



# ST. AUGUSTINE PONTE VEDRA & THE BEACHES, FLORIDA

*Founded 1565 • Rediscovered Every Day*

## ATTRACTIONS

*More than 60 themed attractions and historical sites in St. Augustine bring the history and romance of the Old City to life. The combination of historic sites and modern-day storytelling make St. Augustine's attractions one of the most popular destinations in Florida.*

Travelers can step back in time walking amidst the original coquina walls and hand-hewn cedar beams that are evident in St. Augustine's Oldest House (Gonzalez-Alvarez House, 1704). Guests experience the lifestyles and craftsmanship found in 1740 at the living history Colonial Spanish Quarter Museum. A stop at Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth Archeological Park (1903) takes visitors through Christian Indian burial grounds and provides the opportunity to sip from the legendary Fountain of Youth. Other historic attractions include the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse, the authentic Old Jail, and The Dow Museum of Historic Homes, an entire block of nine restored homes, a country store, formal gardens and authentically-costumed guides tell the story of St. Augustine's colorful inhabitants dating back to the 16th century.

Two national monuments remain as guardians over the area of St. Augustine. Castillo de San Marcos (1695) was never conquered and endures as the oldest and only remaining 17th century stone fort in the U.S., and Fort Matanzas (1742) once protected the inlet from pirates and British vessels approaching St. Augustine from the south.

A collection of museums display the most impressive mementos and historical artifacts that Florida has to offer. The Government House Museum, on the corner of St. George and King Streets, dates back to the 1600's when it was the political center of Florida. Originally the elaborate \$1.5 million Hotel Alcazar built by Henry Flagler in 1888, The Lightner Museum is now home to impressive collections documenting American life during the Victorian Age and the early 20th century.

With 219 steps leading up the 165 foot-tower, the candy-striped St. Augustine Lighthouse provides visitors a panoramic view of St. Augustine and the beaches. The Lighthouse Museum displays maritime artifacts and recent archaeological discoveries and provides visitors with a look at what life was like for lighthouse keepers and their families.

The World Golf Hall of Fame, the international institution that celebrates and recognizes the game's greatest players and contributors, is showcasing a brand new exhibit on one of its members, "Bob Hope: Shanks for the Memory," through 2009 which displays hundreds of the legendary comedian and golfer's personal artifacts, photos and more.

Visitors looking for some prehistoric adventures can find more than 1,000 hungry reptiles as the main attraction at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park - the only facility in the world housing every species of crocodilian. At St. Augustine's San Sebastian Winery, adult visitors are treated to samples of fine wine and, for youngsters and non-drinkers, grape juice is provided.

Narrated sightseeing tours of downtown St. Augustine are conducted from charming open-air trolleys or trains and horse drawn carriages. On Matanzas Bay, scenic sightseeing tours are provided aboard cruise boats and sailing ships. Walking tours of the old city, hosted by knowledgeable tour guides in period costume, take visitors through the narrow streets and relate the history and color of St. Augustine. New this year is the Black Raven, a full-scale 65-foot Spanish galleon under the command of its pirate crew, transporting up to 125 passengers on each voyage to a high seas fun adventure.

With the growing popularity of our haunting past, many St. Augustine tour companies offer a variety of ghost tours. Whether seeking an authentic accounting of a local mystery or wanting the thrill of a spooking, St. Augustine offers tours that take guests walking among the cemeteries, sailing with the pirates, and touring haunted mansions.

Be sure to visit [www.TravelMediaBistro.com](http://www.TravelMediaBistro.com), the official media website for St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau.