

Central Region

Addison Blockhouse Historic State Park

This site preserves the ruins of a 19th century plantation owned by John Addison, which thrived from 1816 until 1836 when it was burned during the Seminole wars. The small coquina rock blockhouse was originally an outside kitchen. After the plantation was burned, the Carolina Regiment of Volunteers fortified the abandoned building for defense against further Seminole attacks. Although the foundation is from the 19th century, the upper part of the blockhouse was added in the 1920s. The site also contains the ruins of a house foundation with tabby (mixture of lime, sand, shells and water) floors and a well constructed of coquina rock. Addison Blockhouse Historic State Park is currently not accessible to the public due to ongoing preservation work.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: Tomoka State Park, 2099 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach, FL 32174 (386) 676-4050

Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park

The Lake Wales Ridge that runs through the center of Florida has been called "Florida's Attic" because this high spot in the state shelters species and communities found nowhere else on earth. The preserve contains some of the highest and oldest hills in Central Florida, covered with large tracts of intact scrub and sandhill habitat. It protects ancient natural communities that developed when Central Florida was an ocean shore. Bald eagles, wood storks, gopher tortoises and the Florida scrub-jay can be seen here. Visitors can enjoy hiking, horseback riding and nature study on a network of trails that wind through more than 8,000 acres. Anglers can find good fishing along the pond banks. Located about 35 miles south of Orlando. From U.S. 27, turn east on County Road 542 through Dundee. Go about eight miles to Fire Tower Road.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: Lake Kissimmee State Park, 14248 Camp Mack Road, Lake Wales, FL 33898 (863) 696-1112

Anastasia State Park

Located near historic St. Augustine on Anastasia Island, the park boasts a broad beach and lagoon bordered by rich tidal marshes. The park's ancient

oaks were young when Juan Ponce de León landed in the area in 1513 and gave Florida its name.

Camping, beachcombing, swimming, picnicking, windsurfing, hiking, wildlife viewing and boating are popular activities. A self-guided nature trail guides visitors through a maritime hammock on ancient sand dunes; anglers can haul in the big catch at Anastasia. The park's full facility

campground is in a wooded area within easy walking distance of the beach. The Island Camp and Beach Shop sells sundries, camping and fishing supplies and rents bicycles and beach equipment. The grill has a great selection of food.

The store also rents canoes, sailboards, paddleboats and kayaks. Water sports lessons are available. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling

ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Beach

Bash in June and Endless Summer Run in October. Other events and ranger programs are available.

Located 1.5 miles north of State Road 312 on State Road A1A, less than five miles south of St.

Augustine.

**1340-A State Road A1A South, St. Augustine,
FL 32080 (904) 461-2033**

Blue Spring State Park

The largest spring on the St. Johns River, Blue Spring is a designated Manatee Refuge and the winter home to a growing population of West Indian manatees. The spring and spring run are closed during the manatee season (November 15-March 15). In 1766 British botanist John Bartram visited the spring. In 1856 Louis Thursby and his family settled here and the Thursby house remains. The spring's clear, 73-degree water is enjoyed by swimmers, snorkelers and certified scuba divers with a partner. Swimming or diving with manatees is not permitted and strictly enforced. The river is popular for fishing, canoeing and boating. River boat tours are available; for reservations, call Discover Florida Excursion Ecotours at (386) 917-0724. The park has several picnic areas and a hiking trail. Air-conditioned cabins, a full-facility campground and primitive campsites are available. Camping and cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Manatee Festival in January and St. Johns River Paddle Battle in September. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located west of Orange City. Take U.S. 17/92 to Orange City, go west two miles on French Avenue to the entrance.

