



Lake Kissimmee State Park and Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park Real Florida Guide

Note: Colored numbers correspond with numbers on the map.

Choose from the options below to plan your trip in Polk County, Florida or plan your own day-long adventure or a multi-day stay in the area.

Overnight Lodging and Camping Options: [Lake Kissimmee State Park \(1\)](#) will immerse you in the Real Florida and provide a wonderful base of operations for a multi-day stay in the area. Lodging in the state park includes a full-facility campground suitable for tents, campers or RV's, and a youth/group tent campground. Make reservations through [Reserve America](#). Primitive equestrian camping is also available. For more information on equestrian camping and to make reservations please call the ranger station at (863) 696-1112.



Day One, Choose from the following:

- The park offers 13 miles of hiking trails which showcase white-tailed deer, bobcat, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, turkeys and other wildlife. The trails take you through pine flatwoods, oak hammocks, by freshwater marshes and out to Lake Kissimmee. The [Buster Island Loop](#) trail is 7-miles, easy to moderate hiking, and a favorite for both day hikers and backpackers. There is also a primitive campsite beneath an ancient live oak





hammock. The North Loop provides access to Gobbler Ridge Trail a spur trail, which will bring you to the shores of Lake Kissimmee. The [North Loop](#) and Gobbler Ridge Trails together are an 8.9-mile hike. There is a backcountry campsite along the trail available for those who wish to spend the night under the stars.

- A three story (30 foot) observation tower overlooks the marsh plain and Lake Kissimmee, and offers fantastic views of the landscape and wildlife.



- Travel back in time to 1876 at the Florida Cow Hunters Camp. The Florida Cow Hunter in a frontier camp along the route of a cattle drive. He will be cooking, making coffee, tending to the cattle or just resting up until the next roundup or cattle drive. The Cow Hunter will be very happy to share stories about what his life is like and the challenges he faces. The Cow Camp is open from October 1st through May 1st on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Cow Camp is also open on Holidays (except for Christmas Day) from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cow Camps are available upon request year round for groups of 15 or more.

Day Two, Choose from the following:

- Come enjoy a guided Segway tour at the park. Advance reservations required. For more information see the website [Back Trail Adventures](#) or call 863-514-3474.
- Launch your boat from the park's marina and explore the 35,000 acres of Lake Kissimmee and the neighboring lakes Lake Rosalie and Tiger Lake on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. Boating activities include wildlife viewing, sight-seeing, bass fishing, and pan fishing on some of Florida's most pristine waterways.

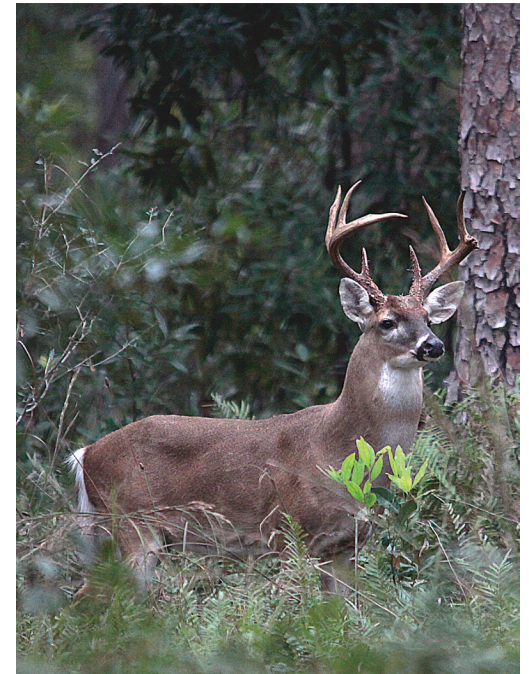


- The scenic 10-mile Buster Island Paddling Trail is suitable for experienced paddlers and offers excellent fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. Look at this [story map](#) on-line for a 'virtual tour' and download a paddling guide for the trail. Rent a kayak or canoe at the park marina's camp store (Open November to April). Call the store for rental information and reservations at 863-696-4888. The canoe/kayak launch is universally accessible.

- For those without boats fishing opportunities are from the canal banks, marina and dam offer the same variety of fish. Bring your own poles, bait and nets.

Day Three - [Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park](#) (2)

Located along the beautiful Lake Wales Ridge, this state park covers more than 8,000 acres of scrub, sandhill and flatwoods land, in addition to 65 acres of submerged land. The Preserve offers six miles of hiking trails, seven miles of equestrian trails, a covered pavilion, fishing and excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. There are two primitive camps by reservation through the Lake Kissimmee State Park office--863-696-1112. The Preserve is home to numerous rare plants such as the scrub morning glory, scrub plum, pygmy fringe tree and cutthroat grass and several protected animal species including Florida scrub-jays, bald eagles, gopher tortoises and Florida scrub lizards. When you visit the Preserve, make sure you are prepared for the rugged conditions typical of the scrub





habitat. Bring plenty of water and be prepared for challenging trails. Enjoy your visit and bring back memories of one of the rarer habitats in Florida.

Other options in the area:

[Bok Tower Gardens](#) (3) – Plan to stay awhile at this special place, established in 1929. Its historic landscape gardens, unique Singing Tower carillon and magnificent 1930s Mediterranean-style mansion offer unparalleled opportunities for artistic, cultural, personal and spiritual enrichment. The 205-foot neo-Gothic and art deco Singing Tower is like no other. Concerts from the 60-bell carillon at 1 and 3 p.m. fill the Gardens daily.

