com

### 21. Deutsche Bank

2,400 employees  
5022 Gate Pkwy., Jacksonville  
www.db.com

### 22. Haskell

2,270 employees  
111 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville  
www.haskell.com

### 23. One Call

2,200 employees  
841 Prudential Dr., Ste. 204,  
Jacksonville  
www.onecallcm.com

### 24. Diocese of St. Augustine

2,100 employees  
11625 Old St. Augustine Rd.,  
Jacksonville  
www.dosaf.com

### 25. Remedy Intelligent Staffing

2,010 employees  
5834 Normandy Blvd.,  
Jacksonville  
www.remedystaffing.com

### 26. Fidelity Investments

2,000 employees  
4601 Touchton Rd E., Bldg. 400,  
JV1A, Jacksonville  
www.fidelity.com

### 27. YMCA of Florida's First Coast

1,971 employees  
40 E. Adams St., Ste. 210,  
Jacksonville  
www.ymca.org

### 28. UF Health Flagler Hospital

1,900 employees  
400 Health Park Blvd.,  
St. Augustine  
https://ufhealth.org/uf-health-  
st-johns

### 29. FIS

1,800 employees  
347 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville  
www.fisglobal.com

### 30. Parallon

1,790 employees  
335 Crossing Blvd., Orange Park  
www.parallon.com

### 31. HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital

1,770 employees  
2001 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park  
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com/  
locations/orange-park-hospital

### 32. Aetna, Inc.

1,700 employees  
9000 Southside Blvd., Bldg. 100,  
8th Fl., Jacksonville  
www.aetna.com

### 33. Fanatics, Inc.

1,700 employees  
8100 Nations Way, Jacksonville  
www.fanatics.com

### 34. VyStar Credit Union

1,690 employees  
76 S. Laura St., Jacksonville  
www.vystarcu.org

### 35. Fidelity National Financial, Inc.

1,660 employees  
601 Riverside Ave., Bldg. 5,  
Jacksonville  
www.fnf.com

### 36. Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside

1,600 employees  
1 Shircliff Way, Jacksonville  
www.healthcare.ascension.org

### 37. Intercontinental Exchange

1,566 employees  
601 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville  
www.ice.com

### 38. Crowley

1,300 employees  
9487 Regency Square Blvd.,  
Jacksonville  
www.crowley.com

### 39. GuideWell

1,300 employees  
4800 Deerwood Campus Pkwy.,  
Jacksonville  
www.guidewell.com

### 40. Baptist Medical Center South

1,250 employees  
14550 Old St. Augustine Rd.,  
Jacksonville  
www.baptistjax.com/locations/  
baptist-medical-center-south

### 41. Comcast

1,200 employees  
4663 River City Dr., Ste. 107,  
Jacksonville  
www.xfinity.com

### 42. W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc.

1,200 employees  
524 Stockton St., Jacksonville  
https://wwgmc.com

### 43. Wells Fargo

1,180 employees  
3563 Philips Hwy., Jacksonville  
www.wellsfargo.com

### 44. Northrop Grumman

1,100 employees  
5000 US 1 N., St. Augustine  
www.northropgrumman.com

### 45. Wolfson Children's Hospital

1,100 employees  
800 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville  
www.wolfsonchildrens.com

### 46. Citizens Property Insurance Corporation

1,040 employees  
301 W. Bay St., Ste. 1300,  
Jacksonville  
www.citizensfla.com

### 47. Flightstar Aircraft Services

1,030 employees  
6025 Flightline Dr., Jacksonville  
https://mrohldings.com/  
facilities/flightstar

### 48. Contemporary Services Corporation

1,000 employees  
1 Everbank Field Dr., Jacksonville  
https://csc-usa.com

### 49. McKesson

1,000 employees  
6651 Gate Pkwy., Jacksonville  
www.mckesson.com

### 50. Miller Electric Company

1,000 employees  
6805 Southpoint Pkwy.,  
Jacksonville  
www.mecojax.com



Patriot Rail headquarters, photo by Diana Ferguson



Aetna, photo by Diana Ferguson

# Banking & Mortgage Industry

With both local and national banks and mortgage providers operating here, the First Coast's strong financial foundation has attracted major employers to the region. More than 20 Fortune Global 500 banks, insurance and investment firms maintain operation centers on the First Coast. Recognized as a growing financial hub, up to 73,000 people are employed in the First Coast's financial services sector. Below are some of the providers serving the region, ranging from community-focused institutions to large national corporations.



Vystar, photo by Diana Ferguson

Ameris Bank, photo by Diana Ferguson

Regions Bank, photo by Diana Ferguson

## **Ally**

Although entirely digital with no branch network, Ally maintains a corporate office in Jacksonville and provides banking, investing, auto finance, home loans and additional financial services.

## **Alive Credit Union**

Founded on the First Coast, this full-service credit union has supported the local community—including employees of Florida Blue, Baptist Health, HCA Florida Memorial Hospital, UF Health Jacksonville, Ascension St. Vincent's and Mayo Clinic—since 1954. Membership extends to those in healthcare, law enforcement, city services, the marketplace, residents and immediate family members.

## **Ameris Bank**

Originally known as Ameris Bancorp, this bank has operated since 1971 and served customers across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic. Locations on the First Coast offer personal, small business and commercial banking, as well as wealth management services, including financial planning and retirement solutions.

## **Bank of America**

A multinational investment bank and financial services firm, Bank of America ranks among the world's top financial institutions. It provides individuals, businesses and corporations with full-service banking, investment management, loans, mortgages, savings and auto financing.

## **Bank OZK**

Recognized by *Forbes* as one of "America's Best Banks" and "World's Best Banks" annually since 2019, Bank OZK has multiple First Coast locations. Services include personal checking and savings, debit and credit cards, business banking, trust services and more.

## **Capital City Bank**

Operating since 1895, Capital City Bank is among the largest publicly traded financial institutions in the country. Its branches in Keystone Heights and Hastings provide mortgages, trust services, merchant solutions, bank cards and a full range of banking options.

## **Chase Bank**

One of the oldest and largest global banks, Chase offers credit cards, checking and savings accounts, commercial banking, auto loans and more. Its downtown Jacksonville branch is in the historic Barnett National Bank building, a prominent part of the skyline.

## **Citi**

For over 25 years, Citi has delivered banking, credit cards and wealth management services to the area. The bank also provides commercial banking, trade and treasury solutions, private banking, capital markets services and security solutions, supporting First Coast economic growth.

## **Coastline Federal Credit Union**

With locations in Jacksonville and Fleming Island, Coastline Federal Credit Union is a full-service, not-for-profit financial cooperative for any person who lives, works, worships or attends school in the five First Coast counties.

## **Community First Credit Union**

Serving the area for more than 85 years, Community First is one of Florida's largest credit unions. It offers auto loans, mortgages, credit cards, checking, student banking and additional financial services to members.

## **Deutsche Bank**

With an operations center employing over 2,000 people, Deutsche Bank's Jacksonville location is the second largest in the U.S. outside of its New York headquarters.

## **EverBank**

Headquartered in Jacksonville, EverBank provides diversified banking and investing solutions, including high interest checking, money market accounts, CDs and more.

## **Fifth Third Bank**

Fifth Third offers banking, home buying, insurance, investing, savings, CDs, checking accounts and credit cards. The bank emphasizes community engagement and building strategic, personalized relationships with each client.

### First Bank, The

Located on Jacksonville's Southside, The First Bank provides personal banking including checking, savings and credit cards, along with business, wealth management and mortgage services.

### First Citizens Bank

Serving personal, small business and commercial clients, First Citizens also provides wealth management, trusts, insurance and investment solutions. Military bank accounts are available to support First Coast residents.

### First Federal Bank

Specializing in home financing for over 60 years, First Federal Bank also offers warehouse lending, consumer lending, commercial financing, wholesale lending and manufactured housing loans. BauerFinancial has rated it "5 Star, Superior" since 2000.

### First Florida Credit Union

Headquartered in Jacksonville, First Florida Credit Union provides members with affordable banking solutions, digital services, fast loan approvals and educational resources.

### First Horizon

First Horizon provides a broad range of banking, home loans, insurance, investing and trust services. Small business and commercial banking solutions are also offered.

### Florida Capital Bank

A nationally chartered bank based in Jacksonville, Florida Capital Bank focuses on the financial success of businesses and owners. It offers retail and commercial banking, SBA loans, treasury management, checking and savings accounts.



Navy Federal Credit Union, photo by Diana Ferguson

### Navy Federal Credit Union

Founded in 1933, Navy Federal provides personal and business banking for current and retired military, families, household members and Department of Defense personnel.

PNC Bank, photo by Diana Ferguson



### PNC Bank

With multiple branches on the First Coast, PNC Bank offers checking and savings accounts, credit cards, mortgages, auto loans and additional personal banking solutions.

### RadiFi Credit Union

Serving Northeast Florida since 1935, RadiFi provides personal and business banking services including auto, home and business loans, as well as checking and savings accounts.

### Regions Bank

A full-service bank and S&P 500 member, Regions Bank emphasizes economic and community development. Services include personal deposits, loans, credit, business banking, insurance and investment solutions.

### Rocket Mortgage

As a top U.S. mortgage lender, Rocket Mortgage focuses on online and digital home loans. The company offers conventional, FHA, VA and jumbo loans nationwide and is a major player in Jacksonville's mortgage market, despite not operating physical branches.

### State Farm

While primarily known for auto insurance, State Farm also provides banking services, including credit cards, checking and savings accounts, home loans, auto loans and money market accounts.

### Synovus

Named a "Best Bank in America" by *Forbes*, Synovus offers retail and commercial banking, mortgage and investment services. In 2024, it received the "Smarter Bank - Customer Service" award for relationship banking.

### SouthState

Headquartered in Florida, SouthState Bank offers personal checking, savings, mortgages, loans, retirement planning, and small business and commercial banking services. *TIME Magazine* recognized it as one of "America's Best Mid-Size Companies" in 2024.

### TD Bank

With multiple First Coast locations, TD Bank provides checking and savings accounts, credit cards, home equity, mortgages and additional financial services.

### Truist

A top 10 U.S. commercial bank, Truist serves the First Coast with checking and savings accounts, credit cards, mortgages, commercial banking, small business services and more.

### U.S. Bank

Named one of the "World's Most Ethical Companies" by Ethisphere for 10 consecutive years, U.S. Bank provides corporate, commercial and mortgage banking across the First Coast.

### United Wholesale Mortgage (UWM)

One of the largest wholesale mortgage lenders in the nation, UWM works exclusively through independent brokers. It funds a large portion of home loans in Jacksonville, making it a major, though largely unseen, mortgage provider.



Valley Bank, photo by Diana Ferguson

### Valley Bank

With over 95 years of service, Valley Bank offers retail, commercial and private banking solutions, serving First Coast clients with a wide variety of financial services.

### Veterans United Home Loans

Specializing in VA mortgages, Veterans United is the nation's largest VA lender. It serves veterans, active-duty personnel and military families, playing a significant role in Jacksonville's housing market.

### VyStar Credit Union

Founded 70 years ago at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, VyStar Credit Union offers banking, loans, investing, insurance and retirement services, including specialized programs for military and civil service workers. Its recent acquisition of 121 Financial Credit Union increased assets to over \$14 billion and membership to nearly 985,000.

### Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo offers a broad range of services, including checking and savings accounts, personal and auto loans, small business and commercial banking, and digital banking solutions for First Coast residents.

# Information Technology



AT&T, photo by Diana Ferguson

The First Coast continues to grow as a major technology hub, drawing a skilled and diverse workforce to the region. Companies across the area operate in a broad range of information technology sectors, including software development, healthcare technology, logistics systems, e-commerce platforms, cloud computing, cybersecurity and more. Jacksonville not only attracts information technology commerce but is also ranked the fifth best large U.S. city for startups in these sectors, according to JAXUSA.

In addition to traditional IT, the First Coast is emerging as a center for finance technology, or fintech. Several prominent fintech companies have established operations in the region, including Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., FIS, Paysafe, SoFi, SS&C Technologies and SmartStream Technologies. To support this growing sector, the University of North Florida offers both graduate and undergraduate programs in fintech, preparing students for careers in financial services, technology development and data analytics. This combination of talent and industry presence positions the First Coast as a nationally competitive fintech hub.

## AT&T

One of the largest employers in the region, AT&T provides both mobile and fixed telephone services to millions of customers nationwide. The company leverages the First Coast as a hub for its call center operations, helping streamline customer service and technical support across the U.S.

## Availity

Availity connects nearly three million healthcare providers through its advanced revenue cycle solutions and business services. As the largest real-time information network for healthcare, this Jacksonville-based company enables efficient communication and data management across hospitals, clinics and insurance providers, improving

patient outcomes and administrative efficiency.

## Beeline

Headquartered in Jacksonville, Beeline is a global leader in workforce technology, pioneering the world's first extended workforce platform. More than 400 organizations worldwide rely on Beeline's software to manage staffing, contract labor and workforce analytics, supporting efficient operations across industries.



## Dun & Bradstreet

Dun & Bradstreet, based in Jacksonville, provides a wide range of products and services that help businesses assess risk, analyze financial performance, optimize operations and conduct marketing research. Their data-driven insights support companies in making informed, strategic decisions on a global scale.

## Fanatics, Inc.

Founded in 1995 as a traditional retail store, Fanatics has grown into a leading online sports merchandise retailer. Today, it is a major IT employer on the First Coast, combining e-commerce, data analytics and technology-driven customer experiences.

## FIS

FIS, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Jacksonville, offers an extensive portfolio of financial technology solutions for banking, payments and capital markets. Employing 56,000 people across 58 countries, FIS processes over \$75 billion in transactions worldwide. CNBC has recognized the company as one of the top 250 fintech firms globally.

## Forcura

Since 2012, Forcura has provided cloud-based software that modernizes documentation, workflows and secure communications for healthcare providers. Its solutions support home health, hospice, rehabilitative therapy, skilled nursing and behavioral health organizations, streamlining administrative processes and improving patient care.

## Intercontinental Exchange, Inc.

With a Jacksonville office, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. is a multinational financial services company that operates global exchanges and clearing houses. The company also offers mortgage technology, data services and listings, serving financial institutions and investors worldwide.

**“Companies in the area span a broad range of information technology sectors, including software development, healthcare, logistics, e-commerce and more.”**

#### **Newfold Digital**

Headquartered in Jacksonville, Newfold Digital specializes in website development and digital solutions for small and medium-sized businesses globally. Its services empower companies to establish and grow their online presence efficiently.

#### **Nymbus**

Based in downtown Jacksonville, Nymbus delivers cutting-edge banking technology solutions for financial institutions. Its platform enables banks and credit unions to streamline their operations, improve customer experiences and implement digital banking solutions.

#### **Optimum Healthcare IT**

Located in Jacksonville Beach, Optimum Healthcare IT provides staffing, consulting and technology solutions to healthcare providers, payers and life sciences organizations. Its services support digital transformation, data management and optimized workflows in healthcare systems.

#### **Paysafe**

London-based Paysafe provides payment processing, digital wallets and online cash solutions. Its North American headquarters in Jacksonville supports businesses across multiple sectors, facilitating secure, efficient digital transactions.

#### **SoFi**

SoFi, a digital personal finance company, operates a Jacksonville office near the St. Johns Town Center. The office focuses on member relations, loan review, quality assurance and fraud prevention, supporting the company's mission to provide accessible financial solutions.

#### **SS&C Technologies**

SS&C Technologies, with an office on Jacksonville's Southside, is the world's largest independent hedge fund and private equity administrator. The company also serves as the largest mutual fund transfer agency, providing robust technology solutions to investment management firms globally.

#### **SmartStream Technologies**

This London-based company maintains a Jacksonville office to deliver financial technology solutions, business support services, client onboarding and professional consulting to clients around the world.

### **Making Waves on the First Coast with Innovative Industries**

#### **Healthcare**

The First Coast's healthcare industry is thriving, featuring top hospitals and medical centers such as Mayo Clinic—one of three campuses in the nation—Baptist Health, Ascension St. Vincent's and UF Health. Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Health provide specialized care for infants, children and young adults. The region's hospitals attract patients from across the nation for their leading programs, research and advanced treatments.

#### **Advanced Manufacturing**

Many manufacturing companies are drawn to the First Coast for its strategic access to airports, railways and ports. Leading companies in manufacturing on the First Coast include Johnson & Johnson Vision, Anheuser-Busch, BAE Systems, Baker Hughes, Medtronic and Northrop Grumman. According to JAXUSA, construction costs in the region are 14 percent lower than the U.S. average, and industrial lease rates average \$10.35 per square foot, making the area both cost-effective and operationally efficient for advanced manufacturing.

#### **Space and Defense Technology**

The Jacksonville region is home to cutting-edge aerospace and defense manufacturers such as Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Carlisle Interconnect Technologies, Redwire Space, Kaman Aerospace and Collins Aerospace. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson has called the area "the center for space technology." Jacksonville's Cecil Spaceport, the first commercial spaceport on the East Coast licensed for horizontal launches, has been central to more than \$300 million in local infrastructure investment and continues to drive innovation in space and defense sectors.

Boeing, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville



# We Salute You: First Coast Military

Photo by Benjamin Lehman, courtesy of Unsplash



With the third-largest military presence in the nation, the First Coast has earned a reputation as a military friendly community. Thousands of active-duty service members, reservists and civilian contractors, stationed across three major naval bases, call this region home. This includes Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. The area also hosts the United States Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, Camp Blanding Army Base and Marine Corps Blount Island Command.

The military's footprint here safeguards the nation and strengthens the local economy, brings stability to communities and enhances diversity. Every year, the First Coast proudly hosts Florida's largest Veterans Day Parade, alongside numerous veteran-focused events. With such a strong military presence, it's no surprise that many local businesses are veteran-owned and operated.



## Naval Station Mayport

Box 280032, Mayport

<https://cnrse.cnrc.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Mayport/>

Perched at the meeting point of the St. Johns River and the Atlantic Ocean, Naval Station Mayport is near the small sea town of Mayport. It ranks as the third-largest naval facility in the continental U.S. and serves as the home of the Navy's 4th Fleet. Mayport features a bustling harbor that can accommodate 34 ships and an 8,000-foot runway designed for any type of Department of Defense aircraft. The airfield handles more than 100,000 helicopter and fixed-wing flights annually, all coordinated by NS Mayport's Air Operations Department—a true hub of naval activity.



## Naval Air Station Jacksonville

6801 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville

<https://cnrse.cnrc.navy.mil/Installations/NAS-Jacksonville/>

Home to the world-famous Blue Angels, Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jacksonville) is the Southeast's largest Navy base. Located on the Westside along

the St. Johns River, the base contributes \$2.1 billion annually to the regional economy. NAS Jacksonville hosts more than 120 tenant commands, boasting accolades such as the 2012 Presidential Excellence Award. Honorable mentions include the multiple Commander and Navy Installations Command Excellence Awards received, some as recent as 2021 and 2024. The 3,800-acre installation also houses Naval Hospital Jacksonville and the Navy Band Southeast, making it a crucial hub for both operations and community life.



## Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay

1063 USS Tennessee Ave., Kings Bay, GA

<https://cnrse.cnrc.navy.mil/Installations/SUBASE-Kings-Bay/>

Just 38 miles from Jacksonville near St. Marys, GA, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay is home to the Navy's fleet of ballistic missile nuclear submarines armed with Trident missiles. Key commands at the base include the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic, Trident Refit Facility, Trident Training Facility, Submarine Group 10 and the Naval Submarine Support Center. Currently, the base hosts eight Ohio-class submarines, two guided missile submarines and six ballistic missile submarines.

Tanks on display at Camp Blanding, photo by Diana Ferguson



Florida Regimental Memorial at Camp Blanding, photo by Diana Ferguson

The First Coast has the third-largest military presence in the country and the second-highest concentration of Veterans in Florida.



**United States Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville**  
10426 Alta Dr., Jacksonville  
[www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-7/Units/Sector-Jacksonville-Home/](http://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-7/Units/Sector-Jacksonville-Home/)

Overseeing 40,000 square miles of ocean and island waterways, Sector Jacksonville operates on six acres near NS Mayport. Its area of responsibility stretches 190 miles from Kings Bay, GA to Port Malabar, FL. Sector Jacksonville handles all Coast Guard missions within the Jacksonville Captain of the Port zone, including search and rescue, port and coastal security, waterways management, maritime homeland security, marine science initiatives, navigation aids and logistical support—keeping the First Coast safe and secure.



**Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island**  
5880 Channel View Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.bic.marines.mil](http://www.bic.marines.mil)

Positioned on the St. Johns River, Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island is the heart of Blount Island Command. It serves as the hub for the Marine Corps' pre-positioning programs and supports Fleet Marine Forces worldwide. Blount Island Command's dedication has earned itself six Meritorious Unit Commendations, most recently in 2024, reflecting its excellence in service and operational readiness.



Photo by Angel Ceballos, courtesy of Unsplash



**Camp Blanding Joint Training Center**  
5629 FL-16 W., Starke  
<https://fl.ng.mil/Commands/Camp-Blanding-Joint-Training-Center>

Located in Starke, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center spans 73,000 acres and serves as the primary military reservation for the Florida Army National Guard and select Florida Air National Guard units. Beyond its training mission, the facility is home to the Camp Blanding Museum, which highlights the site's history, including its significant role during World War II.



Camp Blanding, photo by Diana Ferguson



## Our Gateway to the World: Ports of the First Coast

Due to its strategic location, the First Coast plays an essential role in the logistics and distribution industry. With convenient access to waterways, interstates and railroads, commodities are shipped efficiently to more than 98 million consumers with ease. This unmatched capability has made the region an attractive home for a growing number of logistics and distribution companies.

### PORTS

#### JAXPORT

As Florida's largest container port by volume and one of the nation's leading vehicle-handling ports, the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT) serves as a global gateway to Florida. Its international seaport connects shippers to markets around the world, with service from dozens of ocean carriers that offer direct routes to Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, the Caribbean and beyond.

JAXPORT is made up of three marine terminals—Blount Island, Dames Point and Talleyrand—providing access to 140 ports across 70 countries through more than 100 trucking firms and 40 daily trains. To enhance JAXPORT's capabilities, construction is underway to raise overhead powerlines adjacent to the Blount Island terminal, increasing the air draft to an operational clearance of 205 feet. This improvement will allow larger vessels to reach Blount Island's deepwater channel by the end of 2026, with full project completion expected in summer 2027.

Blount Island Marine Terminal is JAXPORT's largest facility and one of the largest vehicle import and export centers in the country. Dames Point Marine Terminal features 5,002 linear feet of deepwater berths and six new Panamax container cranes. Talleyrand Marine Terminal primarily handles containerized and breakbulk cargo, automobiles and liquid bulk commodities.

#### Port of Fernandina

The Port of Fernandina is a natural deepwater port handling diverse cargoes, including steel, aluminum, machinery, paper and forest products, and general consumer goods. Strategically positioned with access to major CSX rail lines, the port supports efficient domestic distribution. Its 950-foot turning basin connects directly to a 1,200-linear-foot pier. On-site, the port offers 250,000 square feet of warehouse space, more than 100,000 square feet of off-port storage and 10 acres of open storage.

### LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION

Headquartered in Jacksonville, **AGX Freight** provides expedited transportation services throughout North America, partnering with transportation and logistics professionals to deliver cost-effective solutions for customers.

**CEVA Logistics**, a global leader in supply chain management, specializes in end-to-end, customized solutions. With a strong belief in innovation, CEVA continually enhances customer interaction while improving operational efficiency. Its Jacksonville facility was designed to support this forward-thinking approach.

Jacksonville-based **Crowley Maritime Corporation** is recognized for its speed and efficiency in shipping and distribution. Serving multiple countries in the Caribbean and Central America, as well as Puerto Rico, Crowley operates through five business units:

Logistics, Shipping, Fuels, Land Transportation and Wind.

**JAX Logistics** delivers worldwide logistics services, from full container load transportation to comprehensive door-to-door solutions. A woman-owned business based in Jacksonville, the company is dedicated to safety, reliability and efficiency.

**Landstar**, headquartered in Jacksonville, is made up of independent freight agents and transportation capacity providers. Serving more than 25,000 businesses worldwide, Landstar combines local expertise with a truly global reach.

Calling out of JAXPORT, **Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)** is a major force in global shipping and logistics. Its fleet incorporates the latest green technologies and serves 520 ports across more than 260 trade routes. MSC is committed to advancing the shipping industry while "delivering global service with local knowledge."

**Shoreside Logistics**, based in Jacksonville, provides inland transportation and a wide range of logistics cargo services. The company also operates as a U.S. Customs Centralized Examination Station and manages 1,000,000 square feet of warehousing, including a Foreign Trade Zone, located just minutes from JAXPORT.

# On the Road Again: Transportation

Navigating your way around a new town doesn't need to be difficult. Below is all the information you need to get around the First Coast.



Photo by Ryan Ketterman, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

## ROADS

Alternative names for some of our major roadways:

**U.S. 1** also known as ... New Kings Road, Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Philips Highway and Dixie Highway

**U.S. 17** also known as ... Main Street, Roosevelt Boulevard and Park Avenue

**U.S. 90** also known as ... State Road 212 and Beach Boulevard

**State Road 10** also known as ... Atlantic Boulevard

**State Road 13** also known as ... Hendricks Avenue and San Jose Boulevard

**State Road 202** also known as ... J. Turner Butler Boulevard or Butler Boulevard or JTB

**State Road A1A** also known as ... Jimmy Buffet Memorial Highway

**I-295** East Beltway formerly known as ... State Road 9A

## TOLL ROADS

First Coast drivers who wish to use toll roads need to buy a SunPass or E-PASS. Drivers can use either pass to navigate through any state or local toll roads, along with express lanes.

### SunPass

[www.SunPass.com](http://www.SunPass.com)

SunPasses are issued by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). SunPasses can be purchased online, over the phone or at several convenient retailers such as Publix, Walgreens and CVS.

### E-PASS

<https://epass.cfxway.com>

E-PASS is the Central Florida Expressway Authority's electronic toll collection system. Each time you pass

through a toll, the fee is deducted from your prepaid E-PASS account. Funds can be added to an E-PASS account using cash or a debit or credit card. E-PASS is available to purchase online, over the phone or at the E-PASS Service Center in Orlando.

### First Coast Expressway (State Road 23)

[www.nflroads.com/FirstCoastExpressway.aspx](http://www.nflroads.com/FirstCoastExpressway.aspx)

This multi-lane, limited-access toll road will cross parts of Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties upon completion. Those with a SunPass will be able to pass through electronic toll gantries without stopping.

The segments on the First Coast Expressway are:

- I-10 to N. Argyle Forest Blvd.
- North of Argyle Forest Blvd. to Blanding Blvd.
- SR 21 to North of SR 16
- North of SR 16 to East of CR 209

- New St. Johns River Bridge
- East of CR 16A Spur to I-95

### I-295 Express Lanes

<https://nflroads.com/NorthFloridaExpress>

The express toll lanes on I-295 West stretch over four miles starting at I-95 to the Buckman Bridge. Express lanes along I-295 East stretch from JTB to SR 9B. Future projects include I-95 from International Golf Parkway to I-95/I-295 South Interchange and I-95 from JTB to Atlantic Boulevard.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

### Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)

[www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com)

JTA provides various mass transit services for the public in Duval County, including paratransit for the disabled and elderly, and Ride Request on-demand services.

**Bus** – JTA manages all bus services in the greater Jacksonville area. The JTA website features updated information about each route daily, including a specific time for each stop.

**Connexion (Paratransit)** – The paratransit service provides destination-to-destination shared transportation for disabled and disadvantaged individuals. JTA provides this service to supplement fixed bus routes around the city in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Connexion Plus is for eligible customers who want private, same-day, door-to-door service anywhere in Duval County.

**Park-n-Ride** – Created to make going to downtown Jacksonville a breeze, this coordinated JTA effort has designated lots around the city with express service to downtown. The Stadium Shuttle provides transportation to and from the stadium for major sporting events.

**ReadiRide** – Offered by JTA through Owl Inc., ReadiRide is an on-call service that provides affordable transportation to customers in 15 Jacksonville communities. Download the MyJTA app for more information and payment options.

**Skyway** – This free automated train allows riders to glide high above traffic for convenient access around downtown Jacksonville. There are eight train stations, and trains depart every four minutes during peak hours (6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.) and every eight minutes during off-peak hours.

### Other JTA Regional Services

[www.jtafla.com/transit-services/fixed-route-bus-service/regional-services/](http://www.jtafla.com/transit-services/fixed-route-bus-service/regional-services/)

JTA partners with all neighboring counties to provide a seamless ride to your destination, even if that destination isn't in Duval County.

**Baker Transit:** In Baker County, the Wildcat Shuttle is operated by the Baker County Council on Aging.

**Clay Community Transportation (CCT):** CCT provides an easy, affordable and flexible way to get around Clay County.

**Clay Express Select:** Clay Express Select offers commuters an executive-style, affordable ride between Clay County and the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center at LaVilla in downtown Jacksonville.

**Nassau Express Select:** Through JTA and NassauTRANSIT, Nassau Express Select offers travelers an executive-style ride back and forth from Nassau County to downtown Jacksonville.

**St. Johns Express Select:** Operated by JTA, St. Johns Express Select offers commuters an executive-style, affordable ride between the

St. Johns County Government Center and the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center at LaVilla in downtown Jacksonville.

### Sunshine Bus Company (St. Johns County)

[www.sunshinebus.net](http://www.sunshinebus.net)

The Sunshine Bus Company is St. Johns County's public transit and offers a deviated fixed route line with nine different routes throughout the county. A paratransit door-to-door service is also available for those that need a wheelchair lift or extra assistance, provided by the St. Johns County Council on Aging.

## AERONAUTICAL

### Jacksonville Aviation Authority

[www.flyjacksonville.com](http://www.flyjacksonville.com)

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority owns and operates Jacksonville International Airport, Cecil Airport, Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport and Herlong Recreational Airport.

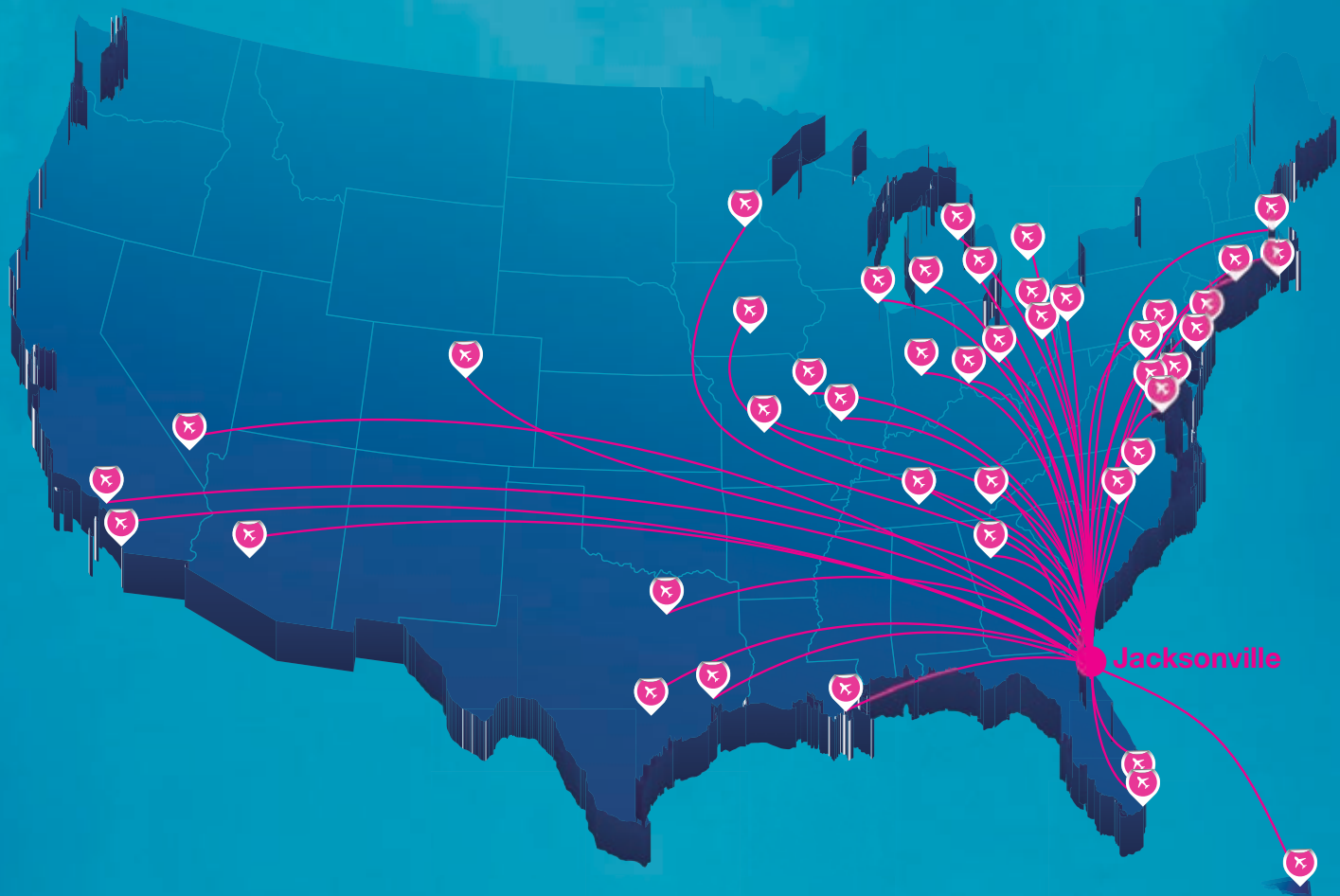
### Jacksonville International Airport (JAX)

Northeast Florida's only major airport serves as the gateway to the First Coast region and neighboring areas. JAX provides non-stop flights to major U.S. airports, many of which go international. Only 12

**“Northeast Florida’s only major airport serves as the gateway to the First Coast region and neighboring areas.”**



Downtown Highway, photo by Stephanie Marty



**JAX**

Jacksonville  
International  
Airport

Please go to [flyjax.com](http://flyjax.com) for a current list of direct flights.

Akron-Canton  
Atlanta  
Austin  
Baltimore  
Belleville  
Boston  
Charlotte  
Chicago  
(Midway, O'Hare)  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus

(Columbus International,  
Rickenbacker International)

Dallas  
(Love Field, Ft. Worth)  
Denver  
Des Moines  
Detroit  
Flint  
Ft. Lauderdale  
Grand Rapids  
Harrisburg  
Hartford  
Houston  
(Hobby, George Bush Intercontinental)

Indianapolis  
Kansas City  
Knoxville  
Las Vegas  
Los Angeles  
Miami  
Minneapolis  
Nashville  
New Haven  
New Orleans  
New York  
(LaGuardia, JFK)  
Newark

Norfolk  
Philadelphia  
Phoenix  
Pittsburgh  
Providence  
Raleigh-Durham  
San Diego  
San Juan, PR  
St. Louis  
Toronto, CAN  
Washington, D.C.  
(Reagan, Dulles)

miles from downtown Jacksonville, the airport offers free in-terminal Wi-Fi, live entertainment, shops and restaurants.

#### **Cecil Airport (VQQ)**

Cecil Airport is a public joint civil-military airport and spaceport that services military aircraft, corporate aircraft, general aviation and air cargo.

#### **Herlong Recreational Airport (HEG)**

Perfect for aviation enthusiasts, this small-scale airport on Jacksonville's Westside is used for light sport and recreational flying, including skydiving, helicopters, glider airplanes and more. Additional services include flight training, aircraft sales and maintenance.

#### **Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport (JAXEX)**

This mid-sized corporate airport in the Arlington neighborhood provides convenient access to corporate travelers flying in and out of the city and offers a slew of services including flight training and an 18-hole golf course.

#### **Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport (FMBA)**

[www.fbfl.us/66/airport](http://www.fbfl.us/66/airport)

In Nassau County, the Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport is operated by the City of Fernandina Beach and serves Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach.

#### **Keystone Heights Airport (42J)**

<https://keystoneairport.com/>

This airport serves travelers in Clay and Bradford counties and is located 50 miles southwest of Jacksonville.

#### **St. Augustine Airport (KSGJ or UST)**

[www.flynf.com](http://www.flynf.com)

This St. Johns County airport is just a few miles from historic downtown St. Augustine. Operated by the St. Johns County Airport Authority, the public facility is centered in a gateway market of 4.4 million passengers within a two-hour drive to the airport.

### **RAILROAD**

#### **Amtrak (Passenger)**

[www.amtrak.com/stations/jax](http://www.amtrak.com/stations/jax)

Amtrak provides passenger rail service in Jacksonville with a station near New Kings Road. The Amtrak station is open daily and provides rail service throughout the U.S.

### **NAUTICAL**

#### **JAXPORT Cruise Service**

[www.jaxport.com/cruise](http://www.jaxport.com/cruise)

If you're looking for a tropical getaway, Carnival Cruise Line's 2,190-passenger Carnival Elation



St. Johns River Ferry, photo by Stephanie Mary



JTA, photo by Diana Ferguson



Skwexy, photo by Stephanie Mary

departs from the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal. Starting mid-2025, Norwegian Cruise Line now offers seasonal service to the Eastern Caribbean and Bahamas from the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal.

