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WintersetRvResort.com



Cortez, FL
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ButtonwoodInletRvResort.com



Sarasota, FL
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RoyalPalmsOnline.com



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FLRvResort.com



FLORIDA RV SUPERSHOW

JANUARY 15 - 19

Florida State Fairgrounds

FORT MYERS RV SHOW

JANUARY 23 - 26

JetBlue Park

JACKSONVILLE RV MEGASHOW

FEBRUARY 6 - 9

Jacksonville Equestrian Center

WEST PALM BEACH RV SHOW

FEBRUARY 20 - 23, 2025

South Florida Fairgrounds

OCALA RV SHOW

MARCH 6 - 9

Florida Horse Park

ORLANDO RV SHOW

MARCH 13 - 16

Osceola Heritage Park

TREASURE COAST RV SHOW

MAY 15 - 18

St. Lucie County Fairgrounds

TAMPA BAY SUMMER RV SHOW

JUNE 19 - 22

Florida State Fairgrounds

All Dates Subject to change.

For more information visit
www.frvta.org/shows



WHY ARE *Florida RV shows* A GREAT PLACE TO SHOP FOR RVS?

Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) regional RV Shows make it easy for you to see lots of RVs in one convenient location close to where you live. These shows are held all over Florida bringing many different types and sizes of RVs together so you can compare vehicles side-by-side.

The FRVTA divides the state into seven regions and some of the regions hold more than one show per year. These shows are part of the educational program of the association introducing the general public to the RV lifestyle and explaining how easy it is to get involved. Shows are a great place to get all your "RV-ownership" questions answered in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. With all the new RVs sold in Florida, the state has a great number of quality pre-owned RVs that can also be found in many shows, which is another inexpensive way to get started. Whether you're thinking of a new or used RV, you

can be assured that the best dealers and values can be found when RV dealers are competing side-by-side.

RV shows are also a great place to get those hard-to-find parts and accessories in the supplier booth area. Other products on display include insurance and financing, camping clubs, RV service and supply firms, and the best campgrounds and resorts found in Florida. The variety and selection of various products and services makes the supplier booth area a favorite of show visitors. You never know what you'll see.

Florida is home to more RV shows than any other state and that means the opportunities for the public are virtually unlimited. So be sure to visit the FRVTA website (frvta.org) and download our new app to find the nearest RV show. You'll be glad you did.

FLORIDA RV SUPERSHOW - *The BIGGEST and BEST!*

There are many RV shows held all over the country, but the biggest and best is the **Florida RV SuperShow**. Held every January at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. This show boasts over 1,200 RVs on display from every major RV manufacturer. With over 70,000 attendees, this show has grown every year and continues to get bigger.

Supplier and accessory booths feature everything from financing and insurance to every part and accessory you'll ever need. Whether you're an RV veteran or just getting started, the Florida RV SuperShow is the one show you have to see.

In addition to the largest selection of RVs, the SuperShow features a number of excellent seminars. Bringing in nationally known speakers, the seminars offer something for everyone. "Solar Power and Lithion Batteries", "RVing Alaska", "Stress-Free Travel - Guided RV Vacations", "Motorhome Maintenance on a Spartan Chassis", "Maintenance for Lippert Components", and "Maintenance and Operation of Onan Generators" are some of the topics covered in the seminar area. All seminars are free with paid admission.

The general public can bring their RV and stay right on the fairgrounds in the Super Rally. Over 800 RVs enjoy unlimited access to the SuperShow, 4 nights of camping with 30-amp electricity, and coffee and donuts each morning. All clubs and organizations are welcome to participate and will be given free meeting space as well.

The one thing that gets more mentions than anything else is the non-stop, over-the-top entertainment. The free, roaming style entertainers include clowns, jugglers, unicycle riders, music, and every day the St. Andrews Bagpipe Band marches through the show. This unique blend of entertainers will keep you laughing and tapping your toes all day long.

Attendees can register for daily door prizes (no purchase necessary). You'll also find a huge selection of not only great "fair" style food but also choices of deli sandwiches and salads as well.

The Florida State Fairgrounds are located at the intersection of I-4 and US Hwy 301 just east of Tampa. For more details about the SuperShow and the Super Rally, visit frvta.org or call the FRVTA State Office at (813) 741-0488. See you there!!

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Sandy Harbor Water Park open May - Sept. ~ Check for Hours online!



Open every day of the year, Ocean Lakes is located about an hour off of I-95 where Highway 544 and Kings Highway intersect at the south end of Myrtle Beach. We offer a variety of planned activities year round, outstanding amenities, service, and lots of southern hospitality so you'll never want to leave!

Summer is all about families having fun. We feature unique amenities like our Skate Park, activities like Kamp Starfish, crafts, bingo, tie dye and more. Float along in our Adventure (lazy) River, challenge friends on our Drop Zone Mat Racer, scream down The Tube slide, or enjoy watching the kids at the Splash Zone or Tad Pool for tots - all included for our guests! Dogs love the Lakeside Paws N' Play; pet parents love our DIY dog washes.

When the kids are back in school our pace is mellow, but the fun and sun never stop. Relax in our pools, shop in our store, let us do the cooking! Enjoy special events like Halloween weekends and our Polar Bear Plunge. Both RV and golf car service and supplies are available on site. No RV? Book one of our vacation rentals via Ocean Lakes Properties!



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IT'S Professional



**RV DISTANCE
LEARNING NETWORK**

RV consumers demand knowledgeable employees in all facets of the RV business. The industry knows how vital customer satisfaction is to sustaining industry quality and growth. The overall goal of the RV Distance Learning Network (DLN) is to maintain its basic core philosophy of leading and educating the most important part of any business - PEOPLE. RV employees will have access to the DLN, which is designed to support current learning initiatives and help manage "speed to competency".

Employees can learn about the industry directly from the company's resources online. Professional employee development is our top priority. The Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) has provided our members with industry technician training for over 20 years. The DLN has expanded its scope to ensure we focus on all employees. The dealerships, service centers, and mobile businesses that subscribe to our network are focused on improving customer satisfaction. Our RV learning tool includes the following:

Areas of Learning:

- ✓ RV Manufacturers
- ✓ RV Suppliers
- ✓ RV Wholesale and Distribution
- ✓ RV Rep Groups
- ✓ RV Vehicle Converters
- ✓ RV Campgrounds

Specific Industry Resources Available For:

- ✓ RV Technician/Service Training and Industry Certifications
- ✓ RV Sales
- ✓ RV Associations and Campgrounds
- ✓ RV Finance & Insurance (F&I)
- ✓ Professional Skill Development
- ✓ Direct access to Digital RV Publications and Annual RV Events

Steve Roddy, steve@frvta.org, has been added as FRVTA's Training Liaison. Steve will be personally visiting dealers to make sure they are taking advantage of all training opportunities.

IMPROVING THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE



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MORE INFO**



DRIVING THE RV Industry IN FLORIDA



For 46 years, the Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) has been promoting and protecting the general welfare of the recreation vehicle and camping industries.

The Association was established in 1979 and has undergone many changes and today stands as one of the largest and most successful state RV associations in the country.

The FRVTA is a non-profit (501-c 6) organization made up of campgrounds and resorts, RV dealers, finance and insurance company firms, RV manufacturers, and service and supplier companies representing thousands of employees. All of these companies work together to ensure that customers receive the finest RV products, services, supplies, and accommodations available. All FRVTA activities are coordinated through the state office located in Tampa, FL. The staff includes an Executive Director, Marketing Director, Show Director, and support staff.

The FRVTA has divided the state into seven regions, allowing members to participate in local legislative matters and RV shows. This also allows them to meet on a regular basis. In addition, there is an out-of-state category of members that includes just about every major RV manufacturer, the nation's largest campground chains, national camping clubs, and a host of service and supply firms and financial companies. The FRVTA communicates with each region to keep members up-to-date on industry events.

Legislative matters are overseen by a full-time legal counsel located in the state capital of Tallahassee. This ensures that the voice of the RV industry is heard. FRVTA also supports candidates through the FRVPC Political Action Committee Fund.

The FRVTA sponsors a number of regional RV shows and the annual Florida RV SuperShow in Tampa (see page 4). These shows not only allow the public to view a number of various types and sizes of RVs, they are forums for educational seminars and camping clubs. They also provide an introduction to the wonderful world of RV travel. Through these shows and other activities, the FRVTA works closely with the state and tourism organizations to promote RVing and camping in Florida.

So, what does the FRVTA mean to you, the RV consumer? FRVTA members agree to a pledge that includes acting in accordance with all state and federal regulations, advertising in an ethical and professional manner, and promoting and developing the highest standards of ethical and moral conduct. Also, due to the high volume of new RV sales, FRVTA dealers carry a wide selection and variety of quality used RVs which means your trade-in will be worth more and gives you more units to choose from.

Whether you're shopping at an FRVTA dealership or RV show, or looking for the most modern and well-equipped campground or resort, look for the FRVTA logo to be assured of the finest RV products, services, supplies, and accommodations available.

The Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) was established in 1979 with one purpose in mind — to promote the general welfare of the recreation vehicle and camping industries throughout the State of Florida.



www.frvta.org



FROM THE FRVTA PRESIDENT

Welcome to Florida, the RV Capital of Adventure!

As the President of the Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA), I'm delighted to welcome you to the Sunshine State—a place where adventure knows no bounds and every road leads to new discoveries. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or embarking on your first RV journey, our members are here to ensure your Florida experience is nothing short of extraordinary.

Your Gateway to Seamless Travel

From the moment you cross our state line, the FRVTA logo becomes your trusted companion. Whether you're seeking the perfect campground, a reliable RV dealer, top-notch service centers, or that elusive part or accessory, our members are just around the corner, ready to assist. Spanning the entire state, from the emerald shores of the Panhandle to the vibrant Florida Keys, we've got you covered.

