

History & Nature

This area was inhabited by Paleo-Indians and their descendants at least 12,000 years ago. At the time of European contact 500 years ago, the Timucua, an agricultural group, lived here. Legend has it that these early natives, and later-arriving Seminoles, considered the headwaters sacred ground. In the 1700s, a band of Apalachee and Yamassee fleeing northern white encroachment joined the few remaining Timucua to create a village at the base of the Silver River.

In the 1820s, Indian Agent Gad Humphries arrived at nearby Fort King and named Silver Springs. The springs soon became a tourist attraction for adventurous visitors who poled their way along the narrow stream through overhanging cypress and Spanish moss.

With the invention of the paddlewheel, Silver River and Springs became a major distribution center for Central Florida. Plantations growing vegetables, tobacco and oranges sprang up along the banks as nearby Ocala grew.

In the late 1870s, an inventive young man named Phillip Morrell

fixed a piece of glass in the bottom of a rowboat and a new enterprise began. Silver River's glass-bottom boat tours have been world famous for more than 100 years.



Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks, intoxicants and hunting are prohibited in all Florida state parks.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks

Silver River State Park

1425 N.E. 58th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 236-7148

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines (continued)

- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.



Central Florida

Silver River State Park

The Last Uninhabited Crystal Clear River in Florida



...the Real FloridaSM

National Gold Medal Winner
Florida State Parks - "America's First Two-Time Winner"



FLORIDA State Parks
...the Real FloridaSM



Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

Silver River State Park is a 5,000-acre wooded park that encompasses all but the headsprings of the world-famous Silver River. Canoes and kayaks glide along the transparent river with nothing but wild Florida along its banks. Hiking, biking, camping and staying in cabins are favorite pastimes in this diverse and beautiful park.

Silver River's campground has 59 large sites, all with water and electricity. Many pull-through sites accommodate the most luxurious rigs. Ten modern cabins, each with two bedrooms, fully-equipped kitchen, living room with gas fireplace, central heat and air and large screened porches nestle in wooded sites.

The Marion County School District's Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center, an outstanding natural & cultural history museum located in the park, is open on weekends and holidays. There is a fee for the museum. Near the museum is a reconstructed "cracker village," including houses, a church/school, a smithy and a cane syrup boiler.

The park hosts an annual event, Ocali Country Days, the second weekend of November. The cracker

village is open and staffed by historical interpreters and vendors, demonstrating life in pioneer Florida. Other programs include star-gazing parties, cracker village tours and monthly birdwalks.

Three picnic pavilions, open-air picnic tables, grills and a playground are available. The park has more than 14 miles of walking, bicycling trails and a canoe/kayak launch.

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|  Bicycling |  Picnic Area |
|  Cabins |  Restroom |
|  Canoeing/
Kayaking |  Showers |
|  Camping
(Full-Facility) |  Boardwalk |
|  Camping
(Primitive) |  Paved |
|  Hiking |  Trails |
|  Parking | |

Directions
Silver River State Park is east of Ocala, just south of State Road 40. From SR 40, turn south on State Road 35 (Baseline Rd). Drive 1.1 miles to the entrance on the left.

