

RELOCATION GUIDE TO

NORTHEAST FLORIDA

2024

FIRST COAST
relocation guide™

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

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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. In your hands are a multitude of resources to help you settle into your new home and learn about the area.

There is no doubt that the First Coast is the best place to Live, Work and Play. Tucked into the Northeast corner of Florida, the First Coast is a true diamond in the rough. Our region has a number of advantages for residents, from great year-round weather and gorgeous beaches to top-rated healthcare facilities and an outstanding education system that caters to all kinds of students. There are exciting events and sports teams as well as a very rich art and cultural community filled with festivals, concerts and more.

In the Live section, you can learn about the numerous neighborhoods and master-planned communities to find the perfect neighborhood for you. The section is broken down by county: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. If you are looking to rent, we have a comprehensive apartment living section that touches on the current market. The Getting Settled section provides important information such as finding the right utility and internet providers. Our pet section includes information on local dog parks, pet-friendly beaches and pet adoptions.

The Work section focuses on the First Coast's prominent industries, including healthcare, logistics and distribution and financial services. The current top employers of the area are highlighted, as well as impactful industries like information technology, advanced manufacturing and aviation.

Jacksonville is the largest city area-wise in the U.S., covering approximately 840 square miles. As a new resident on the First Coast, you will need to know the best ways to traverse this vast area. The Transportation section includes information on toll roads and the many transportation services around the First Coast that accommodate its growing population.

With our strong military presence here, many active-duty military and veterans choose the First Coast as their home. Naval Air Station Jacksonville is the largest navy base in the Southeast region. Naval Station Mayport is home to the Navy's Fourth Fleet and the third-largest naval surface fleet concentration area in the nation.

The Play section includes everything there is to have fun on the First Coast! Our weather gives plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities such as visiting beaches and waterways, state parks and preserves, and historical sites and museums. The First Coast has the largest urban park system in the nation and miles of beaches and coastline make the area a perfect place for adventure. The entertainment options on the First Coast are endless, from concerts and festivals to sporting events and Broadway plays. The First Coast has a rich dining scene with everything ranging from quaint cafes to restaurants headed by some of the most prestigious chefs. For those looking for a night out, the First Coast has a lively nightlife filled with bars, breweries and nightclubs.

We are so excited 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



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Note from the Editor

Welcome to the First Coast! It's a privilege to call Jacksonville and Northeast Florida home, and soon you will see why. The First Coast has everything residents could ever want. Here, you'll find bustling urban areas, rural farmlands, quaint suburbs and gorgeous beaches. This area has grown into a destination for business, healthcare, sports, entertainment, shopping and dining. To keep up with the population influx, new residential and commercial developments continue to pop up all over the First Coast.

The First Coast is a vast region, encompassing Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties. Living in such an expansive area means there is always something new to discover, even for a longtime resident like me. Whether you are looking for a day out with the family or a night on the town, there is something for everyone. With beautiful beaches in Nassau, Duval and St. Johns counties, you'll find endless opportunities to soak up the sun and feel the sand between your toes.

If you love the great outdoors like I do, there are plenty of places to hike, camp, fish and simply enjoy nature. In Amelia Island, Fort Clinch State Park is a great spot to hunt for shark teeth. The beaches at Big Talbot Island State Park are known for their gorgeous salt-washed driftwood and rich coastal ecosystems. Jacksonville also boasts the largest urban park system in the entire country. Visit one of our many local nature centers or preserves for a chance to get up close and personal with native wildlife and plants.

The First Coast is also home to historic St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city. Bursting with history, it features iconic Spanish colonial architecture, charming cobblestone streets, historical landmarks and stunning beaches. Take a day to visit St. Augustine's iconic Castillo de San Marcos, the largest masonry fort in the continental U.S.

When you're craving something delicious, our food scene has you covered. With everything from hole-in-the-wall eateries to elegant bistros, First Coast restaurants are always serving up delectable dishes. Our local chefs take inspiration from all over the globe, creating a fusion of flavors. Since we live in a coastal region, fresh seafood is a menu staple at many restaurants as well.

When you need to get some shopping done, head to Jacksonville's premier outdoor mall, the St. Johns Town Center. In St. Johns County, the ever-expanding Pavilion at Durbin Park is expected to be the largest shopping destination in Northeast Florida once fully complete. There are also one-of-a-kind shops and boutiques throughout the First Coast in neighborhoods such as San Marco, Avondale, Riverside, Fernandina Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine.

For families living on the First Coast, there are many opportunities to have tons of fun! Catch a sporting event or concert in downtown Jacksonville. Take a walk on the wild side at the Jacksonville Zoo or Catty Shack. Visit the Museum of Science and History and learn about the coastal creatures of Northeast Florida.

Even though the First Coast has grown and expanded over the years, it still has a welcoming small-town atmosphere. Friendly neighbors and tight-knit communities make our neck of the woods the best place to settle down. We are so excited to call you our neighbor!

Welcome home!

Monica Fields
Lead Editor





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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10 Reasons Why We Love Living on The First Coast!

The First Coast is the best place to Live, Work and Play! As the largest city by area in the nation, our community has a friendly, small-town feel with big-city advantages. The area continues to attract young professionals, families and retirees alike. Here are some of the reasons why we love the First Coast and are proud to call it home!



Jacksonville Beach, photo by Jacksonville Beach Moms on Unsplash

1. Exquisite Beaches

Did you know that the First Coast has more than 1,100 miles of shoreline and 22 miles of beaches? The First Coast gives beach lovers the opportunity to surf, swim or kayak. With more than 60 species of fish, the waterways are a fisherman's dream come true. Our beaches are the perfect spot for a relaxing day and fun in the sun. To find the perfect beach near you, visit our Beaches and Waterways section on page 108.

2. Welcoming Neighborhoods

The First Coast has a wide selection of neighborhoods, each with its own unique characteristics. Whether you are looking for a rural farmhouse, coastal cottage, historic bungalow, a community with new builds or a Downtown loft, your new home is waiting for you. The neighborhoods here offer a variety of styles and budgets to help anyone find their perfect home. For a list of our First Coast neighborhoods, go to page 14.



Photo by Stephanie Marty



Downtown Jacksonville, photo by Stephanie Marty

3. Bustling Business

The First Coast is home to four Fortune 500 companies and headquarters for more than 150 companies. Whether you are interested in a career in information technology, finance, government, healthcare or the military, the First Coast is a great place to work and do business. Go to page 82 to find out more about First Coast business.



4. Outstanding Healthcare

The First Coast is one of the top destinations in the nation for healthcare, with some of the best providers and hospitals here in our own backyard. One of three Mayo Clinics, an MD Anderson Cancer Center, as well as Ascension St. Vincent's, Baptist Health and UF Health call the First Coast home. Residents also have access to children's healthcare with Nemours Children's Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital. For more information on healthcare, visit page 70.



6. Delicious Dining

The First Coast food scene has a diverse array of flavors. With a wide selection of cuisines, upscale restaurants, unique food trucks and locally owned eateries, the dining options are endless. Sample dishes from all over the world and enjoy the perfect meal. Go to page 133 to find our list of restaurants.



Celebration of Valor, photo courtesy of COJ

5. Dedicated Military

The strong military presence on the First Coast has a significant impact on the region by employing active-duty, reserve and civilian men and women. The First Coast is home to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the largest Navy base in the Southeast. Naval Station Mayport is north of Atlantic Beach and home to the Navy's Fourth Fleet. In Southeast Georgia, Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base is about 45 minutes from Jacksonville. Camp Blanding Joint Training Center and Marine Corps Blount Island Command are also on the First Coast. Turn to page 96 for more information on our military.

7. Exceptional Education

Parents on the First Coast can find a variety of education options for their children with our many award-winning schools. The First Coast offers public, private, charter and magnet schools, as well as schools for learning differences. Institutions of higher education such as Jacksonville University, Florida State College at Jacksonville, University of North Florida and Flagler College are also located here. On page 54, you'll find information on First Coast education.



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Rory Dubin
2024 NEFAR President



Photo by gifficz2, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

9. Year-Round Sports

Here on the First Coast, we enjoy sports all year round! Head over to EverBank Stadium to cheer on the Jacksonville Jaguars. At the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, you can catch a Jacksonville Icemen hockey game and may even get to meet their mascot, Fang! Grab some popcorn and enjoy a Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp baseball game at the 121 Financial Ballpark. Other annual sports events on the First Coast include THE PLAYERS Championship, the Florida-Georgia game and the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl. See our Sports section on page 125 for all the great teams in our area.



Photo by Stephanie Marty

8. Exciting Entertainment

We love to have a good time on the First Coast! Visit one of the many concert venues and performing arts centers such as the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, Daily's Place, St. Augustine Amphitheatre and VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. Go to page 120 for more entertainment options on the First Coast.

10. Superb Shopping

The First Coast has a wide variety of options for shoppers. As a premier shopping destination, the St. Johns Town Center has more than 150 retailers. For unique, upscale and trendy boutiques check out our historic neighborhoods and beach communities. Check out our shopping section on page 131 for more information.



Shops at the St. Johns Town Center, photo by Monica Parks

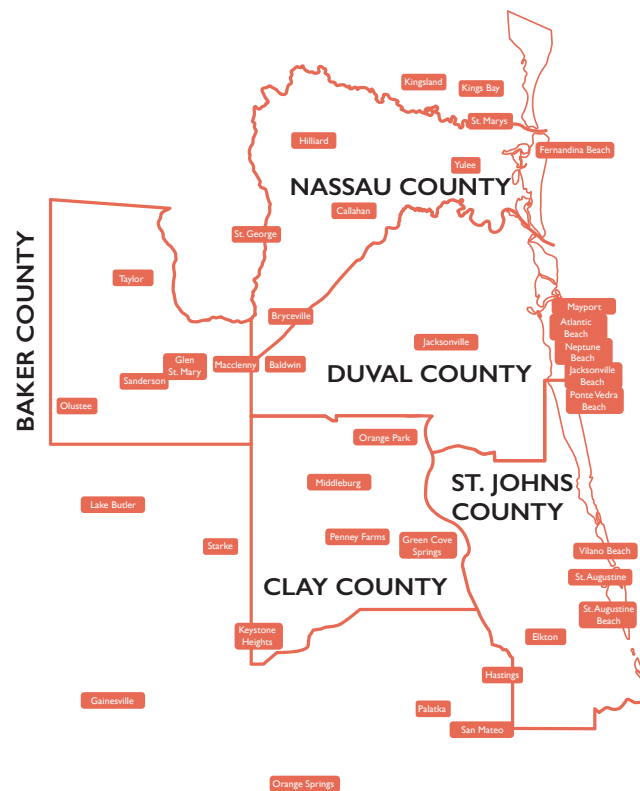
We believe this publication will be your go-to guide for learning about the First Coast. We love living here and are excited for you to discover your new home and city. The First Coast truly is the best place to Live, Work and Play!



LIVE

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

Your Neck of the Woods: Finding the Perfect Neighborhood



The First Coast is fortunate to have a wide variety of neighborhoods and communities for newcomers to choose from. To help you navigate this vast region, we have put together descriptions of each neighborhood within the five First Coast counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns.

Whether you're on the hunt for a house in the country, a beachside cottage, a new home in a master-planned community, a charming historic home or a high-rise condominium in downtown Jacksonville, the First Coast has it all!



Baker County Fair, photo courtesy of Shutterstock

BAKER COUNTY

Estimated Population: 28,601 (2023)

Area: 589 square miles

Those who call Baker County home enjoy the area's charming country atmosphere in addition to the perks of being near the city. Downtown Jacksonville is a quick 30-minute drive, giving residents the ability to easily commute into town. Florida's natural beauty is preserved here through the county's lush woodlands and swamps that give residents endless opportunities to explore the outdoors.

GLEN ST. MARY/MACCLENNY

If country life is calling your name, **Glen St. Mary** and **Macclenny** could be the perfect place to call home. Whether you are looking for a single-family home, gated community or even a property with sprawling acreage, Glen St. Mary is an idyllic town. The city of Macclenny stands as the county seat of Baker County. The city has a population of about 7,300 residents and is 35 miles from Jacksonville and six miles from the Georgia border. This city provides residents with subdivisions that offer single-family homes, apartment complexes and townhomes.

Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, photo by CycleHere



Home in Macclenny





Historic home in Green Cove Springs, photo by Annaleasa Winter

CLAY COUNTY

Estimated Population: 226,459 (2023)

Area: 644 square miles

Southwest of Jacksonville and west of historic St. Augustine, Clay County is a diverse mixture of suburban neighborhoods and up-and-coming communities. The area is a popular destination for nature lovers due to its scenic trails, immense wildlife and bountiful waterways.

FLEMING ISLAND

This thriving community continues to attract newcomers year after year. **Fleming Island** is home to major housing developments, including Eagle Harbor, Fleming Island Plantation and Pace Island. Residents also enjoy access to a bustling commercial area filled with shopping centers, entertainment and restaurants. Black Creek Park, located on the south side of Fleming Island, borders Black Creek, which is full of nature trails for both hikers and bikers.



Historic Orange Park home, photo courtesy of Clay County

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GREEN COVE SPRINGS

Originally established in 1854 as White Sulfur Springs, **Green Cove Springs** is a friendly community filled with rich history. Its natural sulfur springs flow into the St. Johns River where many older homes line the river. Recently, the city has seen new housing developments pop up as the population grows. **Granary Park** is a new 290-acre master-planned community in Green Cove Springs that consists of 770 single-family homesites and offers residents a variety of high-end amenities.

From the developers that built Nocatee and eTown, Parc Group is planning to develop a new master-planned community in the area known as **Governors Park**. The community will span more than 3,000 acres and will include about 4,000 homes, 2,000 multi-family units as well as a mix of retail stores and offices. Also in development in Green Cove Springs is **Hyland Trail**, a 750-acre master-planned community with approximately 1,500 single-family homes.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

The lakeside city of **Keystone Heights** is full of old-town charm. Located in the southwest corner of Clay County, prospective residents will find tree-lined streets, cozy cottages, single-family homes and plenty of undeveloped land. The city has a family-friendly appeal with many parks and beautiful sand bottom lakes, including Lake Geneva.

OAKLEAF PLANTATION

Oakleaf Plantation is a family-oriented planned community with multiple village-style subdivisions situated in Clay County, with a small

area falling into Duval County. The plantation offers newcomers single- and multi-family homes, luxury condominiums and apartments. Oakleaf Plantation sits on more than 6,400 acres of land that includes a dedicated nature preserve with almost 1,400 acres of untouched wildlife. Nature lovers will also enjoy being adjacent to Jennings State Forest, which has a diverse number of paths and trails. The bustling Oakleaf Town Center has various shopping and restaurant options.

Eagle Landing at Oakleaf

Plantation is a resort-style community that sits near the beautiful Jennings State Forest. It has a variety of new home styles ranging from traditional to contemporary with an abundance of amenities. Residents can hit the links at the 18-hole championship golf course designed by Clyde Johnson, a renowned golf course architect. Eagle Landing allows golf cart access everywhere from within the community, which makes it much easier to navigate the area. The community offers movie nights, golf clinics, tennis leagues and summer camps at the amenity complex. Residents can also take advantage of a full-size gym with a fitness center, golf clubhouse, Swim Park, Kid's Club, 12 lighted tennis courts and a village store with a café.

GreyHawk is a 188-acre, master-planned community near Branan Field Wildlife Area in the Oakleaf area. The community boasts many amenities, including a fitness studio, dog park, basketball court, tennis courts, a resort-style pool, a playground and walking paths.

Homes in Green Cove Springs, photo by Annaleasa Winter



Historic home in Green Cove Springs, photo by Annaleasa Winter

ORANGE PARK

Located in the northeastern section of Clay County, **Orange Park** offers all the advantages of big city living with a small-town pace of life. Housing options include everything from waterfront estates along the St. Johns River and Doctors Lake to new developments inland. The town is home to a variety of shopping areas, fine dining and live entertainment. Residents also have close access to I-295 and NAS Jacksonville.

MIDDLEBURG

Located near Black Creek in central Clay County, **Middleburg** has rapidly grown into a charming suburb that still retains its country roots. Residents have many housing options, including single-family homes and apartments.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DONNA DEEGAN
MAYOR

CITY HALL SUITE 400
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JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

Dear Neighbor,

As Mayor of Jacksonville and a fifth-generation native, I am thrilled to welcome you to town.

And I am proud to highlight the many attractions and opportunities available in the wonderful place we call home. Well-known as the largest city by land mass in the contiguous United States, our 840 square miles are as diverse and vibrant as our citizens.

With beautiful beaches, and the St. Johns River running through the heart of the city, Jacksonville features a wealth of stunning natural resources and the largest urban parks system in the country, with many waterfront access points and activities. We also boast a thriving arts and cultural scene, exciting professional sports, cutting-edge entertainment venues, and a bustling business environment.

We are proud to be one of the most military- and veteran-friendly cities in the nation. With three major military installations here on the First Coast, the city boasts a long military history and supports its community members who have selflessly served our country.

Jacksonville is also home to world-class health care facilities, a growing fintech sector, and a variety of globally recognized industries and companies. We are focused on continuing to make it an exciting place for young professionals, a safe and affordable place to raise a family, and a peaceful oasis for retirees.

As you will see in the pages of this book, Jacksonville is very special. I am honored to be this city's mayor and I know you will love our city as much as I do.

Sincerely,

Donna Deegan
Mayor



Jacksonville Beach, photo by Jacksonville Beach Moms on Unsplash

DUVAL COUNTY

Estimated Population: 1,034,957 (2023)

Area: 918 square miles

From a bustling downtown to quiet suburbs, Duval County has an abundance of neighborhoods for everyone. Since the county is so vast (Jacksonville being the largest city by area in the contiguous U.S.), we divided it into four sections: Beaches, North, South and West.

DUVAL-BEACHES

The Beaches area is a vibrant yet laid back community and popular spot for newcomers. It encompasses Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Mayport. **Atlantic Beach** is mainly a residential area filled with single-family homes. Residents here can take advantage of the numerous walking and biking trails, as well as community parks and many outdoor events throughout the year. **Neptune Beach** is the smallest beach community in Duval County, covering only 2.5 square miles. It has a tranquil feel with quiet subdivisions full of charming bungalows.

Jacksonville Beach is a vibrant community filled with trendy shops and restaurants as well as some of the best nightlife and entertainment the First Coast has to offer. Potential residents can choose from single-family homes, beachfront condos, apartments and more. Known for its delicious shrimp, the fishing village of **Mayport** is one of the oldest in the nation. Mayport is located just north of Atlantic Beach and has a variety of

single-family homes and apartments. Many residents of Mayport are military personnel and civilians who work at Naval Station Mayport.

DUVAL-NORTH

ARLINGTON/FORT CAROLINE

First settled by Europeans in 1564, the **Arlington/Fort Caroline** area is rich in history. The area is bordered by the St. Johns River to the west and north, the Intracoastal Waterway to the east and finally Atlantic Boulevard to the south. The area offers single- and multi-family homes, condominiums, townhomes, waterfront properties and even homes in picturesque golf communities.

NORTHSIDE/OCEANWAY

The **Northside** consists of neighborhoods north of downtown Jacksonville as well as undeveloped land above the St. Johns River. This area offers quick access to the Jacksonville International Airport, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and River City Marketplace—a bustling retail area with various stores and



Neptune Beach, photo by Mikaela Rae on Unsplash

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Homes on the Intracoastal, photo courtesy of iStock



San Marco, photo by Stephanie Marty

restaurants. **Oceanway** stretches from U.S. 1 to the Atlantic Ocean and then moves to the Duval/Nassau County line to the Trout River and St. Johns River. These neighborhoods offer townhomes, apartment complexes and many housing developments.

Tidewater is a new community in the Northside area that offers homes

surrounded by large oak trees and stunning water views. Homes here feature coastal, craftsman, vernacular and farmhouse architectural styles.

DUVAL-SOUTH INTRACOASTAL WEST

The **Intracoastal West** neighborhood is located west of the Intracoastal Waterway and north of John Turner

Butler Boulevard (JTB), along Kernan Boulevard. Choose from apartments, condominiums, subdivisions and retirement communities, all nestled along the Intracoastal. The area offers nearby shopping and restaurants, as well as access to the Intracoastal Waterway. The master-planned community **Tamaya** is nestled between the city and the sea. It offers

homes with Tuscan, Mediterranean and Spanish architectural styles. To learn more about Tamaya, please see page 23.

MANDARIN

Mandarin is a historic neighborhood located in the southern part of Jacksonville. Once the home of famous author Harriet Beecher

Townhomes on the Southside, photo by Monica Fields



Stowe, this area was named for the major crop of the area: Mandarin oranges. Mandarin is also home to many beautiful parks and stunning water views. The two smaller neighborhoods of Beauclerc and San Jose border Mandarin. Beauclerc has a variety of brick and rambler homes with some two-story contemporary floorplans. San Jose has many homes built in the 1950s and 1960s, but also has some recent developments.

SAN MARCO

Just south of downtown Jacksonville's Southbank lies the popular historic neighborhood of **San Marco**. This area has unique boutiques, coffee shops, restaurants, art galleries, trendy cocktail bars and breweries. In the center of San Marco is the beautiful tree-lined San Marco Square, home to the Three Lions Fountain sculpture. The neighborhood offers apartments, townhouses, small bungalows, riverfront mansions and condos.

SOUTHSIDE/BAYMEADOWS

Those looking for the largest variety of housing choices should consider the **Southside/Baymeadows** area, which has single-family homes, luxury apartments, condominiums, townhomes and gated communities. There are many options for shopping and dining, including the Avenues Mall, located in the heart of the area. There are also corporate office parks, retail centers and various residential communities.

The master-planned community, **eTown**, is located off 9B in southern Duval County. This neighborhood offers single-family homes, townhomes, apartments and



Riverside, photo by Alex Baker

many retail spots. With a focus on eco-friendly living, eTown homes are designed with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind. Recharge, the community's five-acre amenity center, includes a resort-style pool with zero entry, adjoining lap pool, high-tech fitness center with an outdoor yoga lawn, rooftop patio, playground, event lawn and a dog park.

Seven Pines is a new 1,000-acre master-planned community near I-295 and Butler Boulevard. The community will have approximately 1,600 single-family homes, apartments and commercial and retail space once fully complete. Residents have exclusive access to a 34-acre park with a beautiful lake. Residents are also able to use canoes and kayaks provided by the community. Outdoor lovers can enjoy walking and biking trails circling the lake. Other amenities include a 7,900-square-foot clubhouse, community pools and more.

Located between Nocatee and eTown just off US-1, **EverRange** is a new master-planned community spanning 1,000 acres. It will include 1,500 modern homes with a rustic ambience. EverRange is slated to open in 2025.

TOWN CENTER

The ever-expanding area around the **St. Johns Town Center** is home to many luxury apartments, townhomes, and condominiums. Residents in this neighborhood are within walking distance to the best shopping Jacksonville has to offer. The area also has exciting entertainment and amazing restaurants. With the University of North Florida down the road, many college students choose to call this area home.



Photo by Stephanie Marty

DUVAL-WEST DOWNTOWN

Those looking for metropolitan living can find lofts, townhomes and riverfront condominiums in **Downtown**. Many loft apartments are found in renovated buildings dating back to the early 1920s. Residents living Downtown are within walking distance to several bars, nightclubs and restaurants. Downtown is also the epicenter for entertainment, business and culture on the First Coast, with public art, museums, festivals, concerts and sporting events.

RIVERSIDE/AVONDALE

The **Riverside/Avondale** neighborhoods are full of vibrant culture and historic charm. Strolling through the neighborhoods, residents will find a mix of restaurants, cafes, boutiques, antique shops, art galleries, nightclubs and bars. Many of the homes on the area's tree-lined streets have been restored to keep

original architecture. Riverside/Avondale has brick quadruplexes and duplexes as well as large historic homes and small bungalows.

The **Brooklyn Riverside** apartments offer modern comforts and urban living located off I-95 in the heart of Jacksonville. A variety of amenities are available to residents, including granite and quartz countertops, in-unit washer/dryer combinations and gorgeous downtown skyline views.

SPRINGFIELD

Founded in 1869, **Springfield** is the city's oldest neighborhood. This diverse community has been undergoing much revitalization with many mansions and bungalows being restored to their former glory. The streets are lined with majestic oaks, which provide a welcoming shade along the bright streets. The area has many locally owned stores, coffee shops, restaurants, public art, beautiful murals and even some craft breweries.



SOBA, photo courtesy of Downtown Vision Inc.

WESTSIDE

Tudor-style homes, wooden framed houses and waterfront mansions can be found on Jacksonville's **Westside**. This area is made up of smaller communities including Baldwin, Maxville, Marietta, Whitehouse and Normandy. The historic Ortega neighborhood is south of Riverside and filled with historic homes, peaceful parks, and ancient live oak trees. Many residents of the Westside are military personnel due to the proximity of Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

“Duval County is the central county of the Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area.”

Tamaya: Vibrant Life Between the City and the Sea

Ideally located between the bustling city and the relaxing sea, Tamaya is a premier master-planned community from ICI Homes. You will find this gated community in Jacksonville's quaint Intracoastal neighborhood on Beach Boulevard nestled between Kernan and Hodges Boulevards. Potential homebuyers can choose from lakefront or conservation homes.

The community offers everything newcomers and residents alike could ever want in a neighborhood. You'll find great shopping, restaurants, fine dining, entertainment and more right in your own backyard. It's a quick drive to Mayo Clinic, six miles from Jacksonville Beach and close to top-rated schools. It is also close to highways such as JTB and I-295, making commuting a breeze.

Tamaya has many opportunities for residents to enjoy time outdoors. In addition to its lush landscaping, Tamaya offers walking and hiking paths, picturesque lakes and much more. Located nearby is the University of North Florida, which offers many walking paths and trails as well. Tamaya's 10,000-square-foot Resident's Club also gives residents a place to unwind and relax. Its cabana and lounge chairs make for the perfect spot for get-togethers and parties. Residents can also enjoy two resort-style pools: an exquisite zero-entry pool and a competition-style pool with lap lanes.



The community also has a 5,000-square-foot fitness center equipped with treadmills, ellipticals and weight machines. The Har-Tru tennis courts, basketball court, playground and event lawn allow for endless activities. Additional amenities include a cigar club that boasts sculptured wooden ceiling beams, luxury seating, windows that provide a breathtaking view of the community and top-of-the-line furnishings.

Residents enjoy the ease of access to stores with the Tamaya Market right outside the neighborhood.

The shopping center has Sprouts, an organic and health food grocery store, Shipley Do-nuts, the DRIPBaR health spa, and Green Papaya Thai and Sushi. Tamaya Market also has a bank, nail salon and plans to grow with more businesses in the future.

The homes available in Tamaya range from 1,800 to 4,000-plus square feet and begin in the \$500s. The community's builder, ICI Homes, brings the perfect combination of Tuscan, Mediterranean and Spanish architectural styles together for a unique, exclusive community. The Point at Tamaya is a luxury apartment complex offering spacious one-, two-, and three-bedroom options. Grand Living at Tamaya is a senior living community that has independent living, assisted living and memory care.

Tamaya offers so much when looking to choose a new neighborhood. Whether you are looking for entertainment, shopping, a trip to the beach or excellent schools, Tamaya is the perfect place for you to call home. These custom-built homes and state-of-the-art amenities make Tamaya a great place for families to grow on the First Coast.

When you discover Tamaya, you will see that this piece of paradise is a true gem nestled between the city and the sea.





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, 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.com.

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", is written over a light blue background.

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, Palatka, and World Golf Village.



Wildlight, photo courtesy of Wildlight Living



American Beach, photo courtesy of Ameliainland.com

NASSAU COUNTY

Estimated Population: 95,464 (2023)

Area: 726 square miles

Beautiful coastlines, top-rated schools and new neighborhood options in stunning communities are many of the reasons Nassau County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation. As the eastern gateway to Florida, the county is full of friendly neighbors, unique shops and various restaurants. The many neighborhoods here are close to beaches, meadows, rivers and farms, making this a great home for everyone.

AMELIA ISLAND/FERNANDINA BEACH

Amelia Island is a popular vacation spot known for its golf courses, luxury resorts and stunning beaches. A quick 30-minute drive from Jacksonville, Amelia Island is the northernmost barrier island in Florida and is located on the Georgia border. This beautiful 13.5-mile island is rich in history with eight national flags having flown over the island, giving the nickname of the Isle of Eight Flags.

Residents can enjoy easy living in many desirable neighborhoods and communities in **Fernandina Beach**, including a visit to the oldest saloon in Florida. Whether you are looking for a sprawling estate, cozy home or large piece of land, this city offers living options for all wants and needs. Outdoor lovers can enjoy many activities in the area such as

Fort Clinch State Park located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean.

Amelia National is a master-planned golf community in Fernandina Beach with luxury and resort-style amenities. Residents have access to an 18-hole Tom Fazio golf course as well as a state-of-the-art fitness center with spa, pool, a new lighted tennis court facility, and a French provincial-style country club.

CALLAHAN

The rural town of **Callahan** is located in southwestern Nassau County. Those looking to relocate here will find multiple options, including spacious properties, single-family homes or a home in a subdivision. With numerous outdoor activities available for residents, many spend time hiking, fishing, biking or enjoying local golf courses.

HILLIARD

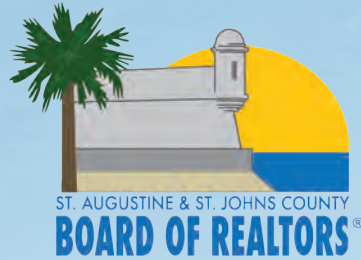
Hilliard is a quaint, family-oriented town in northwestern Nassau County known for its aviation, timber and agricultural industries. Housing options include single-family homes and apartments. Purchasing undeveloped land is also an option for those looking to build a custom home.

YULEE

The growing community of **Yulee** is west of Amelia Island and the Intracoastal Waterway in the largest unincorporated area of Nassau County. It consists primarily of residential options with planned communities, waterfront properties, apartments and condominiums.

Tributary is one of the First Coast's newest master-planned communities. The 1,550-acre neighborhood offers approximately 3,200 single-family

homes, townhomes, and multi-family units. Residents can take advantage of the resort-style amenities that include a clubhouse, pool and dog playground. Outdoor enthusiasts can explore nearby Boggy Creek as well. Nestled in Yulee, the community of **Wildlight** is proud to embrace low country living with beautiful homes that have open interiors full of natural light and sprawling front porches. Wildlight has four neighborhoods to choose from, including Del Webb Wildlight, Forest Park, Founder's Park and Hawthorn Park. Those who wish to rent can choose from apartments in The Lofts and The Exchange or townhome and single-family home rentals in The Hamlet. The community has preserved half of its acreage for hiking, biking trails and parks. Amenities such as a community outdoor pool and events are available to residents.



Dear New Residents,

Welcome to the timeless charm and vibrant community of St. Augustine and St. Johns County! On behalf of the entire community and the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of REALTORS® and Multiple Listing Service, it is our great pleasure to extend our warmest greetings as you begin your new journey in this remarkable region.

St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City, is steeped in rich history and embodies a unique blend of cultural heritage and modern vitality. Nestled within St. Johns County, our area boasts an array of attractions and opportunities that cater to diverse interests and lifestyles.

From the cobbled streets of our historic downtown to the pristine coastline stretching for miles, you'll discover a tapestry of experiences that beckon exploration. As you settle into your new home, you'll find our community is a harmonious blend of small-town warmth and the convenience of larger-town amenities, offering a lifestyle that is both inviting and fulfilling.

Our esteemed St. Johns County School District stands as a testament to academic excellence, continually recognized as a top-ranking district in Florida. Additionally, our region has earned accolades from reputable sources such as *National Geographic Traveler Magazine* and *CNN Money*, underscoring the appeal of this area as a desirable destination to live, work, and retire.

As you acclimate to your new surroundings, our knowledgeable members, who are local experts in real estate, stand ready to assist you. Whether you're considering purchasing or selling a home or business, our dedicated REALTORS® are here to support and guide you through this process, ensuring a successful and seamless transition into our community.

To explore the range of real estate opportunities and find the right fit for your needs, I encourage you to visit our website at sasjcrealtors.com. There, you can connect with a REALTOR® who can provide personalized assistance and expertise tailored to your preferences and requirements.

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

With the utmost respect,

Victor J. Raymos, RCE, ABR, CRS AE/CEO St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of REALTORS and Multiple Listing Service



Photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricalCoast.com

NOCATEE

See an in-depth description of everything the community of **Nocatee** offers on page 32.

NORTHWEST ST. JOHNS

St. Johns County is known for the new neighborhoods and developments that are popping up. The area's top-ranked schools and growing businesses continue to attract newcomers. Both **Switzerland** and **Fruit Cove** are located east of the St. Johns River and south of Mandarin. This area is perfect for those wishing to enjoy a country setting with the convenience of having amenities around the corner. There are a variety of parks, historical sites and trails for both hiking and biking in the area. **Julington Creek** has many residential communities with luxury estates, single-family homes, townhouses and condominiums.

The master-planned community **Shearwater** is a quick drive to St. Augustine Beach, historic St.

Augustine and the Southeast Intracoastal Waterway Park. Benefits of living here include nature trails, a waterslide tower, resort-style lagoon, tennis courts and an exclusive fitness center.

The **Durbin Crossing** community is full of sprawling residential homes and covers more than 2,000 acres. The schools are A-rated, and some of the best parks and golf courses are nearby. Residents can take advantage of the neighborhood's two amenity centers, enjoy hiking at nature preserves and other various activities. Close by is the Pavilion at Durbin Park, a large mixed-use development covering more than 1,600 acres at the intersection of Race Track Road and Bartram Park Boulevard. A variety of homes are available near Durbin Park, with plans for more developments in the future.

