



JACKSONVILLE, FL AREA INFORMATION

Nicknamed “Jax”, Jacksonville is located on the coastal northeast of Florida. While the city has a medium size population with a little over 900,000 people, Jacksonville is the largest geographic city in the continental United States at 840 square miles. Jacksonville stays warm year-round, meaning you will be able to enjoy their vast system of parks (over 111,669 acres). Jacksonville not only has access to the ocean but has a 60 acre freshwater lake ideal for fishing, bird watching, kayaking and paddle boarding. Whether you’re a nature lover, or rather spend your time finding new restaurants, shopping, enjoying festivals and night life, Jacksonville has it all. After all, there are 840 square miles to explore.

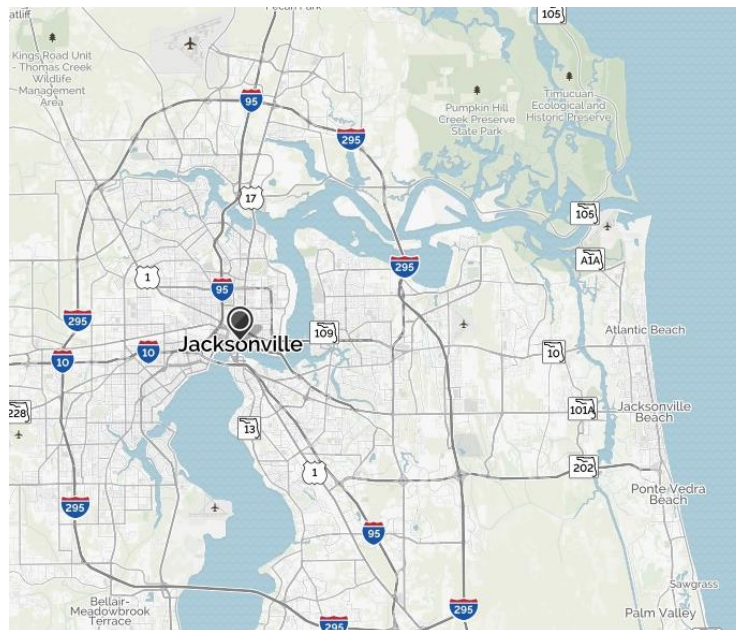


Courtesy of <https://www.visitjacksonville.com>

Transportation

By Car

It is easy to drive and park around Jacksonville. There are over 43,500 parking spaces in the city which includes metered street parking, parking garages and peripheral parking. Metered parking is free after 6 pm on weekdays and completely free on the weekends. Whether you drive yourself or let someone else take the wheel via [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#) , all of Jacksonville attractions are accessible by car.



By Bike

While unassuming, [Jacksonville is a biker's heaven](#) with many natural parks and green space to bike in. Jacksonville has it all from unpaved nature trails, paved bike paths for families and commuters, and bicycle eco-tours. Jacksonville even has parks with intensive mountain biking trails for beginners and veterans alike.

By Bus

Jacksonville runs on the [Jacksonville Transport Authority](#). The public transit has a network of [buses](#), [ferries](#) and a free [skyway tram](#).

By Air

[Jacksonville International Airport](#) is the largest airport in and around the city with frequent flights around the United States. [Daytona Beach International Airport](#) is also fairly accessible; it is only an hour and a half away from Jacksonville straight off a major highway.

Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

Public, Private, and Preschools

A complete listing of public schools in Jacksonville can be viewed [here](#).

A complete listing of private schools in the Jacksonville area can be viewed [here](#). There are [nine international schools](#) in Jacksonville Florida. For more information on what these schools offer please go to their campus websites. There are also some great magnet schools in the public education system. For more information please click [here](#).

A directory of preschools in the Jacksonville area can be viewed [here](#).

Additional Resources

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Colleges/Universities

- [Florida State College at Jacksonville](#)
- [Jacksonville University](#)



Recreation

Jacksonville is quite the city and will always keep you stimulated. Of course, there's so much to take advantage of at the area parks. However, if spending time in the outdoors is not your primary form of entertainment, Jacksonville can offer live music, delicious dining and fun museums to explore. Listed below are a few of the attractions offered in Jacksonville. A more complete listing of attractions in Jacksonville can be found [here](#).

- [Arts and Culture](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation](#)
- [Museums and Galleries in Jacksonville](#)
- [Trails in Jacksonville](#)
- [Dinning in Jacksonville](#)
- [Festivals in Jacksonville](#)
- [Nightlife and Live Music](#)



[Timucuan National Park](#)

Registration

Obtaining a Driver's License

In the U.S., a driver's license is issued by each individual state and not by the federal government in Washington DC. Since there is no national identity card in the USA and many Americans don't have a passport, a driver's license issued by your state is the only official piece of identification for many citizens. Since 9/11, you will need to show a valid driver's license to enter many big office buildings.

The Division of Driver Licenses, Bureau of Field Operations, has [driver license offices](#) located throughout the state. Appointments are provided at all full service offices. The [Driver License Office Directory](#) has addresses, telephone numbers, days and operating hours. Appointments are recommended. A new resident exchanging a valid out-of-state license for a Florida license will be required to pass the vision and hearing tests only. Requirements listed [here](#).

Driver license handbooks, motorcycle handbooks and commercial driver license handbooks are available for your use from your local driver license offices. There is no charge for the handbooks and may be returned for re-use. These handbooks can be viewed [online](#).

For information on how to obtain a driver's license, see the website of [Florida's DMV](#).

Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.