



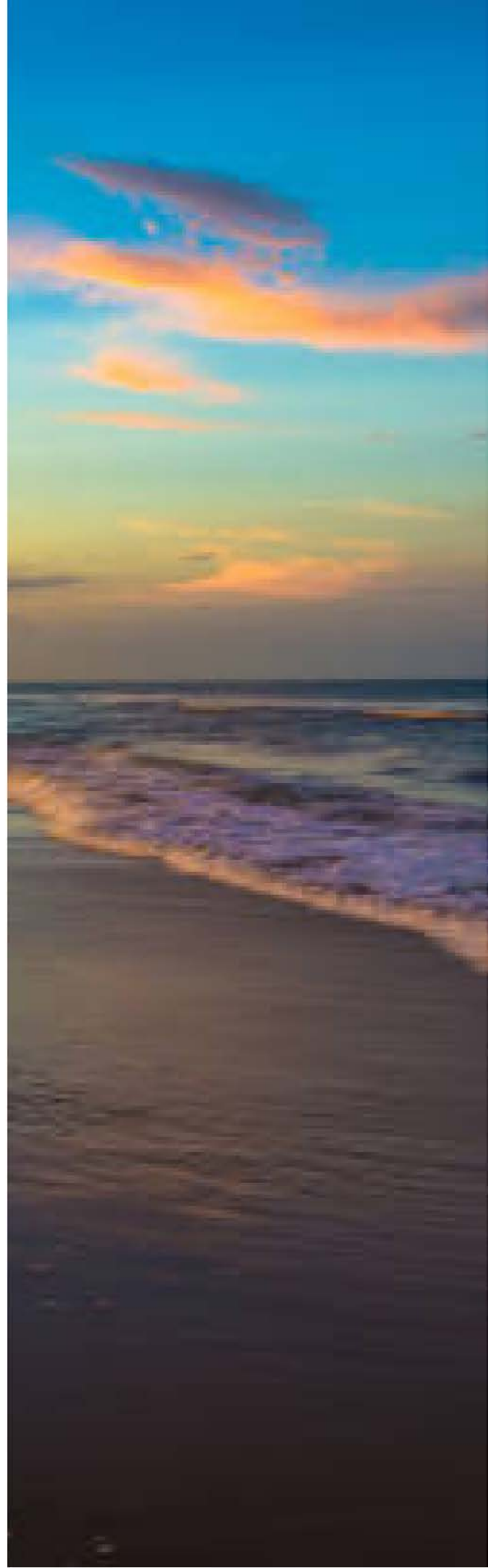
JACKSONVILLE

Military Relocation Guide

WHAT TO DO | PLACES TO EAT | SIGHTS TO SEE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	03
ANNUAL EVENTS	04
THINGS TO DO	06
SHOPPING	08
PLACES TO EAT	09
BEACHES	10
PARKS	12
SCHOOL DISTRICTS	13
FURRY FAMILY	14
DECIDING WHERE TO LIVE	15
HOUSING OPTIONS	16
RENT VS BUY	17
SHORT TERM RENTALS	18
ABOUT ME	19



WELCOME TO JACKSONVILLE

It's my pleasure to be of service and to help you transition to Jacksonville, FL. Jacksonville, also known as First Coast, offers beautiful coastlines, top-notch restaurants and cultural communities. Moving to the Jacksonville area could be the right move for you. I am here to help with all things housing in Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra, Fleming Island, St Augustine and surrounding areas.



Hi, I'm Traci Crawford
YOUR JACKSONVILLE AMBASSADOR



Walking street in St. Augustine

ANNUAL EVENTS



1

NIGHT OF LIGHTS

Nights of Lights has been listed among the top ten holiday light displays in the world by National Geographic. During this festival of lights, downtown St. Augustine glows with holiday magic – from the ground to the rooftops.



2

GATE RIVER RUN

The nation's largest 15k! More than 20,000 participants make their way to Jax every March for the Gate River Run, the nation's largest 15K, to experience first-hand the beauty of the city and the fun of this race.



