

Northwest Region

Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park

These beautiful ornamental gardens were first planted in 1923 by Alfred B. and Louise Maclay after they purchased the property for their winter home. A masterpiece of floral architecture, the gardens feature a picturesque brick walkway, a secret garden, a reflection pool, a walled garden and hundreds of camellias and azaleas. Lake Hall provides opportunities for swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Boats without motors or boats with electric motors are allowed. Pavilions and grills along the lake shore provide the perfect setting for a picnic. For walking enthusiasts, two short nature trails meander through the woods overlooking the lake. Hikers, bicyclists and equestrians can enjoy five miles of multi-use trails winding through the woods surrounding Lake Overstreet, located on park property adjoining the gardens. High blooming season is from January 1-April 30 with the floral peak in mid-to-late March. During these months, a special fee is charged for visiting the Gardens and the Maclay house is open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Annual special events include Tour of Gardens and Kids Fishing Day in May,

Scarecrows and Jazz in the Gardens in October and Camellia Christmas in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located .5 miles north of I-10 on U.S. 319/Thomasville Road. Turn west on Maclay Road. The park is a short distance on the right.

**3540 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, FL
32309 (850) 487-4556**

Bald Point State Park

Some of the most picturesque scenic areas along north Florida's Gulf Coast can be found at this park. Located on Alligator Point where Ochlockonee Bay meets Apalachee Bay, Bald Point offers a multitude of land and water activities. Coastal marshes, pine flatwoods and oak thickets foster a diversity of biological communities that make the park a popular destination for birding and wildlife viewing. Every fall, bald eagles, other migrating raptors and monarch butterflies are commonly sighted as they head south for the winter. Bald Point offers access to two Apalachee Bay beaches for sunbathing and fishing. Other activities include canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing and hiking. Facilities include a fishing dock and picnic pavilions. Located off U.S. 98, one mile south of Ochlockonee Bay. Take State Road 370 for three miles to Bald Point Road.

**146 Box Cut Road, Alligator Point, FL 32346
(850) 349-9146**

Big Lagoon State Park

This coastal park sits on the northern shoreline of its namesake, Big Lagoon, which separates the mainland from Perdido Key and the Gulf of Mexico. Natural communities, ranging from saltwater marshes to pine flatwoods, attract a wide variety of birds, especially during the spring and fall migrations. Beaches, shallow bays, nature trails and open woodlands offer splendid opportunities for nature study. The park also beckons visitors with opportunities for camping, swimming, fishing, boating, canoeing and hiking. Crabbing in the shallow waters of Big Lagoon is a popular activity. The West Beach picnic area, shaded by pines and oaks, is just the place to enjoy a relaxing meal. 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 Winter Bird Count in January, Creatures of Big Lagoon in October and Christmas in the Park in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on County Road 292A, 10 miles southwest of Pensacola.

**12301 Gulf Beach Highway, Pensacola, FL
32507 (850) 492-1595**

Blackwater River State Park

A favorite destination for canoeists and kayakers, Blackwater River offers opportunities for a variety of outdoor activities. The river is one of the purest sand-bottom rivers in the nation, making this park a popular place for swimming, fishing, camping and paddling. Shaded campsites are just a short walk from the river and visitors can enjoy a picnic at a pavilion overlooking the river. Nature enthusiasts will enjoy strolling along trails through undisturbed natural communities. In 1980 the park was certified as a Registered State Natural Feature for possessing "exceptional value in illustrating the natural history of Florida." Atlantic white cedars line the river and one of them was recognized in 1982 as a Florida Champion tree, one of the largest and oldest of its species. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located 15 miles northeast of Milton, off U.S. 90.

**7729 Deaton Bridge Road, Holt, FL: 32564
(850) 983-5363**

Camp Helen State Park

The park is bordered on three sides by the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Powell – one of the largest coastal dune lakes in Florida. Coastal dune lakes are extremely rare worldwide; in the United States they occur only along the Gulf Coast. Prehistoric middens and mounds indicate that humans lived in the area more than 4,000 years ago. From 1945 until 1987, Camp Helen was a company resort for employees of an Alabama textile mill. Restorations of historic buildings have been completed. A walking tour is now one of the high points of a park visit. Natural areas range from coastal dunes and salt marshes along the Gulf to freshwater wetlands and sand pine scrub along the lake. Activities include swimming, beachcombing, nature study, hiking and both freshwater and saltwater fishing. Visitors can enjoy the beach and picnic area daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. Annual special events include Ghost Walk & History Tour in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located west of Panama City Beach just inside Bay County on U.S. 98 at the west end of the Lake Powell Bridge.

