

Park Visitor Welcome Kit: Panhandle of Florida

Sponsored by

Canon, Odwalla, Travelocity, Geico, Shutterfly

20% for Parks

The Park Visitor Welcome Kit was created at no cost to Florida State Parks or taxpayers. Funding is generously provided by its sponsors, and 20% of its net proceeds are donated to your state parks. To learn more, visit www.20ForParks.com

Welcome to your Florida State Parks!

Use this Park Visitor Welcome Kit to:

- Find out what's new inside your state parks this year
- Learn how to engage your entire family's interest and create a memorable visit
- Check out the park rangers' top park recommendations for hiking, boating, biking & more
- Plan your next park adventure with the enclosed state parks map & guide
- Take advantage of fantastic offers from our sponsors

www.ParkVisitors.com

Page 3 of 55

Printed on 100% recycled paper. Every piece can also be reused, passed along to a friend or recycled.

Safety Tips, Park Passes, State Park Survey & Contact Information

Florida State Parks Pass

With your Florida State Parks Pass, you can enjoy unlimited entry to more than 160 state parks, historic sites and natural areas for a full 12 months.

Cost is \$40 plus tax for individuals or \$80 plus tax for families. Buy yours today at the Ranger

Page 4 of 55

Stations or go to www.floridastateparks.org to order online or download a form for a fax order.

Pass does not include camping and entitles bearer to a 33% discount on admission to Homosassa Springs and Skyway Fishing Pier state parks.

Florida State Parks Passport

The Florida State Parks Passport is designed to help you discover Florida's award-winning state parks.

As a collector's journal, the passport will help you plan and record your experiences. To qualify for a commemorative gift, be sure to collect a unique stamp at each park you visit. Passports may be purchased for \$7.95 plus tax/shipping at many state parks or by calling (352) 628-1002.

Safety Tips to Help You Enjoy Your Parks

Florida's sunshine provides many opportunities for recreation. Remember to use sunscreen to prevent burns. Drink lots of fluids to remain hydrated. Bug repellent will keep the insects away.

Never hike alone and always stay on trails—it's easy to get lost out here.

Park hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year unless posted.

Pets are permitted in designated areas only and must be on a leash no longer than six feet. Please pick up after your pet.

A helmet is required for all bicycle riders younger than 16.

Page 6 of 55

Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only.

A Florida fishing license may be required.

Fireworks and hunting are prohibited in all state parks.

Alcoholic beverages are allowed in designated areas only.

During lightning storms, seek shelter or stay in your car.

All boaters under age 13 must wear Coast Guard-approved life jackets.

For a complete list of park regulations, go to the Ranger Station.

Safety Tip!

Take responsibility for your children on the beach and in campgrounds. Make sure they always hike, bike, swim or boat with a partner or group.

What Do You Think?

Give your opinion and you could win a Canon Digital camera!

Help us make the Park Visitor Welcome Kit even better, and you could win a new camera! Visit www.parkvisitor.com, complete a short survey and you will be entered to win a Canon EOS Rebel XSi. Tell us what you like about the Welcome Kit and what changes you'd like to see next year. The survey is anonymous, so your privacy is protected.

Contact Information

Emergency: 911 or go to the ranger station

General Information: (850) 245-2157

Website: www.floridastateparks.org

Camping Reservations: www.reserveamerica.com,
(800) 326-3521

Florida Department of Environmental Protection:
www.dep.state.fl.us

For advertising inquiries, call (626) 229-9991.

The Park Visitor Welcome Kit was created by Government Solutions Group in partnership with Florida State Parks at no cost to taxpayers.

Nothing in the Park Visitor Welcome Kit should be taken to imply endorsement of products, services, or activities of advertisers by any governmental

agency. For more information please visit
www.parkvisitor.com

Go Guide

Exciting articles for exploring Your Florida State
Parks today!

Ranger's Recommendations: The Very Best of The Florida Panhandle

Who knows your state parks better than the men
and women who maintain—and enjoy—them? Here
are their top destinations for a wealth of
recreational activities.

FISHING

Three Rivers State Park

With more than two miles of shoreline on Lake

Seminole, anglers come from all over the region to fish in a serene and relaxing setting that nets big freshwater catches.

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

For freshwater and saltwater fishing, Rocky Bayou is the place to go at anytime of the year. The Park's doublewide boat launch is one of the best and most user friendly launches on the entire Choctawhatchee Bay. Anglers have access to Rocky Bayou Aquatic Preserve, the Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. A park store provides bait and tackle. Enjoy the newly renovated campground.

