

Northeast Region

Amelia Island State Park

An easy drive from Jacksonville and Fernandina Beach, the park protects more than 200 acres of unspoiled wilderness on Amelia Island. Beautiful beaches, salt marshes and coastal maritime forests provide a glimpse of the original Florida. This park is one of the few locations on the east coast that offers horseback riding on the beach and riding tours along the shoreline. Fishing is one of the top activities and anglers find the secluded beach a perfect place for surf fishing. Visitors can stroll along the beach, swim in the surf, look for shells or watch the wildlife. For horseback tour reservations, contact Kelly Seahorse Ranch, (904) 491-5166. Located seven miles north of Little Talbot Island State Park on State Road A1A, or eight miles south of Fernandina Beach.

State Road A1A North, Jacksonville, FL 32226. For more information or to visit this park, contact: Little Talbot Island State Park at 12157 Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32226 (904) 251-2320.

Big Shoals State Park

This park features the largest white water rapids in Florida. Limestone bluffs, towering 80 feet above the banks of the Suwannee River, afford outstanding vistas not found anywhere else in Florida. When the water level on the Suwannee River is between 59 and 61 feet above mean sea level, the Big Shoals rapids earn a Class III White Water classification, attracting thrill-seeking canoe and kayak enthusiasts. A smaller set of rapids downstream is called Little Shoals. More than 30 miles of wooded trails provide opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. The Woodpecker Trail, a 3.4 mile-long multi-purpose paved trail, connects the Little Shoals and Big Shoals entrances to the park. The river offers excellent opportunities for freshwater fishing. A picnic pavilion that seats up to 40 people is available at the Little Shoals entrance. Located on County Road 135, one mile northeast of U.S. 41 in White Springs.

11330 SE County Road 135, White Springs, FL 32096 (386) 397-4331

Big Talbot Island

Located on one of the sea islands unique to Northeast Florida, this park is primarily a natural

preserve and a premier location for nature study, bird-watching and photography. The shoreline is unlike any other in Florida. Centuries of wind and water have eroded the island, creating the park's famous "boneyard beach" which is covered with the skeletons of live oak and cedar trees that once grew near the ocean. A boat ramp provides access for fishing and touring the salt marshes. Visitors can picnic on the bluff overlooking the water and then visit the beach to sunbathe or stroll along the shore. Hikers can walk along one of the park's three trails and experience the diverse habitats preserved here. Kayak Amelia/ Long Island Outfitters offers canoe/kayak rentals and guided paddle tours. Advance reservations for guided paddle tours are required, call (888) 30-KAYAK (305-2925). Located 20 miles northeast of downtown Jacksonville, on State Road A1A North, just north of Little Talbot Island State Park.

State Road A1A North, Jacksonville, FL 32226. For more information or to visit this park, contact: Little Talbot Island State Park at 12157 Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32226 (904) 251-2320.

Cedar Key Museum State Park

Picturesque Cedar Key, on Florida's Gulf Coast, was a thriving port city and railroad connection during the 19th century. The museum contains

exhibits that depict its colorful history during that era. Part of the collection has sea shells and Indian artifacts collected by Saint Clair Whitman, the founder of the first museum in Cedar Key.

Whitman's house is located at the park and has been restored to reflect life in the 1920s. A short nature trail gives visitors the opportunity to see wildlife and birds, as well as native vegetation.

Gray squirrels, doves, mockingbirds, blue jays, woodpeckers and green tree frogs can be seen on the museum grounds and along the walking trail.

The museum is open Thursday-Monday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and is closed on Christmas. From State Road 24 in Cedar Key, follow the brown signs to the museum.

**12231 S.W. 166 Court, Cedar Key, FL 32625
(352) 543-5350**

Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve

Salt marshes on the Gulf of Mexico give way to a succession of swamps, hardwood forests, pine flatwoods and scrub, providing splendid opportunities for nature study and wildlife observation. The scrub is dominated by species such as sand live oak, myrtle oak and Chapman's oak, along with rusty lyonia and saw palmetto. Hikers and off-road bicyclists will find a mosaic of Florida habitats on the miles of trails that wind

through the park. The shallow waters and numerous creeks near the salt marshes are ideal for canoeing and kayaking. Rental canoes and kayaks are available in the city of Cedar Key. The park has a picnic shelter, tables and grills. Located on State Road 24 about six miles east of Cedar Key.