23937 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 233-5059

Constitution Convention Museum State Park

A boomtown founded in 1835, St. Joseph competed with Apalachicola as a trading port on the Gulf Coast of Florida. The original settlement lasted only nine years, but during its short life the city hosted Florida's first State Constitution Convention. The museum commemorates the work of the 56 territorial delegates who drafted Florida's first constitution in 1838. Following four more constitution conventions, Florida was finally admitted to the Union in 1845 as the 27th state. Visitors can take a self-guided tour through displays and exhibits of 19th century life in St. Joseph. Life-size, audio-animated mannequins in the replicated convention hall demonstrate the debate and process of drafting a state constitution. Museum tours are available Thursday-Monday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-5 p.m.; closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Located in Port St. Joe, off U.S. 98.

**200 Allen Memorial Way, Port St. Joe, FL
32456 (850) 229-8029**

Deer Lake State Park

This park shares its name with the coastal dune lake within its boundaries. Coastal dune lakes are extremely rare worldwide and in the United States

they occur only along the Gulf coast. Southern magnolias, golden asters, woody goldenrod and scrub oaks can be seen in this coastal dune habitat. Rare plants such as gulf coast lupine, spoonflower, pitcher plants and Curtiss' sand grass - one of the largest populations in Florida - are found in the park. Visitors may see splashes of color from summer wildflowers or some of the many species of resident or migratory birds and butterflies. A boardwalk across the dune offers easy access to the beach where visitors can picnic, swim and fish. It also offers a spectacular view of the dune ecosystem, one of 11 natural communities found in the park. Located on County Road 30A in Santa Rosa Beach.

6721 East County Road 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 (850) 231-4210

Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park

Miles of undeveloped beaches on this barrier island provide the perfect setting for this park, which offers ample opportunities for sunbathing, swimming, canoeing, boating, hiking, camping and nature study. Two natural boat ramps provide access to the bay for small boats. Anglers can fish for flounder, redfish, sea trout, pompano, whiting,

Spanish mackerel and other fish off the beach or in the bay. Few parks offer better opportunities for shelling. Sea turtles and shore birds such as the snowy plover, least tern, black skimmer and willet nest in the park during the summer. The park has six large picnic shelters equipped with grills, tables and nearby restrooms. The campground features 60 full-facility campsites with water, electric, a central dump station and two bathhouses.

Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. A primitive campsite can be accessed by a 2.5-mile trail or by canoe or kayak. A group camp area is available for scouts and other organized groups. Annual special events include the Coffee in the Campground from December through March, Family Fishing Tournament in May, Coastal Cleanup in September and Oyster Spat Festival and 5K Run in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on St. George Island, 10 miles southeast of Eastpoint, off U.S. 98.

**1900 E. Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island,
FL 32328 (850) 927-2111**

Econfina River

Nestled along the northern Gulf Coast, this park protects a mosaic of diverse landscapes. The Econfina River meanders like a dark ribbon through pine flatwoods and oak-palm forests to broad expanses of salt marsh dotted with pine islands. Nature lovers can explore the scenic beauty by foot, bicycle or horseback on nine miles of wooded trails - or drift along the river in a kayak, canoe or boat. Trails lead to a panoramic view of coastal Florida where lush islands and sand dunes left from a bygone era dot the horizon. The Econfina River empties into the Gulf of Mexico 2.2 miles south of the park's boat ramp. Picnic facilities are near the boat ramp. Equestrians must register with the park office prior to using a trail. Located in Taylor County at the end of State Road 14, south of U.S. 98.