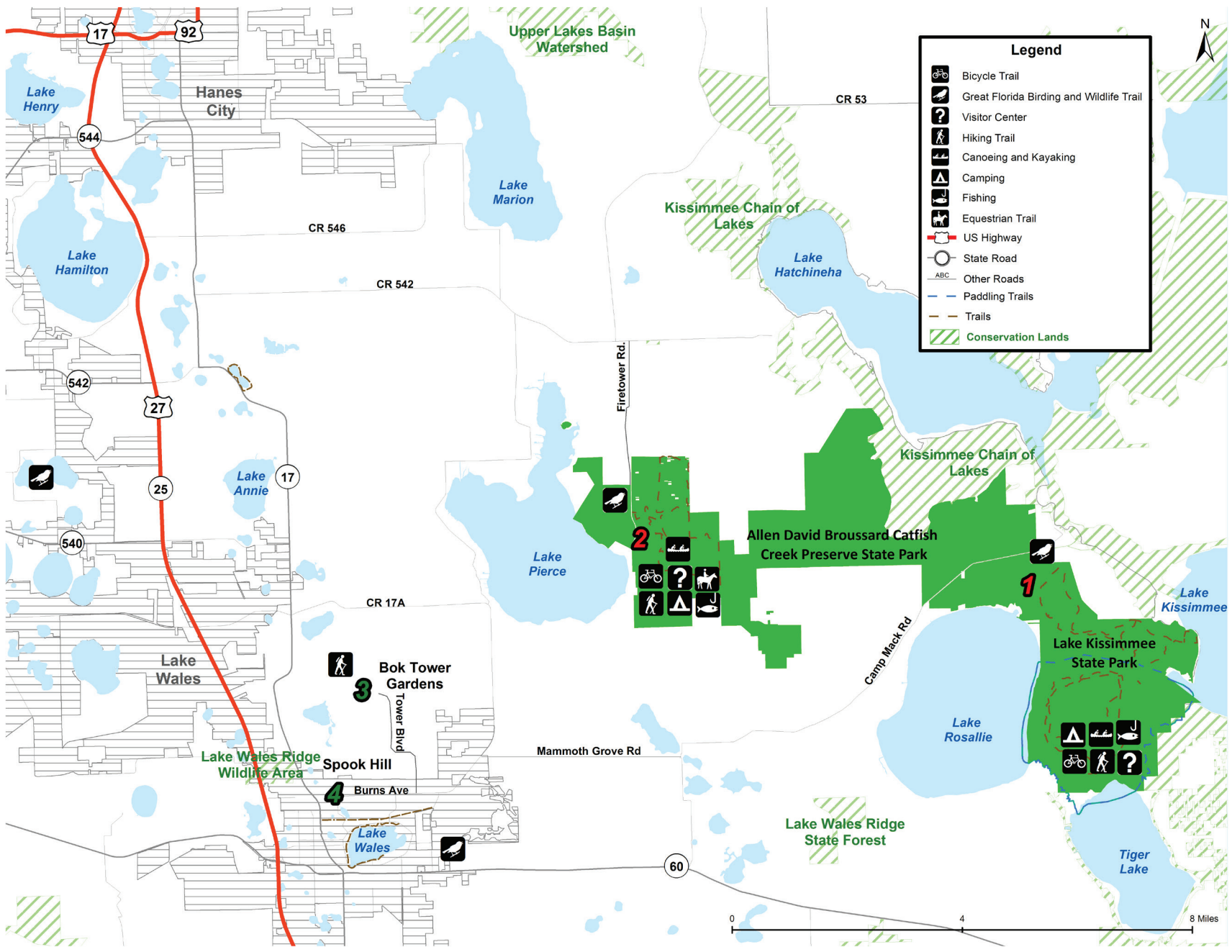
[Spook Hill](#) (4) - You could call this novel, a humorous side trip, or an Old Florida attraction. It is a real-life optical illusion. Stop your car on a specific white line, put the car in neutral and travel backwards while going uphill. It's just a few miles from Bok Tower Gardens at North Wales Drive, Lake Wales. Geocaching is an outdoor game using hand-held global positioning systems (GPS) devices. It's effectively an inexpensive, interactive, high-tech treasure hunt that's a great way to learn geography. Participants use location coordinates to find caches. Some caches are easy to find; others are more difficult. The biggest reward is the thrill of the search and the discovery of



a place where you have never been. Geocaching should have minimal impact to the environment and conscientious land use ethics should be followed.

Florida State Parks is proud to announce the [Operation Recreation GeoTour](#) hosted by [Geocaching.com](#). This GeoTour stretches from Pensacola to Key West and includes 74 of the First Three Time National Gold Medal Award Winning Florida State Parks and Trails. Be one of the first 75 cachers to visit 40 caches and win the Official Operation Recreation Geocoin. Download and print the [Official Tracking Sheet](#) to begin your adventure. Remember to cache and save with unlimited entry for a year with the [Florida State Parks Annual Pass](#).





Legend	
	Bicycle Trail
	Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail
	Visitor Center
	Hiking Trail
	Canoeing and Kayaking
	Camping
	Fishing
	Equestrian Trail
	US Highway
	State Road
	Other Roads
	Paddling Trails
	Trails
	Conservation Lands

