

St. Augustine with the Night of Lights,

January 15 & 16th

Two days, one night

We've been to St. Augustine a number of times, but have only scratched the surface of what this oldest city in the country has to offer. In asking our members what trips they might want to take in 2024, a number of you said.....how about overnight trips to destinations? And here we are, making your wishes come true!

The city of St. Augustine is packed with activities that are historical, cultural, interesting and just plain fun. You will be on your own much of time we are in town, with just a couple of reasons to wear your watch. We are still working out finding group discounts that we can make available to you, but since we are under contract with the hotel, reservations need to be made.

We have secured rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn in the St. Augustine Historic District. It is only a two minute walk from the Old Jail Museum which is where the Old Town Trolley boards for its jaunt around the major attractions of St. Augustine.

Your cost for the trip includes a two-day pass on the Trolley and a one night pass on the Trolley to see the Night of Lights. During the Nights of Lights, listed among the top ten holiday light displays in the world by National Geographic, downtown St. Augustine glows with holiday magic – from the ground to the rooftops. St. Augustine's Nights of Lights features millions of tiny white lights that create a magical atmosphere in the Nation's Oldest City. White lights drape the city's unique Spanish Colonial architecture and glow from the downtown sidewalks to the rooftops, over the Bridge of Lions, along historic buildings, public spaces, hotels, restaurants, and inns throughout approximately 20 blocks of St. Augustine's historic district.

Even with nearly two full days to venture about in St. Augustine, making decisions about which venues to visit could be difficult. The Old Town Trolley will make getting to your choices easy with its hop on/hop off option availability for both days of our visit. The attached map highlights the Trolley route. The Hilton Garden is in between San Carlos and Garrett Ave on the lower left corner of the map. Here are just a few of the treasures the city has to offer:

Old Jail Museum: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g34599-d534115-Reviews-Old_Jail_Museum-St_Augustine_Florida.html This is where you will board the Trolley initially and where you'll want to get off should you want to go back to our hotel.

Visitor Information Center: There are restrooms here and a gift shop; more importantly, this is where our bus will drop us off and pick us up at the end day.

Potter's Wax Museum <https://www.potterswaxmuseum.com/>

The City Gates and entrance to St. George Street pedestrian mall: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g34599-d199044-Reviews-St_George_Street-St_Augustine_Florida.html

The Colonial Quarter - <https://colonialquarter.com/> Your ticket stub offers you discounted lunches at certain restaurants

Villa Zorayda Museum <https://villazorayda.com/>

Flagler Hotel Tour - the Hotel Ponce de Leon constructed by Henry Flagler, now part of Flagler College. The tour takes about an hour and is reported to be fabulous. <https://legacy.flagler.edu/products/historic-tour-of-flagler-college-former-hotel-ponce-de-leon>

Lightner Museum - self-guided tours; <https://lightnermuseum.org/>

St. Augustine Distillery <https://www.staugustinedistillery.com/>

San Sebastian Winery <http://www.sansebastianwinery.com/>

Oldest House, Gardens & Museum: <https://staugh.com/oldest-house-museum-complex/>

The Pirate and Treasure Museum <https://www.thepiratemuseum.com/>

The Bridge of Lions <https://www.visitstaugustine.com/thing-to-do/bridge-lions> and the St. Augustine Municipal Marina

Castillo de San Marco National Monument and grounds <https://www.nps.gov/casa/index.htm>

Ripley's Believe It or Not <https://www.ripleys.com/staugustine/>

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche: <https://missionandshrine.org/#>

The Old Senator Tree: <https://www.visitstaugustine.com/thing-to-do/old-senator-live-oak>

The Fountain of Youth <https://www.fountainofyouthflorida.com/>

Yes.....the Trolley will take you to ALL of these destinations! The Trolley even has a Beach Bus Shuttle if you decide you want to include a beach in your day. Your reservation form will let us know which of these are the most appealing to participating members and we will continue to try to negotiate group discounts for you as possible. We will then update you if we are able to prepay tickets for you and send an invoice to you for those as appropriate.

Where should we eat? Another difficult decision.....