#### **St. Johns River Ferry/JTA Ferry**

[www.jtafla.com/transit-services/st-johns-river-ferry/](http://www.jtafla.com/transit-services/st-johns-river-ferry/)

The St. Johns River Ferry, also known as the Mayport Ferry or the JTA Ferry, is a car and passenger boat that connects the north and south ends of State Road A1A in Duval County, linking

Mayport Village and Fort George Island via a scenic ride across the beautiful St. Johns River.

#### **St. Johns River Taxi & Tours**

[www.jaxrivertaxi.com](http://www.jaxrivertaxi.com)

St. Johns River Taxi & Tours provides transportation across the St. Johns River in beautiful downtown Jacksonville. Special services and hours are provided for Jaguars games and other downtown events. The river taxi makes numerous stops along the St. Johns River, including the Friendship Fountain Dock, Arena Dock and Riverside Dock.

# First Coast Bridges

With the St. Johns River and Intracoastal Waterway winding through the First Coast, our many bridges serve as the links that connect Northeast Florida together.



Acosta Bridge, photo by Stephanie Marty

## Acosta Bridge

Connects the Southbank to  
Downtown/Riverside

## Bridge of Lions

Connects Historic St. Augustine  
to Anastasia Island



Bridge of Lions, photo courtesy of St. Johns County

Buckman Bridge, photo by Diana Ferguson



## Buckman Bridge

Connects Mandarin to  
Orange Park

Dames Point Bridge, photo by Ryan Parker, courtesy of Unsplash



### Dames Point Bridge

Connects Arlington to Northside

## More Bridges Throughout the Region

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| FEC Strauss Trunnion Bascule Bridge  | Mickler O'Connell Bridge   |
| Francis and Mary Usina Bridge        | Ortega River Bridge        |
| Intracoastal Waterway Bridge         | Palm Valley Bridge         |
| J. Turner Butler Intracoastal Bridge | Shands Bridge              |
| Julington Creek Bridge               | Thomas J. Shave Jr. Bridge |
| Kingsley Creek RR Swing Bridge       | Trout River Bridge         |
| McCormick Bridge                     | Wonderwood Bridge          |
| Memorial Bridge                      |                            |

### St. Johns River Bridge

Located just south of the two-lane Shands Bridge will be a new four-lane bridge that will cross over the St. Johns River. Expected to be completed in 2030, the new bridge will connect Clay and St. Johns counties as part of the First Coast Expressway and eventually replace the Shands Bridge.

### Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Park Bridge Replicas 101 W. State St., Jacksonville

This downtown park features to-scale replicas of Jacksonville's beautiful bridges. Visitors can walk across miniature versions of the Acosta, Dames Point, Hart, Main Street and Mathews bridges.

**REAL-TIME TRAFFIC INFO 24/7**

**FLORIDA 511**<sup>TM</sup>

Connect. Know. Go.

Log onto **FL511.com** and enjoy these benefits:

- Allows drivers to make better choices about travel plans on Florida's roads.
- Helps keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.
- Covers all **interstates, toll roads, and several state and U.S. routes** in Florida.
- Features **camera snapshot images and video** of road conditions throughout the state.
- Provides information on **congestion, crashes, construction, lane closures, severe weather, and maintenance** activities.

Check **FL511** Before Driving to Avoid Traffic Delays

The **FL511.com** website is a component of the **Florida 511 (FL511) Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS)**, which provides traffic information 24/7 on Florida's roads. The goal is to increase safety and reduce travel time on Florida's roads and highways.

Mathews & Hart Bridges, photo by Stephanie Marty



**Hart Bridge**

Connects Southside to  
Downtown

**&**

**Mathews Bridge**

Connects Arlington to  
Downtown

**Fuller Warren  
Bridge (I-95)**

Connects Riverside to San Marco



Fuller Warren Bridge, photo by Trevor Neely, courtesy of Unsplash

**Main Street Bridge  
(John T. Alsop Jr.  
Bridge)**

Connects San Marco to  
Downtown



Main Street Bridge, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

# PLAY

The Play Section has everything you need to know about relaxing and having fun here on the First Coast.



# Where Tides Meet the Coast: First Coast Beaches and Waterways



Photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

One of the greatest joys of life on the First Coast is endless access to some of Florida's most breathtaking beaches and sparkling waterways. Here, salty ocean breezes mingle with sunshine, and soft sand invites you to slow down and enjoy the moment. Whether you're soaking up the sun, combing the shoreline for shells, building sandcastles or riding the waves, the First Coast sets the scene for the ultimate beach day.

## BEACHES

### DUVAL COUNTY

#### Atlantic Beach

Duval County's northernmost beach community, Atlantic Beach offers a relaxed, laid-back coastal charm. The nearby historic fishing village of Mayport is celebrated for its rich shrimping heritage. Nestled between Atlantic Beach and Mayport, Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park invites visitors to enjoy seaside camping, fishing and surfing surrounded by natural beauty.



Jacksonville Beach, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville

#### Jacksonville Beach

Situated between Neptune Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach, Jacksonville (Jax) Beach stretches 60 blocks along the Atlantic Ocean. With multiple public access points, it's a favorite

destination for tourists and local sunseekers alike. The iconic Jax Beach Pier offers anglers a prime spot to cast a line and watch the waves roll in.

#### Neptune Beach

Just north of Jax Beach, this mile-long shoreline offers a perfect blend of coastal living and recreation. Residents and visitors can bike along the coast, relax under the sun or catch a wave in this inviting seaside setting.

### NASSAU COUNTY

#### Fernandina Beach

As the First Coast's northernmost beach, Fernandina Beach is a haven for seashell hunters and coastal explorers. It's also known for its horseback riding tours, allowing visitors and residents to experience the shoreline from a truly unforgettable perspective.

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**Crescent Beach**

Located south of St. Augustine on Anastasia Island, Crescent Beach takes its name from the graceful curve of its coastline. Its firm, hardpacked sand makes it ideal for bike riding, horseback riding and spirited games of beach volleyball.

**North Beach**

Just north of the Vilano Bridge on A1A, North Beach offers a tranquil coastal escape. Visitors can enjoy convenient amenities including boat ramps, showers and public parking, making it easy to spend the day by the water.

**Ponte Vedra Beach**

This understated beach just south of Jax Beach features numerous access points and a peaceful atmosphere. It's a favorite spot for searching for seashells and shark teeth. Mickler's Landing, tucked along the southern stretch, is especially popular with surfers and families.

**St. Augustine Beach**

St. Augustine Beach offers everything needed for a lively day by the sea, including a fishing pier, pavilion, splash park and beach volleyball courts, all set against a backdrop of rolling waves.

**Vilano Beach**

Located north of the Matanzas Inlet, Vilano Beach features a scenic dune walkover and four-wheel-drive beach access. Its oceanfront location brings stronger currents, making it a popular destination for surfing, paddleboarding and skim boarding.

**WATERWAYS**

**The Intracoastal**

Separating Jacksonville's Southside from the beaches, the Intracoastal Waterway winds nearly 40 miles through the First Coast. With its mix of saltwater inlets, sounds and man-made canals, it offers endless opportunities for recreational boating and waterfront adventures.



Micklers Landing, photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com

**St. Johns River**

Florida's longest river flows through the heart of the First Coast, stretching 310 miles from Mayport to Indian River County. Residents enjoy kayaking, boating and fishing along its scenic waters. The Riverwalk in downtown Jacksonville provides a picturesque path for walking or jogging, with frequent sightings of manatees and dolphins.

**Other First Coast Rivers**

Additional rivers throughout the First Coast support year-round fishing, boating and outdoor recreation. In St. Johns County, the Guana and Tolomato rivers frame the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuary Research Reserve. Along the Amelia River, boaters can admire the historic beauty of Fort Clinch State Park. In St. Augustine, cruising Matanzas Bay and the Matanzas River reveals iconic sights such as the Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine Lighthouse and Castillo de San Marcos.

Fernandina Beach, photo courtesy of Ameliainland.com



Guana Tolomato Matanzas overlook, photo courtesy of St. Johns County

**“Mickler’s Landing, tucked along the southern stretch, is especially popular with surfers and families.”**



Photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

## The Great Outdoors: State Parks & Preserves

If you're looking to connect with and enjoy the serenity of nature, the First Coast is the perfect place. The First Coast is home to 80,000 acres of parks, including nine state parks, a national forest and national wildlife refuge. Enjoy a stroll through beautiful gardens and nature preserves or spend some time at one of the more than 400 urban parks. Many of the parks and preserves have options for water activities like fishing or canoeing and trails for biking, walking or horseback riding.

### BAKER COUNTY

#### John M. Bethea State Forest

On more than 37,000 acres, the John M. Bethea State Forest is home to numerous animal species, including bald eagles, black bears, white-tailed deer and the ever-present alligators. There is also a seven-mile horse loop, areas open for fishing and hunting and three miles of the St. Johns River for a scenic river hike.

#### Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

With more than 400,000 acres of land, it's no surprise that the refuge is home to over 400 species of wildlife. While the refuge is primarily located in Georgia, a portion of the land

claims space in Baker County. The area is a great location for camping, hiking and boating.

#### Osceola National Forest

The Osceola National Forest is perfect for those looking to hunt, hike, camp or fish. Visitors also enjoy the horseback riding trails. The more than 200,000 acres of flatwoods and swamps have plenty of options for every type of adventurer.

### CLAY COUNTY

#### Jennings State Forest

In northern Clay County, Jennings State Forest gives visitors the chance to experience several different ecosystems, hike and bike along trails, fish or go horseback riding. The

forest is over 25,300 acres and has several recreational areas.

#### Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

In the 1930s, this 600-acre area was established as one of Florida's first state parks. The rolling sandhills, ravines, springs and other ecosystems offer a wide array of activities like canoeing, swimming and hiking.

### DUVAL-BEACHES

#### Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

With a mile and a half of gorgeous beaches, a 60-acre lake and over 20 miles of hiking and biking trails, Hanna Park is the ideal location for a day outside. Visitors can also

spot some local wildlife, including alligators, foxes and various birds. Sea turtle nesting is from May to October.

### DUVAL-NORTH

#### Amelia Island State Park

Containing picturesque beaches, salty marshes and magnificent forests, this state park is great for anyone looking to go horseback riding or wanting to search for shark teeth and shells while walking along the white sandy beach.

#### Big Talbot Island State Park

Home to Boneyard Beach, named for the skeletons of live oak and cedar trees that once grew along the shoreline, Big Talbot Island is

a beautiful beach with hiking trails that lead to the shore, marsh and maritime forest.

**Fort George Island Cultural State Park**

Originally home to Fort George, this state park is now a beautiful destination for people wanting to spend some time on the water boating or fishing or enjoy a hike around the island. Also on the property is the Ribault Club, a museum and event venue that highlights the history and beauty of Fort George Island.

**George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park**

Head to one of the top fishing areas on the First Coast with this mile-long, pedestrian-only bridge that leads to a variety of fish such as tarpon, whiting, jake and drum.

**Little Talbot Island State Park**

Made up of five miles of pristine beaches and three miles of biking trails, Little Talbot Island is one of the last remaining barrier islands on the First Coast. Camping, kayak rentals and paddle tours are available for visitors.

**Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park**

Threatened and endangered species like the American alligator and wood stork, respectively, and various other flora and fauna call the state park home due to the protective nature of the longleaf pine flatwoods. Visitors can bike, hike or ride horses along the more than 15 miles of trails.

**Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve**

Merging history with nature, this preserve is home to a variety of plants and animals, as well as Fort Caroline and the Kingsley Plantation. Within the 46,000 acres, visitors will find the St. Johns River, multiple tributaries, wetlands, dunes, hardwood hammocks and salt marshes. Monuments and historical structures can be found along the hiking trails.

**NASSAU COUNTY**

**Cary State Forest**

Established in 1937 as Florida's second state forest, Cary State is comprised of 11 ecosystems and is home to endangered and threatened

species such as the gopher tortoise, Sherman's fox squirrel and wood stork. Visitors can camp, hike, hunt or go horseback riding within the forest.

**Four Creeks State Forest**

Aptly named for the four water systems located within the over 10,000 acres, Boggy, Plummer, Thomas and Alligator (Mills), Four Creeks State Forest is a great spot for water-based activities such as kayaking and fishing.

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**Anastasia State Park**

With over 1,600 acres of beaches, sand dunes, marshes and hammocks, this state park offers space for an

array of activities like camping, biking, birdwatching and more.

**Faver-Dykes State Park**

Nature lovers can find a reprieve at this state park, which is home to more than 100 species of native and migratory birds, creeks, tidal marshes and forests. Faver-Dykes is a great place for camping and various water-related activities.

**Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve**

This connection of freshwater and saltwater mixes, thus creating a unique and diverse habitat for several species. This estuary is one of 30 in the nation and is comprised of over



Dillon Island Preserve, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville



Seven Creeks, photo by Jason Milton, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

76,000 acres of land, with nine miles of trails and places for fishing and kayaking.

**Matanzas State Forest**

Home to the last undisturbed salt marshes on the Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, this state forest is home to a variety of species, such as bald eagles, deer, otters, hogs and songbirds. Visitors can explore the area in a myriad of ways, including hiking, biking, kayaking and horseback riding.



Castaway Island Preserve, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville

## Top 5 Neighborhood Parks and Preserves

The First Coast is home to hundreds of locally managed parks and preserves. Check out these five parks that offer a serene spot to relax in nature.

### Bird Island Park

101 Library Rd.,  
Ponte Vedra Beach

### Castaway Island Preserve

2921 San Pablo Rd. S.,  
Jacksonville

### Dutton Island Park

793 Dutton Island Rd. W.,  
Atlantic Beach

### Tide Views Preserve

1 Begonia St., Atlantic Beach

### Tommy Hazouri, Sr. Park

14780 Mandarin Rd., Jacksonville

## Geocaching: Find Real-World Treasure on the First Coast

Often referred to as “the great outdoor GPS-based hide-and-seek game,” geocaching is a simple, fun way to explore the First Coast. Armed with your phone or GPS and app, you can search for caches hidden throughout the area. Once you’ve found your treasure, simply sign the book, trade an item if you’d like, replace the cache and log your find on the app. With thousands of caches hidden anywhere from beaches to parks and everywhere in between, this real-world treasure hunt will help you learn your new terrain in no time.

Black Creek Trail  
*Fleming Island*

EarthCache  
[www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)

Fort Clinch State Park  
Fernandina Beach

Waymarking  
[www.waymarking.com](http://www.waymarking.com)

Howell Park  
*Atlantic Beach*

First Coast Geocachers FB Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1630177707250004/>

Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park  
*Keystone Heights*

Operation Recreation Geotour  
[www.floridastateparks.org/GeoTour](http://www.floridastateparks.org/GeoTour)

### Geocaching Websites:

Geocaching  
[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

SJRWMD Geocache  
<http://webapub.sjrwm.com/agws10/geocaching/>

## Jogging Paths & Yoga Spots

While our many parks and preserves are great places for joggers and yoga enthusiasts, there are also many spots to visit throughout the First Coast for a peaceful run or relaxing yoga session. If going to a preserve or state park for a hike or a yoga session isn't an option, the First Coast also has great jogging paths and yoga spots to help residents find their inner peace.



Photo courtesy of Pexels

### JOGGING PATHS

#### CLAY COUNTY

##### Bayard Conservation Area Loop

- 10.5 miles

##### Black Creek Trail

- 8 miles

##### Camp Chowenwaw Park Trail

- 2.3 miles

##### Nine Lives Trail

- .7 miles

#### DUVAL COUNTY

##### Jacksonville Baldwin Rail Trail

- 14.5 miles

##### Main Street Bridge & Acosta Bridge Loop

- 1.7 miles

##### Robert W. Loftin Nature Trails at UNF

- Big Cypress Trail - .47 miles
- Blueberry Trail - 1.44 miles
- Goldenrod Trail - 2.85 miles
- Gopher Tortoise Ridge - .78 miles
- Red Maple Boardwalk - .31 miles
- Southbank Riverwalk - 1.25 miles

#### NASSAU COUNTY

##### Amelia Island Trail

- 8.7 miles

##### Egan's Creek Greenway Trail

- 5 miles

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

##### Alpine Groves Park Trail

- 1.5 miles

##### Gourd Island White to Red Loop

- 4.3 miles

##### Nocatee Greenway Trails

- Darter Trail - 2 miles
- Eagle Trail - 3 miles
- Egret Trail - 1 mile

- Heron Trail - 2.5 miles
- Herring Trail - 2 miles
- Nocatee Preserve Trail - 4.1 miles
- Osprey Trail - 6.4 miles
- Peacock Trail - 4 miles
- Pelican Trail - 2.15 miles
- Seagull Trail - 3.5 miles
- Spoonbill Trail - 1 mile

### OUTDOOR YOGA

#### CLAY COUNTY

##### Spring Park Pavilion

*Green Cove Springs*

#### DUVAL COUNTY

##### Riverside Arts Market Morning Yoga

*Riverside Arts Market's River Stage*

##### Yoga in the Gardens

*Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens*

##### Yoga in the Park

*Memorial Park*

##### Yoga Lawn at RiversEdge

*Southbank Riverwalk*

##### Yoga on the Beach

*Jacksonville Beach Pier*

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

##### Beach Yoga by Pilates Yoga Loft

*Vilano Beach*

##### Yoga in the Garden

*Lightner Museum Radzinski Family Garden*

##### Yoga on the Lawn

*Ximenez-Fatio House Museum*

# The First Coast Through Time: Historical Sites & Museums

Human history on the First Coast reaches back thousands of years, long before the city took shape along the St. Johns River. Archaeological findings show continuous habitation dating to at least 2500 B.C., with the Timucuan tribes developing complex societies across the river's estuaries and inland wetlands. Their villages formed a network of political and cultural influence throughout the area.



St. Augustine Lighthouse, photo courtesy of St. Johns County

In 1513, Juan Ponce de León became the first recorded European to land on the Florida peninsula, claiming it for Spain and naming it La Florida. His arrival marked the beginning of more than two centuries of Spanish presence in the region, shaping the political and cultural landscape that would eventually encompass the Jacksonville area.

In 1564, French Huguenots led by René Goulaine de Laudonnière built Fort Caroline on the St. Johns Bluff. The settlement represented one of the earliest European attempts at colonization north of Mexico. Spain viewed the French presence as a direct threat. In September 1565, Spanish forces captured Fort Caroline, eliminating the French colony and solidifying Spanish control over the region.

Spain strengthened its hold in 1565 with the founding of St. Augustine by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. As the oldest continuously occupied European-established city in the continental United States, St. Augustine became the administrative and military center of Spanish Florida. Its establishment also set the stage for conflict with France, which had attempted to establish its own foothold just a year earlier.

After the United States acquired Florida in 1821, American settlers established a small community at a narrow crossing of the St. Johns River known as Cow Ford. The settlement was renamed Jacksonville in 1822 in honor of Andrew Jackson, and it soon became the seat of Duval County. By the mid-19th century, the town had grown into an active port and commercial center.