Discover Florida's Hidden Gems

This directory isn't just a guide—it's your passport to exploring the diverse beauty of Florida. We've divided the state into seven regions, each offering its unique charm and must-see destinations. From the crystal-clear springs of North Central Florida to the world-renowned beaches of the Gulf Coast, there's always a new adventure waiting.

Beyond the Beaches: Florida's Outdoor Wonderland

While our beaches are some of the finest in the world, Florida offers so much more. Imagine kayaking through spring-fed rivers, biking along scenic trails, teeing off on lush golf courses, or casting your line in waters teeming with fish. And don't forget to end your day with a sunset that will leave you breathless.

Thank You for Choosing Florida

On behalf of the entire FRVTA family, we thank you for visiting our beautiful state. We're here to ensure that your journey is smooth, your experiences are memorable, and that you leave with stories to tell and a longing to return.

A Personal Note from Your FRVTA President

I'm Sean Thompson, owner of RV Master, LLC, in Southeast Florida. My mobile and on-site RV repair company has been serving the community since 2004, and my involvement with the FRVTA began in 2008. Over the years, I've served as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Director At Large for Region 2, and later as Secretary and Treasurer for the State Executive Board. Now, I'm honored to lead the FRVTA as President.

My love for camping started early, thanks to my father, Vic, and grandfather, Gus, both skilled auto mechanics. They took a wrecked 1976 Chevy Van and transformed it into a custom RV using parts from various sources—seats from a B-52, appliances from a wrecked camper, and windows from a friend's glass company. The interior was handcrafted by them. I have fond memories of traveling in that RV until my grandfather eventually bought a Fleetwood Southwind. Many summer weekends were spent camping and boating in the Florida Keys with my grandparents, and I owe my work ethic and upbringing to them.

Fast forward over 30 years, and I'm now deeply involved in the RV business with nearly 20 years of experience. I enjoy camping in my toy hauler fifth wheel during my time off. My motto is, "Work Hard, Relax Harder," and I encourage you to do the same. As your FRVTA President, I'm here to help in any way I can.

Enjoy camping year-round in Florida, and get out there and RELAX!

Sean Thompson

FRVTA President



THE OFFICIAL 2025

RVers GUIDE to Florida



A Membership Directory of the Florida RV Trade Association

ADVERTISING SALES & PROJECT COORDINATOR
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Elite Marketing of CFL
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dlpearce7@gmail.com

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pxgx.com

MAGAZINE DESIGN
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Keith Waits – President
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Region 3

Meri Thomas – President
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Show Director – Patty Flanagan
Controller – Jerilyn Connetti
Regional Show Coordinator – Cole Costello
Event Coordinator – Ana Correia
Membership Coordinator – Sharlene Nelson
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MEET Roadie!

Hi, I'm Roadie and I'm the mascot of the **Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA)**. I was selected to be the mascot because of my vast knowledge of the State of Florida and of RVing.

Now, you would think a pelican would spend his time on channel markers and sleeping on piers, but not in my case. My father would travel all over Florida in his RV, and we always enjoyed all the comforts of home. We would visit the sugar-white sandy beaches in the panhandle, the historic St. Augustine area, and enjoy sunsets on Florida's west coast. We are very lucky to have so many campgrounds to choose from here in Florida.

Today, I travel all over the state to talk about the fun, freedom, and flexibility of RV travel. Be sure to say "Hi" when you see me, and if you need any advice on fishing, I'm your man...er, bird! Enjoy your travels, and I'll see you down the road.

RVing in Florida offers an array of activities for the entire family, including outdoor fun, some of the best amusement parks in the United States, and a variety of museums. On the following pages, see what Florida RVing has in store for you.

**CONNECT
WITH US!**

www.frvta.org



Facebook: **Florida RV Trade Association**



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Instagram: **FloridaRVTA**



TikTok: **@frvta.org**



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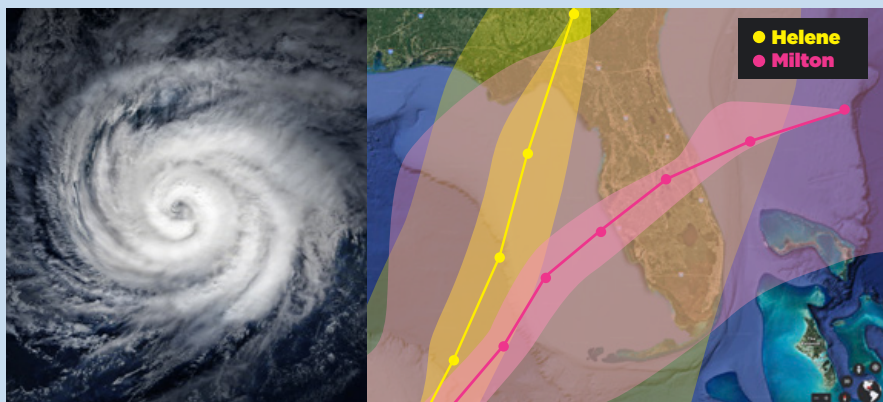


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Hurricanes Helene and Milton Impact Florida

Powerful hurricanes Helene and Milton recently struck Florida in a devastating one-two punch that caused widespread damage across various regions and left residents and businesses reeling. Hurricane Helene made landfall Sept. 26 in the Panhandle, progressing northward, while less than two weeks later Hurricane Milton struck Siesta Key on the Gulf Coast, moving eastward across the state. Together, these storms impacted numerous counties, leaving communities in recovery mode and prompting travel advisories for tourists visiting Florida's popular destinations.

Hurricane Helene made landfall with ferocity in Florida's Panhandle with powerful Category 3 winds and torrential rains that impacted residents, businesses, and essential infrastructure, including local roads, schools, and public buildings. Helene's power was felt across Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson, and Leon counties, where Tallahassee experienced substantial flooding and downed power lines. Hurricane Milton made landfall on Siesta Key as a Category 3, on Florida's Gulf Coast, and moved eastward across a wide swath of central and southern Florida. Sarasota and Manatee counties were the first to bear the brunt of Milton's strong winds and heavy rainfall, resulting in power outages, downed trees, and property damage. As Milton moved east, it impacted Hardee, Highlands, DeSoto and Okeechobee counties, where local roads flooded, trees were uprooted, and structures were compromised. Tornado warnings dotted the path statewide ahead of Milton, and tornadoes were the cause of severe damage to several east coast communities.



Travel Advisory for Visitors to Florida

As Florida recovers, both residents and visitors are encouraged to **check the status of parks, natural lands, tourist sites, and recreational areas before planning any visits.** With many popular destinations affected—especially in the Panhandle and central regions—some parks, beaches, and historical sites may have limited access or remain temporarily closed for repairs and cleanup.

Travelers should check local tourism websites or call ahead to confirm the operational status of destinations in Franklin, Wakulla, Sarasota, and Okeechobee Counties, among others. Sites such as Siesta Key Beach, Tallahassee's historical areas, and central Florida's nature reserves may be operating with restricted hours or limited facilities as recovery efforts continue.

Florida's emergency teams are diligently working to repair infrastructure and clear debris from public spaces. Travelers are encouraged to exercise patience and caution, as some areas will require time to fully recover from the storms' impacts.



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TO FIVE



SLEEPS UP
TO FIVE



AMPLE
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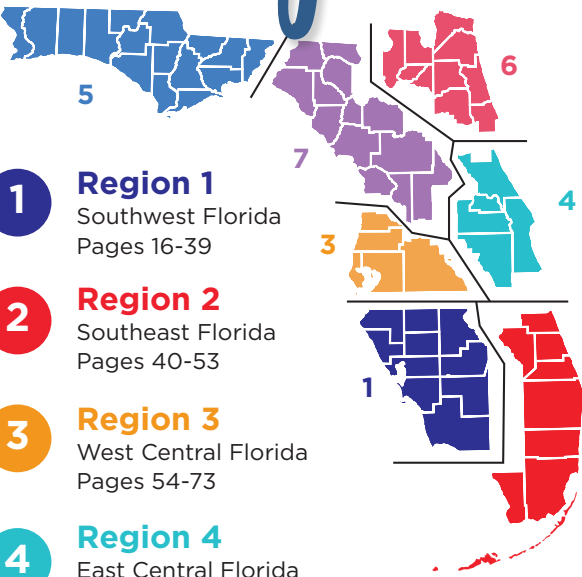


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CONTENTS

BY THE Region

- 
- 1** **Region 1**
Southwest Florida
Pages 16-39
 - 2** **Region 2**
Southeast Florida
Pages 40-53
 - 3** **Region 3**
West Central Florida
Pages 54-73
 - 4** **Region 4**
East Central Florida
Pages 74-83
 - 5** **Region 5**
Northwest Florida
Pages 84-91
 - 6** **Region 6**
Northeast Florida
Pages 92-103
 - 7** **Region 7**
North Central Florida
Pages 104-115
 - 10** **Region 10**
Out-of-State Members
Pages 116-128

4 **RV Shows Make RV Shopping a Breeze!**

Regional shows bring the RVs and dealers to you.

6 **It's Professional**

Training programs grow while RV industry embraces service technology.

8 **Driving the RV Industry in Florida**

The Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) was established with one purpose in mind.

9 **Letter from the President**

10 **Meet Roadie!**

The official mascot of the FRVTA wants to introduce himself.

14 **Stay in Touch with FRVTA**

Like never before, we are only a click away!

26 **Florida's Aquatic Gems**

Florida has long been known for its sunlit beaches, but nestled further inland are some true aquatic treasures. Check out these wonderful lakes, springs and rivers.

46 **Raising Hope**

RV adventures are all about freedom, fun, and discovering new experiences. But what if you could cruise down a scenic highway while making a profound difference in someone's life?

