

STEEPED IN HISTORY

And Fun

BY KEVIN FRITZ

Surfing off the coast of New Smyrna Beach.

Stroll historic Canal Street, or walk hand-in-hand in the surf on New Smyrna Beach's 13 miles of white sand. This quintessential family getaway offers first-class fishing, golf, cultural events, two ten-week beach festivals, and eclectic shopping and dining. Known for its Bohemian soul and award-winning beaches, it's no surprise so many visitors choose New Smyrna Beach as their go-to Florida destination.

MUST SEE . . . MUST DO

Few realize New Smyrna Beach is the second oldest city in Florida. Once the largest British colonization attempt in the New World, the area is steeped in history. More than 30 historical sites continue to intrigue visitors, including the Sugar Mill Ruins, Old Fort Park, Eldora State House and the nearby Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. A walk through the Canal Street Historic District is a step back in time; be sure to check out the New Smyrna Museum of History.

Known as one of the top 100 small art towns in America, New Smyrna Beach is said to be a city that celebrates art with a whole heart. Browse around The Hub on Canal, which provides a home and gallery space for working artists. The Atlantic Center for the Arts draws aspiring artists to learn from accomplished peers.

Old Fort Park in New Smyrna Beach.



The beaches are the main attraction for relaxing and swimming, or surfing some of the best waves on the Eastern seaboard. For 10 weeks each spring and fall, Beach Weeks embraces water- and beach-based activities, music, food, drink and cultural events, summoning all comers who love the beach life. Like to fish? Surf fishing is renowned in this redfish capital of the world and boating on the Intracoastal Waterway is always a wonderful family adventure.

New Smyrna Beach is synonymous with lively and fun events. Join a Gallery and Wine Walk, or visit the Weekly Farmers' Market.

LIVE IT UP

When hunger strikes, the area features more than 150 nosh options. Many sit directly on the water's edge, including the venerable JB's Fish Camp. From Flagler Avenue, Canal Street and beyond

indulge in fresh seafood and steaks to burgers and pasta at a pub or under a sidewalk café umbrella. At night, head to Flagler, Canal Street, Third Avenue and beyond for the local vibe.

SHOP

Pedestrian-friendly, tree-lined streets welcome shoppers to specialty boutiques and galleries. It's no surprise Florida's second oldest city is a haven for antique enthusiasts. Downtown parking is free.

Shop along Flagler Avenue and Canal Street and find a unique gift for that hard-to-please friend. Venture to local department and drug stores for all your necessities or the latest in Florida fashions.

INSIDER'S TIP

Head out to Disappearing Island, a secluded low-tide piece of land that's accessible only by boat. Every day, an island appears as the water recedes at the inlet. Join locals and those in the know for a day on pure sandy land. **FL**

FEATURED LINKS

New Smyrna Beach Area Beach Weeks
beachweeks.com
New Smyrna Beach Area Visitor Bureau
nsbfla.com