**8818 State Road 24, Cedar Key, FL 32625
(352) 543-5567**

Crystal River Archaeological State Park

A National Historic Landmark, this 61-acre, pre-Columbian Native American site has burial mounds, temple/platform mounds, a plaza area and a substantial midden. The six-mound complex is one of the longest continuously occupied sites in Florida. For 1,600 years the site served as an imposing ceremonial center for Native Americans who traveled to the complex from great distances to bury their dead and conduct trade. It is estimated that as many as 7,500 Native Americans may have visited the complex every year. Although primarily an archaeological site, the park sits on the edge of an expansive coastal marsh. Anglers may catch saltwater and freshwater fish. As part of the Great Florida Birding Trail the park offers bird-

watchers the chance to observe a variety of birds. Located on Museum Point in Crystal River.

**3400 N. Museum Point, Crystal River, FL
34428 (352) 795-3817**

Crystal River Preserve State Park

A place of exceptional natural beauty, the undisturbed islands, inlets, backwaters and forests of this preserve are especially cherished by nature lovers and photographers. The park borders 20 miles of the northern Gulf Coast between the two cities of Yankeetown and Homosassa. Visitors can hike or bicycle along nine miles of trails or study the native wildlife and plants on the two-and-a-half mile interpretive trail. The park has a boat tour of the river on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, weather permitting. Anglers can walk down a short path to the Mullet Hole for a relaxing afternoon of fishing. Paddlers can launch a kayak or canoe into the waters of the scenic Crystal River to see the park from the water. On the third Saturday of each month, the visitor center features the Redfish Revue Theatre, a video presentation about the park. Located west of U.S. 19 in Crystal River.

**3266 N. Sailboat Avenue, Crystal River, FL
34428 (352) 563-0450**

Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park

In the midst of North Florida's sandy terrain and pine forests, a bowl-shaped cavity 120 feet deep leads down to a miniature rain forest. Small streams trickle down the steep slopes of the limestone sinkhole disappearing through crevices in the ground, and lush vegetation thrives in the shade of the walls even in dry summer weather. A significant geological formation, Devil's Millhopper is a National Natural Landmark that has been visited by the curious since the early 1880s. Researchers have learned a great deal about Florida's natural history by studying fossil shark teeth, marine shells and the fossilized remains of extinct land animals found in the sink. Visitors can enjoy picnicking and learn more about this sinkhole through interpretive displays. The park is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Located two miles northwest of Gainesville on N.W. 53rd Avenue (State Road 232).

**4732 Millhopper Road, Gainesville, FL 32653
(352) 955-2008 or call San Felasco Hammock
Preserve State Park (386) 462-7905**

Dudley Farm Historic State Park

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this park demonstrates the evolution of Florida farming from the 1850s to the mid-1940s—through three generations of the Dudley family. An authentic working farm, the homestead consists of 18 buildings, including the family farmhouse with original furnishings, an 1880s kitchen outbuilding, a general store and post office and a functional cane syrup complex. Park staff in period clothing perform daily chores, raising crops and tending to livestock. The farm features seasonal cane grindings and corn shuckings and heritage varieties of livestock and plants. Deer, wild turkeys, gopher tortoises and bluebirds are still seen in the fields. The park has a visitor center, picnic area and nature trail. Self-guided tours are available Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Group tours can be reserved one month in advance. Although the park will open, only self-guided tours will be available in the months of August and September. Smoking and pets are not allowed at the farmstead. Annual special events include Plow Days in February, Evening at Dudley in April, Quilt Show in October and Cane Day in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located seven miles west of I-75 on State Road 26 between Newberry and Gainesville.
**18730 W. Newberry Road, Newberry, FL
32669 (352) 472-1142**

Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

Visitors can see West Indian manatees every day of the year from the park's underwater observatory in the main spring. The park showcases native Florida wildlife, including manatees, red wolves, Florida panther, black bears, bobcats, Key and white-tailed deer, alligators and river otters. Manatee programs are offered three times daily. At the Wildlife Encounter programs, snakes and other native animals are featured. An elevated boardwalk allows visitors to view wildlife in their habitats. The park features a children's education center that provides hands-on experiences about Florida's environment.