**2100 W. French Avenue, Orange City, FL
32763 (386) 775-3663**

Bulow Creek State Park

This park protects one of the largest remaining stands of southern live oak forest along Florida's east coast. The reigning tree is the Fairchild Oak, one of the largest live oak trees in the south. For more than 400 years it has been a silent witness to human activities along Bulow Creek, including the destruction of the neighboring Bulow Plantation during the Second Seminole War in 1836. Several trails allow hikers to explore the interior of the park, where visitors can see white-tailed deer, barred owls and raccoons. The Bulow Woods Trail, nearly seven miles long, takes hikers to Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park. Visitors can picnic in a shady pavilion or at a table on the lawn within view of the Fairchild Oak. Located five miles north of Ormond Beach on Old Dixie Highway (County Road 4011).

**3351 Old Dixie Highway, Ormond Beach, FL
32174 (386) 676-4050**

Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park

In 1836, the Second Seminole War swept away the prosperous Bulow Plantation where the Bulow family grew sugar cane, cotton, rice and indigo. Ruins of the former plantation - a sugar mill, a unique spring house, several wells and the crumbling foundations of the plantation house and slave cabins - show how volatile the Florida frontier was in the early 19th century. The Bulow Woods Trail connects from this park to Bulow Creek State Park. The trail head is located at the entrance of the park. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the park has picnic facilities and an interpretive center that tells the plantation's history. A boat ramp provides access for canoes and small powerboats to scenic Bulow Creek, a designated state canoe trail. Anglers can fish from the dock or a boat. The park is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. Located three miles west of Flagler Beach off County Road 2001 (Old King's Road), between State Road 100 and Old Dixie Highway.

**County Road 2001, Flagler Beach, FL (386)
517-2084**

Colt Creek State Park

In 2006, the Colt Creek site was purchased from the Overstreet family who owned and worked cattle on the property since 1941. The park's more

than 5,000 acres include pine flatwoods, cypress domes, open pastures, two tributaries and several man-made lakes. Visitors can fish in one of three freshwater lakes, ride horses on marked trails, hike, bicycle and picnic, or just relax and enjoy the tranquility that only nature can provide. Many species of wildlife such as white-tail deer, bobcat, fox squirrel, bald eagle and bluebird can be observed in the park. For updates on future access and amenities such as overnight accommodations, please contact the park office. Located off State Road 471 approximately four miles north of U.S. 98 and about 16 miles north of Lakeland.

**16000 State Road 471, Lakeland, FL 33809
(863) 661-8196**

De Leon Springs State Park

Native Americans lived near the spring as long as 6,000 years ago. In the early 1800s, settlers built Spring Garden Plantation growing cotton and sugar cane. Later in the century the plantation was destroyed twice, during the Second Seminole War and the Civil War. By the 1880s the springs had become a winter resort and tourists were promised "a fountain of youth and impregnated with a deliciously healthy combination of soda and sulphur." The swimming area is adjacent to a beautiful, shady picnic ground. Canoe, kayak,

paddleboat rentals and a boat tour are available for exploring the spring run. De Leon Springs flows into the Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge where canoeists and kayakers can explore 18,000 acres of lakes, creeks and marshes. At The Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant guests can make their own pancakes at the table. Annual special events include Day in Florida History in January, Pioneer Fiber Arts Guild Demonstrations and Spring Festival in March, Wood Carvers' Jamboree in April, St. Johns River Cleanup in June, Kids' Cane Pole Fishing Tournament, Pioneer Fiber Arts Guild Day in October, Haunted Trails and Community Cleanup in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located at the corner of Ponce de Leon and Burt's Park Road, about a mile west of U.S. 17.

601 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, De Leon Springs, FL 32130 (386) 985-4212

Dunns Creek State Park

Located south of a sharp bend in the St. Johns River, this is one of the newest additions to the state park system. The park's natural communities include sandhills covered with longleaf pines, wiregrass and sand pine scrub. These communities protect several endangered

and threatened species such as the gopher tortoise, as well as a variety of other native animals. A picnic and hiking area is located on U.S. 17, north of Pomona Park. The mile-and-a-half hiking and bicycling trail takes visitors to the waters of Blue Pond. Located 13 miles south of Palatka on U.S. 17 between Pomona Park and Satsuma.

