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Amelia's Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival Serves up a Delectable Feast for the Eyes and Palate

AMELIA ISLAND, FL. (February 13, 2008) – Pirates roaming the Atlantic Ocean are just one of Amelia Island's tales that come to life at this year's 45th Annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival on May 2, 3 & 4, 2008. Treat yourself to a feast of the sea and lively entertainment in the historic Northeast Florida city of Fernandina Beach – the birthplace of the modern shrimping industry. Celebrating all things shrimp since 1964 – catching them, cooking them, eating them and even drawing them, visitors will be entertained by pirates, special musical guests and artists from all over the nation. The Southeast Tourism Society has named the Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival a Top-20 event for six years. This year's line-up of fine food and entertainment is sure to live up to that distinction. *Arrrrrr!*

Food, Antiques, Fine Arts and Crafts

What would a shrimp festival be without shrimp? Seafood and shrimp dishes abound, all prepared with a local flair and flavor by volunteer organizations from the Fernandina Beach area. When not feasting on shellfish or other festival fare, visitors can enjoy the works of over 300 award-winning artists and craftspeople and their creations in watercolor, acrylics, oils, sculpture, metal, photography, pottery and more, all fully juried to qualify for entry into the show. The festival also boasts an excellent showing of fine antiques and collectibles, including furniture, depression glass, jewelry, crystal and coins.

The treats for the taste buds and eyes are rivaled only by musical performances from regional and local acts that will fill the seaside air on two stages with the sounds of jazz, pop, rock, folk, country and, of course, beach music.

Family Fun

See colorful pirates swordfight, loot and plunder in the streets after they invade the festival by a pirate shrimp boat – a throwback to the days when Amelia was ruled under foreign flags. Families can dress up like pirates for the adult and “Little Pirate” costume contests, and bearded visitors can compete for the title of “Best Beard” on Saturday. A “Blessing of the Fleet” and the “Best Decorated Shrimp Boat Parade and Contest” will entertain guests on Sunday. All weekend long, take a free tour of the *Georgia Bulldog*, a working shrimp boat that also is a research vessel for the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service. Entertain the family in the Family Fun Zone with activities for all ages, and entertainment provided by Rick Hubbard’s Kazoobie Show and JuggleSTUFF, along with performances by local dance schools, among others. And, don’t forget to tighten the wooden leg, Black Beards, and participate in the YMCA 5-K run on Saturday morning held on the beach.

Pirate Parade

Join the locals for the pre-festival Pirate Parade to be held on Thursday, May 1st at 6:00 pm as it takes over Centre Street in downtown Fernandina Beach. This year’s theme is “Dawn of the Modern Shrimp Industry (Tribute to Shrimpers). Creative craftsmanship will abound with the imaginative floats and unique entries vying for “Best of Parade” honors.

There is truly something for everyone at this storied festival. For a complete listing and schedule of events, along with contest applications for the 45th Annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival, visit www.shrimpfestival.com or call 866-4-AMELIA.

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