Transportation from the visitor center on U.S. 19 to the West Entrance is available by tram or boat. The park has two gift shops and a café with a selection of beverages and snacks. The park is open daily 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; the ticket counters close at 4 p.m. Annual special events include Lu the Hippo's Birthday in January, Wildlife Jeopardy Program from December thru May, Staff Art and Craft Show and Sale in February, Citrus Watercolor Club Show and Sale in February, Homosassa Heritage Day in March, Easter Egg Hunt in April,

Bird Walk on Pepper Creek Trail in April, October and November, Spring Gardening Workshop in April, Homosassa Springs – Fall Gardening Workshop in October, Haunted Tram Ride in October and Christmas Celebration of Lights in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located in Homosassa Springs on U.S. 19.

4150 S. Suncoast Boulevard, Homosassa, FL 34446 (352) 628-5343

Fanning Springs State Park

Located on the Suwannee River, this inviting source of cool, clear water has attracted people for thousands of years. Fanning Springs produces less than 65 million gallons of water daily, making it a second-magnitude spring. Swimming or snorkeling in the spring is a refreshing activity on a hot day. Visitors can enter the park by boat from the Suwannee River or by car from U.S. 19/98. Visitors can enjoy the picnic area, playground and sandy volleyball court. A boardwalk overlooks the spring and river. A local outfitter provides beverages and canoe/kayak rentals. White-tailed deer, gray squirrels, red-shouldered hawks, pileated woodpeckers and barred owls are some of the animals seen in the park. Manatees sometimes visit the spring during the winter months. Five full-

service cabins are available for rent. Cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Primitive camping is available for a fee. Annual special events include Garden Festival in April. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on U.S. 19/98 in the town of Fanning Springs.

18020 N.W. U.S. 19/98, Fanning Springs, FL 32693 (352) 463-3420

Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park

The Spanish town of Fernandina was first planned in 1769, but no permanent settlement was recorded until 1801 when the site was occupied by an army detachment. The Plaza was an essential element of the Spanish colonial town plan. Government offices were designed to face the Plaza and in the case of this coastal village, the Plaza could be fortified as a defensive work. A fort, including a battery of three cannons, was established in 1801. It was captured and held briefly by the Florida Patriots, retaken by the Spanish, then acquired by the United States in 1817 before it faded into obscurity. Most of the original site is now an open grassy area designated

by a State of Florida Historic Marker. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely picnic on the grass, with a view of Victorian era homes and the Amelia River. Located on White Street in downtown Fernandina Beach.

**White Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 277-7274**

Forest Capital Museum

The importance of forestry in Florida dates back to the early 1800s. The museum celebrates the heritage of Florida's forest industry. The heart growing on the museum grounds provide a majestic canopy and create an enjoyable walking trail for visitors. Adjacent to the museum is an authentic 19th century Cracker homestead, much like those scattered throughout Florida at the turn of the century. Rangers lead interpretive tours during special events and upon request. Three covered picnic pavilions that seat up to 60 people are available. The park is open Thursday through Monday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-5 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Located south of Perry, on U.S. 19.

**204 Forest Park Drive, Perry, FL 32348 (850)
584-3227**

Fort Clinch State Park

A part of the park system since 1935, Fort Clinch is one of the best preserved 19th century forts in the country. Although no battles were fought here, it was garrisoned during both the Civil and Spanish-American wars. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps began preserving and rebuilding many of the structures of the abandoned fort. Daily tours with period reenactors depicting garrison life bring the fort to life for visitors. Sunbathing, swimming and beachcombing are popular activities at the beach and anglers can fish from the pier or take advantage of excellent surf fishing. Hikers and bicyclists can enjoy a six-mile trail through the park while self-guided nature trails provide opportunities to learn about and observe native plants and wildlife. A full-facility campground and a youth camping area offer overnight accommodations. 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 Confederate Garrison in March and October, Union Special Encampment and World War II Event in May, Kid's Fishing Clinic in June, Spanish American War Event in September, History of the American Soldier in November and Union Holiday Encampment in December. Other events and

ranger programs are available. Located north of the city of Fernandina Beach, off State Road A1A.