**County Road 14 South, Econfina, FL, (850)
922-6007**

Eden Gardens State Park

The focal point of this park is a beautifully renovated, two-story house with elegant white columns and wraparound porch. Surrounded by moss-draped live oaks and ornamental gardens, the Wesley House inspires visions of hoop skirts and landed gentry. The park is part of the estate owned in the 1800s by the Wesleys, a Florida timber family. In 1963, Lois Maxon bought and

renovated the home, creating a showplace for her family heirlooms and antiques. The collection of Louis XVI furniture is the second largest in the United States. Guided tours of the house are available hourly Thursday through Monday (including holidays). Natural areas range from hammocks and flatwoods covered in sand and slash pine and many different oaks to floodplain swamps surrounded by magnolia, tupelo, sweetgum, bay and saw palmetto. Visitors can enjoy the grounds, gardens and picnic area daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. Annual special events include the School of the Soldier and Camellia Fest in February and Christmas Candlelight Tour in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located in Point Washington.

**181 Eden Gardens Road, Santa Rosa Beach,
FL 32459 (850) 267-8320**

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Home of one of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world, the park is host to an abundance of wildlife, including alligators, turtles, deer and birds. Daily guided riverboat tours provide a close view of wildlife and glass bottom boat tours are offered when the water is clear. Jumping from a two-tier tower into the cool spring

water is a popular activity. A nature trail offers a leisurely walk along the wooded areas of the park. The Lodge was built in 1937 by financier Edward Ball and is open year-round. It has 27 guest rooms, a full-service dining room overlooking the spring, a gift shop, snack bar and meeting facilities. Wakulla Springs Lodge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the park is a National Natural Landmark. Lodge reservations may be made by calling the park, which is located 14 miles south of Tallahassee on State Road 267 at the intersection of State Road 61. Annual special events include the Wakulla Wildlife Festival in April. Other events and ranger programs are available.

550 Wakulla Park Drive, Wakulla Springs, FL 32327 (850) 224-5950

Falling Waters State Park

Huge trees and fern-covered sinkholes line Sink Hole Trail, the boardwalk that leads visitors to Florida's highest waterfall. Falling Waters Sink is a 100-foot deep, 20-foot wide cylindrical pit into which flows a small stream that drops 73 feet to the bottom of the sink. The water's final destination remains unknown. Only a few miles south of I-10, the park provides travelers with a quiet, serene stop on their journey. Visitors can

watch beautiful native and migrating butterflies in the butterfly garden, take a dip in the lake or have a family picnic. Hikers can experience the verdant, gently sloping landscape of North Florida. Park rangers host interpretive programs at the campfire circle. Full-facility campsites nestled in a shady pine forest provide the perfect excuse for an overnight stay at Falling Waters State Park.

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 Legends and Lore in April. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located three miles south of Chipley, off State Road 77 on State Park Road 77A.

1130 State Park Road, Chipley, FL 32428
(850) 638-6130

Florida Caverns State Park

This is one of the few state parks with dry (air-filled) caves and is the only state park in Florida to offer cave tours to the public. The cave has dazzling formations of limestone stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flowstones and draperies. The Chipola River and a freshwater spring provide areas for swimming, fishing, canoeing and boating. Florida Caverns State Park is popular for camping, picnicking and horseback

riding. The park does not rent horses, however stables are available for equestrian campers. The park also features a nine-hole, New Deal-era golf course set in beautiful rolling terrain. The entrance is adjacent to the main park entrance; contact the Florida Caverns Golf Course at (850) 482-4257. Guided cave tours are offered Thursday through Monday except Thanksgiving and Christmas (no cave tours on Tuesday and Wednesday). The tour lasts 35-40 minutes and is considered to be moderately strenuous. An audiovisual program about touring the cave and other natural areas of the park is available in the visitor center. 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 Spirits of the Caverns in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located three miles north of Marianna on State Road 166.

3345 Caverns Road, Marianna, FL 32446
(850) 482-9598

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

U.S. Air Force Colonel Fred Gannon was instrumental in preserving this site with beautiful

old-growth longleaf pine trees, several more than 300 years old. Rocky Bayou, the main feature of the park, is the trailing arm of Choctawhatchee Bay and is popular for boating and fishing. A double-lane boat ramp makes this one of the best boat-launching locations on the bay, where both freshwater and saltwater fish are found. Other opportunities for recreation include hiking, bicycling, picnicking, canoeing and wildlife viewing. A well-shaded campground is available for full-facility camping. 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 an Easter Egg Hunt in April. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on State Road 20, five miles east of Highway 85.

