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

The More... The Merrier! It is time to reconnect with the familia!

St. Augustine, Florida (February 2017) –As we begin a new year, it's not too early for, parents to look at their calendars to consider how to convert their week off from school into a fun-filled, memorable Spring Break vacation for the family. Not only mom, dad and kids, but abuelos, tíos y primos as well! Hispanics are a culture that prides themselves in family values. They don't travel away from their families—they travel to them and with them. The bigger the party the better! Vacations between February and April tend to be easier to not only plan, but, also gentler on the family budget! From a relaxing getaway to an outdoor adventure; culinary experience to a cultural discovery... Florida's Historic Coast's diversity will not only satisfy the tastes of the young and old, but also create powerful family bonds and memories for a lifetime!

LEARN: CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL JOURNEY

For more than 450 years, Hispanics have had a deep and positive influence on the United States. A cultural and historical journey in the oldest city in the US will transport the family back to a time where Hispanics clear-cut commitment to family, faith, hard work and perseverance helped enhance and shape today's national spirit. Visit with the family [the first Spanish settlement \(Fountain of Youth\)](#): commemorating the founding of La Florida by Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon and his legendary search for the Fountain of Youth. Archeologists have discovered that the park is the actual site of the original Spanish settlement of St. Augustine of 1565. Abuela's faith will be rejuvenated by visiting the site of the [first celebration of holy mass – Mission Nombre de Dios](#). Kids of all ages – *especially the boys* – will enjoy imagining themselves as soldiers as they step foot inside the [Castillo De San Marcos, the first and oldest masonry fortress](#) in the US. Castillo de San Marcos was built by the Spanish to protect their treasure fleets from the English and pirates. The Castillo is the oldest structure in present day St. Augustine and a national monument.

Family Benefit: When you travel with family you realize that few things are as important as the people who love you. The second most important thing is appreciation that your family is part of a larger and important community. Experiencing the destination where US Hispanic heritage was born and sharing it with your family allows everyone to understand how deep-rooted Latino culture is in this country and how the Hispanic community molded the strong soul of this nation.

Tip: Perfect opportunity for the abuelos to talk about their family roots and share experiences and stories with the family.

RELAX: DOWN TIME

It has been 500 years since Ponce de Leon first saw the magnificent beaches of St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra, but even after nearly five centuries they remain a major attraction on Florida's Historic Coast. Beauty, history and unspoiled nature combined have put [Ponte Vedra Beach](#) on CNN's list of 22 Can't Miss US Beaches and [St. Augustine Beach](#) chosen as a Top 10 Beach in the US by TripAdvisor users. Whether it's the primos and tíos having fun in the sun, a romantic walk by the seas or a day of reflection and relaxation to the accompaniment of the gentle surf for the abuelos; this is the place for best of the beach.

- **Where to stay:** For more than 80 years, the AAA Five Diamond [Ponte Vedra Inn & Club](#) has impressed visitors with superior seaside service, quality dining, a world class spa and tennis facilities. The inn offers suites with kitchenettes which are right on the beach. There are seven oceanfront swimming pools including a family pool

and adults only pool for when parents and kids need a little break. [The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa](#) is great for families too. They offer Villas with multiple bedrooms, a living room and full kitchen that can be rented for a long term. This full-service resort provides the best of all worlds, combining contemporary accommodations, an amazing selection of dining options, world-class spa and 99 holes of privileged access to championship golf, courtesy of the adjacent TPC® Sawgrass.

- **What to do:** Ponte Vedra is home to the famous [THE PLAYERS Championship Stadium course](#) and its 17th island green – a bucket list experience for golf aficionados.

Family Benefit: Take a time out. Families live in a stressful world. It's time to hit the pause button. Vacations compel people to stop and smell the roses. This way when family members return to their daily lives, batteries will be recharged and they will be ready to face the world.

Tip: Allow time to relax. Plan a loosely structured itinerary of activities that the whole family can enjoy. But agree to have some time each day to just chill

EXPLORE: OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

If you are looking for outdoor activities that can satisfy family members of every age, Florida's Historic Coast is a guaranteed thrill-seekers and family-friendly destination. Aside from the 42-miles of beaches; outdoor adventures will give everyone plenty of stories to share and remember when they return back home. The following "must conquer" activities are a must when in St. Augustine:

- Hover over alligators and crocodiles on the challenging Crocodile Crossing zip line course at St. Augustine [Alligator Farm and Zoological Park](#)
- Swim with the dolphins at [Marineland Dolphin Adventure](#)
- Reel in the big one on a guided fishing tour with [Drum Man Charters](#)
- Climb 219 stairs of the [St. Augustine Lighthouse](#) and Maritime Museum
- Soar over the city in a beautiful [1935 "model" Waco biplane](#)

Family Benefit: Traveling as a family, especially with younger ones, provides the opportunity for the "adults" to experience activities they wouldn't otherwise. The young at heart are curious by nature and ready to try new things. This characteristic will allow everyone to step out of their comfort zone and join in the fun!

Tip: Schedule activities with your family's normal routine in mind. Toddlers are generally most active in the morning, a time when grandparents are also up. Teens typically sleep late, so it's best to schedule the thing they most want to see or do in the afternoons or evening.

DISCOVER: SPRING EVENTS & FESTIVALS

With warmer days, spring flowers and green trees come four festivals to help usher in the season and get families outdoors again. Florida's Historic Coast's events celebrate everything from history to local cuisine to art and music.

Hidden away in the marshes of St. Augustine is one of the most important sites in American history: the first free, legally sanctioned Black community in the US. Experience the [Founding of Fort Mose](#) on March 18th which recreates this proclamation extending freedom to Captain Francisco Menendez, his fellow militia men and ex-slaves in 1738. Non-stop music and award-winning scrumptious barbecue all weekend long is featured at St. Augustine's Francis Field during the [Rhythm and Ribs Festival](#) (Mar 31 – Apr 2) Founded in 1995, the festival has grown from a small BBQ fest to the largest festival in St. Johns County. The [Taste of St. Augustine](#) (April 22) highlights the authentic culinary heritage and culture of the region by showcasing 30 new restaurants and established favorites. Sample local cuisine and learn about the area's diverse food culture! Finally, the [Romanza Festivale of the Arts](#) is nine days of historical, cultural, and creative events that celebrate all things St. Augustine. From April 5-14, the nation's oldest city will be jam-packed with music and dance concerts, living history events and historical tours, live theater, and much more.

Benefit: Spend time in small groups. Before you go, it's a good idea to discuss what everyone wants to do or not do on the trip and make some compromises. Dividing the group into smaller ones will give families a chance for more intimate and individualized moments.

Tip: Families who can break up into smaller groups have more to share when they see each other again, and each person gets a different view of vacationing in the same place. Mix and match the quality time with different family members. Parents can be with young kids while grandparents visit an art gallery or historical monument. Grandparents can also have a special evening with the grandchildren while parents go out for a romantic dinner.

Located midway between Daytona Beach and Jacksonville, Florida's Historic Coast includes historic St. Augustine, the outstanding golf and seaside elegance of Ponte Vedra, and 42 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches. For more information on events, activities, holiday getaway and vacation opportunities in St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches, go to the Visitors and Convention Bureau website at www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com, become a fan on Facebook (Facebook.com/ViajaSanAgustin) or Twitter (Twitter.com/ViajaSanAgustin) #NuestraHerencia #ViajaSanAgustin #FloridasHistoricCoast