U.S. 17 North, Pomona Park, FL (386) 329-3721

Faver-Dykes State Park

Noted for its pristine condition, this tranquil park borders Pellicer Creek as it winds along Florida's east coast highways down to the Matanzas River. Pellicer Creek is a popular site for birding with more than one hundred bird species seen during spring and fall migrations. Songbirds, including the colorful wood warblers, eagles and falcons, return to the park each year. Wading birds, such as egrets, wood storks, white ibis and herons, feed in the tidal marshes and creeks. This peaceful park is home to deer, turkeys, hawks, bobcats and river otters. Fishing, picnicking and nature walks are popular activities. Pellicer Creek is a designated state canoe trail and visitors can rent canoes at the park. A full-facility campground is available for overnight stays. Camping reservations may be

made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include A Day in Old Florida in February. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located 15 miles south of St. Augustine near the intersection of I-95 and U.S. 1.

**1000 Faver-Dykes Road, St. Augustine, FL
32086 (904) 794-0997**

Fort Mose Historic State Park

The power politics of 18th century England and Spain reached across the Atlantic to the Florida frontier. In 1738, the Spanish governor of Florida chartered Fort Mose as a settlement for freed Africans who fled slavery in the British Carolinas. When Spain ceded Florida to Britain in 1763, the inhabitants of Fort Mose immigrated to Cuba. Although nothing remains of the fort, the site was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1994 for its importance in American history. Visitors may view the site from a boardwalk and stop by the park's visitor center to explore the newly installed interpretive exhibit. Group tours of the site are available upon request. Visitors may also download an online audio guide detailing the history of Fort Mose by visiting the park's website. A covered picnic pavilion is available. Annual special events

include Flight to Freedom in February and Battle of Bloody Mose Commemoration Celebration in June. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located approximately two miles north of the Castillo de San Marcos near the St. Augustine City gates on U.S. 1. Turn east off U.S. 1 on to Fort Mose Trail and follow the signs to the site. The park's visitor center is open Thursday through Monday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m..

**15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 823-2232**

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach

Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, this windswept park is named for Florida folk singer Gamble Rogers. The beach is the most popular feature at this park, where visitors enjoy swimming, sunbathing or beachcombing. The daily low tide is an ideal time to observe shorebirds feeding in tidal ponds; summer months bring sea turtles that lay their eggs in the golden-brown sand. On the Intracoastal Waterway side of the park, picnic pavilions provide a shady place to enjoy a meal. A nature trail winds through a shady coastal forest of scrub oaks and saw palmetto. Boaters and

canoeists can launch from a boat ramp on the Intracoastal Waterway. The park's full-facility campground overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and is just a short walk along a boardwalk from the beach. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located in Flagler Beach off Highway A1A.

**3100 S. State Road A1A, Flagler Beach, FL
32136 (386) 517-2086**

Haw Creek Preserve State Park

Donated to the state in 1976, this preserve is a refuge for native wildlife in rapidly developing North Central Florida. The park contains seven distinct natural communities, including forests, hammocks, flatwoods, marshes, swamps and a blackwater stream. The name "haw" comes from a flowering shrub that grows along the banks of the creek. Anglers find this remote spot a great place to fish for speckled perch, shellcracker, largemouth bass and catfish. Access to the park is by boat only; there is no boat ramp available in the park. The creek can be accessed from a private marina on Dead Lake at the end of County Road 2006 or from a public boat ramp at the end of County Road

2007. Located approximately 10 miles southwest of Bunnell.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: Tomoka State Park, 2099 N. Beach Street, Ormond Beach, FL 32174 (386) 676-4050