62 **Florida Botanical Gardens**

Florida's weather is ideal for a prolific year-round growing season and these inexhaustible natural conditions cultivate an exotic collection of colorful and rare plants that can be seen in these beautiful botanical gardens.

99 **Pet-Friendly Vacation Spots**

Parks throughout Florida cater to pet owners as so many visitors travel with their furry friends. Check out these top 10 pet-friendly parks located all over our beautiful state.

125 **Renting is a Great Way to Get Started**

Not sure if RVing is for you and your family? Then renting is a great way to get started. Discover the freedom and flexibility that RV travel affords.

130 **Index of Advertisers**

COVER PHOTO

Family - Brian, Kathy, Brady & Kate Boykin and their dog in training, Freddie.

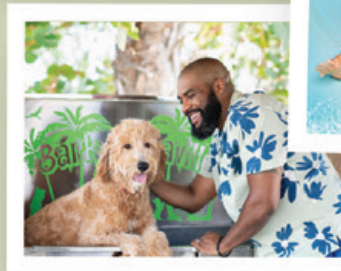
A special thank you to Dogs Inc formerly known as Southeast Guide Dogs for allowing FRVTA to use their campus for this year's cover shoot. And, a huge thank you to General RV Center in Dover, FL, for supplying the Fleetwood RV for the cover photo as well!





Create memories that last a lifetime

Welcome to Camp Margaritaville Auburndale, an oasis of relaxation and adventure nestled in the heart of Central Florida. Our resort is a slice of paradise where you can soak in the laid-back Margaritaville lifestyle, paired with the charm and hospitality of Auburndale. Embrace the atmosphere of our tiki bars, fire pits, resort pools, entertainment stage, 9-hole putting course, playgrounds, dog parks, and basketball courts or enjoy time with your family exploring the outdoors or nearby attractions.



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Stay in Touch WITH FRVTA

It is easier than ever before to keep up with trends in the RV Industry, get travel tips, contact local RV businesses, and get all the information you need about statewide RV shows and the largest RV show in the country, the *Florida RV SuperShow*. FRVTA now has a new and improved website, can be liked and followed on a number of Social Media sites, and recently launched its new MOBILE APP!

FRVTA launched its new and improved website (frvta.org). The new site makes it easier for the general public to get information about upcoming Regional RV Shows, the *Florida RV SuperShow*, and the *Super Rally*. More importantly, the new site will give visitors more information about FRVTA members and an exact location of each member on a map.

New to the FRVTA site is an ongoing blog section. "We are working with a number of bloggers, so this section stays new, current, and entertaining," said FRVTA Executive Director Dave Kelly. "The new site will also allow us to make additions/corrections at a minute's notice, so the information stays up-to-date".

The new site also features a search function to make it easy to find campgrounds, RV dealers, and service and supplies nearest to where you are. There is also a regional information page that has loads of information about the 7 FRVTA regions, things to do and see, and much more information. We want our site to be a complete guide to the

State of Florida for not just RVers but anyone wanting more information about our state. Visit frvta.org today and get out there and enjoy Florida!

Follow the FRVTA on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Pinterest to get RV Lifestyle, FRVTA RV Resorts & Campgrounds and Destinations, RV Tips, Special Discounts, RV Show Notifications, and to stay in touch with the Florida RV Industry. On our social sites, you can easily ask questions and interact with the FRVTA. We encourage your input on places to see, your favorite restaurants, and those little-known spots that you love to visit!

The newly launched mobile app is an RVers dream. Using your location, you will be able to find the closest service center, RV dealership, campground, or hard-to-find parts and accessories. The app also helps you find road service, the closest gas or diesel station, restaurants, shopping, emergency clinics, and even weather updates. The app is Apple and Google-friendly and can be downloaded from any of the App Stores.



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**Charlotte, Collier, De Soto,
Glades, Hardee, Hendry,
Highlands, Lee, Manatee, and
Sarasota Counties**

Continued on page 20





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1. Lake June-in-Winter Scrub State Park

This quiet 845-acre preserve in Highlands County in the northern part of Region 1 is a tranquil natural area that offers hiking trails, birdwatching, and a beautiful lake. Pets are welcome on leashes, making it an ideal spot for a peaceful outing with your pets. Visitors can explore a remote part of Florida that provides protection for sand scrub, one of the state's most endangered natural communities.

Web: [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lake-june-winter-scrub-preserve-state-park)

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Address: 4900 Daffodil Street

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Phone: 863-386-6094

2. Robinson Nature Preserve

Bradenton's Robinson Nature Preserve is a sprawling, 600-acre preserve offering a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking, and birdwatching. This Manatee County park features pet-friendly trails where you can explore the beautiful natural surroundings with your furry friends. Its salt marsh is home to jumping mullet and hundreds of other species of fish and marine life. The preserve offers picnic spots, mangrove forests, and a 53-foot-tall tower with a wide-open view of the Tampa Bay area. The 120-year-old Valentine House, which was moved to the preserve by boat, is near the entrance to the property.

Web: www.robinsonpreserve.com

Address: 1704 99th St NW

Bradenton, FL 34209

Phone: 941-742-5923

Continued on page 24



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Palma Sola State Park

Continued from page 20

3. Palma Sola Botanical Park

This peaceful botanical park in Bradenton boasts a variety of tropical plants and beautiful gardens, perfect for a serene walk with your pet. Dogs are welcome on leashes, and the park also features a butterfly garden and tranquil water features. In 1990, a grassroots initiative for a botanical park began when local citizens and community groups rallied to save the 10-acre site that had served as the Manatee County Nursery.
Web: palmasolabp.org
Address: 9800 17th Ave NW
Bradenton, FL 34209
Phone: 941-761-2866

4. Coquina Beach

Located on Anna Maria Island, Coquina Beach is a beautiful spot with white sandy shores and clear waters. The beach has pet-friendly areas where dogs can enjoy the sand and surf with their owners. Families enjoy this park because of its full-service concession stand, ample parking, barbecue pits, picnic facilities, playground, beach volleyball, restrooms, showers, and lifeguards.
Web: www.bradentongulfislands.com/listing/coquina-beach
Address: 2650 Gulf Dr S
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Continued on page 28



Coquina Beach



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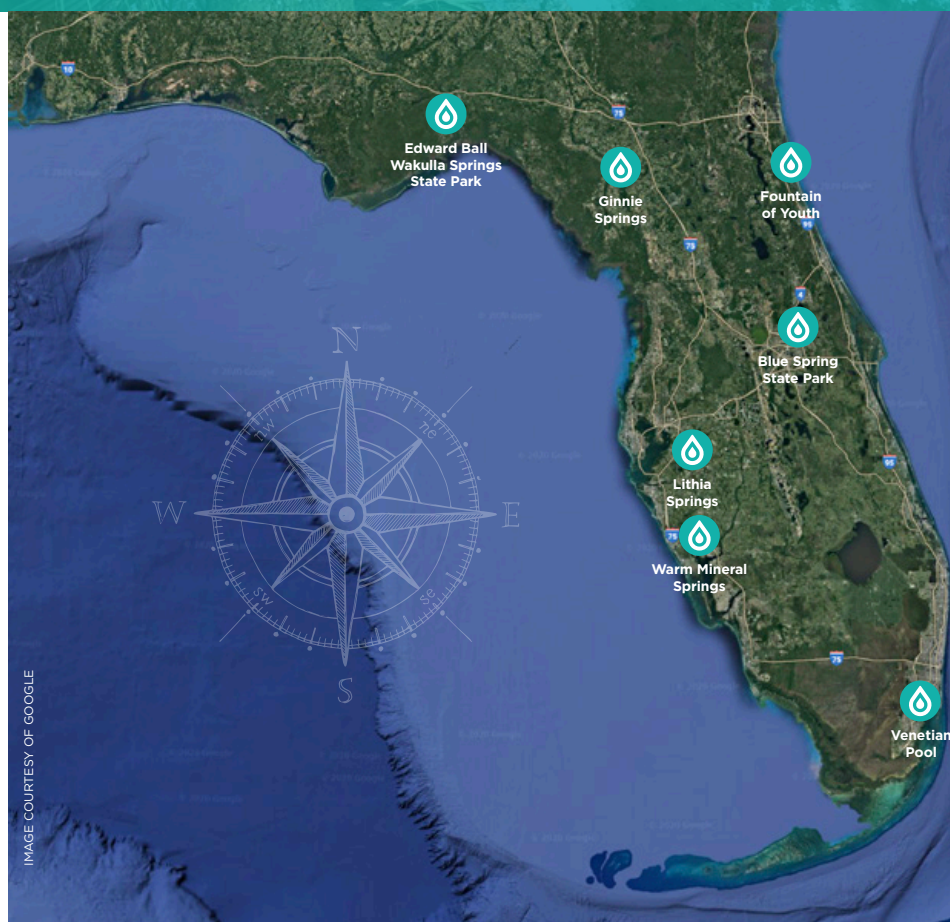
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Continued on page 32



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Brohard Beach

Continued from page 24

5. Brohard Paw Park

Brohard Paw Park is the only dog-friendly beach in Sarasota County. It provides a designated area where dogs can run off-leash and play in the water. The park also offers shaded picnic areas and dog showers. There are separate fenced dog parks for small and large dogs and a beach you can access through the large dog park.

Web: www.visitsarasota.com/beaches-parks/brohard-beach-and-paw-park

Address: 1600 Harbor Dr S
Venice, FL 34285
Phone: 941-861-5000

6. Venetian Waterway Park

This scenic park in Sarasota County runs alongside the Intracoastal Waterway and offers miles of walking and biking trails. It's a great place to take your pet for a leisurely stroll while enjoying the water views and natural surroundings. Venetian Waterway Park spans 8.6 miles from the Intracoastal Waterway to the north of E. Venice Ave. The Venetian Waterway Park Trail connects to the Legacy Trail at the Historic Venice Train Depot, creating almost 23 miles of uninterrupted trail.

