



# Anastasia State Park Real Florida Guide

Note: Colored numbers correspond with numbers on the map and represent destinations for each day. **Red** = Day 1, **Green** = Days 2 & 3 and **Blue** = Day 4.

## Day 1



With more than four miles of beautiful, white sandy beaches, [Anastasia State Park \(1\)](#) is an excellent place to establish your base camp while you explore this spectacular coastline, rich in history and culture. Enjoy at least a whole day (if not longer) in the park itself. Stroll the pristine beach, explore the estuarine tidal marsh teeming with plant and animal life, or hike the self-guided nature trail which takes you through the maritime hammock and onto ancient sand dunes. Known as South Beach to locals, and

acquired by the state of Florida in 1949, Anastasia State Park is located near historic St. Augustine, on Anastasia Island. The park boasts a broad beach and lagoon bordered by rich tidal marshes and has long been a favorite playground for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. The park includes 1,600 acres of rich ecosystems and abundant wildlife and is a site on the [Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#). Within the park you can also visit the [Coquina Quarry](#), an archaeological site where coquina rock was mined to help construct the nearby historic Castillo de San Marcos.

## Day 2 & 3

The city of [St. Augustine \(2\)](#) commemorated its 450th anniversary in 2015 as the oldest continuous European settlement in the United States. There is so much to see and do that two days may be in order to explore the rich layers of [history](#). When exiting the park visit the [St. Augustine Lighthouse \(3\)](#) with a climb of 219 steps to the top for a breathtaking view of the nation's oldest city





and the Atlantic Ocean. Enter the city on iconic A1A, crossing the picturesque [Bridge of Lions](#) which links St. Augustine to Anastasia Island. The bridge is a National Historic Landmark that was built back in 1927. Be sure to visit the photogenic [Castillo de San Marcos National Monument](#) (4). Explore the historic fort on a self-guided tour (from the drawbridge to the gun deck) & enjoy stunning views of Matanzas Bay. Take a short drive to visit [Fort Mose Historic State Park](#), (5) a 40-acre waterfront historic site with a visitor center and museum that tells the story

of the first legally sanctioned free African settlement in what would become the United States. Other highlights include [Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth](#), the [Lightner Museum](#), the nation's oldest wooden schoolhouse, [St Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park](#), [Villa Zorayda Museum](#), [Ripleys's Believe it or Not! Odditorium](#), [Marineland](#) and much more.

## Day 4

After touring vibrant St Augustine, spend a day unwinding along the striking coastline. Noted for its pristine condition, [Faver Dykes State Park](#) (6) lies fifteen miles south of St Augustine. The park borders [Pellicer Creek](#) as it winds along Florida's east coast highways down to the Matanzas River. Pellicer Creek is a [Designated State Paddling Trail](#) and visitors can rent canoes at the park. The creek is also a popular site for birding with more than one hundred bird species seen during spring and fall migrations and is a site on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. Songbirds, including the colorful wood warblers, along with eagles and falcons, return to nest at the park each year. Wading birds, such as egrets, wood storks, white ibis, and herons, feed in the tidal marshes and creeks. This peaceful park is also home to deer, turkeys, hawks, bobcats, and river otters. Fishing, picnicking, and nature walks are popular activities. A full-facility campground is available for overnight stays.

