Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Real Florida Guide

Note: Colored numbers correspond with numbers on the map and represent destinations for each day. **Red** = Days 1-3, **Green** and **Yellow** = Other Activities.

Located 12 miles south of the City of Stuart, Florida on U.S. 1, Jonathan Dickinson State Park (**1**) teems with wildlife in 13 natural communities, including sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, mangroves and river swamps. The nature and history of this state park comes to life for the kids or for the whole family through programs, exhibits and displays in the Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center and the many opportunities for nature-based activities in the park. Visit the website for Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, a volunteer not-for-profit support group that hosts frequent events at the park.

Choose from the options below to plan your adventures while making the state park a comfortable home base for a three-day stay or longer. The park offers cabins, two full-facility campgrounds and a youth/group primitive campground available by reservation through Reserve America.

Day 1

The Loxahatchee River, a federally-designated National Wild and Scenic River, runs

through the park. Motor boating, canoeing, and kayaking along the river are great ways to see the park. Anglers can fish along the riverbank or from a boat. Ranger-guided tours of the 1930s pioneer homestead of Trapper Nelson are available year-round. Visitors can arrange boat tours of the river on the 25-passenger *Loxahatchee Queen II* and rent canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and motorboats by visiting the park concessionaire's website or by calling 561-746-1466.

After sun and fun enjoy the on-site restaurant and beverage garden at the Palmettos on the Loxahatchee.

Day 2

Visitors can explore paved and off-road biking, equestrian and hiking trails. There are also Ranger-guided nature hikes on weekends. Call 772-546-2771 for more information. The park concessionaire rents bicycles. Scenic nature trails wind through the park, allowing visitors to explore the park's various habitats. Trail maps are available at the Ranger Station. Start with the Hobe Mountain Trail (**2**), a short .4-mile hike to a beautiful boardwalk that climbs up through the sand pine scrub to an observation tower, from which there are commanding views of the entire park and surrounding area. Nearby, both serious and beginner mountain bikers should check out the nine-mile network of mountain bike trails that are part of the Camp Murphy Off-road Bicycle Trail System.

The Kitching Creek Nature Trail Loop (**3**) is a self-guiding 7.5-mile hiking trail with a brochure available. The eight miles of multi-use trails that start at the
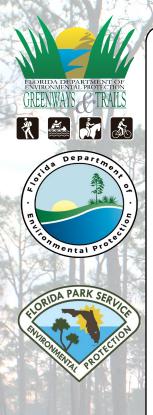
EaglesView area are available for horseback riding, hiking and off-road bicycling. A five-site primitive campground is available for those wishing to camp with their horses. Horses must be tethered overnight to the tie-out posts provided, or confined in sturdy portable pens. Portable electric fencing or hobbling is not permitted. Proof of negative Coggins is required.

Day 3

[Guided horseback rides](#) are available seasonally each year from the 3rd Saturday in December through Easter, starting at the EaglesView Equestrian Area (**4**) and meandering along scenic backcountry routes. Trail rides take place seven days a week starting at 9:00 a.m. and running until 3:30 p.m. They last about an hour. Riders must be age 6 or older. Hand-led pony rides are available for children under 6 and last about 15 minutes. And what could be nicer than a trip along the back roads of the park in a big farm wagon, pulled by a team of two beautiful Percheron draft horses? The wagon will carry up to 14 folks and the ride lasts about 45 minutes. Check the concessionaire website for current pricing.

Other Activities

The 1,035-acre [Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge](#) (**5**) is located across U.S. 1 from the state park and is approximately a 9-mile vehicle drive north from the park entrance to the refuge headquarters. At the refuge headquarters, open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily, you can visit an exhibit room, gift shop, environmental education classroom, and walk a short nature trail. The not-for-profit Hobe Sound Nature Center, the refuge's cooperating association, operates the exhibit room, gift shop and classroom. With more than 121,000 visitors a year, children of all ages learn about the beauty and diversity

of the surrounding environments and participate in sea turtle walks, summer camps, evening forums and scrub tours. For additional information about the Nature Center programs call 772-546-2067. To contact the refuge, call 772-546-6141.

Riverbend Park (**6**), a 665-acre Palm Beach County park, is approximately 13 miles from the state park. The park features Indian middens, a preserved battlefield from the Second Seminole War, 10-miles of hiking/biking trails, seven miles of equestrian trails, five miles of canoeing/kayaking trails, a Florida "Cracker" farmstead, and Seminole Indian-style chickees for picnics.

Blowing Rocks Preserve (**7**) is approximately nine miles from the state park and is a 73-acre conservation area on Jupiter Island, owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy. The preserve features the longest and most dramatic stretch of rocky shoreline in Florida, and is a great place to enjoy swimming, snorkeling and scuba-diving. There are three hiking trails to observe rare birds, plants and animals. Guided walks are available each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. Meet at the beachside information booth. The Indian River Lagoon Trail (**8**) is a 2.5-mile hike in two loops starting at the Hawley Environmental Center.

While traveling to this scenic area of the state savor the slow roads and visit Indian River Lagoon – Treasure Coast Scenic Highway or Martin Grade Scenic Highway for an in-depth guide to exploring some of South Central Florida's natural wonders and colorful history.

Legend

- Bicycle Trail
- Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Canoeing and Kayaking
- Camping
- Equestrian Trail
- 75 Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- State Road
- ABC Other Roads
- Paddling Trails
- Trails
- Conservation Lands

Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park

Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

Bridge Rd.

Dixie Hwy

1

Atlantic Ocean

Jonathan Dickinson State Park

John C. and Mariana Jones Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area

Cypress Creek Loxahatchee

MARTIN

PALM BEACH

91

N

0   2.5   5 Miles

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GREENWAYS & TRAILS

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FLORIDA PARK SERVICE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

5
2
4
1
3
8
7
6