The Civil War brought turmoil. Jacksonville changed hands multiple times and endured repeated occupations by Union forces. Yet the decades that followed marked a period of reinvention. Rail expansion and a booming winter tourism industry transformed the city into a destination for travelers seeking warm weather and resort amenities. Grand hotels, theaters and civic institutions reshaped the urban core.

That progress was abruptly interrupted on May 3, 1901, when the Great Fire swept through downtown, destroying more than 2,000 buildings in one of the largest urban fires in American history. The rebuilding effort, however, became a catalyst for architectural innovation. Renowned designers helped redefine the city's skyline, leaving a legacy still visible today.



Castillo cannon-soldiers hat tip, photo courtesy of St. Johns County

In the early 20th century, Jacksonville briefly emerged as the "Winter Film Capital of the World" before the studios migrated west to California. The mid-century brought new challenges, but the establishment of major U.S. Navy installations

Fort Clinch State Park, photo courtesy of Ameliassland.com



Photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

beginning in the 1940s anchored the local economy and spurred population growth.

A pivotal moment came in 1968, when Jacksonville and Duval County consolidated their governments. The move created one of the nation's largest cities by land area and streamlined public services during a period of urban decline.

Today, the First Coast stands as a diverse metropolitan region shaped by Indigenous heritage, colonial conflict, military influence and cycles of reinvention. Its history continues to unfold along the banks of the St. Johns River, where centuries of cultural layers remain visible in the area's neighborhoods, institutions and evolving identity.

**BAKER COUNTY**

**Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park**  
**5815 Battlefield Trail Rd., Olustee**  
**[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)**

For five hours on Feb. 20, 1864, cavalry, infantry and artillery troops totaling more than 10,000 fought in the largest Civil War battle in Florida, known as the Battle of Olustee. The battle ended with a Union retreat to Jacksonville and 2,807 casualties. The battlefield became the state's first historic site in 1912. The state park pays tribute to the battle, and each February, volunteers honor those who fought in the battle with a reenactment. Scenes from the film "Glory" were filmed during one such reenactment.

**Heritage Park Village**

**102 S. Lowder St., Macclenny**  
**<https://macclenny.webpropsites.com/heritage-park/>**

Heritage Park Village is a unique collection of 20 small museums that celebrate Baker County's history. The village includes a trading post, jail, train depot and chapel. The site also includes the Burnsed Blockhouse, the last of its kind in Florida, which was used as a defensive structure.

**CLAY COUNTY**

**Clay County Historic Museum & Triangle**  
**915 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs**  
**[www.claycountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.claycountyhistoricalsociety.org)**

Clay County's rich history is promoted and preserved at the Clay County Historic Museum & Triangle. Visitors can view the many exhibits that cover everyday life, including a country store, an early kitchen, a bank vault, a real printing press and many other unique items of historical interest. The Triangle includes the 1890 courthouse, haunted jail, bicentennial time capsule and the TAPS Military Monument.

**DUVAL-BEACHES**

**Beaches Museum**  
**381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach**  
**[www.beachmuseum.org](http://www.beachmuseum.org)**

With permanent and ever-changing exhibits, a 1911 steam locomotive and the History Park tours, guests can get a glimpse of what it was like to live at the beaches in the early 20th century. The museum also hosts events such as Children's Art Day, Boardwalk Talks and The Beaches Museum Concert Series.



TAPS Military Monument, photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

Castillo de San Marcos, photo by James Caldwell

Fort Matanzas, photo courtesy of St. Johns County



USS Orleck, photo by Stephanie Marty



Harvey farm at Camp Milton, photo by Diana Ferguson

**DUVAL-NORTH**

**Fort Caroline National Memorial**  
 12713 Fort Caroline Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Established in 1564, the Fort Caroline National Memorial pays tribute to the brief French Huguenot presence in the 16th century. Visitors can tour the replica of the fort or venture into the Timucuan Preserve.

**Norman Studios**  
 6337 Arlington Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.normanstudios.org](http://www.normanstudios.org)

As the only surviving silent film studio complex on the First Coast, Norman Studios is a callback to the days when the area was used as the “Winter Film Capital of the World.”

**Ribault Club, The**  
 11241 Fort George Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.theribaultclub.com](http://www.theribaultclub.com)

Originally meant as a getaway for affluent families, The Ribault Club now serves as a museum for the history of Fort George Island.

**Yellow Bluff Fort Historic State Park**  
 9400 New Berlin Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)

While there was never an actual fort on Yellow Bluff, this site was a fortified encampment that served as an important access point to inland Florida during the Civil War for both Union and Confederate troops. At its peak, it housed more than 250 soldiers.

**DUVAL-SOUTH**

**Brumos Collection, The**  
 5159 San Pablo Rd. S., Jacksonville  
[www.thebrumoscollection.com](http://www.thebrumoscollection.com)

This thoughtfully designed display, filled with Porsche racecars from as far back as 1953 and digital kiosks that allow you to explore each car, celebrates automotive innovation and the glory days of the Brumos Racing team.

**Hands On Children’s Museum**  
 8580 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.handsonchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.handsonchildrensmuseum.org)

Kids between 1 and 12 are able to enjoy hands-on learning intended to develop their cognitive, social

and physical abilities at over 20 fun and educational exhibits featured here.

**Historic Mandarin Store and Post Office**  
 12471 Mandarin Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.mandarinmuseum.org/visit/store-and-post-office](http://www.mandarinmuseum.org/visit/store-and-post-office)

Selling everything from canned goods to meat, animal feed, penny candy and more, the Mandarin Store and Post Office was the hub of the village from 1911 to 1964. It was restored in 1998 and displays include some of the original furnishings and other memorabilia.

**Mandarin Museum & Historical Society**  
 11964 Mandarin Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.mandarinmuseum.org](http://www.mandarinmuseum.org)

Made up of multiple buildings, permanent and temporary exhibits, the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society highlights the history and culture of the Mandarin area. Visit the St. Joseph’s Mission Schoolhouse for African American Children or take a moment to learn about abolitionist and author Harriet Beecher Stowe.

A.L. Lewis Museum, photo courtesy of Ameliasland.com



Amelia Island Lighthouse, photo courtesy of Ameliasland.com



**DUVAL-WEST**

**Camp Milton Historic Preserve**  
 1175 Halsema Rd. N., Jacksonville  
[www.timucuanparks.org](http://www.timucuanparks.org)

This former Civil War encampment features a state-of-the-art education center with Civil War artifacts, McGirts Creek Bridge, reenactments and an authentic 1800s farmstead.

**Durkeeville Historical Society & Museum**  
 1293 W. 19th St., Jacksonville  
[www.durkeevillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.durkeevillehistoricalsociety.org)

During the Jim Crow era, Durkeeville served as a community for African Americans. The museum includes artifacts and exhibits covering that period of racial segregation.

**Eartha M. M. White Historical Museum and Gardens**  
 613 W. Ashley St., Jacksonville  
<https://clarawhitemission.org/new-page-1>

Clara White, former slave, and Eartha White, humanitarian, served food to and sheltered those in need beginning in the 1880s. This museum commemorates their selfless efforts towards reducing and preventing homelessness and hunger, a mission that is continued today.

**USS Orleck Naval Museum**  
 610 E. Bay St., Jacksonville  
<https://fhnsa.org/>

Visit the USS Orleck and the floating naval museum that honors the U.S. Navy and their efforts in the Cold, Vietnam and Korean wars.

**Merrill House Museum**  
 319 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.jaxhistory.org/merrill-museum-house-tours](http://www.jaxhistory.org/merrill-museum-house-tours)

Experience early 1900s middle-class life with a tour at the Merrill House Museum, a fully furnished Queen Anne-Eastlake Victorian home.

**Ritz Theatre and Museum**  
 829 N. Davis St., Jacksonville  
<https://theritz.jaxevents.com>

Acting as both a working venue and museum, the Ritz honors the LaVilla neighborhood, also referred to as the “Harlem of the South.” Visitors can attend shows or enjoy learning about part of Jacksonville’s history from the 1920s to the 1960s, including a permanent exhibit honoring John Rosamond and James Weldon Johnson, writers of the African American National Anthem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.”

**Veterans Memorial Wall**  
 1145 E. Adams St., Jacksonville  
[www.jacksonville.gov](http://www.jacksonville.gov)

Honoring the more than 1,700 fallen heroes from the First Coast who fell from World War I to the War on Terror, the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall was first dedicated in 1995 and rededicated on its 20th anniversary in 2015. This memorial is the second-largest veterans memorial wall in the nation and is the only wall that recognizes Veterans from all seven military branches.

**NASSAU COUNTY**

**A.L. Lewis Museum**  
 1600 Julia St., Fernandina Beach  
<https://allewismuseum.org>

This museum gives visitors a glimpse into the lives of African Americans living on Amelia Island during the Jim Crow era and their resilience and perseverance to triumph over segregation and racial discrimination.

**Amelia Island Lighthouse**  
 215 O’Hagan Ln., Fernandina Beach  
[www.fbfl.us](http://www.fbfl.us)

Built in 1828, this lighthouse is the state’s oldest lighthouse and the only one left from the Territorial Period that has not required major restoration.

**Amelia Island Museum of History**  
 233 S. 3rd St., Fernandina Beach  
[www.amelimuseum.org](http://www.amelimuseum.org)

Cover 4,000 years of Amelia Island history at this museum, with information on the Timucua tribe all the way to the Victorian era. Visitors can explore history in a variety of ways, including a pub crawl, ghost tour, walking tours and school tours.

**Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park**  
 Estrada St., Fernandina Beach  
[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)

Located where Fort San Carlos once stood, this state park offers a gorgeous view of the river and the homes that have replaced the fort. Measuring at about 0.8 acres, this state park is the smallest in Florida.



**Fort Clinch State Park**

2601 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach  
[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)

Explore the rooms, galleries and grounds of Fort Clinch, a Union stronghold during the Civil War. Visitors can also enjoy the beautiful surroundings including maritime hammocks with live oaks, trails for biking and hiking, and the many species that call this area home. Popular activities here include camping, fishing, shelling and shark-tooth hunting.

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**Castillo de San Marcos National Monument**

1 S. Castillo Dr., St. Augustine  
[www.nps.gov/casa](http://www.nps.gov/casa)

The oldest masonry fort in the U.S., Castillo de San Marcos was built to protect Spanish claims on the New World. Visitors can walk through the fort, experience exhibits and enjoy reenactments exploring more than 450 years of cultural intersections.

**Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine**

38 Cathedral Pl., St. Augustine  
[www.thefirstparish.org](http://www.thefirstparish.org)

Visitors to the cathedral are welcome to take guided tours of the oldest Catholic church in St. Augustine and the oldest parish in the country.

**Colonial Quarter**

14 S. Castillo Dr., St. Augustine  
[www.colonialquarter.com](http://www.colonialquarter.com)

Get the full colonial experience at the Colonial Quarter, where visitors can take tours through history, learn about blacksmithing, watch a live musket demonstration or even climb the 35-foot watchtower.

**Flagler’s Legacy Tours**

59 St. George St., St. Augustine  
<https://legacy.flagler.edu>

Take a tour of Flagler College, originally built as the Hotel Ponce de León by developer Henry Flagler in 1888. Visitors can explore the most celebrated spaces of the former hotel, including the Rotunda, Courtyard, Dining Hall and Flagler Room.

**Fort Matanzas National Monument**

8635 A1A S., St. Augustine  
[www.nps.gov/foma](http://www.nps.gov/foma)

Visitors to the fort, built to protect the area from the invading British in the 1740s, can learn about its history and watch reenactments.

**Fort Mose Historic State Park**

15 Fort Mose Trl., St. Augustine  
[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)

Visitors to the fort can take a tour of the Flight to Freedom Trail or enjoy the interactive museum that tells the story of this first sanctioned free African American settlement, established for those fleeing from slavery in the English colonies.

Shrimping exhibit at St. Augustine Lighthouse, photo by Diana Ferguson



**Karpeles Manuscript Library Mini Museum**

106 St. George St., Unit L, St. Augustine  
[www.karpeles.com/visit/st-augustine-mini-museum](http://www.karpeles.com/visit/st-augustine-mini-museum)

This mini Karpeles Manuscript Library is the smallest walk-in museum in the U.S. Visitors can view just a small taste of the historical documents that Karpeles has in their possession.

**Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum**

105 St. George St., St. Augustine  
[www.karpeles.com/visit/st-augustine-florida](http://www.karpeles.com/visit/st-augustine-florida)

This location is the newest addition to the manuscript library and will include rotating exhibits and a garden for visitors to enjoy.

**Lightner Museum**

75 King St., St. Augustine  
[www.lightnermuseum.org](http://www.lightnermuseum.org)

Henry Flagler’s former Hotel Alcazar now serves as a museum that houses several permanent and rotating exhibits that cover fine art, architecture, history and even hosts regular events for visitors.

**Oldest Wooden School House Historic Museum & Gardens**

14 St. George St., St. Augustine  
[www.oldestwoodenschoolhouse.com](http://www.oldestwoodenschoolhouse.com)

Dating back to the early 18th century, the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse offers visitors the chance to experience colonial school life replicated with textbooks, supplies and furniture. After exploring the school and receiving a diploma, visitors can head to the gift shop for some “old school gifts.”

**St. Augustine History Museum**

167 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine  
[www.historictours.com/st-augustine/history-museum](http://www.historictours.com/st-augustine/history-museum)

Learn about different periods of St. Augustine history at this museum. Its exhibits include a Timucuan Indian Village, a replica trading post and information on Henry Flagler’s lasting influence on the city.

**St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum**

100 Red Cox Dr., St. Augustine  
[www.staugustinelighthouse.com](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.com)

An iconic landmark of the First Coast, the lighthouse gives visitors an amazing view of St. Augustine. Climb 219 steps to reach the top or explore the exhibits located in the Keeper’s House.



St. Augustine Lighthouse Keeper’s House, photo by Diana Ferguson

## Historical Sites & Museums

### St. Augustine Old Jail & Oldest Store Museum

167 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine

[www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine/old-jail](http://www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine/old-jail)

Get a glimpse into the daily life of prisoners and the sheriff at the Old Jail, which functioned as inmate housing, the sheriff's residence and the gallows. Nearby, the Oldest Store Museum offers visitors an authentic experience with tour guides acting as clerks to demonstrate their 19th and 20th century wares.

### St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum

12 S. Castillo Dr., St. Augustine

[www.thepiratemuseum.com](http://www.thepiratemuseum.com)

This museum houses over 800 pieces of authentic pirate artifacts that encompass pirate history from the 17th century to present day.

### Villa Zorayda Museum

83 King St., St. Augustine

[www.villazorayda.com](http://www.villazorayda.com)

Built in 1883 as a winter home, this building kickstarted the Moorish architecture revival and has exhibits and self-guided audio tours covering the history of the Zorayda and its life as a casino, restaurant and speakeasy.

Lightner Museum, photo courtesy of St. Johns County



Maritime Museum exhibit, photo by Diana Ferguson

The Peña-Peck House, photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricCoast.com



## For an adventure-filled day, visit these other notable St. Augustine historical sites and museums!

Father Miguel O'Reilly House Museum

32 Aviles St., St. Augustine

[www.oreillyhousefl.org](http://www.oreillyhousefl.org)

Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum

48 King St., St. Augustine

[www.staugustine.ufl.edu/govHouse.html](http://www.staugustine.ufl.edu/govHouse.html)

Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center

102 M L King Ave., St. Augustine

[www.lincolnvillemuseum.org](http://www.lincolnvillemuseum.org)

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios

101 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine

[www.missionandshrine.org](http://www.missionandshrine.org)

Oldest House Museum Complex

14 St. Francis St., St. Augustine

<https://staughs.com>

Peña-Peck House, The

143 St. George St., St. Augustine

[www.penapeckhouse.com](http://www.penapeckhouse.com)

Spanish Military Hospital Museum

3 Aviles St., St. Augustine

[www.smhmuseum.com](http://www.smhmuseum.com)

St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

41 St. George St., St. Augustine

[www.stphotios.org](http://www.stphotios.org)

Ximenez-Fatio House Museum

20 Aviles St., St. Augustine

[www.ximenezfatiohouse.org](http://www.ximenezfatiohouse.org)



First Wednesday Art Walk, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville



Cummer Museum, photo by Ryan Ketterman



Photo by Ryan Ketterman

## A Curated Collection: Art Museums & Events

The First Coast is humming with artistic expression and culture. Our many museums, public art spaces and small galleries are home to everything from paintings and sculptures to contemporary and mixed media art. With art from the gilded age to modern contemporary art pieces, there is something for everybody. Local art walks and art markets also offer a multitude of unique art as well.

### DUVAL-NORTH

**Alexander Brest Gallery**  
2800 University Blvd. N., Phillips  
Fine Arts Bldg., Jacksonville  
[www.ju.edu](http://www.ju.edu)

This multipurpose 2,300-square-foot art gallery located on the Jacksonville University (JU) campus showcases nationally recognized artists as well as emerging JU students in a variety of media.

### DUVAL-WEST

**CoRK Arts District**  
2689 Rosselle St., Jacksonville  
<http://corkartsdistrict.com>

More than 80,000 square feet of art studios and galleries are found at the

corner of Rosselle and King streets. Known as CoRK, the warehouse space is full of a variety of disciplines, including mixed media, painting and photography.

**Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens**  
829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville  
[www.cummermuseum.org](http://www.cummermuseum.org)

Overlooking the banks of the St. Johns River, the First Coast's largest fine arts museum is home to more than 5,000 works of art in its permanent and traveling exhibits.

**Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville**  
333 N. Laura St., Jacksonville  
<https://mocajacksonville.unf.edu>

With nearly 1,000 pieces of art, including sculpture, mixed media, printmaking, photography and painting, MOCA is one of the largest contemporary art museums in the Southeast and features more than 500 artists. Known as the oldest art museum in the region, MOCA is the second contemporary art museum established in the U.S. MOCA celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024.



Cummer Museum, photo by Shawna Dye Cullik, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Photo by Scott A. Drake

**“Known as the oldest art museum in the region, MOCA is the second contemporary art museum established in the U.S.”**

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**Crisp-Ellert Art Museum**  
 48 Sevilla St., St. Augustine  
[www.flagler.edu](http://www.flagler.edu)

Art by local, national and international artists can be found in this museum on the Flagler College campus. This contemporary art museum has numerous exhibits and community programs available.

**First Coast Cultural Center**  
 6000-B Sawgrass Village Cir.,  
 Ponte Vedra Beach  
[www.firstcoastculturalcenter.org](http://www.firstcoastculturalcenter.org)

The First Coast Cultural Center offers educational art programs, exhibits, workshops, events and classes to the Ponte Vedra Beach community.