Web: www.visitsarasota.com/beaches-parks/venetian-waterway-park

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Continued on page 30



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(see our ad on pages 66-67 & 132)



Bunche Beach

Continued from page 28

7. Lovers Key State Park

This beautiful state park in Fort Myers Beach has four barrier islands and is known for its pristine beaches, mangroves, and hiking trails. Pets are allowed on the trails and designated areas, making it a perfect spot for outdoor adventures with your pet. Lovers Key State Park protects some of the most pristine barrier islands in Southwest Florida, providing over two miles of sugar-sand beaches.
Web: www.floridastateparks.org/Lovers-Key
Address: 8700 Estero Blvd
Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931
Phone: 239-707-6328

8. Bunche Beach

A natural tidal wetlands beach in Fort Myers offers great opportunities for bird watching, kayaking, and exploring nature. Pets are allowed on leashes, making it a wonderful spot for a day out with your dog. This natural beach near the Sanibel Causeway is popular for swimming and fishing. Kayak rentals and a paddle craft launch are available here. This beach is also excellent for watching the sunset over San Carlos Bay and Sanibel Island.
Web: www.visitfortmyers.com/beaches/bunche-beach
Address: 18201 John Morris Rd
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Continued on page 34



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Continued from page 26

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Unlike the other springs in Florida, the water in Warm Mineral Springs in North Port in the Ft. Myers area averages 85 degrees, at least 10 degrees warmer than the average Florida spring. It is considered a water-filled sinkhole fed by a spring vent below the pool surface. The area surrounding the spring was developed as a spa in 1946, and the Warm Mineral Springs Building Complex was added to the National List of Historic Places in 2019. It is also an important geological and archeological site.

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Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Continued from page 30

9. Rover Run Dog Park

Located in Naples within Veterans Community Park in Collier County, Rover Run Dog Park provides separate areas for large and small dogs, agility equipment, and shaded benches for pet owners. It's a safe and fun place for dogs to play off-leash.

Web: www.collierparks.com/collier_park/veterans-community-park/

Address: 1895 Veterans Park Dr

Naples, FL 34109

Phone: 239-252-4682

10. Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park in Naples offers beautiful beaches, picnic areas, and walking trails. Pets are welcome in designated areas and on the trails, making it a great spot for a day out in the beautiful nature of Collier County with your pet. This popular destination boasts one of the most pristine stretches of beaches in the world.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/delnor-wiggins-pass-state-park

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Southeast Florida **REGION 2**

Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties, including the Florida Keys, and Key West

Here are the Top Ten most popular sites in southeast Florida that offer a variety of pet-friendly amenities and scenic views, making them perfect for visitors traveling with their pets. Region 2 includes Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. Visitors can experience diverse environments and activities, ensuring enjoyable experiences for both pets and owners.

Continued on page 42



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Top 10 Pet-Friendly Places to Visit in Southeast Florida



Riverside Park

1. Riverside Park

Visitors to Vero Beach can enjoy scenic walks, a dog-friendly environment, and picnic areas. North Park is a great spot to relax by the water in Indian River County with your pet. The park amenities include boat ramps, a walking track, a playground, and fishing.

Web: www.covb.org/facilities/facility/details/Riverside-Park-6

Address: 3200 Riverside Park Dr

Vero Beach, FL 32963

Phone: (772) 567-2144

2. Hawk's Bluff Trail

This Jensen Beach trail in Savannas Preserve State Park offers a beautiful hiking experience through a natural preserve and allows dogs on leashes. Scramble up and down the Atlantic Coastal Ridge on this hike, which offers scenic views of the southern end of the freshwater basin marshes stretching from Fort Pierce to Jensen Beach.

Web: www.alltrails.com/trail/us/florida/hawks-bluff-trail

Address: Savannas Preserve State Park, off County Line Rd and Savannah Rd in Jensen Beach, FL

Phone: (772) 398-2779

Continued on page 45



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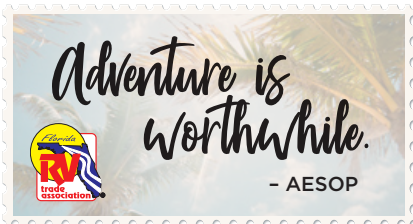
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Stuart Beach

3. Stuart Beach

Stuart Beach is a lovely beach where dogs are allowed on leashes. It provides a sandy getaway in Martin County for you and your pet. Stuart Beach is located across from the Elliott Museum and the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center. The park offers a variety of amenities, including covered picnic areas, beach volleyball courts, basketball courts, showers, restrooms, and more.

Web: www.discovermartin.com/directory/stuart-beach-florida-beaches

Address: 889 NE Ocean Blvd

Stuart, FL 34996

Phone: (772) 221-1418

4. John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

With its pet-friendly trails, this beautiful state park in North Palm Beach allows you to explore nature and enjoy the coastal scenery with your pet. A barrier island paradise, it protects rare plant and animal habitats while offering snorkeling, shelling, boating, birding, and bicycling.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/john-d-macarthur-beach-state-park

Address: 10900 Jack Nicklaus Dr

North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Phone: 561-624-6952



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

5. Okeehetee Park

Okeehetee Park is a large park with multiple trails, picnic areas, and amenities, making it a great place in West Palm Beach to spend the day outdoors with your pet. This 1,700-acre park includes the Pooch Pines Dog Park, and dogs can stay on leashes elsewhere in the park.

Web: <https://okeeheteelepark.com/pooch-pines-dog-park/>

Address: 7500 Forest Hill Blvd

West Palm Beach, FL 33413

Phone: 561-966-6600

6. Barkham at Markham Dog Park

Located in Sunrise within Markham Park, this dog park features separate areas for large and small dogs, agility equipment, and plenty of shade. It's a huge facility with about three acres of grass, paths, playthings, and shelters. There's water available on site. Some people also refer to this as the Weston Dog Park since it's right on the northeast corner of Weston.

Web: <https://markhampark.com/barkham-park-dog-park>

Address: 16001 W State Rd 84

Sunrise, FL 33326

Phone: 954-357-8868

7. Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

This Fort Lauderdale park offers a range of outdoor activities, including pet-friendly hiking trails and picnic areas. Hugh Taylor Birch is the city's own "Central Park," complete with gopher tortoises and boat access from the Intracoastal waterway. It's easy to see why Hugh Taylor Birch wanted to preserve his estate for future generations to enjoy—it's an oasis perfect for relaxation and exercise.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/HughTaylorBirch

Address: 3109 E Sunrise Blvd

Ft Lauderdale, FL 33304

Phone: 954-564-4521

Continued on page 52



Hugh Taylor Birch State Park



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Continued on page 120





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Continued from page 32

Region 2 Venetian Pool in Coral Gables

While the karst system in Florida does not exactly provide the typical freshwater spring in the West Palm Beach/Miami area, visitors enjoy the Venetian Pool in Coral Gables as a close substitute. The Venetian Pool is fed by spring water from an underground aquifer and is refilled daily with over 820,000 gallons of water. The pool features two waterfalls and cave-like grottos.
www.coralgables.com/attractions/venetian-pool
Phone: 305-460-5306

Continued on page 57



REGION

2

Florida's Treasure Coast

BROWARD, INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, MIAMI-DADE, MONROE,
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8. South Pointe Park

This Miami-Dade County scenic park is located at the southern tip of Miami Beach and offers stunning panoramic ocean views and dog-friendly walking paths. Visitors can see views of the South Beach shoreline, Port Miami's cruise ships, Downtown Miami's skyline, and Fisher Island. The park has direct access to the beach as well as walking trails, picnic and barbecue areas, benches, a cafe, and an off-leash bark park.

Web: www.miamiandbeaches.com/l/outdoor-experiences/south-pointe-park/2966

Address: 1 Washington Ave

Miami Beach, FL 33139

Phone: 305-673-7006



South Pointe Park

9. Amelia Earhart Park

This Hialeah park in Miami-Dade County offers a large dog park area, walking trails, and lakes, providing a variety of activities for you and your pet to enjoy. The five-acre Bark Park is completely fenced and offers a separate section for smaller dogs. Bark Park admission is free. The five lakes at Amelia make this 515-acre park one of Hialeah's largest water-based resources.

Web: www.miamidade.gov/parks/amelia-earhart.asp

Address: 401 E 65th St

Hialeah, FL 33013

Phone: 305-685-8389

10. Sombrero Beach

A beautiful beach in Marathon in the heart of the Florida Keys, Sombrero Beach is pet-friendly and ideal for a relaxing day with your dog by the ocean. A lovely sandy beach on the Atlantic Ocean frames a shady park with picnic pavilions, volleyball courts, restrooms, and showers. Sombrero Beach is a turtle-nesting beach, and the city limits human activities in the vicinity of active turtle nest establishments from April to October, although the turtle nest areas typically represent less than 10 percent of the available beach area.