3

SPRINGING THE BLUES

One of the most highly anticipated music events in the State, the free three-day festival features performances by blues legends and emerging artists who fuse blues with other influences, including rock, funk, soul, swing, boogie, roots, hip-hop and gospel.



4

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Players Championship is an annual golf tournament on the PGA Tour. The field usually includes the top 50 players in the world rankings, but unlike the major championships and World Golf Championships events, it is owned by the PGA Tour and not an official event on other tours.



GO FOR A WALK ON
OUR SANDY
BEACHES

THINGS TO DO IN JACKSONVILLE, FL

Local spots worth visiting!



MAYPORT BEACH

LOCATION: MAYPORT

Enjoy a day on the beach with your family, at Mayports own sandy paradise. Check the tide schedule. I liked going to the beach when high tide was just over. As the tide went out, fun little tide pools would be left behind. The kids loved playing in these! We often saw dolphins swimming in the water just off the beach. A friend of mine says, it's always a good day when you see a dolphin.

JACKSONVILLE ZOO

LOCATION: 370 ZOO PARKWAY, JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens offers educational programs for families to provide opportunities for parents, grandparents, and children to learn more about wildlife, nature, and the importance of conservation. From workshops to animal encounters, family education programs are both fun and informative.



POTTER'S WAX MUSEUM

LOCATION: 31 ORANGE STREET, ST AUGUSTINE

As far as attractions go and give all you can see here, Potter's offers great value. Unlike any attraction of its kind, it is housed inside the oldest pharmacy in the United States. This is the oldest wax museum in the country and there are a wide variety of figures to examine ranging from Roman Centurions to celebrities.

THINGS TO DO IN JACKSONVILLE, FL

Local spots worth visiting!

CASTAWAY ISLAND PRESERVE

LOCATION: 2921 SAN PABLO RD S, JACKSONVILLE

Castaway Island Preserve is located along the Intracoastal Waterway and is adjacent to an intricate salt marsh ecosystem that is ideal for spotting marshland wildlife. Visitors may stroll along the Preserve's wooden boardwalk, take in a view from an observation platform overlooking the waterway, walk along the kid-friendly interpretive nature trail, use the kayak launch to explore the marsh, and explore the theater-style education center during scheduled programs.



ST. AUGUSTINE TROLLEY TOUR

LOCATION: 167 SAN MARCO AVE, ST. AUGUSTINE

Old Town Trolley Tours is the best way to see the city. Because we cover the entire city, you can avoid costly parking and city driving. The tour is also designed so that you can hop on and off and explore on your own at any time. With frequent pickups at all our stops, this helps you avoid walking long distances.

WILD HORSES AT CUMBERLAND ISLAND

LOCATION: CUMBERLAND ISLAND

- Wild Horses, dolphins, manatees, coastal birds and more.
- Sea shells and surface fossils
- White sandy beach
- Coastal harbor crossing
- Historic National Seashore
- Time on Cumberland Island to relax, play and explore.



SHOPPING

St Johns Towns Center

The open-air St. Johns Town Center originally opened to the public in 2005. It has more than 175 of the most popular retailers and restaurants.



TAKE A TRIP TO OUR
POPULAR OUTDOOR MALL

Many stores are exclusive to the market, including RH, Dillard's, Apple, Pottery Barn, Nordstrom and Ann Taylor as well as shops in the palm-lined streets of the Luxury Collection such as Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co. and Mayors. As much a fashion-forward shopping hotspot as a dining destination, the diverse palate is represented with exciting options as The Cheesecake Factory, The Capital



Grille and Cantina Laredo. Relax among the Florida sunshine at the Park Green's turtle pond or dog park.

PLACES TO EAT

Foodies love Jax! It's true. Jacksonville has a wide variety of dining options, from low-key to fine dining, in all parts of the city. From the traditional Thai Rangous at Indochine, to the fried chicken at Beach Road Fish House & Chicken Dinners, locals and visitors alike crave our unique farm to table scene, where each ingredient is fresh and eclectic.

