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**Get Hooked on Florida’s Favorite Pastime on Florida’s Historic Coast**

***Fishing tournament season kicks off this week - fishing on the fresh and saltwater fishing grounds at St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and The Beaches.***

St. Augustine, Fla. (April 17, 2024) – Spend a leisurely day casting a line into the surf with toes in the sand or wrestling a sport fish out of the depths of the Atlantic Ocean, it’s easy to understand why [fishing](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/things-to-do/outdoor/fishing/) is Florida’s favorite pastime. And there’s no better place than St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and The Beaches, where there’s a myriad of backwater honey holes, guided charters, challenging tournaments, and passionate fishing experts.

Saltwater fishing is king here—kingfish, that is. St. Augustine is home to the Southern Kingfish Association, which sanctions more than 100 tournaments throughout the Southeast. The ocean waters are also home to blackfin tuna, tarpon, flounder, wahoo, mahi mahi, sailfish, cobia, and king mackerel. Hop on board one of [Sea Love Charters'](https://sealovefishing.com/) public trips for a deep-water adventure or charter a fishing boat from the [Conch House Marina](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/the-conch-house-marina-resort/) or the Nix Boat Yard Road Marina.

The ever-popular fishing tournaments are on. Put your line to the If you want to put a little more on the line, enter one of the many tournaments hosted on Florida’s Historic Coast. The [Red Fish Bash](https://www.acgfa.com/our-tournaments/backwater-challenge/) , which kicks off this week, April 19th and 20th, awards the angler with the biggest redfish catch. Kingfish tournaments lure in large crowds of fishermen and fisherwomen after big fish and even bigger cash prizes. The [Ancient City Game Fish Association](https://www.acgfa.com/our-tournaments/) hosts the [Kingfish Challenge](https://www.acgfa.com/our-tournaments/kingfish-challenge/) on June 28th and 29th, while [St. Augustine Kingfish Mayhem](https://www.meatmayhemtournaments.com/event/st-augustine-kingfish-mayhem-2022/) kicks off on May 30th, with the [Old School Kingfish Tournament](https://www.oldschoolkingfish.com/) following on June 8th.

Go from the big water to the backwater with any number of guided fishing charters that explore the marshes, creeks, and bays that vein Florida’s Historic Coast. The area is known for its local redfish, as well as flounder, tarpon, black drum, and speckled sea trout. The aptly named [Drum Man Charters](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/drum-man-charters/) and [Fishardy Charters](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/fishardy-charters/) can navigate St. Augustine’s smaller waters and venture 30 miles offshore, while First Coast Inshore Fishing, Chips Coastal Charters, and Prime Time Charters specialize in Ponte Vedra’s inland waterways.

Bringing your own boat? Get bait, gear, hot local tips, and tie-up overnight at [Devil’s Elbow Fishing Resort](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/devils-elbow-fishing-resort/) or [Genung’s Fish Camp](https://genungsfishcamp.com/).

Along Florida’s Historic Coasts 42 miles of pristine beaches, Surf fishing at sunrise is a must-do. Cast past the waves during the warm summer months and land speckled sea trout, pompano, or jack crevalle. [Vilano Beach](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/beaches/vilano-beach/), [St. Augustine Beach](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/beaches/st-augustine-beach/), [Crescent Beach](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/beaches/crescent-beach/), Matanzas Inlet, and [South Ponte Vedra Beach Recreation Area](https://pontevedranaturally.com/surf-fishing/) are all perfect places to surf cast – just remember to be respectful of other beach-goers!

Anglers also have tremendous fun fishing from the area’s piers and bridges. Most well-known is the [St. Johns County Ocean Pier](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/st-johns-county-ocean-pier-park-visitor-information-center/) on [St. Augustine Beach](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/beaches/st-augustine-beach/). The $6 fee to fish includes a fishing license! There are also [Lighthouse Park](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/lighthouse-park/) on Anastasia Island, the Vilano Beach Pier and [Usina Boat Ramp Fishing Pier](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/usina-boat-ramp/) on Vilano Beach, [Vaill Point Park](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/vaill-point-park/) in St. Augustine South, and the Rose of Sharon Pier just north of the Bridge of Lions. Give bridge fishing a try at the Matanzas Inlet Bridge on A1A or the May Street Bridge.

Chart your own course by renting a kayak or paddleboard and fishing the calmer Intracoastal Waterway. Salt Run is a protected saltwater enclave that runs past the St. Augustine Lighthouse and into [Anastasia State Park](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/directory/anastasia-state-park-parks-nature-trails/), where they rent kayaks and paddleboards and have public, non-motorized boat access. Or travel further south and launch on the Intracoastal access at Matanzas Inlet.

Having fun on the water is key, but remember, these waters are very sensitive ecosystems that can easily be damaged. Help preserve the natural environment for future generations by following a few simple rules. Don’t discard any fishing materials or refuse in the water; discard used fishing line in designated receptacles, where it can be safely recycled; stay off the dunes; and boat at safe speeds.

Fishing, fresh air, and the water are sure to stoke the appetite. Grab some delicious bites packaged to enjoy in the great outdoors from [Kaiser’s Deli](https://www.facebook.com/kaisersdeliandmarket/) on Anastasia Island, the [Floating Food Company](https://www.floatingfoodcompany.com/#7) on Vilano Beach, [Stir It Up](https://stiritupstaugustine.com/) on St. Augustine Beach, or [Beach Diner](https://beachdiner.com/) in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Fishing is just the beginning of the adventure on Florida’s Historic Coast. Use the trip planner at [FloridasHistoricCoast.com](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/) to curate the perfect active vacation.

**Located midway between Daytona Beach and Jacksonville**, Florida's Historic Coast includes historic St. Augustine, the outstanding golf and seaside elegance of Ponte Vedra, the rural beauty of Hastings, Elkton, St. Johns, and 42 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches. Visitor Information Centers are located at 10 Castillo Drive, St. Augustine; 200 Solana Rd. Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach: and at the St. Johns County Beach Pier Park, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach.

For advance travel information, call 1.800.653.2489 or go to the Visitors and Convention Bureau website at [www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com](http://www.floridashistoriccoast.com/). Check us out on social media Instagram @FloridasHistoricCoast; @ViajaStAugustine,  [Facebook.com/OfficialStAugustine](https://www.facebook.com/officialstaugustine/), and [Facebook.com/ViajaStAugustine](http://facebook.com/ViajaStAugustine) and Twitter @FlHistoricCoast

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