4281 State Road 20, Niceville, FL 32578
(850) 833-9144

Grayton Beach State Park

Golden in the morning sun, silvered by moonlight, Grayton Beach has consistently been ranked among the most beautiful beaches in the United States. The beach provides an idyllic setting for swimming, sunbathing and surf fishing. Visitors can paddle a canoe or kayak on scenic Western

Lake to get a closer look at a salt marsh ecosystem. A boat ramp provides access to the lake's brackish waters for both freshwater and saltwater fishing. A nature trail winds through a coastal forest where scrub oaks and magnolias, bent and twisted by salt winds, have an eerie "Middle Earth" look. Hikers and bicyclists can enjoy more than four miles of trails through pine flatwoods; the trail begins across from the park entrance on Highway 30A. Options for overnight stays include modern cabins and a full-facility campground. Camping and cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located near the town of Grayton Beach on County Road 30A, south of U.S. 98.
357 Main Park Road, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 (850) 231-4210

Henderson Beach State Park

White sugar sand beaches and more than 6,000 feet of scenic shoreline border the emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Boardwalks provide access to the beach for swimming, sunbathing and fishing, while protecting the fragile coastal dunes. Hiking along the nature trail provides visitors a rare glimpse of the coastal dune ecosystem and

abundant wildlife. Amenities in the full-facility campground include an air-conditioned and heated bathhouse, a playground and access to a separate boardwalk to the beach with outdoor showers. Natural features of the park include sand pines, scrub oaks and dune rosemary. Campers can enjoy a breathtaking view of dolphins leaping through the Gulf waters at sunset – the perfect ending for a day at the beach. 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 Destin Festival of the Arts in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located just east of Destin on U.S. 98.
17000 Emerald Coast Parkway, Destin, FL 32541 (850) 837-7550

John Gorrie Museum State Park

A young physician named John Gorrie moved to Apalachicola in the early 1800s when it was a prominent port of trade, commerce and shipping in Florida. Gorrie served as postmaster, city treasurer, town councilman and bank director. Concern for his yellow fever patients motivated Gorrie to invent a method for cooling their rooms. He became a pioneer in the field of air conditioning and refrigeration by inventing a machine that

made ice, and he received the first U.S. Patent for mechanical refrigeration in 1851. A replica of his ice-making machine is on display at the museum, as well as exhibits chronicling the colorful history of Apalachicola, which played an important role in Florida's economic development. Hours are 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Thursday through Monday, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day (Eastern Time Zone). Located on Sixth Street in Apalachicola, off U.S. 98.

46 Sixth Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320 (850) 653-9347

Lake Jackson Mounds Archeological State Park

More than eight centuries ago, Native Americans inhabited the area around Lake Jackson, just north of Tallahassee. The park site was part of what is now known as the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex. Today, it encompasses six earthen temple mounds and one possible burial mound. The largest mound is 278 feet by 312 feet at the base and approximately 36 feet in height. Artifacts of pre-Columbian societies have been found here, including copper breastplates, necklaces, bracelets, anklets and cloaks. Visitors can hike along nature trails that wind past the remains of an 1800s grist mill or picnic on an open grassy area near the

largest mound. Guided tours and interpretive programs of the park are available upon request. Annual special events include A Point in Time in September. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located off U.S. 27, two miles north of I-10 in Tallahassee. Take Crowder Road and turn right onto Indian Mounds Road.

3600 Indian Mounds Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 922-6007

Lake Talquin State Park

In 1927 the Jackson Bluff Dam was constructed on the Ochlockonee River to produce hydroelectric power. The waters held back by the dam formed Lake Talquin, which now offers outstanding recreational opportunities. Catch largemouth bass, bream, shellcracker and speckled perch. Visitors can enjoy nature walks, picnicking, boating and canoeing. Nature lovers will enjoy the rolling hills and deep ravines with forests of pines and hardwoods where they may spy wild turkeys, bald eagles, ospreys and deer. To reserve the picnic pavilion for a special gathering, call the park office at least two weeks in advance. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Located 15 miles west of Tallahassee on Jack Vause Landing Road, off State Road 20.