Find a new go-to restaurant

HAVE SOME FAMILY FUN



BISCOTTIS

Biscottis is well known throughout Jacksonville for its decadent desserts. Their signature dish is bread pudding. This confectionary delight is served warm with vanilla ice cream, and it will melt your heart it's so good.



JULINGTON CREEK FISH CAMP

Many southern cities will lay claim to shrimp and grits, but no one does it quite like Jacksonville. With fresh, locally caught Mayport shrimp and a white wine butter sauce,



INDOCHINE

Indochine is the place to go for anyone who loves Thai food, wants to try Thai food, or just likes food at all. Their crab rangoon is the must-try here, with real lump crab and curried cream cheese. This is not your average rangoon.



MOJO BBQ

Can't decide between all the delicious barbecue options at Mojo's? Get a little bit of everything with the Whole Hawg! It has ribs, chicken, pulled pork, beef brisket, turkey breast and smoked sausage served with four side items.

LOCAL BEACHES



ATLANTIC BEACH

The farthest north in Jacksonville's beaches community, Atlantic Beach has a rich history of being an esteemed vacation destination dating back to the early 1900s.



JACKSONVILLE BEACH

Located 17 miles from Downtown Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach offers visitors a family-friendly beach vacation with outdoor activities, a variety of hotels for all budgets and if you're into nightlife, we've got plenty of that too.



NEPTUNE BEACH

Nestled between Atlantic Beach and Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach presents visitors with a relaxed, beach atmosphere alongside plenty of local dining and shopping opportunities.

HAVE SOME FAMILY FUN

With 1,100 miles of navigable water, Jax has more shoreline than any other city in the nation. Just a few minutes from Downtown, Jacksonville's white sand beaches await you. Spend a day unwinding by the ocean and enjoy the nearby shops, restaurants, attractions, and nightlife. Bring your flip-flops and pack that sunscreen, Jacksonville has 22 miles of wide, uncrowded, white-sandy beaches that offer visitors majestic sunrises and star filled nights.

TAKE A TRIP & VISIT ONE OF OUR *Local Beaches*



ENJOY MILES OF
NATURE TRAILS

LOCAL PARKS



FORT CAROLINE NATIONAL PARK

12713 Fort Caroline Rd

Step back in time and learn about the French and Spanish rivalry in the area during the 16th century at the Timucuan Preserve Visitor Center located in the park. Hike the 1.3-mile nature loop trail shaded by live oaks.



FORT GEORGE ISLAND STATE PARK

11241 Fort George Rd

Visitors come for boating, fishing, off-road bicycling, and hiking. A key attraction is the restored Ribault Club, once an exclusive resort. This park offers a public boat launch.



HANNA PARK

500 Wonderwood Dr

Hanna has over 20 miles of hiking and biking trails with different levels of difficulty, camping grounds and cabins, and a 60-acre lake for paddleboarding and fishing.

HAVE SOME FAMILY FUN

With the largest urban park system in the entire nation, visitors can experience the ultimate coastal eco-adventure in Jax!

Our parks take you from peaceful riverfront views, to kayaking the marshes and wetlands, biking miles of nature trails, paddleboarding in freshwater lagoons, surfing the best waves in the region, fishing all year-round, and connecting to the local wildlife in settings you've never experienced in Florida before. Our parks are active, family friendly and waiting to host your next green adventure!

TAKE A TRIP & VISIT ONE OF OUR *Local Parks*

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS



[Click here for School Guide](#)

The Jacksonville areas have some of the top rated schools in the state of Florida. Our community is focused on the educational well being of our children as a result of our high standards of excellence. Scan the QR code for a local school guide.



1 CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Clay County School District is a highly rated, public school district located in GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL. It has 38,268 students in grades PK, K-12 with a student-teacher ratio of 20 to 1.

