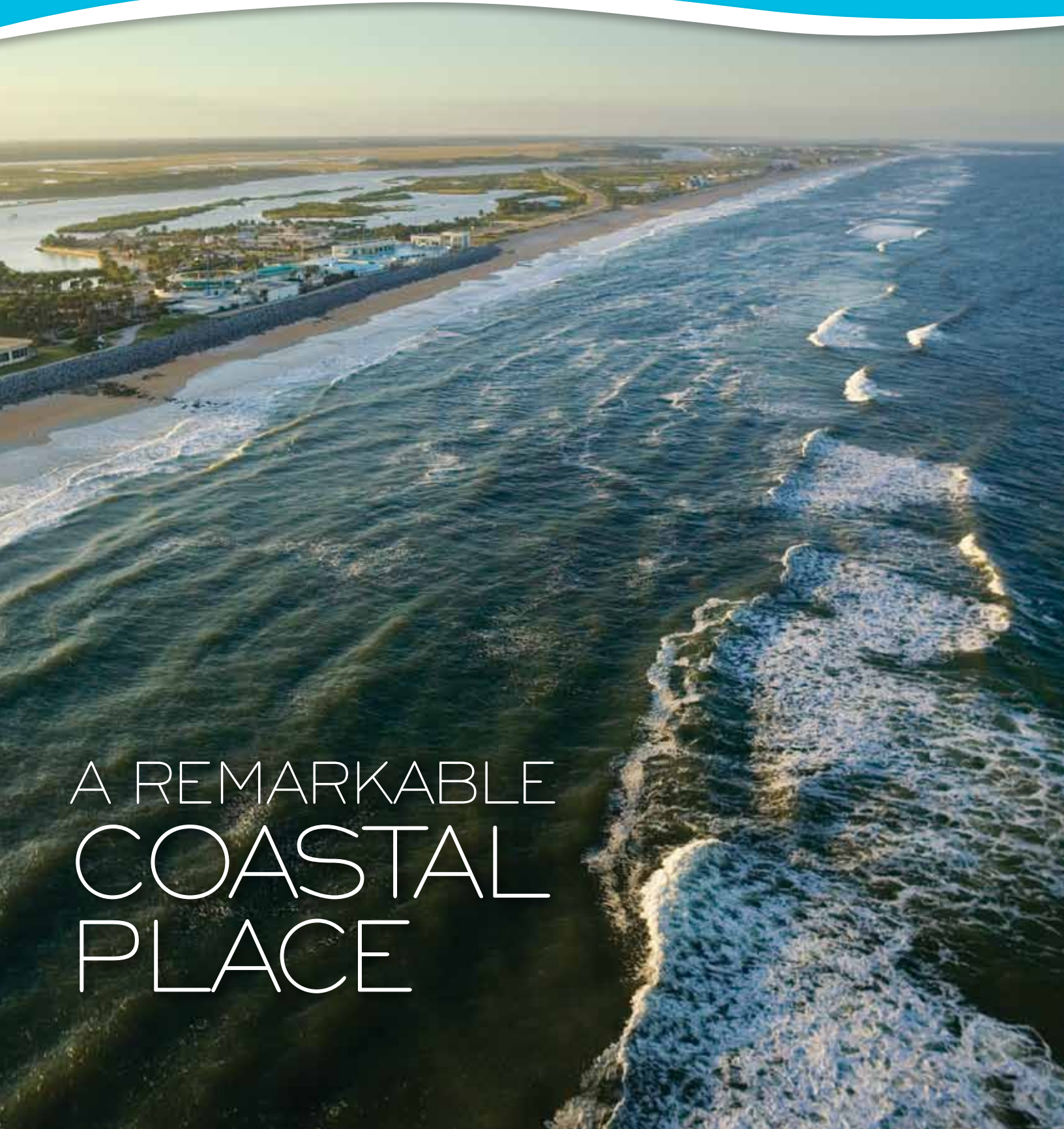


VISITORS GUIDE

THE TOWN OF
MARINELAND
FLORIDA



A REMARKABLE
COASTAL
PLACE

An Area Rich In



Fort Matanzas National Monument

HISTORY

The Town of Marineland was incorporated in 1942. This part of Northeast Florida, however, has a long and rich history that dates back some 1,400 years, when the first Native Americans began to inhabit the peninsula. Ponce de Leon claimed the area for Spain in the 16th century and established nearby St. Augustine, the oldest European settlement in the U.S. But the French weren't far behind, and the area was the scene of some of the continent's most infamous massacres. In fact, the killing of nearly 250 French Huguenots is how the town's bordering river and inlet got the name Matanzas, which is Spanish for "slaughters." Scores of famous battles and sieges followed until 1763, when Spain formally ceded Florida to Great Britain. The railroads brought tourists in the late 1800s, and the area quickly became a winter playground for wealthy Northeasterners. A handful of these socialites purchased a stretch of land south of St. Augustine to build an oceanarium that could be used to film marine life. And, in 1938, Marine Studios opened for business, and what would become the town of Marineland was born four years later.



An Area Designed



While in Marineland, your heart, body and mind will find opportunity for both peace and stimulation. Whether it's relaxing in the sun, swimming with dolphins, participating in conservation projects, kayaking through the canals, attending scientific lectures or walking in the steps of the Timucuan Indians, there is something for everyone here. Your entire family, with all of their individual interests, can find entertainment and inspiration at Marineland.

EDUCATION

Marineland is the home to the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience (a University of Florida marine research center), as well as Marineland Dolphin Adventure. Whether you're interested in the molecular biology of a lobster, the natural history of the bottlenose dolphin or the quality of the water they both live in, your mind will not be idle even as your body relaxes.

RECREATION

With miles of biking trails, dolphins to swim with, kayaking canals, walking paths and pristine beaches, the outdoor enthusiast will have something new to experience every day. Bring your own equipment or visit any of our professional outfitters and we'll set you up with everything you need. Want to try something new? Our well-trained staff can safely guide you through Marineland's gorgeous outdoor environment.

HISTORY

With years of influence by the local Native American tribes, the Spanish, the French and the British, Marineland's history is diverse and extensive. Through living history, re-enactments, natural history and your own discoveries, immerse yourself in this town's endless stories.