St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

This park is surrounded by water with St. Joseph Bay to the east and the Gulf of Mexico to the west. The calm water and grassy bottom of the bay attract anglers looking for red drum, spotted sea trout, flounder and whiting. Bring your waders!

CANOEING & KAYAKING

Blackwater River State Park

The Blackwater is considered the gateway to the “Canoe Capital of Florida,” and offers a variety of winding inland rivers and serene creeks to explore. Four state-designated canoe trails are located within 15 minutes of the park. Launch and take-out points are located at varying intervals along the trail and make it easy to float for 2 hours or 3 days. Local vendors offer boat rentals.

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

Visitors can explore the beautiful Rocky Bayou Aquatic Preserve and spot aquatic wildflowers, osprey nests and other wildlife. Canoes or kayaks are available for rent at the park. The boats can be rented for 2 hours, a half-day or all day.

BEACH

St. Joseph Peninsula State Park

Enjoy one of the most pristine and secluded beaches in Florida. Clean sand, crystal blue Gulf waters and sea oat-covered dunes stretch for nine miles. The northern section is a wilderness area where you will rarely see another soul.

CAMPGROUNDS

Henderson Beach State Park

This 208-acre park offers 60 campsites with easy access to the mile-long stretch of sugar-white sands bordering the emerald green waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The beach is accessible through the use of a beach wheel chair available at the park.

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park

The top-notch campground includes air-conditioned bathhouses, hot showers, laundry, sewer, cable TV, swimming pool and a tram service that ferries

campers to 3.2 miles of secluded, quartz-white beaches. This RV resort also features tennis courts. Furnished bungalows are also available for weekly stays.

NATURE PRESERVES

Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park

Four species of endangered pitcher plants along with other rare plant species can be found at home here. The extremely rare, carnivorous white-top pitcher plant is only found between the Apalachicola and Mississippi Rivers. The wet prairie habitat also hosts the rare alligator snapping turtle, sweet pitcher plant and Chapman's butterwort.

Falling Waters State Park

Huge trees and fern-covered sinkholes line the Sink Hole Trail, a boardwalk that leads to Florida's highest waterfall, Falling Waters. The waterfall

drops 73 feet to the bottom of a small sink that's only 20-feet around but 100 feet deep. The water's final destination remains unknown.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Florida Cavern State Park

Bring your horse and ride more than six miles of scenic trails through the woodlands along the Chipola Rivers. There are three equestrian campsites on the trail with stalls, electricity, water and showers.

HIKING

Big Lagoon State Park

Hiking trails circle the park and offer views of the Grand Lagoon and lead to two observation towers that overlook the park and the Gulf of Mexico.

BIKING

Grayton Beach State Park

Grab your bicycle, park at Grayton Beach and hop on the multi-use, trail which runs along 10 miles of beautiful Gulf coast shoreline and through several natural communities.

Best New Gear

Recreation in the outdoors gets better with good gear. Here are five new items to help enhance your park experience this year... and most of them are good for the environment too!

Keen Newport Hemp

Woven hemp fiber gives this popular Keen hybrid sandal- shoe a new look. The patented toe guard protects from errant roots and rocks on the trail, while the airy — and eco-friendly — upper gives your feet a chance to breathe. \$95,
www.keenfootwear.com

Jetboil PCS

Conserve fuel and cook food faster. That's the promise of the JetboilPCS, an innovative personal camp stove that captures and focuses its heat.

Want proof? This burner boils two cups of water in just 2 minutes, which is twice as fast as comparable stoves. \$89, www.jetboil.com

Solio Hybrid1000

Solar power in a snap. The Solio clips to your backpack while you walk, sucking rays all day and saving the juice in its internal lithium-ion battery.

Later, plug in your iPod, or even a laptop computer, to bank off the device's 5-watt output — enough to power most portable devices. \$79, www.solio.com

Garmin Colorado 400c

A top-end GPS, the 400c displays three-dimensional maps and lets you sift through endless navigational options via its "Rock 'n Roller" input wheel. An electronic compass and altimeter provide direction and altitude readings for further data. \$639.99, www.garmin.com

REI Sahara Tech

This long-sleeve travel shirt has built-in sun protection to the tune of a 50 UPF rating. A neck-shading collar and air vents in back further help you survive a hot hike under the summer sun. \$49.50, www.rei.com

Stephen Regenold is a world-traveling adventurer journalist who writes The Gear Junkie column for several U.S. newspapers. Go to www.thegearjunkie.com for video gear reviews, fitness, adventure travel and health tips, a daily blog and an archive of Regenold's work.

