Northeast Florida

POP 1.18 MILLION

Includes ➡

Best Places to Eat

➡ Southern Charm Kitchen (p380)

➡ Present Moment Cafe (p355)

➡ Dragonfly (p380)

➡ Bearded Pig BBQ (p359)

➡ Cress (p374)

Best Places to Sleep

➡ Addison (p367)

➡ At Journey's End (p354)

➡ Hotel Palms (p364)

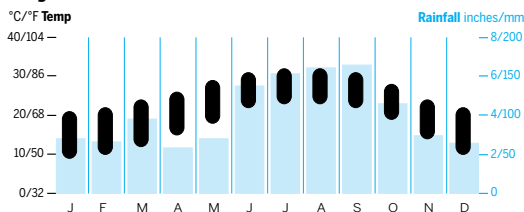➡ Grady House Bed & Breakfast (p382)

➡ Jaybird's Inn (p354)

Why Go?

The northeast corner of Florida is a jumble of farmland, forests and pasture, urban sprawl and college towns, built-up beaches and bucolic sea islands. You'll find spots like Amelia Island – a natural escape for the country-club crowd – a mere hour's drive north from Jacksonville, one of the most spread out, sprawling cities in the country. Hit the road for a little more and you're in Gainesville, peppered with fair-trade coffee shops and craft cocktail bars (and, to be fair, a raucous fraternity-friendly party scene).

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. Further south, you'll find odd-duck antique-laden small towns and (hey, it's Florida) more miles of soft, sandy beach.

When to Go
Daytona Beach

Nov–Feb Discounted hotel rates in St Augustine, Amelia Island and the Jacksonville area beaches.

Mar & Apr Spring break brings college students, who become a noticeably loud presence in area beaches.

Jun–Aug Summer can be sweltering, but it's much quieter in Gainesville, as many students leave campus.

Map labels

GEORGIA

St Mary's River
St Marys
Fernandina Beach
1 **Amelia Island**

95
17
301

A1A

A1A

Kent
94
23
301
1
295
Fort George Island Cultural State Park

Nassau Sound
Big Talbot & Little Talbot Island State Parks

23
301
Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve

Mayport
Jacksonville
3
Atlantic Beach
Neptune Beach
Jacksonville Beach
Ponte Vedra Beach

Macclenny
Baldwin
10
10
90
202

90

228

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

121
301
218
Middleburg
21
17
13
1

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

18
315
Waldo
Keystone
Florahome
100
17
13
Elkton
Spuds
95
24
21
Gainesville
5
Newnans Lake
20
Palatka
Hastings
East Palatka
100

Hawthorne
325
441
Micanopy
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park
310
19
Fort Gates Ferry
20
Bunnell
1
Washington Oaks Garden State Park

A1A

Orange Lake
Island Grove
315
Salt Springs
Crescent City
Crescent Lake
Flagler Beach

Poe Springs (22mi); High Springs (20mi); Ichetucknee Spring State Park (40mi)
Orange Lake
Citra
301
11

75
Silver Springs
Juniper Springs
Lake George
Pierson
17
40
95
Ormond Beach

Troy Springs (70mi)
27
40
Ocala
40
Barberville
De Leon Springs State Recreation Area
92
1
Daytona Beach

200
Belleview
Ocala National Forest
4
Astor
De Leon Springs
6
Port Orange

25
42
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge
A1A
New Smyrna Beach
44
DeLand
7 **Cassadaga**

Ocklawaha River

St Johns River

N 0 ————— 40 km
0 ————— 20 miles

Northeast Florida Highlights

1 **Amelia Island** (p365) Kayaking into the waterways that surround this pretty barrier island.

2 **St Augustine** (p348) Exploring Spanish-colonial architecture, fascinating museums and centuries of history in America's oldest city.

3 **Jacksonville** (p358) Discovering more culture and quirkiness than you may expect in Florida's biggest city.

4 **Ocala National Forest** (p376) Hiking, canoeing and camping your way through this pristine, wildlife-dense forest.

5 **Gainesville** (p377) Rocking out in the home of Florida's largest university; cheap eats and cool bars.

6 **De Leon Springs State Park** (p373) Marveling at the cool azure waters.

7 **Cassadaga** (p371) Having your fortune read and your life's purpose re-aligned in this spiritualist camp-cum-small town.