The master-planned community of **SilverLeaf** is located between County Road 210 and State Road 16. Comprised of 11,000 acres, the community is zoned for more than

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Estimated Population: 298,442 (2023)

Area: 822 square miles

With a rich history and many diverse communities, St. Johns County is one of the two original counties first established in the state. The area has developed greatly over the years with many people moving to the area due to the excellent schools, gorgeous beaches, golf and shopping.

16,300 homes and 2.9 million square feet of mixed-use and commercial space. Amenities in the area include dog parks, tennis and pickleball courts, pools, and more than 4,350 acres of conservation land.

RiverTown is a waterfront community along the St. Johns River. This quaint area is made up of several unique neighborhoods, including one for residents 55 and over. A variety of amenities are available, including a boardwalk, waterfront dining, a playground, waterfront amphitheater, kayak launch and hiking trails.

The 1,316-acre **Aberdeen** community is nestled around a wetland conservation area. The community has 68 acres specially dedicated to lakes as well as 1,623 single-family homes and 168 multi-family units. Amenities available include a health and fitness center, walking trails, a playground, sports park, aquatic facility, community picnic area and more.



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Set around an expansive 43-acre lake, the **Beacon Lake** community offers numerous amenities, homes from premier builders, and proximity to top-rated public schools. Upon completion, Beacon Lake will have 1,280 single-family homes and 196 townhomes on 630 acres, 358 acres of which are allocated for a nature preserve.

Beachwalk in northern St. Johns County gives its residents the resort lifestyle with many top-of-the-line amenities and architecture inspired by the West Indies. Residents can enjoy swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking, fishing and more at the community's 14-acre crystal lagoon complete with a white sandy beach. Additional Beachwalk amenities include a 24-hour fitness center, dog splash park, swim-up bar, beach club, dining, putting course and tennis courts.

PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Ponte Vedra Beach is located in the northeast corner of St. Johns County between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. This gorgeous area has a wide variety of neighborhoods and homes to choose from, including oceanfront estates, exclusive neighborhoods, condominiums and apartments. The area is also home to many upscale

restaurants and shopping. Some of the best golf courses in the nation are in Ponte Vedra Beach, including TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course where THE PLAYERS Championship is held every year. Ponte Vedra Beach is also the headquarters of the PGA TOUR, the Association of Tennis Professionals and the Champions Tour.

ST. AUGUSTINE

The city of **St. Augustine** was founded in 1565 and is full of rich history. Residents can explore different historic sites like the Castillo De San Marcos National Monument, the Lightner Museum, the Old Jail and St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum. St. Augustine has planned communities, oceanfront homes, historic homes, condominiums and apartments to choose from. The affluent community of the **Neighborhoods of World Golf Village** is a quick 10-minute drive from the beaches. This community has an array of living options throughout the neighborhoods, including master-planned communities, estates, condominiums and townhomes.

TrailMark is a tranquil master-planned community in St. Augustine offering one- and two-story single-family homes. Perfect for outdoor lovers, residents can take advantage

St. Augustine Lighthouse, photo courtesy of Pexels



of the community's lakeside pavilion, resort-style swimming pool, natural oak hammocks and upscale amenities. TrailMark even has an exclusive kayak launch onto Six Mile Creek as well as more than 10 miles of recreational trails.

The master-planned community of **Markland** spans 314-acres and is home to 355 traditional-style single-family residences. The amenity center, Markland Manor House, is designed in the Greek Revival style.



Historic Downtown St. Augustine, photo by Matador Network



St. Augustine, photo by Interpret Studios

ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH

Known for its beautiful beaches and ocean views, **St. Augustine Beach** has many living options for those who love the coastal lifestyle. Residents can peruse the white beaches or enjoy the Great Florida Birding and

Wildlife Trail at Anastasia State Park. There are many residential communities, townhouses and condominium options in this area.

VILANO BEACH

Northeast of St. Augustine is the pleasant seaside community of **Vilano Beach**. This residential community is nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and Tolomato River and offers many activities including fishing, beachcombing and birdwatching.

“St. Johns County is the 4th fastest growing county in the U.S.!”

The Communities of Nocatee

Nocatee is an award-winning community nestled between Jacksonville and St. Augustine in Ponte Vedra. It has many village-like neighborhoods that include condominiums, townhouses, luxury estate homes, single-family homes and neighborhoods for residents 55 and older. The community is minutes from gorgeous beaches, golf courses, restaurants, shopping and some of the top-rated schools in the state.



Del Webb Nocatee

As the first community in the nation to release 12 Next Gen floorplans ranging from 1,529 to 3,361 square feet and larger, Del Webb Nocatee offers a variety of coastal, craftsman style and traditional villas and homes from the mid \$400s. With multiple entertainment options, this 55-plus adult community is perfect for those

who are ready to have fun. The on-staff Lifestyle Director is available for event planning, clubs and classes for all Del Webb residents. Residents also have access to a fitness center, pickleball and tennis courts, and a swimming pool with lap lanes.



Crosswinds at Nocatee

Crosswinds at Nocatee is one of the newest neighborhoods and offers

single-family homes and villas. Villas by David Weekley Homes and Toll Brothers start from the high \$400s and range from approximately 1,694 to 2,460 square feet. Single-family homes by David Weekley Homes, Providence Homes, and Riverside Homes start from the high \$400s and range from approximately 1,690 to 2,550 square feet. Crosswinds is located at the northeast intersection of Pine Island Road and Crosswater Parkway. Homes are within walking distance from Pine Island Academy, the new K-8 St. Johns County school.



Seabrook Village

Seabrook Village is a new community that features approximately 327 homesites in the first phase. The neighborhood has a variety of floorplans that range from 1,570 to 2,900 square feet and start in the high \$400s. Seabrook Village is surrounded by Seabrook Park, a new



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.

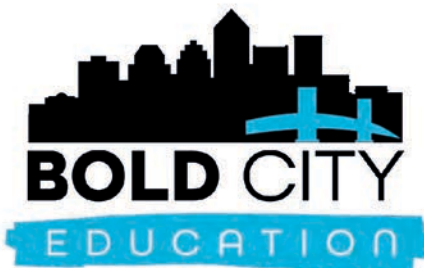
Navigating the complexities of real estate within the Nation's Oldest City and St. Johns County is best accomplished with the expertise of our distinguished members, possessing an intricate understanding of the local real estate landscape. Let their insight and professionalism guide you through the intricate process of buying and selling real estate, ensuring a seamless and informed journey for you and your family.

Should your aspirations involve acquiring or selling a residential or commercial property, we invite you to engage with a REALTOR® to enhance the success of your endeavor. Visit our website at sasjcrealtors.com to carefully select the REALTOR® most suited to cater to your unique needs.



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amenity center opening this year that will have a pool, dog park and playground.



West End at Town Center

Located just a short walk from Nocatee’s shops, restaurants and Splash Water Park is West End at Town Center. Townhomes by ICI Homes start from the high \$400s and range from approximately 1,762 to 2,450 square feet of living space. West End also offers one- and two-story villas by Dostie Homes and Toll Brothers that start from the low \$500s and range between 1,635 to 2,450 square feet.

Franklin Square at Crosswater

Franklin Square at Crosswater is a gated townhome community that includes 76 townhomes. The exclusive Toll Brothers community is located adjacent to Crosswater Park, which features a pool with lap lanes, a large playground, an event lawn, a dog park and an open-air pavilion. There is currently one remaining floorplan available in the high \$500s.



Palm Crest at Seabrook

Palm Crest at Seabrook is a new community that features 100 homesites in the heart of the Seabrook Village neighborhood. Homes by Dostie Homes, ICI Homes

and Providence Homes range from 2,469 to 3,400 square feet and start in the mid \$700s. Palm Crest is within walking distance from the newest Nocatee amenity center, Seabrook Park. Slated to open this year, Seabrook Park features a pool, dog park and playground.

Coral Ridge at Seabrook

Coral Ridge at Seabrook in the Seabrook collection of communities at Nocatee features approximately 182 estate-sized homes by David Weekley Homes, ICI Homes and Toll Brothers. Homes range from 2,813 to 4,800 square feet and start in the mid \$800s. Coral Ridge at Seabrook is a short golf cart or bike ride away from Seabrook Park, a new amenity center opening this year.



River Landing at Twenty Mile

River Landing is an exclusive, picturesque neighborhood nestled within the Twenty Mile community alongside the scenic Intracoastal Waterway. This neighborhood gives residents the opportunity to design and build their custom luxury dream home on a preserve or waterfront site. Preserve homesites start from the mid \$500s and waterfront homesites from \$1.2 million and up.

Woodland Park at Nocatee

Woodland Park will be an intimate neighborhood located on CR 210, directly west of the Austin Park neighborhood. It will feature 65 townhomes by Providence Homes that range from approximately 1,300 to 1,900 square feet. More information will be available soon.



The Reserve

The Reserve is a luxury apartment community with one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with top-of-the-line amenities. The clubhouse has fitness facilities, a beach entry pool and a dog park. Individual apartments come with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and contemporary cabinetry complete with USB ports in the kitchen island.

Atwater at Nocatee

Atwater at Nocatee is an upscale apartment community located minutes from Ponte Vedra’s gorgeous beaches. With one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments as well as resort-style amenities, this community gives luxury and comfort to all residents. The wellness program and on-site management services provide maintenance-free living. With little stress, it is easy to enjoy the neighborhood with features such as the fitness club, swim club, community events and more.

Cadence at Nocatee

Cadence at Nocatee is a 291-unit apartment community that delivers hospitality-level service to residents through onsite concierge services, event programming and resort-style amenities. Residents have access to a luxurious zero-entry pool, an outdoor social kitchen, pet spa, large clubhouse, business center,

library and over 1,500 square feet of fitness space including a yoga studio and weight training equipment. The community also features a variety of green spaces, including a fitness and outdoor movie lawn, outdoor game area for ping pong and cornhole and a dog park. Each apartment features nine-foot ceilings, vinyl plank flooring, carpet in bedrooms and closets, granite countertops in the kitchen and bathrooms and stainless-steel appliances.



Starling at Nocatee

For seniors looking for an energetic lifestyle, Starling at Nocatee is the perfect place to call home. Offering independent living, assisted living and memory care, this resort-style community allows for personalized care for each resident. The community is close to Nocatee’s Town Center with ample shops and restaurants.

Rise at Nocatee

Rise at Nocatee is a 55-plus active adult community where residents enjoy a catered living experience. The apartment complex offers one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments outfitted with high-end amenities and features. This social, independent and friendly community has amenities geared towards the active adult lifestyle, including a resort-style pool, fitness center, and resident lounge.

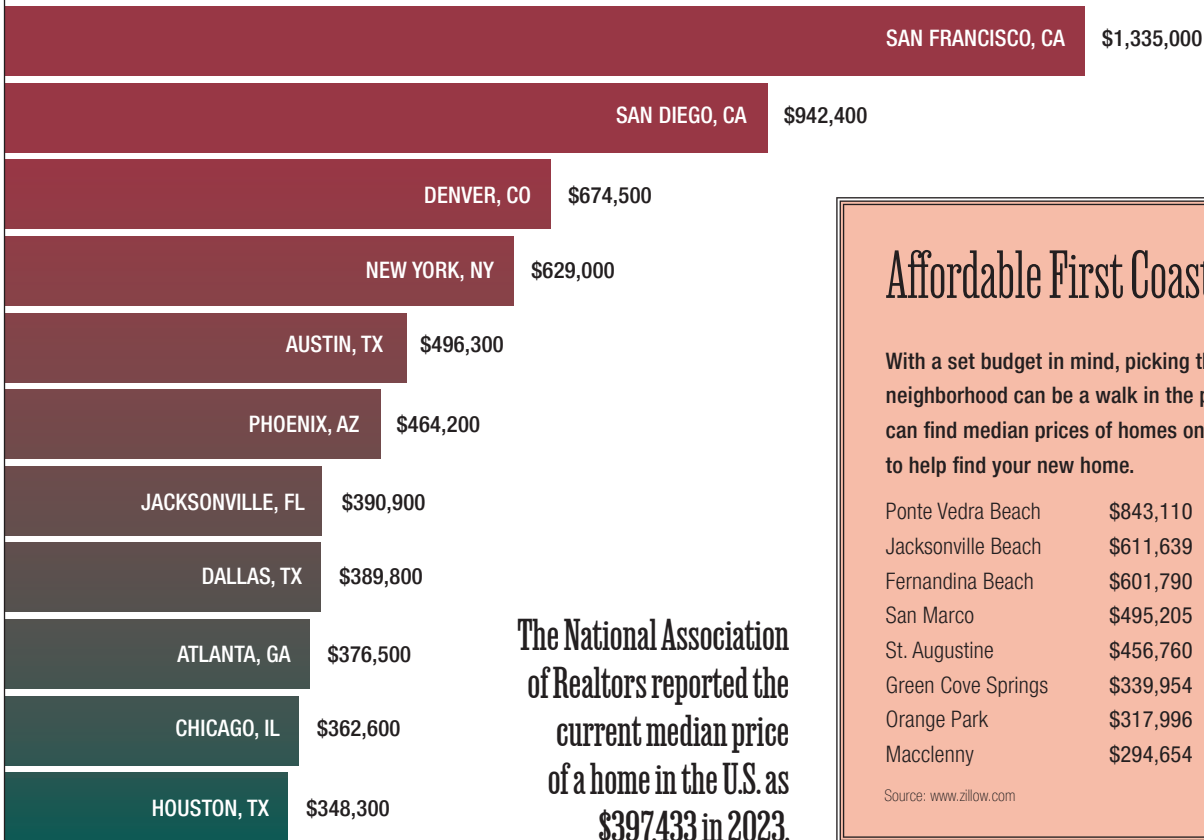
“Niche has ranked Nocatee as the No. 1 community on its 2023 Best Places to Raise a Family In Florida list.”

Home Sales Comparison

In today's market, moving to a new city can be very stressful with the cost of homes varying from place to place. The National Association of Realtors has reported that Jacksonville is on the list of the most affordable cities in the country. To give you an idea of how Jacksonville compares to other metro areas, here is the current median price of a home in cities across the U.S.



Photo by David McJee



The National Association of Realtors reported the current median price of a home in the U.S. as **\$397,433 in 2023.**

Affordable First Coast

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

Ponte Vedra Beach	\$843,110
Jacksonville Beach	\$611,639
Fernandina Beach	\$601,790
San Marco	\$495,205
St. Augustine	\$456,760
Green Cove Springs	\$339,954
Orange Park	\$317,996
Macclenny	\$294,654

Source: www.zillow.com

Bang for Your Buck

First Coast neighborhoods and communities offer an array of homebuying options that meet any budget. Below are some developments in the First Coast area that may be perfect for you!

CLAY COUNTY

Eagle Harbor
\$300s - \$1.6 million
Fleming Island

Eagle Landing at Oakleaf Plantation
\$400s - \$900s
Orange Park

Granary Park
\$300s - \$400s
Green Cove Springs

NASSAU COUNTY

Amelia National
\$500s - \$800s
Fernandina Beach

Amelia Park
\$500s - \$1 million
Fernandina Beach

Tributary
\$300s - \$400s
Yulee

Wildlight
\$300s - \$700s
Yulee

DUVAL COUNTY

eTown
\$300s - \$1.5 million
Southside

Tamaya
\$500s - \$1.1 million
Intracoastal

Tidewater
\$500s - \$800s
Northside

Seven Pines
\$600s - \$1.2 million
Southside

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Beachwalk
\$400s - \$1.3 million
St. Johns

Durbin Crossing
\$300s - \$900s
St. Johns

Nocatee
\$400s - \$3 million
Ponte Vedra

RiverTown
\$400s - \$1 million
St. Johns

Shearwater
\$300s - \$700s
St. Augustine

SilverLeaf
\$400s - \$900s
St. Johns

***As of January 2024. 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

We are so thrilled you decided to make the First Coast home! It truly is the perfect place to Live, Work and Play. To help you settle in, we've compiled a list of utility providers and other important resources for each county. Depending on your neighborhood, you may have different providers than those in neighboring towns and counties, so it's important to determine which company provides what you need for your new home.



BAKER COUNTY

Baker County
www.bakercountyfl.org
Glen St. Mary
www.glenstmary.govoffice.com
Macclenny
www.cityofmacclenny.com

Fire/Rescue

Baker County (Volunteer)
www.bakercountyfl.org
Macclenny
www.cityofmacclenny.com

Police/Sheriff

Baker County Sheriff's Office
www.bakersheriff.org

UTILITY SERVICES

Electricity

Clay Electric Cooperative (CEC)
www.clayelectric.com
Florida Power & Light
www.fpl.com
Okefenoke Rural Electric
www.oremc.com

Garbage

City of Macclenny
www.cityofmacclenny.com/departments.html

Natural Gas

TECO Peoples Gas
www.peoplesgas.com

Water & Sewer

City of Macclenny
www.cityofmacclenny.com/departments.html

CLAY COUNTY

Clay County
www.claycountygov.com
Green Cove Springs
www.greencovesprings.com
Keystone Heights
www.keystoneheights.us
Orange Park
www.townoforangepark.com

Fire/Rescue

Clay County Fire Rescue
www.claycountygov.com/community/public-safety

Police/Sheriff

Clay County Sheriff's Office

www.claysheriff.com

Green Cove Springs Police Department

www.greencovesprings.com/236/Police

Orange Park Police Department

www.townoforangepark.com/departments/police-department/

UTILITY SERVICES**Electricity**

City of Green Cove Springs

www.greencovesprings.com/213/Electric

Clay Electric Cooperative (CEC) (Fleming Island, Green Cove Springs, Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Orange Park, Penney Farms)

www.clayelectric.com

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Green Cove Springs, Orange Park)

www.jea.com

Garbage & Recycling

City of Green Cove Springs

www.greencovesprings.com/249/Public-Works

Republic Services (Keystone Heights)

www.republicservices.com

WM (Fleming Island, Middleburg, Orange Park)

www.wm.com

Natural Gas

TECO Peoples Gas (Middleburg, Orange Park)

www.peoplesgas.com

Water & Sewer

Clay County Utility Authority (Fleming Island, Keystone Heights, Middleburg)

www.clayutility.org

City of Green Cove Springs

www.greencovesprings.com/279/Water-Wastewater-Division

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Green Cove Springs, Orange Park)

www.jea.com

Town of Orange Park

www.townoforangepark.com/departments/public-works-department/utility-services/

DUVAL COUNTY

Duval County/Jacksonville

www.jacksonville.gov

Atlantic Beach

www.coab.us

Jacksonville Beach

www.jacksonvillebeach.org

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Neptune Beach

www.ci.neptune-beach.fl.us

Fire/Rescue

Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department

www.myjfrd.com

Jacksonville Beach Fire Department

www.jacksonvillebeach.org/214/fire-marshals-office

Police/Sheriff

Atlantic Beach Police Department

www.coab.us/25/Police

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

www.jaxsheriff.org

Jacksonville Beach Police Department

www.jacksonvillebeach.org/436/police-department

Neptune Beach Police Department

www.ci.neptune-beach.fl.us/police-department

UTILITY SERVICES**Electricity**

Beaches Energy Services (Neptune Beach)

www.beachesenergy.com

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Atlantic Beach)

www.jea.com

Electricity, Water & Sewer

Beaches Energy Services (Jacksonville Beach)

www.beachesenergy.com

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Baldwin, Jacksonville)

www.jea.com

Garbage & Recycling

City of Atlantic Beach

www.coab.us/15/Public-Works

City of Jacksonville

www.jacksonville.gov/departments/public-works

City of Jacksonville Beach

www.jacksonvillebeach.org/297/public-works



JFRD Station 75, photo courtesy of COJ

Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. (Neptune Beach)
www.nbfl.gov/waste-recycling

Natural Gas

TECO Peoples Gas (Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach)
www.peoplesgas.com

Water & Sewer

City of Atlantic Beach
www.coab.us/14/Public-Utilities
City of Neptune Beach
www.ci.neptune-beach.fl.us/finance-utilities/pages/utilities

NASSAU COUNTY

Nassau County
www.nassaucountyfl.com
Callahan
www.townofcallahan-fl.gov
Fernandina Beach
www.fbfl.us

Fire/Rescue

Nassau County Fire Rescue
www.nassaucountyfl.com/122/Fire-Rescue

Police/Sheriff

Fernandina Beach Police Department
www.fbfl.us/109/Police
Nassau County Sheriff's Office
<http://nassauso.com>

UTILITY SERVICES

Electricity

Florida Power & Light (Callahan, Hilliard, Yulee)
www.fpl.com
Florida Public Utilities (Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach)
www.fpuc.com
Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Yulee)
www.jea.com
Okefenoke Rural Electric (Callahan, Hilliard)
www.oremc.com

Garbage & Recycling

Meridian Waste (Callahan)
www.meridianwaste.com
WM (Amelia Island, Fernandina Beach, Hilliard, Yulee)
www.wm.com

Water & Sewer

City of Fernandina Beach
www.fbfl.us/114/Utilities

Florida Power & Light (Yulee)

www.fpl.com

Hilliard Water Department

www.townofhilliard.com/publicworks/page/water-sewer

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Yulee)

www.jea.com

Town of Callahan

www.townofcallahan-fl.gov/water-wastewater-sanitation

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

St. Johns County

www.co.st-johns.fl.us

Ponte Vedra Beach

www.pvmsd.org

St. Augustine

www.citystaug.com

St. Augustine Beach

www.staugbch.com

Fire/Rescue

St. Johns County Fire Rescue

www.sjcf.us/FireRescue/index.aspx

St. Augustine Fire Department

www.citystaug.com/797/Fire-Department

Police/Sheriff

St. Augustine Beach Police

www.sabpd.org

St. Augustine Police Department

www.citystaug.com/241/Police-Department

St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

www.sjso.org

UTILITY SERVICES

Electricity

Beaches Energy Services (Ponte Vedra Beach)

www.beachesenergy.com

Florida Power & Light (Hastings, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach)

www.fpl.com

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Julington Creek, Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Augustine)

www.jea.com

Garbage & Recycling

City of St. Augustine

www.citystaug.com/518/Trash-Recycling

City of St. Augustine Beach

www.staugbch.com/publicworks/page/sanitation

Republic Services (Julington Creek, Ponte Vedra Beach)

www.republicservices.com

WM (Hastings)

www.wm.com

Natural Gas

TECO Peoples Gas (Hastings, Julington Creek, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach)

www.peoplesgas.com

Water & Sewer

City of St. Augustine

www.citystaug.com/529/Utilities

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) (Julington Creek, Ponte Vedra Beach)

www.jea.com

St. Johns Utility Department (Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Augustine Beach)

www.sjcf.us/Utilities

INTERNET & TV PROVIDERS

Cable & Satellite Television

Comcast (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns)

www.xfinity.com

DIRECTV® (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns)

www.directv.com

Dish Network (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns)

www.dish.com

Windstream Communications (Nassau, St. Johns)

www.windstream.com

Internet

AT&T (Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns)

www.att.com

Comcast (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns)

www.xfinity.com

HughesNet (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns)

www.hughesnet.com

NEFCOM Internet (Baker)

www.nefcom.net

Windstream Communications (Nassau, Hastings)

www.windstream.com



Jacksonville Public Library, photo by Monica Fields

Good-to-Know Info

If you're not only new to the First Coast but the state of Florida as well, check out this list of good-to-know information for car and homeowners.

Car Insurance

The mandatory minimum coverage for a registered motor vehicle is a \$10,000 personal injury protection (PIP) policy and a \$10,000 property damage liability (PDL) policy. The minimum coverage applies to all vehicles registered in the state of Florida, even if the vehicle is inoperable. Visit www.flhsmv.gov/insurance for any further info.

Driver's License and Motor Vehicles

Within 10 days of becoming employed, placing a child in public school or establishing residency in Florida, vehicles registered out of state are required to be registered in Florida and have a Florida license plate, a registration certificate and a registration decal. You must apply for a Florida driver's license within 30 days of establishing residency in Florida to avoid fines and penalties. Visit www.flhsmv.gov for more info.

Property Taxes and Homestead Exemption

On the First Coast, property taxes are due in March and are considered delinquent as of April 1. Discounts are given for property taxes paid in advance. The maximum discount offered is 4 percent and applies to taxes paid in November. Late taxes are subject to penalty. Legal Florida residents who own and reside on property are eligible for a homestead exemption up to \$50,000. The first \$25,000 applies to all property taxes, including school district taxes. The additional exemption up to \$25,000 applies to the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000 and only to non-school taxes. To be eligible, you must own and occupy your home as your permanent residence on January 1. The deadline to file is March 1. To apply for the exemption, go to your local Property Appraiser's office. See our list of tax collector's offices on this page.

Termite Protection

First Coast homeowners need to be aware of the potential damage caused by termites, which are common throughout the state of Florida. Since your homeowners insurance does not cover damage caused by termites, hiring a licensed pest control company to inspect and treat your home is recommended. To receive proper treatment, it's important to properly identify the type of termite that could possibly be infesting your home.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) regulates and licenses Florida's pest control industry. FDACS is authorized by law to conduct investigations to determine if any documented violations of the Florida Structural Pest Control Act (Chapter 482, Florida Statutes) or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act have occurred. For more information, visit 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

Clay County

477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs
www.claycountytax.com

Duval County

231 E. Forsyth St., Jacksonville
<https://taxcollector.coj.net>

Nassau County

86130 License Rd.,
Fernandina Beach
www.nassautaxes.com

St. Johns County

4030 Lewis Speedway,
St. Augustine
www.sjctax.us

First Coast Libraries

Our area libraries are not only a great resource for books, but many offer programs, children's activities, book festivals and a wide variety of enriching classes. Libraries are also a great place to volunteer!

Baker County

Emily Taber Public Library
www.newriverlibrary.org/etpl

Nassau County

Nassau County Public Library
www.nassaureads.com

Clay County

Clay County Public Library
www.claycountygov.com/community/library

St. Johns County

St. Johns County Public Library
System
www.sjcpls.org

Duval County/City of Jacksonville

Jacksonville Public Library
www.jaxpubliclibrary.org

Volunteer Opportunities

The First Coast is also home to several chapters of prominent service clubs and organizations such as Kiwanis International, Lions Club International, Knights of Columbus, Rotary Club and the Junior League of Jacksonville. Hospitals and clinics such as UF Health, Mayo Clinic, Baptist Health, Nemours, and Wolfson also welcome volunteers. Below are some resources to help you find a volunteer opportunity near you. Also see our list of animal shelters on page 51.

AARP
local.aarp.org/jacksonville-fl/volunteering

American Red Cross North Florida
Region
www.redcross.org/local/florida/northflorida.html

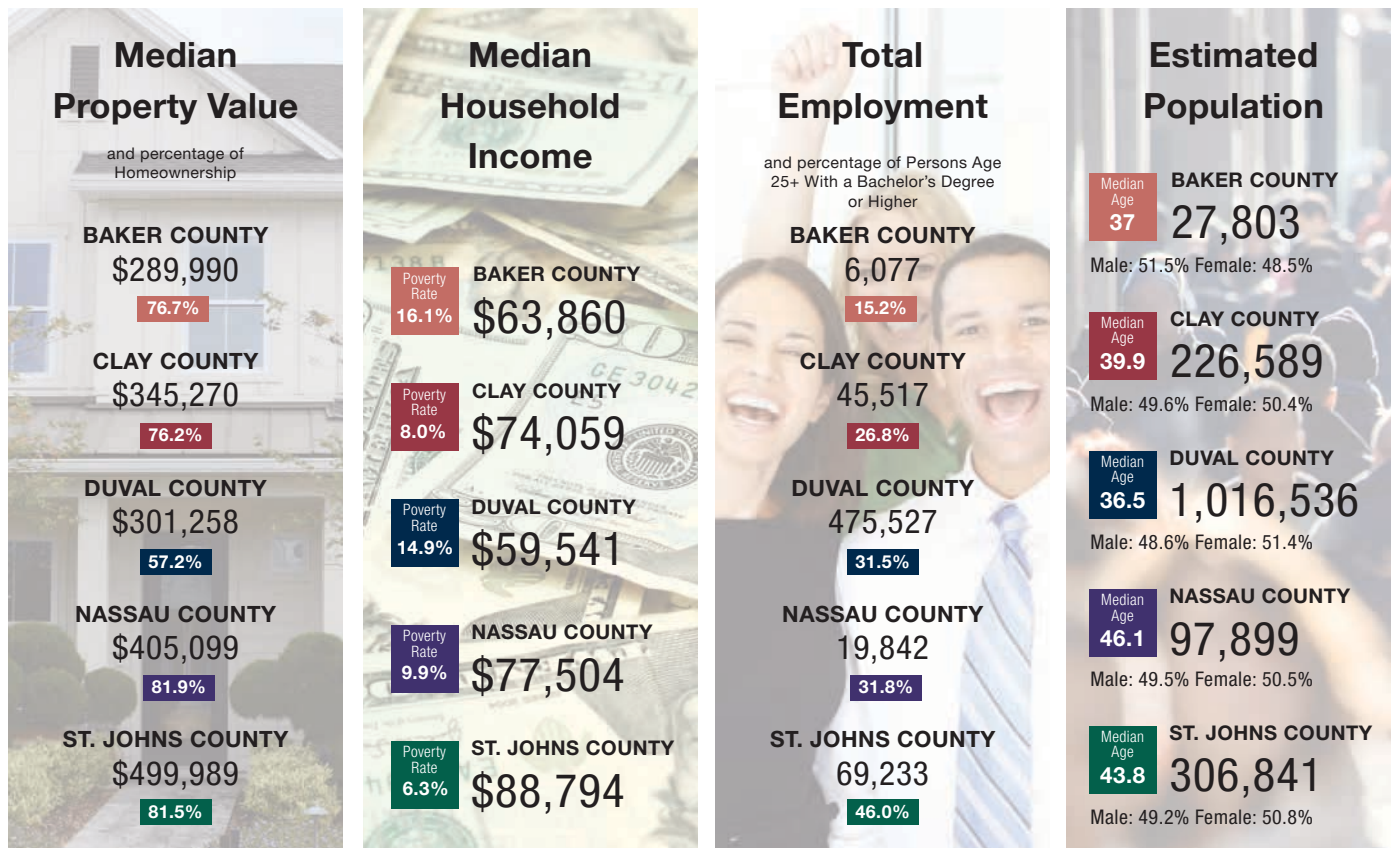
Catholic Charities Jacksonville
www.ccbjax.org

Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida
www.nonprofitctr.org

United Way of Northeast Florida
www.unitedwaynefl.org

Volunteer Match
www.volunteermatch.org

The First Coast by Numbers



Sources:
www.census.gov/quickfacts
<https://datausa.io>
www.rockethomes.com/real-estate-trends

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

Bahá'í Community Center of Jacksonville

www.bahaicommcenterjax.com

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

www.bbuuc.org

Diocese of St. Augustine

www.dosaf1.com

Episcopal Diocese of Florida, The

www.diocesefl.org

Florida Baptist Convention

www.flbaptist.org

Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, The

www.flumc.org

Florida Jacksonville Mission of the Mormon Church

www.mymission.com/lds-missions/florida-jacksonville-mission

Hindu Society of North East Florida

www.hsnef.org

Islamic Center of Northeast Florida

www.icnef.org

Jacksonville Quaker Worship Group

www.jacksonvillefriends.org

Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida

www.jewishjacksonville.org

Karma Thegsum Chöling Jacksonville

www.ktcjax.org

Maitreya Kadampa Buddhist Center

www.meditationinjacksonville.org

Presbytery of St. Augustine

www.staugpres.org

Miles from Downtown Jacksonville to Other Major Florida Cities

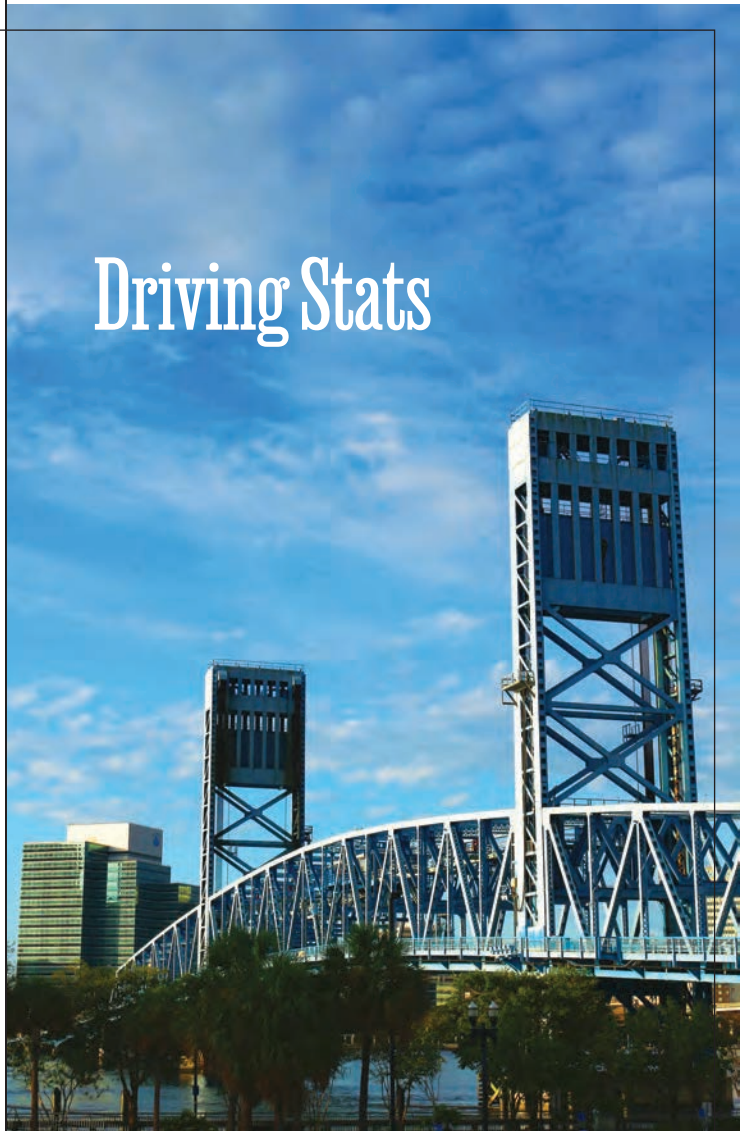
- Daytona Beach - 89
- Fort Lauderdale - 326
- Fort Myers - 298
- Gainesville - 72
- Key West - 503
- Miami - 346
- Naples - 334
- Orlando - 141
- Pensacola - 357
- Sarasota - 252
- St. Petersburg - 222
- Tallahassee - 164
- Tampa - 200
- West Palm Beach - 284

Commute Times to Downtown Jacksonville in Minutes

- Amelia Island - 41-45
- Arlington - 11-15
- Atlantic Beach/Jacksonville Beach - 36-40
- Baymeadows - 21-25
- Callahan - 31-35
- Fernandina Beach - 36-40
- Fleming Island - 36-40
- Green Cove Springs - 56-60
- Intracoastal - 26-35
- Julington Creek/Fruit Cove - 41-45
- Macleenny - 41-45
- Mandarin - 31-35
- Mayport - 46-50
- Middleburg - 41-45
- Orange Park - 41-45
- Ponte Vedra Beach - 36-45
- Riverside - 6-10
- San Marco - 6-10
- Southside - 16-20
- St. Augustine - 31-50
- World Golf Village - 36-40
- Yulee - 41-45

Miles from Downtown Jacksonville to Other Major Cities in the Southeast

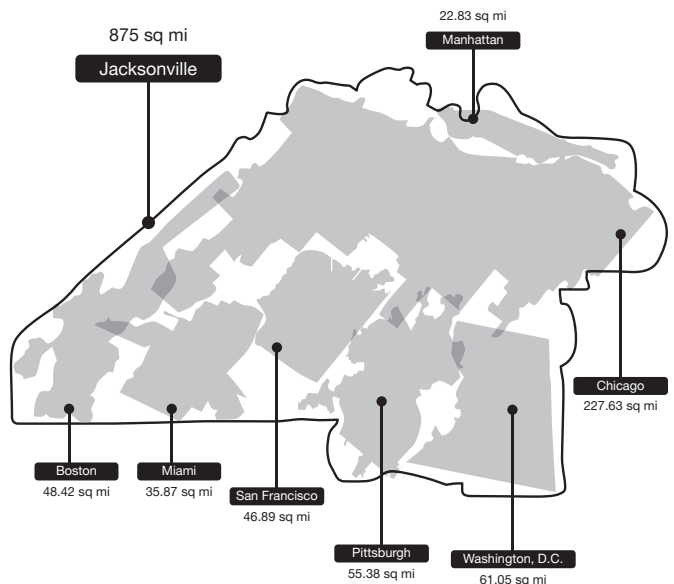
- Atlanta, GA - 346
- Baltimore, MD - 752
- Birmingham, AL - 462
- Charleston, SC - 238
- Charlotte, NC - 383
- Louisville, KY - 767
- Memphis, TN - 705
- Nashville, TN - 595
- New Orleans, LA - 548
- Richmond, VA - 598
- Savannah, GA - 139
- Washington, D.C. - 706



Driving Stats

Photo by Stephanie Marty

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



First Coast Area Codes

In addition to 904, the First Coast will soon have a new 324 area code. The new area code will serve the same areas as 904, including Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach, Fernandina Beach, Orange Park and more. Customers with 904 area codes will keep their current telephone numbers. However, new customers or those needing additional lines may be assigned the new 324 area code. To make local calls, callers will need to dial the area code first. Permissive dialing for 904 ended on January 28, 2024, and mandatory 10-digit dialing started on January 29, 2024.



