Northwest Florida

Torreya State Park

One of Florida's most scenic places

Real Fun in the Real Florida

Torreya State Park is popular for **camping**, **hiking** and **picnicking**. **Bird-watching** is also a popular activity. Over 100 species of birds have been spotted in the park.

The full-facility campground offers 30 sites suitable for RVers and tent campers. The park offers a YURT (Year round Universal Recreational Tent), primitive **campsites** and two **youth campgrounds**, along with a state-of-the-art playground. Torreya has three large **picnic pavilions** with **BBQ grills** and **picnic tables** located next to a **horseshoe pitching** area.

The Weeping Ridge Trail provides a healthy and pleasant walk to one of the park's deep ravines. A **seven-mile loop** and a **six-mile loop** meander through the park offering hikers a view of the park's natural features. A total of 16 miles of hiking trails are available.

Overlooking the Apalachicola River is the historic

Gregory House, a fully-furnished plantation home built in 1849. **Ranger-guided tours** are given at 10:00 a.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekends and state holidays. The house is currently furnished with articles from the mid-1850s, when the house was occupied by Jason Gregory and his family.

History & Nature

The high bluffs overlooking the Apalachicola River make Torreya State Park one of Florida's most scenic places. With steep bluffs rising more than 150 feet above the river, the park is named after an extremely rare species of Torreya tree.

In the 1800s the Apalachicola River was an important interstate highway, when General Andrew Jackson crossed this river with his army. More than 200 steamboats traveled the Apalachicola River. After Florida became a U.S. territory, the first government road, constructed in 1828 across north Florida, met the river here in the park.

The Gregory House originally sat across the river at Ocheesee Landing, was built around 1849 by planter Jason Gregory. After the Civil War and the

abolition of slavery the plantation declined. The Gregory House was abandoned in 1935 and donated to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was then dismantled, moved across the river and re-constructed in its current location.

The river swamp, steep head ravine and high pineland are some of the forests of the park. The park contains several plant communities that contain many different kinds of trees, shrubs and wildflowers that offer variety during each season of the year.

The endangered Torreya (*Taxifolia*), tree was once plentiful within the park, but a fungal blight has declined the numbers drastically over the last 60 years. The Torreya tree can only be found along the high bluffs along the Apalchicola.

An array of animals commonly found are deer, beaver, bobcat, gray fox and the unusual Barbours map turtle. The river swamp, hardwood hammock and high pineland are forests of the park. The U.S. Champion big leaf magnolia, the rare Florida yew tree and many other rare plants found in the park.

Directions

Torreya State Park is located off S.R. 12. on C.R. 1641, 13 miles north of Bristol.

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 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.

Contact Information

Florida State Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Torreya State Park
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Bristol, Florida 32321
(850) 643-2674
FloridaStateParks.org