2601 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (904) 277-7274

Fort Cooper State Park

The sparkling waters of Lake Holathlikaha were a welcome sight to sick and wounded soldiers during the Second Seminole War. In 1836, the First Georgia Battalion of Volunteers built a stockade for the soldiers resting here, enabling the Volunteers to hold their own through several skirmishes with the Seminole Indians. The park's diverse natural areas provide a refuge for many plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. Fishing in Lake Holathlikaha is a popular activity; swimming is available only when the lake level is high enough. Private boats are not allowed on the lake, but paddleboat rentals are available. Nearly five miles of self-guided trails offer some of the best bird and wildlife viewing in Citrus County. Park visitors also can enjoy the picnic facilities, a recreation hall and primitive group campground. Located off U.S. 41 on South Old Floral City Road, two miles south of Inverness.

3100 South Old Floral City Road, Inverness, FL 34450 (352) 726-0315

Fort George Island Cultural State Park

Native Americans feasted here, colonists built a fort and the 'smart set' of the 1920s came for vacations. A site of human occupation for more than 5,000 years, Fort George Island was named for a 1736 fort built to defend the southern flank of Georgia when it was a colony. Today's visitors come for boating, fishing, off-road bicycling and hiking. A key attraction is the restored Ribault Club. Once an exclusive resort, it is now a visitor center with meeting space available for special functions. Behind the club, small boats, canoes and kayaks can be launched on the tidal waters. For information on reserving the Ribault Club for a special event, contact Little Talbot Island State Park at (904) 251-2320. Located approximately 16 miles east of downtown Jacksonville on State Road A1A, or three miles south of Little Talbot Island State Park.

**State Road A1A South, Jacksonville, FL 32226
(904) 251-2320**

George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park

Located in Jacksonville, this one-mile long, pedestrian-only fishing bridge spans Nassau Sound and provides access to one of the best fishing areas in Northeast Florida. Anglers catch a variety of fish, including whiting, jack, drum and tarpon. There are two picnic tables next to the shop. Access to the bridge is through Amelia Island State Park. The mile-long bridge is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Located seven miles north of Little Talbot Island State Park on State Road A1A, or eight miles south of Fernandina Beach.

**State Road A1A South, Jacksonville, FL 32226
(904) 251-2320**

Ichetucknee Springs State Park

The crystalline Ichetucknee River flows six miles through shaded hammocks and wetlands before it joins the Santa Fe River. In 1972, the headspring of the river was declared a National Natural Landmark by the U. S. Department of the Interior. From the end of May until early September, tubing down the river is the premier activity in the area. In addition to tubing, visitors can enjoy picnicking, snorkeling, scuba diving, canoeing, swimming, hiking and wildlife viewing. White-tailed deer, raccoons, wild turkeys, wood ducks and great blue herons can be seen from the river. Picnic areas, equipped with tables and grills, are available

throughout the park. A full-service concession offers food, refreshments and outdoor products from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Tubes plus snorkeling and diving equipment can be rented from private vendors outside the park. Located four miles northwest of Fort White, off State Roads 47 and 238.

**12087 S.W. U.S. 27, Fort White, FL 32038
(386) 497-2511**

Lafayette Blue Springs State Park

Visitors can take a dip in this first magnitude spring, walk across the natural limestone bridge that crosses the spring run flowing into the Suwannee River or picnic under the oaks with their swaying Spanish moss. Fish or canoe on the Suwannee River or stay in one of the park's rental cabins which stand on stilts high above the spring. Bicycling, hiking and wildlife viewing are favorite pastimes for visitors. The picnic area has tables, grills and two pavilions, which are popular for family reunions and parties. Walk-in tent camping in the full-service campground is available to visitors and also serves as a river camp for travelers along the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail. Cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. The park

is located off U.S. 27, northwest of Mayo on County Road 292.

**799 NW Blue Springs Road, Mayo, FL 32066
(386) 294-3667**

Little Talbot Island State Park

With more than five miles of beautiful, white sandy beaches, Little Talbot Island is one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier islands in Northeast Florida. Maritime forests, desert-like dunes and undisturbed salt marshes on the western side of the island allow hours of nature study and relaxation. The diverse habitats in the park host a wealth of wildlife including river otters, marsh rabbits, bobcats and a variety of native and migrating birds. Anglers find excellent fishing in the surf and tidal streams with bluefish, striped bass, redfish, flounder, mullet and sheepshead as common catches. Other popular activities are hiking, swimming, canoeing and surfing. The park has a full-facility campground and youth/group tent campground. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Beachside picnic pavilions are available for park visitors. For guided paddling tours, advance reservations are required-(888) 30-KAYAK

(305-2925). Located 17 miles northeast of Jacksonville on State Road A1A.