First Coast Apartment Living

The First Coast is a wonderful place for those looking to rent an apartment. The amazing weather, beach access and bustling city with job opportunities are all reasons that newcomers are moving to the area. Jacksonville is the 12th largest U.S. city, with more than 1 million residents according to JAXUSA Partnership. With this substantial population, the residential rental market has expanded greatly. New apartment complexes are constantly being built and are filling up fast!

With the population influx, the First Coast has set some records for annual rent growth. Apartment developers in Jacksonville are expected to complete 31 multifamily projects in 2024, which includes 8,402 units, according to NAI Hallmark's *Multifamily Report*. These deliveries will far exceed the number of units delivered in the past.

In the Jacksonville metro area, there are a total of 13,413 apartment homes currently under construction, according to the Florida Apartment Association (FAA). Developers delivered 7,605 units to the area over the past 12 months, representing an increase of 45.6 percent from the previous period. "Jacksonville's

apartment inventory has nearly doubled since the start of the pandemic. This historically high supply of apartments has slowed rent growth trends," says the FAA.

Advantages of Apartment Living

Throughout the First Coast there are many apartment options available that check all the boxes on your wants and needs list. You will find apartment complexes with studios, one-, two-, three- and even some four-bedroom apartments that can accommodate single renters, couples, roommates and even families.

Below are some of the reasons why many First Coast residents have decided to rent an apartment versus buying a home. There are many benefits to owning your own home, but there are also many advantages to apartment living.

Price: One of the many benefits of living in an apartment is the financial aspect of renting. With many apartments, it's possible that rent may be more affordable than a mortgage. You also don't have to worry about additional costs such as homeowners' association fees, property taxes, homeowners' insurance and down payments. Most of the time, utility costs are lower due to the size of the unit.

Maintenance: When you live in an apartment, you no longer have to worry about fixing a broken dishwasher or leaky roof! Repairs and maintenance are covered by landlords or property managers. This is especially convenient for those who aren't very handy. Apartments also include landscaping maintenance, so you won't need to be out in the Florida heat mowing a lawn or pulling weeds. This gives you time to relax and enjoy your apartment!

Amenities: Most apartment complexes offer their residents a wide range of amenities such as gyms, playgrounds, dog parks, game rooms, recreational areas, valet trash service and more. Many apartments also have resort-style swimming pools with cabanas and outdoor grills. Certain apartments have high-end finishes

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- Vaulted Ceilings
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- Fitness Center
- Children's Playground
- Gourmet Kitchens

(904) 854-2700
6650 CORP. CENTER PKWY.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216

such as stainless-steel appliances, hardwood floors, and granite countertops. While it is possible to have these additions in a home, the financial aspect can take a toll on your budget.

Safety: Apartment complexes take numerous measures to ensure their residents' safety. Most are gated and require a passcode to enter, which provides additional security and peace of mind. There may even be a security guard monitoring the complex. The abundance of close neighbors can also provide a stronger sense of security. They are more likely to notice something wrong or out of the ordinary. This makes apartment living especially perfect for the elderly and those living alone.

Location: When you're looking to buy a house, your options are limited to the number of homes available in the neighborhood you want to live in. With apartments, there are often multiple complexes to choose from in any given neighborhood. If you want to live closer to your job or your child's school, it's much easier to find a nearby apartment complex. Many apartment developers also choose to build in areas where there are already a number of grocery stores, shops, bars and restaurants.

Community: With neighbors close by, it can be easy to develop a sense of community and grow connections in an apartment complex. Many apartments have community events like pool parties, food truck nights, barbecues, holiday celebrations and more. These are great opportunities for newcomers to meet neighbors and make friends.

Flexibility: Apartments allow newcomers to explore and get to know the area before committing to buying a home. Some complexes allow residents to sign short-term leases. This can be helpful to those exploring a new area, or even those

who may be in town for a short-term reason such as placement for work. You can also relocate much easier, whether it's for a new job, a new relationship, or to be closer to family. Renting gives you the opportunity to move when you see fit.

Finding the Right Neighborhood for You

Choosing where you want to live when you move to the First Coast could take some time and consideration while you explore all the different neighborhoods and areas for your needs and wants. Whether you are looking to live in the bustling downtown, a quaint historic neighborhood, a beachside community or out in the peaceful country, the First Coast's five counties have the right neighborhood for you.

For those looking for an area filled with history, the Riverside and Avondale neighborhoods are some of the oldest in Jacksonville. These neighborhoods are full of a variety of shopping and dining options within walking or biking distance of many neighborhoods. In downtown Jacksonville, there are many different apartments with views of the river and downtown skyline.

Nothing embodies the Florida lifestyle quite like being able to walk out of your apartment and feel the sand between your toes. Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, Fernandina Beach and St. Augustine are all perfect coastal communities with a vast selection of apartments for those who want to live close to the ocean.

The Southside/Baymeadows and St. Johns Town Center areas have numerous new apartment complexes that give residents numerous shopping and dining options. With the University of North Florida and Florida State College at Jacksonville located in these neighborhoods, many college students choose to live in this area.

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Sophisticated modern living. Look no further for a place that feels like home. The Station at San Marco's spacious apartments are designed for quality, comfort, and convenience. Our centrally located apartments are walkable to the San Marco Square with direct access to the I-95 corridor. Choose from a variety of floor plans, all featuring ceiling fans, smart thermostats, island kitchens and more to fit your lifestyle. Conveniently located in the heart of Jacksonville's San Marco Square neighborhood, 0.8 miles from the Medical District housing Baptist Medical, UF Shands, Nemours and Wolfson Children's Hospital, and only 2 miles away from the home of the Jacksonville Jaguars at EverBank Stadium. Explore more of the city's many parks, nature preserves and trails, including nearby Jessie Ball Dupont Park to visit the Treaty Oak.

For more in-depth information on our First Coast neighborhoods, check out page 14 for the many available options.

Preparing for Your New Apartment

When you're on the hunt for an apartment, it's best to start by touring complexes. Many apartments offer virtual tours on their websites as well as in-person tours. It's easiest to reach out to the complex beforehand to set an appointment for a tour with the apartment's leasing office or landlord. Many apartment complexes won't allow potential renters to tour without a valid form of ID, so make sure you have that available when visiting the complex. Make a list of questions you may have such as policies, maintenance, apartment amenities and lease terms.

Before moving in, it's important to find out what an apartment complex requires for potential renters to begin the leasing process. The complex will have renters fill out an application and may require proof of income or employment. This could mean providing previous paystubs or your most current W-2. Many apartments require renters to meet specific income requirements to live in the complex. Some apartments ask for the previous landlord's contact information to complete a background check. While not always required, some complexes require a renter's insurance policy, which can cover you in a flood, fire or hurricane.

If you decide to bring your furry friend along with you, do your research to make sure it is a pet-friendly community. Renting does require upfront costs such as application, deposit and pet fees. Ask if there are any discounts or specials for active-duty military, students or employees working for major area companies.

“Throughout the First Coast there are many apartment options available that check all the boxes on your wants and needs list.”

We are so excited that you have decided to call the First Coast home and know that you will find the perfect apartment here!

Senior Apartment Options

The First Coast is home to a multitude of apartment complexes for those 55 and older. Seniors will find upscale, luxury apartments geared toward their age group in neighborhoods all over Northeast Florida, including Nocatee, Tamaya, Glen Kernan, Jacksonville Beach and more.

Many apartments have amenities specifically designed for seniors in mind, including spacious rooms, heated pools, yoga studios, clubhouses and resident lounges. Some even offer opportunities to explore new hobbies by offering lifestyle directors, community gardens, craft rooms and more.

For more information on 55-plus apartments, pick up a copy of the *Jacksonville Senior Services Directory* at your local library or senior center, or visit www.heritagepublishinginc.com.

Your Backyard Retreat: Outdoor Living At Its Finest

With summer on the way, it's finally time for fun in the sun! Studies have shown that there are many physical and mental health benefits of spending time immersed in the great outdoors. In the last year, more than 90 percent of people with outdoor living space have been spending more time on their patios and porches, enjoying their outdoor living space more than ever before. For those looking to relax, entertain, grill or garden, having your own backyard retreat is a must.

It seems that everything is better outdoors with warmer weather. Gone are the backyards of the past with stackable plastic chairs, a grill and some colorful flowers blooming on the side of the deck. Now, a loaded deck with an outdoor living room, comfy chairs, twinkling party lights, a full kitchen, bar, island, firepit and even a television are found throughout the First Coast. When choosing furniture for your outdoor space, explore options such as wrought iron, cast iron, aluminum, or even traditional wood. If your furniture is not kept under a cover or a patio enclosure or lanai, synthetic weatherproof patio furniture with durable fabrics is available to stand up to the elements. By adding a lanai, patio cover, awning or screen enclosure, your furniture will have some protection from direct exposure to the elements whether it's sunny or rainy. It can even provide some privacy from neighbors.

By bringing the indoors outside, homeowners can satisfy one of their top wants by turning simple living spaces into their favorite part of the home, complete with all the comforts of the indoors at their fingertips. With more than 31 years of experience, Lifetime Enclosures in Jacksonville is one of the top choices First Coast residents look to when renovating their outdoor space with lanais, outdoor kitchens, sunrooms, screen enclosures and more.

When planning your outdoor living room, think about creating different rooms. Imagining furniture for the sitting area will help with building a deck or patio large enough to accommodate your wants. Families may even want to create a kids' outdoor playroom complete with a playset and even a garden. If you are adding an outdoor kitchen to the mix, include a sink, enough counter space to cook and lighting so you aren't left in the dark.

Planting various flowers, plants and shrubs can add splashes of color as well. From a simple herb garden in a planter to a small patch of tomatoes, peppers or other easy-to-grow veggies, gardening can be a fun and rewarding use of outdoor space. For some backyards, a hardscape area is another good option to spruce up the space. Edging hardscape areas with ground covers and low-growing plants can soften the edges and bring more color and life to the area.

Whether it's for relaxation, entertainment or play, your yard is an extension of your indoor living space, so make it as warm and inviting as you do your home. All aspects of home improvement require planning and time, so enlist a professional such as Lifetime Enclosures to make your vision and plan into reality. With free estimates, these professionals can create your own personal retreat that can be enjoyed for years to come.



Photos courtesy of Unsplash

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Photos courtesy of Closets by Design

with a design expert can help you determine the best layout to properly store food, dishes, small appliances and other kitchen products.

Garages

A common misconception is that a garage typically goes unseen. Today, garages often function as more than parking places. They've become gathering places for social get-togethers and hobby areas for homeowners. Even if you just use your garage for storage, having a place to put things away neatly will result in a level of functionality

Custom Storage Suited for You: Closets by Design

Maintaining an organized living space is becoming a major focus for homeowners in 2024. They not only want to be able to entertain guests without having to frantically put away items, but also have the peace of mind that only comes from a clutter-free home.

Good storage is essential to a clean, organized home. Unfortunately, not all homes or home builders have caught up when it comes to storage needs in the 21st century. Unless you're building a custom home, you will likely receive basic wire racks in most of your dedicated storage spaces including closets, laundry rooms, pantries and garages.

That doesn't mean you're simply stuck with your home's built-in storage. Leading industry expert,



Closets by Design of the First Coast, works diligently to create beautiful custom storage solutions to elevate a home's design and functionality. Just like you would hire a painter or landscaper, custom storage professionals can help you design custom storage spaces for your newly constructed or existing home.

Closets

Closets are the most important storage space in your house, but many only have basic wire racks that are a major waste of space due to limited functionality and lack of hidden storage.

Thanks to specialists like Closets by Design, this no longer has to be your reality. Selecting from heavy-duty

finishes and countless options, you can give your closet its own makeover. This could include custom shelves, hanging racks, cabinets and drawers that are all designed to your liking.

Above all, it's important to know that no space is too big or too small. Homeowners are often surprised how much they can fit into a small hall closet after undergoing custom upgrades.

Laundry Rooms

The area where you wash your clothes is just as important as the place where you store them. With all the different detergents, stain releasers, fabric softeners and starches, a laundry room needs adequate storage space. Yet, builders can easily overlook this, even if the room is fairly large. With Closets by Design, you can install cabinets and shelves that will take your laundry room to the next level.

Pantries

A well-organized pantry is a necessity in every home. When it's cluttered, it's easy for food items to get lost in the back and never used. Consulting



that wasn't possible before. Adding cabinets, shelves and countertops to a garage can create a custom space that will make it easier to store items of any kind.

Closets by Design of the First Coast is the go-to local provider of custom storage solutions. The in-house team of designers, builders and installers work together to create a seamless process from start to finish. With a best-in-class warranty, financing options and a proven history of quality construction, Closets by Design offers a way for every homeowner to have the custom experience of their dreams.

Imagine your home, totally organized!

Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets, Home Office, Pantries, Laundries, Wall Beds, Wall Units, Hobby Rooms, Garage Flooring and more...



Walk in Closet



Bedroom Closet



Home Office



Garage Cabinets

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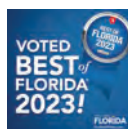
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PLAYING RUFF

It's time to hit the beach to spend some time with your new furry friend! Check out one of the First Coast's local pet-friendly beaches.



Photo by Wade Austin Ellis on Unsplash

Dog Parks

Atlantic Beach Dog Park
Atlantic Beach

www.coab.us/463/Atlantic-Beach-Dog-Park

Deleon Shores Park
Ponte Vedra

www.co.st-johns.fl.us/recreation/parks/index.aspx

Ed Austin Regional Dog Park
Arlington

www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation

John Gorrie Dog Park of Riverside Park
Riverside

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

OceanWay Park
Oceanway

www.bringfido.com/attraction/13182

Springfield Park Dog Park
Springfield

www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation

Veterans Park Dog Park
St. Johns

www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Recreation/Parks/Veterans.aspx

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
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

Animal Shelters

Animal Care and Protective Services
www.jacksonville.gov/departments/neighborhoods/animal-care-protective-services/

Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue
www.aylasacres.org

Baker County Animal Control
www.bakercountyfl.org/animals.php

Clay County Animal Services
www.claycountygov.com/community/animal-services/adoption

Clay County Humane Society
www.clayhumane.org

Froggy's Cat Rescue
www.froggyscatrescue.com

Jacksonville Humane Society
www.jaxhumane.org

Nassau County Animal Services
www.nassaucountyfl.com/845/Animal-Services

Nassau Humane Society
www.nassauhumane.org

S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, Inc.
www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com

St. Augustine Humane Society
www.staughumane.org

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!

St. Johns County Animal Control
www.co.st-johns.fl.us/animalcontrol
Wags & Whiskers Pet Rescue, Inc.
www.wwpetrescue.org

Adoption Events

First Coast No More Homeless Pets
MEGA Adoption Event
Three times a year
www.fcnmhp.org

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

Photo by Pixabay



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 are able to 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 Care and Sanctuary, Inc., The
www.thearkwildlifecareandsanctuary.com

Ark Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc., The
www.thearkrescue.org

Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida
www.wildlifecoalition.com



John Gorrie Dog Park in Riverside, photo by Daron Dean

Grab Your Sunglasses!

First Coast Weather

The First Coast is home to beautiful weather where residents can enjoy blue skies and beach days almost all year long. With this picture-perfect weather from November until April, residents may still need to grab an umbrella with some rain showers appearing during the summer. The winters are mild with temperatures ranging from the mid-40s to the mid-60s. Some early risers may 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!

Suit Up! Ways to Cool Down This Summer

- The First Coast's 60-plus miles of beaches and waterways include 50 public boat ramps.
- 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 and the St. Johns County Pier.

Rain, Rain, Go Away!

- Bounce the day away at an indoor trampoline park. Check out our list on page 124.
- 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 Science & History, Museum of Contemporary Art and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.
- Catch a movie at the Sun-Ray Cinema or a movie theater near you.

AVERAGE HIGH/LOW TEMPERATURE

MONTH	HIGH	LOW
January	64.2°F	41.9°F
February	67.3°F	44.3°F
March	73.4°F	49.8°F
April	78.6°F	54.6°F
May	84.3°F	62.5°F
June	88.7°F	69.4°F
July	90.8°F	72.4°F
August	89.4°F	72.2°F
September	86.1°F	69.4°F
October	80.4°F	60.5°F
November	72.5°F	50.8°F
December	65.8°F	44.1°F

AVERAGE RAINFALL BY INCHES

MONTH	INCHES
January	3.69
February	3.15
March	3.93
April	3.14
May	3.48
June	5.37
July	5.97
August	6.87
September	7.90
October	3.86
November	2.34
December	2.64

Jacksonville Beach, photo by Nick Freiting on Ursplash



Weather Prep

Storm Preparations

Being prepared with emergency supplies and a plan can help reduce stress in the wake of a storm. Assemble a disaster supply kit and keep it in an easily accessible place including a first aid kit and at least a three-day supply of food and water. 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 Watch:

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

Hurricane Warning:

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

YOUR SOURCE FOR IMPORTANT LOCAL UPDATES WHEN EMERGENCIES STRIKE.

Florida Public Radio
EPREN + wjct | PUBLIC MEDIA
Emergency Network

@FloridaStorms • wjct.org/weather

Local and State Resources

Baker County: www.bakercountysheriffsoffice.com/emergency-management

Clay County: www.claycountygov.com/community/emergency-management

Duval County/City of Jacksonville: www.jaxready.com

Nassau County: www.onenassau.com

St. Johns County: www.sjcemergencymanagement.com

Florida Division of Emergency Management: 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

On the First Coast, we're proud of our school districts and their ability to teach our children communication skills, critical thinking techniques and above all, teamwork. Two of five counties on the First Coast have placed in the top 10 counties for education in the state of Florida in 2024. Below you can find out more about each school district to find your perfect fit on the First Coast.



Photo by Max Fischer

BAKER COUNTY

www.bakerk12.org

Baker County prides itself on “building champions inside and outside of the classroom.” The school district consists of one Pre-K/ kindergarten center, two elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. The district’s students compete at many academic and athletic competitions statewide, nationwide and even internationally. For those looking to further their education, Baker County also has The Baker County Adult Education Center, which provides working skills ranging from Phlebotomy training to CNA training.

CLAY COUNTY

www.oneclay.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. The school district is known for their students having excellent academic accomplishments and is one of the highest ranked public school districts in the state of Florida. This school year, 51 public schools served more than 39,000 students.

Many of the proficiency scores for various academic subjects among the schools have a higher average than the general Florida public school average.

DUVAL COUNTY

<https://dcps.duvalschools.org>

Duval County consists of more than 129,000 students, 196 schools and more than 13,000 employees. Students are able to customize their learning needs with choices of virtual, charter, magnet and neighborhood schools. They offer Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) courses and even dual enrollment courses. As the sixth largest school district in the state of Florida, educators work tirelessly each day to make sure “that every student is inspired and prepared for success in college or a career, and life.”

NASSAU COUNTY

www.nassau.k12.fl.us

With 16 fully accredited schools covering the areas of Bryceville, Callahan, Hilliard, Yulee and Fernandina Beach, Nassau County School District helps build a strong

educational foundation throughout each level of school from elementary to high school. Students within the school district can participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, such as AP courses, athletic teams and school clubs. The school district continues to rank as an A level and works to develop skills students can use in the future, including communication, trust and respect. The district also has the Nassau Adult High School, allowing those 18 and up to receive their high school diploma at up to four satellite locations throughout the county.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

St. Johns County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Florida, with an estimated 298,442 residents that now call this area their home. In the last decade alone, the population has increased by 44 percent. The school district strives to develop a passion for learning in all students, as well as instilling morals and building good character with every learner. Students can participate in AP, IB, AICE and Advanced Via Individual Determination programs as well as a multitude of extracurricular activities.

Total Number of Students

236,839

BAKER COUNTY

5,003

CLAY COUNTY

39,212

DUVAL COUNTY

129,801

NASSAU COUNTY

12,668

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

50,155

Total Number of Public Schools

320

BAKER COUNTY

6

CLAY COUNTY

51

DUVAL COUNTY

196

NASSAU COUNTY

16

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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Private Schools

BAKER COUNTY

Atrium School..... 561-247-5726
www.atriumschool.org

Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education 307-622-9431
www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst

ELA Academy 904-282-3522
www.elaaschool.org

Faith Baptist Academy 904-259-3230
www.facebook.com/FaithBaptistAcademyPatriots/

United Christian Academy 904-259-1199
www.unitedchristianmacclenny.com/academy.html

CLAY COUNTY

Annunciation Catholic School..... 904-282-0504
www.annunciationcatholic.org

Atrium School..... 561-247-5726
www.atriumschool.org

Berean Christian Academy 904-773-8404
www.bccanes.org

Black Creek Christian School 904-282-4033
<https://blackcreekonline.com/black-creek-christian-school.html>

Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education 307-622-9431
www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst

Broach School, The 904-637-0300
www.broachschool.com

Calvary Christian Academy..... 904-282-2068
www.calvarycares.net/calvary-christian-academy

Centerpoint Christian Academy 904-291-1875
www.centerpointchristianacademy.weebly.com

Christian Home Academy 904-276-3339
www.christianhomeacademy.info

Citizens High School 800-736-4723
www.citizenshighschool.com

Congregational Holiness Church School..... 904-529-1798

ELA Academy 904-282-3522
www.elaaschool.org

E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy 904-990-3423
www.drjbrandice.wixsite.com/turnerprep

Faith Christian Academy..... 904-276-1300
www.fcaflorida.com

Grace Episcopal Day School 904-269-3718
www.geds.net

Haile Academy of Higher Learning..... 904-505-0484
www.haileacademy.com

Heritage Christian Academy 904-343-1561
www.hbcacademy.org

HighPoint Christian Academy 904-272-7949

Lighthouse Christian School..... 904-406-4866
www.lighthousechristianschool.net

Morningstar Christian School 352-473-3159

Pinewood Christian Academy 904-272-6408
www.pcaknights.org

Primrose School 904-278-6886
www.primroseschools.com

Seamark Ranch School, Inc..... 904-531-7080
www.seamarkranch.com/the-school

Seven Bridges School 904-269-7377
www.sevenbridgesschool.org

St. Johns Country Day School..... 904-264-9572
www.sjcds.net

DUVAL COUNTY DUVAL-BEACHES

Atrium School..... 561-247-5726
www.atriumschool.org

Beaches Chapel School 904-241-4211
www.beacheschapelschool.com

Beaches Episcopal School 904-246-2466
www.beachesepiscopalschool.org

Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education 307-622-9431
www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst

Discovery School 904-247-4577
www.dmsonline.org

ELA Academy 904-282-3522
www.elaaschool.org

E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy 904-990-3423
www.drjbrandice.wixsite.com/turnerprep

Foundation Academy, The 904-493-7300
www.foundationacademy.com

Montessori Tides School 904-241-1139
www.montessoritides.com

New Leaf, School for Change 904-246-9100
www.newleafschool.com

St. Paul's Catholic School
 - Jacksonville Beach 904-249-5934
www.stpaulscatholicsschool.com

DUVAL-NORTH

Alexander Preparatory Academy 904-419-3427
www.alexanderprepacademy.org

Arlington Kindergarten..... 904-743-4034
www.arlingtonkindergarten.com

Atrium School..... 561-247-5726
www.atriumschool.org

Bethel Holiness Academy 904-781-5400

Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education 307-622-9431
www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst

Chatman's Early Learning Christian Academy..... 904-751-9803

Christ The King Catholic School 904-724-2954
www.ctkschooljax.com

East Pointe Christian Academy
 & Preschool.....904-641-8323 ext. 104
www.epcajax.com

ELA Academy 904-282-3522
www.elaaschool.org

E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy 904-990-3423
www.drjbrandice.wixsite.com/turnerprep

Faith Academy 904-714-0040
www.faiithacademyow.com

Grace Lutheran School..... 904-928-9136
www.gracelutheraneagles.org

Holy Spirit Catholic School..... 904-642-9165
www.hscatholicsschool.com

Little Country School, The 904-757-8200
www.littlecountryschool.com

Parsons Christian Academy..... 904-745-4588
www.pclions.org

Promise Land Academy..... 904-268-2422
www.promiselandsschools.org

Resurrection Catholic School 904-744-1266
www.resurrectionschooljax.com

Royal Prep Academy 904-352-0534
www.discoverycoveacademy.com

St. Patrick Catholic School..... 904-768-6323
www.stpatrickjacksonville.org

Victory Christian Academy 904-764-7781
<https://vcasoldiers.com/>

DUVAL-SOUTH

A Child's Place Montessori School
 - Southpoint..... 904-733-5797
www.achildsplace.info

Academie de Montessori..... 904-398-3830
www.academie-de-montessori.org

Al-Furqan Academy..... 904-645-0810
www.afa.icnef.org

Assumption Catholic School..... 904-398-1774
www.assumptionjax.org

Atrium School..... 561-247-5726
www.atriumschool.org

Baymeadows Christian Academy 904-733-3400
www.bbcjx.org

Bishop Kenny High School 904-398-7545
www.bishopkenny.org

Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education 307-622-9431
www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst

Blessed Trinity Catholic School 904-641-6458
www.blessedtrinitycatholicsschool.org

Bolles School, The..... 904-733-9292
www.bolles.org
 ► see our Inside Front Cover

Broach School, The - Southside 904-637-0300
www.broachschool.com

Builders of the Faith Preschool & Academy 904-772-0277
www.buildersofthefaith.com

Center Academy..... 904-645-5366
www.centeracademy.com/locations/jacksonville-fl-st-johns-bluff

CES Academy 904-254-6428
www.ces-schools.net/jacksonville

Christ's Church Academy 904-268-8667
www.ccajax.org

Christian Heritage Academy 904-733-4722
www.chajax.org

Cornerstone Christian School..... 904-730-5500
www.csjax.org

Covenant School of Jacksonville, The 904-265-7474
www.wearecovenant.org

ELA Academy 904-282-3522
www.elaaschool.org

The Bolles School

Bolles students understand that pursuing excellence through courage, integrity and compassion is not only the school motto but the foundation for a successful life.

These themes help cultivate empathetic students with an *All Things Possible* approach to life, a passion for service and an awareness of global community.

The Bolles School is an independent, coeducational day and boarding school founded in 1933. One of the region's most diverse institutions of learning, Bolles is home to more than 1,750 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 and postgraduates on four campuses.

The Resident Life program can accommodate more than 90 male and female students from around the globe. This year, boarding students represent 25 countries and 13 states. These students add their unique experiences to the day student body's culturally robust environment.

Academically, Bolles offers courses in six languages (including Chinese, Japanese and Arabic) and 29 Advanced Placement courses. The school recently established a new academic partnership with Global Online Academy, an online course offering that complements Bolles' existing curriculum in an



international setting. Bolles also has educational partnerships with Mayo Clinic and Zimmer Biomet, as well as its own Anatomage virtual dissection table. Bolles offers a comprehensive fine and performing arts program with courses in drama, dance, visual arts, chorus, music and band. Among middle and upper school students, 80 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.

A global context is paramount to the Bolles experience. In addition to on-campus activities and language study, Bolles offers exchange programs with schools in England, Spain, Japan, China and France, and academic and service travel



opportunities to Italy, Peru and Zion/Grand Canyon National Parks.

The school's athletic successes are known worldwide with 61 sports teams at the middle, JV and varsity levels. Most students, 90 percent, participate in one or more sports at Bolles. A total of 63 Bolles students, former students and Bolles Sharks have participated in the Olympics over the years, and 14 Olympic athletes from Bolles have won 29 medals. Bolles students play by the school's athletic motto, "Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat."

Students from the Class of 2023 were offered or qualified for more than \$14.5 million for their four-year college careers. Of the 195 graduates, 188 are attending 98 different colleges, universities and military prep schools and were accepted to 250 different colleges.

The school has a bold vision for the future, which includes a 47,000-square-foot Center for Innovation now under construction. The facility will feature numerous cutting-edge classrooms and 12 sophisticated specialty labs, including spaces for anatomy, biology and chemistry lab instruction. It will also highlight the campus' greatest natural asset—the St. Johns River.

At Bolles, students experience an *All Things Possible* approach to education that champions innovation, global awareness and service. With a foundation in courage, integrity and compassion, students know how to be successful on the global scene as they progress into college and life.