Hontoon Island State Park

This island, located in the St. Johns River in Volusia County welcomes visitors to enjoy nature and history in quiet solitude. The island is accessible only by private boat or park ferry. Evidence of Native American habitation over thousands of years can be witnessed as visitors hike through the park. Stop in and walk through the impressive interpretive center to learn more about the many inhabitants and uses of Hontoon Island over the years. Boating, canoeing and fishing are popular activities and canoe rentals are available. Picnic areas include tables, grills and a playground. For overnight stays the park has rustic cabins - enclosed sleeping spaces with electricity – without heat, air conditioning, bathrooms or kitchens. Rustic cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Overnight boat slip rentals and a tents-only campground are also available. The

park's ferry operates daily from 8 a.m. to one hour before sunset. Located six miles west of Deland off State Road 44.

**2309 River Ridge Road, Deland, FL 32720
(386) 736-5309**

Indian River Lagoon Preserve State Park

Located on a barrier island south of Melbourne, this preserve was purchased primarily to protect the watershed of the Indian River Lagoon. The most biologically diverse estuary in North America, the lagoon has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water and an Estuary of National Significance. The site's mangrove wetlands and salt marshes provide breeding, nursery and feeding areas for a variety of organisms. These coastal areas also filter runoff, stabilize sediments, maintain water quality and protect shorelines from erosion. This site is currently undergoing an aggressive restoration program to remove exotic invasive plants and reintroduce native species. Public access is limited while the restoration is in progress. Inlet Grove can be reached via Mullet Creek Road, off A1A. Access to the Mullet Creek Islands portion of the property is by boat only.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: Sebastian Inlet, 9700 South A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 (321) 984-4852

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

This 54,000-acre preserve protects one of the largest remaining stretches of Florida dry prairie, home to an array of endangered plants and animals. While driving the five-mile long road into the preserve, visitors can enjoy sweeping vistas of grasslands reminiscent of the Great Plains of the Midwest. The preserve offers excellent seasonal birding opportunities and is home to the endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, as well as the Crested Caracara and Burrowing Owl. More than 100 miles of dirt roads allow hikers, bicyclists and equestrians to explore prairies, wetlands and shady hammocks. Kissimmee Prairie's remoteness makes it one of Florida's premier locations for stargazing. For overnight stays, the preserve has two full facility campground loops: a family and an equestrian loop which offers one paddock per site. Proof of current negative Coggins test is required. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual

special events include Goby Fest in March and Horseback Poker Run in November. November through March, ranger-led prairie buggy tours allow visitors to see remote areas of the preserve. Located 33 miles northwest of Okeechobee via U.S. 441 and County Road 724.

33104 N.W. 192nd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34972 (863) 462-5360

Lake Griffin State Park

Located within an hour of central Florida attractions and theme parks, this park is home to one of the state's largest live oak trees. A short trail near the park entrance takes visitors to the mammoth oak tree. The Dead River connects the park to Lake Griffin, the eighth largest lake in Florida, where visitors can enjoy boating, canoeing and fishing. Anglers will find plenty of largemouth bass, bluegill, speckled perch and catfish. Visitors can observe the park's wildlife while picnicking or strolling along the half-mile nature trail. A shady, full-facility campground beckons travelers to spend the night or an entire vacation here. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Ibini Tera (Clean Up Our Lakes) in March and Kid's Fishing Clinic in May.

Other events and ranger programs are available. Located three miles north of Leesburg and 30 miles south of Ocala within an hour of central Florida attractions and theme parks, this park is home to one of the state's largest live oak trees. A short trail near the park entrance takes visitors to the mammoth oak tree. A canal connects the park to Lake Griffin, the eighth largest lake in Florida, where visitors can enjoy boating, canoeing and fishing. Anglers will find plenty of largemouth bass, bluegill, speckled perch and catfish. Visitors can observe the park's wildlife while picnicking or strolling along the half-mile nature trail. A shady, full-facility campground beckons travelers to spend the night or an entire vacation here. Located three miles north of Leesburg and 30 miles south of Ocala

3089 U.S. 441/27, Fruitland Park, FL 34731-4475 (352) 360-6760

Lake Kissimmee State Park

Florida's Cracker heritage comes alive with living history demonstrations of the early Florida 'cow hunters' in an 1876-era cow camp, open October 1 - May 1, from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends and holidays. Cow camp programs are available upon request year round for groups of 15 or more.