Easy Ways to Spark Your Children's Love of the Outdoors

If you've brought your kids to the park today, let me congratulate you! You're doing your part to reverse what I call 'nature-deficit disorder.' You're probably already aware of this condition—your kids probably play outside less than you did or they play video games, not outdoor games, and they have little or no interest in, say, fishing, hiking or camping.

In my exploration of the disconnect between children and nature, I've found that parents almost always tell stories about their own childhoods: this tree house or fort, that special woods or ditch or creek or meadow. They recall those "places of initiation," in the words of naturalist Robert Michael

Pyle, where they first sensed with awe and wonder the largeness of the natural world, both seen and unseen.

Knowing this, I'll bet that's one big reason you've brought your family here to the park. You want your kids to experience the joy and wonder of nature, like you did. You want them to create their own special memories. Fortunately, it's easy to give that gift to them. Just get them outside and then let their natural curiosity take over.

FOUR FUN TIPS FOR KIDS OUTDOORS

Invent your own nature game: Encourage them to find evidence of ten 'critters' in the form of actual animals, footprints, holes, nests or other signs of activity.

Have your kids sit under a tree or in a meadow and use all five senses: Listen to every bird song

and bug call, feel the grass or dirt underneath, smell the land, watch the breeze blow through the grass, trees or on the water.

Try wildlife photography with a digital camera. When capturing beautiful images, you and your children will actively “look” at nature—and appreciate it more.

Go fish. Let kids explore the water’s edge, and start fishing with simple techniques and gear. Bend down the barbs on the hooks for safety and to make it easier to release the fish.

The more your family explores nature together, the closer your family will become. Grown-ups often mention outdoor adventures as their best childhood memories. Share them with your children.

Page 21 of 55

Adapted from *LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*

(© 2008 Algonquin Books), by Richard Louv,

Chairman of the Children & Nature Network

(www.cnaturenet.org). Learn more and find

additional resources at

www.lastchildinthewoods.com. Reprinted by

permission.

Wellness Tips from Chris Carmichael

By visiting your state parks, you've taken a step toward living a healthier and more enriching life.

As you experience the park, take this chance to unwind a bit, get a little—or a lot—of exercise, and reacquaint your senses with the land. The myriad of recreation activities available and the nature

surrounding you will stimulate and strengthen your body and mind.

Embrace Life. I've traveled all over the world and learned that to get the most out of one's surroundings, you have to get outside and experience Mother Nature with all your senses. Only then will you rediscover the thrill of nature's power and beauty.

Live Vigorously. When you get outside, you'll feel compelled to do something. That's natural; we were meant to move. And the ball fields, trails, rivers, and lakes in our parks are the perfect place to get a move on and start living healthier lives that improve our well-being.

Earn Your Rewards. The mental satisfaction that comes from accomplishing something new is incredibly powerful. It can be as simple as paddling

a boat, climbing a mountain, riding a horse, or for me, jumping on a bike. Fortunately, your state parks are full of such opportunities.

Chill Out. Interacting with nature on a regular basis in the form of fishing, a picnic, or a bike ride reduces stress and offers a retreat from the demands of our modern world. And reducing stress has been proven to lead to a healthier body. So make a park visit a regular habit—for your health!

CHRIS CARMICHAEL is an Olympian and former professional cyclist, and coach to Texas native and 7-time Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong. For more of Chris's ideas and tips on training and nutrition, visit www.trainright.com.

IT'S WILD IN FLORIDA

The lands and waters in Florida provide some of the most unique animal habitats on earth. If you're lucky you may spot one of these Florida natives.

About 50 of the rare Florida panthers are left in the state hiding in upper dry land areas or cypress forests.

The American alligator makes its home in freshwater swamps and marshes, rivers and lakes and in the brackish waters of coastal canals, rivers and creeks.

Sea turtles have used the beaches of Florida to lay their eggs for eons.

ROADTRIP 2 DAYS//20 MILES

Discover Scenic Route 30

Halfway between Pensacola and Panama City, lies 30A, a famous 18-mile stretch of scenic coastal road that shows off the very best of Florida's Gulf Coast, with sugar-white sand and rolling dunes.