Episcopal School of Jacksonville.....	904-396-5751	San Jose Episcopal Day School	904-733-0352
www.esj.org		www.sjeds.org	
E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy	904-990-3423	Seacoast Christian Academy.....	904-722-1738
www.drjbrandice.wixsite.com/turnerprep		www.scajax.org	
Faith First Preschool.....	904-672-7723	St. Joseph Catholic School	904-268-6688
www.faithfirstpreschool.com		www.stjosephcs.org	
Father's Harbor Academy	904-306-9579	Torah Academy of Jacksonville.....	904-268-7719
www.fathersharboracademy.com		www.torah-academy.com	
Guidepost Montessori	904-385-8222	University Christian School.....	904-737-6330
www.guidepostmontessori.com/schools/ baymeadows-jacksonville-fl		www.ucsjax.com	
Harvest Community School	904-997-1882		
www.hcsjax.org			
Holy Family Catholic School.....	904-645-9875		
www.hfcatholicsschool.com			
Impact Christian Academy.....	904-652-1441		
www.icajax.com			
Jacksonville Country Day School.....	904-641-6644		
www.jcnds.com			
LifePoint Academy of Seventh-Day Adventists	904-268-2433		
www.lpajax.org			
Martin J. Gottlieb Day School.....	904-268-4200		
www.mjgds.org			
New Dimensions Learning Center.....	904-736-7962		
www.ndlcjax.com			
Pablo Academy	904-412-3362		
www.pabloacademy.org			
Providence School.....	904-223-5270		
www.prov.org			
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San Jose Catholic School.....	904-733-2313		
www.sanjosecatholicsschool.com			

DUVAL-WEST

Academy of Excellence, The.....	904-779-0177
www.theaoejax.com	
America's Little Leaders	904-240-1864
www.america-cloud.com	
Argyle Christian Preschool & Kindergarten	904-778-4838
www.myacpk.com	
Arise Institute	904-330-4440
www.ariseinstituteonline.com	
Atrium School.....	561-247-5726
www.atriumschool.org	
Austin Christian Vocational Academy	904-647-5065
www.austinwarriors.org	
Bible Baptist Academy	904-765-5111
www.biblebaptistacademy.wordpress.com	
Bishop John J. Snyder High School	904-771-1029
www.bishopsnyder.org	
Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education	307-622-9431
www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst	
Broach School, The - Westside	904-637-0300
www.broachschool.com	
Cedar Creek Christian School	904-781-9151
www.cccsjax.org	
Cedar Hills Baptist Christian School.....	904-772-0812
www.chbcs.org	
CES Academy	904-254-6428
www.ces-schools.net	
Chatman's Academy.....	904-237-5617
www.facebook.com/ChatmansAcademy	
Changing Lives Christian Academy	904-425-4494
www.facebook.com/clcajax	
Eagle's View Academy.....	904-786-1411
www.evajax.com	



Episcopal School of Jacksonville, photo by Stephanie Marty

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904.223.5270 | prov.org
2701 Hodges Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32224

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Ephesus Junior Academy 904-765-3225 www.ephesusjunioracademy.org	Jacksonville Christian Academy 904-783-2818 www.jcajacksonville.org
Esprit de Corps Center for Learning 904-924-2000 www.edccenterforlearning.com	Joshua Christian Academy 904-388-2227 www.jccademy.org
E.V. Turner Preparatory Academy 904-990-3423 www.drjbrandice.wixsite.com/turnerprep	KidsPark..... 904-683-4554 www.kidspark.com
Fields of Art Christian Academy 904-713-8260 www.fieldsofartchristianacademy.com	Millennial Christian School 904-772-6400 www.millcs.org
First Coast Christian School 904-777-3040 www.fccsjax.org	New Beginnings Christian Center 904-786-3178 www.nbccjax.org
Good Shepherd Christian Academy..... 904-768-1580 www.gscaonline.org	North Florida Educational Institute North Campus..... 904-764-0084 West Campus..... 904-574-8059 www.nfei.org
Grace Christian Academy 904-266-9532 www.gbcaldwin.org/grace-christian-academy	Old Plank Christian Academy 904-783-4888 www.oldplankca.com
Guardian Catholic School..... 904-765-6522 www.guardiancatholic.com	Potter's House Christian Academy Elementary..... 904-786-0028 High School 904-695-2837 www.phcalions.org
Heart to Heart Christian Academy 904-783-8631 www.h2hacademy.com	

Riverside Presbyterian Day School..... 904-353-3459
www.rpds.com

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Sacred Heart Catholic School..... 904-771-5800
 www.shcsjax.com

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School..... 904-388-2632
 www.stmarksdayschool.org

St. Matthew's Catholic School..... 904-387-4401
 www.stmatthewscs.com

St. Paul's Catholic School - Riverside..... 904-387-2841
 www.spsjax.org

Temple Christian Academy 904-778-8655
 www.templechristian.net

Trinity Christian Academy 904-596-2460
 www.tcajax.org

West Meadows Baptist Academy 904-786-2711
 www.wmbcjax.org/academy

Zarephath Academy 904-632-1330
 www.zcajax.org

NASSAU COUNTY

Amelia Island Montessori School..... 904-261-6610
 www.ameliaislandmontessori.com

Atrium School..... 561-247-5726
 www.atrumschool.org

Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education 307-622-9431
 www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst

Early Impressions @ Midtown..... 904-206-4170
 www.earlyimpressionsfl.com

ELA Academy..... 904-282-3522
 www.elaaschool.org

Faith Christian Academy..... 904-321-2137
 www.fcaangels.com

Fernandina Beach Christian Academy 904-491-5664
 www.fernandinachristianacademy.com

Lighthouse Christian School - Callahan 904-507-6683
 www.lighthousechristianschool.net/callahan-campus

Ogburn School, The 904-491-6233
 www.ogburn.org

Sonshine Christian Academy..... 904-879-1260
 www.facebook.com/SCAcallahan

St. Michael Academy..... 904-321-2102
 https://smacad.org/

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Apex Christian Academy 904-824-8114
 www.apexchristian.com

Ark Christian Academy 904-810-2005
 www.arkchristianacademystaug.org

Atrium School..... 561-247-5726
 www.atrumschool.org

Beacon of Hope Christian School..... 904-797-6996
 www.beaconeagles.net

Black Hawks Institute of Higher Education 307-622-9431
 www.blkhwksorg.wixsite.com/blkhwksinst

Bolles School, The..... 904-733-9292
www.bolles.org

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Broach School, The - Ponte Vedra..... 904-637-0300
 www.broachschool.com

Cathedral Parish School..... 904-824-2861
 www.thecathedralparishschool.org

Collage Day School 904-900-1439
 www.collagedayschool.org

ELA Academy..... 904-282-3522
 www.elaaschool.org

Island Prep 904-547-2996
 www.islandprep.com

Matanzas Christian Academy 904-794-1623
 www.matanzasacademy.com

Moultrie Montessori School..... 904-826-0216
 www.moultriemontessori.com

Palmer Catholic Academy 904-543-8515
 www.pcapvb.org

Pioneer School, The 904-209-5891
 www.staugustinepioneer.com

San Juan Del Rio Catholic School 904-287-8081
 www.sjdrparish.org

St. John's Academy 904-824-9224
 www.stjohnsacademy.com

St. Joseph Academy Catholic High School..... 904-824-0431
 www.sjaweb.org

Turning Point Christian Academy..... 904-824-0744
 www.tpchristianacademy.com

Veritas Classical School 904-810-1050
 www.veritasclassicalschool.com

Victory Preparatory School..... 904-810-0535
 www.victoryprep.net

Charter Schools

CLAY COUNTY

Clay Charter Academy..... 904-406-1607
www.claycharter.org

St. Johns Classical Academy 904-458-8240
www.stjca.org

DUVAL COUNTY DUVAL-BEACHES

Florida Cyber Charter Academy@Duval 855-748-4737
<https://flcca.k12.com/>

Seaside Charter Beaches 844-973-2743
www.seasidecharter.org

DUVAL-NORTH

Biscayne High School 904-301-4367
www.biscaynehs.com

Florida Cyber Charter Academy@Duval 855-748-4737
<https://flcca.k12.com/>

Global Outreach Charter Academy 904-551-7104
www.goca.us

Lone Star High School..... 904-725-5998
www.jaxlonestars.com

Seacoast Charter Academy 904-562-4780
www.seacoastcharteracademy.org

Seaside Charter North 844-973-2743
www.seasidecharter.org

Somerset Academy Eagle Campus..... 904-503-0661
www.somersetacademy-jacksonville.org

DUVAL-SOUTH

Bold City Education - San Jose Academy 904-425-1723
www.boldcityed.org

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BridgePrep Academy of Duval..... 904-694-2660
<https://baduval.bridgeprepacademy.com>

Cornerstone Classical Academy 904-481-8163
www.cornerstoneclassicalacademy.org

Duval Charter Scholars Academy 904-724-1536
www.duvalcharter.org

Duval Charter School at Baymeadows..... 904-271-4127
www.baymeadowscharter.org

Duval Charter School at Coastal..... 904-512-6757
www.coastalcharter.org

Duval Charter School at Flagler Center..... 904-899-1010
www.flaglercharter.org

Duval Charter School at Mandarin 904-440-2901
www.mandarincharter.org

Duval Charter School at Southside..... 904-423-5348
www.southsidecharter.org

Florida Cyber Charter Academy@Duval 855-748-4737
<https://flcca.k12.com/>

IDEA River Bluff..... 904-821-7580
www.ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-river-bluff/

River City Science Academy..... 904-855-8010
www.rivercityscience.org

Seaside Charter - Mandarin..... 844-973-2743
www.seasidecharter.org

DUVAL-WEST

Becoming Collegiate Academy 904-619-2461
www.becomingschools.org

Duval Charter School at Westside 904-421-0250
www.westsidecharter.org

Florida Cyber Charter Academy@Duval 855-748-4737
<https://flcca.k12.com/>

Jacksonville Classical Academy 904-288-7732
www.jaxclassical.org

KIPP Public Charter School..... 904-683-6643
www.kippjax.org

Duval MYcro School..... 904-783-3611
www.mycroschooljax.org

IDEA Bassett 904-821-7717
www.ideapublicschools.org/our-schools/idea-bassett/

School of Success Academy
 Charter Middle School 904-573-0880
www.schoolofsuccessacademy.org

Tiger Academy 904-309-6840
<https://lymcatigeracademy.org/>

Waverly Academy..... 904-647-8552
www.waverlyacademy.org

Wayman Academy of the Arts..... 904-695-9995
www.waymanacademy.org

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

St. Augustine Public Montessori School 904-342-5350
www.staugustinemontessori.com

St. Johns Community Campus
Charter School, The 904-824-7249
www.arcsj.org/services/community-campus/

Therapeutic Learning Center 904-824-8932
www.arcsj.org/tlc/

First Coast Childcare Resources

Finding the right childcare for your children 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

Episcopal Children's Services
www.ecs4kids.org

Florida Association for Child Care
Management
www.faccm.org

Florida Department of Children and
Families
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 little ones for school.

Circle of Parents
www.circleofparents.org

Division of Early Learning
www.floridaearlylearning.com/parents/familyresources

Healthy Families Florida
www.healthyfamiliesfla.org

Parent Academy
<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/parentacademy>

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

Florida Association for the Education
of Young Children
www.flaeyc.org

Florida Department of Education
Division of Early Learning
www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning

Florida Head Start Association
www.flheadstart.org

Early Learning Coalition
of North Florida
www.elcnorthflorida.org

Programs for Learning Differences

CLAY COUNTY

Broach School
Orange Park
<https://broachschool.com>

The Broach School was created to help 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

This private school provides students with smaller class sizes and individualized instruction to help young learners thrive and grow better. Many of their students go on to higher learning institutions.

Seven Bridges School
www.sevenbridgesschool.org

With a large range of classes and clubs, this private school in Orange Park caters to students with average to above-average intelligence who have differences in learning styles.

DUVAL COUNTY

DUVAL-NORTH

Greenwood School 904-726-5000
www.greenwoodjax.org

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

Jericho School, The
www.thejerichoschool.org

This private nonprofit school offers a variety of individual and classroom programs for students with autism and other developmental disabilities to help them reach their full potential.

Lighthouse Christian School
Arlington, Northside
www.lighthousechristianschool.net

This private school provides students with smaller class sizes and individualized instruction to help young learners thrive and grow better. Many of their students go on to higher learning institutions.

DUVAL-SOUTH

Alden Road Exceptional Student Center
<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/ar>

Alden Road focuses on creating a positive learning environment that will enable its students to become productive members of the community. Their program promotes self-advocacy, self-determination and self-esteem.

Broach School
Arlington
<https://broachschool.com>

The Broach School was created to help 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

This private school offers a multitude of specialized programs for students grades four through 12 with learning differences. The school's small class sizes allow teachers to accommodate each student's individual learning style and academic needs.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech
www.clarkeschools.org/florida/

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech offers listening and spoken language programs and services for deaf or hard-of-hearing children. They have a hardworking team of hearing professionals who are trained to teach children with hearing difficulties to listen and speak.

DePaul School of Northeast Florida
www.depaulschool.com

The DePaul School has developed specialized curriculums for students between second and eighth grade with dyslexia and related learning differences. Using a multisensory, Orton-Gillingham approach, students can learn in a positive and encouraging manner.

Great Strides School
www.greatstridesrehab.com

Great Strides is a comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation facility that provides physical, speech, music and occupational therapies. Through this program, students are provided with applied behavior analysis, psychological services, autism evaluations and social skills groups.

Jacksonville School for Autism
www.jsakids.org

Employing an "outside of the desk" way of educating, this not-for-profit school prepares students with autism for adulthood through early childhood development, vocational and enrichment programs.

Lighthouse Christian School
Mandarin
www.lighthousechristianschool.net

This private school provides students with smaller class sizes and individualized instruction to help young learners thrive and grow better. Many of their students go on to higher learning institutions.

Little Star Center
<https://littlestarjax.com>

This private school and behavior therapy center offers part- and full-time programs that focus on the needs of children ages 2 to 12 who are on the autism spectrum or have other developmental differences.

Mainspring Academy

www.mainspringacademy.org

Mainspring Academy provides quality, specialized education in a safe environment for students aged 5 through 22 with intellectual and developmental differences.

Morning Star School

www.morningstar-jax.org

Morning Star serves children with learning differences from kindergarten to 12th grade and offers several services including academic instruction, religious courses, physical education and classes in the arts, among others.

North Florida School of Special Education

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 an innovative academic and therapeutic environment for students, as well as postgraduate programs including vocational training, internships and more.

DUVAL-WEST

Broach School

Westside

<https://broachschool.com>

The Broach School was created to help 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

This private school provides students with smaller class sizes and individualized instruction to help young learners thrive and grow better. Many of their students go on to higher learning institutions.

Mount Herman Exceptional Student Center

<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/mhesc>

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

Palm Avenue Exceptional Student Center

<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/palmavenue>

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 within a safe environment.

NASSAU COUNTY

Lighthouse Christian School

Callahan

www.lighthousechristianschool.net

This private school provides students with smaller class sizes and individualized instruction to help young learners thrive and grow better. Many of their students go on to higher learning institutions.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Broach School

Ponte Vedra

<https://broachschool.com>

The Broach School was created to help 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

This private school offers a multitude of specialized programs for students grades four through 12 with learning differences. The school's small class sizes allow teachers to accommodate each student's learning style.

Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

www.fsdbk12.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.



Photo by Ksenia Chernaya



Adult Education

Why stop learning after graduating high school when you can continue on with college, university or a technical school? The First Coast has a vast array of options for further education with a variety of resources available.

Conservative Theological University

www.conservative.edu
Established in 1982, Conservative Theological University is a certified member of the Florida Council of Private Colleges of America. The university focuses on Biblical education and offers undergraduate to graduate programs that can be completed on a part- or full-time basis. Remote options are available for students as well.

Edward Waters University

www.ew.edu
Founded in 1866 Edward Waters University (EWU) is the first Historically Black College in the state of Florida. The university is an independent institution of higher learning and offers a Christian curriculum. There are eight bachelor's degree programs to choose from including Science and Mathematics, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Business Administration, Communications and Criminal Justice.

First Coast Technical College

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 locations in St. Augustine, the college allows a variety of programs including agriculture, health sciences, hospitality and tourism, human services and law and early childhood education.

Flagler College

www.flagler.edu

For more than 50 years, Flagler College has offered an exceptional education "through a challenging, inclusive, and supportive academic community" in the oldest city in the nation, St. Augustine. The college was once Hotel Ponce de León, and the campus and buildings are rich in this institution's history. Students can choose from 70 programs within the School of Humanities and Science, School of Creative Arts and Letters and School of Business, Education and Mathematics.

Florida Aviation Career Training, Inc.

www.florida-aviation.com

The Florida Aviation Career Training, Inc. (FACT) is the perfect choice for those new to aviation as well as seasoned pilots. FACT even offers aircraft rental and will assist in additional ratings. 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 State College at Jacksonville

www.fscj.edu

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) has eight campuses throughout Duval and Nassau counties to cater to a larger area

and give students an opportunity to learn from various places on the First Coast. The campuses have administrative offices, an Urban Resource Center and Advanced Technology Center and 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.

Jacksonville Theological Seminary

www.jts.edu
Jacksonville Theological Seminary offers graduate degrees in religious studies for both education and training in ministry work. The seminary has been on the First Coast for more than 30 years and offers graduate degrees. Several areas of study include Theology, Religious Education, Biblical Studies, Divinity and more.

Jacksonville University

www.ju.edu
Located on the banks of the St. Johns River, Jacksonville University (JU) is a small private college that has been named one of the "America's Best Colleges" in the South by *U.S. News and World Report* for more than 10 years. The university has more than 100 majors and minors and many extracurricular activities. With a small student to teacher ratio, students can have more of an intimate learning experience.

Logos University

www.logos.edu
Logos University is an online and distance learning institution that promotes its students to develop leaders in the community 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

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 also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In addition to in-person classes, online learning is also available.

Trinity Baptist College
www.tbc.edu

Trinity Baptist College has provided students with a Christian-based education for more than 40 years. The main focus of the college is to prepare students for ministry, but also offers general and professional studies, liberal arts and graduate studies. The college partners with Trinity Christian Academy and Trinity Baptist Church to give students local community opportunities.

University of North Florida
www.unf.edu

For 50 years, the University of North Florida (UNF) has created success for more than 4,000 students each year. The college 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. The university also has a variety of clubs, groups and athletic opportunities.

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
www.usa.edu

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences has graduate programs in the College of Health Sciences and Administration, the School of Nursing and the College of Rehabilitation Science. Students are able to experience an excellent education with cutting-edge technology through hands-on learning. Within the last few years, the university also added a Ninja Obstacle Course that was designed by a two-time American Ninja Warrior contestant.



FSCJ, photo by Stephanie Marty



Flagler College in St. Augustine, photo by Kelly Rizzo



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 and select "Find a Physician" on our homepage. From that search, you'll 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 no-cost screening exams for local high school athletes.

Many DCMS members work locally, in Tallahassee, and in Washington, D.C. to advocate for healthcare legislation that benefits both physicians and their 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 your field with access to continuous learning and skill enhancement. Gain access to a treasure trove of resources including exclusive networking events and educational opportunities.
- Networking & Collaboration: Build relationships with fellow physicians and healthcare professionals. 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 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.

As I hope you can see, there is a lot going on at the Duval County Medical Society and much more than I can share in this quick letter. Please reach out to myself or the DCMS staff with any questions.

Gratefully,

Ferdinand Formoso, D.O.
2023/2024 President
Duval County Medical Society

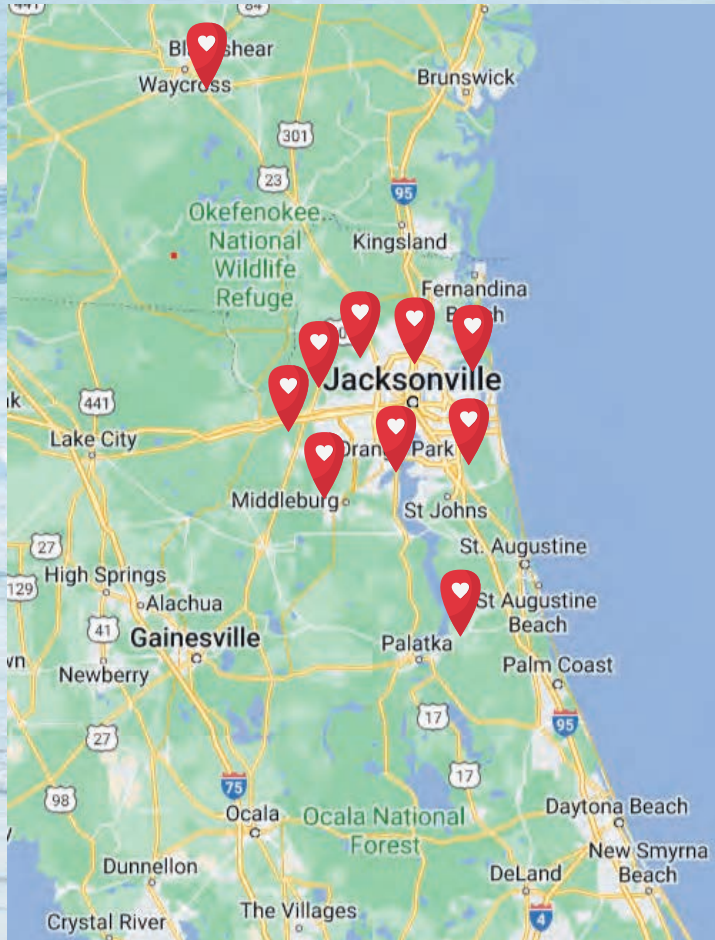


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NORTHSIDE OFFICE: 3890 Dunn Ave, Ste 203
WESTSIDE OFFICE: 5851 Timuquana Rd, Ste 204
FLEMING ISLAND OFFICE: 1681 Eagle Harbor Pkwy East, Ste B
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Welcome to our Team of Doctors! Dr. Kyle Fallgatter will be joining us this Fall!



Kyle S. Fallgatter, MD

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The First Coast is home to some of the best healthcare facilities in the country, including top-rated hospitals and a multitude of high-caliber medical professionals. Access to world-class healthcare and the most up-to-date, leading-edge technology not only benefits First Coast residents but also draws patients from all over the country.

UF Health

Welcome to UF Health, where we have been improving health outcomes for more than 150 years. What began with three small buildings has grown into a regional network of six medical campuses and more than 60 medical practices. What hasn't changed over the years is our commitment to quality care. Backed by a team of more than 450 University of Florida faculty physicians, we are the area's premier academic health center.

Search for family care doctors and specialists at all of our locations at UFHealthJax.org.

UF Health Jacksonville is a full-service hospital with the area's only Level I adult and pediatric trauma center, a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, an adult and pediatric emergency room and a Chest Pain Center. On-site services include all primary and specialty medical services, such as imaging, rehabilitation, orthopaedic, neurology, cardiology, and obstetrics and gynecology. (Downtown Jacksonville)

UF Health North features an inpatient hospital, an adult and pediatric emergency room, and state-of-the-art labor and delivery suites. This medical campus also includes more than 30 specialty services and will soon double inpatient occupancy with the opening of a second bed tower. (North Jacksonville)

UF Health Deerwood Park offers cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, internal medicine and rheumatology, all inside the CenterOne building. (East Jacksonville)

UF Health East at JTB Kernan offers an outpatient surgery center, a comprehensive spine and neurosurgery program, full-service orthopaedics, women's specialists, plastic and reconstructive surgery, radiology and more. (East Jacksonville)

UF Health Emerson specializes in imaging, obstetrics and gynecology, and rehabilitation. Our expanded and state-of-the-art rehabilitation services include physical, occupational and speech therapy. (Near downtown Jacksonville)

UF Health Wildlight offers a wide range of services, including dentistry and orthodontics, family medicine, pediatrics, mental health, urgent care, obstetrics and gynecology, imaging and laboratory. There is also a UF Health rehabilitation facility in Wildlight that offers physical, occupational and speech therapy for adults and children. (North Jacksonville, Yulee)

New this year:

Each **UF Health Emergency and Urgent Care Center** offers an innovative approach that is the first of its kind in Northeast Florida. With three locations, these centers combine emergency and urgent care services under one roof, available 24/7. These facilities allow you to avoid the higher cost of an ER visit if our specialists find you don't need that level of medical care.

(Baymeadows Road, Lane Avenue, New Kings Road)



UFHealthJax.org





Growing with you.

We're growing our patient care services, including our rehabilitation program.

Construction on our second hospital tower and expanded emergency room is underway to meet our growing Northeast Florida community. We will more than double the number of current patient rooms and add two dedicated floors for occupational, physical and speech therapy.

That's in addition to our 24/7 emergency services for children and adults, state-of-the-art labor and delivery suites, and the specialty practices of top UF Health physicians.

Visit UFHealthNorth.org to learn more about our primary and specialty services.



Scan the QR code to see a video of our construction progress.



Baptist Health, photo by Stephanie Marty

Baptist Medical Center Clay

Located on Fleming Island, this full-service hospital provides a variety of services for children and adults, including behavioral health, cardiology, ENT, children's specialty care and rehabilitation, gastroenterology, imaging and labs, primary care and pediatrics, surgery and an ER for children and adults.

HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital

HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital is one of the top healthcare providers on the First Coast. The hospital has been nominated as a top five facility in critical care in Florida by Healthgrades, a top 100 hospital in the country for stroke, pulmonary and critical care by Healthgrades and a top 20 hospital in Florida for America's Best Physical Rehabilitation Centers by *Newsweek*. The hospital has 411 inpatient beds, 40 intensive care unit beds, nine labor, delivery and recovery room suites and a Level II and III neonatal intensive care unit.

Kindred Hospital North Florida

This 73-bed, long-term care hospital in Green Cove Springs offers specialized care to patients who need a longer-term stay than at a traditional hospital. The hospital offers pulmonary care, critical care, wound services and rehabilitation services. A 14-bed acute rehabilitation unit is also available for those who may have experienced effects of an impairment, illness or acute injury.

DUVAL-BEACHES

Baptist Medical Center Beaches

As the only hospital-based 24/7 emergency service in the Beaches community, this location provides comprehensive, advanced medical and surgical care for the area. This location has a state-of-the-art surgical pavilion which provides high-tech medical equipment in a modern setting. The hospital also has a Labor and Delivery Center with spa-like suites to provide new parents with a calm atmosphere.

Mayo Clinic

Mayo Clinic's location here on the First Coast is one of three in the United States and is the No. 1 hospital in Florida according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The Mayo Clinic is recognized as one of the nation's leading liver transplant programs and is also acclaimed for its leading practice and research in cardiology, transplant medicine and cancer treatment.

Other area hospitals and health systems:

BAKER COUNTY

Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital

Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital in Macclenny is Baker County's only hospital. Their team of physicians use state-of-the-art technology to provide the best care possible. The hospital campus is also home to the Baker Rural Health Clinic and the Dopson Family Medical Center for those looking for sick visits, routine checkups and family-based primary care.

CLAY COUNTY

Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County Hospital

This full-service, 134-bed hospital located in Middleburg offers 24/7 emergency care, surgical care, heart and vascular care, lung health, cancer services and more. The Family Birth Place gives new parents a personalized birthing experience with pediatricians on staff. Various procedures, imaging and labs can also be found at this campus location.



Ascension St. Vincent's, photo by Stephanie Marty



UF Health East, photo by Stephanie Marty

DUVAL-SOUTH

Ascension St. Vincent's Southside Hospital

As the oldest private hospital in Florida, Ascension St. Vincent's Southside has been a staple on the First Coast since 1873. The hospital is highly regarded for its services, including orthopaedic and spine surgery, heart and vascular care, stroke and emergency care, lung health, brain and spine care, cancer services, weight-loss surgery, and women's health.

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville

As the central hub of the Baptist Health System, Baptist Jacksonville uses the highest level of medical and surgical care for patients with the latest technologies and top-rated doctors. As one of the largest hospitals on the First Coast, the campus is home to the Baptist Heart Hospital, which is the area's only freestanding hospital for heart and vascular care, as well as the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, which provides clinical trials, targeted therapies and top technology for cancer patients.

Baptist Medical Center South

Baptist Medical Center South in southern Duval County is ranked among the top 5 percent of hospitals in Florida by *U.S. News & World Report*. The hospital is home to a pediatric Wolfson Children's emergency room, surgery center, imaging, an adult emergency room and more. The hospital also focuses on hyperbaric medicine in Baptist South's Wound Center where technology helps patients heal both external and internal wounds.

Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital

The Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital - University Campus is a 160-bed hospital that provides top rehabilitation care for patients needing different types of therapy, including physical, occupational and cognitive rehabilitation. Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital is ranked No. 1 in Florida by *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Rehabilitation Hospital" list. The hospital is also CARF-accredited in stroke, spinal cord injury, pediatrics, pain, general rehabilitation and brain injury. In 2022 the 60-bed Bartram Campus opened. Rehabilitation services at this hospital include orthopaedic conditions, brain injuries, non-traumatic spinal cord injuries, stroke and medically complex conditions.

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Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Jacksonville

Encompass Health is a state-of-the-art, 50-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital on Jacksonville's southside. The hospital provides speech, occupational and physical therapy services and provides 24-hour care by registered nurses. It also cares for patients recovering from illnesses and injuries including strokes and other neurological disorders, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, amputations and complex orthopaedic conditions.

HCA Florida Memorial Hospital

This 454-bed acute care hospital has called the First Coast home for more than 45 years. It has a certified Stroke Center, Heart Center, Bone and Joint Center, Chest Pain Center and a maternity center.

Nemours Children's Health

Nemours Children's Health in Jacksonville provides top-notch healthcare to children with various medical conditions. The main campus clinic connects via skybridge to Wolfson Children's Hospital, where Nemours providers have access to ORs and inpatient units. Doctors at Nemours Children's Health have been selected as some of the "Best Doctors in America" by Teledoc. The pediatric programs are recognized among the best in the country for neurology, neurosurgery and cancer according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Jacksonville

Previously known as Curahealth, this long-term acute care hospital provides specialized care for patients who require more recovery time than traditional hospitals offer. They focus on using a holistic approach and provide personalized care plans for the best possible chance of recovery.

Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital Jacksonville

This state-of-the-art inpatient rehabilitation hospital provides comprehensive, post-acute medical rehabilitation therapy to all kinds of patients, including those recovering from stroke, spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple traumas, neurological injury and amputation. The hospital is also home to many amenities including large high-tech therapy gyms and an outdoor courtyard for relaxation and therapy activities.

River Point Behavioral Health

For more than 30 years, River Point Behavioral Health has treated patients for mental health and substance abuse with inpatient, outpatient and partial hospitalization programs.

Wekiva Springs Center

Wekiva Springs Center offers both outpatient and inpatient services for mental health and substance abuse programs for adults and seniors. By utilizing personalized care plans, a patient's conditions can be treated properly, and action plans can be put in place.

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 Nemours Children's Health, University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville and the Mayo Clinic to provide top-notch resources and care to all patients. The hospital is recognized among America's Best Children's Hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report* year after year.

DUVAL-WEST

Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital

Founded in 1916, Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital is home to Jacksonville's leading cardiovascular program. The hospital works to advocate for compassionate care and has launched a justice-focused framework called ABIDE, which is built on the hallmarks of appreciation, belongingness, inclusivity, diversity and equity.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville

Serving active-duty military personnel, veterans, their families and retired military members with TRICARE benefits, this military hospital provides a variety of services including primary care, urgent and emergency care, dental care, lab tests, radiology and more. It has received The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Hospital Accreditation. Its Medical Home Port teams have also earned Primary Care Medical Home Certification from The Joint Commission.

NASSAU COUNTY

Baptist Medical Center Nassau

Baptist Medical Center Nassau in Fernandina Beach is known for its advanced technology and range of inpatient and outpatient services. Baptist Nassau is a highly equipped community hospital that brings care to residents in Northeast Florida as well as Southeast Georgia. The hospital is home to physicians in 29 different specialties, giving patients a full spectrum of care.



Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of St. Augustine, photo courtesy of PR Newswire

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County Hospital

This St. Johns County hospital boasts top-notch care that is compassionate, personalized and close to home. The hospital boasts a national network of care and expertise of a wide range of doctors and specialists and a variety of services.

Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of St. Augustine

Opened in 2022, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of St. Augustine is a 40-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital that offers physical, occupational and speech therapies. The hospital features all private patient rooms, a large therapy gym with advanced rehabilitation technologies and an activities of daily living suite, a therapy courtyard, a cafeteria and a dayroom.

UF Health Flagler Hospital

In 2023, Flagler Health+ became part of the University of Florida's academic health center and was renamed UF Health Flagler Hospital. UF Health Flagler Hospital has 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.

VA Healthcare on the First Coast

Opening this year, veterans on the First Coast will have more access to medical services and healthcare at the new outpatient VA medical center that will be located on the Northside of Jacksonville near the River City Marketplace. It will replace the two smaller outpatient VA centers in the area on University Boulevard and Southpoint Drive. The new center will be more than 170,000 square feet and offer services such as audiology, optometry, imaging, mental health services and primary care. Programs will also be available for homeless veterans, substance abuse and PTSD.

