

Welcome to Palatka on the St. Johns River

The City of Palatka is proud to be your host for the 62nd sailing of the annual Mug Race. We have been honored to be a part of this grand event over the years, and our City is dedicated to making this weekend an enjoyable and a rewarding experience for not only our sailor participants, but also for our other guests and local spectators. Palatka has a rich maritime history, and it is our pleasure to share our beautiful St. Johns River waterfront with you. Enjoy your stay and visit us again.



Friday Happenings

- Beer, wine, and soda for sale and complimentary water, sponsored by the Palatka Yacht Club, riverfront amphitheater, 4:30 – 9:00 pm | Friday
- Ice for sale, sponsored by the Palatka Yacht Club, 4:00 – 9:00 pm | Friday
- Skippers Meeting, riverfront amphitheater, 7:15 pm
- Other happenings visit www.palatkadowntown.com or www.putnamcountychamber.com

Saturday Happenings – Enjoy breakfast at

- First Presbyterian Church - Boy Scouts @ 6 am
- Magnolia Café @ 6:30 am
- Quality Inn @ 7 am
- Subway @ 8 am

Taxi Cab Contact Information

- Checker Cab, 386-325-7777

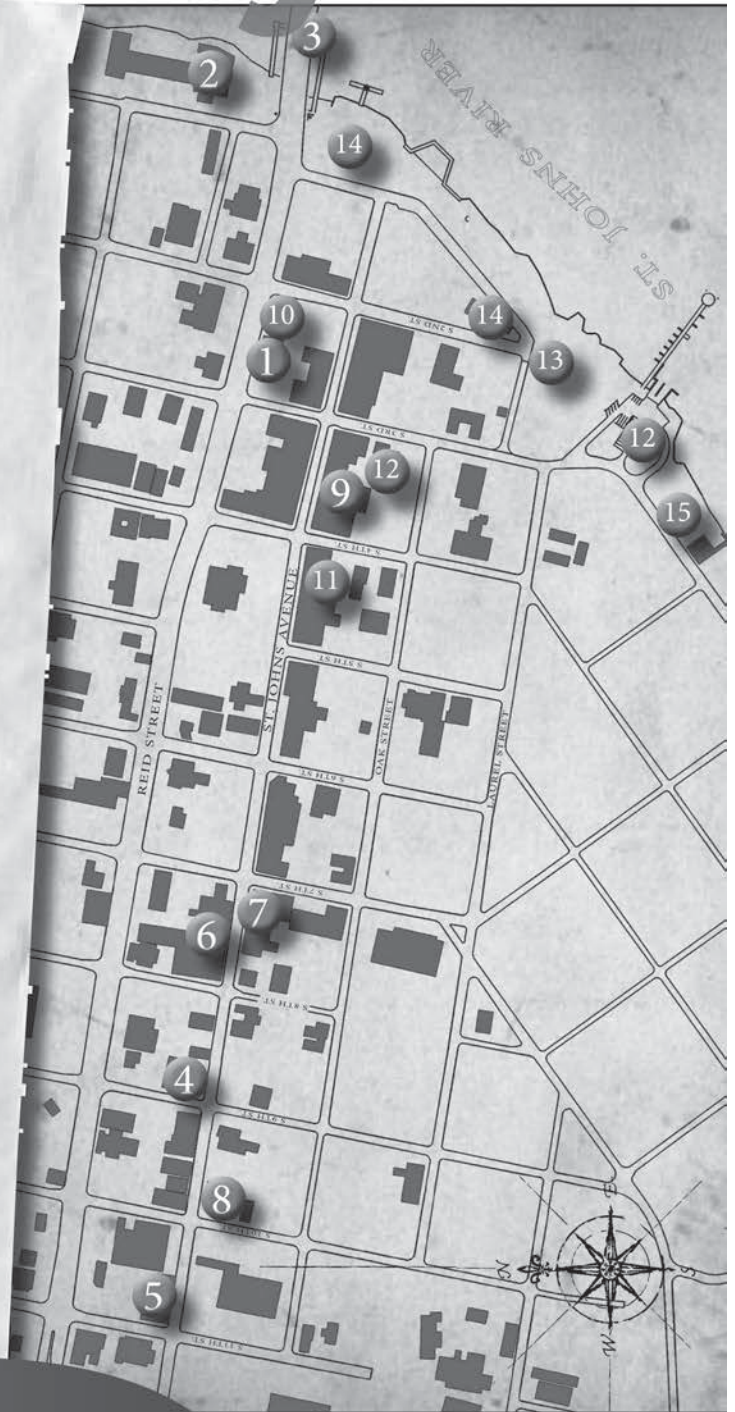
Hospitality

Dining & Nightlife

1. Angel's Dining Car
2. Beef 'O' Brady's @ Quality Inn
3. Best Western Inn (1 Mile East Over Bridge)
4. Dairy Queen
5. DJ's Billiard Room
- ~~6. Downtown Blues Bar & Grille~~
7. Magnolia Cafe
8. Pizzaboyz
9. Steamboat Willie's Bar
10. Subway
- ~~11. Viva! Italia Pizzeria~~
- ~~11. City Cafe~~

Event Locations & Landmarks

12. Public Boat Ramps
13. Riverfront Park / Mug Race Party Area
14. First Presbyterian Church
15. Boathouse Marina



Palatka

it's our nature.

The Palatka Yacht Club

The objectives of the Palatka Yacht Club (PYC) are to promote good fellowship and cooperation among its members, the sport of yachting, safety afloat, and techniques of good seamanship.

PYC was incorporated in 1976 filling a gap during which no yacht club existed in Palatka after the St. Johns Yacht Club ceased operation. The St. Johns Yacht Club, legally incorporated in the 1950s, was the originator of the first Mug Race.

Dan and Nancy Sheffield moved to Palatka and organized the PYC very much like the one that they had belonged to in Miami. During the first few years, PYC primarily conducted over night cruises as most members had cabin motorboats. Monthly dinner meetings were held at member homes. Over the years, the power cruisers were joined by a sail fleet and some local “round the buoys” racing.