DAY 1

Roll into Henderson Beach State Park on a narrow spit of land separating the Gulf of Mexico from Choctawhatchee Bay and settle in. The beach is only a boardwalk away and the breeze blowing between the ocean and the bay keeps things cool. Enjoy a fantastic day and sunset on the beach. For camping make your way east along US 98 to 30A and turn right. You'll see the entrance to Topsail Hill Preserve State Park. The camping area features a swimming pool, tennis courts and a tram to the beach. If you want to extend your vacation, furnished bungalows are available for weekly stays. A camp store offers a variety of camping items, as well as snacks and drinks.

DAY 2

Explore Topsail Hill Preserve. It's known for its majestic 25-foot high sand dunes. You'll also be able to connect to 27 miles of greenway bike paths and walking paths that run along this section of coastline. End your day with a kayak or canoe float on the flat water of 220-acre Western Lake, a rare dune lake in Grayton Beach State Park that's home to a critical salt marsh ecosystem. As the sun sets, look over the ocean to see if you can spot a dolphin or two. Grayton Beach has consistently been ranked among the most beautiful, relaxing beaches in the United States.

IN-THE-KNOW PIT STOPS

Scenic Highway 30A winds along the Florida panhandle near the powder-white beaches and emerald-green waters. Shopping plazas, folk art galleries and many

restaurants delight visitors year-round.

www.See30a.com

LEAVE NO TRACE: Handle With Care

The manatees and sea turtles need your help! They're two of a hundred endangered plants, animals, birds, and fish living in or passing through your state parks. It's up to you to help preserve their critical habitat during your visit. Follow the tips below and your parks and beaches should stay wild and vibrant for yours and future generations.

Pack It Out

Deposit all litter and food scraps in designated receptacles. Pick up any litter you may find along the way. No trash cans? Haul your waste out of the park.

Protect the Water

Clean water is a precious resource in this region. Even a puddle can support a vibrant ecosystem. Stay out of water unless designated for swimming or boating. Camp at least 200 feet away from, and never wash dishes, yourself or deposit waste, in lakes and streams. Thousands of animals, insects and plants depend on that water.

Observe, Don't Disturb

Leave rocks, plants and other nature elements as you found them. Same goes for cultural or historic construction and artifacts.

Be Fire Wise

Use a camp stove for cooking. Where fires are permitted, only use established fire rings or BBQ grills. After wood and coals burn to ash and cool, scatter the ash.

Follow the Rules

Specific park regulations were researched and designed to preserve the local ecology and let nature thrive.

Stick to Existing Sites & Trails

Only camp in designated or existing campsites and keep your impact small. Stay off vegetation.

Always walk single file down the middle of an established trail, even when it's wet or muddy.

VOLUNTEER!

Help maintain a trail, restore a natural area, or join a group to clean up your beaches or parks. Inquire at the ranger station for a list of Citizen Support Organizations working with your favorite parks or inquire at the ranger station to discover how you can help. www.floridastateparks.org

FL STATE FACTS

Wrap your head around these Sunshine State Numbers

11+ Feet

Maximum diameter of live oak trees, some of the oldest trees in the region.

3 Beaches

St. Joseph Peninsula, Grayton Beach, & St. Andrews have all earned the title "Best Beach in the Nation".

100 Miles

Total combined length of all the sandy white beaches managed by Florida State Parks.

The Florida Panhandle

Natural Florida

From Perdido Key on the Alabama state line to St. George Island near Apalachicola, the state parks in northwest Florida include a diversity of natural communities, cultural and historical sites and recreational opportunities that are unsurpassed in all of Florida. Included in this range of 21 state parks are some of the world's best beaches. The white sands and clear waters are ideal for swimming, fishing, sunbathing, beach volleyball or just strolling. For more information, visit www.floridastateparks.org.

Big Lagoon State Park

An observation tower at the park's east beach gives visitors a panoramic view of Big Lagoon, Perdido Key and the blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A hiking trail runs along the lagoon, famous for attracting a variety of wading birds.

Page 32 of 55

(850) 492-1595 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/biglagoon

Blackwater River State Park

Considered one of the purest sand-bottom rivers in the nation, the Blackwater makes this park a popular place for swimming, canoeing, boating, fishing and camping. It is also home to one of Florida's largest Atlantic white cedar trees.