14850 Jack Vause Landing Road, Tallahassee, FL 32310 (850) 922-6007

Letchworth-Love Mounds Archeological State Park

Visitors to this archaeological site will see Florida's tallest Native American ceremonial mound, 46 feet tall, built between 1,200 and 1,800 years ago. The people who built the mound are believed to have been members of the Weedon Island Culture, a group of Native Americans who lived in North Florida between 200 and 800 A.D. The park offers picnicking, birding and hiking. A nature trail winds around the perimeter of the ceremonial mound. The picnic area and platform viewing area for the mound are wheelchair-accessible. Located 15 miles east of Tallahassee, off U.S. 90 at the end of Sunray Road South.

**240 Letchworth Mounds Road, Monticello, FL
32344 (850) 922-6007**

Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park

Natural Bridge is the site of the second largest Civil War battle in Florida and where the St. Marks River drops into a sinkhole and flows underground for

one-quarter of a mile before reemerging. During the final weeks of the Civil War, a Union flotilla landed at Apalachee Bay planning to capture Fort Ward (San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park) and march north to the state capital. With a timely warning, volunteers from the Tallahassee area - Confederate soldiers, old men and young boys - met the Union forces at Natural Bridge and successfully repelled three major attacks. The Union troops were forced to retreat to the coast and Tallahassee was the only Confederate capital east of the Mississippi not captured by the Union. A reenactment of the battle is held at the park every March. Located on Natural Bridge Road, six miles east of Woodville, off State Road 363.

**7502 Natural Bridge Road, Tallahassee, FL
32305 (850) 922-6007**

Ochlockonee River State Park

This jewel of a park is a great place to get away for a weekend or a weeklong vacation. Picnic facilities and a swimming area are located near the scenic point where the Ochlockonee and Dead rivers intersect. Ochlockonee, which means "yellow waters," is a mix of brackish, tidal surge and fresh water. The deep river empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Trails allow visitors to explore the park and see the diverse wildlife, including the red-cockaded

woodpecker and natural areas such as pine flatwoods and oak thickets. A boat ramp provides easy access to the river. Both freshwater and saltwater fish inhabit the waters around the park, including largemouth bass, bream, catfish and speckled perch. For overnight visitors, there are full-facility campsites with access to restrooms and showers. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Reservations for youth/group camping can be made by calling the park. Annual special events include the River Stone Age & Primitive Arts Festival in March and Sportsability in April. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located four miles south of Sopchoppy on U.S. 319.

**429 State Park Road, Sopchoppy, FL 32358
(850) 962-2771**

Orman House Historic State Park

Built in 1838 by Thomas Orman, this antebellum home overlooks the Apalachicola River, and was used for both business and social gatherings.

Orman was a cotton merchant and businessman in Apalachicola from 1840 to the 1870s. He helped the tiny town become one of the Gulf Coast's most important cotton exporting ports during the mid-

19th century. The house features details of both Federal and Greek revival styles with wooden mantelpieces, molded plaster cornices and wide heart-pine floorboards. The house is open Thursday through Monday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day (Eastern Time Zone) and closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Guided tours are offered hourly, except noon. Visit the adjoining Chapman Botanical Garden, which honors Dr. Alvin Chapman. Enjoy the butterfly garden, other botanical features, walkways and open spaces. Also enjoy the Three Soldiers Detail, a bronze replica of the Vietnam memorial statue in Washington, D.C. Annual special events include Apalachicola Historic Tour of Homes in May and Historic Christmas in November. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located in Apalachicola, off U.S. 98.

**177 Fifth Street, Apalachicola, FL 32320
(850) 653-1209**

Perdido Key State Park

Barrier islands protect the Florida mainland from the harsh effects of storms and provide habitats for shorebirds and other coastal animals. Perdido Key is a 247-acre barrier island near Pensacola on

the Gulf of Mexico. White sand beaches and rolling dunes covered with sea oats make this park a favorite destination for swimmers and sunbathers. Surf fishing is another popular activity. Boardwalks from the parking lot allow visitors to access the beach without causing damage to the fragile dunes and beach vegetation. Covered picnic tables overlooking the beach provide a great place for family outings. Annual special events include the Winter Bird Count in January, Creatures of Big Lagoon in October and Christmas in the Park in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located 15 miles southwest of Pensacola, off State Road 292.

**15301 Perdido Key Drive, Pensacola, FL
32507 (850) 492-1595**

Ponce de Leon Springs State Park.