**Island Art Association**  
 18 N. 2nd St., Fernandina Beach  
<https://islandart.org>

This artist-owned and operated gallery features over 45 local artists and has been open for over 50 years. It offers classes, camps and workshops for youth and adults in the area.

**Lightner Museum**  
 75 King St., St. Augustine  
<https://lightnermuseum.org/>

Founded in 1948 by Otto C. Lightner, the museum offers visitors an immersive experience of art, architecture, history and design from the Gilded Age.

**St. Augustine Art Association**  
 22 Marine St., St. Augustine  
[www.staaa.org](http://www.staaa.org)

For 100 years, the St. Augustine Art Association has provided a rich cultural art experience to the community. With 3,200 square feet of gallery space, there are 500 works in the art association's permanent collection.

**Art Walks and Festivals**

**Artrageous Artwalk**  
 Downtown Fernandina Beach  
<https://islandart.org/special-events>  
*Second Saturday of the month*

**First Friday Artwalk**  
 St. Augustine Historic District  
[www.staaa.org/art-galleries-of-st-augustine](http://www.staaa.org/art-galleries-of-st-augustine)  
*First Friday of the month*

**First Wednesday Art Walk**  
 Downtown Jacksonville  
<https://dtjax.com/artwalk>  
*First Wednesday of the month*

**Jacksonville Porch Fest**  
 Springfield  
<https://www.jacksonvilleporchfest.org/>  
*See website for dates*

**Jax Beach Arts Market**  
 Seawalk Pavilion  
<https://jaxbeachartsmarket.com>  
*See website for dates*

**Mandarin Art Festival**  
 Mandarin Community Club  
[www.mandarinartfestival.org](http://www.mandarinartfestival.org)  
*Easter weekend*

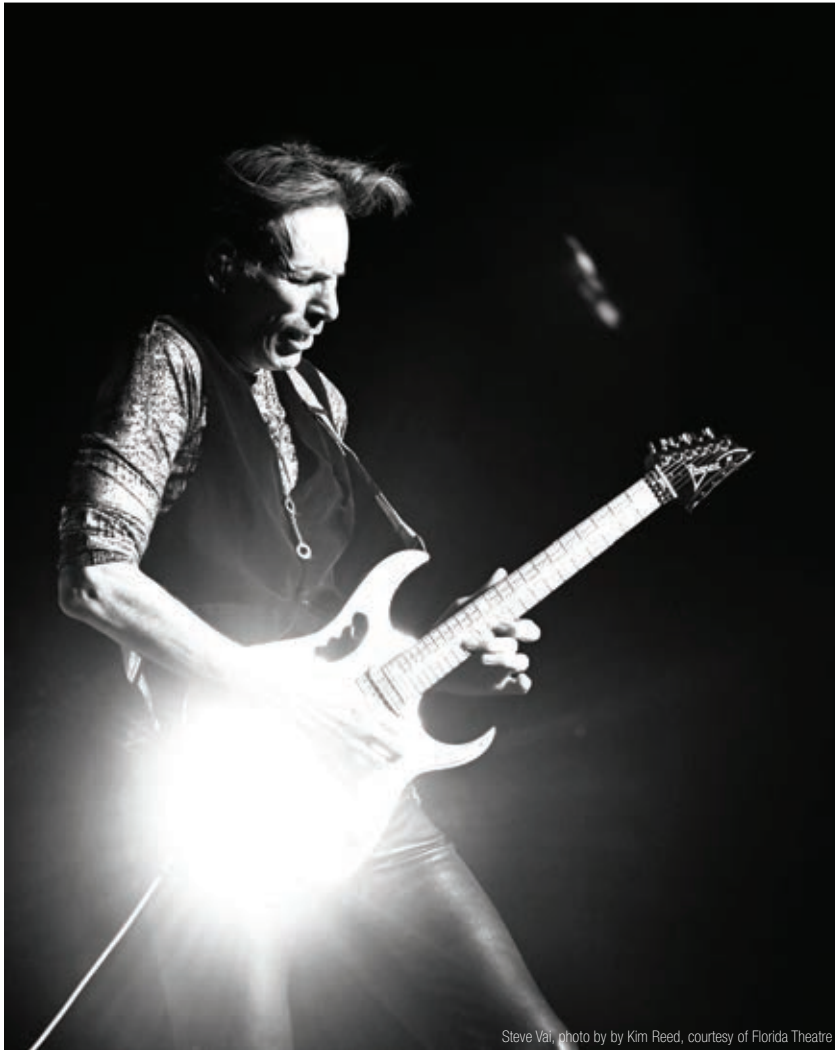
**North Beaches Art Walk**  
 Beaches Town Center  
[www.nbaw.org](http://www.nbaw.org)  
*Third Thursday of the month*

**Riverside Arts Market**  
 715 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville  
[www.riversideartsmarket.org](http://www.riversideartsmarket.org)  
*Every Saturday*

**San Marco Art Festival**  
 Balis Park  
[www.sanmarcoartfestival.com](http://www.sanmarcoartfestival.com)  
*Thanksgiving weekend*



Riverside Art Walk, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Steve Vai, photo by by Kim Reed, courtesy of Florida Theatre

## Curtains Up! Entertainment on the First Coast

As the curtains lift and the lights shine bright, entertainment lovers can discover some of the First Coast's top shows. From live music and stand-up comedy to musicals and variety acts, there's no shortage of laughter and excitement. Whether you prefer the intimate atmosphere of Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or the high-energy experience of venues like The St. Augustine Amphitheater and VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, there are plenty of choices for an unforgettable night out close to home.

### CLAY COUNTY

**Thrasher-Horne Center**  
283 College Dr., Orange Park  
[www.thcenter.org](http://www.thcenter.org)

Located on the St. Johns River State College campus, the Thrasher-Horne hosts professional dance, theater and musical performances.

### DUVAL-BEACHES

**Beaches Fine Arts Series**  
1150 5th St. N., Jacksonville Beach  
[www.beachesfinearts.org](http://www.beachesfinearts.org)

This fine arts series offers the community free world-class dance and musical performances ranging from jazz and world music to contemporary and classical.

**Latham Plaza & Seawalk Pavilion**  
11 1st St. N., Jacksonville Beach  
[www.jacksonvillebeach.org](http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org)

Located in the heart of Jacksonville Beach, the plaza and pavilion host live music, concerts, festivals and outdoor movie screenings.

### DUVAL-NORTH

**Florida Ballet, The**  
10131 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville  
<https://floridaballet.org>

As the First Coast's only professional ballet company, the Florida Ballet brings an assortment of dance performances to the area. Enjoy "The Nutcracker" each holiday season, as well as several other special performances throughout the year.

**Linda Berry Stein College of Fine Arts & Humanities Creative Arts Series**  
2800 University Blvd. N., Jacksonville  
[www.ju.edu/cfa](http://www.ju.edu/cfa)

Located on the Jacksonville University campus, this creative arts series hosts dance performances, concerts, exhibitions and workshops.

### DUVAL-SOUTH

**Alhambra Theatre & Dining**  
12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.alhambrajax.com](http://www.alhambrajax.com)

The Alhambra is the oldest continuously operating



Photo by Stephanie Marty

dinner theater and offers shows throughout the year. Performances have a themed dinner that coordinates with the show as well.

**Comedy Zone, The**  
3130 Hartley Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.comedyzone.com](http://www.comedyzone.com)

Head over to the Comedy Zone in Mandarin for a night full of laughs to see stand-up comedians and entertainers from all over the country.

Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, photo by Diana Ferguson



## Theatre Jacksonville is one of the nation's oldest continuously operating community theatres, founded in 1919.

**Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts**  
11901 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.fscj.edu/campuses/south-campus/wilson-center](http://www.fscj.edu/campuses/south-campus/wilson-center)

Located at Florida State College at Jacksonville's South Campus, the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts includes an art gallery, main theater seating 500, a studio theater for small productions and more. Productions throughout the year include music, theater, humanities and visual arts.

**University of North Florida (UNF)**  
**Fine Arts Center**  
1 UNF Dr., Bldg. 45, Jacksonville  
[www.unf.edu/fineartscenter](http://www.unf.edu/fineartscenter)

Offering more than 128,000 square feet of space, this venue hosts a variety of performances by international, national and local entertainers, including dance performances, operas and concerts.

### DUVAL-WEST

**Daily's Place**  
1 Daily's Pl., Jacksonville  
[www.dailysplace.com](http://www.dailysplace.com)

With the ability to hold more than 5,000 people, Daily's Place is the perfect place to enjoy concerts by your favorite artists right on the banks of the St. Johns River. Due to changes being made at EverBank Stadium, Daily's Place is expected to be closed until 2028.

**Florida Theatre**  
128 E. Forsyth St., Ste. 300, Jacksonville  
[www.floridatheatre.com](http://www.floridatheatre.com)

The Florida Theatre has been a staple of the First Coast for more than 97 years, bringing an array of dance performances, concerts, comedians and more to our own backyard.

**Friday Musicale**  
645 Oak St., Jacksonville  
[www.fridaymusicale.com](http://www.fridaymusicale.com)

As the oldest musical organization in Florida, Friday Musicale hosts concerts, private events and children's summer music camps.

**FSCJ Artist Series, The**  
501 W. State St., Ste. 109, Jacksonville  
[www.fscjartistseries.org](http://www.fscjartistseries.org)

Known as the top source for professional Broadway shows on the First Coast, the FSCJ Artist Series has entertainment for all ages with dance performances, opera, concerts and more.

**Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts**  
300 Water St., Jacksonville  
<https://pac.jaxevents.com>

This venue hosts a variety of professional and community performances, including concerts, comedy, ballet, Broadway and symphony productions.

**Jacksonville Symphony**  
300 Water St., Ste. 200, Jacksonville  
[www.jaxsymphony.org](http://www.jaxsymphony.org)

The Jacksonville Symphony has been a staple of the First Coast for more than 75 years and is one of the nation's leading regional orchestras.



Florida Theatre, photo courtesy of Florida Theatre

## First Coast Community Theaters

5 & Dime, The  
10131 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.the5anddime.org](http://www.the5anddime.org)

All Beaches Experimental Theatre  
Please refer to website for performance location details  
[www.abetjax.com](http://www.abetjax.com)

Amelia Community Theatre  
207 & 209 Cedar St.,  
Fernandina Beach  
[www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org](http://www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org)

Greenlight Theatre Company  
2650 Park St., Jacksonville  
[www.greenlighttheatreco.com](http://www.greenlighttheatreco.com)

Island Theater, The  
1860 Town Hall Cir., Ste. 54,  
Fleming Island  
[www.theislandtheater.com](http://www.theislandtheater.com)

Limelight Theatre  
11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine  
[www.limelight-theatre.org](http://www.limelight-theatre.org)

Orange Park Community Theatre  
2900 Moody Ave., Orange Park  
[www.opct.info](http://www.opct.info)

Players by the Sea  
Please refer to website for performance location details  
[www.playersbythesea.org](http://www.playersbythesea.org)

Ritz Theater & Museum  
829 N Davis St., Jacksonville  
<https://theritz.jaxevents.com>

Theatre Jacksonville  
2032 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.theatrejax.com](http://www.theatrejax.com)



Photo courtesy of Florida Theatre

## The First Coast is the birthplace of Southern Rock! The bands Lynyrd Skynyrd and The Allman Brothers Band were formed here.

**Metropolitan Park**  
1410 Gator Bowl Blvd.,  
Jacksonville  
[www.jacksonville.gov](http://www.jacksonville.gov)

Known for its music festivals, concerts and other events, Metropolitan Park is located on the St. Johns River.

**Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center**  
1000 Water St., Jacksonville  
<https://conventioncenter.jaxevents.com>

This 78,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art convention center was converted from a historic railroad station and is now used for conventions, trade shows, expos and more.

**VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena**  
300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.,  
Jacksonville  
<https://arena.jaxevents.com>

VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena hosts some of the biggest names in entertainment and music visiting the First Coast.

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

**EMMA Concert Association**  
14 Granada St., St. Augustine  
[www.emmaconcerts.com](http://www.emmaconcerts.com)

The EMMA Concert Association provides the nation's oldest city with a variety of classical concerts, including dance and musical performers, offering music for all ages.

**First Coast Opera**  
St. Augustine  
[www.firstcoastopera.com](http://www.firstcoastopera.com)

Being the only opera company in the area, the First Coast Opera gives the community a chance to experience creative performances like cabaret shows as well as opera and operetta.

**Ponte Vedra Concert Hall**  
1050 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach  
[www.pvconcerthall.com](http://www.pvconcerthall.com)

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is an intimate concert venue hosting more than 140 concerts and events throughout the year.

**St. Augustine Amphitheatre, The**  
1340-C A1A S., St. Augustine  
[www.theamp.com](http://www.theamp.com)

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, also known as "The Amp," is a 5,000-seat venue located on Anastasia Island right across the bridge from downtown St. Augustine. Each year it hosts more than 40 performances, as well as a weekly Farmers Market and a Night Market on select Tuesday nights.



# Discover the Thrill of the First Coast

The First Coast is packed with fun, and the opportunities to create unforgettable memories are endless! Now that you live here, an exciting world of attractions is waiting just steps from your door.

## DUVAL-NORTH

**Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary**  
1860 Starratt Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.cattysack.org](http://www.cattysack.org)

This nonprofit sanctuary allows visitors to get up close and personal with big cats and other animals. The Catty Shack provides a safe home for endangered big cats and educates visitors about their plight in the wild and captivity. The sanctuary offers year-round educational school tours and is open to the public on select weekends. The Catty Shack's current residents include tigers, lions, bobcats, cougars, coatimundis, servals and more.

**Chipshot**  
13164 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville  
<https://playchipshot.com/>  
Swing, serve and score at one of Jacksonville's newest adult playgrounds. With state-of-the-art indoor pickleball courts and high-tech Trackman golf simulators, Chipshot has everything you need for a memorable experience.

**Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens**  
370 Zoo Pkwy., Jacksonville  
[www.jacksonvillezoo.org](http://www.jacksonvillezoo.org)  
Take a walk on the wild side and see more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals at the Jacksonville Zoo. There are a variety of educational programs and exhibits to explore, including the African Forest, Giraffe Overlook and Land of the Tiger.

## DUVAL-SOUTH

**iFly Jacksonville**  
10579 Brightman Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.iflyworld.com/jacksonville](http://www.iflyworld.com/jacksonville)  
Experience all the thrills of skydiving in iFly's state-of-the-art vertical wind tunnel, which simulates the feeling of skydiving without needing to jump out of a plane!

**K1 Speed**  
6601 Executive Park Ct. N., Jacksonville  
[www.k1speed.com/jacksonville-location.html](http://www.k1speed.com/jacksonville-location.html)  
Channel your inner Speed Racer at K1 Speed, the First Coast's ultimate indoor go-kart racing destination.

Race along the speedway's professionally designed indoor tracks on their European-style electric karts that reach speeds up to 45 mph.



Monkey Exhibit, photo by Stephanie Marty

**Topgolf**  
10531 Brightman Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.topgolf.com](http://www.topgolf.com)  
Topgolf Jacksonville offers a fun, high-energy experience for all ages. This modern entertainment venue combines climate-controlled hitting

bays with interactive golf games, making it easy and exciting for everyone to play. Guests can enjoy a full-service restaurant and bar, music, and comfortable lounge seating, making it a great option for casual outings.

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

#### Adventure Landing

2780 SR 16, St. Augustine  
<https://st-augustine.adventurelanding.com>

With miniature golf, batting cages, an arcade and go-karts, Adventure Landing is the perfect place for a day of family fun.

#### Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park

11 Magnolia Ave., St. Augustine  
[www.fountainofyouthflorida.com](http://www.fountainofyouthflorida.com)

This historical attraction transports visitors to the time when Spanish settlers and Juan Ponce de León came to the New World in 1513 in search of the Fountain of Youth.

#### Marineland Dolphin Adventure 9600 Ocean Shore Blvd., St. Augustine [www.marineland.net](http://www.marineland.net)

The world's first oceanarium, Marineland offers unforgettable experiences that allow visitors to see, swim and interact with dolphins and other aquatic animals.

#### Potter's Wax Museum 31 Orange St., St. Augustine [www.potterswaxmuseum.com](http://www.potterswaxmuseum.com)

This unique attraction is the country's first established wax museum and has more than 160 realistic wax sculptures of scientists, musicians, movie stars, political figures, authors and athletes.

#### Ripley's Believe It or Not! 19 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine [www.ripleys.com/attractions/ripleys-believe-it-or-not-st-augustine](http://www.ripleys.com/attractions/ripleys-believe-it-or-not-st-augustine)

Marvel at the 800-plus rare and unusual artifacts, including two-headed animals, shrunken heads and a Fiji "mermaid" at Ripley's Believe it or Not!

#### St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park 999 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine [www.alligatorfarm.com](http://www.alligatorfarm.com)

Embark on an adventure at one of Florida's oldest continuously running attractions. The Alligator Farm is home to alligators and crocodiles as well as numerous other birds, reptiles and more. Guests can also zipline across seven acres through the treetops above the park.

#### St. Augustine Aquarium 2045 SR 16, St. Augustine [www.saaquarium.com](http://www.saaquarium.com)

Become a marine biologist for a day while visiting this interactive and educational aquarium. Here, visitors

can feed sharks and stingrays and even snorkel with multiple species of fish in a natural Florida reef environment.

#### St. Augustine Wild Reserve 5190 Farm Creek Rd., St. Augustine [www.sawildreserve.org](http://www.sawildreserve.org)

This nonprofit rescue gives visitors a chance to see more than 90 animals, including wolves, lions, tigers, hyenas, coyotes, a coatimundi, lynxes, leopards, jaguars and more, through their educational tours.