2 DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Duval County Public Schools is a public school district located in JACKSONVILLE, FL. It has 126,815 students in grades PK, K-12 with a student-teacher ratio of 23 to 1.

3 NASSAU COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nassau County School District is a highly rated, public school district located in FERNANDINA BEACH, FL. It has 11,898 students in grades PK, K-12 with a student-teacher ratio of 18 to 1.

4 ST JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

St. Johns County School District is a highly rated, public school district located in ST AUGUSTINE, FL. It has 44,550 students in grades PK, K-12 with a student-teacher ratio of 22 to 1.

CHILD CARE OPTIONS



1

CDC NAS JAX

2

MILITARY CHILD CARE

3

MILITARY ONE SOURCE

4

MAYPORT CDC

FURRY FAMILY



Recommendations

Veterinarian

[Chimney Lakes Animal Hospital](#)

[Hidden Hills Animal Hospital](#)

[Cole Vet Clinic](#)

[Full Circle Animal Hospital](#)

[Plantation Animal Hospital](#)

Groomers

[Pet Paradise](#)

[Tiffany's Clip Joint](#)

[Salty Paws](#)

[Barker Shop](#)

HOUSING OPTIONS

Types of housing options available to you!

Military families have three housing options available to them while stationed in Jacksonville, FL.

1

MILITARY HOUSING

Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport have base housing for military families. Click on the links below for more information [NAS Jax Housing](#) and [NS Mayport Housing](#).

2

RENTING A HOME OFF BASE

Check out weekly rental post in [Jacksonville PCS Pay-It-Forward](#). [Reach out](#) if you would like a custom rental home search.

3

PURCHASING A HOME

Looking to purchase a home? Education is the first place to start. [Reach out](#) to begin your home purchase journey and join [Jacksonville Savvy Homebuyers](#) for information on the homebuying process.



RENTING VS BUYING?

Advantages and Disadvantages

RENTING

Renting allows for more flexibility and less financial commitment, as you are not responsible for maintenance or property taxes.

Renting does not provide you with the opportunity to build equity in the property.

BUYING

Buying a property allows you to build equity and have more control over the property.

It does come with a greater financial commitment and responsibility for maintenance and taxes.

Ultimately, the decision between renting and buying will depend on your individual financial situation and lifestyle preferences.



SHORT TERM RENTALS



TIPS FOR FINDING SHORT TERM RENTALS

- Check with NAS Jax and/or NS Mayport housing office to see what options are available.
- Check online rentals. Below are a few sights to search for short term rentals.
- Check with other military members .
- Make sure to ask about military discounts and policies that may be available.
- Be sure to read the rental agreement carefully and understand the terms and conditions of the rental before making a reservation.
- Last, regardless of the method you use to find short term rentals in Jacksonville be sure to read reviews.

[Apartment List](#)

[Corporate Housing](#)

[Hello Landing](#)

[RentCafe](#)

[Corporate Suite Shoppe](#)

[Furnishedfinder](#)

WORKING WITH ME

About Traci Crawford



Traci Crawford has always been driven by her passion to serve. For 30 years, that meant serving her country as an Army nurse. After retiring and becoming a REALTOR® in 2018, her passion now is defined by serving her community with honest guidance and market expertise. She truly believes education is the first step. As an active duty mother of two, she experienced the challenges of PCSing from duty station to duty station and understands the desire for a smooth transition. So, no matter how big or small your family may be, when the time comes for your next move and you need a dedicated real estate advisor by your side, Traci looks forward to serving you. She is never too busy to help!

Real estate is my passion

HELPING MY CLIENTS ACHIEVE THEIR HOME GOALS



Traci CRAWFORD

Real Estate Advisor

LET'S CONNECT

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Please let me know if you have any questions. I am never too busy to help! Remember, if you know someone headed this way please share our group with them. Here is the link

Jacksonville PCS Pay It Forward



ENGEL & VÖLKERS