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## A wide-angle photograph of the New York City skyline across the water. In the foreground, the Manhattan Bridge is visible, with its blue steel structure and white concrete piers. The bridge spans the East River. In the background, the Manhattan skyline is prominent, featuring several skyscrapers. The Empire State Building is a notable landmark on the right side of the skyline. Other buildings of varying heights and architectural styles fill the rest of the background. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the sky and the bridge. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is a classic view of New York City from across the water.

Make the most of it and explore before the crowds begin to flock. Using Omni Jacksonville Hotel ([/hotels/jacksonville](#)) as a home base, and this two-day itinerary as a guide, you'll be in the perfect place to find out just what this charming city, affectionately called "Jax" by locals, has in store.

## Morning

Get an early morning walk in before you eat. As you head across the St. Johns River via either the Main Street Bridge or the Acosta Bridge, you'll find yourself enjoying the fresh air while quickly acclimating to the city's



For the rest of the morning, take a walk along the Southbank Riverwalk to the Museum of Science and History (<http://themosh.org/>), or MOSH. In addition to a planetarium, there are permanent exhibits on motion, local marine and wild life, energy and electricity, the state's history and native plants.

## A perspective view down a long industrial tunnel. On both sides are large, horizontal, rotating metal drums, possibly for paper or textile processing. The floor is a reddish-brown color, and the ceiling has exposed wooden beams and industrial lighting fixtures. A person is visible in the distance on the left side.



After you've eaten, head back north over the St. John's River and visit the Anheuser-Busch Jacksonville (<http://www.budweisertours.com/locations/jacksonville.html>) brewery for the Budweiser Brewery Experience. There are several tours to choose from as well as a Beer School, where visitors can identify beer types, learn pouring techniques and discover good food pairings.

## Evening

Stick around Omni Jacksonville Hotel to enjoy an authentic Florida seafood dinner. The modern Juliette's Bistro (<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/jacksonville/juliettes-bistro>) offers locally sourced dishes like pecan-crusted salmon, pan roasted scallops, shrimp and grits or Florida bouillabaisse.



Less than 5 blocks from the hotel, you'll find Cowford Chophouse (<http://cowfordchophouse.com/>), another elegant dinner option. Elevate your experience by dining on the rooftop of the historic building or settle in to the unique interior to enjoy the 28 day dry aged Tomahawk (38oz.) Steak, Halibut and Duck Fat Corn bread. Save room to try the desserts. The Black Out chocolate cake and Cinnamon Roll Crème Brulee are sure to please.

Just around the corner from the restaurant sits the Florida Theatre (<http://floridatheatre.com/>), home of Elvis Presley's first indoor performance in the 1950s. Today, the atmospheric theater serves as a performing arts and entertainment venue where visitors can view live music, dance performances, movie screenings and even high-end magic shows.

If you're in the mood for some flashback fun, head to the Riverside neighborhood to finish out the night at Keg and Coin (<https://www.facebook.com/KegnCoin/>). This bar is known for its old-school arcade games, including pinball, Pac-Man and House of the Dead, but visitors can also play Foosball or darts while enjoying an impressive selection of beers.

## DAY TWO

### Morning

Head back to the Riverside area the next morning for a delicious Southern breakfast. One option is the Southern Roots Filling Station (<https://www.southernrootsjax.com/>), a company that prides itself on its honest and ethical business practices. Grab a coffee drink like a cortado or the Black Panther to pair with a granola bar, coconut chia pudding or the “blisscuit,” complete with a tofu egg, avocado and a garlic biscuit.

If you’re looking for something heartier, try the Cool Moose Café (<http://www.coolmoosecafe.net/>). In addition to traditional breakfasts, they offer a meat lover’s quesadilla, a Costa Rican-inspired dish, a spicy Andouille sausage omelet and homemade corn beef hash.

If you time your trip right, you can stop by the Saturday morning Riverside Arts Market (<http://ram.riversideavondale.org/>), where local artists and artisans come together to share goods like fresh local produce, candied nuts, cookie dough, paintings, jewelry, tea, salsa, jams, soaps, candles, glass art and more. There is also live music throughout the event.

Just south of where the market is held, the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens (<http://www.cummermuseum.org/>), which holds more than 5,000 artifacts dating back to 2100 B.C. The permanent collection includes illustrations by well-known author Norman Rockwell, baroque paintings by Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens, nearly 200 Japanese woodblock prints and much more.



### Afternoon

Venture back downtown to Bellwether for lunch. This elevated southern classics served in understated setting, offers a unique array of cuisine, from Chicken and Dumplings, Fried Shrimp and Grits and Korean Fried



Later in the day, explore the river by boat. The city has water taxis that can take you on science and history tours courtesy of the Museum of Science and History, or escort you back toward the hotel.

To experience a different kind of local culture, visit the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts (<http://www.timesunioncenter.com/>) to catch a concert by the Jacksonville Symphony, whose season spans 38 weeks of the year and often includes guest appearances by renowned artists.





*The Omni Jacksonville Hotel team contributed to this article.*