12157 Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32226 (904) 251-2320

Madison Blue Spring State Park

Located in one of Florida's newest state parks, this crystal clear first-magnitude spring is a popular spot for swimming. About 82 feet wide and 25 feet deep, the spring bubbles up into a limestone basin along the west bank of the Withlacoochee River. Scenic woodlands of mixed hardwoods and pines create a picturesque setting for picnicking, paddling and wildlife viewing. Canoe and kayak rental, with a shuttle service, is available from American Canoe Adventures; call (800) 624-8081 for reservations. Madison Blue Spring is approximately 10 miles east of Madison. From Madison, drive east on State Road 6 to the Withlacoochee River turn south on the west side of the bridge at the park sign. The entrance to the spring is 525 feet south of the highway.

8300 N.E. State Road 6, Lee, FL 32059 (850) 971-5003

Manatee Springs State Park

The first-magnitude spring at this park produces an average of 100 million gallons of clear, cool water daily. In winter, West Indian manatees swim upriver to the warmer waters of the springs. Popular for snorkeling and scuba diving, the headwaters of the spring are also a great spot for swimming. The spring run forms a sparkling stream that meanders through hardwood wetlands to the Suwannee River. A local outfitter provides beverages and canoe/kayak rentals. Children can enjoy the playground in the picnic area and hiking and bicycling are available on the north end trail system. The full-facility campground is surrounded by red oak woods. 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 Manatee Awareness Month in January, Family Fun Day in July, Public Lands Day River Clean Up in September and Clay Landing Days in November. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located at the end of State Road 320, off U.S. 19/98, six miles west of Chiefland.

**11650 N.W. 115th Street, Chiefland, FL
32626 (352) 493-6072**

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park

Visitors to this Florida homestead can walk back in time to 1930s farm life. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings lived and worked in the tiny community of Cross Creek. Her cracker-style home and farm, where she lived for 25 years and wrote her Pulitzer prize-winning novel *The Yearling*, has been restored and is preserved as it was when she lived here. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006. Rawlings' farmyard, grove and nature trails are open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily throughout the year. Visitors may tour the house with a ranger in period costume from October through July, Thursday through Sunday five times daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Picnic facilities are located in the adjacent county park. Located in Cross Creek off County Road 325.

18700 S. County Road 325, Cross Creek, FL 32640 (352) 466-3672

Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

One of Florida's first state parks, Gold Head Branch was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s; many original buildings still remain. Located on rolling sandhills in Central

Florida, the park features a deep ravine where a seepage spring forms Gold Head Branch. Marshes, lakes and scrub provide diverse habitats for wildlife. Visitors to the park can enjoy hiking and wildlife viewing along the park's nature trails and a three-mile stretch of the Florida Trail. For aquatic recreation, visitors can swim or fish in the lake, or spend a lazy afternoon canoeing. A large picnic area, with tables and grills, overlooks Little Lake Johnson. Nestled under the trees is a full-facility campground. Group and primitive campsites are available. Fully equipped lakefront cabins, some of which were built by the CCC, are also available for rent. Camping or cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located six miles northeast of Keystone Heights on State Road 21.

**6239 State Road 21, Keystone Heights, FL
32656 (352) 473-4701**

O'Leno State Park

Located along the banks of the scenic Santa Fe River, a tributary of the Suwannee River, the park features sinkholes, hardwood hammocks, river swamps and sandhills. As the river courses through the park, it disappears underground and re-emerges over three miles away in River Rise

Preserve State Park. One of Florida's first state parks, O'Leno was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The suspension bridge built by the CCC still spans the river. Visitors can picnic at one of the pavilions or fish in the river. Canoes and bicycles are available for rent. While hiking the nature trails, visitors can look for wildlife and enjoy the beauty of native plants. Two shady, full-facility campgrounds provide the perfect place for a relaxing overnight stay. 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 5K Run and Chili Cook-off and Springs Fest in March and Historic Alligator Festival in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on U.S. 441, six miles north of High Springs.

