



# Simply Smart Travel

## St. Augustine, Florida

Celebrating A 450<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
In An Historic B & B

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The Bridge of Lions serves as a backdrop for El Galeon and St. Augustine's municipal pier at dawn.



How often do we get invited to a 450th birthday party? How often do we get to stay at a first-class bed and breakfast that dates back to 1791?

Beautiful and historic St. Augustine, Florida America's oldest city and Joe and Margaret Finnegan, proprietors of the St. Francis Inn, extend this rare opportunity to Simply Smart travelers to mark the 450th anniversary of the landing of Pedro Menendez. He and his fleet filled with 800 settlers and even cattle landed in

what we now call the St. Augustine estuary in 1565, beginning 450 years of continuous European settlement in a place that had been home to Timicuan Indians for at least four millennia. Today, it's a great place to visit, enjoy Florida's Atlantic coast and absorb the rich tableau of American history.

### ► BEFORE YOU GO

- Read *Daring Daughters* by Karen Harvey  
[www.ancientcitychoes.com](http://www.ancientcitychoes.com).
- Research [www.oldcity.com](http://www.oldcity.com), [www.floridashistoriccoast.com/](http://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/) (official site)  
<http://augustine.com> and <http://visitstaug.com>

### ► GETTING THERE

**St. Augustine is accessible by plane, train, ship or car.**

- Nearby Northeast Florida Regional Airport (SGJ) directly serves Charlotte and Trenton, NJ, Jacksonville International (JAX) is 51 miles away and Daytona Beach International ((DAB / KDAB) is 56 miles to the south and Orlando Sanford International Airport (MCO / KMCO) is 122 miles away.
- The nearest major cruise port is Cape Canaveral, 126 miles away by I-95.
- Going by train is a good option from the U.S. east coast. The closest station is Palatka, 29 miles away, served by 2 trains daily and is connected by charter bus to St. Augustine. Jacksonville Amtrak station is 57 miles north
- U.S. 1 goes through St. Augustine and I-95 is close by.

### ► WHEN YOU ARE THERE

- Board an Old Town Trolley Tour or Red Train hop-on-hop-off service for an overview and history lesson. On a multi-day tour, explore the town on day one and return to attractions you want to explore in depth later.
- Plan on walking a lot. Leave the car at your hotel or the municipal parking garage and explore the relatively-compact old town district on foot. If you get tired, rental bikes, taxis and horse-drawn carriages are alternatives.

Aviles Street is the oldest street in the U.S. It is a St. Augustine must-see.

### GINNY O'S TIPS For Dressing The Simply Smart Travel Way For St. Augustine

St. Augustine is a tourist-oriented destination and encourages casual dress. As always, start with comfortable shoes and bring versatile, casual daytime outfits in the same color family to match. Shorts for men and women are fine. Women should bring an attractive blouse or skirt and dress up with costume jewelry or accessories. Men should pack a nice print shirt or two for evening and forget the ties and jackets. Bring a big hat and sunblock—this is Florida.



#### ▶ IF YOU ONLY HAVE TWO OR THREE DAYS:

##### Must-sees for a short trip are:

- Castillo de San Marcos, Flagler College, The Colonial Quarter and the Matanzas River waterfront.
- The old town historic district, especially St. George and Aviles Streets.
- Breakfast at Hot Shot Bakery (waffles extraordinaire), lunch at Café Alcazar or La Taverna del Caballo and dinner at Raintree, O.C. White's or Johnny's Oyster Bar/Meehan's Irish Pub on the waterfront.

The elegant Café Alcazar restaurant is located in what used to be the swimming pool of the Alcazar Hotel (now The Lightner Museum) built by railroad magnate Henry Flagler in 1888.

The Castillo de San Marcos fort, constructed from Coquina, is the oldest masonry fort in the U.S. and has guarded St. Augustine since 1672.







#### ► IF YOU HAVE SEVERAL DAYS, ENJOY:

- As many of its 35 attractions on the free First America Passport ([www.St. Augustine-450.com/Tapestry](http://www.St. Augustine-450.com/Tapestry)) as you have time, money and stamina to explore.
- The quirky Lightner Museum and St. Augustine Visitor Information Center's 450th anniversary display.
- Mission Nombre de Dios, El Galeon ship and the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum.
- The St. Augustine Eco-Tour from St. Augustine pier to spot dolphins, birds and explore the environment of this productive estuary.
- A ghost walk.
- The St. Augustine Distillery and San Sebastian Winery.
- A drive up A1A to nearby Ponte Vedra.



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#### St. Augustine At A Glance

- **Mobility Level:** Fairly high. Brick streets can be challenging for those who have trouble walking. Many old buildings and lodgings don't have elevators—ask for 1st floor accommodations in such historic inns as the St. Francis.
- **When To Go:** Year round. Summers are hot and sticky but ocean breezes offer relief. June is the “slowest” month. The 4th of July and holiday lighting draw big crowds. The winter and spring are great with cooler weather. The Sept. 8, 2015 celebration of the 450th will be a huge draw. Make reservations now.
- **Where To Stay:** Within or close to the old city. St. Francis Inn (1781) is a nice choice because of its old city location, parking, beach access and great food and service. Birthday discounts are in effect from Aug. 16th through Oct. 8th, 2015. The waterfront Hilton and many other lodging choices abound.
- **Special Travel Interests:** History. St. Augustine is 42 years older than Jamestown and 55 years older than the Plymouth colony and has seen many eras of occupation.