Northeast Florida

Best Places to Eat

➜ Collage (p344)

➜ High Tide at Snack Jacks (p335)

➜ Kelley's Courtyard Café (p356)

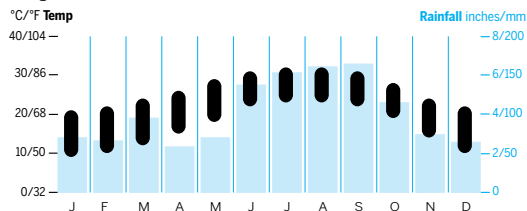➜ Satchel's Pizza (p364)

➜ Cress (p359)

Best Places to Stay

➜ Ritz Carlton Amelia Island (p355)

➜ At Journey's End (p343)

➜ One Ocean (p351)

➜ Addison (p355)

➜ Shoreline & Cabana (p331)

Why Go?

Few regions highlight the diversity of Florida's geography and character as dramatically as the Northeast.

Near the Florida–Georgia border, Amelia Island is a gorgeous Southern belle, resplendent in nature's finest ornamentation. An hour to the south, Jacksonville, Florida's most populous city, is an urban sprawl of high-rises, highways and steel-girded bridges. Jacksonville's mellow beaches offer a refreshingly slower pace to their southern Atlantic counterparts. Incongruous and unique, nearby St Augustine, the oldest continuously occupied city in the US, has something for everyone – history, architecture, culture, a gamut of excellent dining and plenty of kid-friendly tourist schmaltz. The latter edges its way down to Daytona, 'the most famous beach in the world,' a proud party king, ever at the ready to whip off his shirt, down a beer with a shot of tequila and get all revved up for some r-r-r-racing: NASCAR, that is.

When to Go
Daytona Beach

Mar & Apr ...or not to go. Spring break: boozed-up college students galore, especially in Daytona Beach.

Jun–Sep High season; temps range from balmy to sweltering.

Nov–Feb Cooler weather brings price fluctuations; you may have miles of coastline to yourself.

GEORGIA

St Mary's River
St Marys

Fernandina Beach ①
Amelia Island

301
95
17
A1A
A1A

Nassau Sound

Fort George Island Cultural State Park
Big Talbot & Little Talbot Island State Parks

Kent
94
23
301
23
301
1
295

Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve

Jacksonville

Mayport
Atlantic Beach
Neptune Beach
Jacksonville Beach
Ponte Vedra Beach
③ **Jacksonville Area Beaches**

Macclenny
Baldwin
10
10
90
228
90
10
95
90
202
A1A

ATLANTIC OCEAN

121
301
218
Middleburg
21
17
13
1
Guana River State Park

Lake Butler
100
Starke
16
Green Cove Springs
16
② **St Augustine**
207
St Augustine Beach
Anastasia Island

18
315
St Johns River
13
Waldo
Keystone
24
Florahome
100
Elkton
Spuds
95

Gainesville ⑤
Newnans Lake
21
Hawthorne
19
20
Palatka
Hastings
East Palatka
100
A1A
Washington Oaks Garden State Park

325
441
Micanopy
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park
310
Fort Gates Ferry
Crescent Lake
1
Bunnell
Flagler Beach

⑥ **Poe Springs** (22mi); High Springs (20mi); Ichetucknee Spring State Park (40mi)
Orange Lake
Island Grove
Citra
315
Salt Springs
Crescent City
17
Lake George
11
1

Silver Springs
301
75
Juniper Springs ⑥
Pierson
De Leon Springs State Recreation Area
40
Ormond Beach

Troy Springs (70mi)
27
40
Ocala
40
Ocala National Forest ④
Astor
St Johns River
⑥ **De Leon Springs**
92
⑦ **Daytona Beach**
Port Orange
A1A
New Smyrna Beach

200
Belleview
25
42
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge
DeLand
44

Northeast Florida Highlights

① Relaxing on the porch of a Victorian B&B on Amelia Island's postcard-pretty **Fernandina Beach** (p353).

② Exploring the unique Spanish-colonial architecture, fascinating museums and history in **St Augustine** (p335), America's oldest city.

③ Discovering how city bravado and beachside mellow coexist at the **Jacksonville area beaches** (p351).

④ Hiking and camping through pristine, wildlife-dense **Ocala National Forest** (p361).

⑤ Rocking out in **Gainesville** (p362), home of Florida's largest university, funky young thangs, cheap eats and cool bars.

⑥ Marveling at the cool azure waters of **Poe Springs** (p367), **De Leon Springs** (p359) and **Juniper Springs** (p361).

⑦ Driving along 'the world's most famous beach' then catching some NASCAR and downing some beer at **Daytona Beach** (p327).