

History & Nature

The Tomoka River and the Halifax River (the Intracoastal Waterway) meet at the north end of the park forming a natural peninsula. With 12 miles of shoreline, the park's 2,000 plus acres covers maritime hammock and estuarine salt marshes.

In the early 1600s, Spanish explorers found Indians living here in a village called Nocoroco. Although nothing remains of the village, shell middens—mounds of oyster and snail shells from decades of Native American meals—reach 40 feet high at the river bank.

Tomoka State Park is noted for its live oak hammock with arching limbs covered in Spanish moss, resurrection fern and green-fly orchids. Indian pipe, spring coralroot and Florida coontie grow under the hammock canopy, while wild coffee and tropical sage can be found on the shell middens. Visitors may explore the green world of this hammock on the half-mile nature trail.

Salt marshes adjacent to the rivers flourish with plant life, including black needlerush, spartina and glasswort. These marshes, flooded daily by tides, provide habitat, food and breeding grounds for oysters, snails, fiddler crabs and fish. Wading birds and hawks forage the marshes for their meals. Over 160 bird species have been documented.

During the summer, manatees take refuge with their young in the Tomoka River. Bottlenose dolphins occasionally surface, while the American alligator is a familiar resident. Campers often see raccoons, bobcats, white-tailed deer and otters that come out at dusk.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Tomoka State Park

2099 North Beach Street
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(386) 676-4050

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- 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, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited in all Florida state parks.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- 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.

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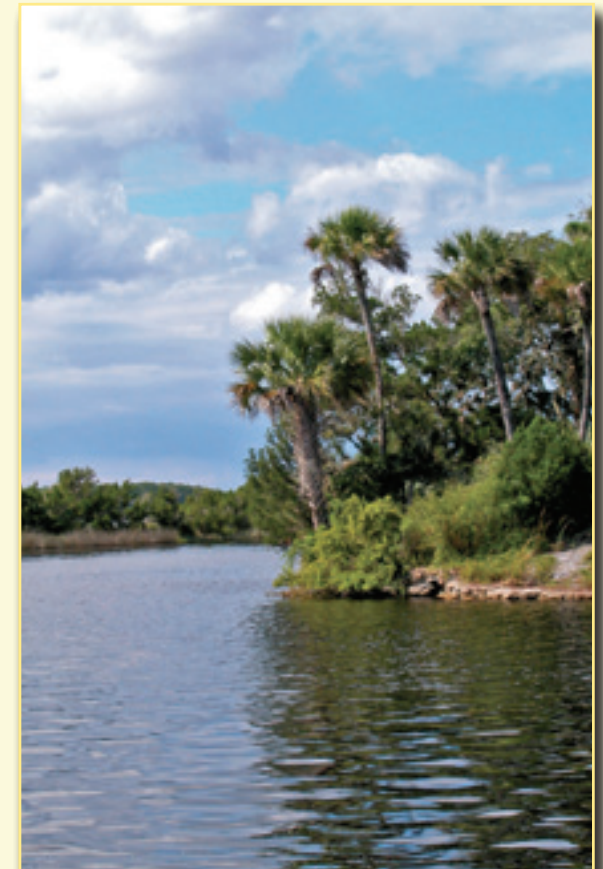
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Central
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Tomoka State Park

*The largest stand of old growth live oak in
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The name Tomoka comes from the Timucua, a group of Native Americans who lived in northeast Florida centuries ago. Today, visitors can picnic, hike and camp beneath the same ancient live oaks that shaded the Timucua. Visitors can canoe and fish in the surrounding waters. The park's museum shares the story of the various people who have lived on this peninsula.

Boating – A boat ramp provides access to the Tomoka River. All of the water surrounding the park is a designated manatee sanctuary.

Canoeing – Canoe rentals are available in the park. The marshes and tidal creeks offer a beautiful place to observe bird and marine life along a 13-mile canoe trail.

Fishing – Ninety different species of fish have been identified in the Tomoka River, including such important game fish as redfish, black drum, sheepshead, spotted seatrout, snook and tarpon.

Picnicking – Picnic areas with covered pavilions and grills are in five locations.

Camping – The campground is in a shady hammock. Total vehicle length is limited to 34 feet. A primitive youth camping area is also available for organized groups. It can be reserved by calling the park.

Interpretation – The Fred Dana Marsh Museum is open daily 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. It houses works by the artist, as well as exhibits on the ecology and history of the park. The second Saturday of each month, living history interpreters discuss their time period and crafts. Look for posted notices about other programs.

Concession – The park concession offers snacks, souvenirs, picnic and camping items.



Directions

Take I-95 to State Road 40 East to Ormond Beach. Turn north on North Beach Street before the highrise bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. Continue north to the park entrance.