Raintree - don't skip the crepes! <https://raintreerestaurant.com/>

Catch 27 - the deviled eggs have a reputation for being extra delicious <http://www.catchtwentyseven.com/>

La Floridian <http://www.thefloridianstaug.com/>

St. Augustine Seafood Company <https://saseafoodco.com/>

Village Green Food Truck <https://www.villagegardenftp.com/>

Riptide BBQ - now located in the Village Green Food Truck

Llama Peruvian <http://llamarestaurant.com/>

Big Island Bowls <https://www.bigislandbowls.com/>

Columbia Restaurant <https://www.columbiarestaurant.com/historic-district-st-augustine>

The evening of our first day in St. Augustine we will all meet up at the end of the day for the Night of Lights trolley tour. This tour will take 45- 60 minutes after which our bus will whisk us back to our hotel to get a good night's sleep so we'll be ready to tackle our second day in St. Augustine. The Trolley tickets for this special event are sold by time slots.....so you will need to be sure to arrive at the appointed time!

Breakfast is not included in our discounted room rate because, well, not all of us want to start the day with breakfast! The restaurant at the Hilton Garden Inn, The Garden Grill, does offer a full breakfast for \$16.95 + 6.5% tax and tip. This is a cooked to order breakfast. You can, of course, decide to eat at another one of the great restaurants that St. Augustine has to offer.....or get on the Trolley and resume your adventure.

Your second day in St. Augustine will be much like your first day, except you will need to pack up and load your things into the bus basement before check-out time. (Very reluctantly, we expect.)

Once you've done that, you are free to venture about as long as you are back at the St. Augustine Visitors Center in time to catch the bus back to The Villages for a late arrival home.

The Fine Print

Because we have a number of new members, we want to make sure all of our members are aware of our cancellation policy for trips lasting more than one day. The businesses and services we will be utilizing during this trip require commitments and deposits from us; therefore we (your BBC Committee) must ensure that we will have the necessary funds to meet these commitments. Please read our cancellation policy and acknowledge on the reservation form that you agree to it.

Additionally, our contract with the hotel has a rather steep attrition clause in it. For that reason and the level of participation in the last multi-day trip, we have only contracted for 30 rooms. Should the demand for this trip exceed one bus, we will see about getting another block of 30 rooms, but we are not guaranteed the same daily room rate. We are drawing the lottery on a shorter time frame than normal to assess the interest in the trip so that if we need to add rooms, tours, etc., we will be successful in doing so.

Cancellation Policy for BBC Trips Lasting Longer Than One Day

- 1) A cancellation for an overnight trip will be accepted if it is received by email to the Club Secretary (bbc32162@gmail.com) at least four (4) days prior to the beginning date of the trip and a replacement can be arranged.
- 2) The replacement will come from the waitlist first. If no waitlist exists for the multi-day trip, the cancelling club member can provide replacements (replacements do not have to be club members.) When a replacement is arranged and confirmed, a refund check will be sent to the cancelling club member.
- 3) If a cancellation is not able to be filled, either from the waitlist or substituted by the cancelling member, the trip transportation fee will be forfeited. Any money charged for additional activities paid in advance will be refunded.
- 4) Hotel deposits and cancellations are not the responsibility of the BBC and must be handled separately and solely by the club member.
- 5) The cancellation will not be accepted if it is received within four (4) days of the beginning of the trip,

whether or not a replacement can be found, and the cancelling club member will forfeit their entire trip transportation fee.

Cost Per Person - \$148

Includes:

- 2-day of Lamers bus transportation
- 2-day discounted tickets for the Old Town Trolley with hop on/hop off privileges both days
- Trolley ticket for the Nights of Lights event in downtown St. Augustine
- tips and accommodations for our driver

Does Not Include:

- your hotel room (\$159 for two people, plus 6.5% sales tax, and 5% hotel occupancy tax per night)
- your meals
- any tours you choose (except for Nights of Lights)
- tip for your room attendant
- tip for the Trolley driver

If you are traveling as a single and are willing to share a hotel room, please indicate that on your reservation form and we will try to put you in touch with another single.