PYC boats have participated in many Mug Races. Club members provide support for the Mug Race by assisting the race committee at the start of the race and by providing hospitality for the racers. PYC sponsors the Gene O'Connor Commemorative Trophy to the first PYC member to finish the race. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Colin

Mackenzie, Palatka Yacht Club members, were participants in the first Mug Race.

After many years of not having a large enough membership to afford a clubhouse, the PYC dream of owning their home was achieved in 2004. The club acquired a large hull originally destined to become a floating entertainment vessel. PYC renovated the hull into a multilevel floating clubhouse with inside seating for nearly 80. Built in the style of an 1800s riverboat, the clubhouse, complete with wheelhouse and towering stacks. Our first mooring location was at Browns Landing, about 11 miles south of Palatka on the St. Johns River. Currently, the clubhouse is located at Crystal Cove Resort, north of the City of Palatka on the beautiful St. Johns River.

Activities at the clubhouse are many and cover everything from regular monthly gatherings to weekend boating rendezvous, including canoe trips. On the great St. Johns River, we enjoy all forms of boating.

The commodore and the entire membership welcome visitors to join them at our monthly gatherings or boating trips. For more information on PYC, visit <http://palat kayachtclub.org> or call us at 888-851-1811.



Putnam County History & Heritage

Putnam County Florida has a rich and diverse history. The first documented history can be found in William Bartram's Travels, published in 1769. Bartram describes the Indian Settlements and the early pioneers that farmed the area, and the abundance of plant life that he found.

Putnam County was established in 1849, and named in honor of Benjamin Alexander Putnam, the first president of the Florida Historic Society; Putnam County sits 30 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean. Centrally located to most northern and central Florida attractions, Putnam County offers visitors a relaxing atmosphere with quality accommodations, natural attractions, historic sites and other activities that add to the complete Florida tour.

Because of our many fresh water resources, the St. Johns and Ocklawaha Rivers, Crescent Lake, Rodman Lake and Lake George, we are known for our prized largemouth black bass and native wildlife habitat viewing. Our small towns have atmospheres that are inviting and celebrate our heritage.

