

HISTORY AND NATURE

In the 1860s, Confederate deserters camped along the banks of the Econfina River during the Civil War. Pledged to assist Union blockade ships, these deserters utilized the river to deliver Confederate prisoners, contraband, fresh provisions and information to federal gunboats. During the Great Depression, the river was a source of mullet, which was salted, packed in barrels and then swapped or bartered for other food products. Fish camps have successfully operated on the Econfina since 1931.

The Econfina River empties into the Gulf of Mexico 2.2 miles south of the park's boat ramp. This small blackwater river winds for 43 miles and drains nearly 300 square miles of rural land. The park's marshes and wetlands serve as a filter that protects marine nurseries from pollution. These marshes and wetlands form coastal food webs that provide sanctuary and an abundance of nutrients to a great many species. This park and its neighbors, Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve to the south and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to the west, combine to protect one of the last stretches of unspoiled coastline in Florida.

Visitors may observe many varieties of oak, saw palmetto, St. John's wort, yaupon holly, cabbage palm, bald cypress, red cedar, swamp tupelo and saw grass. Florida black bear, white-tailed deer, blue herons and egrets, bald eagle, marsh hawk, otter and bobcat call this habitat home.



ECONFINA RIVER STATE PARK

4741 Econfina River Road

Lamont, FL 32336

Mailing Address: 1358 Old Woodville Highway

Crawfordville, FL 32327

850-487-7989

PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- Boat ramp use requires a fee or display of a Florida State Park Annual Entrance Pass.
- Potable water is available at the restroom facility.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Big Bend Paddling Trail users and primitive campers must register with the park office. Because of the park's remote location, it is advisable that all users file a trip or float plan.
- To become a volunteer, please call 850-487-7989.
- Alcohol, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to facilities and programs. If you need assistance, please call 850-487-7989.

FloridaStateParks.org

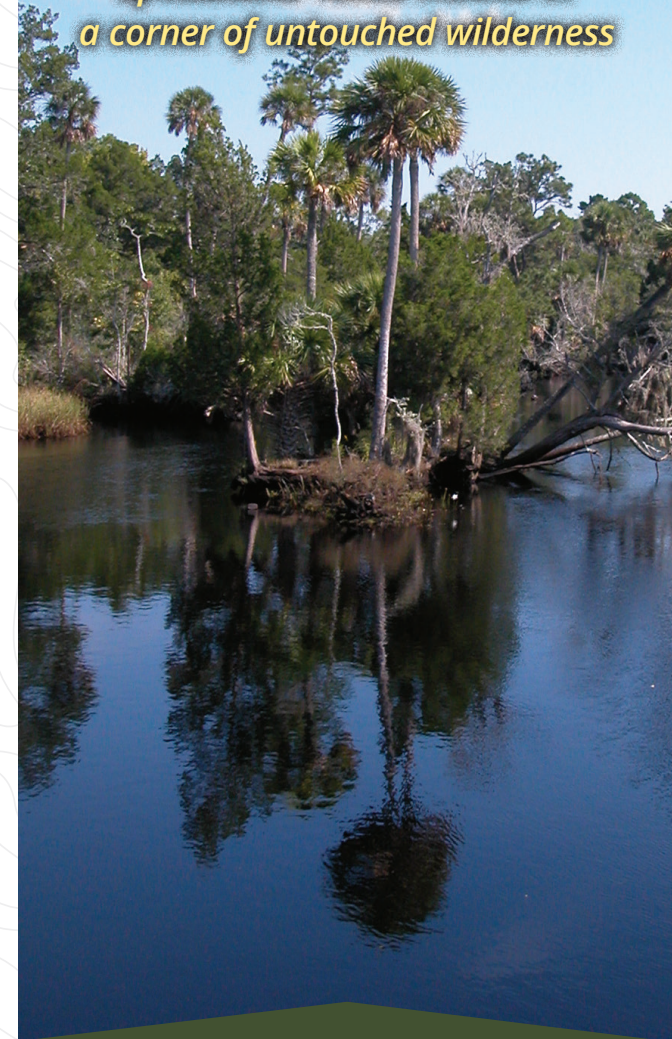
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ECONFINA RIVER STATE PARK

Spectacular vistas nestled in a corner of untouched wilderness



FLORIDA STATE PARKS

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EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Nestled in the corner of North Florida on the Gulf of Mexico, Econfina River State Park contains 5,000 acres of diverse landscapes ranging from mixed forest to broad expanses of salt marsh dotted with pine islands.

Spectacular vistas and large expanses of salt marsh are accessible from 16.1 miles of multi-use trails that meander through flatwoods, hammocks, tidal marshes and coastal strands. A boat ramp offers the chance to explore narrow, secluded tidal creeks that snake through a dynamic wetland environment accented by a thick canopy of trees. South of the boat ramp, the river changes character from a narrow stream with limestone banks to a broader waterway that winds through the marshland.

Whether you travel by foot, bicycle or horseback, trails to the southern end of the park lead to a panoramic view of coastal Florida where lush islands dot the horizon. Keep in mind that trails may flood during seasonal rains.

Adventure is the key at Econfina River State Park. The resources have attracted people to the site on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico from prehistoric times through today. The shady forests, bountiful waterways and dramatic vistas of this wilderness provide a home to plenty of wildlife and an experience for those who love to venture into remote locations.

