

## More Information

Named by the Seminole Indians, Weeki Wachee means "little spring" or "winding river." More than 170 million gallons of water bubbles out of subterranean caverns daily. The spring's basin is 100 feet wide with limestone sides. Sixteen to 20 feet below, the current runs a strong five miles per hour, posing a challenge for the mermaids to stay in one place.

In 1946, Newton Perry purchased Weeki Wachee. He hired and trained the 'mermaids' to perform synchronized ballet moves underwater using hidden air hoses.

The 18-seat theater opened in 1947. It was built into the limestone, six feet below the spring's surface so viewers could see the natural beauty of the ancient spring. Weeki Wachee's heyday began in 1959, when the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) purchased the spring. ABC built the current theater and developed themes for the shows, with elaborate props, music and story lines. In the 1960s, girls came from as far away as Tokyo for tryouts to become a mermaid. They performed eight shows a day to sold-out crowds, entertaining nearly half a million people annually.

Buccaneer Bay, Florida's only spring-fed water park, opened in 1982. In 1997, former mermaids returned to perform in the Mermaids of Yesteryear shows, which play to standing room only crowds.

The City of Weeki Wachee incorporated in 1966. With a population of nine, it is still one of the nation's smallest cities. The mayor of Weeki Wachee is a former mermaid. Weeki Wachee Springs became a state park on November 1, 2008.



## Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

### Weeki Wachee Springs State Park

6131 Commercial Way  
Spring Hill, FL 34606  
(352) 592-5656

[FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org)

## Park Guidelines

- Hours vary seasonally for Weeki Wachee Springs and Buccaneer Bay Water Park. See schedule inside this brochure for hours of operation.
- Pets are not permitted. Service animals are welcome in all areas of Florida's state parks.
- All scuba divers and snorkelers must be accompanied by a park representative. No individual dives allowed and reservations are required.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at Guest Relations.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact Guest Relations.

Large  
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Alternate format  
available upon  
request at any  
Florida state park.



**FLORIDA**  
State Parks  
*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>  
Created on 2/10



Southwest  
Florida

*Weeki Wachee*  
**Springs State Park**

The City of Mermaids



*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>

**National Gold Medal Winner**

Florida State Parks - "America's First Two-Time Winner"

## Weeki Wachee:

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| A Guest Relations    | J Discover Point Amphitheater |
| B Entrance           | K Wilderness River Cruise     |
| C Gift Locker        | L Tranquility Trail           |
| D Fudge Factory      |                               |
| E Spring Overlook    |                               |
| F Underwater Theater |                               |
| G Banquet Hall       |                               |
| H Riverside Theater  |                               |
| I Star Garden        |                               |

## A Guest Relations: Food & Beverage:

- Lost & Found
  - Wheel Chairs
  - Strollers
- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| M1 Mermaid Galley Restaurant |
| M2 Captain's Quarters        |
| M3 Pirate Grub               |
| M4 Snack Shack               |
| M5 Tiki Bar                  |



## Buc Bay:

### Wet Attractions:

#### Slides:

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| 01 Pirates Plunge           |
| 02 Thunderbolt              |
| 03 Pirates Revenge          |
| 04 Cannonball               |
| N Lazy River Ride Entrance  |
| S Lazy River Ride Exit      |
| P Lil' Mates Caribbean Cove |
| Q Shower Tower              |

#### Picnic Areas:

- |                        |
|------------------------|
| T Sundeck              |
| U Shady Bill's         |
| V Pirate's Cove        |
| W Fantasy Island       |
| X Blackbeard's Gallows |
| Y Swashbuckler Hill    |

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| O Rental Shop: Tubes & Lockers |
| R Gifts Ahoy                   |

- Photo Opportunity With Mermaid
- First Aid
- Restrooms
- Volleyball Courts

## Directions

Weeki Wachee Springs is located at the intersection of State Road 50 and Highway 19, just north of Spring Hill and south of Homosassa Springs.



## Real Fun in ...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>

As one of Florida's original roadside attractions, the mermaids of Weeki Wachee Springs have entertained visitors since 1947. The famous springhead is a first magnitude spring that feeds the 12-mile Weeki Wachee River. Whether your adventure begins on the River Boat Cruise or in



a kayak or canoe, you are bound to see West Indian manatees, alligators, otters or a variety of fish and snakes.

The 538 acres park features a 400-seat submerged theater for watching the live **mermaid show**, and, for those willing to brave the 72-degree waters, guided scuba or snorkel tours.

The **River Boat Cruise** (included in the price of admission) offers a tranquil tour on the Weeki Wachee River. Discover Florida's natural wildlife as our River Boat Captain points out various points of interest along the way.

For one of the best views of the river and its wildlife, **canoe or kayak** for a peaceful, yet exciting journey. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent.

Buccaneer Bay offers a fun-filled flume ride for thrill seekers of all ages. **Swim** in the crystal-clear spring waters of Weeki Wachee Springs. Our white sandy beach area and covered **picnic** pavilions with tables provide a relaxing day for your entire family. Day use showers are available.

There are several **concession** areas throughout the park for purchasing food and drink.