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Duval County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · NORTH FLORIDA & FIRST COAST

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REGION

North Florida & First Coast

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

Jacksonville, Atlantic Beach, Baldwin

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Florida's largest city by area offers riverfront neighborhoods, beaches, major employment centers, healthcare, ports, sports and broad suburban choice.

Duval County and the consolidated City of Jacksonville cover an unusually large area, so a Jacksonville address can describe an urban neighborhood, beach community, riverfront area, established suburb or semi-rural edge. The first relocation decision is which employment and river-crossing pattern fits the household.

The port, logistics, finance, healthcare, military, education, aviation and professional services create multiple job centers from downtown and the Southbank to the beaches, Northside, Westside and southeast growth corridors. I-95 and I-295 connect the county, but the St. Johns River and limited bridge crossings shape daily travel.

Scout Jacksonville by side of the river. Drive the bridge and interchange your household would depend on, compare city services with the independent beach municipalities and Baldwin, and review flood, evacuation, drainage and wind conditions for a real address.

Lifestyle: Careers · City access · Beaches

Duval County by the numbers

Population Census estimate	1,023,153	At the last full count 2020 Census	995,567
Median age	36.9	Aged 65 and over	15.3%
Under 18	22.4%	Median household income	\$71,277
Median home value what owners estimate	\$303,500	Homeownership	58.2%
People per household	2.41	Average commute	24.1 minutes

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, published January 2026, read September 19, 2026. Survey figures are estimates; median home value is what owners estimate their home is worth, not a sale price.

Communities to compare

Jacksonville

Jacksonville contains downtown, historic neighborhoods, riverfront areas, large suburban districts and fast-growing southeast corridors. Narrow the search by river side, job center and bridge before comparing homes under the same city name.

Baldwin

Baldwin is a small independent town on Duval's western edge with rail, highway and rural surroundings. Confirm well or septic conditions, broadband, road access and the travel time to healthcare and employment in central Jacksonville.

Atlantic Beach

Atlantic Beach is an independent oceanfront municipality with a compact beach-town pattern and access through the Beaches corridor. Compare coastal insurance, evacuation, older housing and the commute inland before choosing for beach proximity.

Checks before Duval County becomes the answer

- ☐ **Choose a side of the St. Johns River.** Match home, work, schools and healthcare to the same practical bridge pattern whenever possible.
 - ☐ **Drive I-95, I-295 and the bridge.** Test the complete route during the actual work period, including the neighborhood-to-interstate segment and an alternate crossing.
 - ☐ **Check flood and drainage by address.** River, creek, coast and low-lying inland locations have different flood conditions. Review maps, elevation, drainage and road access.
 - ☐ **Separate city and beach municipality services.** Confirm jurisdiction, utilities, permitting, taxes, emergency information and local rules for the actual municipality.
 - ☐ **Map hospital and specialty networks.** Jacksonville has major regional medical systems, but cross-river or cross-county travel can reduce convenience. Confirm the required route.
 - ☐ **Price older housing and coastal exposure.** Review roof, electrical, plumbing, wind protection, flood history and insurance before comparing historic, suburban and beach properties.
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Questions to answer for Duval County

Jacksonville's size creates separate markets

Urban, historic, suburban, beach and rural-edge communities share one county but not one daily routine. River side and job location are practical starting points.

Port, finance and healthcare create many job centers

JAXPORT, downtown offices, hospitals, military installations, distribution centers and the southeast business corridor pull travel in different directions.

Regional medical and education depth is a strength

Major hospital systems, the University of North Florida, Jacksonville University and Florida State College at Jacksonville offer broad access, but the precise campus and provider route matter.

Bridges determine more than mileage

I-95, I-295 and several St. Johns River bridges form the network. A home close to a destination on the wrong side of a constrained crossing can create a repeated burden.

Coast, river and rainfall require different checks

Storm surge, river flooding, creek drainage, wind and power outages vary across Duval. Verify flood and evacuation information without treating inland as risk-free.

Places that reveal the county

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

A 122-acre zoo and botanical garden at the mouth of the Trout River, holding over 2,000 animals and more than 1,000 kinds of plant.

Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

Forty-six thousand acres of marsh, waterway and history in northeastern Duval County, holding Fort Caroline and Kingsley Plantation inside it.

MOCA Jacksonville

Contemporary art in a 1931 Art Deco telegraph building on James Weldon Johnson Park, run by the University of North Florida.

Fort Caroline National Memorial

A full-size model of the French Huguenot fort of 1564, on the St. Johns River, marking a colony that lasted fifteen months.

Little Talbot Island State Park

One of the few undeveloped barrier islands left in northeast Florida, with more than five miles of beach and no buildings on it.

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

A 447-acre city park at Mayport with a mile and a half of beach, a 40-acre lake and nearly fifteen miles of mountain bike trail.

Riverside Arts Market

A Saturday market under the Fuller Warren Bridge on the St. Johns River, running every week of the year since 2009.

Jacksonville Beach Pier

The city's rebuilt fishing pier, put back eight feet higher and on heavier pilings after Hurricane Matthew took half of it.

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

Five thousand works of art and 1.45 acres of historic riverfront gardens at 829 Riverside Avenue.

Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary

A nonprofit sanctuary on Starratt Road keeping rescued tigers, lions, cougars and leopards, with night feedings on Friday and Saturday.

Kingsley Plantation

Florida's oldest standing plantation house, on Fort George Island, with the tabby slave cabins still arranged in their long arc.

Jacksonville Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

A 120-acre preserve on the site of an old titanium mine, with 3.8 miles of trail, a lake and a ravine with a small waterfall.

Big Talbot Island State Park

The island where Boneyard Beach lies, its shore covered in the bleached trunks of oaks the sea has pulled down.

Friendship Fountain

A fountain 200 feet across on the Southbank Riverwalk that was the largest in the world when it opened in 1965.

Ritz Theatre and Museum

A 426-seat theater and an eleven thousand square foot museum at 829 North Davis Street, in the LaVilla district of downtown Jacksonville.

USS Orleck Naval Museum

A Gearing-class destroyer of 1945 tied up at Pier 1 downtown, open to walk through from the deck to the combat information center.

Florida Theatre

A 1,900-seat Mediterranean Revival movie palace of 1927 downtown, where Elvis Presley played six shows in 1956 with a judge watching.

Huguenot Memorial Park

A 368-acre sandbar where the St. Johns River meets the Atlantic, one of the few beaches in Florida you can still drive and camp on.

Beaches Museum

A free museum at Jacksonville Beach whose History Park holds a 1911 steam locomotive, an 1873 cracker cabin and the old Mayport depot.

Tree Hill Nature Center

A nonprofit nature center in Arlington since 1971, on the second-highest ground in Duval County, with live native animals and three creeks.

Beaches in Duval County

Always verify current parking, fees, water quality, lifeguard coverage and posted rules before leaving.

Atlantic Beach

Jacksonville Beach

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park Beach

Black Rock Beach at Big Talbot Island

Neptune Beach

Huguenot Memorial Park Beach

Little Talbot Island State Park Beach

Where to check

Jacksonville & Duval County Government · Official consolidated city-county services, alerts and resident information.	jacksonville.gov
Jacksonville Planning Department · Land use, transportation policy, development and mobility planning.	jacksonville.gov
Jacksonville Department Directory · Direct access to planning, public works, emergency and community services.	jacksonville.gov
Duval Emergency Preparedness · County emergency-management contact and special-needs planning information.	jacksonville.gov