First Coast Hospitals

Mayo Clinic, photo by Stephanie Marty



BAKER COUNTY

Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital
159 N. 3rd St., Macclenny
www.edfraserhospital.com

CLAY COUNTY

Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County Hospital
1670 St. Vincent's Way, Middleburg
<https://healthcare.ascension.org>

Baptist Medical Center Clay
1771 Baptist Clay Dr., Fleming Island
www.baptistjax.com

Kindred Hospital North Florida
801 Oak St., Green Cove Springs
www.kindredhospitals.com

HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital
2001 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com

DUVAL-BEACHES

Baptist Medical Center Beaches
1350 13th Ave. S.,
Jacksonville Beach
www.baptistjax.com

Mayo Clinic
4500 San Pablo Rd. S., Jacksonville
www.mayoclinic.org

DUVAL-NORTH

UF Health North
15255 Max Leggett Pkwy.,
Jacksonville
<https://north.ufhealthjax.org>

DUVAL-SOUTH

Ascension St. Vincent's Southside Hospital
4201 Belfort Rd., Jacksonville
<https://healthcare.ascension.org>

Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville
800 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville
www.baptistjax.com

Baptist Medical Center South
14550 Old St. Augustine Rd.,
Jacksonville
www.baptistjax.com

Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital - Bartram Campus
6400 Brooks Bartram Dr.,
Jacksonville
www.brooksrehab.org

Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital - University Campus
3599 University Blvd. S., Jacksonville
www.brooksrehab.org

Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Jacksonville
11595 Burnt Mill Rd., Jacksonville
<https://encompasshealth.com>

HCA Florida Memorial Hospital
3625 University Blvd. S., Jacksonville
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com

Nemours Children's Health
807 Children's Way, Jacksonville
www.nemours.org

PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Jacksonville
4901 Richard St., Jacksonville
www.pamhealth.com

Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital Jacksonville
12645 Salina Dr., Jacksonville
www.reunionrehabhospital.com

River Point Behavioral Health
6300 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
www.riverpointbehavioral.com

Wekiva Springs Center
3947 Salisbury Rd., Jacksonville
www.wekivacenter.com

Wolfson Children's Hospital
800 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville
www.wolfsonchildrens.com

DUVAL-WEST

Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital
1 Shircliff Way, Jacksonville
<https://healthcare.ascension.org>

Naval Hospital Jacksonville
2080 Child St., Jacksonville
<https://jacksonville.tricare.mil>

UF Health Jacksonville
655 W. 8th St., Jacksonville
www.ufhealthjax.org

NASSAU COUNTY

Baptist Medical Center Nassau
1250 S. 18th St., Fernandina Beach
www.baptistjax.com

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County Hospital
205 Trinity Way, St. Johns
www.healthcare.ascension.org

Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of St. Augustine
65 Silver Ln., St. Augustine
<https://encompasshealth.com>

UF Health Flagler Hospital
400 Health Park Blvd., St. Augustine
www.ufhealth.org

Freestanding Emergency Rooms

CLAY COUNTY

Baptist & Wolfson Clay Emergency Room
1771 Baptist Clay Dr., Fleming Island
904-516-1000

DUVAL-NORTH

Ascension St. Vincent's Emergency Care - Arlington
9820 Hutchinson Park Dr.,
Jacksonville
904-450-6740

Baptist & Wolfson North Emergency Room
11250 Baptist Health Dr.,
Jacksonville
904-202-6900

HCA Florida Atlantic Emergency
11850 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville
904-998-5000

UF Health Emergency & Urgent Care Center - New Kings
11277 New Kings Rd., Jacksonville
904-427-7250



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Most Insurance Accepted*

4495 Baymeadows Rd., Jacksonville **(904) 733-9191**
 1301-26 Monument Rd., Jacksonville **(904) 725-7117**

DUVAL-SOUTH

Baptist & Wolfson Town Center Emergency Room
 4085 Town Center Pkwy., Jacksonville
 904-202-6800

HCA Florida Mandarin Emergency
 10910 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
 904-407-8500

UF Health Emergency & Urgent Care Center - Baymeadows
 11251 Lamb Tail Ln., Jacksonville
 904-427-7254

DUVAL-WEST

Ascension St. Vincent's Emergency Care - Westside
 8083 Parramore Rd., Jacksonville
 904-450-6760

Baptist & Wolfson Oakleaf Emergency Room
 9868 Family Pl., Jacksonville
 904-516-1600

HCA Florida Normandy Park Emergency
 5773 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville
 904-378-7300

HCA Florida Park West Emergency
 6477 103rd St., Jacksonville
 904-772-3300

UF Health Emergency & Urgent Care Center - Lane Avenue
 888 Lane Ave. S., Jacksonville
 904-427-7252

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

HCA Florida Julington Creek Emergency
 42 Doctors Village Dr., St. Johns
 904-230-5000

Kindred Rehabilitation Services

Kindred Rehabilitation Services is building a \$31 million, 50-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital on the west side of Jacksonville. The new two-story, 60,582-square-foot hospital will offer all private rooms and focus on acute rehabilitation for patients who have had a stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, complex neurological disorders, orthopaedic conditions, multiple traumas, amputation and other injuries or disorders. It will also feature multidisciplinary therapy gyms with therapeutic technologies that include augmented-reality balance training, therapy bionics and a full-body exoskeleton.

Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville

Mayo Clinic is continuing to expand its campus on San Pablo Road with a purchase of 210 acres of land. Valued at \$24 million, the land will be used for its northwest part of the campus for medical, residential and hotel purposes.

This purchase is on top of the \$1 billion Mayo has invested in the campus over the past few years. This includes a \$432 million expansion project that will add a new five-story, 250,000-square-foot patient tower, increasing the total bed count to 419. This project will increase the main tower from eight floors to 13. Construction has already begun and is expected to be completed in 2026. The expansion project also includes adding hospital support services, a central energy plant, new facilities for patient care, biomedical research, education and technology, all expected to be complete at the end of 2026. According to Mayo Clinic, the increase in patients is the main driving force for the expansions.

Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital Jacksonville

Reunion Rehabilitation Hospital Jacksonville opened in 2023 near the Tamaya neighborhood. It provides comprehensive, high-quality post-acute medical rehabilitation therapy to a wide variety of patients. The clinic team at this new state-of-the-art inpatient rehabilitation hospital offers innovative tools and processes to give patients with physical, occupational or cognitive limitations positive outcomes and a return to a healthy life.

Baptist Nassau Crossing Medical Campus

Residents in Nassau County will soon have access to the most advanced colonoscopies and upper endoscopies at the new Borland Groover Medical Office and Nassau Crossing Endoscopy Center. Set to open this fall, the 20,000-square-foot center will be located within the new Baptist Nassau Crossing Medical Campus located in Yulee, just east of I-95 on State Road 200. The Borland Groover Medical Office will offer 12 exam rooms and expanded infusion services providing treatment to patients with autoimmune disorders, such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, plaque psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis. Back in March 2023, Baptist Health broke ground on the Baptist Nassau Crossing Medical Campus, which will also be home to a freestanding Baptist & Wolfson Emergency Center, as well as outpatient imaging, primary care, behavioral health and specialty physician offices. The 56,588-square-foot campus is designed for future expansion to serve the growing needs of the community.

Healthcare on the First Coast is Thriving!

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. As there is an increase in homeowners and residents within the area, the need for healthcare expansion to cater to a larger community is growing. Currently, there are a variety of developmental projects underway. This includes new hospitals, clinics and rehabilitation sites, along with healthcare industry collaborations, expanding facilities and new available treatment plans.

Kindred Rehabilitation Services rendering, photo courtesy of Business Wire



Mayo Clinic, photo by Stephanie Marty



St. Augustine, photo by SPARK

Just For Seniors

10 Reasons the First Coast is The Best Place for Seniors!

1. Retirement-worthy weather! The First Coast is blessed to have great weather all year long! Sun-filled days in the summers and mild temperatures in the winter allow seniors to enjoy the outdoors no matter the time of year.

2. The affordability! For decades, seniors have been drawn to the First Coast due to its affordable nature. Individual retirement accounts, private and public pensions, 401(k)s and Social Security have no state taxation, as well as no state income tax. The cost of living in Northeast Florida is also below the national average.

3. Healthcare! With many large hospitals and health systems in the area, First Coast seniors have access to some of the best healthcare facilities available. Northeast Florida is home to Baptist Health, HCA Florida Healthcare, UF Health Jacksonville, Ascension St. Vincent's and Mayo Clinic. For veterans, there are VA clinics in Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

4. Our active adult communities! Northeast Florida is home to many top-notch active adult communities that offer resort-style amenities and recreation. Seniors can choose from several types, styles and price points that meet any budget.

5. Senior centers! The First Coast has numerous community and senior centers that offer enriching programs, classes, events, meals and more. For a senior center near you, see our list on page 79.

6. Volunteer opportunities! Volunteering is a great way for seniors to stay connected with the community. The First Coast has countless programs and organizations to get involved in, including the Foster Grandparents Program, Catholic Charities, Seniors on a Mission Inc. and RSVP—one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation.

7. Gorgeous parks! Seniors have endless opportunities to explore the great outdoors here. Jacksonville is home to the largest urban park system in the country, with more than 80,000 acres to visit and explore. There are also many beautiful state parks in the area to explore.

8. Attractions! The First Coast is full of attractions that offer senior discounts, such as the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and the Museum of Science and History (MOSH).

9. Sports! Seniors can enjoy every kind of sporting event here on the First Coast, with professional football, baseball, hockey and more. Our area is also home to the world-famous The PLAYERS Championship golf tournament.

10. Our location! Popular vacation destinations such as Daytona Beach, the Gulf Coast or Walt Disney World are just a short drive away from the First Coast. The Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) can also fly you out to almost any destination in the world!

First Coast Senior Centers

BAKER COUNTY

Baker County Council on Aging..... 904-259-9315

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

Southside Community Center 904-255-6940
 Mandarin Senior Center 904-255-6750

DUVAL-WEST

Carvill Senior Center 904-255-6650
 Charlie T. Joseph Senior Center 904-255-6822
 Clanzel T. Brown Senior Center 904-764-8752
 Hammond Senior Center 904-255-6787
 J.S. Johnson Senior Center 904-255-6755
 Lane Wiley Senior Center 904-255-6644
 Lincoln Villa Senior Center 904-255-6737
 Longbranch Senior Center 904-255-6790
 Louis Dinah Senior Center 904-255-6800
 Mary L. Singleton Senior Center 904-255-6666
 Maxville Senior Center 904-255-6744
 Riverview Senior Center 904-255-6797
 Wallace Small Senior Center 904-255-6825

NASSAU COUNTY

Nassau County Council on Aging Janice Ancrum
 Senior Life Center 904-261-0701
 Westside Senior Life Center 904-845-3331

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Coastal Community Center 904-209-3636
 Council on Aging Center at
 UF Health Nocatee 904-819-3234
 Hastings Senior Center 904-209-3694
 PLAYERS Community Senior
 Center, THE 904-280-3233
 River House 904-209-3655
 Trout Creek Senior Center 904-209-3658



Senior Games, photo courtesy of COJ

Exciting Annual Senior Events!

Seniors on the First Coast can enjoy exciting events throughout the year. For the most up-to-date information on events, please visit www.jacksonville.gov, the City of Jacksonville Senior Services Division Facebook page or call 904-255-5667.

Fall Fling

Join the City of Jacksonville for a night of fun! Each fall, seniors can enjoy a night of delicious food and dancing at this exciting event.

Fish-A-Thon

Held at Hanna Park, this annual fishing tournament for seniors includes games, contests and more. Seniors can win awards for catching the largest fish, smallest fish, most fish, prettiest fish and even ugliest fish.

Forever Fit 50 & Beyond: Jacksonville Senior Games

This annual event celebrates fitness after age 50 and has seniors compete in various games and athletic events at multiple venues throughout the city.

Holiday Festival for Seniors

Celebrate the holiday season at the Prime Osborn Convention Center with dinner, dancing and festive entertainment for seniors.

Safety and Security Seminar for Seniors

This seminar gives seniors the tools they need to protect themselves not only physically, but from fraud and scams.

Senior Expo

Hosted twice a year, this two-day expo shares information, programs and resources available in the area for seniors. There is also live entertainment and free health screenings.

Senior Prom

For more than 30 years, the City of Jacksonville has hosted an evening of dinner, live music, dancing and door prizes for the senior community at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

Walk for Senior Wellness

This scenic walk celebrates senior fitness and wellness. Before the walk, participants can warm up by stretching and dancing.

Pickleball on the First Coast

Combining the elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong, Pickleball is becoming a popular sport among seniors! It's a great way to not only have fun but stay fit and active. The following are resources for playing pickleball on the First Coast.

Jax Pickleball Store
www.jaxpickleballstore.com

North Florida Pickleball
www.northfloridapickleball.com

Pickle Garden at the Yards, The
www.playtheyards.com/pickleball

USA Pickleball Association
www.usapa.org

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 knowing 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.



St. George Street in St. Augustine, photo by SPARK

Assisted Living Facilities

This type of facility is a long-term care option for seniors who want to live independently in a safe environment. If you need assistance with daily activities but don't require intensive care, an assisted living facility may be the best living option. Trained staff are there to help residents with tasks such as cooking, shopping, bathing, getting dressed, taking medications and more. These facilities are often laid out in apartment-style living spaces with a shared common space. Many have social and recreational activities as well. Assisted living facilities also offer multiple levels of care depending on the resident's needs.

Skilled Nursing Facilities

For seniors who need round-the-clock medical care, a skilled nursing facility is the best option. These facilities offer treatment from a registered nurse and therapy services, offering physical, speech or occupational therapists. A physician is also there to supervise the patient's care. These hospital-like facilities also provide short-term services for those recovering from an injury or illness, or long-term services for those who have a serious medical condition and need more extensive care. Memory care facilities are specialized types of skilled nursing facilities that accommodate seniors with Alzheimer's, dementia and other memory-related struggles.

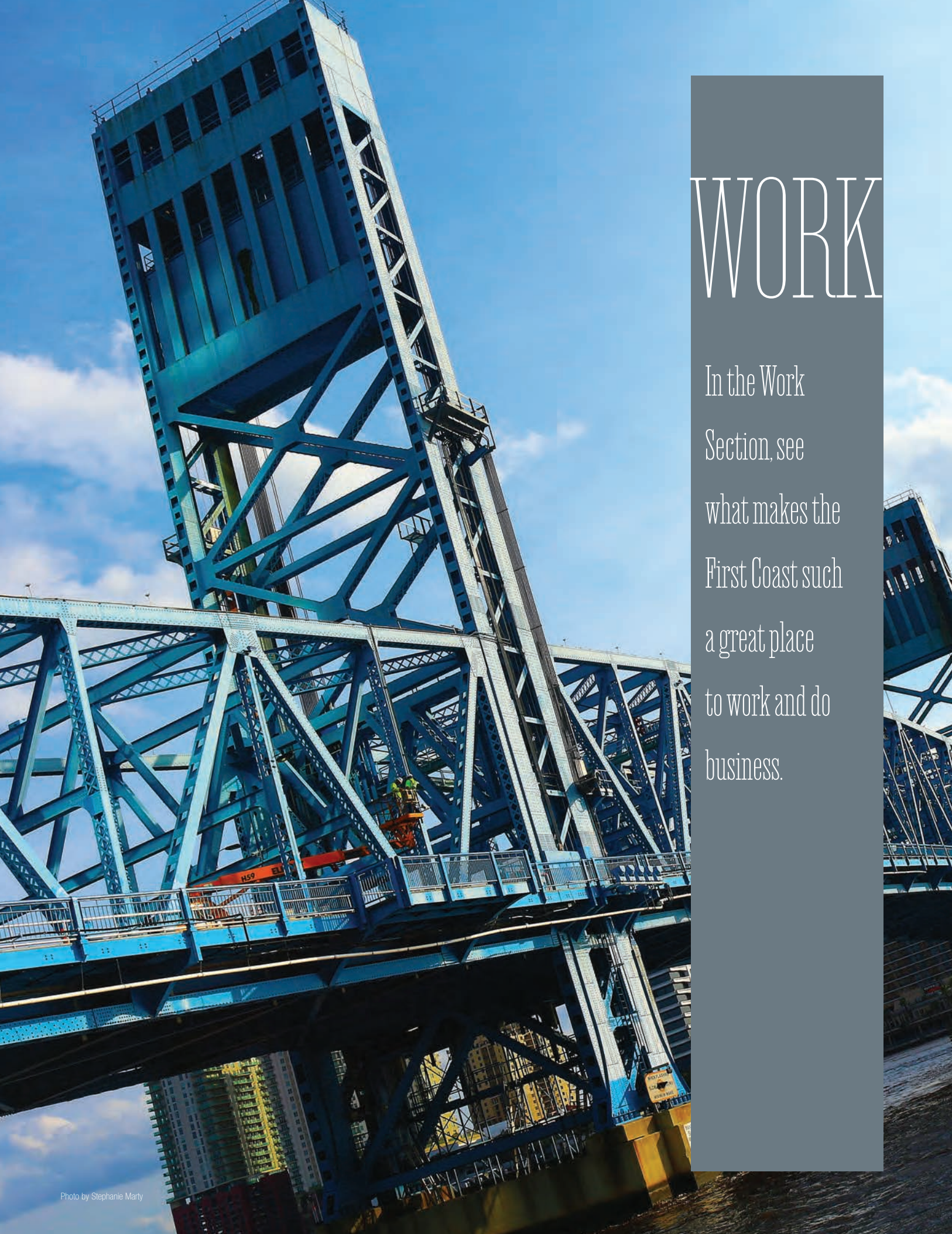
Retirement Communities

These types of communities are best for seniors who can still live independently. Retirement communities include active adult communities, independent living communities and 55-plus communities. Seniors can choose from a multitude of housing options like single-family homes, condos or apartments. While each community is unique, most have several amenities and conveniences such as fitness centers, pools, golf courses, transportation and a restaurant on site. These communities allow seniors to maintain their independence and freedom while still offering some assistance with housekeeping and

“There are many living options for seniors moving to the First Coast.”

meal preparation if needed. Many retirement communities also have an assisted living component.

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



WORK

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

Northeast Florida Businesses: A Driving Force Of The Economy

With more than 150 industry headquarters in the area, the First Coast draws many different business sectors from all over. One of the fastest-growing areas for businesses in the country, the First Coast is an affordable option for businesses as there are no taxes on corporate franchises, inventory, foreign or personal income. The average commute time of 27 minutes, which is less than any other major city, is another desirable reason to do business in Northeast Florida.

Jacksonville ranks as one of the best places for both careers and businesses while boasting four Fortune 500 companies, five Fortune 1000 companies and a labor force of more than 872,000. The city ranks No. 2 as the best large city to start a business according to WalletHub, while MoneyGeek ranked Jacksonville No. 1 as the best city for job seekers in 2023. Jacksonville has also been named the No. 3 best job market according to *The Wall Street Journal*. Jacksonville International Airport offers more than 85 non-stop daily flights and connections to every major city in the world. The tech industry in the area has boomed to the point that LinkedIn listed Jacksonville as a top city for tech workers. *Forbes* named Jacksonville as one of the fastest-growing regions for tech jobs. Jacksonville also ranks among the top 15 cities for women in tech according to SmartAsset.

More than 20 major banks, insurance and investment service firms on the Fortune Global 500 list have operations on the First Coast. With considerable growth as a financial focal point, this sector has become a financial powerhouse.

Florida's tax environment is favorable for both businesses and individuals alike.

Florida Offers Sales and Use Tax Exemptions on:

- Aircraft parts, modification, maintenance and repair, sale or lease of qualified aircraft
- Certain boiler fuels (including natural gas) used in the manufacturing process
- Commercial space activity—launch vehicles, payloads and fuel, machinery and equipment for production of items used exclusively at Spaceport Florida
- Electricity used in the manufacturing process
- Labor component of research and development expenditures
- Labor, parts and materials used in repair of and incorporated into machinery and equipment



- Machinery and equipment used by a new or expanding Florida business to manufacture, produce or process tangible personal property for sale
- Machinery and equipment used predominantly in research and development
- Production companies engaged in Florida in the production of motion pictures, made for television motion pictures, television series, commercial music videos or sound recordings
- Semiconductor, defense and space technology-based industry transactions involving manufacturing equipment

Florida does not have:

- State-level property tax assessed
- State personal income tax
- Sales and use tax on co-generation of electricity
- Sales tax on purchases of raw materials incorporated in a final product for resale, including non-reusable containers or packaging

“Jacksonville MSA is listed as one of the top 20 large metros for employment growth.”

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment
- Sales and use tax on goods manufactured or produced 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

Plant Agricultural Systems

Plant Agricultural Systems (Plant-AS), a leader in agricultural technology, has invested \$750 million to develop advanced production facilities in Baker County and intends to hire 600-plus full-time employees. The new Plant-AS facility will span 8.1 million square feet across 772 acres in the town of Sanderson.

Plant-AS will use this production facility to grow fresh sustainable produce, such as leafy greens and vine crops, using state-of-the-art hydroponic technology. The plant will be solar-powered, and the production process will use 70-90 percent less water than conventional agriculture.

"This innovative project is an incredible win for Baker County, and we thank Plant Agricultural Systems for bringing their investment and leading-edge technology to our region," Aundra Wallace, president of JAXUSA Partnership, said in a news release.

IKO Industries

IKO Industries, a global leader in the roofing, waterproofing and insulation industry, will invest \$270 million to build a new manufacturing campus in Clay County that will include an asphalt shingle production facility, insulation board plant and commercial rolled roofing plant.

The first of three production lines is a 300,000-square-foot shingle line that will open in 2025. This will be IKO's first facility in Florida. The company will also hire 100 Northeast Florida residents to work at the shingle plant. In total, the three plants will span more than 650,000 square feet of space.

IKO Industries chose the First Coast to build its new campus due to the logistical and transportation advantages Jacksonville's westernmost position along the East Coast provides.

Danone North America

Leading food and beverage company Danone North America plans to invest up to \$65 million in a new bottle production line at its Jacksonville facility over the next two years.

Danone will also add 40 new jobs to support the 110 existing employees at the plant. The investment will increase production of several of Danone's popular coffee and creamer brands, including International Delight, Silk and STÖK.

"Advanced manufacturing is a key to a winning strategy for Northeast Florida and we are thrilled that Danone North America will remain and invest in expanding their facility here," said Aundra Wallace, president of JAXUSA Partnership, in a news release. "Our region is known worldwide for its depth of skilled talent, lower operating costs and business friendliness—all of which will bear fruit for both Danone and our community at large."

Medius

Sweden-based tech company Medius has relocated its U.S. headquarters from New York City to Jacksonville. The new office is the home base for more than 100 employees and has created 15 new and local jobs across finance and sales teams. This transition follows the company's 2022 acquisition of OnPay Solutions, a Jacksonville-based invoice payments provider. Medius, which is a leading provider of accounts payable automation, joins several financial technology companies that call Jacksonville and Northeast Florida home. Named a "fintech city to watch closely" by Crowdfund Insider in 2021, Jacksonville has continued to grow as a financial technology powerhouse. Our area is home to nearly 65,000 financial services employees.

Business is Booming on the First Coast!

Surrounded by deep-water ports and a vibrant and skilled workforce in many verticals, it is easy to see why each year more businesses begin to call the First Coast home. Many companies expand their reach here and even relocate. Below are a few businesses that have contributed to the area's significant growth.



Photo courtesy of Downtown Vision, Inc.



Photo by Lamea Asper on Unsplash

"Jacksonville is a burgeoning hub for fintech organizations driven by the local talent and proximity to public and private educational institutions like Jacksonville University and Florida State College at Jacksonville. We're excited to call this city home and bring more skilled locals into the business over [the] coming

months. The need to increase headcount follows a year of excellent North American growth as more organizations turn to Medius to improve operations in the office of the CFO using technological innovation, particularly in AI," said Medius CEO Jim Lucier, CEO of Medius in a press release.



First Coast U.S. Headquarters of Foreign Corporations

Adecco Group North America
Staffing/Recruiting

Buffet Crampon USA
Musical Instruments

Höegh Autoliners
Shipping

Medius
Software

Association of Tennis Professionals
Professional Sports

City Facilities Management
Refrigeration Facilities Management

KLS Martin
Manufacturing

Saft Batteries
Manufacturing

Chambers of Commerce in the 5-County Region

Baker County Chamber of Commerce
20 E. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny
www.bakerchamberfl.com

Clay County Chamber of Commerce
2042 Park Ave., Ste. 111,
Orange Park
www.claychamber.com

JAX Chamber
3 Independent Dr., Jacksonville
www.myjaxchamber.com

Nassau County Chamber of
Commerce
961687 Gateway Blvd., Ste. 101-G,
Fernandina Beach
www.islandchamber.com
St. Johns County Chamber of
Commerce
100 Southpark Blvd., St. Augustine
www.sjcchamber.com



Downtown Jacksonville photos by Stephanie Marty

Homegrown Companies

Home to four Fortune 500 and five Fortune 1000 company headquarters, the First Coast is the ideal place for businesses. More than 150 companies have decided to make the First Coast their home with regional, divisional or corporate headquarters here!



FIS, photo by Stephanie Marty



Photo by Lance Asper on Unsplash



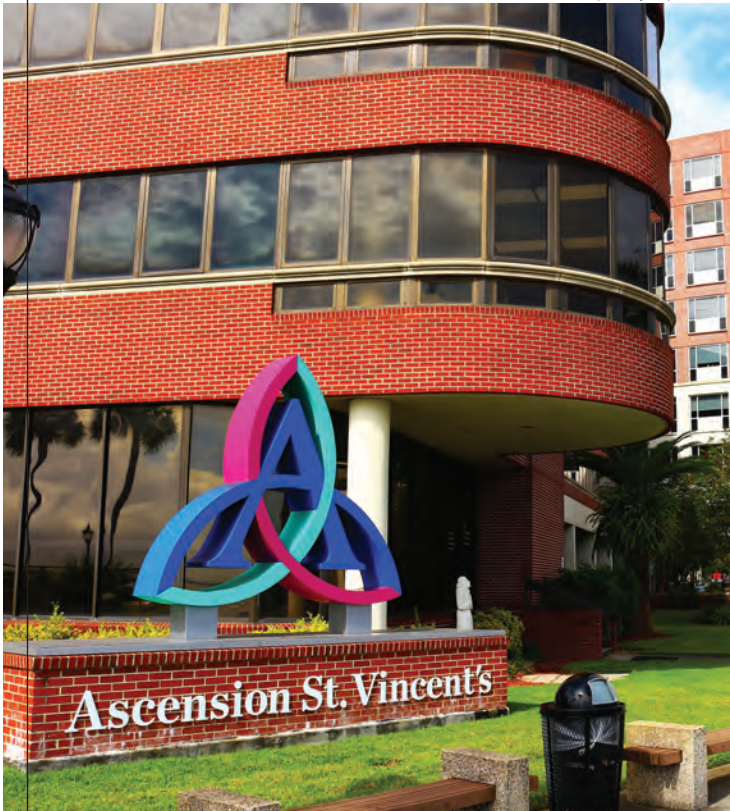
Mckesson, photo by Monica Fields

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 2G Energy, Inc.
<i>Energy Conversion</i> | Baker Distributing Company
<i>Distribution</i> | Community First Credit Union
<i>Banking Services</i> | ERC
<i>Collections Agency</i> |
| Acosta Sales and Marketing
<i>Marketing</i> | Baptist Health
<i>Health System</i> | Craig/is Ltd.
<i>Insurance Services</i> | EverBank
<i>Banking and Mortgage</i> |
| Advantus Corp.
<i>Manufacturing</i> | Beaver Street Fisheries, Inc.
<i>Wholesale Distribution</i> | Crowley Maritime
<i>Transportation</i> | Famous Amos Restaurant
<i>Restaurant</i> |
| AGX Freight
<i>Transportation</i> | Beeline
<i>IT</i> | Crucial Care
<i>Urgent Care Centers</i> | Fanatics, Inc.
<i>Retail</i> |
| A.J. Johns, Inc.
<i>Construction</i> | Brightway Insurance
<i>Insurance Services</i> | CSI Companies
<i>Staffing Services</i> | Fidelity National Financial
<i>Financial Services</i> |
| All Florida Safety Institute
<i>Driving School</i> | Brooks Rehabilitation
<i>Healthcare</i> | CSX Corporation
<i>Transportation</i> | Fidus Construction
<i>Construction</i> |
| Allstate
<i>Insurance</i> | Bubba Foods
<i>Food</i> | D.R. Horton
<i>Home Builders</i> | Finxact
<i>Banking Software</i> |
| Alternate Energy Technologies, LLC
<i>Manufacturing</i> | Burkhardt Sales and Services
<i>Wholesaler</i> | David Dobbs Enterprises
<i>Manufacturing</i> | Firehouse Subs
<i>Restaurant</i> |
| Amports
<i>Automotive Services</i> | Cain & Boltman, Inc.
<i>Logistics</i> | Dream Finders Homes
<i>Home Builders</i> | First Professionals Insurance
<i>Insurance</i> |
| APL Logistics Warehouse Services
<i>Distribution</i> | Capital Markets Cooperative
<i>Financial Consulting</i> | Drummond
<i>Marketing</i> | FIS
<i>Financial Technology</i> |
| APR Energy
<i>Energy Supplier</i> | Carlisle Interconnect Technologies
<i>Manufacturing</i> | Duos Technologies
<i>IT Services</i> | Flagler
<i>Property Development</i> |
| ArdentX
<i>Logistics</i> | CEVA Logistics
<i>Logistics</i> | Dun & Bradstreet
<i>IT Services</i> | Florida Army National Guard
<i>Military</i> |
| Ash Properties
<i>Commercial Real Estate</i> | Circle K South Atlantic
<i>Gas Stations</i> | Duval Motor Company
<i>Auto Sales</i> | Florida Blue
<i>Health Insurance</i> |
| Astadia
<i>IT Consulting</i> | Citizens Property Insurance
<i>Insurance</i> | Early Upgrade
<i>Electronics</i> | Florida East Coast Railway
<i>Transportation</i> |
| AT&T
<i>Telecommunications</i> | City Facilities Management Holdings
<i>Facilities Management</i> | Elkins Construction
<i>Construction</i> | Forcura
<i>Software</i> |
| Atrium Windows and Doors of Florida
<i>Manufacturing</i> | Coastal Cloud
<i>IT</i> | Emtec, Inc.
<i>IT Services</i> | Formativ Health
<i>Healthcare Management</i> |
| Availity
<i>Healthcare Technology</i> | Concealment Express
<i>Manufacturing</i> | Encore Development
<i>IT Services</i> | |

Homegrown Companies

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

Ascension St. Vincent's, photo by Stephanie Marty



Businesses By County

Large Employers by County

BAKER COUNTY

Baker County Medical Services
Burnham Construction, Inc.
Macclenny Nursing and
Rehabilitation Center
Swift Transportation
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
Niagara Bottling
Parallon
Paychex PEO
Pegasus Technologies
Publix Supermarkets
Vac-Con, Inc.
Vallencourt Construction
Walmart

DUVAL COUNTY

Aetna
Allegis Group
Allstate Workplace Division
Ally Financial
Amazon

Ascension St. Vincent's
AT&T
Bank of America
Baptist Health
Brooks Rehabilitation
Citi
Citizens Property Insurance
Comcast
Crowley
CSX
Deutsche Bank
EverBank
Fanatics
Fidelity Investments
Fidelity National Financial
FIS
Fleet Readiness Center Southeast
Flightstar
Florida Blue
GATE Petroleum
GuideWell
HCA Florida Memorial Hospital
Intercontinental Exchange
JEA
Johnson & Johnson Vision
JPMorgan Chase
Landstar
Mayo Clinic
McKesson
Medtronic
Miller Electric Company
Newfold Digital
One Call

Prudential Financial
Publix Jacksonville Warehouse
Suddath
UF Health
UPS
VyStar Credit Union
Wells Fargo

NASSAU COUNTY

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

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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 St. Johns
Vicar's Landing
Westminster Woods on Julington
Creek



Downtown Jacksonville, photo by Richard Sagredo on Unsplash

Money, Money, Money!

With a diverse population and a multitude of professional opportunities, the First Coast is the perfect place for those looking for a new career. Below are several professions on the First Coast and their salaries compared to the U.S. mean. With ever-changing job markets, it's important to know the average salary in the area, which could help with choosing the right career path.



FINANCIAL MANAGERS
3,240 | Total Employees
\$151,910 | Jacksonville Mean
\$166,050 | U.S. Mean



GENERAL AND OPERATIONS MANAGERS
13,240 | Total Employees
\$116,280 | Jacksonville Mean
\$122,860 | U.S. Mean



LAWYERS
3,200 | Total Employees
\$130,500 | Jacksonville Mean
\$163,770 | U.S. Mean



MANAGEMENT OCCUPATIONS
40,930 | Total Employees
\$120,410 | Jacksonville Mean
\$131,200 | U.S. Mean



SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS, APPLICATIONS
5,300 | Total Employees
\$109,910 | Jacksonville Mean
\$132,930 | U.S. Mean



LEGAL OCCUPATIONS
6,220 | Total Employees
\$98,020 | Jacksonville Mean
\$124,540 | U.S. Mean



MANAGEMENT ANALYSTS
5,650 | Total Employees
\$91,650 | Jacksonville Mean
\$104,660 | U.S. Mean



COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS
2,580 | Total Employees
\$98,710 | Jacksonville Mean
\$107,530 | U.S. Mean



SECURITIES, COMMODITIES AND FINANCIAL SERVICES SALES AGENTS
3,700 | Total Employees
\$83,690 | Jacksonville Mean
\$100,740 | U.S. Mean



LOAN OFFICERS
2,600 | Total Employees
\$74,350 | Jacksonville Mean
\$84,160 | U.S. Mean



HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS AND TECHNICAL OCCUPATIONS
49,030 | Total Employees
\$92,270 | Jacksonville Mean
\$96,770 | U.S. Mean



COMPUTER AND MATHEMATICAL OCCUPATIONS
20,720 | Total Employees
\$93,330 | Jacksonville Mean
\$108,130 | U.S. Mean



SALES REPRESENTATIVES, WHOLESALE AND MANUFACTURING, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTS
1,250 | Total Employees
\$96,830 | Jacksonville Mean
\$109,950 | U.S. Mean



ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING OCCUPATIONS
9,080 | Total Employees
\$86,620 | Jacksonville Mean
\$94,670 | U.S. Mean



ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS
7,090 | Total Employees
\$78,580 | Jacksonville Mean
\$86,740 | U.S. Mean



MARKET RESEARCH ANALYSTS AND MARKETING SPECIALISTS
3,810 | Total Employees
\$73,530 | Jacksonville Mean
\$78,880 | U.S. Mean



INSURANCE SALES AGENTS
2,650 | Total Employees
\$71,960 | Jacksonville Mean
\$76,950 | U.S. Mean



BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OCCUPATIONS
55,890 | Total Employees
\$78,960 | Jacksonville Mean
\$86,080 | U.S. Mean



PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS
4,860 | Total Employees
\$96,630 | Jacksonville Mean
\$101,610 | U.S. Mean



REGISTERED NURSES
17,440 | Total Employees
\$78,490 | Jacksonville Mean
\$89,010 | U.S. Mean

Top 50 Employers On The First Coast

OneCall photo by Stephanie Marry



1. Naval Air Station Jacksonville

21,000 employees
6801 Roosevelt Blvd.,
Jacksonville
<https://cnrse.cnmc.navy.mil/Installations/NAS-Jacksonville>

2. Amazon

16,000 employees
12900 Pecan Park Rd.,
Jacksonville
www.amazon.com

3. Naval Station Mayport

14,000 employees
Box 280032, Mayport
<https://cnrse.cnmc.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Mayport>

4. Duval County Public Schools

13,110 employees
1701 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville
<https://dcps.duvalschools.org>

5. Baptist Health

12,000 employees
800 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville
www.baptistjax.com

6. Mayo Clinic

8,450 employees
4500 San Pablo Rd. S.,
Jacksonville
www.mayoclinic.org

7. Bank of America

8,000 employees
50 N. Laura St., Jacksonville
www.bankofamerica.com

8. City of Jacksonville

7,260 employees
117 W. Duval St., Jacksonville
www.jacksonville.gov

9. UF Health

6,600 employees
655 W. 8th St., Jacksonville
www.ufhealthjax.org

10. Florida Blue

5,700 employees
4800 Deerwood Campus Pkwy.,
Jacksonville
www.floridablue.com

11. Southeastern Grocers

5,700 employees
8928 Prominence Pkwy.,
Ste. 200, Jacksonville
www.segrocers.com

12. Fleet Readiness Center Southeast

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

13. Ascension St. Vincent's

5,050 employees
1 Shircliff Way, Jacksonville
www.healthcare.ascension.org

14. UPS

4,500 employees
4420 Imeson Rd., Jacksonville
www.ups.com

15. Citi

4,000 employees
14000 Citicards Way,
Jacksonville
www.citi.com

16. JPMorgan Chase

3,900 employees
7301 Baymeadows Way,
Jacksonville
www.jpmorganchase.com

17. Johnson & Johnson Vision

3,500 employees
7500 Centurion Pkwy. N.,
Jacksonville
www.jjvision.com

18. GATE Petroleum Company

3,000 employees
9540 San Jose Blvd.,
Jacksonville
www.gatepetro.com

19. AT&T

2,600 employees
10375 Centurion Pkwy. N.,
Jacksonville
www.att.com

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. Intercontinental Exchange

2,400 employees
601 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville
www.ice.com

23. HCA Florida Memorial Hospital

2,370 employees
3625 University Blvd. S.,
Jacksonville
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com/locations/memorial-hospital

24. JEA

2,200 employees
225 N. Pearl St., Jacksonville
www.jea.com

25. Brooks Rehabilitation

2,170 employees
3599 University Blvd. S.,
Jacksonville
www.brooksrehab.org

Town Center One offices, photo by Monica Fields



“Two Jacksonville-based companies are on *Forbes* magazine’s list of the largest privately owned U.S. companies. Southeastern Grocers Inc. ranked 67th and Crowley Maritime ranked 181st.”