NATURE

Possibly the highlight of anyone's visit to Marineland, the natural jewels of the Town are what set it above and beyond the rest of Florida. Whether you are a bird watcher, a fisherman, a gardener, a whale watcher, a beach comber or a star gazer, the natural beauty of the area cannot be topped.

SCIENCE

In a town so rich in natural beauty and historic riches, it only makes sense that Marineland is a destination for people who long to study these very qualities. While you're here, mingle with the scientists who study the whales and dolphins of the area, trying to learn their behavior patterns and determine their health. Maybe you'll even be able to lend a hand. Tour the University and discover what is happening on the cutting edge of marine bioscience. Open your mind to the possibilities – no other vacation is like this.



Photo by David Macri

For An Unforgettable
EXPERIENCE



A Guide To The Marineland Area



1. FORT MATANZAS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Fort protected St. Augustine's southern river approach during the early European battles for control in the New World. Today, this historic Fort still looks over the wild barrier island and the plants and animals that live there. A free ferry shuttles visitors to and from the Fort, where park rangers bring the history to life.
(904) 471-0116

2. MATANZAS INLET RESTAURANT

This restaurant has been preparing outstanding fresh seafood since opening in 1991. Located directly on the Matanzas Inlet, just north of Marineland and just south of Fort Matanzas, you can't beat the view or the food.
(904) 461-6824

3. RIPPLE EFFECT ECOTOURS

Ripple Effects guides incredible natural interpretation from the low-impact, unique perspective of a kayak. With access to the biologically rich waterways around Marineland, where the Matanzas Inlet collides with some of the most pristine, undeveloped streams in Florida, Ripple Effect offers comprehensive ecological and cultural kayak tours in this beautiful coastal system. Bike rentals also available.
(904) 347-1565

4. MARINELAND MARINA

Located in the heart of Marineland, the Marina & Visitor's Center has all the information you need – from where to dock your boat to creating an outdoor itinerary and making reservations.
(904) 814-9886

5. MARINELAND DOLPHIN ADVENTURE

Marineland Dolphin Adventure is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and was founded to foster the preservation and protection of marine life. Our mission is to utilize interactive education, enhanced by on site research, to inspire visitors to value and respect marine mammals and their environment.
(904) 471-1111