PALATKA

The original settlers of Pilotaikata (meaning Crossing Over or Cow's Crossing) were the Timucuan Indians. These natives aided William Bartram with his mission to explore this wild land.

The name of the town was later changed to Palatka, and was used as a military post called Fort Shannon during the Seminole Indian Wars. Both Confederate and Union Troops occupied Palatka during the War Between the States.

Following the tribulations of wars, Palatka and the surrounding area's prosperity was largely due to the use of the St. Johns River and its tributaries. Citrus and timber were shipped worldwide from Palatka and the natural beauty attracted the rich and famous, including Thomas Edison, Harriet Beecher Stowe, President Grover Cleveland, the Mellon Family and many more.

During the later part of the 19th Century and into the 20th Century, Putnam County was a tourist mecca. The City of Palatka became known as the "The Gem of the St. Johns" and boasted several world-class hotels, such as the Arlington, Saratoga, La Fayette, and Putnam House with over 6,000 rooms for let. Crescent City and Welaka were destinations for wealthy northerners for winter retreats where they could enjoy the warm Florida winters.

These were prosperous times for Palatka and Putnam County. From Palatka, visitors would ply the St. Johns River to explore and settle the interior of Florida.

Although many of these historic buildings no longer exist, Palatka historic areas have several beautifully restored examples of the architecture from earlier times. Driving tour maps and a list of knowledgeable step-on-guides are available from the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. Tours of the Bronson-Mulholland House, an historic antebellum plantation home built by Palatka's founding father Judge Isaac Bronson, are available to the public three days a week, and for groups by appointment.

Ravine Gardens State Park, developed during the depression, attracts visitors throughout the year, particularly in the late winter and early spring, when thousands of azaleas are in bloom in the 182-acre, 100-foot deep ravine.

CRESCENT CITY

This lovely small town, full of southern charm, sits amid a generous grove of live oak trees on a high wooded bluff between two lakes. Named for its crescent moon shaped lake, this quaint town has attracted visitors since the late 1800s.

The town was established in 1876, and incorporated in 1883. Crescent City was one of Florida's major citrus growing areas in the 1890s, with 42 citrus growers by 1895. In 1902, the area's primary cash crop changed to ferns.

Today the city displays the "Belle of Crescent City", a citrus packaging label, as its logo. There are a number of Victorian era homes in the historic district (tour brochure available), as well as gift and antique shops. Fine dining and accommodations can also be found in Crescent City's downtown area.

WELAKA

Before the European involvement in North America, the Timucuan Indians called the St. Johns River Welaka or "River of Lakes".

In 1780, the British created an outpost in Welaka called the Fort Gates. Later, United State Forces established a ferry service that assisted troops crossing the river during the Seminole Indian Wars. This ferry service, Florida's oldest, still exists today, enabling passenger cars accessibility to the Ocala National Forest on the west bank.

By the mid-1880s, Welaka had become a resort town that attracted visitors seeking medicinal cures from the many springs that provided mineral water. By 1906, Welaka was a Mecca for those seeking the "healing waters".

Today, the small town of Welaka is a popular destination for freshwater fisherman and folks seeking a scenic riverfront retreat.

Visitors to this quaint town can explore the Welaka State Forest's many hiking trails, enjoy bird watching in the many parks, visit the National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium, or hire a boat to explore the majestic St. Johns River.

Putnam County takes great pride in its efforts to preserve Florida's natural and historic areas, and welcomes visitors to learn about our local heritage. In this planner, we have made a concerted effort to provide you with businesses and activities that will provide your group a quality experience that is interesting and unique only to this area.

Part of what makes Putnam County so unique is the quality of the natural and historic sites. We do ask that when you visit our natural areas that you only take pictures and leave only footprints, avoid contact with animals, and take advantage of using our knowledgeable guides. It is recommended that visitors share in our conservation efforts. Most of our attractions are public and free of charge.

However, we do recommend that donations be planned for the continued operations and preservation of these attractions.

INTERLACHEN

Developed in 1881, Interlachen was planned to accommodate the rail line that passed through the area between Palatka and Gainesville. The town's name translates from Scottish as "between the lakes".