## Jump Into Fun at These First Coast Trampoline Parks!

Altitude  
 1214 Beach Blvd.,  
 Jacksonville Beach  
[www.altitudetrampolinepark.com](http://www.altitudetrampolinepark.com)

Bravoz Family Entertainment  
 Center  
 14985 Old St. Augustine Rd.,  
 Unit 123, Jacksonville  
[www.bravoz.com](http://www.bravoz.com)

Flight  
 7022 A C Skinner Pkwy., Ste. 200,  
 Jacksonville  
[www.flightadventurepark.com/jacksonville](http://www.flightadventurepark.com/jacksonville)

Get Air  
 1564 Park Ave., Orange Park  
[www.getairsports.com/orange-park](http://www.getairsports.com/orange-park)

Surge Adventure Park  
 9292 Arlington Expy., Jacksonville  
<https://surgefun.com/locations/jacksonville/>

Urban Air Adventure Park  
 9950 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.urbanair.com/florida-south-jacksonville](http://www.urbanair.com/florida-south-jacksonville)

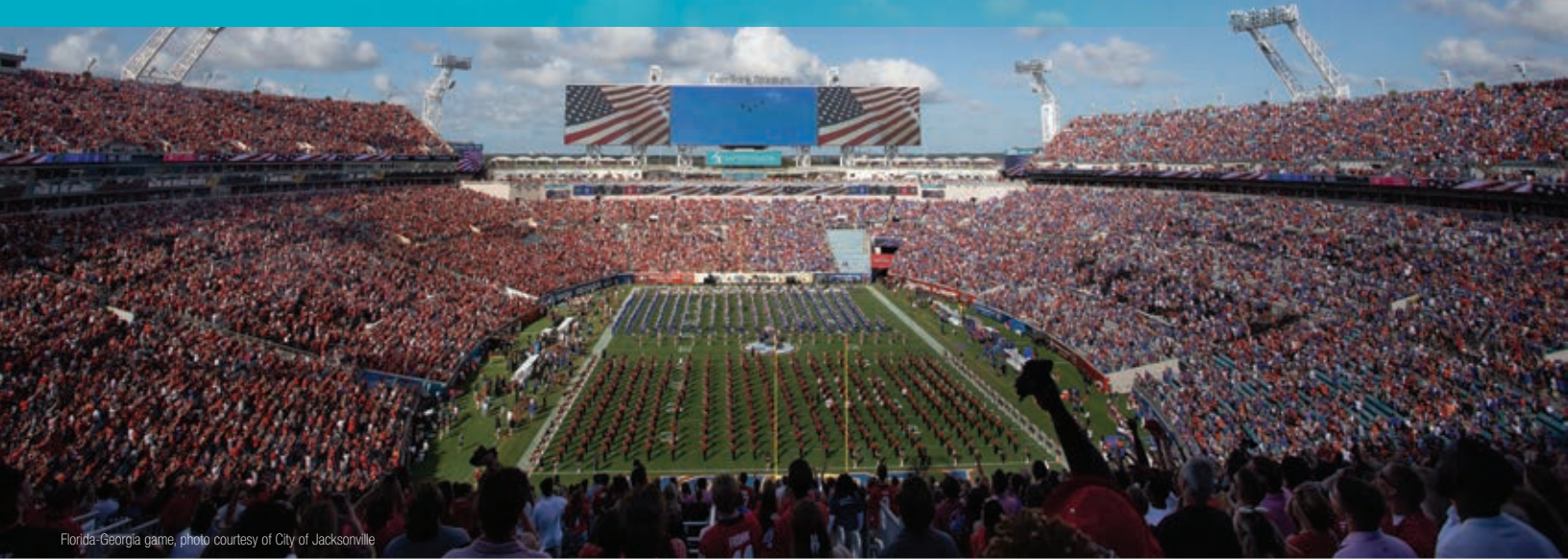
Photo courtesy of Catty Shack



Jacksonville Zoo, photo by Diana Ferguson

# Game On: First Coast Sports

The First Coast is a dream destination for sports lovers of every kind. From the crack of the bat at a Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game to the roar of the crowd as the Jacksonville Jaguars take the field at EverBank Stadium, the action never stops. Soccer, arena football, rugby and hockey all have a home here, adding even more excitement to the lineup. The region also plays host to marquee events like the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl and the legendary Florida-Georgia football showdown. With so much going on, there's always a game-day experience waiting to thrill fans of all ages.



Florida-Georgia game, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville

## DUVAL-NORTH

**Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament**  
**Jim King Park and Boat Ramp at Sisters Creek**  
**8203 Heckscher Dr., Jacksonville**  
**[www.kingfishtournament.com](http://www.kingfishtournament.com)**

More than 300 boats in this annual fishing tournament compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. One of the largest kingfish tournaments in the Southeast, this weeklong event also includes a food festival, live entertainment, a boat display and a junior angler tournament.

### *Fun Fact:*

**The first college football game in Florida was played in Jacksonville in 1901!**

## Kona Skatepark

**8739 Kona Ave., Jacksonville**  
**[www.konaskatepark.com](http://www.konaskatepark.com)**

Skaters of all skill levels can learn some new tricks at the oldest privately owned skatepark in the world.

## DUVAL-SOUTH

**Community First Igloo**  
**3605 Philips Hwy., Jacksonville**  
**[www.communityfirstigloo.com](http://www.communityfirstigloo.com)**

Home to the Jacksonville Icemen training and practice facilities, the Community First Igloo includes two NHL-sized ice rinks, a pro shop and a sports-themed restaurant and lounge.

**Jacksonville Armada Football Club**  
**1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville**  
**[www.jacksonvillearmada.com](http://www.jacksonvillearmada.com)**

The Jacksonville Armada is the First Coast's only professional soccer team. Founded in 2013, the Armada will play in MLS NEXT Pro league starting this year. Construction has begun on a new stadium

in downtown Jacksonville, which is set to open in 2026.

**Jacksonville Axemen Rugby League**  
**1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville**  
**[www.jaxaxe.com](http://www.jaxaxe.com)**

As an expansion team of the American National Rugby League, the Axemen are one of the most successful rugby league football clubs in the country.

**Jacksonville Roller Derby**  
**Skate Station Funworks Mandarin**  
**3461 Kori Rd., Jacksonville**  
**[www.jacksonvillerollerderby.com](http://www.jacksonvillerollerderby.com)**

The first and only women's flat-track roller derby league on the First Coast, the Jacksonville Roller Derby League has more than 70 skaters who compete in this fast-paced contact sport.

**DUVAL-WEST**

Florida-Georgia football game, photo by Ken McCray



**Florida-Georgia Football Game**  
**EverBank Stadium**  
**1 EverBank Stadium Dr., Jacksonville**  
<https://flgajax.com>

Held in Jacksonville since 1933, this rivalry game brings Georgia Bulldog and Florida Gator fans together for a fun-filled week ending with the big game.

**Jacksonville Equestrian Center**  
**13611 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville**  
[www.jaxequestriancenter.com](http://www.jaxequestriancenter.com)

The First Coast's premier facility for horseback riding, events, outdoor activities, hiking and biking is located on 80 acres of beautiful land.

**Jacksonville Icemen**  
**VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena**  
**300 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville**  
[www.jacksonvilleicemen.com](http://www.jacksonvilleicemen.com)

The Jacksonville Icemen wow fans with their skills on the ice. The Icemen are members of the ECHL and are affiliated with the Buffalo Sabres and Rochester Americans.



Jacksonville Jaguars, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville

**Jacksonville Jaguars**  
**EverBank Stadium**  
**1 EverBank Stadium Dr., Jacksonville**  
[www.jaguars.com](http://www.jaguars.com)

Fans love to cheer on the Jacksonville Jaguars at EverBank Stadium each football season. They are members of the National Football League (NFL) as well as the American Football Conference. The Jaguars have won five division championships and had eight playoff appearances.

Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, photo by Wyatt Lucovsky, courtesy of Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp



**Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp**  
**VyStar Ballpark**  
**301 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville**  
[www.milb.com/jacksonville](http://www.milb.com/jacksonville)

Take the family out to a ball game to cheer on the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, the Triple-A affiliate of the Miami Marlins. Enjoy themed nights, appreciation events and family movie nights. The Jumbo Shrimp won their first Triple-A National Championship in 2025.

**Jacksonville Sharks**  
**VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena**  
**300 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville**  
[www.jaxsharks.com](http://www.jaxsharks.com)

The Jacksonville Sharks are the First Coast's professional indoor football team and have won multiple championship titles. Join in on the fun and attend one of their action-packed games!

**TaxSlayer Gator Bowl**  
**EverBank Stadium**  
**1 EverBank Stadium Dr., Jacksonville**  
[www.taxslayergatorbowl.com](http://www.taxslayergatorbowl.com)

Founded in 1946, the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl is one of the oldest college football bowl games in the country and was the first to be nationally televised.

**First Coast Sports Teams Stats**



**Jacksonville Jaguars**  
 National Football League  
 EverBank Stadium  
 Established: 1995  
 Division Championships: 5



**Jacksonville Sharks**  
 Indoor Football League  
 VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena  
 Established: 2009  
 League Championships: 4



**Jacksonville Armada FC**  
 MLS Next Pro  
 Hodges Stadium  
 Established: 2013



**Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp**  
 Minor League Baseball  
 121 Financial Ballpark  
 Established: 1962  
 League Championships: 8



**Jacksonville Icemen**  
 East Coast Hockey League  
 VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena  
 Established: 1992



**Jacksonville Axemen**  
 USA Rugby League  
 University of North Florida Turf Field  
 Established: 2006  
 League Championships: 4



121 Financial Ballpark, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Hodges Stadium at the University of North Florida, photo by Ken McCray

## First Coast College Sports

Edward Waters University (EWU) Tigers  
1658 Kings Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.ewutigerpride.com](http://www.ewutigerpride.com)

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) Manta Rays  
4501 Capper Rd. (North Campus), Jacksonville  
11901 Beach Blvd. (South Campus), Jacksonville  
[www.fscjmantarays.com](http://www.fscjmantarays.com)

Jacksonville University (JU) Dolphins  
2800 University Blvd. N., Jacksonville  
[www.judolphins.com](http://www.judolphins.com)

University of North Florida (UNF) Ospreys  
1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville  
[www.unfospreys.com](http://www.unfospreys.com)

## First Coast Walks and Runs

Ameris Bank Jacksonville Marathon,  
Half Marathon & 5K  
[www.amerisbank.com](http://www.amerisbank.com)  
*December*

DONNA Marathon Weekend  
[www.breastcancermarathon.com](http://www.breastcancermarathon.com)  
*February*

Down Syndrome Association of  
Jacksonville Buddy Walk  
[www.dsaj.org/events](http://www.dsaj.org/events)  
*October*

Festival of Lights 5K  
[www.cmnjax.com/fol](http://www.cmnjax.com/fol)  
*December*

Fight for Air Climb  
[www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org)  
*March*

Gate River Run  
[www.gateriverrun15k.com](http://www.gateriverrun15k.com)  
*March*

Light the Night Walk  
[www.lightthenight.org/nofl](http://www.lightthenight.org/nofl)  
*November*



The DONNA Marathon, photo by Betsy Dallo Ford



Gate River Run, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville

Making Strides of the First Coast  
<https://secure.acsevents.org/>  
*October*

Ortega River Run  
<https://esj.org/support/events/ortega-river-run>  
*February*

Relay for Life of the First Coast  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)  
*April*

# It's Tee Time! Golf on the First Coast



Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, photo courtesy of FloridaHerbCoast.com

Featuring world-class golf courses and numerous places for a fun round of golf, the First Coast is a top golf destination for pro and amateur golfers. Whether you're looking for a golf course with a view or an event to attend, the First Coast is the perfect place to be.

## THE PLAYERS Championship

Each March, this five-day competition attracts some of the world's best golfers and golf's biggest fans. Hosted in Ponte Vedra Beach at TPC Sawgrass, THE PLAYERS Championship is our most popular and renowned golf event. The pros are challenged by the infamous "Island Green," a par-3, 137-yard hole that is considered one of the most difficult holes.

## Golf Fun for Everyone

For those looking for a bit of fun and whimsy in their golf game, the First Coast offers a few different options, including top golf facilities and miniature golf courses.

Head to the St. Johns Town Center for a few rounds of golf and drinks at **TopGolf**. They offer different games you can play with your group or date and food and drink service straight to your

bay. **Chipshot** offers state-of-the-art indoor golf simulators, perfect for those rainy days.

For some mini golf, there are many options throughout the First Coast. In Keystone Heights, **Keystone Heights Mini Golf** is available for an exciting 18 holes with the family, with levels that challenge even the most experienced golfers.

**Anastasia Mini Golf** in St. Augustine is a fun course with a pirate ship, tunnel and many courses to challenge golfers of all levels. Or take a swing at **Adventure Landing St. Augustine**, which offers 18 holes for all skill levels. At **Batt Family Fun Center**, visitors can go for a round at Wizard Glow Mini Golf. **Fiesta Falls** in St. Augustine boasts a full 18 holes with eight waterfalls and a 65-foot Spanish ship. At **Island Falls Adventure Golf**, located in Fernandina Beach, there are 18.5 holes that are surrounded

by gorgeous waterfalls, bridges and tunnels. For a historical experience, head to Florida's oldest mini golf course at **Ripley's Bayfront Mini Golf**, where you can putt around and take in a dazzling view of the Bridge of Lions. **Skate Station Funworks** in Mandarin and Orange Park are home to Swamp Golf and Captain Graybeard's buried treasure. For a nautically good time, mini golfers should head to **Heron's Cove Adventure Golf**, located at Omni Amelia Island Resort, where there are 18 nautically themed holes. Pick up a club and drink at **Gregor Macgregor's Mini Links & Drinks** in Fernandina Beach, where you can enjoy a few rounds at the lush course. **Putt-Putt Fun Center** in Fernandina Beach offers an interesting challenge on 26 holes, with a par of two for each one.

Fleming Island Golf Club, photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism



Gregor MacGregor's Mini Links & Drinks, photo courtesy of Ameliainland.com

## Top 10 Golf Courses

1. Eagle Harbor Golf Club
2. San Jose Country Club
3. Deerwood Country Club
4. Jacksonville Golf & Country Club
5. Timuquana Country Club
6. Blue Sky Golf Club
7. Hyde Park Golf Club
8. Hidden Hills Golf Club
9. World Golf Village (Slammer & Squire)
10. TPC Sawgrass (THE PLAYERS Stadium Course)



Fishing, photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

## FIRST COAST FUN ON THE WATER

If you're ready for a full day on the water, the First Coast is calling your name! From sparkling beaches to winding rivers and creeks, there's no shortage of ways to dive into adventure—think fishing, boating, kayaking, paddleboarding and more.

### Fishing

Whether you're into saltwater or freshwater, the First Coast is a playground for anglers of all levels. Cast a line off one of our many piers, rent a boat or take it up a notch with an offshore fishing charter.

### Fish Found on the First Coast



Catfish



Cobia



Trout



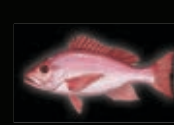
Bluefish



Spanish Mackerel



Sailfish



Snapper

And that's just the beginning! Depending on the season and whether you're into freshwater or saltwater, there's a whole buffet of fish waiting to be caught.

## Boating

Boat lovers, rejoice! Cruise the scenic rivers, glide along the Intracoastal Waterway or venture out into the ocean. With tons of rental options and boat-friendly restaurants with docks, hitting the water has never been more fun and accessible.



Boating, photo courtesy of AmeliaIsland.com

Photo courtesy of Pexels

## Jet Skis

Ready for a thrill? Zoom across the waves and feel the spray on a jet ski. With plenty of rental spots, you can get your adrenaline fix in no time.



Surfing, photo courtesy of St. Johns County



Kayaking, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

## Surf, Boogie or Skim Boarding

Catch the perfect wave on a surfboard, boogie board or skim board. The First Coast's beaches and waterways offer endless opportunities for wave-riding fun.

## Paddle Sports

Looking for something a bit more chill? Paddle through calm creeks in a kayak or canoe. You can also take a paddleboard out on the Atlantic for a core-intense workout. Kayaks, canoes and paddleboards are available all around the First Coast.

# Retail Therapy: First Coast Shopping

From locally owned boutiques to big box stores, the First Coast has it all. It doesn't matter if you're staying in your area or exploring more of the First Coast, we have what you need.



Green Cove Springs Walnut Street Shopping, photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

Oakleaf Town Center, photo by Diana Ferguson

## CLAY COUNTY

Shoppers in Clay County have a few different options when it comes to shopping. The **Orange Park Mall** has several shops, restaurants and a movie theater for visitors to peruse. There are also several shopping centers in Fleming Island, like the **Fleming Plaza** or the **Village Square Shopping Center**.

## DUVAL COUNTY

Classic coastal shops can be found right in the heart of Atlantic and Neptune beaches at the **Beaches Town Center**. The Southside of Jacksonville is home to three main large shopping centers. **The Avenues** is a multilevel indoor shopping mall

that is especially fantastic on the days when the weather is less than ideal. Shoppers can also head to the **St. Johns Town Center**, an outdoor shopping mall that has stores from several designers and brands. Just down the street is **The Markets at Town Center**, which is home to many top retailers and restaurants.

**Once finished, The Pavilion at Durbin Park will be home to many stores and restaurants and will be the largest on the First Coast.**

**San Marco Square** draws shoppers to historic San Marco where trendy boutiques offer unique items. In Riverside, **Five Points** is a great place to find vintage clothing, accessories and antiques. Since the 1940s, **The Shoppes of Avondale** has been selling eclectic pieces ranging from home goods

to clothing from their locally owned shops. The Westside is home to the **Oakleaf Town Center**, which offers a ton of options for shoppers to find whatever they need. Just a few minutes from Jacksonville International Airport, **River City Marketplace** is full of major anchor stores and other popular retailers.

## NASSAU COUNTY

In Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach, shoppers can find a variety of boutiques and locally owned shops filled with décor, fashionable clothes and gifts at the historic **Centre Street** in downtown Fernandina Beach and at **The Shops at Omni Amelia Island**.

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY

In Ponte Vedra Beach, **Sawgrass Village** is great for those looking for upscale shops and boutiques.

Also in the area is the **Nocatee Town Center**, which has an array of businesses, shops and restaurants.

**The Pavilion at Durbin Park**, located in northern St. Johns County, is an ever-growing shopping center. Once finished, the three-phase shopping area will be home to many stores and restaurants and will be the largest on the First Coast.

Enjoy a walk down the historic cobblestoned **St. George Street**, where shoppers can find unique clothing, accessories, décor and souvenirs. The **St. Augustine Premium Outlets** has name-brand clothing, accessories and shoes, all for lower prices.



St. Johns Town Center, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Orange Park Mall, photo by Diana Ferguson



The Avenues, photo by Diana Ferguson

## All-Natural and Organic Grocery Stores



The Fresh Market, photo by Diana Ferguson

Grassroots Natural Market  
2007 Park St., Jacksonville  
<https://grassrootsmarket.com/>

Grassroots Natural Market II  
1915 E. West Pkwy., Ste. 1, Fleming Island  
[www.grassrootsnaturalfoods.com](http://www.grassrootsnaturalfoods.com)

Native Sun Kitchen + Market  
1585 3rd St. N., Jacksonville Beach  
[www.nativesunjax.com](http://www.nativesunjax.com)

Sprouts Farmers Market  
12675 Beach Blvd., Ste. 200, Jacksonville  
4873 Town Center Pkwy., Jacksonville  
120 Shops Blvd., St. Johns  
[www.sprouts.com](http://www.sprouts.com)

The Fresh Market  
12795 San Jose Blvd., Ste. 1, Jacksonville  
13493 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville  
150 Riverside Ave., Ste. 200, Jacksonville  
1960 E. West Pkwy., Ste. 100, Fleming Island  
840 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach  
[www.thefreshmarket.com](http://www.thefreshmarket.com)

Trader Joe's  
11112 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville  
4180 S. 3rd St., Jacksonville Beach  
[www.traderjoes.com](http://www.traderjoes.com)

Whole Foods Market  
10601 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville  
2050 3rd St. S., Jacksonville Beach  
[www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com)

# First Coast Dining: A Foodie's Guide

From charming bistros and fine dining establishments to rustic fish camps and cozy local diners, the First Coast is always serving up something delicious. Our region is home to talented chefs trained both nationally and internationally, crafting dishes that delight the palate. Here, you'll discover a diverse array of flavors, blending cultures and culinary traditions in truly unique ways. Bon appétit!