410 S.E. O'Leno Park Road, High Springs, FL 32643 (386) 454-1853

Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park

This park commemorates the site of Florida's largest Civil War battle which took place February 20, 1864. More than 10,000 cavalry, infantry and artillery troops fought a five-hour battle in a pine

forest near Olustee. Three U.S. Colored Troops took part in the battle including the now famous 54th Massachusetts. The battle ended with 2,807 casualties and the retreat of Union troops to Jacksonville where they stayed until the war's end just 14 months later. In 1912, when many living Civil War veterans still attended reunions, the battlefield became the state's first state park. Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park has a visitor center with historical information and artifacts. A reenactment is held every February and a Civil War Expo takes place in late summer. Scenes for Civil War movies, including the 1989 movie *Glory*, have been filmed during the reenactments. Visitors can relax and enjoy the picnic area or walk along a mile-long nature trail wandering through palmetto thickets, live oaks and pine forests. Along the trail, near the reenactment site, are interpretive signs about the battle. Located two miles east of Olustee on U.S. 90.

U.S. 90, Olustee, FL (386) 758-0400

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Paynes Prairie is biologically, geologically and historically unique. This park became Florida's first state preserve in 1971 and is now designated as a

National Natural Landmark. Noted artist and naturalist William Bartram called it the great Alachua Savannah when he wrote about his visit to the prairie in 1774. More than 20 distinct biological communities provide a rich array of habitats for wildlife and livestock, including alligators, bison, horses and more than 270 species of birds.

Exhibits and an audio-visual program at the visitor center explain the area's natural and cultural history. A 50-foot high observation tower near the visitor center provides a panoramic view of the preserve. Eight trails provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding and bicycling. Fishing on Lake Wauberg is allowed and a boat ramp provides access for canoes and boats with electric motors. Gasoline powered boats are not allowed. Full-facility campsites are available for overnight visitors. 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 Stargazing Party in January and Fire Fest in March. Other events and ranger programs are available on weekends, November through April. Located on U.S. 441, 10 miles south of Gainesville.

**100 Savannah Boulevard, Micanopy, FL 32667
(352) 466-3397**

Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park

Located east of Jacksonville's skyscrapers and west of the beaches, this state park protects one of the largest contiguous areas of coastal uplands remaining in Duval County. The uplands protect the water quality of the Nassau and St. Johns rivers, ensuring the survival of aquatic plants and animals and providing an important refuge for birds. Wildlife is abundant and ranges from the threatened American alligator to the endangered wood stork. Equestrians, hikers and off-road bicyclists can explore five miles of multi-use trails that wind through the park's many different natural communities. The park has a canoe launch to the marshes for canoeists and kayakers. A canoe/kayak launch and picnic area are located at the end of Pumpkin Hill road on the right. Located off I-95 or 9A, exit Heckscher Drive north. Turn north on New Berlin Road, then east on Cedar Point Drive. Turn north on Pumpkin Hill Road. Trailhead parking is approximately one mile on the left.

**13802 Pumpkin Hill Road, Jacksonville, FL
32226 (904) 696-5980**

Rainbow Springs State Park

Archaeological evidence indicates that people have been using this spring for nearly 10,000 years. Florida's fourth largest spring, Rainbow Springs was a privately-owned attraction from the 1930s through the 1970s. The Rainbow River is popular for swimming, snorkeling, canoeing and kayaking. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at both the headsprings and the campground. A picnic area at the spring includes tables, grills and pavilions. For large gatherings, private pavilions can be reserved. Tubing is not allowed in the headsprings area of the park. The tubing entrance is about 1.4 miles from the campground. The full-facility campground is about six miles from the day use area. 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 Spring in the Springs in February and March, Holiday Lights Display and Santa Over the Rainbow in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. The day use area is located three miles north of Dunnellon on the east side of U.S. 41. The campground is located on S.W. 180th Avenue Road, about two miles north of County Road 484 and two miles south of State Road 40. The tubing entrance is located at 10830 S.W. 180th Avenue Road.