The town grew as northern immigrants located here for the mild climate and the hopes of prospering in the citrus industry. In 1894, Interlachen shipped the second largest number of oranges in the entire state. Many of the building and homes in this community still stand as a heritage to the local history.

MELROSE

Established in 1877, Melrose is probably the only town in the United States that was deliberately built within the boundaries of four different counties.

The India Transit Company dug a canal connecting Lake Alto in Melrose with Lake Santa Fe, allowing commerce trade to reach Melrose. The export of citrus and vegetables through the mid-1890s drove the city's economy. The trade commerce spurred the area's growth as a destination for wealthy northerners. Melrose is now listed on the National Register.

PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Seat: Palatka

County Area: 733

Population: 70,423

Incorporated Municipalities: (Population)

Crescent City: 1,776

Interlachen: 1,475

Palatka: 10,033

Welaka: 586

Pomona Park: 789

Primary Industries: Forestry, Agriculture, Paper and Wood Product Production.

Historic Areas:

Palatka South Historic Area – Encompasses an 18 block area south of S.R. 17 (Reid St.) that fronts the St. Johns River and River St. All the buildings in this area were built in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Palatka North Historic Area- Encompasses a 12 block area north of S.R. 17 (Reid St.) that fronts the St. Johns River. All the buildings in this area were built in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Crescent City- Settled in the mid-1800's, this area sits among a wooded bluff between two lakes. There are more than 20 historic buildings in the downtown area that reflect the architectural "Golden Age" from when this area was settled.

Interlachen- "A Land of Lakes". This small town was named by the Scottish community that settled that area in the late 1800's for it's abundance of lakes and ponds.

Welaka- Historic area includes early Native American archeological sites and preserved buildings.

Melrose- Historic homes and public buildings that reflect the charm of southern small towns of the late 1800's.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA HISTORIC TIME LINE

1513 Ponce de Leon discovered Florida

1565 Pedro Menedez de Aviles founded St. Augustine

1628 Jose Hernandez awarded the first Spanish Land Grants along the St. Johns River

1750 Creek and Seminole Indians migrated into the lands previously inhabited by Timucuan

1761 British Royal Botanist, John Bartram described signs of ancient Indian plantations along the river

1763 Spain ceded Florida Territory to England

1764 The first major settlement along the St. Johns by white men was established by Denys Rolles, near East Palatka

1765 William Bartram farmed Indigo and explored the St. Johns River, taking inventory of plant species

1780 Fort Gates outpost established

1783 Florida returned to Spanish rule

1791 Travels of William Bartram published

1799 Seminole Indians began raiding plantations and settlements along the St. Johns River

1802 La Casa Fuerte de Buena Vista, a Spanish Fort was established on the St. Johns River

1816 Bernardo Segui received Royal Land Grant (Palatka), on the west bank of the St. Johns River, to build a Trading Post

1821 Florida became a U.S. Territory

1822 Jacksonville was founded

1835 Seminole Indian War began in Florida

1835 Fort Shannon established in Palatka

1835 Fort Gates Ferry established

1838 Steamboats began plying the St. Johns River

1840 Palatka established as a Port of call for shipping of agriculture products

1845 Florida admitted to statehood

1849 Putnam County became 28th Florida County

1855 Hart Stagecoach began running from Palatka to Tampa

1861 Florida withdrew from the Union

1862 Palatka occupied by Union Troops

1863 William Dunn Moseley, Florida First Governor was buried in Palatka

1864 Battle of Horse Landing

1865 Battle of Palatka

1885 Seven steamboat lines operated out of Palatka

1887 Palatka has more than 6000 hotel rooms to accommodate arriving steamboat passengers

1906 Welaka advertised nationally as a health resort

1938 Billy Graham baptized and ordained at Palatka Peniel Baptist Church

1940 Babe Ruth arrives in Palatka for training camp

1941 Babe Ruth Chief of Faculty for Palatka All-American Baseball School

1967 The dredging of the Cross Florida Barge Canal began South of Palatka

1998 St. Johns River designated an American Heritage River