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**There is Culture Around Every Corner**

***A Diverse Array of Peoples Influence Today’s Visitors’ Experience on Florida’s Historic Coast***

**ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla.** – Timucuan. Spanish. French. British. African. Minorcan. Seminole. Swiss. In its 450-year history, Florida’s Historic Coast has been home to an especially diverse array of peoples – and they’ve all left their mark here. Throughout the year, visitors can explore the many cultures of the greater St. Augustine area through engaging festivals, authentic restaurants, myriad performances and historic streets layered with stories to tell new explorers.

Begin your visit to the area at the [The St. Augustine & St. Johns County Visitor Information Center](http://www.ci.st-augustine.fl.us/sites/vicparking/index.cfm). The center offers expert advice and a world-class exhibit center with rotating cultural exhibits. While planning your time in the destination, you’re encouraged to learn more about the many people who have lived here in the past through engaging and interactive exhibits.

A variety of festivals transport visitors to another time. The annual [Minorcan Heritage Celebration](http://minorcanfamily.com/MH.html), held at the historic Llambias House in the spring, celebrates the group’s 18th century arrival in St. Augustine through singing, dancing, displays and storytelling. In the fall, the annual [Greek Festival](http://www.stauggreekfest.com/) offers a delicious assortment of Greek foods, pastries, beverages, live entertainment and dancing by beautifully costumed Greek dance troupes. Other heritage groups hold festivals throughout the year.

Reenactments are another great way to experience cultures of the past. At [Ponce de Leon’s Fountain of Youth Archeological Park](http://www.fountainofyouthflorida.com/), visitors stroll through a replica Timucuan Village. Recently added was a historically correct anoti, a large Timucuan family house. Living history interpreters show visitors what day-to-day life was like in the village, how the Timucua hunted, fished, made fine pottery and shell tools. Archeologists are often onsite as well, and visitors may come across an archeological dig in process. You never know what is going to be uncovered.

Walk the charming streets of St. Augustine and you are taken back to the days when the British, Spanish and others ruled and developed the city. It’s woven in the cobblestone streets and beautiful architecture. Stop in any number of restaurants during your journey to experience the authentic flavors of these countries as well. [The Tasting Room](http://www.tastetapas.com/) specializes in creating innovative cuisine influenced by Spanish tradition for a taste of Spain. Dine at [The Columbia](http://www.columbiarestaurant.com/st_augustine.asp), a Spanish restaurant that has thrived in the St. Augustine historic district for years and offers the authentic flavors of Spain. Taste a signature Minorcan dish at [Osteen’s Restaurant](http://www.osteensrestaurant.com/) — clam chowder made with spicy St. Augustine datil peppers. British pubs are also a favorite of locals and visitors alike. For a taste of the melting pot influencing today’s most popular chefs, visit the [Annual Taste of St. Augustine Festival](http://www.epicbh.org/tasteofstaugustine.html) held at the St. Augustine Amphitheater each spring.

Step inside the [The Lightner Museum](http://www.lightnermuseum.org/), the former Hotel Alcazar, built in the Spanish Renaissance style, where relics of America's Gilded Age are elegantly exhibited on the museum's three floors. Museum Curator Barry Myers conducts a tour on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. giving guests an opportunity to learn about the history of the building and to explore more deeply the museum’s collections.

[Uptown Saturday Night](http://www.historiccoastculture.com/event/uptown-saturday-night) offers visitors a glimpse into the cultures that influence today’s artisans. On the last Saturday of each month, guests experience live music, refreshments, new exhibits, book signings and much more at the galleries, antique stores and unique shops on St. Augustine’s San Marco Avenue between Ripley’s Museum and the Mission Nombre de Dios.

There is “Culture Around Every Corner.” For more information about arts, culture and heritage on Florida’s Historic Coast, visit [www.historiccoastculture.com](http://www.historiccoastculture.com/many-cultures?utm_source=Media_List&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Many_Cultures&utm_campaign=Press%20Release), or call (904) 808-7330.

**About St. Johns Cultural Council**The St. Johns Cultural Council is a 501 c 3 not-for-profit agency. Under agreement with the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, the SJCC provides arts, culture and heritage tourism destination marketing services to the county’s Tourist Development Council (TDC). Funding for marketing services comes from a portion of the county’s bed tax. For more information, call (904) 808-7330 or visit [www.stjohnsculture.com](http://www.stjohnsculture.com).

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