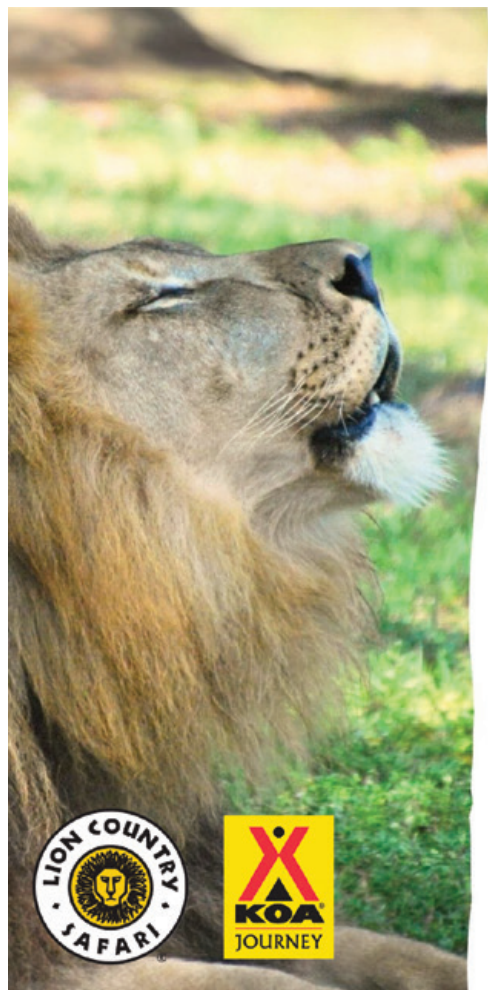
Web: www.ci.marathon.fl.us/parksrec/page/sombrero-beach

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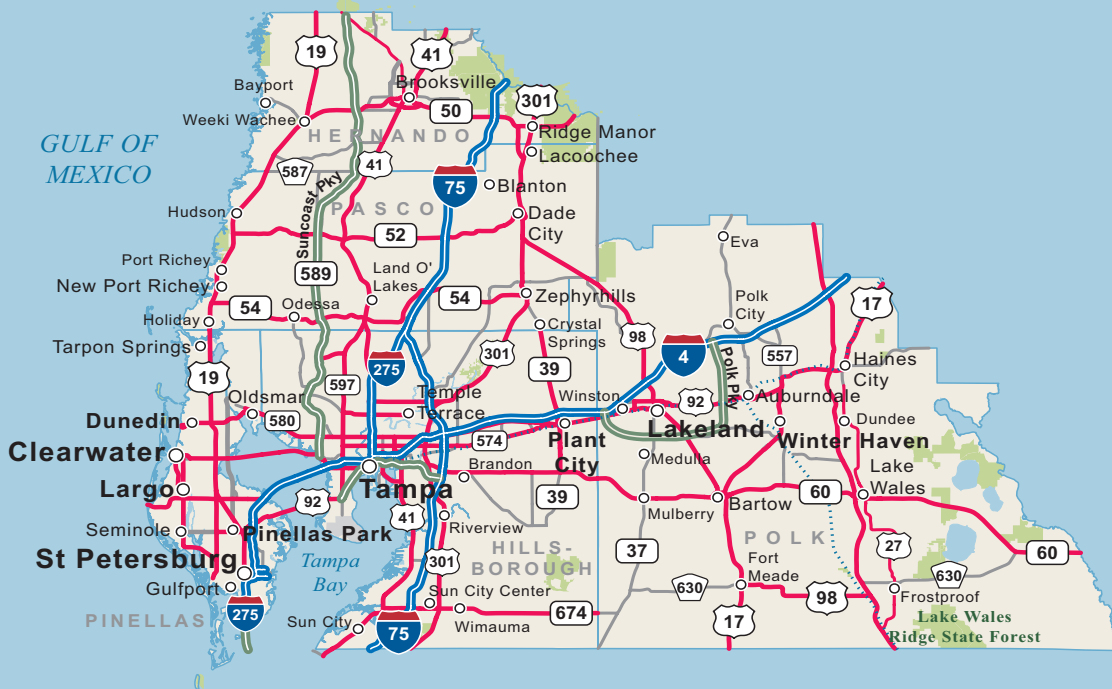


West Central Florida REGION 3

**Hernando,
Hillsborough,
Pasco,
Pinellas, and
Polk counties**

Here are the Top Ten most popular pet-friendly sites in West Central Florida Region 3, which includes Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Polk counties. These pet-friendly destinations provide a variety of activities and amenities, ensuring memorable experiences for both pets and their owners.

Continued on page 58



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(see our ad on page 56)



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www.campmargaritavilleauburndale.com
(see our ad on page 13)

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www.camperholiday.com

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www.emeraldpointervresort.org

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www.rvonthego.com

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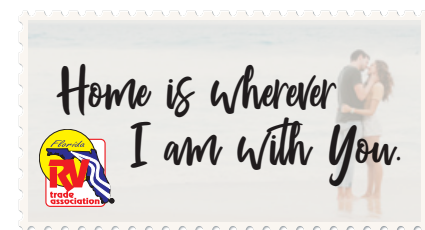
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Continued from page 49

Region 3 Lithia Springs

Lithia Springs Conservation Park in Hillsborough County has served as a recreation area for Tampa residents since 1957. The natural spring maintains a 72-degree temperature to provide visitors with a refreshing experience all year long. Hikers can explore woods, diverse plant communities, river cypress swamps, and hardwood hammocks. There are also picnic tables and a playground, in addition to 45 camping sites, most of which are suitable for RVs.

www.hcfl.gov/locations/lithia-springs-park

Phone: 813-744-5572

Image by JaconaFiere, Wikipedia



Continued on page 80

Top 10 Pet-Friendly Places to Visit in West Central Florida



Fort De Soto Park

1. **Fort De Soto Park Dog Beach and Paw Playground**

Fort De Soto in St. Petersburg has the only dog park in Pinellas County where dogs are allowed on the beach in a designated area. There are also two fenced-in areas with water stations near the beach for large and small dogs. The beach entrance is at the far southwest corner of the dog park. The largest park in the county at 1,136 acres, Fort De Soto's five interconnected islands, mangroves, wetlands, and palm hammocks are home to scores of native plants and more than 350 species of birds.

Web: pinellas.gov/parks/fort-de-soto-park

Address: 3500 Pinellas Bayway S

Tierra Verde, FL 33715

Phone: (727) 464-3000

2. **Rogers Park**

This 3-acre park features a dog-friendly beach area along the Weeki Wachee River, perfect for swimming and picnics. Amenities include a boat launch, kayaking, birdwatching, and a playground, and the park is known as a good spot for manatee sightings.

Web: www.hernandocounty.us/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/34/103

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www.suncoastrvrental.com

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www.lending-associates.com

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www.newcoast.com

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1646 W Snow Ave, Ste 4

Tampa, FL 33606-2837

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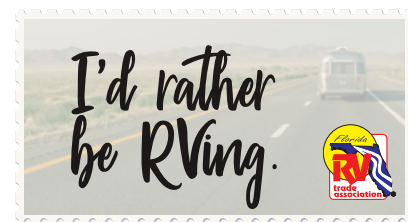
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742 S 2nd Ave

St Petersburg, FL 33701-4006

www.p1fs.com



Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

3. Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

This New Port Richey park offers pet-friendly trails and camping sites. Visitors can also enjoy biking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. This sizable tract of Pasco County public land provides opportunities for camping, nature viewing, fishing, and more.

Web: www.pascocountyfl.net/_T22_R85.php

Address: 10500 Wilderness Park Blvd

New Port Richey, FL 34655

Phone: (727) 942-7439

4. Anclote Gulf Park

Anclote Gulf Park in Pasco County features a dog park, walking trails, and fishing piers, providing various activities for pets and their owners. The 23-acre park features a fishing pier, a playground, shelters, and a birding trail. A place for spectacular sunsets, Anclote Gulf Park offers several observation decks along its coastal boardwalks overlooking Anclote Key and the Gulf of Mexico.

Web: floridahikes.com/anclote-gulf-park

Address: 2305 Baillies Bluff Rd

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Phone: (727) 942-4030

Continued on page 61



Anclote Gulf Park

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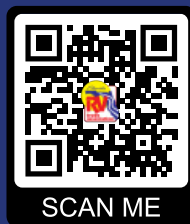
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**Picnic Island Beach Dog Park**

Continued from page 59

5. Al Lopez Park

Al Lopez Park in Tampa offers a spacious dog park, walking trails, and picnic areas, making it a great spot for pets and families. Its approximately 132 acres provide a nature trail, freshwater ponds, and a community center. Amenities include a sheltered picnic area, playground, and fishing pond.

Web: www.tampa.gov/parks-and-recreation/featured-parks/al-lopez

Address: 4810 N Himes Ave
Tampa, FL 33614
Phone: (813) 274-8615

6. Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park

Located in downtown Tampa, this 8-acre park features a dog run and splash pads and hosts pet-friendly events, making it an urban oasis. Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, located along the Hillsborough River in downtown Tampa, opened in its current configuration in 2010. It is adjacent to the Tampa Riverwalk, Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Tampa Museum of Art, Glazer Children's Museum, and Rivergate Tower.

Web: www.tampa.gov/parks-and-recreation/featured-parks/curtis-hixon

Address: 600 N Ashley Dr
Tampa, FL 33602
Phone: (813) 274-8615

7. Picnic Island Beach Dog Park

Picnic Island in Tampa has a beautiful white sand beach featuring tranquil waters and breathtaking sunsets. It also has a separate, gated dog beach. This beach park offers a dog-friendly area where pets can run off-leash and swim in the ocean.

Web: www.tampa.gov/parks-and-recreation/featured-parks/picnic-island-park

Address: 7409 Picnic Island Blvd
Tampa, FL 33616
Phone: (813) 274-8615

Continued on page 68



FLORIDA'S Botanical Gardens

The combination of warm weather, plenty of sunshine, and an average of 54 inches of rain a year creates a subtropical climate in Florida that provides a prolific year-round growing season. South Florida takes it one step further, with temperatures that nurture tropical climate species as well. These inexhaustible natural conditions cultivate an exotic collection of colorful and rare plants in Florida that can be seen in beautiful gardens statewide. Luckily for Florida visitors, the state's spectacular botanical gardens are often on the grounds of historic homes and estates. Immerse yourself in delightfully vivid colors and learn the stories of caring people who, years ago, designed places for peaceful, relaxing experiences. Here are a few of our favorite botanical gardens in Florida.





Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, Fort Lauderdale

By the time early settler Hugh Taylor Birch purchased the Bonnet House Garden site in Fort Lauderdale in 1895, it had already witnessed 4,000 years of history, according to a shell midden left by the Tequesta people. Birch gave the property to his daughter as a wedding gift in 1919, and a house was built in 1920, including elaborate gardens. Today, the Bonnet House is owned for the enjoyment of all by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and is on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2008, a major restoration repaired hurricane damage and returned the site to its period of significance.

The Bonnet House grounds include one of South Florida's last examples of native barrier island habitat, mangrove wetlands, a maritime forest, a desert garden, a hibiscus garden, and a main courtyard planted with tropical vegetation. The orchid varieties comprise one of the largest collections in the Southeast, and greenhouse tours are available.

Find information about tours, classes, workshops, events, and exhibitions at www.bonnethouse.org. The museum and gardens are open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Continued on page 72



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3

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All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, pre-delivery inspection and freight fees, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. Offer expires end of month. Offer available on units matching as to year, make, model, floorplan, options, features, and benefits from a licensed retail seller of new RVs and verified by Blue Compass with a valid buyer's order signed by management of the competing dealer. Offer may not be combined with other discounts, promotions, or offers. Other restrictions may apply; see store or website for details. Offer expires 12/31/25.

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Lake Crago Park

Continued from page 61

8. Lake Crago Park

This new park in Lakeland has a dedicated dog park area, walking trails, and a boating launch, providing diverse activities for pets and their owners. The dog park is an off-leash area within the park. Visitors rate it as clean and friendly.

Web: www.lakelandgov.net/departments/parks-recreation-and-cultural-arts/dog-parks

Address: 525 Lake Crago Dr
Lakeland, FL 33805
Phone: 863-834-2233

9. Hollis Garden

Hollis Garden is a public botanical garden in Lakeland. While pets must be leashed and kept on the paths, this garden offers beautiful scenery and a peaceful environment for a stroll. It is divided into 16 themed sections or "rooms," with plantings rotating throughout the year.

Web: www.lakelandgov.net/departments/parks-recreation-and-cultural-arts/hollis-garden

Address: 614 E Orange St
Lakeland, FL 33801
Phone: 863-834-2280

10. Fort Fraser Trail

This trail offers a dog-friendly walking and biking path with scenic views and historical markers along the way. The Fort Fraser Trail is a 7.75-mile-long paved multi-use path from Bartow to Lakeland. It runs along a former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad line that once ran from Lakeland to Naples.

Web: www.polk-county.net/park/fort-fraser-trail

Address: County Rd 540 and US 98
Lakeland, FL 33812
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Founder Edward W. Bok, a highly successful publisher and author, became enchanted with the vistas from Iron Mountain, at 298 feet, one of the highest in peninsular Florida, and began creating on the site. The 205-foot neo-Gothic and Art Deco carillon includes 60 bells ranging in weight from 16 pounds to nearly 12 tons.

The gardens are one of the greatest works of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead Jr., and together with the natural habitats, are home to more than 126 different species of birds. Hammock Hollow Children's Garden offers fun ways to discover the natural world and includes three acres of nature play to teach the vital connection between animals, plants, and people. The Kitchen Garden is a hub for horticultural and culinary activities showcasing lifestyle gardening and the culinary arts. The Singing Tower carillon concerts are at 1 and 3 p.m. daily, with short selections played on the hour and half-hour.

Learn about tours, events, classes, volunteer opportunities, activities, and what's in bloom at www.boktowergardens.org. Bok Tower Gardens is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Continued on page 110





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Brevard, Orange,
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Enjoy these Top Ten most popular pet-friendly tourist sites in east central Florida Region 4, which includes Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, and Brevard counties. These pet-friendly sites offer various amenities and activities to ensure enjoyable experiences for pets and their owners.

Continued on page 76



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Top 10 Pet-Friendly Places to Visit in East Central Florida



Lighthouse Point Park

Continued from page 74

1. Lighthouse Point Park

This scenic park in Ponce Inlet offers pet-friendly areas where dogs can roam on leash. Visitors can enjoy beautiful lighthouse views, beach access, fishing, and picnic spots. Lighthouse Point Park is a 52-acre inlet park located along the northern shoreline of Ponce de Leon Inlet. The park has elevated wooden boardwalks. Web: www.volusia.org/services/public-works/coastal-division/coastal-parks/lighthouse-point-park.shtml
Address: 5000 S Atlantic Ave
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127
Phone: 386-756-7488

2. New Smyrna Beach Dog Park

The New Smyrna Beach Dog Park is a dedicated off-leash dog park where pets can run and play freely. The park has separate areas for small and large dogs, water stations, and shaded seating for pet owners. Web: www.bringfido.com/attraction/13646
Address: 2641 Paige Ave
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
Phone: 386-424-2100



Smyrna Dunes Park

3. **Smyrna Dunes Park**
Smyrna Dunes Park is 73 acres of pristine waterfront land at the northern tip of New Smyrna Beach. The only dog-friendly beach in New Smyrna Beach, this park is a favorite for locals and tourists alike. Dogs and people love splashing in the waves and relaxing in the sand. Just remember, for safety reasons, pets must always remain leashed.
Web: www.volusia.org/services/public-works/coastal-division/coastal-parks/smyrna-dunes-park.shtml
Address: 2995 N Peninsula Ave
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
Phone: 386-424-2935

4. **Paw Park of Historic Sanford**
Paw Park of Historic Sanford is a popular dog park with separate areas for small and large dogs, water fountains, and shaded benches. It is part of a larger park with walking trails and picnic areas.
Web: sanfordfl.gov/ova_por/paw-park/
Address: 427 S French Ave
Sanford, FL 32771
Phone: 407-688-5000

5. **Bear Creek Nature Trail**
This park trail is located in Winter Springs and offers a natural setting for on-leash walks. The park is equipped with waste disposal stations and shaded areas. The nature trail parallels Bear Creek, containing two small bridges and three picnic tables. It is open from sunrise to sunset.
Web: www.winterspringsfl.org/parksrec/park/bear-creek-nature-trail
Address: 1555 Winter Springs Blvd
Winter Springs, FL 32708
Phone: 407-327-1800 (after hours and weekends: 321-696-9689)

Continued on page 79



New Smyrna Beach Dog Park

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Lake Eola Park

Continued from page 77

6. Lake Eola Park

This iconic park in the heart of downtown Orlando welcomes leashed pets. Visitors can enjoy the swan boats, weekly farmers market, walking paths, and beautiful lake views. The Lake Eola Park sidewalk circles the lake 0.9 miles in length, making it easy for visitors to keep track of their running or walking distances.

Web: www.orlando.gov/Parks-the-Environment/Directory/Lake-Eola-Park

Address: 512 E Washington St
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: 407-246-4484

7. Meadow Woods Dog Park

Meadow Woods Dog Park in Orlando is a spacious off-leash dog park with separate areas for small and large dogs. It includes agility equipment, water fountains, and shaded seating. Meadow Woods Park offers a play area for children and relaxing areas for adults.

Web: www.orangecountyfl.net/cultureparks/parks/tabid/350/default.aspx?m=dtlvw&d=75

Address: 1751 Rhode Island Woods Cir
Orlando, FL 32824
Phone: 407-254-9065

8. Kissimmee Lakefront Park

This beautiful park along Lake Tohopekaliga in Kissimmee welcomes leashed pets. Visitors can enjoy walking trails, natural areas, playgrounds, picnic areas, and a fishing pier. Amenities include picnic tables, grills, a playground, and a pavilion.

Web: www.kissimmee.gov/Parks-Recreation-Events/Parks-Trails-Public-Lands/Parks-Spaces/Kissimmee-Lakefront-Park

Address: 201 Lakeview Dr
Kissimmee, FL 34741
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Continued on page 81

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Continued from page 57

Region 4 Blue Spring State Park

An RV-friendly getaway in Orange City, Blue Spring State Park offers fun for the whole family. The largest spring on the St. Johns River, Blue Spring's 72-degree water is a winter home to a population of West Indian manatees who retreat there to stay warm. This park fills up fast - be sure to plan your trip for the early morning or late afternoon. Open 8 a.m. until sundown.

www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/blue-spring-state-park
Phone: 386-775-3663

Continued on page 88



9. Poinciana Dog Park

Poinciana Dog Park is a well-maintained dog park with separate areas for small and large dogs. It features water fountains, agility equipment, and shaded seating. Web: www.bringfido.com/attraction/11462
Address: 5109 Allegheny Rd
Poinciana, FL 34759
Phone: 863-534-4340



Poinciana Dog Park

10. Wickham Park

This expansive park in Melbourne allows leashed pets on its numerous trails. Adjacent to the Eastern Florida State College Melbourne Campus, this 391-acre regional park features a wide variety of recreational opportunities. A scenic drive winds through the park's open areas, pine woods, and lakes. Camping, community events, special interests, and equestrian activities are hosted at this large park. Nestled in the pine forest are 133 campsites with water, electric, sewer hookups, and overflow campsites for special events. Web: brevardfl.gov/ParksAndRecreation/ParksByCity/ParksInMelbourne/Wickham
Address: 2500 Parkway Dr
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Northwest Florida REGION 5

Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin,
Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson,
Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa,
Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, and
Washington counties

Check out this Top Ten list of the most popular pet-friendly sites in northwest Florida Region 5, which includes the Florida counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Washington, Holmes, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Wakulla, Franklin, Leon, and Jefferson. These pet-friendly destinations provide a variety of activities and amenities, ensuring memorable experiences for both pets and their owners.

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Top 10 Pet-Friendly Places to Visit in Northwest Florida



Pensacola Beach

1. Bayview Dog Park and Beach

This dedicated dog park in Pensacola provides beach access where pets can swim and play off-leash in Escambia County. There are separate areas for small and large dogs, water stations, and shaded seating for owners.