(850) 983-5363 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/blackwater

Camp Helen State Park

(850) 233-5059 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/camphelen

Constitution Convention Museum State Park

The museum commemorates the work of 56 territorial delegates who drafted Florida's first constitution in 1838 at Port St. Joe. Following four

Page 33 of 55

more constitutional conventions, Florida was admitted to the Union in 1845 as the 27th state.

(850) 229-8029 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/constitution

Deer Lake State Park

Summer wildflowers burst into color at this park and attract a variety of colorful butterflies. A boardwalk across the dunes offers easy access to the beach for swimmers and anglers.

(850) 231-4210 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/deerlake

Eden Gardens State Park

The two-story Wesley House was once part of the Wesley family estate, who made their money in timber. In 1963, the house was bought and renovated by Lois Maxon who decorated it with the second largest collection of Louis XVI furniture in the country.

Page 34 of 55

(850) 231-4214 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/edengardens

Falling Waters State Park

Take a walk on the Sink Hole Trail, one of the most beautiful hikes in the state, and pass huge trees and large sinkholes covered in ferns. The trail ends at a 73-foot waterfall, Florida's highest, that cascades into a 100-foot deep, 20-foot wide cylindrical sink.

(850) 638-6130 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/fallingwaters

Florida Caverns State Park

The cave tours take visitors past limestone stalactites, stalagmites, columns, rim stone, flowstones and draperies. The Chipola River flows through the park, disappearing underground and then reappearing elsewhere.

Page 35 of 55

(850) 482-9598 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/floridacaverns

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

Noted for its pine forests and scenic trails, the park makes a perfect place to launch a one-day fishing adventure on Choctawhatchee Bay or a relaxing camping trip with fishing, canoeing and hiking available for your leisure.

(850) 833-9144 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/rockybayou

Grayton Beach State Park

Once named the best beach in the United States, this stretch of white sugar sand sits between the emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico and rolling dunes. Scenic Western Lake is home to a pristine salt water marsh ecosystem.

Page 36 of 55

(850) 231-4210 // www.parkvisitor.com/fl/grayton

Henderson Beach State Park

The white sands and clear water of the Gulf of Mexico have earned this beach top honors as “Best in the Nation.” Boardwalks provide easy access to the water, while protecting the critical dune habitat. The nature trail offers a rare glimpse of the coastal dune ecosystem.

(850) 837-7550 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/henderson

John Gorrie Museum State Park

Dr. John Gorrie moved to Apalachicola in 1822 and was a pioneer in developing the first air conditioner and refrigerator. A replica of his 1851 ice maker is on display, as well as exhibits about the history of Apalachicola.

Page 37 of 55

(850) 653-9347 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/johngorrie

Orman House Historic State Park

Built in 1838, this antebellum home situated on a high bluff overlooking the Apalachicola River features a combination of Federal and Greek revival styles with wooden mantelpieces, molded plaster cornices and wide heart-pine floorboards.

(850) 653-1209 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/ormanhouse

Perdido Key State Park

(850) 492-1595 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/perdidokey

Ponce de Leon Springs State Park

(850) 836-4281 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/poncedeleon

St. Andrews State Park (includes Shell Island)

Located at the end of a peninsula, this former military reservation attracts anglers to the fishing piers, campers to the waterfront campsites and beach goers by the hundreds. Tour the park by land or water. Sea kayak rentals are available.

(850) 233-5140 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/standrews

Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park

(850) 492-1595 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/tarkilnbayou

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

The beach here has been called one of the most beautiful in the world. Besides the beach, the park is known for excellent bird-watching with guided walks and programs provided seasonally. Kayaking

or canoeing is a popular way to explore the park. Visitors can stay in a full-facility campground, a short walk from the beach, cabins or at primitive campsites in the wilderness preserve.

(850) 227-1327 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/stjoseph

Three Rivers State Park

The Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers make up the three rivers. Lake Seminole is one of the premier fishing lakes in North Florida. The park's hilly terrain is blanketed with hardwood hammocks and pine forests.

(850) 482-9006 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/threerivers

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park

The preserve contains more than three miles of white quartz sand beaches with majestic dunes standing over 25 feet tall. The RV park features a

Page 40 of 55

swimming pool, tennis courts and cabins available for weekly rental.

(850) 267-0299 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/topsailhill

Torrey State Park

The high bluffs of the Apalachicola River are a rare sight in Florida and they're home to this historic park built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Enjoy camping, hiking or a tour through the restored Gregory House plantation built in 1849.

