



# PENSACOLA:

## CELEBRATING MORE THAN 450 YEARS OF HISTORY

### THE FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

When Don Tristan de Luna's ships sailed into the area in 1559 (six years before St. Augustine was discovered), Pensacola Bay was described in a Spanish seaman's journal as "the best I have seen in my life." Unfortunately, their first settlement didn't last because of a hurricane that destroyed supplies. In 1698, Presidio Santa Maria de Galve became the first permanent settlement in Northwest Florida. Remains of the fort can be found at **Naval Air Station Pensacola**, and in 2007, remains of one of de Luna's ships were found in Pensacola Bay – the second oldest shipwreck in the United States. Since its founding, the area has been ruled under five flags: Spain, France, Britain, the Confederacy and the United States.

### ROYAL TOUR OF PENSACOLA

In 2009, Pensacola celebrated its 450th anniversary with a visit from the king of queen and Spain. Visitors can walk in the footsteps of royalty by visiting the same landmarks as King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain. The self-guided tour of Pensacola includes stops at **Plaza de Luna**, **Fort George**, the **T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum**, the **Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front** and the **National Naval Aviation Museum**.

### HISTORIC PENSACOLA VILLAGE

Guests step back in time with archaeological sites, museums, one of Florida's oldest churches and furnished period houses spanning from the earliest Spanish explorers to the Victorian era. The **Museum of Commerce** paints the picture of a turn-of-the-century streetscape of Palafox Place which remains the heart of downtown. The **T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum** holds major pieces of history including the anchor believed to have belonged to de Luna.

### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR

You may be surprised to learn that the first shot fired in the Civil War was actually in Pensacola, not Fort Sumter. Explore our Civil War history by touring antebellum homes in **Historic Pensacola Village** or by touring **Fort Barrancas** or **Fort Pickens** with a national park ranger.