



## Florida's Historic Coast Has Wide-Open Spaces, New Exhibits, New Hotels and Restaurants

**Our destination has** been a favorite getaway for 455 years. And there are always new adventures to be had and new venues to consider for new experiences. Here is the latest on What's New:

### **What's New for Hotels**

This sprawling beachfront property since 1928, the historic AAA Five Diamond [Ponte Vedra Inn & Club](#) remains a storied refuge for outdoor recreation, family vacations, corporate retreats, weddings, and social events alike. The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's signature Ocean Course has recently re-opened following a complete course renovation by Bobby Weed. Additional resort enhancements in the past year include renovations to the Golf Club Dining Room and Golf Pro Shop and remodeling of the resort's family pool.

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club recently unveiled the historic Ocean House and all-new Peyton House, featuring 41 new oceanfront guest rooms and suites. The resort offers multiple dining venues for guests to enjoy. And in these times of social distancing, the popular Surf Deck Grille which sits on the sand's edge offers full-service lunch and dinner with a panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean. And, most important, the campus-style layout of the resort provides guests a real sense of confidence and comfort, as they don't have to go up and down elevators or crowded hallways to access guest rooms and resort amenities.

In the coming months, there will be even more hotels and inns opening in St. Augustine. There are currently several hotels under construction and opening in the next few months including the Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Hotel, The Holiday Inn Express on Vilano Beach, Hyatt Place Hotel on Vilano Beach, Homewood Suites Hotel along the San Sebastian River. There are several other hotels under construction or planned for opening in late 2021 and early 2022.

### **What's New Attractions & Tours**

[Lightner Museum](#), located in the former Hotel Alcazar, one of the Ancient City's architectural centerpieces, recently completed a major first floor renovation and opened its latest exhibit, [Illuminate: Lightner Museum's Stained Glass Rediscovered](#).

The Museum's eclectic collection ranges from human hair art, cigar labels, buttons, salt and pepper shakers, to cut glass, porcelain, fine art paintings, furniture and sculpture all housed throughout the four floors of the original Alcazar Hotel. The Museum's Director took advantage of the March – May 2020 shutdown to conduct some renovation projects including renovations on the Museum's ground floor level to accentuate the building's brilliant design creating bright open spaces in the new Museum Gift Shop, the Music Room and Science Room. The result is a brighter, airier look beginning with the museum's lobby where new flooring replaces carpeted walkways.

The [Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine](#) is now open and showcasing a collection of classic cars, providing visitors the opportunity to experience cars from the 1800s to modern day sports cars. One Saturday morning a month at the museum features Classic Cars and Coffee where auto enthusiasts grab a coffee and chat about their passion with others. The venue is also available for private events.

### **What's New with Food and Beverage**

The authentic cuisine, a year-round abundance of fresh seafood, and inspiration from centuries of diverse heritage and you have blended the bold and diverse tastes to be found on Florida's Historic Coast.

New restaurants open for business in 2020 include the latest gem in the Southern Table Hospitality Group crown of Northeast Florida restaurants, the [St. Augustine Fish Camp](#). This new location on the San Sebastian River, along with their other Fish Camp locations in Northeast Florida, is the result of a vision to create a restaurant with a neighborhood feel, the freshest seafood, amazing views, and old favorite entrees with creative, new twists. The restaurant's interior is open and inviting, the seafood is fresh off the docks, and the waterfront dining is a simple gift.

Also new to the waterfront dining scene this year is the new location of a long-time St. Augustine favorite, [Culinary Outfitters](#). The 250-seat restaurant overlooks the San Sebastian River from the St. Augustine Shipyards and features 8,000 square feet of outdoor dining space on a patio surrounded by fire pits and boat docks. The new location features a lunch menu similar to the original restaurant including popular favorites, with a new dinner menu created focusing on locally sourced, seasonally fresh ingredients.

Aviles Street is one of St. Augustine's most treasured gems. Eclectic art galleries, crafters and important historic museums and great eats can be found here. The newest eatery on Aviles, [Forgotten Tonic](#), is open daily for lunch and dinner and features modern twists on comfort food, an extensive wine list and craft cocktails. And like all eateries on Aviles Street, you can dine al fresco on the oldest street in the nation.

[Boat Drinks Bar](#) in St. Augustine, a nautical tropical tavern with balanced cocktails and a bounty of fresh local seafood, recently opened its doors on St. George Street in St. Augustine. And of course, it was immediately honored by the Tales of the Cocktail Foundation Spirited Awards® as a Regional Top 10 Honoree for Best New Bar!

Located midway between Daytona Beach and Jacksonville, Florida's Historic Coast includes historic St. Augustine, the outstanding golf and seaside elegance of Ponte Vedra, and 42 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches. For more information on events, activities, holiday getaways and vacation opportunities in St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches, go to the Visitors and Convention Bureau website at [www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com](http://www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com), become a fan on Facebook or call 1.800.653.2489.

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