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**ST. AUGUSTINE
PONTE VEDRA**
FLORIDA'S HISTORIC COAST®

Florida's Historic Coast Continues to Hit the Sweet Spot Throughout the Year

Indulge in the taste and history of chocolate, wine, spirits, beer, and delectable tour experiences.

St. Augustine, Fla. (February 19, 2025) – Valentine's Day has gone but you can continue celebrating everything sweet and indulgent with a trip to Florida's Historic Coast year-round. Chocolate was first tasted in North America by the residents of St. Augustine, where newly discovered treats from Central and South America were first found. In fact, the first written record of the word chocolate in North American history was on a cargo list from a ship porting in St. Augustine in 1641.

[“Sweet Beginnings: Unwrapping St. Augustine's Chocolate Legacy,”](#) will be on display at the Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum through March 31, 2025. This engaging exhibit is funded by a Forrest E. Mars, Jr. Chocolate History Grant. Through an ArcGIS story map and a virtual tour, visitors can trace the roots of chocolate in the Nation's Oldest City.



Since 1967, the Whetstone family has been crafting chocolates savored by residents and visitors to Florida's Historic Coast. What began as a young couple's kitchen pastime has become [Whetstone Chocolates](#), a multi-generational business. Its factory, located in downtown St. Augustine, still creates confectionaries from the finest cacao beans, offering daily tours where patrons can see the chocolate-making process, enjoy samples, and purchase treats directly from the factory shop.

For a full chocolate experience, plan to visit [Claude's Chocolates](#), which specializes in small-batch bonbons and truffles made with Belgian chocolate; [Peterbrooke Chocolatier](#), which uses Old World European techniques to craft classically American treats; and Crème de la Cocoa, which offers chocolates, French macarons, cakes, and more. For a guided tour, take [St. Augustine Experiences'](#) Not Just a Chocolate Tour, which features candy shops, bakeries, coffee, and history.



For those with a more grown-up palate, try sweetness with an adult bite with hand-crafted bourbon and rum tastings at the award-winning [St. Augustine Distillery](#). Take the behind-the-scenes tour or sign up for an in-depth tasting course. Wines vinted by the [San Sebastian Winery](#) are uniquely made with muscadine grapes, known for their juicy flavor. At the end of the free tour, sample their wines, sherry, and port. Enjoy local brews at [Ancient City Brewing's Taproom](#) on the Plaza where guests enjoy Matanzas River Red Ale, Ponce's Pale Ale, Anastasia Island

Style IPA, and other signature brews. Go with a pro and explore the town's sweetest bites and sips with a luxury foodie tour from [The Tasting Tours](#).

Use the new and improved [Trip Planner](#) to craft a tantalizing itinerary. It's packed with useful information and an interactive mapping feature.

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. Check us out on social media Instagram @FloridasHistoricCoast; @ViajaStAugustine, Facebook.com/OfficialStAugustine, and Facebook.com/ViajaStAugustine and Twitter @FIHistoricCoast