



# FOLLOW *The Locals*

BY KEVIN FRITZ

Stand-up paddler at New Smyrna Beach

As the second oldest city in Florida and the oldest continuously settled British settlement in the nation, New Smyrna Beach is an eclectic mix of old and new blending a subtle sophistication with Bohemian soul. Boasting an award-winning art culture, some of the best beaches in the world, and steeped in history, New Smyrna Beach is your ideal Florida destination.

Dining on the patio at Clancy's in New Smyrna Beach



## TOP-NOTCH BEACHES

Everyone knows the secret to a great vacation is to follow the locals, and New Smyrna Beach is where they will lead. Indeed, Central Floridian readers of the *Orlando Sentinel* have voted New Smyrna Beach “Best Beach” every year since 2007. The accolades don’t stop there: *USA Today* voted it one of Florida’s top 10 beach towns, and *National Geographic* declared NSB—as the locals like to call it—one of the world’s top 20 surf towns. Clean, safe, wide and void of crowds, you’ll find exactly what you’re looking for on its more than 13 miles of pristine, white-sand beaches.

For seven to 10 weeks each spring and fall, the action centers around the family-friendly Beach Weeks. Food, music, sand art and film festivals are just some of the events that highlight the two-and-one-half-month party.

## DINING AND NIGHTLIFE

The locals call Third Avenue “Eat Street,” which features more than 20 eateries from casual to fine dining, offering everything from classic brick-oven pizza to fresh seafood straight from the Atlantic Ocean. At night, pubs, clubs and lounges are aplenty on Flagler and Atlantic avenues.

## ARTS, CULTURE AND SHOPPING

Home to an array of art festivals and the venerable Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach has been named one of the top 100 small art towns in America. Be sure to catch an Art and Wine Walk on Flagler Avenue or venture down Canal Street, known as the arts and design district, where you’ll find The Hub on Canal that provides a home and gallery space for working artists creating their masterpieces. Shopping enthusiasts will enjoy ambling down charming Canal Street and quaint Flagler

Avenue, both replete with colorful boutiques, galleries, unusual gifts and antique shops.

## STREET SCENES

A stroll down historic Canal Street is a step back in time, right down to the soda fountain at the corner drug store. Built atop an actual irrigation canal dug back in the 1700s, many of the city’s historic buildings line the charming boulevard.

## INSIDER’S TIP

Two of the best-kept secrets in New Smyrna Beach are The Sugar Mill and Old Fort Park ruins. The working sugar mill was built in the early 1800s, but destroyed during the US-Seminole Indian wars. The Old Fort Park ruins are more steeped in mystery, although some believe the coquina-rock foundation dates back to Dr. Andrew Turnbull, a Scottish physician and entrepreneur, who settled in New Smyrna in 1768 and named the city in honor of his wife, whose birthplace was Smyrna, Asia Minor, what is now Izmir, Turkey. **FL**

## FEATURED LINKS

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

PHOTOS: NEW SMYRNA BEACH AREA VISITOR BUREAU

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