(850) 643-2674 // www.parkvisitor.com/fl/torrey

Yellow River Marsh Preserve State Park

The preserve is located on Garcon Point which separates Escambia Bay from Blackwater Bay. Four natural ecosystems dominate the park: wet flatwoods, wet prairie, dome swamp and Baygal. The wet prairie attracts the most attention due to the colorful pitcher plants.

Page 41 of 55

(850) 983-5363 //

www.parkvisitor.com/fl/yellowriver

More ways to ENJOY your PARKS

Calendar and Cool Ideas

This Park Visitor Welcome Kit is made possible by sponsors who share our vision for protecting parks and the environment. We think you'll love what they have to say.

I N S I D E

Looking for outdoor photography tips?

Find photography tips from expert photographers and a chance to win a park trip and a camera when

you enter the Canon Photography in the Parks Contest.

Planting a tree is as easy as clicking your mouse!

Go to www.odwalla.com and plant a tree in a park in the blink of an eye. No purchase is necessary. Each visitor can plant up to 5 trees!

Learn about ending 'nature deficit disorder'

Also, find out how you can make all your travel, Travel for Good, with Travelocity

Tips for a responsible park experience

Create lasting memories from your trip

Shutterfly has a special offer only for park visitors. Go to www.shutterfly.com/parkvisitor to get yours

Florida State Parks Event Calendar

There's more to explore online

For more gear reviews, road trip ideas, loads of park information, recipes, travel tips, special offers, and more, visit www.parkvisitor.com

20% for Parks

The Park Visitor Welcome Kit was created at no cost to State Parks or taxpayers.

Funding is generously provided by its sponsors, and 20% of its net proceeds are donated to your state parks.

To learn more, visit www.20ForParks.com

Sponsors: Canon, Odwalla, Travelocity, GEICO and Shutterfly

Florida State Parks Calendar

Check out all the fun events in your state parks—guided hikes, night programs, festivals, kids programs, athletic events, how-to clinics, and much more! Add these to your to-do list today and visit your state parks often.

June 1, 2008

Mattie Kelley Choctawhatchee Estuary Festival at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park

Come out for a day of family-g geared activities—fish printing on T-shirts, crab races, guided kayak tours, guided hikes, and seining exercises for kids to examine local fish. Learn all about the Choctawhatchee River and Bay, as well as a restoration project for the Okaloosa Darter, a locally threatened fish. Other displays and lectures

Page 45 of 55

will focus on snakes, red tide, sturgeon population, and water nitrate testing. More info: (850) 650-5928

June 7, 2008

Early Boat Tour at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Get an eyeful of alligators, turtles, deer, birds, and other wildlife on an early morning cruise of the scenic Wakulla River. Reservations suggested. More info: (850) 926-0700

June 14, 2008

Annual Free Kids' Fishing Clinic at Fort Clinch State Park

This one-day clinic helps your kids learn all the basics and how to be responsible anglers. The first 500 kids receive a free rod and reel. Bait is provided. More info: (904) 277-7274

June 16-21, 2008

Wildlife Week in the Park at Homosassa

Springs Wildlife State Park This weeklong day camp exposes the children to Florida's wildlife and their habitats through activities and crafts. Open to children going into third and fourth grades in the fall. Advance registration required. More info: (352) 628-5343

July 4, 2008

Old Fashioned 4th of July Picnic at The Barnacle Historic State Park

Celebrate our nation's birthday with an old-fashioned relaxing family picnic at a 19th century pioneer homesite. Show your spirit by wearing a period costume for all the festivities, including lawn games, fireworks, and kite-making demonstrations. More info: (305) 442-6866

August 2, 2008

A Day in Florida History of De Leon Springs at De Leon Springs State Park

Come and see a battle between soldiers and settlers of the early 1800s and Seminole Indians re-enacted with actual weapons of the period.

Afterwards, take in some Indian dance performances before exploring an authentic Indian village and soldier's encampment—complete with Indian artifacts, old rifles and weapons, and artisans.