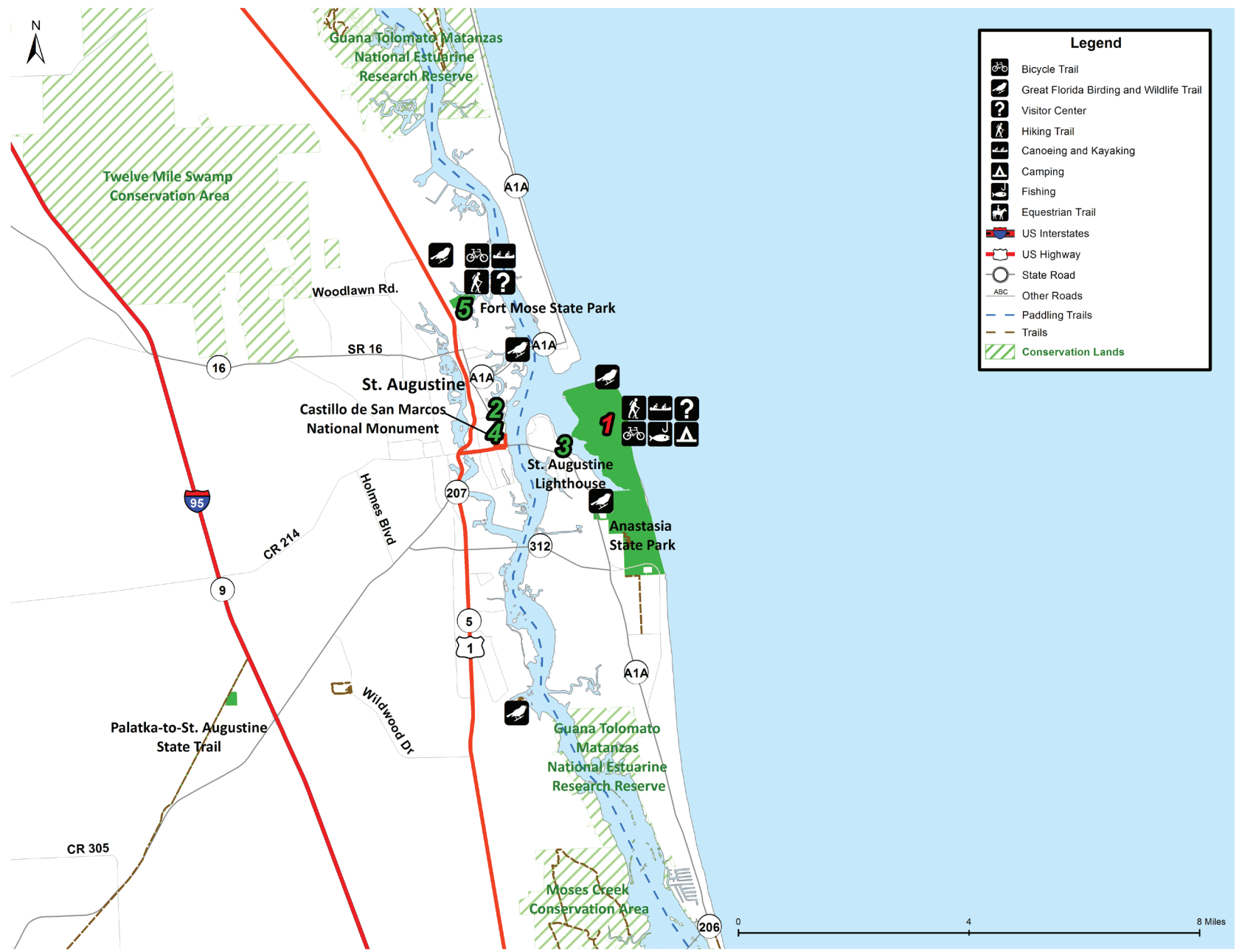




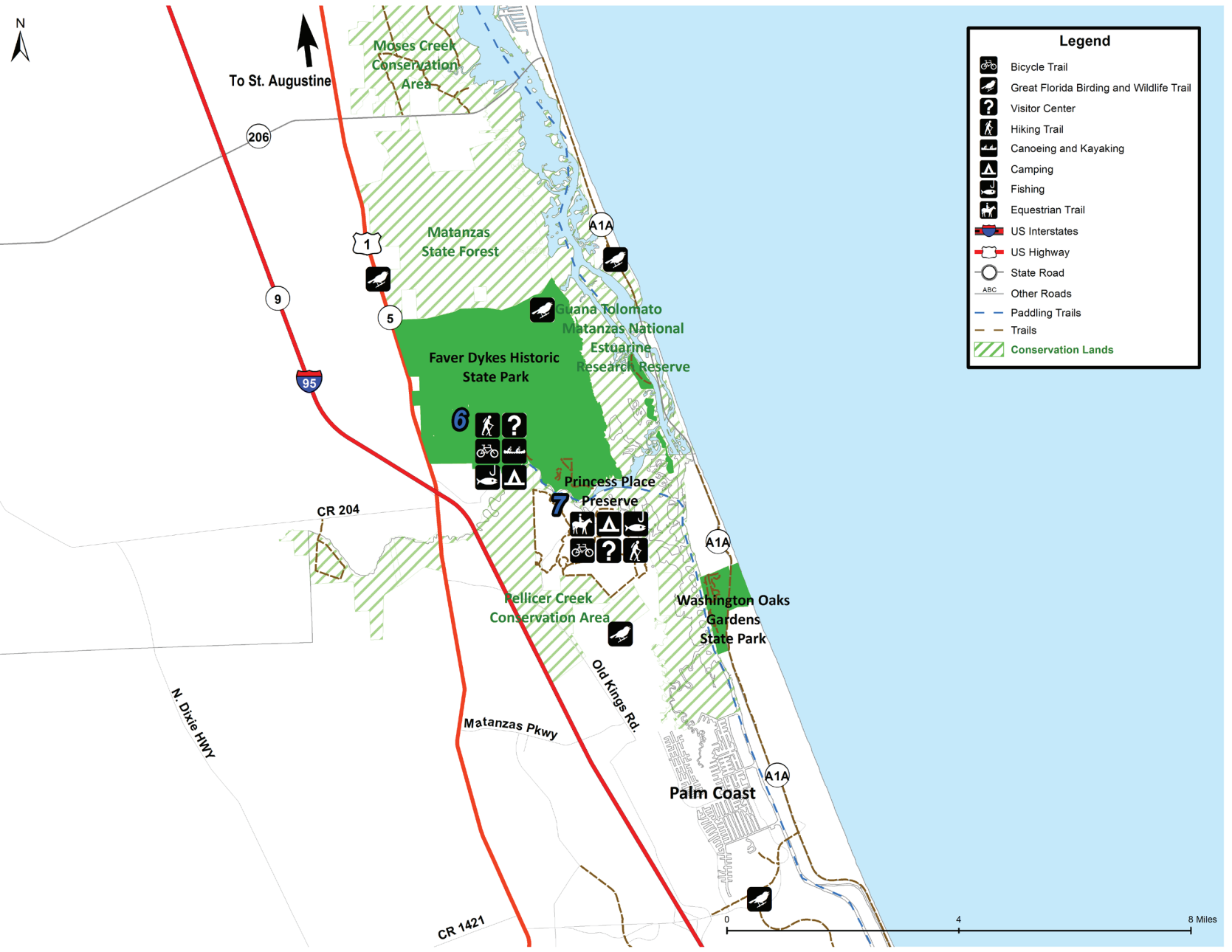
On the opposite side of Pellicer Creek is the fascinating [Princess Place Preserve \(7\)](#). This beautiful 1,500-acre estate was purchased by Henry Cutting in 1886 and passed on to his widow, Angela Mills Cutting Worden, who eventually married Boris Scherbatoff, an exiled Russian prince. Angela assumed the title of princess and it was then that the once named "Cherokee Grove" came to be known as "Princess Place." Built in 1887, this lodge is Flagler County's oldest intact structure and the only period example of Adirondack Camp Style architecture in Florida. It also boasts Florida's very first in-ground swimming pool. Today the lodge welcomes visitors to relax on rocking chairs overlooking the sparkling Matanzas River.

The Preserve is a popular spot for equestrian enthusiasts and offers an equestrian campsite and plenty of riding trails. Visitors enjoy multiple easy hiking loops as a means to explore the area's natural beauty and excellent wildlife viewing.





Map One



Map Two