

# Tour Jacksonville FL

## America's Best Value City



Photo by Ryan Ketterman for Visit Jacksonville



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# Tour Summary

Jacksonville is a multi-faceted city. Since it's "Best Value Destination" designation, people are discovering the attractions that this underrated city has to offer. There are miles of sandy beaches, historically significant sites, zoo and natural attractions, ecological areas, river cruises, sports, shopping, art galleries and so much more. This tour is going to divide the city's attractions into its different types and take you there with words and photos.

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# Jacksonville: River City



Photo by Ryan Ketterman for Visit Jacksonville



Jacksonville is a multi-faceted city. Recently top-travel sites are recognizing its merits. People are discovering the attractions that this underrated city has to offer, such as miles of sandy beaches, historically significant sites, zoo and natural attractions, ecological areas, river cruises, sports, shopping, art galleries and so much more.

I'm Kathleen Walls, your host for this tour and a resident of the Jacksonville metro area.



We're going to start in the downtown area, the heart of Jacksonville. Beginning at The Landing, a festive marketplace on the river with shops, eateries and entertainment, we are going to visit some amazing places.



We'll range from historic churches to state-of-the-art football fields. Remember that in Jacksonville, the Jaguars are King. There are theaters, museums and kid-friendly



places here. I'll lead you through a secret underground tunnel and some foodie hotspots in case you are hungry.



We're going to get a bit of culture and visit some art galleries and an unusual marketplace. Lots of our spots are kid friendly and pet friendly. Jax is a friendly town. Don't be surprised if folks wave to you.



African Americans played a part in Jacksonville history and we're going to see the historic LaVilla District with an historic theater and an unusual house museum.



After we have trekked all over downtown we head across the river to the Southside. I'll share some tips on easy transportation around Jacksonville later.



On the Southside, we'll visit The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) and stroll the Southbank Riverwalk. From the Riverwalk, we can see one tree that witnessed 250 years of Jacksonville history, then enjoy a record-breaking fountain.



Next, we'll scoot back over the St. Johns and head north to visit the zoo. Naturally it has some jaguars.



From wildlife to scenic, we'll drive east towards the beaches. Jacksonville has several beaches, not just one. Each is a little different, some bustling while others are quiet and peaceful.



There is more to the beaches than just water and sand. There is history. We'll visit an antebellum plantation once owned by an African American woman and the fort where Jacksonville's European history began.





Next we'll visit a less-known section of Jacksonville called Mandarin. It's a pretty spot along the river near the St. Johns County line. There are two waterfront parks and museums that tell about the area's agricultural history. By now you'll see that Jacksonville really is America's largest city, in terms of area.



There are're several transportation possibilities. One way is the free Skyway on weekdays only. It opened in 1987 with a starter line from main station at the Landing to the Convention Center. Today there are eight stations and the Skyway runs about 5,000 trips per day. This sure beats walking, especially as Saint Johns River is the state's biggest river.



Another option will cost a fee but can be an attraction in itself. The River Taxi not only runs across the river but now offers several tours including a Zoo Tour, a Sunset Cruise with musicians, and a MOSH History and Science Tour. Seeing Jacksonville from the river is a whole new view.

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