Michael's, photo by Melissa Marcarelli

Name	Neighborhood(s)	Website	Cuisine
Ill Forks	Southside	<a href="http://www.3forks.com/location/jacksonville">www.3forks.com/location/jacksonville</a>	Steakhouse
4 Rivers Smokehouse	Orange Park, Southside	<a href="http://www.4rsmokehouse.com">www.4rsmokehouse.com</a>	Barbeque
ABBQ	Atlantic Beach	<a href="http://www.abbqmeatdrink.com">www.abbqmeatdrink.com</a>	Barbeque
Aqua Grill	Ponte Vedra Beach	<a href="https://aquagrill.net">https://aquagrill.net</a>	Seafood
bb's restaurant and bar	San Marco	<a href="http://www.bbsrestaurant.com">www.bbsrestaurant.com</a>	American
Bea's Fine Foods + All Day Café	St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.beasalldaycafe.com">www.beasalldaycafe.com</a>	American
Bearded Pig, The	San Marco	<a href="http://www.thebeardedpigbbq.com">www.thebeardedpigbbq.com</a>	Barbeque
Bella Vista	Fruit Cove	<a href="http://www.bellavistaitalian.com">www.bellavistaitalian.com</a>	Italian
Bellwether	Downtown	<a href="http://www.bellwetherjax.com">www.bellwetherjax.com</a>	American
Biscottis	Avondale	<a href="http://www.biscottis.net">www.biscottis.net</a>	American
Blue Bamboo Canton Bistro	Mandarin	<a href="https://bluebamboojacksonville.com">https://bluebamboojacksonville.com</a>	Chinese
Blue Fish Restaurant & Oyster Bar, The	Avondale	<a href="https://bluefishjax.com">https://bluefishjax.com</a>	Seafood
Blue Orchid Thai Cuisine	Arlington, Riverside	<a href="https://blueorchidthai.com">https://blueorchidthai.com</a>	Thai
Brick Restaurant	Avondale	<a href="http://www.thebrickofavondale.com">www.thebrickofavondale.com</a>	American
Burlingame Restaurant	Fernandina Beach	<a href="https://burlingamerestaurant.com">https://burlingamerestaurant.com</a>	American
Caffe Andiamo	Ponte Vedra Beach	<a href="http://www.caffeandiamo.com">www.caffeandiamo.com</a>	Italian
Callahan's Irish Bistro	Orange Park	<a href="http://www.callahansbistro.com">www.callahansbistro.com</a>	Irish
Cantina Laredo	Town Center	<a href="http://www.cantinalaredo.com">www.cantinalaredo.com</a>	Mexican
Capital Grille, The	Town Center	<a href="http://www.thecapitalgrille.com">www.thecapitalgrille.com</a>	American
Carmine's Pie House	Riverside	<a href="https://carminespiehouse.com">https://carminespiehouse.com</a>	Pizza
Catch 27	St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.catchtwentyseven.com">www.catchtwentyseven.com</a>	Seafood
ChopHouse Thirteen	Mandarin	<a href="http://www.chophouse13.com">www.chophouse13.com</a>	Steakhouse
Congaree and Penn	Northside	<a href="http://www.congareeandpenn.com">www.congareeandpenn.com</a>	American
Coop 303	Atlantic Beach	<a href="https://coop303.com">https://coop303.com</a>	Southern
Copeland's of New Orleans	Southside	<a href="https://copelandsjax.com">https://copelandsjax.com</a>	Southern
Cowford Chophouse	Downtown	<a href="https://cowfordchophouse.com">https://cowfordchophouse.com</a>	Steakhouse
District SPR, The	Springfield	<a href="http://www.thedistrictspr.com">www.thedistrictspr.com</a>	American
Domu	Town Center	<a href="https://domufl.squarespace.com">https://domufl.squarespace.com</a>	Japanese
Doro	Neptune Beach	<a href="https://restaurantdoro.com">https://restaurantdoro.com</a>	American
Dunya	Orange Park	<a href="http://www.instagram.com/dunya_jax">www.instagram.com/dunya_jax</a>	Middle Eastern
Dwight's Bistro	Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.dwightsbistro.com">www.dwightsbistro.com</a>	Mediterranean
Eleven South	Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.elevensouth.com">www.elevensouth.com</a>	American
Ember & Iron	St. Johns	<a href="http://www.emberandiron.com">www.emberandiron.com</a>	American
Fish Company, The	Atlantic Beach	<a href="https://thefishcojax.com">https://thefishcojax.com</a>	Seafood
Floridian, The	St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.thefloridianstaug.com">www.thefloridianstaug.com</a>	Southern
Flying Iguana Taqueria & Tequila Bar	Neptune Beach	<a href="https://flyingiguana.com">https://flyingiguana.com</a>	Mexican
Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse	Town Center	<a href="https://fogodechao.com">https://fogodechao.com</a>	Brazilian

Masons Famous Lobster Rolls in Fernandina Beach, photo courtesy of AmeliaIsland.com



Midtown Table, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



North Beach Fish Camp, photo by Anna Cook, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

Grumpy's Restaurant	Middleburg, Neptune Beach, Orange Park, St. Johns, Wildlight	<a href="http://www.grumpysrestaurantco.com">www.grumpysrestaurantco.com</a>	Breakfast/ Brunch
Happy Tomato Courtyard Café & BBQ, The	Fernandina Beach	<a href="http://www.thehappytomatocafe.com">www.thehappytomatocafe.com</a>	Barbecue
Hawkers	Five Points, Neptune Beach	<a href="https://eathawkers.com">https://eathawkers.com</a>	Pan-Asian
Hilltop Club & Restaurant, The	Orange Park	<a href="https://hilltop-club.com">https://hilltop-club.com</a>	American
Indochine	Downtown	<a href="http://www.indochinefl.com">www.indochinefl.com</a>	Thai
Irie Diner	Orange Park	<a href="https://iriediner.com">https://iriediner.com</a>	Caribbean
J. Alexander's	Town Center	<a href="http://www.jalexanders.com">www.jalexanders.com</a>	American
Jax Beach Brunch Haus	Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.jaxbeachbrunchhaus.com">www.jaxbeachbrunchhaus.com</a>	Breakfast/ Brunch
JJ's Liberty Bistro	Ponte Vedra	<a href="http://www.jjbistro.com">www.jjbistro.com</a>	French
Johnny's	Keystone Heights	<a href="http://www.johnnysbbqcatering.com">www.johnnysbbqcatering.com</a>	Barbecue
Joseph's Pizza	Atlantic Beach, Northside	<a href="https://josephspizza.com">https://josephspizza.com</a>	Pizza
Kazu Japanese Restaurant	Mandarin	<a href="https://kazujapaneserestaurant.com">https://kazujapaneserestaurant.com</a>	Japanese
Lola's Filipino Café & Mini Store	Orange Park	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/people/Lolas-Filipino-Cafe-Mini-Store/100068540606561/">https://www.facebook.com/people/Lolas-Filipino-Cafe-Mini-Store/100068540606561/</a>	Filipino
M Shack	Nocatee	<a href="https://mshackburgers.com">https://mshackburgers.com</a>	American
Maggiano's Little Italy	Town Center	<a href="http://www.maggianos.com">www.maggianos.com</a>	Italian
Maple Street Biscuit Company	Baymeadows, Fleming Island, Jacksonville Beach, Julington Creek, San Marco, St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.maplestreetbiscuits.com">www.maplestreetbiscuits.com</a>	Southern
Mason's Famous Lobster Rolls	Fernandina Beach, St. Johns, Town Center	<a href="http://www.masonslobster.com">www.masonslobster.com</a>	Seafood
Matthew's Restaurant	San Marco	<a href="https://matthewsrestaurant.com">https://matthewsrestaurant.com</a>	French/ Mediterranean
Michael's	Vilano Beach	<a href="https://michaelssa.com">https://michaelssa.com</a>	Spanish
Midtown Table	Town Center	<a href="https://midtowntable.medurebrothers.com">https://midtowntable.medurebrothers.com</a>	Italian
Mesa	Avondale	<a href="https://mesajax.com">https://mesajax.com</a>	Indian
Metro Diner	Jacksonville Beach, Mandarin, Orange Park, Ortega, Ponte Vedra Beach, San Marco, Southside, St. Augustine	<a href="https://metrodiner.com">https://metrodiner.com</a>	American
Mezza Luna Ristorante	Neptune Beach	<a href="https://mezzalunajax.com">https://mezzalunajax.com</a>	Italian
Nona Blue Modern Tavern	Ponte Vedra Beach	<a href="http://www.nonablue.com/locations/ponte-vedra-beach">www.nonablue.com/locations/ponte-vedra-beach</a>	American
North Beach Fish Camp	Neptune Beach	<a href="https://thenorthbeachfishcamp.com">https://thenorthbeachfishcamp.com</a>	Seafood
O-Ku	Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.o-kusushi.com">www.o-kusushi.com</a>	Japanese
Orsay	Avondale	<a href="http://www.restaurantorsay.com">www.restaurantorsay.com</a>	French
Palermo Puerto Rican Kitchen	Orange Park	<a href="https://palermopuertoricankitchen.com">https://palermopuertoricankitchen.com</a>	Puerto Rican
Parlor Doughnuts	Fleming Island, Fruit Cove, Jacksonville Beach, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach	<a href="http://www.parlordoughnuts.com">www.parlordoughnuts.com</a>	Breakfast/ Brunch
Pepe's Hacienda & Restaurant	Mandarin	<a href="https://pepeshaciendajax.com">https://pepeshaciendajax.com</a>	Mexican
Pepper's Cocina Mexicana & Tequila Bar	Fernandina Beach, Fleming Island, St. Johns	<a href="https://pepperscocina.com">https://pepperscocina.com</a>	Mexican
Pizza Time	St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.visitstaugustine.com/restaurant/pizza-time">www.visitstaugustine.com/restaurant/pizza-time</a>	Pizza



Columbia Restaurant, photo courtesy of St. Johns County



Chef Barry Honan at Lotus Noodle Bar, photo by Melissa Marcarelli



Grumpy's Middleburg, photo by Diana Ferguson

Prati Italia	Town Center	<a href="http://www.pratiitalia.com">www.pratiitalia.com</a>	Italian
Prohibition Kitchen	St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.pkstaug.com">www.pkstaug.com</a>	American
Restaurant Medure	Ponte Vedra Beach	<a href="https://restaurantmedure.com">https://restaurantmedure.com</a>	American
RH Rooftop Restaurant	Town Center	<a href="https://rh.com/us/en/jacksonville/restaurant">https://rh.com/us/en/jacksonville/restaurant</a>	American
River & Post	Five Points	<a href="http://www.riverandpostjax.com">www.riverandpostjax.com</a>	American
Rue Saint-Marc	San Marco	<a href="https://ruesaintmarc.com">https://ruesaintmarc.com</a>	French
Salt	Amelia Island	<a href="http://www.saltameliaisland.com">www.saltameliaisland.com</a>	American
Santioni's Italian Restaurant	Fleming Island	<a href="http://www.santionis.com">www.santionis.com</a>	Italian
South Kitchen & Spirits	Nocatee	<a href="http://www.southnocatee.com">www.southnocatee.com</a>	Southern
Sugar Factory	Town Center	<a href="http://www.sugarfactory.com">www.sugarfactory.com</a>	American
TacoLu Baja Mexicana	Jacksonville Beach	<a href="http://www.tacolu.com">www.tacolu.com</a>	Mexican
Taverna	San Marco	<a href="https://taverna.restaurant">https://taverna.restaurant</a>	Italian
Timoti's Seafood Shak	Fernandina Beach, Nocatee	<a href="http://www.timotis.com">www.timotis.com</a>	Seafood
Tommy Bahama Marlin Bar	Town Center	<a href="http://www.tommybahama.com/restaurants-and-marlin-bars/locations/jacksonville">www.tommybahama.com/restaurants-and-marlin-bars/locations/jacksonville</a>	Seafood
Town Hall	San Marco	<a href="http://www.townhalljax.com">www.townhalljax.com</a>	Southern
Treylor Park	Nocatee, St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.treylorpark.com">www.treylorpark.com</a>	Southern
Zen Dumpling True Food Kitchen	Town Center	<a href="http://www.truefoodkitchen.com">www.truefoodkitchen.com</a>	American
Turmeric Kitchen, The	Green Cove Springs	<a href="https://clayturmeric.com">https://clayturmeric.com</a>	Indian
V Pizza	Fernandina Beach, Fleming Island, Jacksonville Beach, Mandarin, Ponte Vedra, San Marco, St. Augustine, Town Center	<a href="http://www.vpizza.com">www.vpizza.com</a>	Pizza
Vicious Biscuit	Neptune Beach	<a href="https://viciousbiscuit.com/">https://viciousbiscuit.com/</a>	Breakfast/ Brunch
Zen Dumpling	Southside	<a href="http://www.zendumplings.com">www.zendumplings.com</a>	Chinese

## First Coast Food Trucks

Craving gourmet eats on the move? Jacksonville is home to over 200 food trucks serving everything from juicy burgers and gooey grilled cheese to smoky barbecue, zesty tacos, fresh sushi and so much more. You'll find these mobile kitchens popping up at art walks, festivals, concerts, breweries and around town—perfect for discovering your next favorite bite. Discover the full lineup here: <https://foodtruckfinderusa.com/jacksonville-fl-food-trucks>.



Food truck, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville

# A Taste with a View: First Coast Waterfront Restaurants



Whitey's Fish Camp, photos courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

On the First Coast, we're so lucky to be surrounded by gorgeous beaches, winding rivers and scenic waterways, meaning great views are always on the menu. With various waterfront dining options to choose from, narrowing it down can be the hardest part. For an unforgettable meal paired with sparkling views and salty breezes, these waterfront restaurants are well worth a visit.

## OCEAN VIEWS

- Azurea at One Ocean**  
*Atlantic Beach*
- Beachcomber**  
*St. Augustine*
- Casa Marina Restaurant**  
*Jacksonville Beach*
- LandShark Bar & Grill**  
*Jacksonville Beach*
- Reef Restaurant, The**  
*St. Augustine*
- Refinery Jax Beach**  
*Jacksonville Beach*
- Salt Life Food Shack**  
*Fernandina Beach, Jacksonville Beach, St. Augustine*
- Sliders Seaside Grill**  
*Fernandina Beach*
- Tides Beach Bar and Grille**  
*Jacksonville Beach*

## ST. JOHNS RIVER VIEWS

- Chart House**  
*Southbank*
- Julington Creek Fish Camp**  
*Julington Creek*
- Palms Fish Camp Restaurant**  
*Northside*
- River & Post**  
*Riverside*
- Safe Harbor Seafood Market & Restaurant**  
*Mayport*
- Sandollar Restaurant**  
*Northside*
- Singleton's Seafood Shack**  
*Mayport*
- Whitey's Fish Camp**  
*Fleming Island*

## INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY AND OTHER RIVER VIEWS

- Asado Life**  
*St. Augustine*

- Aunt Kate's**  
*St. Augustine*
- Barbara Jean's on the Water**  
*Ponte Vedra Beach*
- Cap's on The Water**  
*St. Augustine*
- Conch House**  
*St. Augustine*
- Dockside Seafood Restaurant**  
*Jacksonville Beach*
- Down Under Restaurant**  
*Fernandina Beach*
- Marker 32**  
*Intracoastal*
- Mavi Waterfront Bar & Grill**  
*Jacksonville Beach*
- Palm Valley Fish Camp**  
*Ponte Vedra Beach*
- Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill**  
*Ponte Vedra Beach*
- Salty Pelican Bar & Grill**  
*Fernandina Beach*



- Shucker's Oyster Bar & Grill**  
*Fernandina Beach*
- St. Augustine Fish Camp**  
*St. Augustine*

# Bean There, Sipped That: Local Coffee Shops



From frothy cappuccinos to ice-cold coffees, the First Coast is always buzzing with something delicious. Local coffee spots have just the thing to hit your caffeine cravings. Whether you're curling up on a soft leather couch, catching up with friends or diving into some work or study, there's a perfect cup waiting for you.

## **Flamingo, The**

1176 Edgewood Ave. S., Ste. 1, Jacksonville  
322 Anastasia Blvd., Jacksonville  
<https://flamingocoffeeroasters.com>

## **Foxtail Coffee Co.**

10601 San Jose Blvd., Unit 405, Jacksonville  
1195 Edgewood Ave. S., Jacksonville  
2039 Hendricks Ave., Unit 114, Jacksonville  
7570 Gate Pkwy., Unit 106-A, Jacksonville  
300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach  
260 Front St., Ste. 620, Ponte Vedra Beach  
3791 Palm Valley Rd., Ponte Vedra Beach  
160 King St., Unit 3, St. Augustine  
50 Silver Forest Dr., Ste. 109, St. Augustine  
75980 William Burgess Blvd., Unit 4, Yulee  
[www.foxtailcoffee.com](http://www.foxtailcoffee.com)

## **Jacksonville Coffee Company**

12620 Beach Blvd., Ste. 7, Jacksonville  
4413 Town Center Pkwy., Ste. 221, Jacksonville  
6 E. Bay St., Jacksonville  
8221 Southside Blvd., Ste. 7, Jacksonville  
[www.jacksonvillecoffeecompany.com](http://www.jacksonvillecoffeecompany.com)

## **Kookaburra Coffee, The**

351 Town Plaza Ave., Ste. 102-A, Ponte Vedra  
1835 US Hwy. 1 S., St. Augustine

## **1985 Coffee**

1985 Mayport Rd., Atlantic Beach  
<https://1985-coffee.square.site>

## **Amelia Island Coffee**

207 Centre St., Fernandina Beach  
[www.ameliaislandcoffee.com](http://www.ameliaislandcoffee.com)

## **Bitty & Beau's Coffee**

1965 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.bittyandbeauscoffee.com/location/jacksonville](http://www.bittyandbeauscoffee.com/location/jacksonville)

## **Bold Bean Coffee Roasters**

869 Stockton St., Ste. 100, Jacksonville  
2400 3rd St. S., Ste. 201, Jacksonville Beach  
<https://boldbeancoffee.com>

## **Brass Tacks Coffee Co.**

318 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs  
4352-01 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville  
[www.brasstackscoffee.com](http://www.brasstackscoffee.com)

## **BREW 5 Points**

1024 Park St., Jacksonville  
[www.brewfivepoints.co](http://www.brewfivepoints.co)

## **Coffee Grinder, The**

9834 Old Baymeadows Rd., Jacksonville  
[www.thecoffeegrinderjax.com](http://www.thecoffeegrinderjax.com)

## **DOS Coffee & Wine**

2375 SR 16, St. Augustine  
300 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine  
74 Spanish St., St. Augustine  
[www.dosbar.com](http://www.dosbar.com)



Photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

Spend time with adorable cats at one of the First Coast's cat cafés—you might even find a furry friend to adopt!