Web: www.visitpensacola.com/beaches/dog-beach/

Address: 2001 E Lloyd St

Pensacola, FL 32503

Phone: 850-436-5670

2. Pensacola Beach

Pet-friendly sections on either end of the beach provide a gorgeous place where dogs are allowed on leashes. The beach offers beautiful white sand and clear waters, perfect for a day out with your pet.

Pensacola Beach, FL

Phone: 1-800-874-1234

3. Blackwater River State Park

Blackwater River State Park welcomes leashed pets on the trails and campgrounds. Visitors can enjoy hiking, canoeing, and picnicking along the beautiful Blackwater River in Santa Rosa County. Located within the Blackwater River State Forest, this park has miles of trails that wind through secluded wilderness and along creeks lined by dogwood trees.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/blackwater-river-state-park

Address: 7720 Deaton Bridge Rd

Milton, FL 32564

Phone: 850-983-5363

Continued on page 86



Henderson Beach State Park

Continued from page 85

4. **Falling Waters State Park**

You won't mind using a leash at this unique park for your pets. 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. Three short nature trails meander through Falling Waters State Park. These trails will take you around 100-foot-deep sinkholes, the tallest waterfall in Florida, and many other points of interest. Amenities include fishing, hiking, camping, geo-seeking, swimming, and birding.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/falling-waters-state-park

Address: 1130 State Park Rd
Chipley, FL 32428
Phone: 850-638-6130

5. **Henderson Beach State Park**

Leashed pets are welcome on the nature trails and designated pet camping areas in Henderson Beach State Park in Destin. Visitors can also enjoy the beautiful white sand beaches and picnic pavilions. The park is named for Burnet Henderson, a businessman who acquired land holdings in the Destin area in the late 1930s.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/henderson-beach-state-park

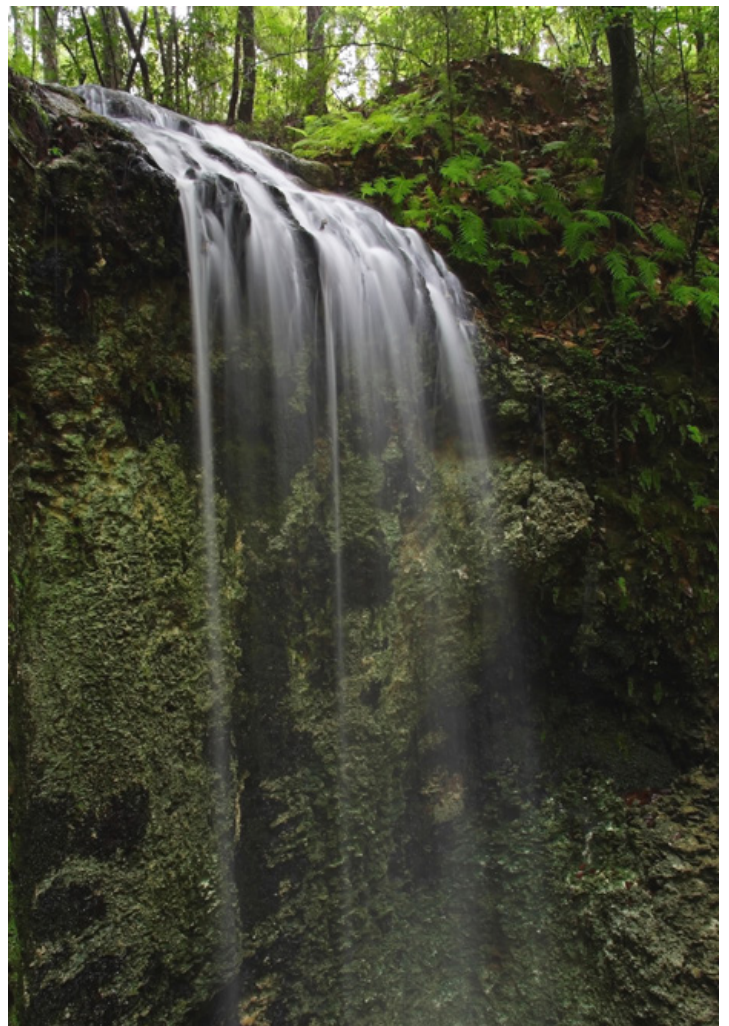
Address: 17000 Emerald Coast Pkwy
Destin, FL 32541
Phone: 850-837-7550

6. **Dog Beach at Pier Park**

Panama City Beach offers a dedicated dog beach where pets can play off-leash. The area includes water fountains and shaded spots for relaxation. Visitors can also enjoy nearby shopping and dining at Pier Park.

Web: www.pcbfl.gov/about-us/visitors/dogs

Address: Front Beach Rd Gulf Side, in front of Pier Park,
Panama City Beach, FL 32413
Phone: 850-233-5045



Falling Waters State Park

7. **St. George Island State Park**

At this beautiful Franklin County park south of Tallahassee, leashed pets are allowed on the hiking trails, campgrounds, and designated areas. Pets must be on a six-foot handheld leash. St. George Island State Park offers pristine beaches, nature trails, and excellent fishing opportunities. This park beckons visitors to enjoy picnics, hiking, camping, swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, standup paddleboard, and canoeing.

Web: www.floridasforgottencoast.com/business/st-george-island-state-park/

Address: 1900 E Gulf Beach Dr

St George Island, FL 32328

Phone: 850-927-2111

8. **Tom Brown Park**

Tom Brown Park is a 255-acre city park in Tallahassee. Located on the city's eastern side off of Capital Circle, it is a large recreation park featuring a dedicated off-leash dog area with agility equipment and water stations. The other areas of the park offer hiking trails, sports fields, and picnic areas.

Web: www.talgov.com/parks/parks-tombrown

Address: 501 Easterwood Dr

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 850-891-3866

Continued on page 89



St. George Island State Park



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Continued from page 80

Region 5

Near Tallahassee, Wakulla Springs is the largest and deepest freshwater spring in Florida, rimmed by an ancient cypress swamp. The extensive cave system beneath the spring extends more than 32 miles and supplies more than 250 million gallons of water per day. The water temperature is always a refreshing 70 degrees. The swimming area features a dive tower and swimming platforms, and the park features nature trails and glass-bottom boat rides. Open 8 a.m. to sundown daily.

www.floridastateparks.org/

wakullasprings

Phone: 850-561-7276

Continued on page 98



9. **Topsail Hill Preserve State Park**

Pets are allowed at the beautiful Topsail Hill Preserve State Park. This 1,640-acre Florida State Park is in Santa Rosa Beach, ten miles east of Destin, off US 98 in northwestern Florida. Topsail Hill is named for its dunes, which rise like a ship's sails over soft sand beaches and the clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/topsail-hill-preserve-state-park

Address: 7525 W County Highway 30A
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
Phone: 850-267-8330

10. **Wakulla Springs State Park**

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park is a Florida State Park in Wakulla County. Leashed pets are welcome on the park's nature trails and picnic areas. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful springs, swimming, and guided boat tours. This 6,000-acre wildlife sanctuary, located south of Tallahassee, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Natural Landmark.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/WakullaSprings

Address: 465 Wakulla Park Dr
Wakulla Springs, FL 32327
Phone: 850-561-7276



Wakulla Springs State Park



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REGION

5

Northwest Florida

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JACKSON, JEFFERSON, LEON, LIBERTY, OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA,
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Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park
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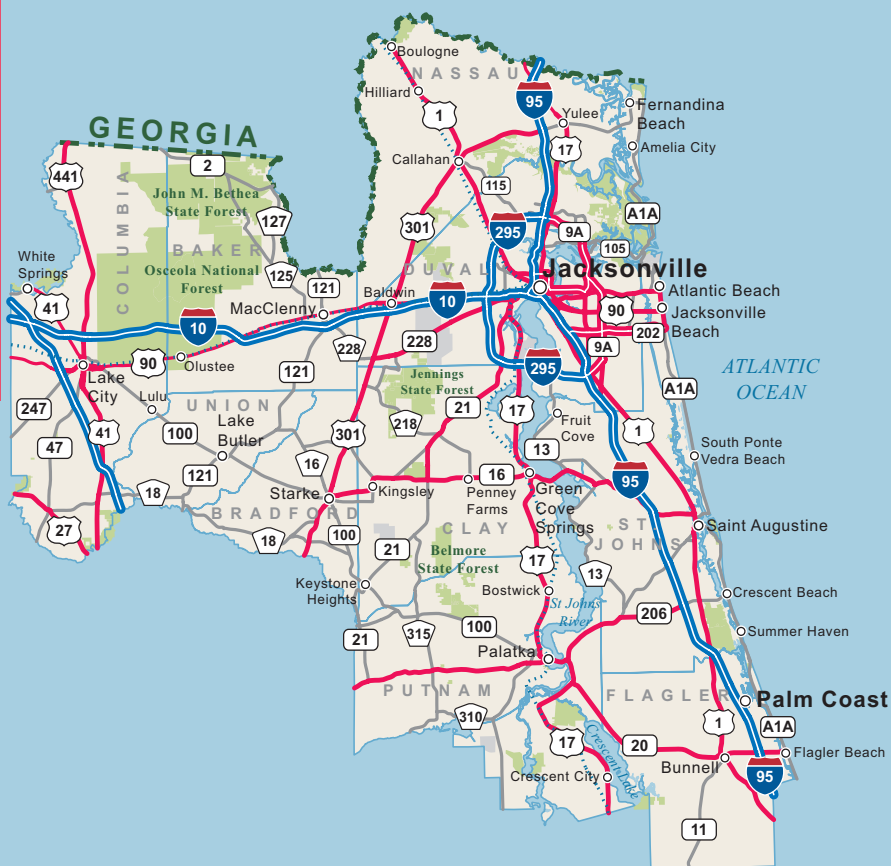


Northeast Florida REGION 6

**Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia,
Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam,
St. Johns, and Union counties**

Enjoy these Top Ten popular pet-friendly sites in northeast Florida Region 6, the counties of Nassau, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Baker, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler. These pet-friendly sites offer a variety of amenities and activities, ensuring enjoyable experiences for both pets and their owners.