Fidelity National Financial, photo by Stephanie Marty



26. Fidelity Investments

2,000 employees
4671 Town Center Pkwy.,
Jacksonville
www.fidelity.com

27. One Call

1,970 employees
841 Prudential Dr., Ste. 204,
Jacksonville
www.onecallcm.com

28. Parallon

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

29. Aetna, Inc.

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

30. Fanatics, Inc.

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

31. VyStar Credit Union

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

32. Fidelity National Financial, Inc.

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



Amazon, photo by Daniel Holland on Unsplash

33. HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital

1,520 employees
2001 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park
www.hcafloridahealthcare.com/locations/orange-park-hospital

34. FIS

1,520 employees
347 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville
www.fisglobal.com

35. EverBank

1,400 employees
310 W. Bay St., Jacksonville
www.everbank.com

36. Crowley Maritime

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

37. GuideWell

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

38. Comcast

1,200 employees
5934 Richard St., Jacksonville
www.xfinity.com

39. Wells Fargo

1,180 employees
1 Independent Dr., Jacksonville
www.wellsfargo.com

40. Northrop Grumman

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

41. Citizens Property Insurance

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

42. Flightstar Aircraft Services

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

43. McKesson

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

44. Miller Electric Company

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

45. Nemours Children’s Health

1,000 employees
807 Childrens Way, Jacksonville
www.nemours.org

46. W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

1,000 employees
524 Stockton St., Jacksonville
<https://wwwgmc.com>

47. Swisher

960 employees
459 E. 16th St., Jacksonville
<https://swisher.com>

48. Allegis Group

900 employees
10401 Deerwood Park Blvd.,
Jacksonville
www.allegisgroup.com

49. PGA Tour, Inc.

900 employees
1 PGA Tour Blvd.,
Ponte Vedra Beach
www.pgatour.com

50. Prudential Financial

900 employees
701 San Marco Blvd.,
Jacksonville
www.prudential.com

Banking & Mortgage Industry

The First Coast's strong financial reputation has allowed major employers to call the area home, with both local and major banking and mortgage providers in our own backyard. Twenty major banks, insurance and investment firms found on the Fortune Global 500 list have operation centers here on the First Coast. Known as a financial hot spot with a high growth rate, there are more than 64,800 employees working in the financial services industry. Below are some available providers in the area ranging from smaller companies to larger national corporations.

Ally

Even though this fully online financial institution doesn't have any physical branches, Ally has a corporate office in Jacksonville and offers banking, investing, home loans, auto finance and much more.

Alive Credit Union

For more than 68 years, this full-service credit financial institution has served the First Coast community, including the employees of Florida Blue, Baptist Health, HCA Florida Memorial Hospital, UF Health Jacksonville, Ascension St. Vincent's and Mayo Clinic, as well as other local organizations such as Southeastern Grocers.

Ameris Bank

Originally branded as Ameris Bancorp, this financial institution has been in the industry since 1971. The bank serves customers across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic and has several locations on the First Coast. They offer financial services for businesses and individuals as well as wealth management including financial planning, retirement and more.

Bank of America

This American multinational investment bank and financial services company is one of the world's leading financial institutions. It services individuals, businesses, corporations and more with full-service banking, investment management and other products such as savings accounts, loans, mortgages and auto loans.

Bank OZK

Bank OZK has been named one of "America's Best Banks" and "World's Best Banks" for the past three years by *Forbes* and has multiple locations on the First Coast. The bank offers personal checking and savings, debit and credit cards, business checking, trust services and much more.



Regions Bank, photo by Stephanie Mary

Capital City Bank

Operating since 1895, Capital City Bank is one of the largest publicly traded financial holding institutions in the country. With locations in Keystone Heights and Hastings, the bank offers mortgages, trusts, merchant services, bank cards and many banking services.

Chase Bank

This multinational investment bank and financial services company is one of the world's oldest and largest financial institutions. The bank provides credit cards, savings and checking accounts, commercial banking, auto loans and more to its members. Chase Bank is even part of the Jacksonville skyline, with the downtown branch located in the former Barnett National Bank building.

Citi

For more than 25 years, Citi has offered financial services including credit cards, banking and wealth management. With an additional focus on security services, commercial banking, markets, private

banking, trade solutions, treasury solutions and capital markets, Citi is a leader in growth and economic development on the First Coast.

Community First Credit Union

Community First Credit Union has been serving the First Coast community for more than 80 years and offers auto loans, mortgages, credit cards, checking accounts, student banking and more for its members.

Deutsche Bank

As a multinational investment bank and financial services company, the bank's operations center in Jacksonville employs more than 2,000 individuals and is the second-largest U.S. operation outside of its New York City branch.

EverBank

Headquartered right here in Jacksonville, EverBank is a diversified financial services company that provides banking and investing services. The bank offers its members high-interest checking, money market accounts, CDs and more.



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Right price.
Right here in town.**

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Kathy Scott CLU, Agent
6026 San Jose Blvd
www.kathycarebiz
Bus: 904-730-3665 Fax: 904-730-3668

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Bloomington, IL
2001290



“There are more than 64,800 employees working in the financial services industry on the First Coast!”

Fifth Third Bank

Fifth Third Bank offers a wide range of services including banking, insurance, investment markets, savings accounts, CDs and checking accounts with credit cards. The bank focuses on community involvement and builds strategic relationships with each customer to provide a positive and personalized experience.

First Bank, The

With a branch on the Southside of Jacksonville, The First Bank offers personal and business banking services as well as mortgage loans.

First Citizens Bank

First Citizens Bank provides personal, small business and commercial banking services to the First Coast. The bank also provides wealth management services to help plan and prepare for the future and retirement. To serve more residents of the First Coast, the bank offers military bank accounts.

First Federal Bank

First Federal Bank has been providing home financing for almost 60 years. The company also focuses on warehouse lending, consumer lending, specialty commercial financing, wholesale lending and manufactured housing lending. As a wholesale mortgage lending solution, the bank has been ranked “5 Star, Superior” by BauerFinancial, Inc. since 2000.

First Florida Credit Union

Headquartered in Jacksonville, First Florida Credit Union provides its members with affordable financial products and services. Members have access to digital banking, fast loan approvals, free financial resources and more.

First Horizon

First Horizon has a wide range of products and services for First Coast residents, including banking, home loans, insurance, investing, trust services and more.

Florida Capital Bank

As a nationally chartered bank headquartered right here in Jacksonville, Florida Capital Bank focuses on solutions for the financial well-being of businesses and their owners. It is a full-service retail and commercial bank specializing in SBA loans, small business checking, savings and treasury management services.

PNC Bank

With several locations throughout the First Coast, PNC Bank offers a wide range of personal banking services, including checking and savings accounts, credit cards, mortgage loans, auto loans and more.

RadiFi Credit Union

Serving Northeast Florida since 1935, RadiFi Credit Union offers personal and business banking services, including auto loans, home loans, business loans, checking accounts, saving accounts and more.

Regions Bank

As a member of the S&P 500 Index and one of the largest full-service banking and mortgage providers in the country, Regions Bank is focused on both economic and community development. It provides a full range of services such as personal deposits, loans and credit lines, business banking services, insurance, investment products and more.



Ameris Bank, photo by Monica Fields

Truist, photo by Stephanie Marty

Deutsche Bank, photo by Monica Fields



VyStar, photo by Monica Fields

State Farm

In addition to focusing on auto insurance, State Farm offers banking services, including credit cards, savings and checking accounts, auto loans, home loans, and money market savings.

Synovus

Named one of the Best Banks in America by *Forbes*, Synovus provides the First Coast community with commercial and retail banking, investment, and mortgage services.

South State

This Florida-based bank offers personal checking and savings, personal loans, mortgages, retirement planning, small business services, commercial financing, and more.

TD Bank

With multiple locations around the First Coast, TD Bank offers its customers numerous products and services, including checking and savings accounts, credit cards, home equity, and mortgage loans.

Truist

As a top 10 commercial bank in the U.S., this financial institution is an important part of the First Coast that offers checking and savings accounts, credit cards, mortgages, small business, commercial banking, and more.

U.S. Bank

U.S. Bank on the First Coast offers corporate and commercial banking services as well as home mortgages.

Valley Bank

For more than 95 years, Valley has been one of the premier commercial, retail, and private banks in the country and offers a wide range of services for those banking on the First Coast.

VyStar Credit Union

Headquartered in Jacksonville, VyStar Credit Union was founded 69 years ago at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. They offer a comprehensive selection of products including banking and loan services, investment insurance and retirement planning. The credit union also provides special services for military personnel and civil service workers. Recently, VyStar merged with 121 Financial Credit Union, giving it more than \$14 billion in assets and more than 920,000 members.

Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo provides a variety of banking services on the First Coast, including checking and savings accounts, personal loans, auto loans as well as small business and commercial financial services. The bank prides itself on offering local services as well as digital banking services to customers.

Information Technology

The First Coast continues to grow as a global tech market, attracting a talented workforce to the region. The many companies in the area encompass a diverse array of Information Technology sectors, including software development, healthcare, logistics, e-commerce and more. According to LinkedIn, Jacksonville has the fourth largest increase in tech workers on a per capita basis and has been named a smart city to watch according to *StateTech Magazine*.

The First Coast is also becoming a global powerhouse for finance technology, or fintech. Our area has attracted many fintech giants, including Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., FIS, Paysafe, SoFi, SS&C Technologies and SmartStream Technologies.

AT&T

One of the largest employers on the First Coast, this multinational company provides the most mobile telephone services and fixed telephone services in the United States. AT&T has utilized the First Coast as a home base for its call center operations.

Availity

Connecting over two million providers, Availity delivers revenue cycle and other related business solutions for healthcare professionals. This Jacksonville-based IT company operates the largest real-time information network in healthcare.

Beeline

Beeline is a global leader in developing staffing software solutions and pioneered the world's first extended workforce platform. Over 350 global organizations currently rely on Beeline and 30 percent of those are in the Fortune 500.

Black Knight, Inc./ Intercontinental Exchange, Inc.

Headquartered in Jacksonville, Black Knight is a leading provider of integrated software, data and analytic solutions that support mortgage and



Dun and Bradstreet, photo by Stephanie Mary

home equity lending and servicing. In 2023, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. completed its acquisition of the tech company.

CSX Technology

CSX Technology, a branch of the CSX Corporation, provides a wide array of IT applications and support services for railroad transportation and logistics. By developing IT applications such as ShipCSX, the company can enable scheduling, tracking and monitoring.

Dun & Bradstreet

Headquartered here in Jacksonville, this tech company offers a wide range of products and services for risk and financial analysis, operations and supply, and sales and marketing

professionals, as well as research and insights on global business issues.

Fanatics, Inc.

Established in 1995 as a brick-and-mortar storefront, this company is now one of the top IT employers on the First Coast and an online retail giant.

FIS

This Fortune 500 company offers a wide range of financial services and is the largest fintech company in the world by revenue. Headquartered in Jacksonville, FIS employs more than 55,000 people across 50-plus countries, manages over half the world's overall wealth and processes \$40 trillion annually.

Forcura

Since 2012, Forcura has been providing cloud-based software that modernizes documentation, workflows and secure communications for home health, hospice, rehabilitative therapy, skilled nursing and behavioral health providers.

Newfold Digital

In 2021, web technology competitors Web.com Group and Endurance Web Presence combined to form Newfold Digital. The new company provides website development services for small and medium-sized businesses.

Nymbus

Headquartered in downtown Jacksonville, Nymbus is a leading provider of banking technology solutions for financial institutions.

Optimum Healthcare IT

Based in Jacksonville Beach, Optimum Healthcare IT is a staffing and consulting services firm that works with healthcare providers, payers, software and life sciences organizations.

Paysafe

London-based Paysafe offers payment processing, digital wallet and online cash solutions. The company's North American headquarters is located right here in Jacksonville.

SoFi

This digital personal finance company's Jacksonville office, located near the St. Johns Town Center, focuses on member relations, loan review, quality assurance and fraud prevention.

SS&C Technologies

SS&C Technologies is the world's largest hedge fund and private equity administrator, as well as the largest mutual fund transfer agency.

SmartStream Technologies

This London-based company provides financial solutions and managed services for its clients. SmartStream's Jacksonville office focuses on providing technology and business support services, client onboarding, professional services and more.

Synergy Technologies

Synergy Technologies is a leading global consulting and IT services company that offers a wide range of solutions to its clients.

More Industries Making an Impact on the First Coast

Healthcare

The First Coast has a thriving medical community. We are home to many top facilities like Baptist Health, Mayo Clinic, Ascension St. Vincent's and UF Health. Our hospital systems' services draw many to the area for the top programs and treatments they offer. Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Health are also here on the First Coast and offer top-notch medical services for infants to young adults.

Advanced Manufacturing

Several manufacturing companies have chosen the First Coast as their home base due to the convenient access to airports, railways and ports. Our leading advanced manufacturers include Johnson & Johnson Vision, Anheuser-Busch, BAE Systems, Baker Hughes, Medtronic, Northrop Grumman and more. According to JAXUSA, the First Coast has a significantly lower industrial rate compared to many metro areas. The

cost of constructing new facilities is 15 percent less than the U.S. average and an overall price of \$6.75 per square foot.

Space and Defense Technology

With a multitude of innovative manufacturers like Redwire Space, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Collins Aerospace and others, it is no wonder why NASA Administrator Bill Nelson dubbed the Jacksonville region as "the center for space technology." Jacksonville's Cecil Airport is ideal for several aviation/aeronautical uses, including maintenance, repair and overhaul. The airport is home to a 12,500-foot main runway, the third largest commercial runway in Florida. The First Coast is also home to the only licensed horizontal launch commercial spaceport on the East Coast. Additionally, there are nearly 100 aviation-related companies and more than 6,000 individuals employed in the aerospace and aviation field.

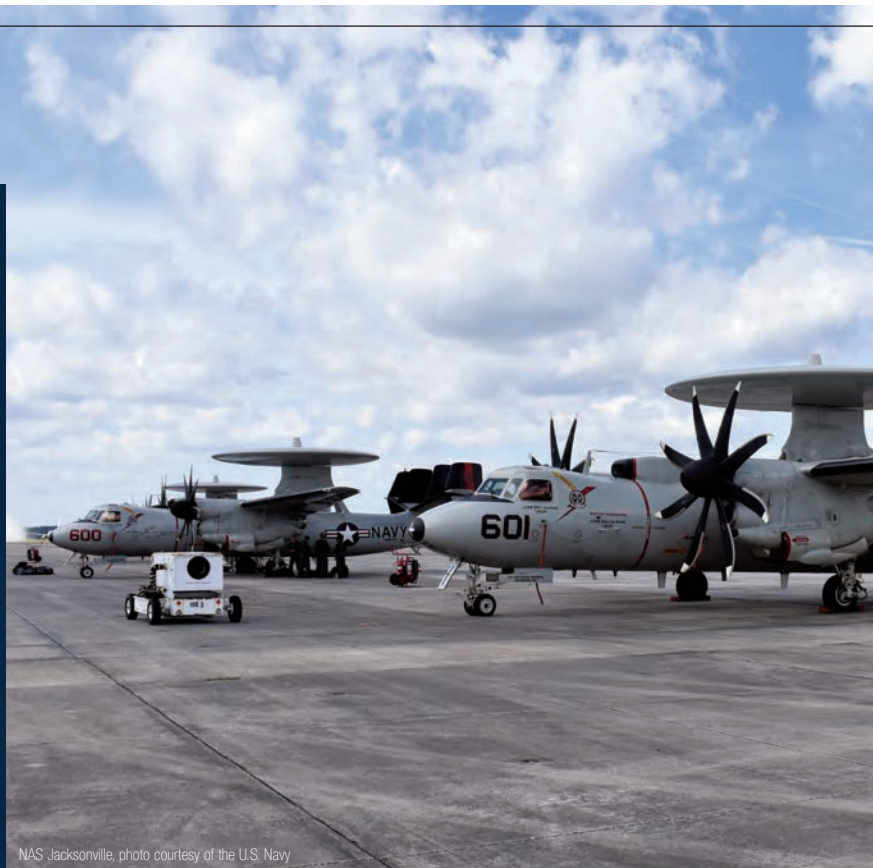
Availity, photo by Monica Fields



“The First Coast continues to grow as a global tech market, attracting a talented workforce to the region.”

We Salute You: First Coast Military

With a long history as a military- and veteran-friendly area, the First Coast has the third-largest military presence in the country and is home to thousands of active duty, reserve and civilian contractors stationed at the area's three naval bases: Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. The United States Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, Camp Blanding Army Base and Marine Corps Blount Island Command also call the First Coast home. Our strong military presence has a significant economic impact on the region which provides stability and diversity in the community. Every year, the First Coast holds the largest Veterans Day Parade in the state of Florida and other various veteran-gear events. With a great military presence in the area, many businesses are veteran-owned as well as veteran-employed.



NAS Jacksonville, photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy



Naval Station Mayport

Box 280032, Mayport

<https://cnrse.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Mayport/>

Situated at the mouth of the St. Johns River and the Atlantic Ocean, Naval Station Mayport (NS Mayport) is located near the small village of Mayport. As one of the three major Navy Installations on the First Coast, it is the third-largest naval facility in the continental U.S. and is also home to the Navy's 4th Fleet. The naval station's harbor and facility cover more than 3,409 acres and include an 8,000-foot runway that can accommodate any type of Department of Defense aircraft. With more than 100,000 helicopter and fixed-wing flights each year, the airfield is operated by NS Mayport's Air Operations Department.

"The First Coast has the third-largest military presence in the country!"



Naval Air Station Jacksonville

6801 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville

<https://cnrse.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NAS-Jacksonville/>

As home to the famous Blue Angels, Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jacksonville) is the largest Navy base in the Southeast and is located on the Westside of Jacksonville on the St. Johns River. With a regional annual impact of \$2.1 billion, the base is a large part of our area's economy. NAS Jacksonville is an operational headquarters for more than 120 tenant commands. The base is a recipient of a 2012 Presidential Excellence Award and 2013 Commander, Navy Installations Command Excellence Award, and is home to Naval Hospital Jacksonville.



Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay

1063 USS Tennessee Ave., Kings Bay, GA

<https://cnrse.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/SUBASE-Kings-Bay/>

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay is located approximately 38 miles away from Jacksonville, adjacent to St. Marys, GA. This base is the home port for the U.S. Navy Fleet ballistic missile nuclear submarines that are capable of being equipped with the Trident missile. The major base commands include the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic, Trident Refit Facility, Trident Training Facility, Submarine Group 10 and the Naval Submarine Support Center. Currently, there are eight Ohio-class submarines including two guided missiles and six ballistic missiles on the base.



USS Orleck, photo courtesy of COJ



United States Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville

10426 Alta Dr., Jacksonville

www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-7/Units/Sector-Jacksonville-Home/

Sector Jacksonville is accountable for 40,000 square miles of ocean and island waterways and is located on six acres of land close to NS Mayport. Sector Jacksonville's area of responsibility spans 190 miles of coastline spanning from Kings Bay, GA to Port Malabar, FL. Sector Jacksonville is responsible for all Coast Guard missions in the Jacksonville Captain of the Port zone and area of responsibility, including search and rescue, ports, waterways and coastal security, waterways management, maritime homeland security, marine science activities, aids to navigation, and command and logistical support.



Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island

5880 Channel View Blvd., Jacksonville

www.bic.marines.mil

As the hub of the Marine Corps' prepositioning programs, Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island serves as the home of Blount Island Command and its worldwide mission supporting Fleet Marine Forces.



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 is a 73,000-acre training center that serves as the primary military reservation and training base for the Florida Army National Guard and certain nonflying activities of the Florida Air National Guard.

USS Orleck, photo by Stephanie Marty





Our Gateway to the World: Ports of the First Coast

Due to the First Coast's prime location, we are a major player in the logistics and distribution industry. With our access to waterways, interstates and railroads, more than 98 million consumers are receiving their goods faster than ever. Because of this, numerous logistics and distribution companies have decided to call the First Coast home.

PORTS

JAXPORT

The largest container port by volume in Florida and one of the nation's largest vehicle-handling ports, **Jacksonville Port Authority** (JAXPORT) is known as the global gateway to Florida. JAXPORT's international seaport offers global cargo service from dozens of ocean carriers, including direct service with Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, the Caribbean and other major markets. Comprised of three marine terminals, Blount Island, Dames Point and Talleyrand, shippers can utilize the port to ship to 140 ports in 70 countries via the 100 trucking firms or the 40 daily trains. In May 2022, the Jacksonville Harbor Deepening Project was completed through Blount Island. The project deepened the Jacksonville shipping channel from 40 feet to 47 feet. The project included the construction of a vessel

turning basin that now allows larger ships to turn around at Blount Island berths.

The **Blount Island Marine Terminal** is JAXPORT's largest marine facility, as well as one of the largest vehicle import/export centers in the U.S.

The **Dames Point Marine Terminal** has 5,002 linear feet of deep-water berths, as well as six new Panamax container cranes. **Talleyrand Marine Terminal** mostly deals with containerized and breakbulk cargo, automobiles and liquid bulk commodities.

Port of Fernandina

The **Port of Fernandina** is a natural deep-water port that handles a variety of cargoes, such as steel, aluminum, machinery, paper and forest products and consumer goods. The 950-foot turning basin directly adjoins the 1,200-linear-foot pier. The port also features 250,000 square feet of warehouse space on-site,

100,000-plus square feet of off-port space, as well as 10 acres of open storage.

LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION

Headquartered in Jacksonville, **AGX Freight** offers expedited transportation services throughout North America. The company works with transportation and logistics professionals to offer cost-effective solutions for its customers.

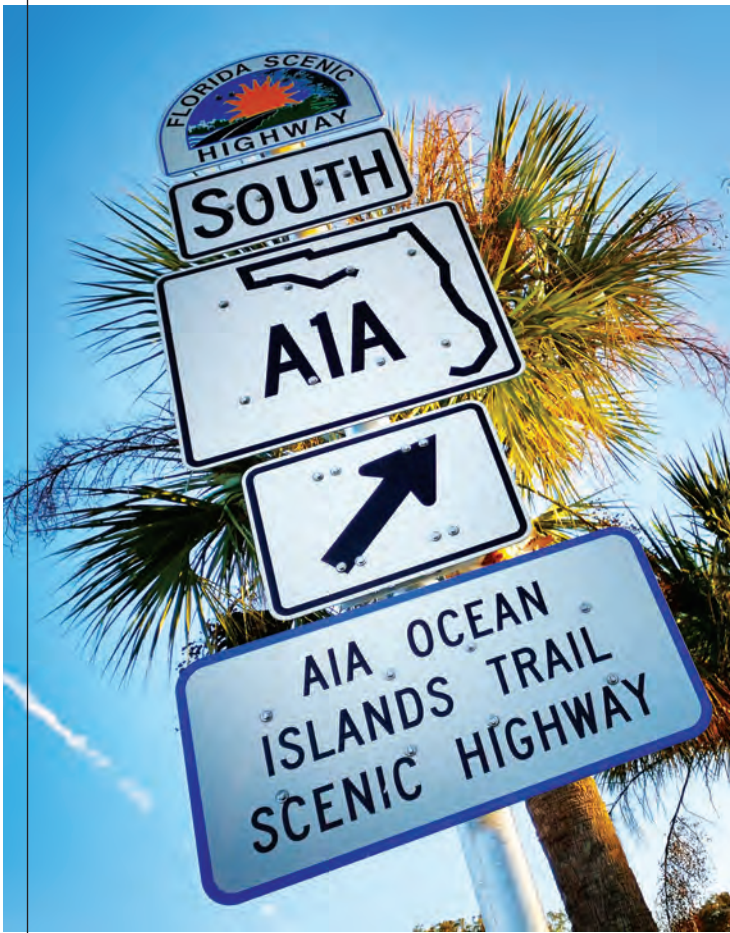
CEVA Logistics is one of the world's leading supply chain management companies and specializes in end-to-end customized solutions for customers' supply chain needs. CEVA believes that innovation is necessary and works to improve the way they interact with customers in tandem with improving efficiency. The Jacksonville location was designed with this type of innovation in mind.

Headquartered in Jacksonville, **Crowley Maritime Corporation** is known for its speed and efficiency

in shipping and distribution. The company ships to several countries in the Caribbean and Central America, as well as Puerto Rico. Crowley is made up of four business units: Logistics, Shipping, Solutions and Fuels.

Made up of independent freight agents and transportation capacity providers, Jacksonville's **Landstar** provides transportation solutions to more than 25,000 businesses worldwide. With independent agents, Landstar provides local presence and global reach.

Calling out of JAXPORT, **Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)** is one of the leading forces in shipping and logistics. Their fleet is equipped with the latest green technologies and accesses 520 ports along 260-plus trade routes. MSC focuses on the evolution of the shipping industry and prides itself on "delivering global service with local knowledge."



A1A South photo by Stephanie Mary

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.

ROADS

Alternative names for some of our major roadways:

U.S. 1 also known as ... New Kings Road, Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Phillips 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 ... JTB, John Turner Butler and Butler Boulevard

State Road A1A also known as ... Third Street

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

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)

<http://firstcoastexpressway.com>

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

www.northfloridaexpress.com

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

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.



Photo by Stephanie Marty

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 Regional Services

www.jtafla.com/ride-jta/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 Regional Express:

JTA operates the Clay Regional Express (Route 201) from the Black Creek Park-n-Ride and Route 5 from the Orange Park Mall.

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

“Northeast Florida’s only major airport serves as the gateway to the First Coast region and neighboring areas.”

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

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

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 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

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.

Northeast Florida Regional Airport (KSGJ or UST)

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.

Photo by Stephanie Marty



Know what is happening on the roads – before and after a storm!

Travel on roadways can be disrupted before and after a hurricane or tropical storm. **The Florida Department of Transportation** encourages all motorists to check **FL511** before a motor trip for this essential information:

- Alerts for hurricane evacuees
- Road and bridge closures, toll suspensions and evacuation routes
- Crashes, stalled cars and congestion
- Downed powerlines and flooded roads
- Much more **live 24/7 traffic information** provided by the FDOT
- Website available in **Spanish**

Additional direct flights are being added regularly. Go to flyjax.com for the latest list.



JAX
Jacksonville
International
Airport

flyjax.com

Atlanta
Austin
Baltimore
Belleville
Boston
Charlotte
Chicago
(Midway, O'Hare)
Cincinnati

Columbus
Dallas
(Love Field, Ft. Worth)
Denver
Detroit
Flint
Ft. Lauderdale
Greenville-Spartanburg
Houston
(Hobby, George Bush Intercontinental)

Indianapolis
Los Angeles
Miami
Minneapolis
Nashville
New Orleans
New York
(LaGuardia, JFK)
Newark
Norfolk

Philadelphia
Pittsburg
San Juan, PR
St. Louis
Washington, D.C.
(Reagan, Dulles)

RAILROAD

Amtrak (Passenger)

www.amtrak.com/stations/jax

Amtrak provides passenger rail service in Jacksonville with a station near New Kings Road. The Amtrak station is open from 6:15 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. daily and provides rail service throughout the U.S.

NAUTICAL

JAXPORT Cruise Service

www.jaxport.com/cruise

If you're looking for a tropical getaway, Carnival Cruise Line's 2,190-passenger Carnival Elation departs from the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal.

St. Johns River Ferry/JTA Ferry

<https://ferry.jtafla.com>

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

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.



River Taxi, photo courtesy of Downtown Vision, Inc.



St. Johns River Ferry, photo by Stephanie Marty



Photo by Stephanie Marty



Carnival Elation, photo courtesy of JAXPORT



Mayport, photo by Stephanie Marty

Acosta Bridge

Connects the Southbank to Downtown/Riverside



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 courtesy of JTA

Bridge of Lions

Connects Historic St. Augustine to Anastasia Island



Bridge of Lions, photo by Stephanie Marly

Buckman Bridge

Connects Mandarin to Orange Park



Buckman Bridge, photo courtesy of Wikipedia



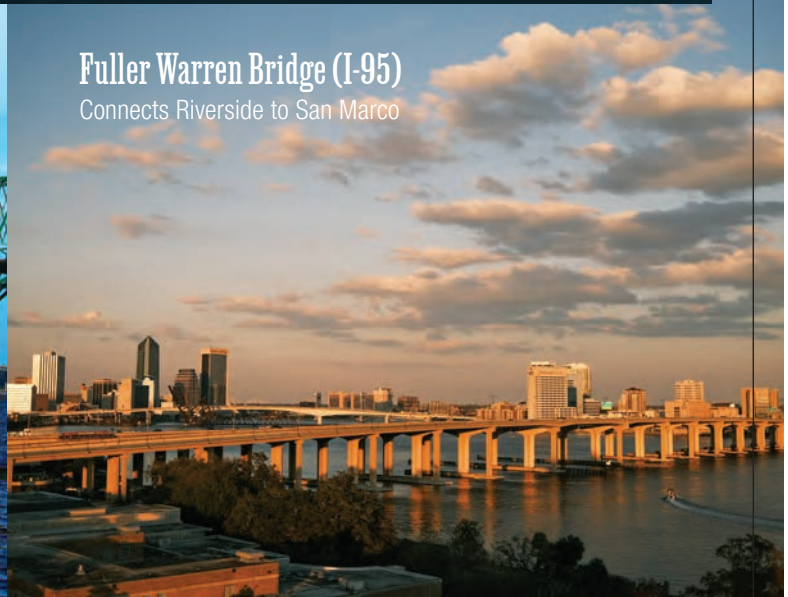
Dames Point Bridge
Connects Arlington to Northside

Dames Point Bridge, photo by Lance Asper on Unsplash



Hart Bridge
Connects Southside to Downtown

Hart Bridge, photo by Stephanie Marty



Fuller Warren Bridge (I-95)
Connects Riverside to San Marco

Fuller Warren Bridge, photo by Kevin Snow on Unsplash

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.