This beautiful spring is named for Juan Ponce de Leon, who led the first Spanish expedition to Florida in 1513, as legend has it, in search of the "fountain of youth." Visitors might well regain their youthful spirit by taking a dip in the cool, clear waters of Ponce de Leon Springs where the water temperature remains a constant 68 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. The main spring is a convergence of two underground water flows and

produces 14 million gallons of water daily. Visitors can take a leisurely walk along two self-guided nature trails through a lush, hardwood forest and learn about the local ecology and wildlife. Rangers also conduct seasonal guided walks. Picnicking is a popular activity at the park; grills and pavilions are available. Anglers will enjoy fishing for catfish, largemouth bass, chain pickerel and panfish. Located one-half mile south of U.S. 90 on County Road 181A.

2860 Ponce de Leon Springs Road, Ponce de Leon, FL 32455 (850) 836-4281

St. Andrews State Park

Well known for its sugar white sands and emerald green waters, this former military reservation has more than one-and-a-half miles of beaches on the Gulf of Mexico and Grand Lagoon. Water sport enthusiasts can enjoy swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking and canoeing. Two fishing piers, a jetty and a boat ramp provide ample fishing opportunities for anglers. Two nature trails wind through a rich diversity of coastal plant communities - a splendid opportunity for bird-watching. Those wanting to relax can sunbathe on the beach or enjoy a leisurely lunch under the shade of a picnic pavilion. Full-facility campsites, as well as primitive youth/group camping, make

this park a popular overnight destination. A concession offers snacks, souvenirs and fishing amenities. Shell Island Boat Tours are available during the spring and summer. Camping and cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287.

Youth/group camping reservations can be made by calling the park. Annual special events include Gulf Triathlon in May, American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk in October and Ironman Triathlon in November. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located three miles east of Panama City Beach, off State Road 392 (Thomas Drive).

**4607 State Park Lane, Panama City, FL 32408
(850) 233-5140**

St. Marks River State Park

Nestled along the banks of the St. Marks River, this park is being developed as a multi-use recreational area, with an extensive system of trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road bicycling. The existing road network in the park takes visitors through upland pine forests, hardwood thickets and natural plant communities along the banks of the river. Black bear and deer tracks crisscross the park roads. Fox, raccoon and opossum roam the woods. Birds fill the air with

their melodic calls and traces of history are everywhere, waiting to be discovered. Located eight miles east of Tallahassee, just past W.W. Kelly Road on Tram Road.

11950 Tram Road, Tallahassee, FL 32311
(850) 922-6007

San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park

The many different flags welcoming visitors to the park demonstrate the colorful history of this site, from the first Spanish explorers to the present day. The history of this National Historic Landmark began in 1528 when Panfilo de Narvaez arrived in the area with 300 men; however, the first fort was not built until 1679. Andrew Jackson occupied the fort for a brief time in the early 1800s. The museum at the park displays pottery, weapons and tools unearthed near the original fort and explains the history of the San Marcos site in a riveting large-screen video presentation. A self-guided trail is open to visitors and guided tours are available with two weeks advance notice. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday through Monday, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Annual special events include Humanatee Celebration in April. Other events and ranger

programs are available. Located in St. Marks, off State Road 363, on Old Fort Road.

148 Old Fort Road, St. Marks, FL 32355 (850) 925-6216

T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

With miles of sugar white sand, this park has one of the top-rated beaches in the United States. Sunbathing, snorkeling and swimming are popular activities along the Gulf of Mexico and St. Joseph Bay. From offshore, canoeists and kayakers can take in a superb view of the high dunes and sand pine scrub. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy camping, fishing, hiking and bicycling. As a coastal barrier peninsula, St. Joseph provides excellent opportunities for birdwatching; more than 240 species have been sighted in the park. A boat ramp is located at Eagle Harbor on the bay side. Campers can stay in a full-facility campground a short walk from the beach or at primitive campsites in the wilderness preserve. Eight cabins on the bay side offer alternative overnight accommodations. 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 Scallop Day Festival in September and Birding &

Wildflower Festival in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located between Port St. Joe and Apalachicola on Cape San Blas Road, off State Road 30A or County Road 30 on State Road 30E.