More info: (386) 985-4212

September 6, 2008

First Saturday Coffeehouse at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center

Enjoy a coffee, tea and dessert while taking in songs, stories, music or poetry at this open stage night at the park auditorium. More info: (386) 397-4331

September 20, 2008

Marion County Springs Festival at Silver River State Park

This annual festival has an incredible program—live music, door prize giveaways, an arts and crafts show, interactive exhibits, storytelling, guided hikes, a silent auction, art show, horse drawn trolley, food vendors, and more. More info: (352) 236-7148

September 20-21, 2008

Spanish American War Event at Fort Clinch State Park

Fascinated by the period of the Spanish American War in 1898? Then, don't miss a day of reenactments and historical presentations. More info: (904) 277-7274

October 4, 2008

Children's Cane Pole Fishing Tournament at De Leon Springs State Park

Leave the fancy rods and reels at home. All you'll need for this tournament are a simple cane pole, bobber, and hook. Bait provided, and prizes awarded for different age groups—the largest, the smallest and the most fish caught. More info:

(386) 985-4212

October 11-12, 2008

Confederate Garrisons at Fort Clinch State Park

Civil War reenactors portray life at Fort Clinch with black powder artillery demonstrations, marching drills, and other activities. Don't miss the candlelight viewing on Saturday evening. More info: (904) 277-7274

October 24, 2008

Heritage Day at Forest Capital Museum State Park

Volunteers dressed in period costumes create a living history at the 1863 Cracker Homestead, with exhibitions of: pine straw basket weaving, blacksmithing, plowing with mule, Civil war encampment, cracker cooking, cracker whip demo, cracker cowboy, crocheting, knitting, tatting and more. More info: (850) 584-3227

October 24-25, 2008

16th Annual Haunted Woods at Hillsborough River State Park

Looking for a safe, fun alternative to trick-or-treating? This event has something for the whole family—haunted woods trail, coloring contest, family tram ride, refreshments, games, goodies, moonwalk, costume contests and more. More info: (813) 987-6771

October 25, 2008

**53rd Florida Forest Festival at Forest Capital
Museum State Park**

Don't miss this tree-rific day packed with festivities for the whole family—a downtown parade, the world's largest fish fry, carnival, pageants, parades, storytelling, vendors galore, antique cars, arts and crafts, live music and entertainment, and chainsaw competitions. More info: (850) 584-3227

October 25-31, 2008

Haunting of Fort Taylor at Fort Zachary Taylor

Looking for a good fright? Come experience the haunting of Fort Taylor, a Civil War Fortress in which nearly 400 soldiers died of yellow fever.

More info: (305) 292-6713

November 2-9, 2008

**Key West Offshore Powerboat World
Championship at Fort Zachary Taylor State
Park**

View the annual offshore powerboat racing series from the best beach in Key West. More info: (305) 292-6713

November 3-4, 2008

**Quiksilver "King of the Peak" Surf Contest at
Sebastian Inlet State Park**

Watch some of the best surfers in the world "shoot the tube" and compete for \$10,000 in prize money. More info: www.quiksilver.com

Thursdays, Nov – April 2008

**Gentle Walk & Talk at Paynes Prairie Preserve
State Park**

This gentle walk takes you to the edge of the prairie basin and Alachua Sink, plus areas of the Preserve only accessible with a guide. Challenge

Page 53 of 55

yourself to identify birds, butterflies, trees, and wildflowers along the way, or just enjoy a peaceful stroll. This walk is suitable for those who aren't hikers but still want to have an outdoor experience. More info: (352) 466-4100

December 5-7, 2008

**Pirates in Paradise at Fort Zachary Taylor
Historic State Park**

Arrr mate! Best not miss this event, or you'll have to walk the plank. Re-enactors portray the pirate's life in the late 1700s—swords, cannon fire and all. Festivities include a reenactment of the trial of Ann Bonnie and Mary Reid, as well as mock battles with English Red Coats and the pirates at land and sea. More info: (305) 292-6713

For more information on these and other State Park events, visit www.parkvisitor.com/fl/events

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

We make it a breeze to tell the story of your park adventures. Just upload your favorite shots to Shutterfly free of charge, then you can instantly share them online with loved ones.

You can also create personalized gifts in minutes. We're #1 in quality, having won awards for our photo books, cards and more. This means everything you make will look amazing. We guarantee your satisfaction.

Visit www.shutterfly.com/parkvisitor to see your special offer.*

*To redeem the special offer, user must have an existing Shutterfly account, or create one at www.shutterfly.com/parkvisitor. A valid email address is required. Credit cannot be transferred to

Page 55 of 55

another account and may not be combined with other offers, discounts, promotions or credits.