Main Street Bridge (John T. Alsop Jr. Bridge)

Connects San Marco to Downtown



Main Street Bridge, photo by Richard Sagredo on Unsplash

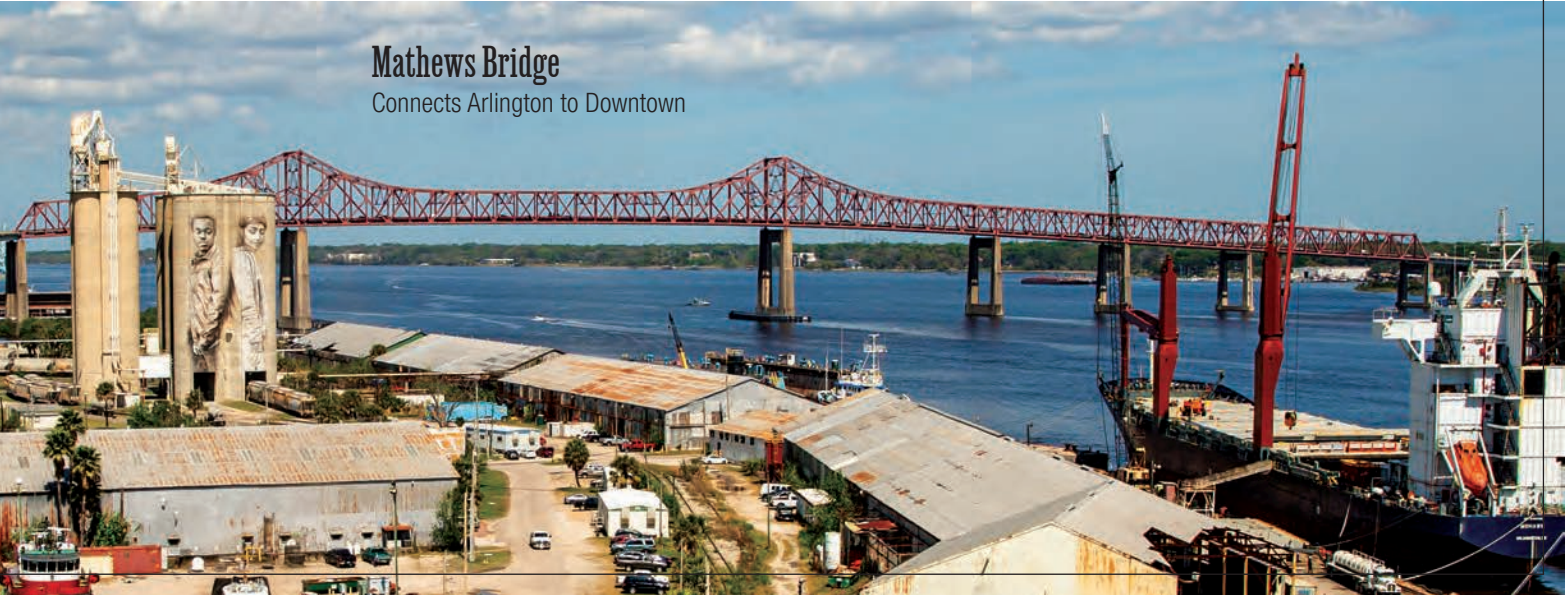
More Bridges Throughout the Region

- FEC Strauss Trunnion Bascule Bridge
- Francis and Mary Usina Bridge
- Intracoastal Waterway Bridge
- J. Turner Butler Intracoastal Bridge
- Kingsley Creek RR Swing Bridge
- McCormick Bridge
- Mickler O'Connell Bridge
- Ortega River Bridge
- Palm Valley Bridge
- Shands Bridge
- Thomas J. Shave Jr. Bridge
- Trout River Bridge
- Wonderwood Bridge

Mathews Bridge, photo courtesy of Downtown Vision, Inc.

Mathews Bridge

Connects Arlington to Downtown



PLAY

The Play Section
has everything
you need to
know about
relaxing and
having fun here
on the First
Coast.

Shore Perfection: Beaches & Waterways

One of the best parts of living on the First Coast is having access to some of the most beautiful beaches and waterways in Florida! Here, you can breathe in the sea salt air and feel the sand between your toes. If you're looking to bask in the sun, search for shells, build sandcastles or catch some waves, the First Coast is the perfect place to have a beach day.



BEACHES

DUVAL COUNTY

Atlantic Beach

Visitors to Atlantic Beach can enjoy a quiet beach with saltwater activities like surfing, fishing, kayaking or paddleboarding.

Jacksonville Beach

Nestled between Neptune and Ponte Vedra beaches, Jacksonville (Jax) Beach spans 60 blocks along the Atlantic Ocean. Jax Beach offers public access in multiple locations and is the perfect spot for surfing. The Jax Beach pier is a great place for anglers to catch fish such as sheephead, kingfish and red drum.

Mayport

Known for its shrimping industry, the historic fishing village of Mayport is located north of Atlantic Beach at the mouth of the St. Johns River. Visitors can visit Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park for camping, fishing and surfing.

Neptune Beach

Located north of Jax Beach, this mile-long beach gives residents and visitors a chance to bike, bask in the sun and surf.

NASSAU COUNTY

Fernandina Beach

As the First Coast's northernmost beach, Fernandina Beach is the perfect place for seashell hunting and is known for its horseback riding tours that give visitors and residents a chance to experience the beach from a whole new perspective.

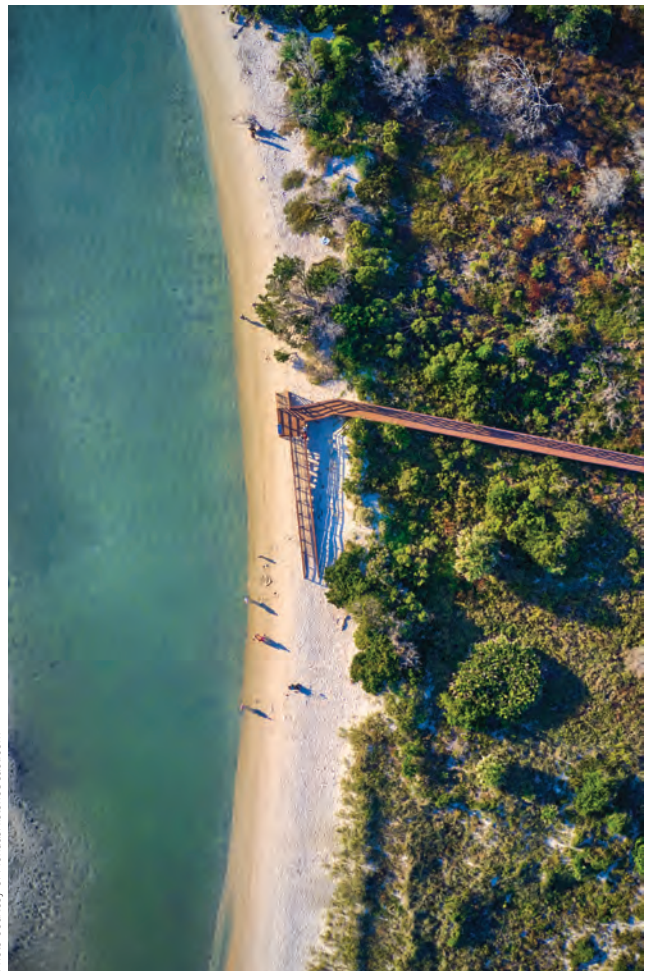


Photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricCoast.com

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Crescent Beach

Located south of St. Augustine on Anastasia Island, Crescent Beach is named from the crescent shape of its coastline. The beach's hard-packed sand is perfect for bike riding, horseback riding or beach volleyball.

North Beach

North Beach is a serene spot just north of the Vilano Bridge on A1A. A full range of facilities are available, including boat ramps, showers and public parking.

Ponte Vedra Beach

This low-key beach located just south of Jax Beach has many access points for beachgoers and is the perfect place to hunt for seashells and shark teeth. Mickler's Landing is tucked into the southern part of Ponte Vedra Beach and is known as a popular destination for surfers and families.

St. Augustine Beach

St. Augustine Beach has everything for a fun-filled beach day, including a fishing pier, pavilion, splash park and beach volleyball courts.

Vilano Beach

Vilano Beach is located on the north side of the Matanzas Inlet and has a dune walkover and access for four-wheel-drive vehicles. Its location on the coast gives it a stronger current, making it popular for surfing, paddleboarding and skim boarding.

WATERWAYS

The Intracoastal

Dividing Jacksonville's southside region from the beach, the Intracoastal Waterway runs about 40 miles through the First Coast. It has a variety of saltwater inlets, sounds and man-made canals, which are open to recreational vessels.



Vilano Beach, photo by Dorothy Thames

St. Johns River

Florida's longest river runs right through the First Coast, spanning 310 miles from Mayport to Indian River County. Residents can enjoy many activities on the river, such as kayaking, boating and fishing. The Riverwalk in downtown Jacksonville allows residents to take a stroll or jog along the beautiful river. Keep your eyes peeled for manatees or dolphins, which frequent the river.

Other First Coast Rivers

Other First Coast rivers provide for fishing, boating and other outdoor activities throughout the year. In St. Johns County, the Guana and Tolomato rivers surround the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuary Research Reserve. On the Amelia River, boaters can take in the historic sites of Fort Clinch State Park. In St. Augustine, take a ride on the Matanzas Bay and Matanzas River to see the Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine Lighthouse and Castillo de San Marcos.

Ponte Vedra Beach, photo by CycleHere



Natural Beauty: State Parks & Preserves

The First Coast is home to beautiful untouched wetlands, vast marshes, expansive forests and the largest park system in the country. Gorgeous gardens, nature preserves, an arboretum and intricate water systems grace our area with natural beauty. With more than 80,000 acres of parks, including a national wildlife refuge, a national forest, nine state parks and more than 400 urban parks, amazing adventures are in store for outdoor enthusiasts.

Big Talbot Island State Park, photo by Florida DEP



Faver-Dykes State Park, photo by Florida DEP

BAKER COUNTY

John M. Bethea State Forest

Tucked away in northern Baker County on more than 37,000 acres of beautiful land, this state forest is home to a variety of species, including black bears, river otters and bobcats. The forest also provides a wildlife corridor between the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Osceola National Forest.

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Located just over the state line in Georgia, with a portion spilling over into Baker County, this national wildlife refuge encompasses more than 400,000 acres of land, including the Okefenokee Swamp. The refuge is home to more than 400 wildlife species and is an ideal place for camping, biking, hiking and boat tours.

Osceola National Forest

Located west of Jacksonville, this 237,000-acre national forest is a sprawling natural gem with swamps and flatwoods, perfect for those looking to bird-watch, fish, hunt, hike, swim and camp.

CLAY COUNTY

Jennings State Forest

This north Clay County forest spans more than 25,300 acres and comprises many different ecosystems, including flatwoods, swamps, marshes, sandhills and a blackwater stream. Many visitors here enjoy hiking, biking, camping, fishing and horseback riding.

Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

Developed on a 600-acre site in the 1930s, this state park is one of Florida's first. Visitors can enjoy more than 2,000 acres of marshes, lakes, sandhills, flatwoods and scrub.

DUVAL-BEACHES

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

This 500-acre oceanfront park located between Atlantic Beach and Mayport includes 1.5 miles of beautiful beaches. With a 60-acre lake available for use, visitors can fish, kayak, canoe or even use pedal boats. Bike trails, campgrounds, hiking and ecotours are also popular activities in the park.

DUVAL-NORTH

Amelia Island State Park

This nature lover's paradise is home to beautiful beaches, maritime forests and salt marshes. The beachside park is a perfect place for horseback riding, and the white sandy beach is a popular place to search for seashells and shark teeth.

Big Talbot Island State Park

Visitors to this state park can hike several different trails leading to the shoreline, marsh or maritime forest. Boneyard Beach is famous for skeletons of live oak and cedar trees that once grew on the shoreline. The Timucuan Trail runs parallel to A1A with a 3.9-mile paved path perfect for biking, walking or running.

Fort George Island Cultural State Park

This state park was named after a 1736 fort originally built on the grounds to defend the area when it was a colony. The park is also home to the Ribault Club which was built in the 1920s as a resort and is now used as a visitor center and special events space. Visitors can enjoy this cultural gem by boating, fishing, kayaking and hiking around the island.

George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park

Visitors to this pedestrian-only, mile-long bridge in Jacksonville can fish for a variety of species in the water, including tarpon, redfish, whiting and jack.

Little Talbot Island State Park

As one of the last remaining barrier islands on the First Coast, Little Talbot Island has beautiful sprawling white beaches, salt marshes and coastal ecosystems. Both migratory and native wildlife can also be found in the park. Visitors can rent kayaks, visit campsites and enjoy guided paddle tours.

Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park

This state park is home to expansive longleaf pine flatwoods that protect the region's water quality, allowing aquatic plants and animals to prosper. Several threatened species can be found in the park, including the American alligator. With more than 15 miles of trails, hikers and equestrians can enjoy the trails and salt marsh.

Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

Originally inhabited by the Timucua people for thousands of years, the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is full of history. With more than 46,000 acres, the preserve encompasses the St. Johns River as well as multiple tributaries that draw a variety of plant and animal life to this ecological treasure. Full of coastal dunes, wetlands, salt marshes and hardwood hammocks, the environment is varied with hiking trails for different experience levels as well as monuments and structures outlining the history of the area.

NASSAU COUNTY

Cary State Forest

Located northwest of Jacksonville, Cary State Forest was established in 1937 as the state's second forest. Eleven ecosystems make up the forest, including flatwoods, marshes, sandhills, swamps and cypress. Keep your binoculars handy to see if you can spot some endangered and threatened wildlife like the Sherman's fox squirrel, gopher tortoise and wood stork. Camping, horseback riding, hunting and hiking are available for visitors.

Four Creeks State Forest

Named after the four water systems located within more than 10,000 acres, this state forest is home to Boggy Creek, Plummer Creek, Thomas Creek and Alligator (Mills) Creek. With the abundance of water, fishing and kayaking are popular activities.



Photo by Stephen Goldberg on Unsplash



Huguenot, photo courtesy of COJ



Horseback riding in Julington Creek, photo courtesy of COJ

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Anastasia State Park

This state park offers a perfect getaway in St. Johns County, with more than 1,600 acres of tidal marshes, sand dunes, hammocks and beaches. The area offers campsites, biking, fishing, bird watching and more.

Faver-Dykes State Park

Situated on the edge of St. Augustine, Faver-Dykes is the perfect place to camp, fish, kayak and canoe on the tranquil Pellicer Creek. With more than 100 species of native and migratory birds found in the forest, tidal marshes and creeks, the park is the perfect place for nature lovers.

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve

More than 76,700 acres of natural land can be found in this estuary. As one of 29 in the nation, the estuary is a connection for freshwater and saltwater to mix, creating a diverse habitat for many species. More than nine miles of nature trails, fishing and kayaking are available for visitors.

Matanzas State Forest

Protected by the Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, this area is home to the last remaining undisturbed salt marshes within the reserve. The forest includes a 20-acre connection linked to Moses Creek Conservation Area and covers 4,699 acres. Visitors can spend the day hiking through the forest uplands and enjoy the beauty of the wetlands, including an expansive cypress swamp.

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.



Photo by Deremer Studios, courtesy of Amelia Island CVB

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

1st Place Sports Tapestry Park Run - 2.88 miles

Jacksonville Baldwin Rail Trail - 14.5 miles

Main Street Bridge & Acosta Bridge Loop - 1.7 miles

Robert W. Loftin Nature Trails at UNF

- Big Cyprus 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 - 1.59 miles

NASSAU COUNTY

Amelia Island Trail - 5.7 miles

Egan's Creek Greenway Trail - 5.6 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 - 1 mile
- 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

Jacksonville

Yoga in the Gardens

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Beach Yoga by Pilates Yoga Loft

Vilano Beach

Yoga in the Garden

Lightner Museum Radzinski Family Garden



Fort Matanzas, photo by Scott Barnett

Turn Back the Clock: Historical Sites & Museums

To understand what makes the First Coast such a great place to live, it's important to know the rich history of those who lived here long ago. Before the area was colonized by European settlers, the Timucuan people called Northeast Florida home. For over 1,000 years, the Timucuan tribes lived along the waterways in North and Central Florida, as well as southeastern Georgia. Archeologists have even discovered some of the oldest remnants of pottery in the United States, dating to 2500 B.C., in the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

In 1513, Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de León landed on the banks of Northeast Florida and claimed the land for Spain. Inspired by the lush landscape, Ponce de León named the area La Florida.

In 1562, the French Huguenots, led by Jean Ribault, claimed the land near the St. Johns River and traveled north to what is presently known as South Carolina. The colony they established was not prosperous and failed. Ribault's second-in-command, René Goulaine de Laudonnière, took settlers from South Carolina back to Florida. In 1564, he founded Fort Caroline, but the next year the fort was destroyed by orders of the Spanish Governor of Florida, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. These disasters led up to the creation of a new city, St. Augustine, which was originally the site of the Timucuan village Sely. The city was rebuilt several times after being attacked during wars. To keep the city of Havana, Spain gave most of its Florida territory to the British at the end of the Seven Years' War.

After their defeat in the American Revolutionary War, Britain returned control of the Florida territory to Spain in 1783 via the Peace of Paris. Around this

time, the area that is now downtown Jacksonville was known as Cowford because there was a place in the St. Johns River that was both shallow and narrow enough for cattle to cross.

In 1821, Spain ceded the Florida Territory to the United States. American settlers on the north side of Cowford decided to plan a town and began laying out the streets and plats. Eventually, the name was changed to Jacksonville after Andrew Jackson, who would go on to become the 7th president of the United States.

With a booming population of 17,201 in 1890, Jacksonville continued to be a popular city and grew to 57,699 residents by 1910. The St. Johns River became a large transporter of goods and passengers. It allowed access to the ocean to cross the sea, which assisted in facilitating commerce, enhanced security and recreation. The area also became a prime vacation spot, with untouched beaches and warm weather. The First Coast's popularity also brought droves of people looking to relocate and a population boom began. The area's growth in the 20th century can also be attributed to the presence of its growing Navy bases.

BAKER COUNTY

Olustee Battlefield

Historic State Park

5815 Battlefield Trail Rd., Olustee

www.floridastateparks.org

This state park is a memorial to the Battle of Olustee, the largest Civil War battle in Florida. More than 10,000 cavalry, infantry and artillery troops fought for almost five hours on Feb. 20, 1864, and after 2,807 casualties were accounted for, the Union soldiers fled to Jacksonville. The Union forces included a unit of African American troops, the famous 54th Massachusetts Infantry, who were featured in the 1989 film *Glory*. Every February, a reenactment is held to honor those who battled in the war.

Heritage Park Village

102 S. Lowder St., Macclenny

www.cityofmacclenny.com/parks.html

Paths throughout the park lead to small museums that give a glimpse of life in Baker County in the 1800s. There is a trading post, train depot, jail, barber and blacksmith shop.



Fort Mose Historic State Park, photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com

CLAY COUNTY

Clay County Historic Museum & Triangle
915 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs
www.claycountyhistoricalsociety.org

The Clay County Historic Museum & Triangle immerses visitors into early 20th century life in Clay County. Artifacts in the museum include personal letters, photographs, furniture, tools and clothing.

DUVAL-BEACHES

Beaches Museum
381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach
www.beachmuseum.org

At the Beaches Museum, you can experience the history of the community through personal accounts, interactive exhibits and photographs. This display of history includes a 1911 steam locomotive and the Mayport Railway Depot to really show what it was like living in the early 20th century.

DUVAL-NORTH

Fort Caroline National Memorial
12713 Fort Caroline Rd., Jacksonville
www.nps.gov

Fort Caroline was established in 1564 by the French Huguenots and was eventually captured by the Spanish, which is portrayed at this historic memorial. The first replica of the fort was destroyed during a hurricane, which coincidentally was the same way many of the Huguenots perished.

Norman Studios
6337 Arlington Rd., Jacksonville
www.normanstudios.org

Norman Studios is the only surviving silent film studio complex on the First Coast. This gem is a memory of Jacksonville's prime as the Winter Film Capital of the World and is tucked away in the Arlington neighborhood.

Ribault Club, The
11241 Fort George Rd., Jacksonville
www.theribaultclub.com

Established in 1928, the Ribault Club held many parties for the affluent throughout the First Coast. Currently, it has a museum where visitors can discover its history on Fort George Island.

Yellow Bluff Fort Historic State Park
New Berlin Rd., Jacksonville
www.floridastateparks.org

This site was occupied by Confederate and Union troops during the Civil War and at one point housed more than 250 soldiers. While there was never an actual fort in this location, an armed encampment was found at this historic site.

DUVAL-SOUTH

Brumos Collection, The
5159 San Pablo Rd. S., Jacksonville
www.thebrumoscollection.com

Some of the finest automobiles in the world can be found in this extensive collection. The museum is split into two sections with the first full of open cockpit racers and early automotive innovations. The second half has a multitude of Porsche race cars ranging from 1953 to 2017.

Hands On Children's Museum
8580 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
www.handsonchildrensmuseum.org/index.html

This museum for visitors ages 1 through 12 has a variety of hands-on learning activities through interactive and educational exhibits.

Mandarin Museum & Historical Society
11964 Mandarin Rd., Jacksonville
www.mandarinmuseum.net

Those looking to experience historic Florida will be right at home at this museum located in the Walter Jones Historical Park. The property has several buildings, including the historic store, post office and the St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African American Children. Visitors can also learn about Harriet Beecher Stowe, an author and abolitionist who settled in Mandarin in 1867.

Museum of Science & History (MOSH)
1025 Museum Cir., Jacksonville
www.themosh.org

This science and history museum draws in visitors of all ages with a range of interactive exhibits and educational programs. Visitors can enjoy the night sky with a visit to the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium or enjoy an evening of music under the stars during one of their special planetarium events. MOSH is also planning to relocate from Jacksonville's Southbank to the Northbank in the near future.

“Before the area was colonized by European settlers, the Timucuan people called Northeast Florida home for over 1,000 years.”

Fort Clinch, photo by Scott Barnett



Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, photo by CycleHere

DUVAL-WEST

Camp Milton Historic Preserve
1175 Halsema Rd. N., Jacksonville
www.timucuanparks.org

This former Civil War encampment offers historical reenactments, is home to an authentic 1800s farmstead and an education center that displays Civil War relics.

Durkeeville Historical Society Museum
1293 W. 19th St., Jacksonville
www.durkeevillehistoricalsociety.org

Founded in the 1930s, the Durkeeville community was established for African Americans during the First Coast's period of racial segregation. The museum has a variety of exhibits and artifacts that tell the story of Durkeeville.

Eartha M. M. White Museum
613 W. Ashley St., Jacksonville
www.clarawhitemission.org/museum

This museum is a memorial to Clara White who was a former slave and started her own shelter, feeding those in need out of her home in the 1880s.

Jacksonville Naval Museum
610 E. Bay St., Jacksonville
<https://jaxnavalmuseum.org>

Located aboard the USS Orleck, this floating naval museum honors the U.S. Navy's role in the Cold War and Vietnam.

Merrill House Museum
319 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville
www.jaxhistory.org/merrill-museum-house-tours

Operated by the Jacksonville Historical Society, this unique museum portrays life in Jacksonville at the turn of the 20th century.

Museum of Southern History
4304 Herschel St., Jacksonville
www.museumsofthesouthernhistory.com

Experience both military and civilian life during the Civil War through exhibits and photographs. Visitors can see a Lincoln-Era 37-Star Applegate Flag as well as a diorama of the Battle of Olustee.

Ritz Theatre and Museum
829 N. Davis St., Jacksonville
www.ritzjacksonville.com

This museum honors the LaVilla neighborhood, known as the “Harlem of the South,” covering history from the 1920s to 1960s. Learn about Jacksonville-native brothers, John Rosamond and James Weldon Johnson, who wrote the African American National Anthem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.”

Veterans Memorial Wall
1145 E. Adams St., Jacksonville
www.jacksonville.gov

More than 1,700 veterans from all military branches are honored at this memorial, which is a tribute to fallen heroes from World War I to the War on Terror.

NASSAU COUNTY

A.L. Lewis Museum
1600 Julia St., Fernandina Beach
<https://allewismuseum.org>

Get a glimpse into the lives of African Americans who lived during the Jim Crow era on Amelia Island at this museum.

Amelia Island Lighthouse
215 O'Hagan Ln., Fernandina Beach
www.fbfl.us

Nestled on the banks of Fernandina Beach, this historic landmark is the only known surviving lighthouse from the Territorial Period.

Amelia Island Museum of History
233 S. 3rd St., Fernandina Beach
www.ameliamuseum.org

Visitors to this museum will experience 4,000 years of Amelia Island history, from the native Timucua tribe and European explorers to swashbuckling pirates and dignified Victorian-era citizens.

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park
Estrada St., Fernandina Beach
www.floridastateparks.org

This historic state park was once the site where Fort San Carlos stood, which protected the Spanish colonial town of Fernandina with a battery of three cannons.

St. Augustine Lighthouse, photo by The Rodriguez Group





Photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com



St. Augustine Lighthouse, photo by The Rodriguez Group

Flagler's Legacy Tours
59 St. George St., St. Augustine
legacy.flagler.edu

These tours highlight the history of Flagler College, which was built in 1888 by millionaire developer Henry Flagler as the Hotel Ponce de León.

Fort Matanzas National Monument
8635 A1A S., St. Augustine
www.nps.gov/foma

Fort Matanzas was named after the inlet, which acquired its name after the massacre (matanzas in Spanish) of the French Huguenots in 1565. Now, visitors can watch reenactments and learn about the history of this site.

Fort Mose Historic State Park
15 Fort Mose Trl., St. Augustine
www.floridastateparks.org

This Spanish fort was the first sanctioned free African American settlement for those escaping English slavery.

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum
106 St. George St., Unit L, St. Augustine
www.karpeles.com/visit/st-augustine-florida/

This new addition to the Karpeles Manuscript Library is the smallest walk-in museum in the U.S.

Lightner Museum
75 King St., St. Augustine
www.lightnermuseum.org

This Spanish Renaissance-style museum was built in 1887 by Henry Flagler as the Hotel Alcazar and now houses a collection of Tiffany glass, fine art, sculptures and more.



Fort Clinch State Park
2601 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach
www.floridastateparks.org

Visitors to this Civil War-era fort can explore its expansive grounds and learn about life as a Union soldier.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
1 S. Castillo Dr., St. Augustine
www.nps.gov/casa

The Castillo de San Marcos was built to protect Spain's claims on the New World. Visitors can tour the oldest masonry fort in the U.S. and experience exhibits, events and living history reenactments.

Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine
38 Cathedral Pl., St. Augustine
www.thefirstparish.org

As the oldest Catholic church in St. Augustine and the oldest parish in the country, this historic church is open to the public for guided tours.

Colonial Quarter
14 S. Castillo Dr., St. Augustine
www.colonialquarter.com

The Colonial Quarter's St. Augustine Colonial Experience Living History Tour allows visitors to experience more than 500 years of European settlement history.

**Oldest Wooden School House
Historic Museum & Gardens
14 St. George St., St. Augustine
www.oldestwoodenschoolhouse.com**

The Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse was built by hand and dates back to the early 18th century. Visitors can experience what life was like for colonial school children with replicas of textbooks, furniture and various school supplies.

**St. Augustine History Museum
167 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine
www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine/history-museum-stop**

The St. Augustine History Museum displays St. Augustine's rich history, including Henry Flagler's construction of the city during the Spanish period.

**St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum
100 Red Cox Rd., St. Augustine
www.staugustinelighthouse.com**

Climb to the top of this iconic white and black lighthouse and see unparalleled views of St. Augustine. Visitors can also experience the life of a lighthouse keeper through the many exhibits in the Keeper's House.

**St. Augustine Old Jail & Oldest Store Museum
167 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine
www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine/old-jail**

Besides housing inmates, the Old Jail also functioned as the sheriff's residence and the gallows. Set nearby, the Oldest Store Museum recreates the general store set in St. Augustine at the turn of the 20th century.

**St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum
12 S. Castillo Dr., St. Augustine
www.thepiratemuseum.com**

More than 800 pirate artifacts from Pat Croce's private collection will give you a taste of the Golden Age of Piracy.

**Villa Zorayda Museum
83 King St., St. Augustine
www.villazorayda.com**

The Moorish Spanish revival of architecture began with the building of Villa Zorayda in 1883. This architecture was inspired by the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain. Visitors can find beautiful interior details and antiques from the 18th century.

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.fatheroreilly.house

Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum
48 King St., St. Augustine
www.staugustine.ufl.edu/govHouse.html

Lincolnvillemuseum and Cultural Center
102 M.L. King Ave., St. Augustine
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

Oldest House Museum Complex
14 St. Francis St., St. Augustine
<https://staugh.com>

Peña-Peck House, The
143 St. George St., St. Augustine
www.penapeckhouse.com

Spanish Military Hospital Museum
3 Aviles St., St. Augustine
www.smhmmuseum.com

St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine
41 St. George St., St. Augustine
www.stphotios.org

Ximenez-Fatio House Museum
20 Aviles St., St. Augustine
www.ximenezfatiohouse.org

St. Augustine, photo by The Rodriguez Group



Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, photo by CycleHere Media



A Pop of Color: Art Museums & Events

The First Coast is home to a thriving art scene. Our museums, public art spaces and small galleries are home to everything from paintings and sculptures to contemporary and mixed media art. Local art walks and art markets offer a multitude of unique art as well. With a variety of international, national and local artists found throughout the First Coast, it's easy to find a unique work of art for your own home.



Photo by Ken McCray, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

DUVAL-NORTH

Alexander Brest Gallery
2800 University Blvd. N., Phillips
Fine Arts Bldg., Jacksonville
www.ju.edu

Located on the Jacksonville University campus, this 2,300-square-foot gallery 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.cummuseum.org

The First Coast's largest fine arts museum overlooks the banks of the St. Johns River. With more than 5,000 works of art in its permanent and traveling exhibits, guests can spend a day exploring the expansive galleries.

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville
333 N. Laura St., Jacksonville
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. MOCA is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year as the oldest art museum in the region and the second contemporary art museum established in the U.S.



Art Walk, photo courtesy of COJ

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Crisp-Ellert Art Museum
48 Sevilla St., St. Augustine
www.flagler.edu

Art from 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

Previously the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, the First Coast Cultural Center offers educational

art programs, exhibits, workshops, events and classes.

St. Augustine Art Association
22 Marine St., St. Augustine
www.staaa.org

For almost 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 400 works in the art association's permanent collection.



Commer Museum, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Artwalk, photo courtesy of Downtown Vision Inc

“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.”



Photo by Stephanie Mery

Art Walks and Festivals

Artrageous Artwalk
Downtown Fernandina Beach
<https://islandart.org/special-events>
Second Saturday of the month

First Friday Artwalk
St. Augustine
www.staaa.org/art-galleries-of-st-augustine
First Friday of the month

First Wednesday Artwalk
Downtown Jacksonville
<https://downtownjacksonville.org/artwalk>
First Wednesday of the month

Jax Beach Arts Market
Seawalk Pavilion
<https://jaxbeachartsmarket.com>
See website for dates

Mandarin Art Festival
Mandarin Community Club
www.mandarinartfestival.org
Easter weekend

North Beaches Art Walk
Beaches Town Center
www.nbaw.org
Third Thursday of the month

Riverside Arts Market
715 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville
www.riversideartsmarket.org
Every Saturday

San Marco Art Festival
Balis Park
www.sanmarcoartfestival.com
Thanksgiving weekend



Frozen, photo by Matthew Murphy, courtesy of FSCJ Artist Series

The Show Must Go On! Entertainment on the First Coast

When the curtains rise and spotlights come on, entertainment seekers can find some of the best shows on the First Coast. From concerts and comedians to variety shows and musicals, the First Coast is full of fun and laughs. Whether you are looking for a small intimate space like the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, or larger venues like Daily's Place and VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, there are a multitude of options for a night full of fun in our own backyard!

CLAY COUNTY

Thrasher-Horne Center
283 College Dr., Orange Park
www.thcenter.org

Set on the campus of St. Johns River State College, the Thrasher-Horne hosts dance, theater and musical performances.

DUVAL-BEACHES

Beaches Fine Arts Series
1150 5th St. N., Jacksonville Beach
www.beachesfinearts.org

This fine arts series has 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

The Latham Plaza & Seawalk Pavilion in the heart of Jacksonville Beach host live music, concerts, festivals and movie screenings.

DUVAL-NORTH

Florida Ballet, The
10131 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville
<https://floridaballet.org>

As the only professional ballet company on the First Coast, 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
Creative Arts Series**
2800 University Blvd. N., Jacksonville
www.ju.edu/cfa

Located on the Jacksonville University campus, this creative arts series hosts theater productions, film festivals, visiting writers, dance performances and concerts.



The Book of Mormon, photo by Julieta Cervera, courtesy of FSCJ Artist Series



DUVAL-SOUTH

Alhambra Theatre & Dining
 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
www.alhambrajax.com

The Alhambra is the oldest continuously operating 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

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.

Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts
 11901 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville
www.fscj.edu/campuses/south-campus/wilson-center

Located on the 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

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

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.

Florida Theatre
 128 E. Forsyth St., Ste. 300, Jacksonville
www.floridatheatre.com

The Florida Theatre has been a staple of the First Coast for more than 95 years, bringing an array of dance performances, concerts, comedians and more to our own backyard.

Friday Musicale
 645 Oak St., Jacksonville
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

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
www.jacksonvillecenterfortheperformingarts.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

The Jacksonville Symphony has been a staple of the First Coast for more than 70 years and is one of the nation's leading regional orchestras.

Metropolitan Park
 1410 Gator Bowl Blvd., Jacksonville
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
www.primefosborn.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.

"The FSCJ Artist Series is the top source for professional Broadway shows on the First Coast!"

VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena
300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville
www.vystarveteransarena.com

VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena has 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

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

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

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

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.

First Coast Community Theaters

5 & Dime, The
10131 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville
www.the5anddime.org

All Beaches Experimental Theatre
106 6th St. N., Jacksonville Beach
www.abetjax.com

Amelia Community Theatre
207 & 209 Cedar St., Fernandina Beach
www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org

Limelight Theatre
11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine
www.limelight-theatre.org

Greenlight Theatre Company
106 6th St. N., Jacksonville Beach
www.greenlighttheatreco.com

Orange Park Community Theatre
2900 Moody Ave., Orange Park
www.opct.info

Players by the Sea
106 6th St. N., Jacksonville Beach
www.playersbythesea.org

Theatre Jacksonville
2032 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville
www.theatrejax.com

Independent Theaters and Movie Houses

Sun-Ray Cinema
1028 Park St., Jacksonville
www.sunraycinema.com

Sun-Ray Drive-In
7059 Ramona Blvd., Jacksonville
www.sunraycinema.com



Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricalCoast.com



SeaWalk Pavilion, photo by KenMcCray, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Mean Girls, photo courtesy of FSCJ Artist Series



Jacksonville Zoo, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

First Coast Fun: Attractions

Now that you live on the First Coast, you have access to many exciting and fun-filled attractions right in your own backyard! Spend a day or weekend making memories to last a lifetime. There's never a dull moment on the First Coast!