**8899 Cape San Blas Road, Port St. Joe, FL
32456 (850) 227-1327**

Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park

The preserve is home to four species of endangered pitcher plants, as well as other rare and endangered plant species. The rare, carnivorous white-top pitcher plant is unique to the Gulf Coast and found only between the Apalachicola and Mississippi rivers. Almost 100 other rare plants and animals depend on the wet prairie habitat, including the alligator snapping turtle, sweet pitcher plant and Chapman's butterwort. A boardwalk offers visitors a view of the wild and beautiful Tarkiln Bayou. Visitors can enjoy a picnic and then take a hike on the nature trails to observe the rare plants and animals. For a more adventurous outing, visitors can take a day-hike across the park to Perdido Bay. Located in Escambia County about 1.5 miles south of the intersection of U.S. 98 and County Road 293.

**For more information or to visit this park,
contact: Big Lagoon State Park,
12301 Gulf Beach Highway, Pensacola, FL
32507 (850) 492-1595**

Three Rivers State Park

Florida meets the southwest corner of Georgia where the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers converge to form Lake Seminole. The lake forms the headwaters of the Apalachicola River, which flows to the Gulf of Mexico. Hiking through forested hills of pine and mixed hardwoods, visitors might catch sight of fox squirrels, white tailed deer, gray foxes or many species of native and migratory birds. Anglers can launch from a boat ramp to enjoy some of the best freshwater fishing in the state or fish from a 100-foot pier in the camping area. A shady picnic area, with tables and grills, overlooks the lake. For large gatherings, a picnic pavilion that seats up to 60 people is available for rental. Overnight visitors can stay in a full-facility campground next to the lake or enjoy the comforts of a modern cabin. Camping and cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located two miles north of Sneads on State Road 271 (River Road).

**7908 Three Rivers Park Road, Sneads, FL
32460 (850) 482-9006**

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park

This park offers a wide variety of natural resources including 3.2 miles of secluded, white sand beaches with majestic dunes more than 25 feet tall. Three rare coastal dune lakes provide excellent freshwater fishing. Although boats are not allowed, fishing from the shoreline yields bass, bream, panfish and catfish. Lakes, pristine beaches, old-growth longleaf pines, sand pine scrub and a variety of wetlands offer a bird-watching and hiking paradise. Visitors may bike, walk or enjoy a quick ride to the beach on our timely tram service to swim, fish, sunbathe or beachcomb. A full-facility campground features a swimming pool and shuffleboard courts. Furnished cabins and bungalows are available 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. A camp store offers a variety of camping items, snacks and drinks. Located in Santa Rosa Beach on Route 30A, one mile off U.S. 98.

7525 W. Scenic Highway 30A, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 (850) 267-0299

Torreya State Park

High bluffs overlooking the Apalachicola River make Torreya one of Florida's most scenic places. The park is named for a rare species of Torreya tree that only grows on the bluffs along the Apalachicola River. Developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, Torreya is popular for camping, hiking and picnicking. Bird-watching is also a popular activity. More than 100 species of birds have been spotted in the park. Forests of hardwood trees provide the finest display of fall color found in Florida. The main campground offers full-facility campsites and a YURT (Year-round Universal Recreational Tent). Primitive campsites and a youth campground are also available. Ranger-guided tours of the Gregory House, a fully furnished plantation home built in 1849, are given at 10 a.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on weekends and state holidays. Camping and YURT reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Primitive and youth camping reservations may be made by contacting the park.

Annual special events include a Candlelight Tour in February. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located west on County Road 1641 off State Road 12, 13 miles north of Bristol.

**2576 N.W. Torreya Park Road, Bristol, FL
32321 (850) 643-2674**

Yellow River Marsh Preserve State Park

This preserve protects one of Florida's last remaining tracts of wet prairie, including the largest community of pitcher plants in the state. The carnivorous plants flourish here passively trapping insects in specialized tube-shaped leaves and absorbing nutrients from their decomposing prey. The preserve is located in Santa Rosa County on Garcon Point, which separates Escambia Bay from Blackwater Bay. Nearly 20 rare and endangered species of plants and animals make their homes along the bay and its wet prairies, dome swamps and flatwoods. There are no recreational facilities in the preserve, but the sweeping landscapes of the pitcher plant prairies offer a tremendous opportunity for photography and nature appreciation. A small parking area and public access point are located on Dickerson City Road. Located on County Road 191, approximately one mile north of the intersection with County

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Road 281 and along both sides of the highway on
Blackwater Bay.

County Road 191, Santa Rosa County, FL

(850) 983-5363