White-tailed deer, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, turkeys and bobcats have been seen in the park on the shores of lakes Kissimmee, Tiger and Rosalie. Visitors enjoy boating, canoeing and fishing in the picturesque lakes. Nature students can hike more than 13 miles of trails to observe and study the abundant plant and animal life. Six miles of trails are open to equestrians. The dark skies and open spaces make stargazing a popular nighttime activity for campers. A large, shaded picnic area with pavilions is available. The park has full-facility campsites, as well as a primitive camping facility. The youth camping area can accommodate up to 50 people. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located off State Road 60, 15 miles east of Lake Wales.

**14248 Camp Mack Road, Lake Wales, FL
33853 (863) 696-1112**

Lake Louisa State Park

A short drive from Orlando, this park is noted for its beautiful lakes, rolling hills and scenic landscapes. Lake Louisa, the largest in a chain of 13 lakes, is designated an Outstanding Florida Water. Lake Louisa, Lake Hammond and Lake Dixie, the park's most accessible lakes, provide opportunities for fishing and canoeing. Anglers can

fish in four of the park's six lakes, but gasoline powered engines are not allowed. Primitive camping facilities are available for equestrians. For hikers, there are more than 25 miles of trails. The park also has a full-facility 60-site campground, two primitive campsites and 20 furnished cabins for rent. Camping and cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Lake Louisa 25 in October and Obstacles Challenge Trail Ride in November - both equestrian events. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located seven miles south of State Road 50 in Clermont on U.S. 27.

7305 U.S. 27, Clermont, FL 34714 (352) 394-3969

Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park

Central Florida nature exists in its purest form along four miles of the Wekiva River and Blackwater Creek. For thousands of years, Native Americans valued the abundance of wildlife in this area. This system of blackwater streams and wetlands provides habitat for black bears, river otters, alligators, wood storks and sandhill cranes.

At our southern entrance, visitors can stroll along the Sand Hill Nature Trail for a self-guided tour of the native Florida plants and wildlife found at the park. Canoeists can access the Wekiva River and picnic under the oak trees at the new Katie's Landing entrance. Equestrian camping, horse stalls and corrals are available at the Fechtel entrance and can be reserved by calling (407) 884-2008. Annual special events include Benefit Equestrian Ride in October. Other events and ranger programs are available.

Southern Entrance: 8300 W State Road 46, Sanford, FL 32711. Katie's Landing: 262 Wekiva Park Dr., Sanford, FL 32711. Fechtel Entrance: 38015 Fechtel Rd., Eustis, FL 32726 (407) 884-20088

North Peninsula State Park

More than two miles of beautiful, unspoiled Atlantic beaches beckon visitors to this park. Across State Road A1A, this Florida haven shelters rare creatures such as Florida scrub-jays, indigo snakes and gopher tortoises. Visitors can spend the afternoon swimming, sunning at the beach or surf fishing. Birdwatchers will enjoy spotting the native and migratory species seen in this park. Located on State Road A1A four miles south of Flagler Beach.

**State Road A1A North, Flagler Beach, FL
32136 (386) 517-2086**

Ravine Gardens State Park

A ravine was created by water flowing from the sandy ridges on the shore of the St. Johns River for thousands of years. In 1933, this ravine was transformed into a dramatic garden by the federal Works Progress Administration. Much of the original landscaping still exists as formal gardens and an extensive trail system. A 1.8-mile paved road winds around the ravine, offering motorists and bicyclists a view of the gardens. The Ravine Loop is closed to vehicle traffic one hour before sunset, but remains open for pedestrians, bicycles and wheelchairs. The garden's peak flowering period is azalea season, late January to April. Numerous picnic sites equipped with tables and grills are available to visitors. The Roy E. Campbell Civic Center complex features a large covered pavilion, auditorium and meeting rooms that are available for rent. Annual special events include Air Potato Rodeo in February, Azalea Days in March, Spring Concert Series in April and May, Eco Adventure Days in June, Enchanted Ravines in October and Caroling the Ravines in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located in Palatka at 1600 Twigg Street.

**1600 Twigg Street, Palatka, FL 32712 (386)
329-3721**

Rock Springs Run State Reserve

Sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, swamps and miles of shoreline along Rock Springs Run and the Wekiva River make this reserve a refuge of natural beauty. Visitors can enjoy bicycling, hiking or horseback riding along 17 miles of trails. Guided trail rides and horse rentals are available through a concession, (352) 735-6266. The trail may be closed temporarily on days when reserve staff conduct prescribed burns, and each fall, when areas of the reserve are closed to equestrians during weekends of special hunts. Primitive campsites along Rock Springs Run and the Wekiva River are accessible by canoe or kayak. Equestrian camping facilities are available. Campsites can be reserved by calling Wekiwa Springs State Park. The reserve is open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily and is located in Sorrento off State Road 46.

State Road 46, Sorrento, FL (407) 884-2008

St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park

This site preserves open grassy forests of longleaf pine that were once commonplace throughout Florida. The pine flatwoods form a backdrop for other biological communities, including cypress domes, scrubby flatwoods, sandhills and a beautiful strand swamp. These habitats are home to many native plants and animals, including more than 70 protected species. Photographers, bird-watchers and nature enthusiasts can explore miles of trails on foot, bicycle or horseback. Canoeing, boating and fishing on the St. Sebastian River are popular activities. Launching facilities are available at Dale Wimbrow County Park and along the St. Sebastian River north of County Road 512. The visitor center is open 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.. Call for operating hours. The north entrance for the visitor center and Manatee Vista is off Babcock Street (County Road 507) just north of the C-54 Canal. Exit I-95 at County Road 514 to reach County Road 507. The south entrance is off County Road 512, 1.8 miles east of I-95 exit 156.

**1000 Buffer Preserve Drive, Fellsmere, FL
32948 (321) 953-5004**

Sebastian Inlet State Park

The premier saltwater fishing spot on Florida's east coast, this park is a favorite for anglers nationwide for catching snook, redfish, bluefish and Spanish

mackerel from its jetties. Surfing is also a popular recreation and several major competitions are held here every year. Two museums provide a history of the area. The McLarty Treasure Museum features the history of the 1715 Spanish treasure fleet; the Sebastian Fishing Museum tells the history of the area's fishing industry. Three miles of beautiful beaches provide swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling, shelling and sunbathing.

Canoeing and kayaking in the Indian River Lagoon are also favorite pastimes. Visitors can relax with a stroll down the mile-long Hammock Trail.

Waterfront pavilions and picnic areas are great for family outings. A boat ramp is available. The park has a concession, a gift shop and a bait and tackle store. The Inlet Marina rents boats, canoes and kayaks. Camping reservations for the full-facility campground may be made by visiting

ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Pro Surf Contest in January, Billabong Junior Pro Surf Contest in March, NSSA SE Regional Championship Surf Contest in April, NSSA Surf Contest in August, Weekend Warriors Benefit Surf Contest in September, Quicksilver "King of the Peak" Surf Contest in November and Volcom Surf Contest in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on

State Road A1A, 18 miles south of State Road 192 or seven miles north of County Road 510.