DUVAL-NORTH

Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary

1860 Starratt Rd., Jacksonville
www.cattyshack.org

Get up close and personal with big cats and other animals at this nonprofit sanctuary. 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, leopards, cougars, coatimundis and more.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens 370 Zoo Pkwy., Jacksonville www.jacksonvillezoo.org

Go on a safari right here on the First Coast 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

Autobahn Indoor Speedway & Events 6601 Executive Park Ct. N., Jacksonville www.autobahnspeed.com

Perfect for those with a need for speed, the 80,000-square-foot

racetrack at Autobahn Indoor Speedway is the largest indoor karting facility in Florida. The speedway has two unique Grand Prix-style tracks and F1-inspired karts that reach speeds up to 50 mph.

iFly Jacksonville 10579 Brightman Blvd., Jacksonville

www.iflyworld.com/jacksonville
 Experience the thrill of soaring through the air at iFly's vertical wind tunnel, which simulates the feeling of skydiving without needing to jump out of a plane!

Main Event Jacksonville 10370 Philips Hwy., Jacksonville www.mainevent.com

For a fun-filled day or evening, Main Event offers gravity ropes, rock walls, miniature golf, laser tag, karaoke, bowling and more.

NASSAU COUNTY

White Oak Conservation 581705 White Oak Rd., Yulee www.whiteoakwildlife.org

Dedicated to the conservation and care of threatened and endangered species, White Oak offers a series of educational and training programs for people of all ages. Visitors can get face-to-face with giraffes, okapi, rhinoceroses, cheetahs and more.

Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com

Catty Shack, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

St. Augustine Alligator Farm, photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com



ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Adventure Landing

2780 SR 16, St. Augustine

<https://st-augustine.adventurelanding.com>

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

The exhibits at this historical attraction transport 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 Oceanshore Blvd.,

St. Augustine

www.marineland.net

The world's first oceanarium, Marineland's programs allow visitors to swim, play and interact with dolphins and other aquatic animals.

Potter's Wax Museum

31 Orange St., St. Augustine

www.potterswax.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. For those looking for a scare, the museum offers an after-hours ghost tour.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

19 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine

www.ripleys.com/staugustine

You won't believe your eyes at Ripley's! The "Odditorium" features more than 800 rare and unusual artifacts, including two-headed animals, shrunken heads and a Fiji "mermaid."

St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park

999 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine

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

Become a marine biologist while visiting this 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

This rescue nonprofit 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.

Bounce Around at These First Coast Trampoline Parks!

Altitude

1214 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach

www.altitudetrampolinepark.com

Bravoz Entertainment Center

14985 Old St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville

www.bravoz.com

Flight

7022 AC Skinner Pkwy., Ste. 200, Jacksonville

www.flightadventurepark.com/jacksonville

Get Air

1564 Park Ave., Orange Park

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



Community First Igloo, photo courtesy of COJ

Home Field Advantage: First Coast Sports

Here on the First Coast, we love to root for the home team! Take the family to see the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp play baseball or attend a Jacksonville Jaguars NFL home game at EverBank Stadium. The First Coast even has soccer, arena football and hockey. Our area also hosts THE PLAYERS Championship and the Florida-Georgia football game. With a great sports scene, it's easy to find a game for anyone to enjoy!

DUVAL-NORTH

Florida State College at Jacksonville BlueWave
 4501 Capper Rd. (North Campus), Jacksonville
 11901 Beach Blvd. (South Campus),
 Jacksonville
www.gobluewave.com

At Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ), both men and women can join competitive teams, including volleyball, softball, cross country, baseball and basketball. The college is part of the Florida College System Activities Association and National Junior College Athletic Association.

Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament
 [July 10-20, 2024]

Jim King Park and Boat Ramp at Sisters Creek
 8203 Heckscher Dr., Jacksonville
www.kingfishtournament.com

This annual week-long event is one of the largest kingfish tournaments in the Southeast. Besides the general tournament, a junior angler tournament is available for younger fishing fanatics.

Jacksonville University (JU) Dolphins
 2800 University Blvd. N., Jacksonville
www.judolphins.com

There are plenty of opportunities to cheer on the Jacksonville University Dolphins, with more than 18 sports teams such as basketball, baseball, soccer, rowing, lacrosse and golf.

DUVAL-SOUTH

Community First Igloo
 3605 Philips Hwy., Jacksonville
www.communityfirstigloo.com

The Community First Igloo is home to a sports-themed restaurant and lounge, pro shop, the Jacksonville Icemen training and practice facilities, and two NHL-sized rinks.

Jacksonville Armada Football Club
 1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville
www.jacksonvillearmada.com

Founded in 2013, the Jacksonville Armada is the only professional soccer team on the First Coast. The Armada plans to join the MLS NEXT Pro league and will start playing in 2025.



Trevor Lawrence, photo by All-Pro Reels, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Florida-Georgia Game, photo courtesy of COJ



Jacksonville Axemen Rugby League

1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville

www.jaxaxe.com

As an expansion team of the American National Rugby League, the Axemen are one of the most popular rugby league football clubs in the country.

Jacksonville Roller Derby

Skate Station Funworks Mandarin

3461 Kori Rd., Jacksonville

www.jacksonvillerollerderby.com

The Jacksonville Roller Derby League has more than 70 skaters and is the first and only flat-track roller derby league on the First Coast.

Kona Skatepark

8739 Kona Ave., Jacksonville

www.konaskatepark.com

Skaters of all skill levels will learn some new tricks at the longest privately owned skatepark in the world with lessons, camps and open skating available for all ages.

University of North Florida (UNF) Ospreys

1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville

www.unfospreys.com

As a member of NCAA Division I athletics, the UNF Ospreys have a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and golf.

DUVAL-WEST

Edward Waters University (EWU) Tigers

1658 Kings Rd., Jacksonville

www.ewutigerpride.com

Cheer on the EWU Tigers at a multitude of sports games, including football, basketball, soccer, baseball and more.

Florida-Georgia Football Game

[Oct. 26, 2024]

EverBank Stadium

1 EverBank Stadium Dr., Jacksonville

<https://flgajax.com>

This 100-year-old rivalry game has been held in Jacksonville since 1933. Georgia Bulldog and Florida Gator fans come together for a fun-filled week ending with the big game.

Jacksonville Equestrian Center

13611 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville

www.jaxequestriancenter.com

The Jacksonville Equestrian Center is the premier facility for horseback riding, events, outdoor activities, hiking and biking on their sprawling 80 acres of beautiful land.

Jacksonville Icemen

VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena

300 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville

www.jacksonvilleicemen.com

The Jacksonville Icemen wow fans with their skating, puck handling and entertaining mascot “Fang.” The Icemen are members of the ECHL and are affiliated with the Buffalo Sabres and Rochester Americans.

Jacksonville Jaguars

EverBank Stadium

1 EverBank Stadium Dr., Jacksonville

www.jaguars.com

Fans can cheer on the Jacksonville Jaguars at EverBank Stadium. They are members of the National Football League (NFL) as well as the American Football Conference. The Jaguars have won four division championships and had eight playoff appearances.

Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp

121 Financial Ballpark

301 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville

www.jaxshrimp.com

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.

Jacksonville Sharks

VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena

300 A Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville

www.jaxsharks.com

The Sharks are the First Coast’s professional indoor football team and have won multiple championship titles.

TaxSlayer Gator Bowl

EverBank Stadium

1 EverBank Stadium Dr., Jacksonville

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 nationally televised bowl.

Photo courtesy of COJ



First Coast Sports Teams Stats



Jacksonville Jaguars
National Football League
EverBank Stadium
Established: 1995
Division Championships: 4



Jacksonville Armada FC
MLS Next Pro
Hodges Stadium
Established: 2013



Jacksonville Icemen
ECHL
VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena
Established: 1992



Jacksonville Sharks
Indoor Football League
VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena
Established: 2009
League Championships: 4



Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp
Minor League Baseball
Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville
Established: 1962
League Championships: 7



Jacksonville Axemen
USA Rugby League
University of North Florida North
Practice Soccer Fields
Established: 2006
League Championships: 4



Photo by Stephanie Mary

Walks and Runs

Ameris Bank Jacksonville Marathon,
Half Marathon & 5K
www.amerisbank.com
December

DONNA Marathon Weekend
www.breastcancermarathon.com
February

Down Syndrome Association of
Jacksonville Buddy Walk
www.dsaj.org
October

Festival of Lights 5K
www.cmnjax.com/fol
December

Fight for Air Climb
www.lung.org
March

Gate River Run
www.gateriverrun15k.com
March

Light the Night Walk
www.lightthenight.org/nofl
November

McKenzie's Run
www.mckenzie'srun.org
November

Ortega River Run
www.esj.org
February

It's Tee Time! Golf on The First Coast

The First Coast is one of the world's top destinations for golf. Jacksonville and its surrounding areas feature world-class golf courses for every level of play. Some courses in the area even host championship events and others have beautiful oceanside and riverfront views.



St. Augustine golfing, photo by SPARK

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)

THE PLAYERS Championship

Both spectators and participants from all over the world come to the First Coast to attend our most popular and well-known golf event, THE PLAYERS Championship. Held in Ponte Vedra Beach at TPC Sawgrass, it is one of the most attended tournaments on the PGA Tour. The five-day competition held in March challenges pros with the well-known "Island Green," a par-3, 137-yard hole, known as one of the most difficult golf holes.

Golf Fun for Everyone

For those looking to step out onto a green, but aren't quite ready for the pros, take a trip to one of the many miniature golf courses, driving ranges and other golf-related spots tucked away on the First Coast. **TopGolf**, located near the St. Johns Town Center, is a great option for a date night or get-together with friends. With drinks and food served directly to your bay, the atmosphere is the perfect setting for a memorable time.

Get the family outdoors for some fresh air and fun with a game of miniature golf at one of the many courses throughout the area. Pick from courses with waterfalls, pirate ships and more. Head to the Ancient City and take a swing at **Fiesta Falls Miniature Golf**, nestled on the coast of St. Augustine. **Anastasia Miniature Golf** in St. Augustine has a Japanese koi pond full of colorful fish and tropical landscapes surrounding the holes.

The nautically themed **Heron's Cove Adventure Golf** is located at Omni Amelia Island Resort in Fernandina Beach. At **Island Falls Adventure Golf** in Fernandina, golfers can enjoy a course full of bridges, tunnels and waterfalls. **Putt-Putt Fun Center Amelia Island** has a competition-style 36-hole course and hosts the Professional Putter's Association's Tournament every March. In historic Fernandina Beach, visitors to **Gregor MacGregor's Mini Links & Drinks** can enjoy a round of putt-putt while sipping tasty drinks.



Photo courtesy of Amelia Island CVB



Photo by Stephanie Marty

FIRST COAST FUN ON THE WATER

Whether you're looking to unwind on a river or creek with a day of canoeing or kayaking, lounge on the beach or explore the marshes along our Intracoastal Waterway, the First Coast gives ample options for those looking to get their feet wet!

FISHING

With both saltwater and freshwater options throughout the area, anglers can catch a variety of different fish. Anglers can fish from piers, rent a boat or even charter an offshore fishing trip.



Photo by Felicia Boyd, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

Fish of the First Coast



Catfish



Cobia



Trout



Bluefish



Spanish Mackerel



Sailfish



Snapper

BOATING

The First Coast is a great place for boaters to explore our rivers, the Intracoastal Waterway or even the ocean. There are many boat rental opportunities and boat-friendly restaurants, complete with docks.



Photo by Stephanie Marty

Jet Ski, photo by Joe Cox on Unsplash



JET SKIS

Get an adrenaline rush while feeling the wind in your hair while speeding along on a jet ski. Multiple locations for jet ski rentals make it easy to get on the water for some fun.

SURF, BOOGIE OR SKIMBOARDING

The Atlantic Ocean offers adventure for those looking to ride the waves on a surf, boogie or skim board. With a multitude of beaches and waterways in the area, it is easy to find the perfect spot to catch a wave.



St. Augustine surfing, photo by CycleHere

Kayaking, photo courtesy of Amelia Island CVB



Are you looking for a relaxing paddle down a creek in a kayak or canoe? Or are you looking for more of a challenge riding a paddleboard onto the waves of the Atlantic? Either way, kayaks, canoes and paddleboards can be found throughout the First Coast.

PADDLE SPORTS

Shop Til You Drop: First Coast Shopping

If you are on the hunt for a unique piece of furniture or a stylish new outfit, the First Coast has numerous shopping centers and malls that won't disappoint. Below, you will find some of the shopping options in your neighborhood or even find your next shopping adventure destination!

CLAY COUNTY

In Clay County, shoppers don't need to go far to find great stores. Residents can explore the indoor **Orange Park Mall** and the many shopping centers in Fleming Island, such as the **Fleming Plaza**.

DUVAL COUNTY

Located at the heart of the Atlantic and Neptune beach communities, the **Beaches Town Center** offers oceanfront shopping with several unique boutiques.

On the Southside, **The Avenues** is a multi-level indoor shopping mall that allows for a day of shopping in the cool A/C. Nearby is the **St. Johns Town Center**, an upscale open-air shopping destination that has shops from popular designers and brands. Next door is **The Markets at Town Center**, which houses many top retailers as well.

Located in the beautiful San Marco neighborhood, **San Marco Square** is filled with boutiques offering one-of-a-kind items. The trendy **Five Points** district in Riverside boasts fashionable clothes, rare accessories

and even some shops just for your four-legged friend.

The Shoppes of Avondale, nestled in Jacksonville's historic Avondale neighborhood, is a quaint, tree-lined community with several locally owned shops and boutiques. On the Westside, **Oakleaf Town Center** offers several retailers for shoppers running errands.

River City Marketplace on the Northside is conveniently located near Jacksonville International Airport and offers an array of popular retailers and big box stores.

NASSAU COUNTY

Shoppers in Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach will find a variety of shops in this northernmost county of the First Coast. **Centre Street** in downtown Fernandina Beach and **The Shops at Omni Amelia Island** are the perfect places to peruse an array of boutiques filled with stylish home décor, art, trendy clothes and unique gifts.

Town Center, photo by becphotography, courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



St. Johns Town Center, photo by Monica Fields

LOFT at the St. Johns Town Center, photo by Monica Fields

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

St. Johns County is the perfect shopping destination for those looking for something unique. Shoppers can peruse upscale shops and boutiques at **Sawgrass Village** in Ponte Vedra Beach. The **Nocatee Town Center** also offers residents an assortment of restaurants and shops.

Northern St. Johns County is growing as a shopping destination that attracts residents and visitors.

The Pavilion at Durbin Park and surrounding areas are home to several stores, restaurants and other retailers and will be the largest shopping area on the First Coast once fully complete.

The First Coast's premier outlet mall, the **St. Augustine Premium Outlets** offer shoppers both designer merchandise and name brands at prices that won't break the bank.

In St. Augustine's quaint historic downtown district, shoppers can stroll along **St. George Street**, a pedestrian-only cobblestone street lined with one-of-a-kind shops and art galleries.

St. Augustine Premium Outlets, photo by The Rodriguez Group



St. Augustine Outlet, photo by The Rodriguez Group



St. Augustine shopping, photo by SPARK

All-Natural and Organic Grocery Stores

Grassroots Natural Market
2007 Park St., Jacksonville
www.thegrassrootsmarket.com

Grassroots Natural Market II
1915 East West Pkwy., Ste. 1, Fleming Island
www.grassrootsnaturalfoods.com

Native Sun Kitchen + Market
1585 3rd St. N., Jacksonville Beach
www.nativesunjax.com

Publix GreenWise Market
250 Pine Lake Dr., Ponte Vedra
www.greenwisemarket.com

Sprouts Farmers Market
12675 Beach Blvd., Ste. 200, Jacksonville
4873 Town Center Pkwy., Jacksonville
www.sprouts.com

The Fresh Market
12795 San Jose Blvd., Ste. 1, Jacksonville
13493 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville
150 Riverside Ave., Ste. 200, Jacksonville
1960 East West Pkwy., Ste. 100, Fleming Island
840 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach
www.thefreshmarket.com

Trader Joe's
11112 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
4180 S. 3rd St., Jacksonville Beach
www.traderjoes.com

Whole Foods Market
10601 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville
2050 3rd St. S., Jacksonville Beach
www.wholefoodsmarket.com



Tinelli's photo courtesy of AmeliaIsland.com

Taste of the First Coast: Dining

The First Coast is a foodie's paradise! Around every corner, fantastic restaurants and eateries are serving up unique cuisines with a multitude of flavors awaiting you. We are fortunate to have nationally and internationally trained chefs who create delectable dishes. If you visit one of our many seafood restaurants, you'll be sure to find local Mayport shrimp on the menu. Bon appétit!

AMERICAN

Ill Forks

Southside

bb's restaurant and bar

San Marco

Brick Restaurant

Avondale

Burlingame

Fernandina

ChopHouse Thirteen

Mandarin

Congaree and Penn

Northside

Cowford Chophouse

Downtown

Eleven South

Jacksonville Beach

Ember & Iron

St. Johns

Good Dough

San Marco

Grumpy's Restaurant

Middleburg, Neptune Beach, Orange Park, St. Johns, Wildlight

Hilltop Club & Restaurant, The

Orange Park

Jax Beach Brunch Haus

Jacksonville Beach

M Shack

Nocatee

Matthew's Restaurant

San Marco

Metro Diner

Jacksonville Beach, Mandarin, Orange Park, Ortega, Ponte Vedra

Beach, San Marco, Southside,

St. Augustine

Mini Bar Donuts + Coffee, The

Town Center

Mixed Fillings Pie Shop

Five Points

Nona Blue Modern Tavern

Ponte Vedra Beach

Poe's Tavern

Atlantic Beach

Prohibition Kitchen

St. Augustine

Restaurant Doro

Neptune Beach

Restaurant Medure

Ponte Vedra Beach

River & Post

Five Points

Salt

Amelia Island

True Food Kitchen

Town Center

Whit's Frozen Custard

Atlantic Beach, Avondale, Jacksonville Beach, Kernan, Mandarin, Orange Park, Southside, St. Augustine

BARBECUE

4 Rivers Smokehouse

Orange Park, Southside

ABBQ

Atlantic Beach

Bearded Pig, The

Jacksonville Beach, San Marco



Burlingame, photo by Emergent Media



Photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricCoast.com

Happy Tomato Courtyard

Café & BBQ, The
Fernandina Beach

Johnny's
Keystone Heights

Mission BBQ
Orange Park, Town Center

Monroe's Smokehouse Bar-B-Q
Westside

FRENCH

Bistro AIX
San Marco

JJ's Bistro
Gate Parkway, Ponte Vedra

Orsay
Avondale

Rue Saint-Marc
San Marco

ITALIAN/PIZZA

Caffe Andiamo
Ponte Vedra Beach

Carmine's Pie House
Riverside

Joseph's Pizza
Atlantic Beach, Northside

Mezza Luna Ristorante
Neptune Beach

Midtown Table

Town Center

Pizza Time
St. Augustine

Taverna
San Marco

V Pizza
*Fernandina Beach, Fleming Island,
Jacksonville Beach, Mandarin, Ponte
Vedra, San Marco, St. Augustine*

INDIAN

Mesa
Avondale

JAPANESE

Domu
Town Center

Kazu Japanese Restaurant
Mandarin

O-Ku
Jacksonville Beach

MEXICAN

Burrito Gallery
Riverside, Town Center

El Jefe
Westside

Estrella Cocina

Downtown

**Flying Iguana Taqueria
& Tequila Bar**
Neptune Beach

**Pepper's Cocina Mexicana
& Tequila Bar**
*Fernandina Beach, Fleming Island,
St. Johns*

TacoLu Baja Mexicana
Jacksonville Beach

Tepeyolot Cerveceria
San Marco

PAN-ASIAN

Blue Bamboo
Mandarin

Hawkers

Five Points, Neptune Beach

SEAFOOD

Aqua Grill
Ponte Vedra Beach

Blue Fish, The
Avondale

Catch 27
St. Augustine

Chart House
Riverside

Fish Company, The
Atlantic Beach

Marker 32
Intracoastal



Chart House, photo by Stephanie Marty



Silkies, photo by Vy Nguyen Films



Catch 27, photo by Vy Nguyen Films



Blue Bamboo, photo by Vy Nguyen Films

North Beach Fish Camp
Neptune Beach

Timoti's Seafood Shak
Fernandina Beach, Nocatee

Tommy Bahama Marlin Bar
Town Center

SOUTHERN

Bellwether
Downtown

Coop 303
Atlantic Beach

Copeland's of New Orleans
Southside

Floridian, The
St. Augustine

Ida Claire
Town Center

Maple Street Biscuit Company
*Baymeadows, Fleming Island,
Jacksonville Beach, Julington Creek,
Murray Hill, San Marco, St. Augustine*

Silkie's Chicken & Champagne Bar
Springfield

South Kitchen & Spirits
Nocatee

Town Hall
San Marco

Treyler Park
Nocatee, St. Augustine

SPANISH

Michael's
St. Augustine

THAI

Blue Orchid Thai
East Arlington, Riverside

Indochine
Downtown

First Coast Food Trucks

With more than 400 choices of food trucks in the area, Jacksonville has food trucks for all tastes from burgers and grilled cheese to barbecue, tacos, sushi and much more. Food trucks are often spotted throughout the First Coast at art walks, festivals, breweries and more.

<https://foodtruckfinderusa.com/jacksonville-food-trucks/>



St. Augustine food trucks, photo by Matador Network

Dinner with a View: Waterfront Dining

On the First Coast we are lucky to have beautiful weather throughout the year, which gives us the opportunity to enjoy open-air dining complete with stunning views of our waterways and beaches.

OCEAN VIEWS

Azurea at One Ocean

Atlantic Beach

Beachcomber

St. Augustine

Casa Marina Restaurant

Jacksonville Beach

Joe's Crab Shack

Jacksonville Beach

LandShark Bar & Grill

Jacksonville Beach

Reef, The

St. Augustine

Salt Life Food Shack

Fernandina Beach, Jacksonville Beach, St. Augustine

Sliders Seaside Grill

Fernandina Beach

Tides Beach Bar and Grille

Jacksonville Beach

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY AND 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

Kingfish Grill on the Water

St. Augustine

Mavi Waterfront Bar & Grill

Jacksonville Beach

Palm Valley Fish Camp

Ponte Vedra Beach

Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill

Ponte Vedra Beach



Estrella Cocina rooftop view, photo courtesy of Downtown Vision, Inc.

ST. JOHNS RIVER VIEWS

Estrella Cocina

Downtown

Julington Creek Fish Camp

Julington Creek

Palms Fish Camp

Northside

Safe Harbor Seafood Market & Restaurant

Mayport

Sandollar Restaurant & Marina

Northside

Singleton's Seafood Shack

Mayport

Whitey's Fish Camp

Fleming Island

Asado Life, photo by Emergent Media

Downtown St. Augustine, photo by CycleHere Media





Brew Five Points, photos by Vj Nguyen Films

First Coast Caffeine Fix: Local Coffee Shops

The First Coast is overflowing with locally owned and operated coffee shops and cafés that can satisfy your caffeine cravings. From foamy lattes to chilled cold brews, our baristas are always brewing up something delicious.

Amelia Island Coffee

207 Centre St., Fernandina Beach
www.ameliainlandcoffee.com

Bitty & Beau's Coffee

1965 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville
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.

4352-01 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville
www.brasstackscoffee.com

BREW 5 Points

1024 Park St., Jacksonville
www.brewfivepoints.com

Coffee Grinder, The

9834 Old Baymeadows Rd., Jacksonville
www.thecoffeegrinderjax.com

Cup of Job

119 1st Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach
<http://cupofjob.com>

DOS Coffee & Wine

4853 Big Island Dr., Jacksonville
300 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine
www.dosbar.com

Flamingo, The

1176 Edgewood Ave. S., Ste. 1, Jacksonville
www.theflamingojax.com

Jacksonville Coffee Company

12620 Beach Blvd., Ste. 7, Jacksonville
8221 Southside Blvd., Ste. 7, Jacksonville
www.jacksonvillecoffeecompany.com

Kookaburra Coffee, The

351 Town Plaza Ave., Ste. 102-A, Ponte Vedra
1835 US Hwy. 1 S., St. Augustine
24 Cathedral Pl., St. Augustine
4265 A1A S., St. Augustine
470 SR 207, St. Augustine
647 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine
www.thekookaburracoffee.com

Sago Coffee

318 7th Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach
www.sagocoffeejax.com

Setlan Coffee Co.

333 N. Laura St., Jacksonville
www.setlancoffee.com

Sippers Coffeehouse

7643 Gate Pkwy., Ste. 101, Jacksonville
www.facebook.com/sipperscoffeehouse

Southern Grounds

1671 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville
3562 St. Johns Ave., Jacksonville
JAX Airport, Concourse A, Jacksonville
200 1st St., Neptune Beach
www.southerngrounds.com

Spring Park Coffee

328 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs
www.springparkcoffee.com

Urban Bean Coffeehouse Cafe, The

2023 Park Ave., Orange Park
www.theurbanbeancoffeehouse.com

Urban Grind Coffee Company

45 W. Bay St., Jacksonville
www.urbangrind.coffee

For a meowy good time, visit these cat cafés! The cats in these cafés are even available for adoption.

Caffeinated Cat

331 1st Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach
www.facebook.com/thecaffeinatedcatjax

Frisky Cat Café

1092 S. Ponce De Leon Blvd.,
St. Augustine
www.friskycatcafe.com

Witty Whisker Cat Café

112 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd., Unit A,
St. Augustine
www.wittywhisker.com

Off the Clock: First Coast Nightlife

Whether you are looking to relax on a rooftop bar or enjoy the ocean breeze while bar hopping, the First Coast has a lively and diverse nightlife scene. Live music, dance clubs and even hole-in-the-wall spots are all found throughout the area and are guaranteed to make a fun night for anyone.



Prohibition Kitchen, photo courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com



Restaurant Castillo Bar, photo by Isaac Maiselmann, courtesy of FloridasHistoricCoast.com

CLAY COUNTY

Cheers Park Avenue
Orange Park

River House, 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

Ragtime Tavern
Atlantic Beach

Shim Sham Room, The
Jacksonville Beach

Surfer [The Bar]
Jacksonville Beach

DUVAL-SOUTH

Grape & Grain Exchange, The
San Marco

Sidecar
San Marco

DUVAL-WEST

1904 Music Hall
Downtown

Birdies
Five Points

Dos Gatos
Downtown

Garage, The
Riverside

**Hoptinger Bier Garden
& Sausage House**
Five Points

Keg & Coin
Riverside

Kickbacks Gastropub
Riverside

Loft, The
Riverside

Phoenix Bar & Bowling, The
Westside

Rain Dogs
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



Ice Plant Bar, photo by Vy Nguyen Films

St. Augustine Distillery, photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricCoast.com



Tour and Sample these First Coast Wineries and Distilleries

City Gate Spirits
11 St. George St., St. Augustine
www.citygatespirits.com

Four Fathers Distillery
2917 Borden St., Jacksonville
www.fourfathersdistillery.com

Manifest Distilling
960 E. Forsyth St., Jacksonville
www.manifestdistilling.com

Marlin & Barrel Distillery
232 S. 8th St., Fernandina Beach
www.facebook.com/MarlinBarrel

St. Augustine Distillery
112 Iberia St., St. Augustine
www.staugustinedistillery.com

San Sebastian Winery
157 King St., St. Augustine
www.sansebastianwinery.com

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

Scarlett O'Hara's
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

Town Beer Co.
Murray Hill

Craft cocktails at Asado Life, photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricCoast.com



San Sebastian Winery, photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricCoast.com



Craft Beer Scene: First Coast Breweries

The First Coast leads the craft brewery scene with a variety of unique and award-winning brews. Newcomers can take a self-guided tour called the Jax Ale Trail to visit more than 20 breweries spanning Amelia Island to Jacksonville and St. Augustine to Orange Park.



Ruby Beach, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville.



Myrtle Avenue Brewing, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville

CLAY COUNTY

Cultured Collective Brewing Co.
Orange Park

DUVAL-BEACHES

Engine 15 Brewing Co.
Jacksonville Beach

Green Room Brewing
Jacksonville Beach

Ink Factory Brewing
Jacksonville Beach

Jekyll Brewing
Jacksonville Beach

Reve Brewing
Atlantic Beach

Southern Swells Brewing Co.
Jacksonville Beach

DUVAL-NORTH

Flying Fish Taphouse
Northside

DUVAL-SOUTH

Aardwolf Brewing Company
San Marco

Bottlenose Brewing
Southside

Legacy Ale Works
Bartram Park

Veterans United Craft Brewery
Southside

Wicked Barley Brewing Company
Baymeadows

DUVAL-WEST

Bold City Brewery
Downtown, Riverside

Fishweir Brewing Company
Murray Hill

Intuition Ale Works
Downtown

King Maker Brewing
Riverside

Myrtle Avenue Brewing
LaVilla

Ruby Beach Brewing
Downtown

Strings Sports Brewery
Springfield

NASSAU COUNTY

Amelia Island Brewing Company
Fernandina Beach

First Love Brewing
Fernandina Beach

Mocama Beer Company
Fernandina Beach

SJ Brewing Company
Yulee

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

2nd Bay Brewing Co.
Fruit Cove

Ancient City Brewing
St. Augustine

Bog Brewing Company
St. Augustine

Dog Rose Brewing Co.
St. Augustine

Old Coast Ales Brewery
St. Augustine



Myrtle Avenue Brewing taps, photo courtesy of Visit Jacksonville



Nights of Lights, photo courtesy of FloridaHistoricalCoast.com

Let's Party! First Coast Festivals & Celebrations

The First Coast knows how to have fun like no other place. From reenactments to cultural celebrations, and holiday events to food festivals, thousands of locals and visitors enjoy festivals and celebrations all over the First Coast.

BAKER COUNTY

Battle of Olustee

February

www.battleofolustee.org

To commemorate Florida's largest Civil War battle, history is relived with live reenactments of the battle fought on Feb. 20, 1864. The event includes authentic campsites, artillery inspections, medical demonstrations, arts and crafts, parades and more.

CLAY COUNTY

Carrie Clarke Day

March

www.townoforangepark.com

This historical festival celebrates the life and legacy of the Clarke family, one of the earliest families in Orange Park. Visitors can enjoy historic demonstrations, live music, kids' activities and more.

Town of Orange Park Fall Festival

October

www.opfallfestival.com

Each year, more than 200 vendors and artists come together for Clay County's biggest festival that features entertainment from local and regional artists. Handmade jewelry, pottery, art and unique gifts are available for purchase. Make sure to bring your appetite and sample the more than 30 food vendors on site.

DUVAL COUNTY

World of Nations Celebration

February

<https://specialevents.coj.net/Special-Events/World-of-Nations-Celebration.aspx>

With more than 75,000 visitors enjoying this annual multicultural celebration, it's easy to travel to different countries by sampling food, music, dance and stories from a variety of cultures.

Opening of the Beaches Parade

April

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

This exciting three-day blues festival at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach features local, regional and national blues artists.

Jacksonville Jazz Festival

May

www.jacksonvillejazzfest.com

For more than 40 years, the Jacksonville Jazz Festival has drawn jazz fanatics from all over the country. Known as one of the largest jazz festivals in the nation, visitors can enjoy music performed by newer artists as well as jazz legends.

First Coast Festivals & Celebrations

Sea and Sky Air Show

October

<https://specialevents.coj.net/Special-Events/Sea-and-Sky-Airshow.aspx>

This event features an exciting air show over Jacksonville Beach with aerial performances by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and other aerial teams.

Spooktacular

October

www.jacksonvillezoo.org/spooktacular

This family-friendly Halloween event at the Jacksonville Zoo is full of fun and fright. Dress up in your costume for a night filled with spooky stories and surprises around every corner.

Jacksonville Light Boat Parade

November

<https://specialevents.coj.net/Special-Events/Light-Boat-Parade.aspx>

For more than 30 years, the First Coast has enjoyed this holiday tradition on the St. Johns River. The parade features boats decorated with festive holiday lights, wreaths and other decorations. Keep your eyes peeled because you may get a chance to see Santa!

Deck The Chairs

November/December

www.deckthechairs.org

This family-friendly holiday light display features lifeguard chairs decorated with festive props, lights and more.

NASSAU COUNTY

The Amelia

March

www.ameliacours.org

The Amelia draws vintage car enthusiasts from all over the country as one of the top automotive events

in the world. With more than 300 rare vehicles on display, fans can take a trip back in time with these unique automobiles.

Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival

May

www.shrimpfestival.com

Sample 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

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

April

www.lionsfestival.com

This annual festival is full of music, delicious seafood and a local arts and crafts fair. For some family fun, visit the kid's zone with activities and rides.

St. Augustine Greek Festival

October

www.staugustinegreekfestival.com

This annual festival recognizes St. Augustine's Greek heritage through delicious food and exciting entertainment.



Amelia Island Concours, photo by Dremer Studios, courtesy of Ameliaisland.com



Dickens on Centre, photo courtesy of Ameliaisland.com

Lighthouse Illuminations: Tides, Tidings & Trees

November through January

www.staugustinelighthouse.org

Each holiday season the St. Augustine Lighthouse Museum displays 21 uniquely decorated Christmas trees, all with a distinct theme. Visitors can also explore the Keeper's House and Grounds that are also illuminated by lights and garlands.

Nights of Lights

November through January

www.floridashistoriccoast.com/nights-lights

Stroll the streets of the nation's oldest city enjoying millions of glittering, white lights decorating the historic buildings of St. Augustine.



Jacksonville Jazz Fest, photo courtesy of COJ



World of Nations, photo courtesy of COJ

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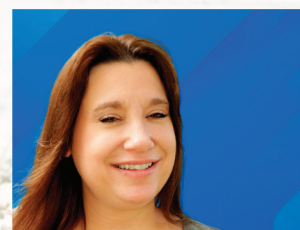
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