

# VISIT JACKSONVILLE

## African-American Heritage Tour Group Tour Itinerary

### Day 1

#### MORNING

First stop is a visit to the **Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve**, one of the last unspoiled coastal wetlands on the Atlantic Coast. Discover 6,000 years of human history and experience the beauty of salt marshes, coastal dunes, and hardwood hammocks. This national park has historical sites like the Fort Caroline National Memorial and the Kingsley Plantation, offering guided group tours and nature outings.

Tour **Kingsley Plantation**, Jacksonville's oldest residential home and Florida's last still-standing plantation home. Wander the grounds where remarkably preserved slave quarters, barn, the plantation house, kitchen house and interpretive garden all located on the waterfront. The plantation was once the southernmost point of the Gullah Geechee Nation.

Plan to spend a minimum a half day touring this attraction. Be sure everyone wears comfortable shoes brings their cameras!

**904-641-7155 12713 Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville FL 32225**  
(Drive time approximately 30-45 minutes by bus from heart of downtown)

#### LUNCH ON THE WATERFRONT

Spoil your group with a fresh from the water Seafood lunch at **Sandollar Restaurant & Marina**. Located less than ten minutes from Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, The Sandollar Restaurant offers a casual atmosphere with dining views of the St. Johns River, as it approaches the Atlantic Ocean. The Sandollar Restaurant & Marina has been part of Jacksonville since 1954 and is known for serving up some of the best Mayport Shrimp and Salty Dogs on the beach!

**904-251-2449 9716 Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32226**  
(Group dining reservations must be made in advance)

#### AFTERNOON

**The Ritz Theatre and Museum** – A Blend of History and Culture. Learn about the composers of America's Black National Anthem. "Written by Jacksonville native sons James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson right here in Jacksonville. The Johnson brothers were two luminaries in early African-American history and culture, hear the story behind "Lift Ev'ry Voice" and so much more at the Ritz Theatre and Museum in the historic LaVilla neighborhood of Downtown.

During La Villa's time of activity in the 1920s-1960s, it was known as the "Harlem of the South. Located in downtown Jacksonville, the museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, and offers group rates. The Ritz Theatre and Museum is also the perfect place for a group lunch.

**904-633-6191 829 North Davis Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202**

Jacksonville offers a large array of activities from Nature & Outdoors, History & Culture to Science & Technology. To receive your complimentary customized group itinerary, e-mail Lorrie Allen at [Lallen@visitjacksonville.com](mailto:Lallen@visitjacksonville.com) or call 904-421-9182

## Day 2

### MORNING TOUR OF HISTORICAL SITES

**Evergreen Cemetery** - Pay tribute to the Buffalo Soldiers at the city's oldest cemetery. Along with many of Jacksonville's most prominent early African-American families, Old City Cemetery, established back in 1852, is, notably, also home to the graves of dozens of black servicemen, going all the way back to the Civil War.

**1024 N Liberty Street, Jacksonville FL, 32220**  
(self-guided, bus parking available)

**Durkeeville Historical Society** - Jacksonville's first black suburbs. Laid out in the 1930s, Durkeeville was one of the original streetcar suburbs, just northwest of Downtown. It was the center of commerce and culture for the local black community during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, the Durkeeville Historical Society maintains a museum that walks visitors through the area's unique history. (by appointment only)

**904-598-9567 1293 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Jacksonville, FL 32209**

**Masonic Temple** - Designed by Earl Mark & Leeroy Sheftall, after 10 years of fundraising, ground-breaking ceremonies were held on September 18, 1912. When completed, the monumental structure housed office space, retail stores, and served as a meeting center for the black community during a period in which segregation laws limited opportunities for black citizens. The 1926 Negro Blue Book described it as "one of the finest buildings owned by Negroes in the world." The Masonic Temple has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1980.

**904-354-2368 410 Broad St, Jacksonville, FL 32202**

### AFTERNOON

**The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens** is a vital community partner that reaches out to diverse audiences through outstanding artistic offerings, dynamic learning experiences, and opportunities to participate in the beauty of the natural world. See vibrantly colored abstracted painting *The Tempest* by African American artist Bob Thompson.

**Lunch at the Museum** - Enjoy a light lunch at The Cummer Café. Food and refreshments can be enjoyed in the Café or the Museum's beautiful Gardens.

**904-356-6857 829 Riverside Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32204**

Welcome to the **Beaches Museum & History Park**. Experience the world of our Beaches pioneers for yourself at the Beaches Museum and History Park. Museum volunteers and staff will give tours Tuesday-Sunday. Guides must be scheduled in advance for large groups of 10 or more.

**904-241-5657 81 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250**

### **Mandarin Museum & Historical Society - St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse**

Located at the grounds of the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society, the St. Joseph's Mission Schoolhouse for African-American Children dates to 1898. It was built for the education of black Mandarin residents, some even had to walk 4 miles to get there and back every day. Park open daily, dawn to dusk

**904-268-0784 11964 Mandarin Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32223**