



PROVIDENT  TRAVEL

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA & GEORGIA'S GOLDEN ISLES

FEBRUARY 27–MARCH 3, 2020

Let's escape the cold winter for warm and sunny Florida and Georgia, where the daytime temperatures average 72 degrees! This comfortable trip offers plenty of fascinating sightseeing and beautiful coastal scenery. You'll spend two nights in a lovely oceanfront hotel in historic St. Augustine, Florida. St. Augustine is the oldest successful European settlement in the United States, and we'll visit some of its most popular sites: the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, the oldest home, the oldest general store, and the Lighthouse Maritime Museum. Spend two days in the Golden Isles—take a tram tour of St. Simons Island and, on Jekyll Island, you'll tour the homes of the rich and famous who made this their private club in the late 1800s. We'll dine in their original clubhouse, and we'll also visit the interesting Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Experience all this and more along the delightful Southeast coast!

St. Simons Island, Georgia

ITINERARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27: We travel south for warmer temperatures and more sunshine. A delicious luncheon buffet is included in Knoxville, TN. We overnight at the Hampton Inn in Columbia, SC. (L)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28: This afternoon, we arrive in St. Augustine and begin our adventure at the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park—the original site of the nation's oldest city—located in the area explored by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513. The park has 15 beautiful waterfront acres with a number of fascinating attractions, including its centerpiece—the Spring House—encompassing the original spring reputed to be Ponce de Leon's "Spring of Eternal Hope." Drink from the legendary waters and see if you are granted the secrets to eternal youth. The park is also a living history museum, where costumed interpreters play the parts of Native Americans, Spanish conquistadors, missionaries, and blacksmiths from the 1500s. The waterfront area, with colorful peacocks and shady live oak trees, is a great place to stroll. Our home for the next two nights is the fine Hampton Inn & Suites St. Augustine—Vilano Beach. This lovely, newly remodeled beachfront hotel is just steps away from attractions, restaurants, and shopping. Tonight, gather with fellow travelers for a Welcome to St. Augustine Dinner! (B&D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29: After an included breakfast, we take an interesting private trolley tour of St. Augustine. Colonial America began here 55 years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock! The history here is amazing, and your knowledgeable and humorous guides explain it to you in fascinating detail. Sites include the Old Jail, City Gates (dating to 1808), Colonial Quarter, St. George Street, historic churches, the Oldest House, and Castillo de San Marcos (a fortress built by the Spanish in the late 1600s). Along the way, you'll see a number of museums, a winery, a distillery, and enjoy wonderful bay views. Later, you'll have free time on St. George Street, where you'll find dozens of shops and dining spots. This afternoon, you have "hop on, hop off" tickets for the trolley, and entrance tickets to the Oldest House and the Oldest Store, a wonderful reminder of the small town general store. (B)

SUNDAY, MARCH 1: Breakfast is included at your hotel. After, we visit the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. Its mission is to discover, preserve, present, and keep alive the stories of the Nation's Oldest Port. A number of lighthouses have been built in this area since the 1500s. The current lighthouse was restored in the 1980s. We'll

tour the Lighthouse and Lighthouse Keeper's House, and stroll the picturesque grounds. You can also climb to the top for spectacular views of the ocean and city! This afternoon, a short drive brings us to the Golden Isles of Georgia. On your narrated trolley tour of St. Simons Island, you'll learn the history of the area and see dozens of points of interest, including Fort Frederica (built by the British in 1734), St. Simons Island Lighthouse (which played a part in the Civil War), and Bloody Marsh (the site of a 1742 battle between the Spanish and British). Christ Church, Frederica is the 3rd oldest Episcopal church in the U.S. A walking tour of the lovely church and grounds is included. We overnight at the comfortable Home 2 Suites by Hilton. (B)

MONDAY, MARCH 2: Today, we visit Jekyll Island. We start at the fantastic new Mosaic—the Jekyll Island Museum, where stunning visuals and audio tell the story of this magical island. The Jekyll Island Historic District was once the site of the famous Jekyll Island Club, formed in 1886 by some of the world's wealthiest families, including the Morgans, Rockefellers and Vanderbilts. The families built elaborate "summer cottages" here, as well as a magnificent clubhouse. It is reputed that in the early 1900s, a quarter of the world's wealthy were members. The Historic District guided tram tour is a great way to envision the island during the height of its millionaire club past. The guides describe the daily operations of the island during the Jekyll Club Era, and you'll learn how conversations at the club impacted the direction of our country. You'll also go inside a few selected cottages and the Faith Chapel. Your included luncheon in the beautifully restored, original clubhouse is a special treat. Later, we have a fascinating guided tour at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of sea turtles, as well as protection of the environment. It is also a hospital for ill or injured sea turtles. A member of the educational staff will guide us through the Learning Center and the Rehabilitation Hospital. You'll also be able to "Meet the Sea Turtle Patients." Late this afternoon, we ride to Columbia, SC and the Hampton Inn. (B&L)

TUESDAY, MARCH 3: After an included breakfast, we return home with fond memories of a warm and interesting winter vacation. (B)

Included Meals: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner

HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUSIONS

- Round-trip transportation via deluxe motorcoach
- Five nights accommodations
- Eight meals: five breakfasts, two lunches, one dinner
- All sightseeing, as mentioned
- All taxes and gratuities on included features
- Baggage handling
- Services of a professional Tour Director

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

- Blue Ash Nature Park
- Kohl's—Tylersville Road
- 741 Center
- Mt. Pleasant Village and Medical Center
- Springdale Rec Center
- Clermont Senior Services: Miami Township & Hampton Inn Eastgate
- Anderson Senior Center (Forestville Baptist Church)
- Campbell County Senior Center (Furniture Fair—Cold Springs, KY)

PROVIDENT TRAVEL PRICE*

Double.....	\$1,299
Single	\$1,699
Triple/Quad	\$1,199

DEPOSIT: \$150 per person, due with reservations

FINAL PAYMENT: Due December 19, 2019

CANCELLATION:

12/20/19—Departure100% of Package Price

We recommend travel protection. Inquire at time of booking for options and pricing.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFO:

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