



IS IT SAFE?

St. Augustine

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

OVERALL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

RATING: Very safe — a small, walkable tourist town; standard beach and heat precautions cover the real risks

St. Augustine is a comfortable, low-crime destination — the historic district is dense with visitors and staff throughout the day and well into the evening, and violent crime against tourists is rare.

Petty theft is the most realistic issue, concentrated on unattended bags on the beach and valuables left visible in parked cars, rather than any particular street or block downtown.

The town's genuine hazards are environmental rather than criminal: intense sun with little shade in the historic district, rip currents at the ocean beaches, and afternoon thunderstorms that build fast in the warmer months.

RATING SCALE: Very safe Safe Use awareness Avoid at night Avoid

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Historic District / St. George St		Busy, well-lit, and comfortable day and evening.
Aviles Street & Bayfront		Quiet and safe at all hours; less foot traffic than St. George.
Anastasia Island		Residential and beach-oriented; uneventful at all hours.
Lincolnville		A historic residential neighborhood just south of downtown; fine to walk, standard awareness at night.
Vilano Beach		Quieter and more local than the main beaches; comfortable throughout the day.

COMMON SCAMS & RISKS

BEACH AND CAR VALUABLES

Unattended bags on the beach and valuables visible in parked cars are the most common target. Leave nothing visible and carry only what you need to the sand.

RIP CURRENTS

The Atlantic beaches here can have real rip currents, especially around inlets and jetties. Check posted flags and swim near a lifeguard tower when one is staffed.

HEAT AND SUN EXPOSURE

The historic district and the fort's gun deck offer little shade. Carry water, wear sunscreen, and pace outdoor time in the middle of the day during warmer months.

AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORMS

Florida's characteristic afternoon storms build fast, especially in summer. Get off open, exposed areas like the fort ramparts or the beach at the first sign of lightning.

UNEVEN HISTORIC STREETS

Coquina and brick streets in the old town are charming but uneven — sturdy shoes reduce the real risk of a turned ankle.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Flagler Hospital (400 Health Park Boulevard) is the area's main full-service hospital, about ten minutes from downtown.

The most common visitor issues are heat-related — dehydration and sunburn — along with minor beach injuries from shells or uneven sand. Reef-safe sunscreen is worth packing given the marine environment.

Datil pepper, the local specialty, is genuinely hot — pace yourself with unfamiliar hot sauces on the table at Minorcan-style restaurants.

SOLO TRAVELERS

St. Augustine is an easy, comfortable city for solo travelers, including solo women — its small scale, high density of other visitors, and bar-counter dining culture make solo time feel unremarkable rather than conspicuous.

The sensible precautions are ordinary beach-town ones: watch belongings on the sand, respect posted surf conditions, and use standard nighttime awareness on the quieter residential streets outside the historic core.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

SERVICE	CONTACT
Emergency (Police / Fire / Medical)	911
St. Augustine Police (non-emergency)	(904) 825-1073
St. Johns County Sheriff	(904) 824-8304
Flagler Hospital	(904) 819-5155
Poison Control (US)	1-800-222-1222
Crisis Text Line	Text HOME to 741741
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	988

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