

Trip 2 – Episode #55: North to Historic St. Augustine

We've driven north out of Tampa area before, and it wasn't pretty. This time we decided to take the less travelled routes, and it paid off. We drove through some lovely pastoral areas.





Eventually we landed in our next stopping point, North Beach Camp Resort, north of St. Augustine.



It turned out to be one of our favourite campgrounds.

This was the road in.



And along the way, there were paths to camping spots, all of which were surrounded by these lovely trees.



And to make it even better, right across the road was the Atlantic Ocean and this beach.





The campground is on a kind of isthmus, with the Atlantic on one side and the Tolomato River on the other. And that was within easy walking distance too.



Not only that, there were restaurants there. And not only that, one of the restaurants was called ...



It was a fun place, with fresh seafood and a sunset to boot.







A short drive down Highway A1 was the town of St. Augustine, a place I've been wanting to visit for years.

Fifty years after the Spaniard Juan Ponce de Leon "discovered" Florida in 1513, St. Augustine was founded, and claims to be "the oldest continuously occupied settlement of European and African-American origin in the United States."

It was fought over by the Brits and the French, and eventually acquired by the Americans, but still retains much of its original Spanish influence. It really does have a unique charm. And as you can see it was a glorious sunny day.

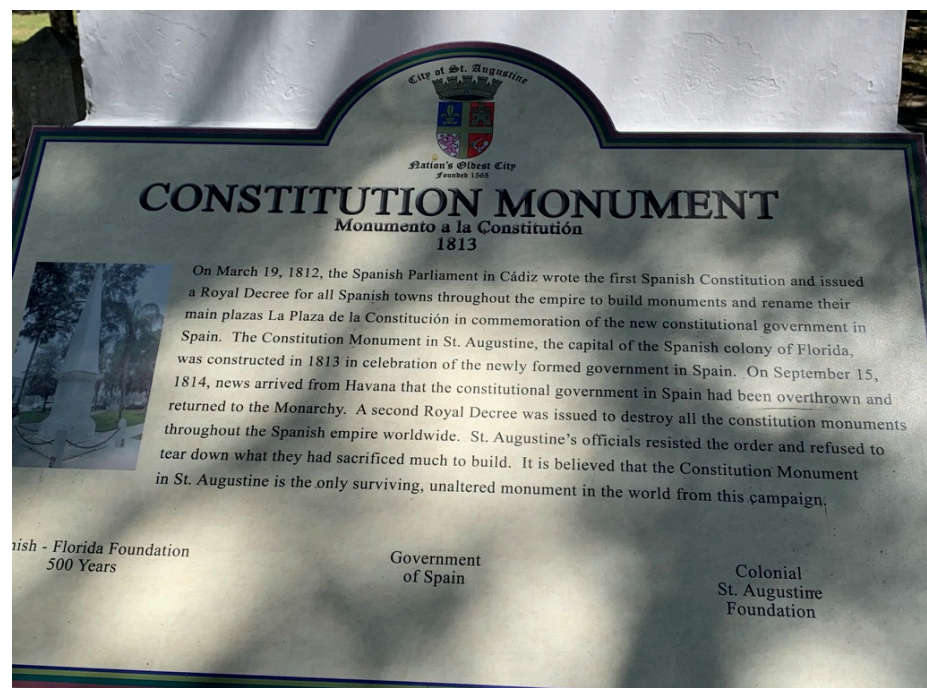


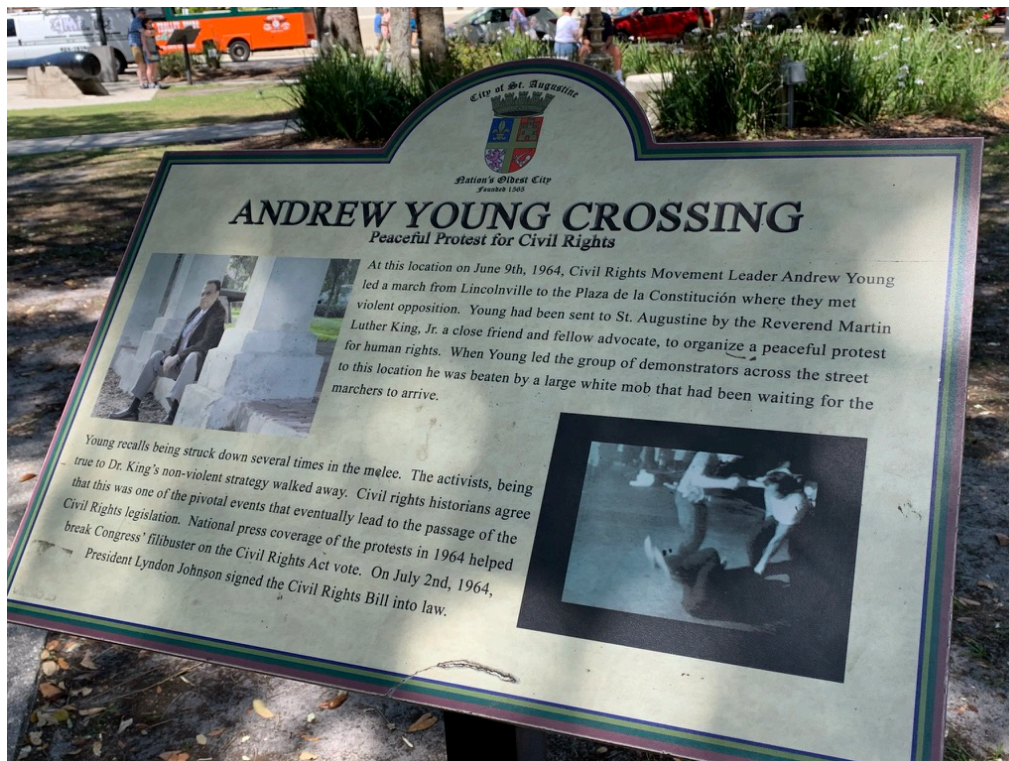
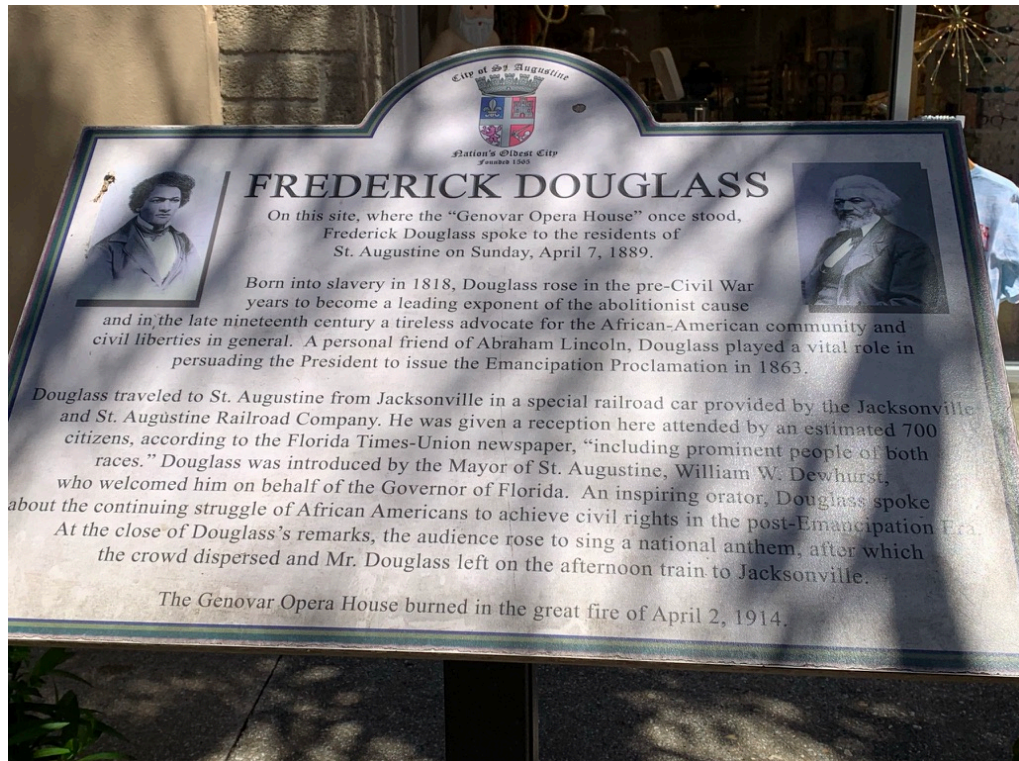






Along with being quite beautiful, St. Augustine also has a lot of interesting history to acknowledge.







And of course, the most famous historical location...



We didn't drive the two blocks to check out the Fountain of Youth, suspecting, from past experience, that it might just be more hype than history.

And seeing this sign confirmed our suspicions.



But there were charming homes, lovely parks and pedestrian areas with fun shops and lots of cafes.









We stopped and dined on a pleasant patio.



It was a perfect afternoon, topped off by more time on our beautiful beach.





This is a place I would definitely return to!

The next day, we said goodbye to Florida.



And hello to...

