



Discover the Gilded Age: The Lightner Museum & More



DAY 1

St. Augustine is rich in history, and in the late 1800s, “rich” was the operative word. This little town became the premier resort destination for the well-to-do – and it all began in 1883 with an auspicious visit by Henry Morrison Flagler, John D. Rockefeller’s partner in founding Standard Oil. Stroll back in time as you explore the historic Lightner Museum, former Ponce de Leon Hotel and more with this guide to the Gilded Age in St. Augustine. We’ve included suggestions for drinking, dining, and discovering your way through an opulent era of lavish architecture and conspicuous luxury.

MORNING

Breakfast and Flagler Legacy Tour

The Blue Hen Café

Quaint and quirky comfort food with options like blue crab quiche, corned beef hash and eggs, chicken biscuits, and more.

117 M L King Ave, St. Augustine, FL

(904) 217-3777 | <https://www.visitstaugustine.com/restaurant/blue-hen>

Flagler Legacy Tour

Built by Henry M. Flagler at the height of the Gilded Age, and one of the most exclusive resorts of its day, Historic Tours of the former Hotel Ponce de Leon highlight the Spanish Renaissance architectural heritage of what is now Flagler College.

59 St. George Street, St. Augustine, FL

(904) 823-3378 | <https://legacy.flagler.edu/pages/tours>

AFTERNOON

Lunch and Explore Downtown and Flagler’s Churches

The Floridian

Local, seasonal and sustainable ingredients in a comfortable and casual atmosphere. Taste southern comfort food and vibrant, creative dishes with many vegetarian options.

72 Spanish Street, St. Augustine, FL

(904) 829-0655 | <http://www.thefloridianstaug.com/>

Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine

As you explore downtown, visit the beautifully adorned Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine. America's first parish and the oldest Catholic Church in the city. Explore this exquisite building and view the Spanish-inspired architecture.

38 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine, FL
(904) 824-2806 | <http://thefirstparish.org/>

Memorial Presbyterian Church

Henry Flagler had a hand at constructing many of the oldest churches in St. Augustine, and this was dedicated to his daughter. Visit the Memorial Presbyterian Church, where Flagler and his family were laid to rest.

32 Sevilla Street, St. Augustine, FL
(904) 829-6451 | <http://memorialpcusa.org/>

Sweet Eats and Must-Sees

The Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops

- Gourmet, handmade all-natural ice pops in over 450 flavors.
- (904) 217-7853 | 70 St. George St. & 48 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL
<https://www.thehyppo.com/>

Plaza de La Constitución

- The oldest public park in the U.S.
Weekly concerts June 1 – August 31 from 7-9pm.
- (904) 825-1000 | 170 St. George St., St. Augustine, FL
<https://www.visitstaugustine.com/venue/plaza-de-la-constitucion>

EVENING

Dinner and Exploring

The Ice Plant Bar

For a local dining experience straight out of the Gilded Age, try the Ice Plant. The Ice Plant was Florida's first power and ice plant since 1907 which used to make 125 tons of ice for local fishing and shrimping industries. Smaller quantities were sold to residents until freezers and refrigerators became available in the 1950s. Today, the restaurant serves seasonal cocktails and dishes with the original bridge crane suspended over the bar.

110 Riberia Street, St. Augustine, FL
(904) 829-6553 | <https://iceplantbar.com/>

Tour the St. Augustine Distillery

Visit the museum and experience a free guided tour.

Located within a beautifully restored ice plant from the turn-of-the-century, St. Augustine Distillery's mission is simple: Educate and inspire guests about local, handcrafted, award-winning rum, whiskey bourbon, gin, and vodka.

112 Riberia Street, St. Augustine, FL
(904) 825-4962 | <https://www.staugustinedistillery.com/>

DAY 2

MORNING

Breakfast and Museum Tour

La Herencia Café

Dine in this small Cuban-American restaurant in the heart of historic downtown St. Augustine, serving Cuban food from family recipes and breakfast all day.

4 Aviles Street, St. Augustine, 32084

(904) 829-9487 | <https://www.facebook.com/La-Herencia-Cafe-377765463115>

Tour the Lightner Museum

A monument to the lavishness of the Gilded Age, the Lightner Museum features three floors of artifacts from the 19th and 20th centuries, including exquisite Victorian clothing and art, stained Tiffany glass, and paintings and oddities from around the world.

75 King Street, St. Augustine, FL

(904) 824-2874 | <https://lightnermuseum.org/>

AFTERNOON

Lunch and Art Galleries

Café Alcazar in the Lightner

Formerly Henry Flagler's Alcazar Hotel, which closed in 1932. The indoor pool, now the location of Café Alcazar, was the largest in the world in its time. At certain times, the pool was drained, and elaborate gardens were installed on the pool's floor.

25 Granada Street, St Augustine, FL

(904) 825-9948 | <https://www.thealcazarcafe.com/cafe-alcazar/>

Explore Aviles Street And King Street Art Galleries

Explore Aviles Street, now one of the area's most diverse arts districts, filled with galleries and restaurants. It was paved with bricks so that the shoes of ladies from New York would not be soiled walking through muddy streets.

<https://www.historiccoastculture.com/st-augustine-art-galleries>





EVENING

Dinner and Live Music

Costa Brava in the Casa Monica Hotel

Take a culinary journey along the Mediterranean at Costa Brava. A sumptuous meze-style menu features fresh and flavorful coastal cuisine, perfect to share with family and friends.

95 Cordova Street, St. Augustine, FL

(904) 827-1888 | <https://www.kesslercollection.com/casa-monica/>

Henry Flagler purchased the hotel in 1887, including all fixtures, furnishings, silver, hardware, linen, bedding, parlor, hall, dining room, and kitchen furnishings and all other chattels.

Preserved Restaurant

Enjoy upscale, locally-sourced Southern cuisine in the historic Lincolnville neighborhood. The restaurant is located in the beautifully preserved Jefferson House, previously occupied by Thomas Jefferson's great-granddaughter in the 1890s.

102 Bridge Street, St. Augustine, FL

(904) 679-4940 | <https://striverestaurant.com/preserved-restaurant/>

The Colonial Quarter

Enjoy live music each weekend under the Colonial Oak at The Colonial Quarter. The stage area is nestled in a collection of replica buildings of St. Augustine's 17th Century Spanish and 18th Century British rule, and a restored 1740 colonial home, the De Mes-Sanchez House.

43 St. George Street, St. Augustine, FL

(888) 991-0933 | <https://www.colonialquarter.com/music/>

MORE TO SEE

Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

Visitors to St. Augustine, such as Flagler's distinguished guests, sometimes golfed on the lawn of the Castillo. Tour the grounds of the 17th century Spanish fort, imagining its elegant use in the Gilded Age as a tourism destination for America's Elite.

1 S Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, FL

(904) 829-6506 | <https://www.nps.gov/casa/index.htm>

Explore more itineraries at <https://www.historiccoastculture.com/travel-itineraries/>