**19158 S.W. 81st Place Road, Dunnellon, FL
34432 (352) 465-8555**

River Rise Preserve State Park

The Santa Fe River goes underground for several miles and reappears in a circular pool, surrounded by quiet woods and huge trees, before resuming its journey to the Suwannee River. Anglers can spend a relaxing afternoon fishing on the river. Hiking and wildlife viewing are also favorite pastimes for visitors. Equestrians can explore more than 30 miles of multi-use trails and camp overnight with their horses; proof of negative Coggins test is required. Located near the entrance to the preserve, the horse camp has primitive campsites, restrooms and a 20-stall horse barn for first-come, first-served campers. Pets are not allowed in primitive campsites. Park entrance and camping fees are collected at O'Leno State Park. Annual special events include Rally for Equestrians in April, Missing River Adventure Race in May, River Fest in October and Romp for Equestrians in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. The O'Leno entrance is on U.S. 441, six miles north of High Springs. The entrance to River Rise Preserve State Park is two miles west of High Springs on U.S. 27.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: O'Leno State Park, 410 S.E. O'Leno

**Park Road, High Springs, FL 32643 (386)
454-1853**

San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park

This preserve has one of the few remaining large tracts of mature hardwood forests in Florida. The limestone outcrops and extreme changes in elevation provide ideal conditions for many species of hardwood trees, including several champion trees. Bobcats, white-tailed deer, gray foxes, turkeys and many species of songbirds make their homes in the 18 natural communities found in the preserve. The park offers outdoor adventure to hikers, off-road bicyclists, horseback riders and nature lovers. To ensure solitude and quiet for a true wilderness experience, the southern two-thirds of the park is designated for hiking only. The northern third of the park has horse trails, off-road cycling and hiking. Equestrians must carry proof of a negative Coggins test. The hiking trailhead is located four miles northwest of Gainesville on State Road 232. The horseback and bicycle trailheads are located off U.S. 441 just south of Alachua.

**12720 N.W. 109 Lane, Alachua, FL 32615
(386) 462-7905**

State of Florida's Nature & Heritage Tourism Center

The State of Florida's Nature & Heritage Tourism Center is built in the town of White Springs in North Central Florida. The center has interactive kiosks and colorful exhibits. Informative brochures showcase events and Florida's natural, cultural and historical sites. This is an excellent place to stop and gather vacation materials. Annual special events include Wild Azalea Festival in March and Fall Harvest Festival in November. Other events and ranger programs are available. The center is located on the corner of Highway 136 and U.S. 41 in White Springs and is easily accessed off I-10 exit 301 or I-75 exit 439.

**10499 Spring Street, White Springs, FL 32096
(386) 397-4461**

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

On the banks of the world-famous Suwannee River, this state park is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Florida's cultural heritage. The center honors American composer Stephen Foster who wrote "Old Folks at Home,"

which immortalized the historic Suwannee River. The museum features dioramas depicting interpretations of Foster's songs and the 97-bell Carillon Tower plays Foster's music daily. In Craft Square visitors can watch demonstrations by local artisans or visit the gift shop, which offers a variety of art by Florida artists and refreshments. The park serves as the gateway for the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail. For overnight accommodations visitors can camp in the beautiful oak-shaded campground or stay in a cabin. The park hosts the annual Florida Folk Festival, held every Memorial Day weekend (last weekend in May). Other special events include concerts, weekend retreats, a monthly coffeehouse, craft square workshops, a regional quilt show and an antique tractor show. Camping or cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located in the historic town of White Springs off U.S. 41 North.

**11016 Lillian Saunders Drive / U.S Highway
41 North, White Springs, FL 32096 (386) 397-
4331**

Suwannee River

About quarter mile past the ranger station, a high bluff overlooks the spot where the Withlacoochee River joins the Suwannee River on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. Vestiges of history in the park show how important the Suwannee River was to Florida history. Along the river are long mounds of earthworks built during the Civil War to guard against incursions by Union Navy gunboats. Other remnants from the past include one of the state's oldest cemeteries and a paddle-wheel shaft from a 19th century steamboat. Five trails, ranging from a quarter mile to 18 miles, loop through surrounding woodlands and provide panoramic views of the rivers. Other activities include fishing, picnicking and canoeing. For overnight stays, the park has a full-facility campground and cabins. Camping or cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located 13 miles west of Live Oak, off U.S.90.

