



Gold Coast Tour & Travel, Inc.

Off The Beaten Path – Great Places and Affordable Recreation in St. Augustine

Let's face it, just about any tour company can put together a big, expensive itinerary for an educational field trip to St. Augustine, Florida.

Don't get us wrong, Gold Coast Tour & Travel can do that too— we're happy to arrange any tour you wish, from wild to wonderful, but Gold Coast also appreciates the concept of wild, wonderful AND affordable.

A great itinerary can be accomplished with a small price tag. That's exactly the focus of this summer edition of the Gold Coast's newsletter: fabulous (sometimes undiscovered) opportunities with affordable options.

This "off the beaten path" issue will introduce you to some of St. Augustine's extremely worthwhile, yet often undiscovered attractions and group activities.

It doesn't have to cost a fortune to visit St. Augustine, Florida. In fact, some of St. Augustine's greatest delights— including its unique architecture and beautiful weather, are absolutely free!

Each one of Gold Coast's fieldtrip packages is created by hand, personally customized to meet the unique needs and interests of every school we serve.

Some of our teachers will

ask for packages that include just about every possible activity, while others may ask us to keep the student prices as low as possible. We aim to do both.

If you've researched educational fieldtrips to St. Augustine in the past and thought it wasn't affordable, we encourage you to contact Gold Coast today.

Check out all the fun and educational activities your students can enjoy while visiting "Our Nations Oldest City," and visit us on the Web www.goldcoastfun.com.

We hope that it will inspire you and your students to join us in St. Augustine!

Inside this issue:

Ximenez-Fatio House 2

Spanish Military Hospital 2

Whetstone Chocolates 2

Father O'Reilly Museum 3

Making History Fun! 3

Putt-Putt Into History! 3

Off The Beaten Path Tour 4

Special points of interest:

- St. Augustine can be an affordable location for your students next field trip. Gold Coast Tour & Travel, Inc.'s friendly and knowledgeable staff ensure that our educational tours are all you hoped they would be: fun, affordable, educational, and worry-free!

Another Gold Coast Exclusive!

Give your students a unique opportunity to learn about the Native American tribes of Florida.

These highly informative presentations are filled with fun activities for students, including demonstrations of Indian craftsmanship, with

items passed around for "hands-on" student participation.

Your students will learn about the lifestyles and cultures of Florida's Lost Tribes, including what their villages were like, what foods they ate and grew, how they

dressed, and the unique artifacts and objects that have been found.

The Florida Lost Tribes presentation can be incorporated in to any itinerary, and is only available at Gold Coast Tour & Travel, Inc.

www.floridalosttribes.com

Ximenez-Fatio House — A Step Into The Past

If you're looking for an attraction that will really show your students what day-to-day life was like in St. Augustine in the 18th and 19th centuries, consider a tour of the Ximenez-Fatio House.

This home was built in 1798 using mined coquina for the 16 inch thick walls, and native tabby for the floors and foundation.

Over the years the Fatio House has served as a boarding house, an up-scale hotel, a general store, and even a tavern.

In 1939, Colonial Dames took over the building, which had fallen into disrepair. The Dames returned the Ximenez-Fatio House to its original state and furnished it with period antiques.

Little touches, like a pair of antique sun glasses left on a counter, give the impression that the guest who forgot them will soon return.

In keeping with its historical past, the Fatio house does not have running water or electricity. Heat in the winter is provided by the homes 14 fireplaces!

The Fatio House tour will guide your students through the history of this national landmark, from its first owner, Margaret Cook and her eight-room boarding house, to Louisa Fatio who charged \$20.00 a week and provided three meals a day to her boarders.

While your students will probably arrive in St. Augustine on a bus, a visit to the Ximenez-Fatio House will have them thinking of those who would have traveled via steamboat and stagecoach.

www.goldcoastfun.com/sites.htm

Spanish Military Hospital

The Spanish Military Hospital, reconstructed in the 1960s on the original site, offers a wonderful interpretation of hospital conditions during St. Augustine's second Spanish period: 1784-1821.

This hour long tour, presented by guides in period costume, covers all aspects of a typical hospital stay experienced by patients in 1791.

The tour begins in the Mourning Room, where the dying were administered to by the parish priest, Father O'Reilly.

The Surgeon's Office contains all the instruments used in various

"treatments." Amputations were typically performed outside on the sidewalk, where the lighting was better and clean-up was easier.

Although the doctors at the time didn't have an understanding of "germs," the hospital ward was kept very clean and linens were washed daily, which provided obvious benefits to the patients.

Patients were kept in separate beds, even though it wasn't known at the time that many diseases were contagious.

Success rates were nearly 70% - pretty amazing considering how little they knew in comparison to today.

Spanish Law dictated that the doctor visit each patient twice a day!

The Apothecary was the office that prescribed treatments and medications. Medicine did come to the hospital by boat from Spain, but deliveries were less than reliable. Many of the medications prescribed were derived from a mixture of herbs grown right on the hospital grounds.

