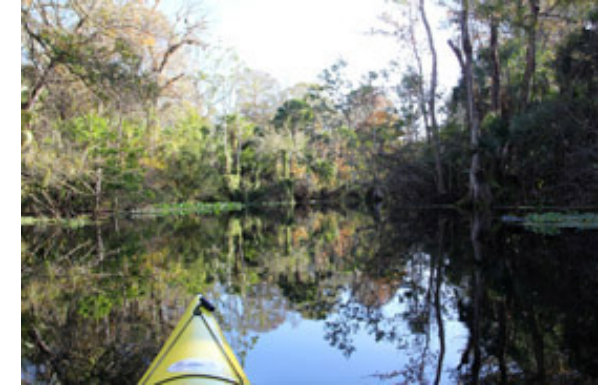




Wekiwa Springs State Park Real Florida Guide

Note: Colored numbers correspond with numbers on the map. **Red** = Day 1, **Green** = Day 2 and **Yellow** = Other Activities.

Located at the headwaters of the Wekiva River, the beautiful vistas within this state park offer a glimpse of what Central Florida looked like when the Timucuan Indians fished and hunted these lands. Just one hour from most central Florida attractions, [Wekiwa Springs State Park](#) (1) consists of 7,000 acres of natural Florida located in Apopka, Florida, and is a comfortable home base for a three-day stay or longer. Options for camping include a full facility campground and primitive camping areas. Reservations are available through [Reserve America](#). No matter what your flavor of outdoor recreation, you're sure to find it here. Relaxing? Check. Backpacking? Check. Horseback riding? Check. Paddlesports? Check. Human-powered boating only, please.



This is a very popular park, particularly on summer weekends. To ensure entrance, arrive early; otherwise, the parking area will be full and you may not be able to enter.

Day 1

Thirteen miles of trails provide opportunities for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. A good place to start is the wheelchair accessible and family friendly .4-mile [Wekiwa Springs Wet to Dry Trail](#) (2), which starts at the outflow of Wekiwa Springs. This is

an interpretive boardwalk along the floodplain forest edging the spring run for a short distance.



The more adventurous will enjoy a 10.2-mile loop hike on the [Wekiwa Springs Hiking Trail \(3\)](#), with shorter options through a variety of native habitats -- scrub, sandhill, flatwoods, mixed hardwood forest, oak hammock and cypress swamp. The trailhead is at the end of the Main Park Drive. Along the way you may see signs of Florida black bear.

Another option is the [Florida National Scenic Trail](#) (FNST), which runs through Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park and is maintained by [Florida Trail Association](#) volunteers.

The [park's concessionaire](#) also rents bicycles by the hour or by day. Bicyclists of all levels can find a challenging and enjoyable ride in the park. The off-road bicycle trail is approximately 9 miles long, but bicycles are also permitted on the 8 miles of horse trails.

Day 2

Canoeists and kayakers can paddle along the Wekiva River and Rock Springs Run. The Wekiva is a federally-designated [National Wild and Scenic River](#) with more than 42,000-acres of protected land along its shores. At the headwaters, Wekiwa Springs, canoe and kayak rentals are available from the state park's concessionaire. For information on rentals and fees please see the [Nature Adventures](#) website or call them



at 407-884-4311.

There are additional options for paddling the Wekiva River and Rock Springs Run. Look at the online [paddling guide](#) for detailed options. This state designated paddling trail begins on Rock Springs Run north of [Kelly Park \(4\)](#) at [King's Landing \(5\)](#), and winds its way downstream to join the Wekiva River.

Day 3

The Nature Center Interpretive Pavilion, sponsored by the volunteer not-for-profit support group [Wekiva Wilderness Trust](#), is located above the state parks' main spring and features historical artifacts and examples of wildlife that occur within the Wekiva River Basin. Visitors have the opportunity to get up close and personal with native snakes, turtles and an alligator. The Nature Center is wheelchair accessible. Wekiva Wilderness Trust provides regular education programs in the park. Visit their [website](#) for news and events.



Visitors may also see many types of wildlife throughout the park and a good place for viewing is right along the Main Park Drive. Early morning and just before sunset are typically the best times for viewing white-tail deer. Wild turkeys can be seen throughout the day in all areas of the park. The best places to see Sherman's fox squirrels are on the trails that go past the Youth Camp.

Other Activities





While driving to or from this scenic area savor the slow roads and visit the [Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway](#) website for an in-depth guide on how to explore Central Florida's natural wonders and colorful history at your own pace.

Visit [Kelly Park](#) located 3.9-miles from Wekiwa Springs State Park, a 245-acre Orange County park. This is a great place in summer to tube and swim Rock Springs Run, picnic, and hike the 2.4-mile [Kelly Park Loop Trail](#). Tent and RV camping are also available.

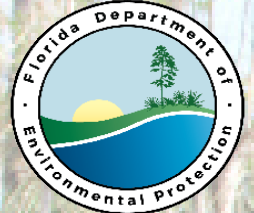
[West Orange Trail](#) in Winter Garden, Florida (6) is located approximately 11 miles from Wekiwa Springs State Park. This 22-mile trail is a real treat for kids and families -- biking and roller blading, running and walking. Bike rentals are available. There is beautiful scenery and many stopping points, shade, water and resting points on this well maintained paved trail. The trail runs right through the center of the City of Winter Garden's restored downtown, with restaurants, museums and stores.

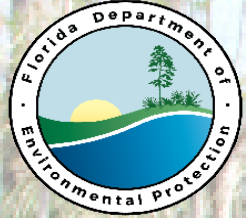


[Wekiva Island](#) (7) is privately owned and a favorite local gathering spot on the Wekiva River. You can paddle from the state park to Wekiva Island and vice versa. There are refreshments, cabana rentals, often live music, and an art gallery. Canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding are some of the most popular activities.

[Rock Springs Run State Reserve](#) (8) is a 14,000-acre conservation area managed by Wekiwa Springs State

Park, so be sure to ask for information about it from the Ranger's Station at Wekiwa. Visitors can enjoy bicycling, hiking or horseback riding along 17 miles of trails. Guided trail rides are available from the park's concessionaire, [Cactus Jack's Trail Rides](#). For more information and reservations, call 352-266-9326. Rock Springs Reserve is





an excellent place to look for sign of Florida black bear. Stay awhile in the Hammock House on the Wekiva River, a gorgeous resort rental cabin. It boasts four bedrooms/ four bathrooms, kitchen, dining area, billiards room, stone fireplace and huge decks under an oak hammock with two canoes available for cabin guests. There is also a stable associated with the house, if you have horses. This vacation rental is a jewel in the woods and close to the cities of Orlando, Sanford, Lake Mary and Mount Dora. Hammock House rental information is available from the [park's concessionaire](#).





Legend

- Bicycle Trail
- Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Canoeing and Kayaking
- Camping
- Equestrian Trail
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- State Road
- Other Roads
- Paddling Trails
- Trails
- Florida Scenic Byway
- Florida National Scenic Trail
- Conservation Lands