6. WHITNEY LABORATORY FOR MARINE BIOSCIENCE

When Marineland opened in 1938, it included a small research laboratory that immediately attracted the attention of many academic biologists. When the University of Florida College of Medicine opened in Gainesville in 1956, researchers came to Marineland to study physiological adaptations of marine animals. Soon after, Marineland donated land and the funding for UF's new marine biological research facility – Whitney Lab. Since 1974, the Lab has become known for cutting-edge marine research and education.
(904) 461-4000

7. GUANA TOLOMATO MATANZAS NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE (GTMNERR)

Dedicated to the conservation of natural biodiversity and cultural resources, the GTMNERR uses research and monitoring to guide science-based stewardship and education strategies. Their monitoring program tracks short-term variability and long-term changes in estuarine waters to understand how human activities and natural events can change ecosystems.
(904) 823-4500

8. RIVER TO SEA PRESERVE

Beginning at the Atlantic Ocean and reaching west to the Intracoastal Waterway, Marineland's River to Sea Preserve protects a rapidly disappearing maritime scrub environment. This 90-acre preserve offers walking trails, nature vistas, and ecological education opportunities as well as public access to the beach. Visitors may wander through oak scrub and hardwood hammock on the west side A1A, then cross the street for breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean from the boardwalk.
(386) 313-4020

9. FAVER DYKES STATE PARK

Noted for its pristine condition, this tranquil park is a popular site for birding with more than one hundred bird species seen during spring and fall migrations. Songbirds, eagles and falcons return to nest at the park each year. Wading birds, such as egrets, wood storks, white ibis, and herons, feed in the tidal marshes and creeks. This peaceful park is also home to deer, turkeys, hawks, bobcats, and river otters. Fishing, camping, canoeing, picnicking, and nature walks are popular activities.
(386) 446-6783

10. PRINCESS PLACE PRESERVE

Wild, serene and beautiful, the Princess Place Preserve overlooks Pellicer Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway. The one-site estate was built as a hunting lodge in 1886 by Henry Cutting and is the oldest standing structure in the county. Today, Princess Place Preserve's 1,500 pristine acres attract nature enthusiasts from near and far to explore hiking trails, go fishing, ride horses and camp under the stars.
(386) 313-4020

11. FLA. AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Here you'll find the archaeological site of John Hewitt's water-powered sawmill, a fully restored, 1890s pioneer homestead, a turn-of-the-last-century Dry Goods Store, five restored buildings from a 1930s Depression-Era citrus business and a 5,000-square-foot dairy barn formerly belonging to the Governor of Florida, Millard Caldwell. In addition to preserving Florida's agricultural past, the museum is also active in the conservation of heritage livestock, including rare Florida Cracker cattle and horses.
(386) 446-7630

12. WASHINGTON OAKS STATE PARK

Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Matanzas River, Washington Oaks is home to formal gardens and a unique shoreline of coquina rock formations. The gardens make remarkable use of native and exotic species, from azaleas and camellias to the exquisite bird of paradise, sheltered within a picturesque oak hammock. Visitors enjoy a picnic, fishing or exploring the area on a number of short hiking and biking trails.
(386) 446-6780

13. MALA COMPRA PLANTATION/ BINGS LANDING

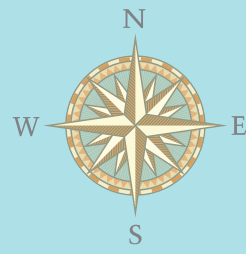
Located in a maritime oak hammock on the west side of A1A, Bing's Landing Preserve houses a state-of-the-art boat launch on the Intracoastal Waterway, fishing pier, picnic and playground facilities and an archaeological dig of the Mala Compra Plantation, which produced sea island cotton, corn and sweet oranges in its day.
(386) 313-4020

14. JT'S SEAFOOD SHACK

Friendly, attentive service and a casual atmosphere make JT's a favorite for locals and visitors alike. With a full bar, creative chefs and a menu designed to satisfy all the culinary cravings your family may have, you can't go wrong at JT's.
(386) 446-4337