The Spanish Military Hospital, affordably priced, is very informative and it's always a big hit with the students. Ask Gold Coast to add the Spanish Military Hospital to your next itinerary!

Whetstone Chocolate Factory Tour

What better feeling is there than a child in a candy store?

In St. Augustine, Florida, Whetstone's Chocolates will go one better by treating students to a Chocolate Factory Tour.

With free admission, and a chance to

learn how candy is made, students will even receive a free chocolate "thank you" afterward, making a trip Whetstone's a great add-on to any educational field trip.

Ask Gold Coast to pick up your ice cream

discount cards, and Whetstone's will give you an additional 10% discount on each cone sold at their St. George Street ice cream shop.

Add this tour to your itinerary. Your students will love you for it!

Father O'Reilly Museum

The Sisters of Saint Joseph came to St. Augustine in 1866, at the request of Florida's first bishop. They were charged with the education of the liberated slaves of the Civil War era.

Eight sisters traveled across the sea to our city to live and teach, in what is today known as the Father O'Reilly Museum.

This house reflects its Spanish, English, and American heritage, spanning over 300 years. Walls of tabby and coquina confirm the home's origin to be of the

late 17th Century.

It is speculated that the original builder of the home may have been the person in charge of construction on the Castillo de San Marcos — our city's National Monument: often called "The Fort."

The house came into the hands of Father Miguel O'Reilly when he came to St. Augustine as the parish priest during the Second Spanish Period.

Father O'Reilly provided what we now refer to as "24 hour call" for the Span-

ish Military Hospital on Aviles Street, meeting the special needs of the patients hospitalized there.

In the 1990s, grants from the State of Florida contributed to the restoration of the house and allowed the Sisters of Saint Joseph to open it as a church related museum.

Making History Fun!

We've said it before, but we'll say it again... "Let's Make History Fun!"

Let your students take a break from your educational field trip at lunchtime by booking lunch at the Jesterville Grille (ask your Gold Coast Representative, and she or he will be glad to make the arrangements!).

This 1950s era grille is inside the St. Augustine Toy Company- a favorite stop

for our kids during their break times.

Combining good food with an entertaining (as well as historic) atmosphere, the Jesterville Grille is a fun place for students and teachers alike.

Our school groups receive a 10% discount off purchases and a free scoop of ice cream to accompany their lunch!

The Jesterville Grill is affordable and it's fun- add it to your itinerary today!



Putt-Putt Into History

Located directly south of the Bridge of Lions, Bayfront Putt-Putt Golf, an 18 hole outdoor putting green, is the oldest continually operated putt-putt course in the State of Florida.

Originally built in 1949, it occupies the former site of a WWII US Coast Guard facility.

With a backdrop of harbor lights, the

course is particularly pretty in the evenings.

If your school is looking for a nighttime alternative to the Ghost or Pirate Tours (which Gold Coast also offers), you may want to consider a round of golf with your students as a great way to end a fun, historical day.

Priced affordably, and conveniently lo-

cated, Bayfront Golf may be just what you're looking for as a fun evening activity for students and teachers alike.

Ask Gold Coast Tours to add Bayfront Golf to your itinerary.



Gold Coast Tour & Travel, Inc.
551 Carcaba Road
St. Augustine, FL 32084
• • •

Would you like to receive our newsletter in your mailbox?

1-800-374-8687

(904) 829-2431

goldcoast@bellsouth.net

We're on the Web!
<http://www.GoldCoastFun.com>

Attention 4th and 6th Grade Field Trip Planners!!

Off The Beaten Path Tour— Just one of the many popular tours offered by Gold Coast Tour & Travel, Inc.

Please note that the price of this tour does not include transportation to St. Augustine, Florida.

Arrive in St. Augustine in the early morning, around 9:00 am. Meet your Tour Guide at the Visitors Information Center and proceed to the Mission Nombre de Dios, where you will tour the Mission with your Gold Coast guide.

The Mission grounds are extensive. We like to begin the tour here because it allows students to stretch their legs and expend some energy from the drive to St. Augustine. The Mission grounds are very beautiful.

The tour will then proceed to the Castillo de San Marcos (The Fort). Tour

the perimeter and the interior of this National Monument.

Then walk with your guide along the Bayfront to the Spanish Military Hospital and tour the hospital building (see our article about the Spanish Military Hospital on page two).

Break for Lunch at the Jesterville Grille, and afterward enjoy some shopping time at the Toy Company.

Your tour continues with a walk and tour of the Ximenez-Fatio House on Aviles Street (page two).

Proceed to the Father O'Reilly House and tour the Museum (page three).

Continue with your guide to Bayfront Putt-Putt Golf, where your students will play 18 holes of miniature golf

(page three).

Now it's time for shopping and some free time. Your guide will escort you to St. George Street and make certain that you know your way around our Historic District.

After an hour of shopping, at around 5:00 pm, you'll meet with your guide, who will walk you back to the Visitor's Center and wave you off on your way home!

Package includes guide service, admission to all noted attractions and activities, lunch, and any and all taxes and gratuities.

Students: \$29.00

Adults and Teachers: \$31.00