

New Water Services Add Summertime Splash to Amelia Island's Liquid Assets

Popular Florida beach vacation hotspot, Amelia Island, has introduced two new water activities to the island's menu of attractions.

May 14, 2008 (FPRC) -- AMELIA ISLAND, Fla.— Located off the northeastern coast of Florida, Amelia Island is offering two new water experiences available to visitors during the coming summer months.

A new private yacht charter, and ferry service to St. Mary's, GA. are adding to Amelia Island's long list of 'liquid assets.' Recently chosen as one of the top 10 North American Islands by Conde Nast Traveler's Reader's Choice Awards, Amelia Island has long been a popular Florida beach vacation spot for family fun and adventure on the water.

On the Water Adventures, which gives guided creek and river tours of Amelia Island and the Cumberland Island, recently acquired the O.A. Bloxom, an 84-foot, 1901 oyster boat. Originally a buy boat in the oyster industry, the Bloxom has been refurbished and converted for use as a private yacht. Featuring sleeping quarters for four couples, two hot water showers, and a full galley, the ship is a truly unique option for cruising and exploring the waters surrounding Amelia Island. Visitors can charter the Bloxom for daytrips, sunset dinners, or overnight voyages.

The Cumberland Sound Ferry Service is scheduled to begin service during summer 2008, offering a scenic transportation option from Fernandina Beach's Centre Street on Amelia Island to Osborn Street on St. Mary's, Ga. The service will run three ferries per day, with the first departing at 10 a.m. The reasonably priced ferry service will be just \$15 roundtrip and will leave either location every 90 minutes. Departures from Amelia Island are timed so that passengers can then catch a second ferry from St. Mary's to Cumberland Island.

"In addition to these two new services, Amelia Island offers plenty of ways for visitors to make waves this summer. The Amelia Island River Cruises offers tours that showcase spectacular views from the Intracoastal Waterway. Kayak Amelia gives visitors the chance to paddle their way to close encounters with Amelia Island's extraordinary wildlife, either through guided tours or on their own," says Gil Langley, Managing Director for the Amelia Island Tourism Development Council.

A favorite for anglers, Amelia Island's waters are teeming with redbass, trout, flounder, harpon, and more. The Amelia Island Charter Boat Association arranges fishing charters to suit every angler's needs. Visitors can also take sailing lessons at Windward Sailing, named Outstanding School of the Year by the American Sailing Association.

About Amelia Island: Northeast Florida's coastal treasure, Amelia Island is a barrier island rich in colorful history and breath-taking natural beauty. Its long, beautiful beaches, abundant wildlife, and pristine waters have made the island a favorite destination for outdoor adventure. Upscale resorts with world-class spas, championship golf and exclusive dining blend effortlessly with a captivating collection of bed and breakfast inns and historic districts. The island is home to Fernandina Beach, once a vibrant Victorian seaport village, and now a charming downtown district of eclectic shops, attractions, and eateries. Visitor information, online planning tools, and a list of Amelia Island bed

and breakfast locations and Amelia island resorts, is available on the Amelia Island website at <http://www.ameliaisland.org/lodging/bb.php>.

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