**Caffeinated Cat, The**

331 1st Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach  
[www.macksmayportcats.com/coffee-and-cat-care](http://www.macksmayportcats.com/coffee-and-cat-care)

**Frisky Cat Café**

1092 S. Ponce De Leon Blvd.,  
 St. Augustine  
[www.friskycatcafe.com](http://www.friskycatcafe.com)

**Witty Whisker Cat Café**

112 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd., Unit A,  
 St. Augustine  
[www.wittywhisker.com](http://www.wittywhisker.com)

18 Cathedral Pl., St. Augustine  
 4265 A1A S., St. Augustine  
 470 SR 207, St. Augustine  
 647 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine  
[www.thekookaburracoffee.com](http://www.thekookaburracoffee.com)

**Mechanism Coffee Roasters**

11526 Lake Mead Ave., Ste.103, Jacksonville  
<https://mechanismcoffee.com>

**Royal Moose Coffee Company**

2441 Blanding Blvd., Middleburg  
<https://royalmoosecoffeeco.net>

**Sago Coffee**

318 7th Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach  
[www.sagocoffeejax.com](http://www.sagocoffeejax.com)

**Sippers Coffeehouse**

7643 Gate Pkwy., Ste. 101, Jacksonville  
[www.facebook.com/sipperscoffeehouse](http://www.facebook.com/sipperscoffeehouse)

**Southern Grounds**

14100 Mayo Blvd., Room 1110, Jacksonville  
 1671 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville  
 3562 St. Johns Ave., Jacksonville  
 JAX Airport, Concourse A, Jacksonville  
 2405 3rd St. S., Jacksonville Beach  
 200 1st St., Neptune Beach  
 124 King St., St. Augustine  
[www.southerngrounds.com](http://www.southerngrounds.com)

**Spring Park Coffee**

328 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs  
[www.springparkcoffee.com](http://www.springparkcoffee.com)

**Urban Bean Coffeehouse Cafe, The**

2023 Park Ave., Orange Park  
[www.theurbanbeancoffeehouse.com](http://www.theurbanbeancoffeehouse.com)

**Urban Grind Coffee Company**

45 W. Bay St., Jacksonville  
[www.urbangrind.coffee](http://www.urbangrind.coffee)



The Urban Bean photo by Dana Ferguson

# Sippin' & Social: First Coast Nightlife

When the sun begins to set, the First Coast transforms into a playground for night owls. Fancy sipping cocktails on a rooftop while watching the city sparkle, or maybe feeling the ocean breeze as you hop from one lively bar to the next? Whatever your vibe, the First Coast has a spot for you. From pulsing dance clubs and buzzing live music venues to quirky hidden gems tucked around every corner, the nights here are anything but ordinary.

## CLAY COUNTY

### Cheers Park Avenue

*Orange Park*

### Corks and Barrels

*Fleming Island*

### Industry Pub, The

*Orange Park*

### Nakama Anime Bar

*Orange Park*

### Roadhouse, The

*Orange Park*

## DUVAL-BEACHES

### Brix Taphouse, The

*Jacksonville Beach*

### Flask & Cannon

*Jacksonville Beach*

### Hoptinger Bier Garden & Sausage House

*Jacksonville Beach*

### Lemon Bar

*Neptune Beach*

### Lynch's Irish Pub

*Jacksonville Beach*

### Pete's Bar

*Neptune Beach*

### Surfer [The Bar]

*Jacksonville Beach*

## DUVAL-SOUTH

### Aromas Cigar, Wine & Martini Bar

*Southside*

### Grape & Grain Exchange, The

*San Marco*

### Sidecar

*San Marco*

### Voodoo Brewing Co.

*San Marco*

## DUVAL-WEST

### Axe Champs

*Murray Hill*

### Birdies

*Five Points*

### Dos Gatos

*Downtown*

### Eclipse Bar & Nightclub

*Avondale*



Kickbacks Gastropub, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

### Garage, The

*Riverside*

### Hoptinger Bier Garden

*& Sausage House*

*Five Points*

### Keg & Coin

*Riverside*

### Kickbacks Gastropub

*Riverside*

### Loft, The

*Riverside*

### Root Down

*Five Points*

### Rouge

*Riverside*

### Volstead, The

*Downtown*

## NASSAU COUNTY

### Hammerhead Beach Bar

*Fernandina Beach*

### Palace Saloon

*Fernandina Beach*

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY

### Auggie's Draft Room

*St. Augustine*

### Barley Republic

*St. Augustine*

### Fionn MacCool's

*Ponte Vedra Beach*

### Ice Plant Bar

*St. Augustine*

### Mulligan's Pub

*Ponte Vedra Beach*

**Odd Birds**  
*St. Augustine*

**Stogies Jazz Club  
& Listening Room**  
*St. Augustine*

**Tini Martini Bar**  
*St. Augustine*

## Pet-Friendly Bars

**Brewhound Dog Park + Bar**  
*Neptune Beach*

**Kanine Social**  
*Riverside*

**Wicked Barley**  
*Southside*



Photo courtesy of Pexels

## Tour and Sample these First Coast Wineries and Distilleries

**Black Creek Distilleries**  
4289 CR 218, Middleburg  
[www.facebook.com/blackcreekdistilleries](http://www.facebook.com/blackcreekdistilleries)

**Citrus Distillers**  
2222 Harper St., Jacksonville

**City Gate Spirits**  
11 St. George St., St. Augustine  
[www.citygatespirits.com](http://www.citygatespirits.com)

**Four Fathers Distillery**  
2917 Borden St., Jacksonville  
[www.fourfathersdistillery.com](http://www.fourfathersdistillery.com)

**Manifest Distilling**  
960 E. Forsyth St., Jacksonville  
[www.manifestdistilling.com](http://www.manifestdistilling.com)

**Marlin & Barrel Distillery**  
232 S. 8th St., Fernandina Beach  
[www.marlinandbarreldistillery.com](http://www.marlinandbarreldistillery.com)

**San Sebastian Winery**  
157 King St., St. Augustine  
[www.sansebastianwinery.com](http://www.sansebastianwinery.com)

**St. Augustine Distillery**  
112 Iberia St., St. Augustine  
[www.staugustinedistillery.com](http://www.staugustinedistillery.com)

**Tuscan Rose Vineyards**  
45918 Bismark Rd., Callahan  
<https://tuscanrosevineyards.com/>



Four Fathers Distillery, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

# First Coast Craft Breweries

The First Coast is buzzing with craft beer! Sip your way through a lineup of unique, award-winning brews you won't find anywhere else. New to the scene? The Jax Ale Trail makes it easy to explore, with a self-guided tour that leads you to more than 20 breweries across the region—from Amelia Island to Jacksonville, even all the way down to St. Augustine.



Ink Factory Brewing, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

## DUVAL-BEACHES

Engine 15 Brewing Co.  
[www.engine15.com](http://www.engine15.com)  
*Jacksonville Beach*

Green Room Brewing  
<https://greenroombrewing.com>  
*Jacksonville Beach*

Ink Factory Brewing  
[www.inkfactorybrewing.com](http://www.inkfactorybrewing.com)  
*Jacksonville Beach*

Mayport Brewing Co.  
<https://mayportbrewing.com>  
*Mayport*

Reve Brewing  
[www.revebrewing.com](http://www.revebrewing.com)  
*Atlantic Beach*

Southern Swells Brewing Co.  
[www.southernswells.com](http://www.southernswells.com)  
*Jacksonville Beach*

Strings Sports Brewery  
<https://stringssportsbrewery.com>  
*Jacksonville Beach*

## DUVAL-NORTH

Flying Fish Taphouse  
[www.flyingfishtaphouse.com](http://www.flyingfishtaphouse.com)  
*Northside*

## DUVAL-SOUTH

Aardwolf Brewing Company  
[www.aardwolfbrewing.com](http://www.aardwolfbrewing.com)  
*San Marco*

Bottlenose Brewing  
<https://bottlenosebrewing.com>  
*Southside*

Legacy Ale Works  
[www.legacyleworks.com](http://www.legacyleworks.com)  
*Bartram Park*

Tepeyolot Cerveceria  
<https://tepeys.com>  
*San Marco*

Veterans United Craft Brewery  
[www.vubrew.com](http://www.vubrew.com)  
*Southside*

Voodoo Brewing Co.  
<https://jacksonville.voodooobrewery.com>  
*San Marco*

Wicked Barley Brewing Company  
<https://wickedbarley.com>  
*Baymeadows*

## DUVAL-WEST

Bold City Brewery  
<https://boldcitybrewery.com>  
*Downtown, Riverside*

Fishweir Brewing Company  
[www.fishweirbrewing.com](http://www.fishweirbrewing.com)  
*Murray Hill*

Grace Note Brewing  
<https://www.gracenote.beer>  
*Ortega*

Intuition Ale Works  
<https://intuitionaleworks.com>  
*Downtown*

King Maker Brewing  
[www.kingmakerbrewing.com](http://www.kingmakerbrewing.com)  
*Riverside*

Myrtle Avenue Brewing  
[www.facebook.com/MyrtleAveBrewing](http://www.facebook.com/MyrtleAveBrewing)  
*LaVilla*

Ruby Beach Brewing Company  
[www.rubybeachbrewing.com](http://www.rubybeachbrewing.com)  
*Downtown*

Strings Sports Brewery  
<https://stringssportsbrewery.com>  
*Springfield*

## NASSAU COUNTY

Disco Witch Brewing  
<https://discowitchbrewing.com>  
*Yulee*

First Love Brewing  
<https://firstlovebrewing.com>  
*Fernandina Beach*

Mocama Beer Company  
<https://mocama.com>  
*Fernandina Beach, Yulee*

SJ Brewing Company  
<https://sjbrewingco.com>  
*Yulee*

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY

2nd Bay Brewing Co.  
[www.2ndbaybrewing.com](http://www.2ndbaybrewing.com)  
*Fruit Cove*

Bog Brewing Company, The  
[www.bogbrewery.com](http://www.bogbrewery.com)  
*St. Augustine*

Dog Rose Brewing Co.  
[www.dogrosebrewing.com](http://www.dogrosebrewing.com)  
*St. Augustine*

Old Coast Ales Brewery  
[www.oldcoastales.com](http://www.oldcoastales.com)  
*St. Augustine*



The First Coast knows how to celebrate in style. From food festivals and holiday traditions to cultural showcases and historical reenactments, the region comes alive year-round with events that attract thousands of locals and visitors alike. These annual festivals not only entertain, but also highlight the rich heritage, creativity and community spirit that make the First Coast unforgettable.

## Let the Party Begin! First Coast Festivals & Celebrations

### BAKER COUNTY

#### Battle of Olustee

February

[www.battleofolustee.org](http://www.battleofolustee.org)

To commemorate Florida's largest Civil War battle, history comes to life through reenactments of the battle fought on Feb. 20, 1864. The event includes memorial services, demonstrations, crafts and arts, concerts, parades and more.

### CLAY COUNTY

#### Carrie Clarke Day

March

[www.townoforangepark.com](http://www.townoforangepark.com)

This historical festival celebrates the life and legacy of the Clarke family, one of the earliest families



Orange Park Farmers Market, photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

to live in Orange Park. Visitors can enjoy historic demonstrations, live music, hayrides and more.

#### Northeast Florida Scottish Games & Festival

February

<https://neflgames.org/>

Enjoy Scottish culture, history, athletics, food and entertainment at this family-friendly event celebrating Scottish and Celtic heritage. Events include parades, dances, piping, band and drum competitions, whisky tasting and more.

#### Town of Orange Park Fall Festival

October

[www.opfallfestival.com](http://www.opfallfestival.com)

Clay County's oldest and largest arts and crafts festival features more than 200 vendors and artists. Find beautiful handmade jewelry, pottery, art and unique gifts for purchase. Make sure to bring your appetite and sample the many food vendors on site.

#### Hometown Holiday in the Park

December

[www.townoforangepark.com](http://www.townoforangepark.com)

Enjoy an old-fashioned holiday celebration in Orange Park with pony rides, hay and train rides, tours of the Clarke House, pictures with Santa, shopping, music and more.



Scottish Games, photo courtesy of Clay County, FL Tourism

#### Parade of Trees in Spring Park

December

[www.greencovesprings.com/292/Parade-of-Trees](http://www.greencovesprings.com/292/Parade-of-Trees)

Stroll through this enchanting Spring Park event and admire beautifully decorated trees sponsored by members of the community. The trees are lit every night from December 1 through December 31.



World of Nations Celebration, photos courtesy of City of Jacksonville

**DUVAL COUNTY**

**World of Nations Celebration**

**February**

<https://events.jacksonville.gov/special-events/world-of-nations-celebration>

For more than 30 years, visitors have been enjoying this annual multicultural celebration. Travel the globe by sampling food, music, dance and stories from a variety of countries and cultures.

**Opening of the Beaches Parade**

**April**

[www.jacksonvillebeach.org](http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org)

Each year, the City of Jacksonville Beach celebrates the beginning of beach season with a festive parade.

**Springing The Blues Festival**

**April**

[www.springingtheblues.com](http://www.springingtheblues.com)

This exciting three-day blues festival at the Seawalk Pavilion features local, regional and national blues artists.

**Jacksonville Jazz Festival**

**May**

[www.jacksonvillejazzfest.com](http://www.jacksonvillejazzfest.com)

For more than four decades, the Jacksonville Jazz Festival has brought jazz legends such as Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Branford Marsalis, Buddy Guy, Harry Connick Jr., Mavis Staples and many more to the First Coast.

**Spooktacular**

**October**

[www.jacksonvillezoo.org/spooktacular](http://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/spooktacular)

This family-friendly Halloween event at the Jacksonville Zoo is full of tricks and treats. Dress up in your costume for a night filled with spooky stories and surprises around every corner.

**Jacksonville Light Boat Parade**

**November**

<https://events.jacksonville.gov/special-events/light-boat-parade>

For more than 30 years, the First Coast has enjoyed this holiday boat parade on the St. Johns River. Boats of all shapes and sizes are decorated with festive holiday lights, wreaths and other decorations.

Jacksonville Jazz Fest, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville



Jacksonville Jazz Fest, photo courtesy of City of Jacksonville



Jacksonville Porchfest, photo by Ken McCray

**Jacksonville PorchFest**

**November**

[www.jacksonvilleporchfest.org](http://www.jacksonvilleporchfest.org)

This lively community music festival is where local musicians perform on charming and historic Springfield front porches throughout the city, transforming neighborhoods into vibrant stages. Attendees stroll from porch to porch, enjoying diverse genres and the festive neighborly atmosphere.

**Deck The Chairs**

**November/December**

[www.deckthechairs.org](http://www.deckthechairs.org)

This holiday light display in Jacksonville Beach showcases more than 60 lifeguard chairs decorated with festive props, lights and more.

**NASSAU COUNTY**

**Amelia, The**

**March**

[www.ameliacours.org](http://www.ameliacours.org)

As one of the top automotive events in the world, The Amelia is the perfect event for car aficionados. Fans can see hundreds of cars on display, from 1930s Alfa Romeos to Formula 1 cars.

**Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival**

**May**

[www.shrimpfestival.com](http://www.shrimpfestival.com)

Taste the most delicious shrimp at this annual festival in downtown Fernandina Beach. Visitors can also enjoy live music, arts and crafts, contests and a pirate-themed parade.

**Dickens on Centre**

**December**

[www.ameliaisland.com/dickens-on-centre](http://www.ameliaisland.com/dickens-on-centre)

Inspired by Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," this annual event in downtown Fernandina Beach transports visitors back to the Victorian era with themed holiday entertainment, Christmas carolers, costumed characters and visits with Santa.

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival**

**March**

[www.floridashistoriccoast.com/blog/st-augustine-lions-spring-festival/](http://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/blog/st-augustine-lions-spring-festival/)

This annual festival draws thousands of visitors each year for two days of live music, delicious seafood and a local arts and crafts fair.



St. Augustine Nights of Lights, photo by Jonathon Wilson, courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com

**St. Augustine Food and Wine Festival**

**May**

<https://staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com>

This weekend-long festival features celebrity guest chefs, celebrity winemakers, local chefs, artisans, and local craft spirits/beers. From tasting events to master classes, this culinary celebration is perfect for all tastebuds!

**The First Coast offers so many opportunities to celebrate and have fun throughout the year!**



Deck the Chairs, photo by Betsy Dallo Ford

**Sing Out Loud Festival**

**September**

[www.singoutloudfestival.com](http://www.singoutloudfestival.com)

Enjoy the best of live entertainment in the Nation's Oldest City at this annual festival. Over 100 national, regional and local artists play a mix of free and ticketed shows at a dozen venues throughout St. Augustine over multiple weekends in September.

**Nights of Lights**

**November through January**

[www.floridashistoriccoast.com/nights-lights](http://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/nights-lights)

Listed among the "Top 10 Holiday Light Displays in the World" by *National Geographic*, this festival illuminates downtown St. Augustine with millions of twinkling lights.

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# ST. AUGUSTINE IS ONE OF THE TOP 20 MUST SEE PLACES IN THE WORLD



## Welcome to St. Johns County:

### Unveiling the Timeless Allure of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City

St. Johns County proudly encompasses the historic gem that is St. Augustine, renowned as the Nation's Oldest City. Embraced by global acclaim, St. Augustine has earned its place as a must-see destination, consistently securing a spot among the top 20 in the world, a distinction lauded by *National Geographic Traveler Magazine*. Adding to its charm, the Society of American Travel Writers recently celebrated St. Augustine as the fourth among the Top 10 Holiday Lights Sites, showcasing the city's enchanting festive ambience and cultural richness.

Beyond its status as a sought-after destination, St. Johns County stands as an idyllic place to establish roots. At its heart lies the St. Johns County School District, a bastion of academic excellence recognized as the foremost district in Florida. Coupled with this, *CNN Money* has bestowed upon this region the distinction of being "one of the best places to retire," cementing its appeal to families and retirees alike.

Navigating the complexities of real estate within the Nation's Oldest City and St. Johns County is best accomplished with the expertise of our distinguished members, possessing an intricate understanding of the local real estate landscape. Let their insight and professionalism guide you through the intricate process of buying and selling real estate, ensuring a seamless and informed journey for you and your family.

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