**20185 County Road 132, Live Oak, FL 32060
(386) 362-2746**

Troy Spring State Park

Located on the Suwannee River, this 80-acre park is a hidden gem in rural North Florida. The 70-foot deep, first-magnitude spring offers swimming,

snorkeling and open-water scuba diving. The spring run holds the remains of the Civil War-era steamboat Madison, scuttled in the 1860s to keep it from being captured. Visitors can reach the park by car or by boat from the Suwannee River at the riverside dock. A half-mile nature trail guides visitors through a dense and beautiful hammock where they might see turkey, deer and a multitude of birds. An old log cabin high on the riverbank overlooking the spring provides information about the park. Horseback riding trails and a small camping facility are being developed. Located off County Road 425, 1.3 miles north of U.S. 27.

**674 N.E. Troy Springs Road, Branford, FL
32008 (386) 935-4835**

Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

Accessible only by boat, this preserve is a favorite of anglers because it boasts both saltwater and freshwater fishing. Bordering Florida's Gulf Coast between Cedar Key and Yankeetown, extensive salt marshes and tidal creeks create habitats for saltwater fish, crabs and shellfish. The park's uplands protect a remnant of the Gulf Hammock that once spanned thousands of acres between the Suwannee and Withlacoochee rivers. Endangered

and threatened species, including West Indian manatees, bald eagles, American alligators and Florida black bears live within the preserve.

Although there are not any marked foot trails, nature enthusiasts can enjoy wildlife viewing from a canoe. Four primitive campsites, accessible only by private boat, are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Boat access is from County Road 40 in Yankeetown, County Road 326 in Gulf Hammock and public ramps in Cedar Key.

8312 S.W. 125 Court, Cedar Key, FL 32625

For more information, contact: Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve, PO Box 187, Cedar Key, FL 32625 (352) 543-5567.

Wes Skiles Peacock Springs State Park

Named for the late Wes Skiles, a world-class explorer, cinematographer and photographer, this park has two major springs, a spring run and six sinkholes all in near pristine condition. Cave divers have explored and surveyed nearly 33,000 feet of underwater passages at Peacock Springs. This park features one of the longest underwater cave systems in the continental United States. Only divers who have proof of their scuba cave certification are allowed to explore the underwater

caverns. Around the springs, four major plant communities are represented in the mature forest stands. A nature trail leads visitors on a path tracing the twisting tunnels of the caves far below their feet. Swimming in Peacock Springs and Orange Grove Sink are popular activities during the summer. Grills and pavilions are available for picnicking. Located 16 miles southwest of Live Oak on State Road 51, two miles east of Luraville on Peacock Springs Road.

**Peacock Springs Road, Luraville, FL 32060
(386) 776-2194**

Yellow Bluff Fort Historic State Park

Located near the mouth of the St. Johns River, this site was an important military position during the Civil War, allowing access to the inland areas of Florida's east coast. There was never an actual fort on Yellow Bluff - only an encampment fortified and equipped with large guns for protection.

Constructed in 1862, the site was occupied by both Confederate and Union troops during the Civil War and at its peak housed more than 250 soldiers. The site has a T-shaped earthworks and covers about 1.3 acres. Located on Yellow Bluff peninsula

on the north side of the St. Johns River (on New Berlin Road).

**New Berlin Road, Jacksonville, FL 32226
(904) 251-2320**

Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park

This site was once part of a thriving sugar plantation owned by David Levy Yulee. Yulee was a member of the Territorial Legislative Council and served in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate after Florida attained statehood. The park contains the remnants of the once thriving 5,100-acre sugar plantation: a forty-foot limestone masonry chimney, iron gears and a cane press. The steam-driven mill operated from 1851 to 1864 and served as a supplier of sugar products for southern troops during the Civil War. Visitors can learn about sugar-making from several interpretive panels stationed around the mill. Across the street, a six-table pavilion is available to groups, first-come, first-served. Grills and picnic tables are also scattered throughout the picnic area. Located on State Road 490, west of U.S. 19 in Homosassa.
State Road 490, Homosassa, FL (352) 795-3817

Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

SuwanneeRiver.com

800-868-9914

Choose your own adventure or let us arrange an outfitter. Package tours available.