PLACES TO VISIT

**Excelsior Cultural Center**
102 Martin Luther King Ave.
Our first black public high school is now a museum dedicated to the rich cultural heritage of the Lincolnia community.
Call for hours: (904) 824-1191

**Fort Mose**
15 Fort Mose Trail
Fort Mose was the pioneer black community in what is now the United States. It was established in 1738 by runaway slaves from English plantations. The Spanish officials granted the refugees freedom in exchange for military service and Catholic conversion.
Fort Mose is now a state park with a museum to tell the story. Located off US-1, one mile north of SR-16.

**The Freedom Trail**
Presented by the 40th ACCORD, a series of historic markers around town tell the story of how St. Augustine became the final thrush for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
*Brochures with Freedom Trail maps are available at the visitor centers.*

**Frank Butler Park**
Butler Beach A1A South.
One of the historic black beaches from the age of segregation now has a park on both the ocean and intercoastal waterway with boat ramp, picnic tables and rest room facilities. Open during daylight hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

**Juan Garrido (1513)**
A free, African conquistador who was present when Ponce de Leon dained Florida for Spain in 1513, and when Ponce was fatally wounded by Florida Indians in 1521. Garrido is famous as the first person to grow wheat in the New World.

**Seminole Indians (1800’s)**
Many Africans escaped white slavery by living among the Seminole Indians. This was one of the primary causes of the Seminole Wars. A black man named Abraham was known as the “prime minister” of the Seminoles and accompanied the chiefs to the White House in Washington.

**War of 1812**
Africans and Indians helped save Spanish St. Augustine from American invasion during the War of 1812. The Spanish Governor rewarded them with land grants, including 185 acres to Antonio Proctor, whose descendants still live here.

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN ST. AUGUSTINE

**SPANISH ERA**
Runaway slave-turned soldier at Fort Mose

**SLAVERY**
Georgia slave purchased at the market in St. Augustine

**CIVIL RIGHTS**
Civil rights leaders at a press conference

**ARTS**
Zora Neale Hurston, novelist & folklorist

**This brochure brought to you by:**

[Augustine.com]
*Discover More African-American Heritage*
You’ll find full stories with unique pictures and memorabilia. While you’re there, browse the old maps, online books, interactive timeline, and modern-day amenities of the Nation’s Oldest City.

**ABC Brochure Committee:**
D. Nolan, D. Israel, B. Vickers, C. Williams, A. Howard,
Design by S. Aunchman

Visitors & Convention Bureau
The rich African American heritage of St. Augustine should cause all history textbooks to be rewritten. When the Spanish conquistador Pedro Menendez founded St. Augustine in 1565, not only were there black members of his crew, but he noted that his arrival had been preceded by free Africans in the French settlement at Fort Caroline, just a few miles north.

Our oldest written records, the Cathedral Parish Archives, list the first birth of a black child here in 1606—thirteen years before many textbooks say that the first blacks on these shores arrived at Jamestown in 1619.

The first legally recognized community of ex-slaves was Fort Mose, the northern defense of St. Augustine, founded in 1738 to protect the city from British invasion. In 1740, when General James Oglethorpe attacked from Georgia, it was the Battle of Fort Mose that proved decisive in turning him around and sending him back from where he came. The site of this free black fort is now recognized as a National Historic Landmark and is run by the Florida Park Service. It is considered the focal point for the first Underground Railroad, which ran not from south to north, but rather from the British southern colonies farther south into Spanish Florida, where escaped slaves would be given their freedom.

Everyone has heard of General Colin Powell, but two centuries before him there was a black general in St. Augustine. His name was Jorge Siasou, and he was one of the original leaders of the slave uprising in Haiti in the 1790s. In the twists and turns of international politics, he became a Spanish general. He was sent to St. Augustine in 1796, as the second-highest paid official of the colony, and stayed here until his death in 1801. His funeral was held at the Cathedral on the Plaza downtown, and he is buried in Tolomato Cemetery on Cordova Street.

An African militia saved St. Augustine from invasion at the time of the War of 1812, and its members were awarded land grants in gratitude by the Spanish governor.

Africans played an important role in relations with the Seminole Indians. A free black man named Antonio Proctor served as Indian interpreter for the first American governor of Florida. A century and a half later one of his descendants, Henry Twine, was active in the civil rights movement and became the first black vice mayor of St. Augustine.

Other Africans lived within the Seminole nation, and rose to high position there. A black man named Abraham was sometimes called "the prime minister of the Seminoles." Another Black Seminole, John Horse, played a prominent military role in the Indian wars of the 1830s.

During the Civil War, black St. Augustinians served in both the Union and Confederate armies. Their graves can be found in many of our historic cemeteries. Harriet Tubman, the famed "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, accompanied the Union soldiers who came down the St. John's River during the war.

Former slaves established the community of Lincolnville in 1866 in the southwest peninsula of St. Augustine. Lincolnville is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, in part because of its origins, in part because—given its time of development—it includes the greatest concentration of treasured Victorian architecture in the Ancient City, and in part because it was the launching place for demonstrations that led directly to the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The famed abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, spoke here in 1889 at Genova's Opera House on St. George Street.

A thriving black business district grew up along Washington Street in the 19th and early 20th century. Frank Butler, the leading businessman, also developed Butler's Beach on Anastasia Island, one of the historic black beaches of Florida from the age of segregation. He also had real estate holdings in West Augustine around the campus of Florida Normal (later Florida Memorial) College, a black school—and St. Augustine's first college—that was located here from 1918 until 1968. The internationally celebrated novelist Zora Neale Hurston was among its teachers. There is a historic marker at the house at 791 West King Street where Hurston lived.

St. Augustine played a major role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Demonstrations began here with a sit-in at the local Woolworth's lunch counter in 1960 and grew to a crescendo by 1964 when Dr. Robert Hayling and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the last major campaign that resulted in passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—one of the two great legislative accomplishments of that movement. Dr. King went on from here to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. A street running through the heart of Lincolnville has been named in his honor.

There is a Freedom Trail of historic sites of the civil rights movement, honoring local heroes like Dr. Robert Hayling, dentist and organizer, and the St. Augustine Four (young teenagers who spent six months in jail and reform school for trying to order a hamburger at the Woolworth's lunch counter).

Your visit to St. Augustine is incomplete without exploring the rich African American heritage that changed our nation's history and inspired the world.