9700 S. State Road A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 (321) 984-4852

Silver River State Park

This park has more than 14 distinct natural communities, dozens of springs and miles of beautiful trails for hiking and bicycling. The adjoining Silver Springs Theme Park houses the headwaters of the Silver River which flows through the park into the Ocklawaha River. The park is home to a pioneer 'cracker' village and the Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center. The center is operated by the Marion County School District in cooperation with the park and is open to the public on weekends and major holidays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The picnic area features pavilions that may be rented for group outings. Equestrian trails are on the north side of the park in a beautiful wooded area. For overnight stays, the park has a full-facility campground and luxury cabins. Camping and cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Migratory Songbird Festival in October and Ocali Country Days in November. Other events and ranger

programs are available. Located east of Ocala, one mile south of State Road 40 on State Road 35.

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

Tomoka State Park

Native Americans once dwelled here, living off fish-filled lagoons. Today, these waters are popular for canoeing, boating and fishing. The park protects a variety of wildlife habitats and endangered species, such as the West Indian manatee. Tomoka is a bird-watcher's paradise with more than 160 species sighted, especially during the spring and fall migrations. Visitors can stroll a one-half mile nature trail through a hardwood hammock that was once an indigo field for an 18th century British landowner. A boat ramp gives boaters and canoeists access to the river. The park store has camping supplies, frozen bait, canoe/kayak rentals and snacks. For more information, call the Tomoka Outpost at (386) 673-0022. For overnight stays, the park has full-facility campsites and youth camping. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located three miles north of Ormond Beach on North Beach Street.

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

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

Although the formal gardens are the centerpiece of this park, Washington Oaks is also famous for the unique shoreline of coquina rock formations that line its Atlantic beach. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Matanzas River, this property was once owned by a distant relative of President George Washington. The gardens were established by Louise and Owen Young, who purchased the land in 1936 and built a winter retirement home. They named it Washington Oaks and in 1965 donated most of the property to the State. The gardens make remarkable use of native and exotic species, from azaleas and camellias to the exquisite bird of paradise, sheltered within a picturesque oak hammock. Visitors can picnic and fish from either the beach or the seawall along the Matanzas River. A number of short trails provide opportunities for hiking and bicycling. Visitors can learn about the park's natural and cultural resources in the visitor center. Located two miles south of Marineland on State Road A1A.

6400 N. Oceanshore Boulevard, Palm Coast, FL 32137 (386) 446-6780

Wekiwa Springs State Park

Located at the headwaters of the Wekiva River, the beautiful vistas within this park offer a glimpse of what Central Florida looked like when Timucuan Indians fished and hunted these lands. Just an hour's drive from most central Florida attractions, Wekiwa Springs offers visitors the opportunity to relax in a natural setting, enjoy a picnic or take a swim in the cool spring. Canoeists and kayakers can paddle along the Wekiva River or Rock Springs Run. Thirteen miles of trails provide hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. Options for camping include a full-facility campground, a group camp facility, a youth camp and primitive camping areas. Canoe/kayak rentals are available; for information about rentals call the concession at (407) 884-4311. Annual special events include Paint Out in February, 5K Real FL Run in March and Fall Fest in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on Wekiwa Springs Road off State Road 434 or State Road 436 near Apopka.

1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka, FL 32712 (407) 884-2008

Equestrian Activities

Equestrians who like to trail ride with their horses will appreciate the many miles of remote trails available for long trail rides. Hundreds of miles of trails in 32 state parks are available. Trails wind through diverse landscapes, sometimes along river banks or shorelines, providing hours of enjoyment.

Camping with your horse is a good way to relax and spend time in nature. Some parks provide camping with horses in campgrounds while others provide a group camp area or even primitive camping with horses. Be sure to ask when making reservations about accommodations, corrals, stalls and potable water.

Kelly's Seahorse Ranch offers horseback riding on the beach at Amelia Island State Park in northeast Florida. Call ahead for reservations. At Rock Springs Run State Reserve, horses may be rented for guided trail rides or equestrians may bring their own mounts.

Owners of horses visiting state parks must provide proof of a negative Coggins test. Be aware that some trails are shared with hikers and bicyclists.