



St. Augustine Gam & Annual Meeting November 15 - 17, 2019 St. Augustine, FL

An Introduction to St. Augustine, Florida

By Barb Hart, SSCA Communications Coordinator

SSCA was delighted to announce that the November Gam and Annual Meeting will now be held in St. Augustine, Florida. For those of you who have not yet visited St. Augustine, we'll provide information about this historic cruising port in a series of articles.

St. Augustine is the oldest continuously occupied settlement of European origin in the United States and those who live here are very proud of that, regardless of when they or their ancestors arrived.

Founded in 1565 by the Spanish admiral, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, St. Augustine has flown the Spanish, British, and US flags throughout her history. Today, this small city has an active boating community including a yacht club, a number of marinas, two boat yards, many local power and sail boats, and a fishing fleet. St. Augustine is a frequent and much loved stop for those traveling along the ICW, as well as for those sailing offshore north or south along the East Coast.

Most of the cruisers who stop in St. Augustine take the time to visit at least some of the historic sites in the town. Those include: the Castillo de San Marcos, Flagler College, the Lightner Museum, the Oldest House (the oldest surviving Spanish colonial residence in Florida), the archeological digs at the Fountain of Youth, the historic district and shops along St.

UPCOMING EVENTS

George Street, and the many architecturally interesting churches located downtown. In addition, a few miles out of town one can find Fort Mose, Fort Matanzas, the St Augustine Alligator Farm and Zoological Park, and the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum.

Visiting cruisers also enjoy St. Augustine's brew pubs, bars, and restaurants, many of which are located in the downtown historic district. In addition, St. Augustine has a vibrant music scene including open mike nights with talented amateurs, professionals singing well-known covers, a strong singer/songwriter community, and internationally known acts performing at The Amp, one of northeast Florida's premier performance venues.

It's important to note that St. Augustine is essentially a tourist community and that there are no grocery stores or pharmacies within a mile and a half from the Municipal Marina. However, in most conditions it's a comfortable dinghy ride to the public dock at Vilano, north of the inlet, and a short walk to Publix from the dock. It's safe to bike and walk throughout the downtown area, and through the various nearby neighborhoods, and across the Bridge of

Lions to Anastasia Island shops and neighborhoods. Finally, cruisers will find that West Marine and the Sailors' Exchange are both just over a mile from the Municipal Marina.

Cruisers stop at St. Augustine because it's an historic town with a deep-water entrance, multiple marinas, and safe anchorages. (The Municipal Marina allows those who anchor to leave their dinghy at the dock and use the facilities for a small fee.) During the cruising season, St Augustine has an active Cruisers' Net the VHF radio and their St. Augustine Cruisers' Net Facebook group has over 1500 members and is active year round.

All of this is why cruisers return again and again to enjoy the community and all it has to offer.

For information on lodging, slips and anchoring, visit www.ssc.org/staugustine.