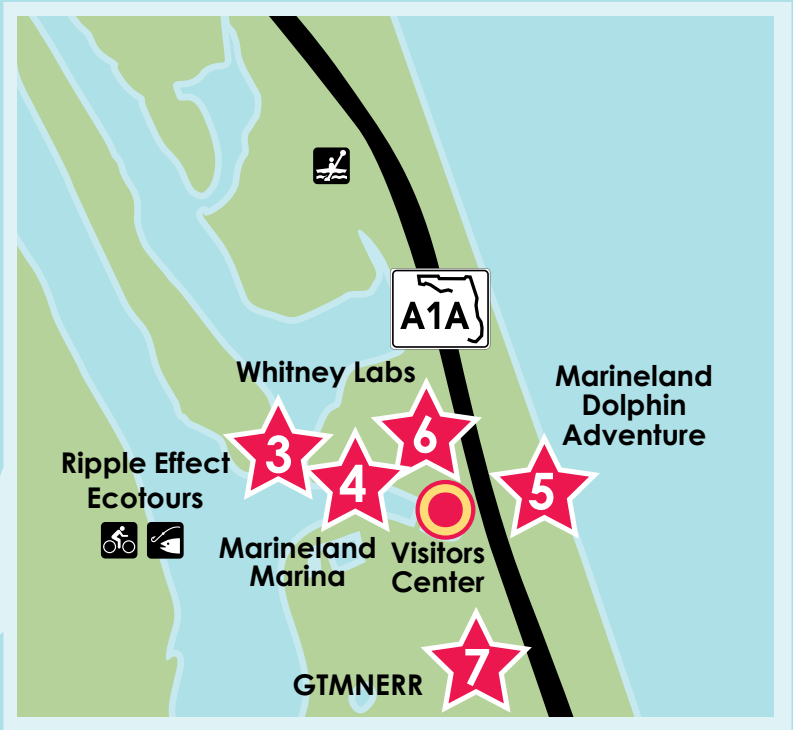


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TO ST. AUGUSTINE



1
Fort Matanzas
National Monument

2
Matanzas Inlet
Restaurant



9
Faver Dykes
State Park

8
River To Sea
Preserve

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

www.visitflagler.org/marineland

10
Princess Place
Preserve



12
Washington Oaks
State Park

11
Florida Agricultural
Museum

13
Mala Compra Plantation/
Bings Landing

14
JT's Seafood Shack

SYMBOLS KEY

- Biking
- Boat Launch
- Camping
- Fishing
- Kayak Launch

↓
TO PALM COAST &
DAYTONA BEACH

OLD KINGS ROAD

*Map not to scale

So Many Ways To



EXPLORE

With so much to do around the town of Marineland, your only challenge will be how to fit it all in. We put together sample itineraries for you and your family. Feel free to mix, match and customize to work best with your interests. The possibilities are endless.

SAMPLE ITINERARIES:



#1: THE ADVENTURE

MORNING

Kayak tour of the Intracoastal and Matanzas waterways

NOON

Lunch at JT's Seafood Shack

AFTERNOON

Walking and photo tour of Washington Oaks Nature Trails



Photo by David Macri

#2: THE AUDUBON

MORNING

Guana Tolomato Matanzas bird watching and research tour

NOON

Lunch at South Beach Grill in Crescent Beach

AFTERNOON

Princess Place bird walk



#3: THE INTERACTION

MORNING

Swim with the dolphins at Marineland Dolphin Adventure

NOON

Waterfront lunch at Matanzas Inlet Restaurant

AFTERNOON

Tour of Whitney Labs and fish identification interaction experience



#4: THE HISTORICAL

MORNING

Ferry to Fort Matanzas National Monument

NOON

Waterfront lunch at Matanzas Inlet Restaurant

AFTERNOON

Tour Mala Compra Plantation Archeological Site



#5: THE BEACH

MORNING

Ride the waves at River To Sea Beach Access

NOON

Picnic on the beach

AFTERNOON

Explore River To Sea Preserve or just stay at the beach



No matter how long you plan to stay, outdoor activities in the Marineland area will keep your schedule as busy as you want it to be.

Experience It For Yourself

Nature. History. Beauty. Fun. You'll find it all here, in this remarkable coastal place. The Town of Marineland is just the right mix of education and entertainment. Whether you come for a few hours or stay for a few days, you and your family are sure to make memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information, visit www.visitflagler.org/marineland.





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1-800-MARINELAND

www.visitflagler.org/marineland