Continued on page 94





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(see our ad on pages 93 & 131)

Top 10 Pet-Friendly Places to Visit in Northeast Florida

Continued from page 92



Fort Clinch State Park

1. Fort Clinch State Park

Fort Clinch State Park is a Florida State Park located on a peninsula near the northernmost point of Amelia Island, along the Amelia River. It offers several miles of pet-friendly trails and beach areas where leashed dogs are welcome. Visitors can enjoy camping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Its 1,100 acres include the 19th-century Fort Clinch, sand dunes, plains, maritime hammock, and estuarine tidal marsh.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/fortclinch

Address: 2601 Atlantic Ave
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Phone: 904-277-7274

2. Amelia Island

Located just off the northeast coast of Florida, Amelia Island is a pristine beach escape embraced by Southern charm just 30 minutes from Jacksonville. The island features pet-friendly beaches and outdoor dining options. Leashed pets are welcome on the beach, and many restaurants offer outdoor seating where dogs can join their owners.

Web: www.ameliaisland.com

Address: Amelia Island, FL
Phone: 904-277-0717



Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

3. Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park is a 1.5-mile public beach and city park in Jacksonville. It has a dedicated dog park area and several pet-friendly trails. It also offers camping, fishing, and access to the beach, where leashed pets are welcome. The park is located at Mayport in the Jacksonville Beaches area. It consists of 447 acres of mature coastal hammock, which is increasingly rare along Florida's heavily developed Atlantic coast.

Web: www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-and-community-programming/kathryn-abbey-hanna-park.aspx

Address: 500 Wonderwood Dr
Jacksonville, FL 32233
Phone: 904-255-6767

4.

Riverside Arts Market

This weekly market in Jacksonville is pet-friendly, allowing leashed dogs to accompany their owners while they explore local crafts, food vendors, and live music. The market serves as a vital economic outlet, acting as a community showcase of the arts and a communal gathering for local farmers, artists, makers, and pet-loving customers alike. The sales of fresh local produce support Florida farmers.

Web: riversideartsmarket.org

Address: 715 Riverside Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32204
Phone: 904-389-2449
Saturdays only, 10 am to 3 pm



Riverside Arts Market

5. Black Creek Trail

Black Creek Trail in Clay County provides an 8-mile paved path that welcomes hikers, cyclists, and even those out walking their dogs. This scenic trail, which welcomes leashed pets, runs adjacent to US Highway 17 on Fleming Island. Visitors can enjoy walking, biking, and picnicking along the trail which follows the creek.

Web: www.claycountygov.com/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/144/1024

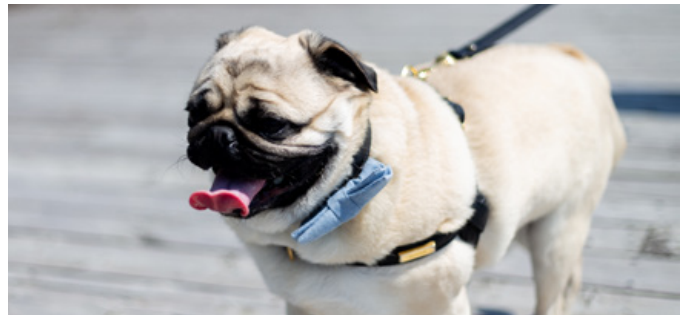
Address: 7890 Highway 17
Fleming Island, FL 32003
Phone: 904-269-6378

6. St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum

Pets are welcome in the park area of the lighthouse grounds of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. Visitors can enjoy the historic site, beautiful views, and picnic areas. The St. Augustine Light Station is a privately maintained aid to navigation and an active, working lighthouse in St. Augustine. The current lighthouse stands at the north end of Anastasia Island and was built between 1871 and 1874.

Web: www.staugustinelighthouse.org

Address: 100 Red Cox Dr
St. Augustine, FL 32080
Phone: 904-829-0745



Wadsworth Park

7. Vilano Beach

This St. Augustine beach is pet-friendly, allowing leashed dogs to enjoy the sand and surf. The area also features local shops and dining options. The Vilano Beach Casino, built in 1926, initially stood at the park site, but the storms of 1938 and 1939 washed the structure away. A recreation area was finally built in 2004 on the original grounds, and renovations were made in 2024.

Web: www.visitstaugustine.com/thing-to-do/vilano-beach-oceanfront-park

Address: Vilano Beach, FL

8. Wadsworth Park

The entrance to this beautiful 45-acre Flagler County Park is located at the western foot of the Flagler Beach Bridge. A large park with a dedicated dog park area, it also features sports fields, walking trails, a canoe launch, an elevated boardwalk, a playground, and picnic areas. The 60,000-square-foot fenced dog park allows dogs to run unleashed and mingle freely.

Web: www.cityofflaglerbeach.com/facilities/facility/details/Wadsworth-Park-4

Address: 2200 Moody Blvd
Flagler Beach, FL 32136
Phone: 386-517-2000

Continued on page 102

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Continued from page 88

Region 6 Ponce De Leon's Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park

Visitors to the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park in St. Augustine are welcomed to sip from the famed natural spring, believed to be the Fountain of Youth sought by Spanish explorer Ponce de León in 1513. The park is nestled along the Matanzas River, surrounded by majestic live oaks draped in Spanish moss, giving it a timeless, mystical atmosphere that hints at the centuries of stories it holds. The park offers reconstructions of Timucua village life and Spanish colonial settlements, with costumed reenactors bringing history to life. A visit to the Fountain of Youth is a unique blend of history, legend, and natural beauty that embodies the spirit of Florida's oldest city.

www.fountainofyouthflorida.com

Phone: 904-829-3168

Continued on page 108





Pet-Friendly

VACATION SPOTS

Florida is very pet-friendly. Many Florida places, not just campgrounds, accommodate visitors with pets, including theme parks that provide kennels, beaches and parks that allow dogs, hotels and motels that offer special pet rooms, restaurants, and dog events. Larger theme parks, such as Busch Gardens in Tampa, offer kennel services but be sure to bring your pet's vaccination record along.

A site like bringfido.com lists pet-friendly hotels, restaurants, events, and activities worldwide. The county tourism board for your destination is another reliable source for planning a pet-friendly vacation.

Florida is usually hot, so it is essential that you never leave your pet in the vehicle. On a 78-degree day, the temperature inside a parked car can soar to between 100- and 120-degrees Fahrenheit in just minutes, and on a 90-degree day, the interior temperature can reach as high as 160 degrees in less than 10 minutes, according to Petco.

Petco care centers often offer their stores nationwide as cooling centers. An animal left in a hot car can sustain brain damage or even die in as little as 15 minutes. Cracking a window does little to relieve the heat on a hot summer day. Signs of heat stress include heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue. When outside, ensure your pet has access to shade, shelter, and fresh water.

Dogs can get sunburned, too, so applying dog sunscreen to your dog's ears, nose, and anywhere else they have bare skin or thin fur is a good idea.

Anticipate the same amount of cool water for a pet as yourself when participating in outdoor activities. Avoid letting your dog drink lake or river water that may contain bacteria or parasites. Heartworm, a disease transmitted by mosquitoes, is endemic to Florida. Plan to visit a vet before your trip for a heartworm test and pills to prevent infection.



Continued on page 118

REGION

6

Northeast Florida

BAKER, BRADFORD, CLAY, COLUMBIA, DUVAL, FLAGLER,
NASSAU, PUTNAM, ST. JOHNS AND UNION COUNTIES



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Ravine Gardens State Park

Continued from page 95

9. Alligator Lake Park

Alligator Lake Park offers pet-friendly trails and open spaces where leashed dogs are welcome. Visitors to this Columbia County park can enjoy birdwatching, fishing, and picnicking. The 1,000-acre recreation area includes a playground, canoe launch, and trails.
Web: www.naturalnorthflorida.com/things-to-do/alligator-lake-park
Address: 420 SE Alligator Glen
Lake City, FL 32025
Phone: 386-719-7545

10. Ravine Gardens State Park

Ravine Gardens State Park is one of Florida's nine New Deal-era state parks. If pets are leashed, they are welcome on the park's trails. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful gardens, hiking trails, and picnic areas. The park has two ravines up to 120 feet deep with steep banks at 45 degrees.
Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/ravine-gardens-state-park
Address: 1600 Twigg St
Palatka, FL 32177
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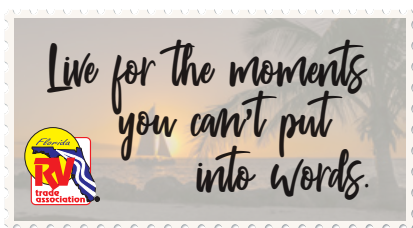
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Top 10 Pet-Friendly Places to Visit in North Central Florida



Four Freedoms Park

Continued from page 104

1. Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park

Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park is a Florida State Park in White Springs off US 41 along the Suwannee River in north Florida. Pets are welcome in designated areas such as the hiking trails and picnic areas. The park is known for its cultural exhibits, beautiful gardens, and regular folk music events. Stephen Foster is famous for writing the song "Old Folks at Home," also known as "Way Down Upon the Suwannee River."

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/stephen-foster-folk-culture-center-state-park

Address: 11016 Lillian Saunders Dr
White Springs, FL 32096
Phone: 386-397-4331

2. Four Freedoms Park

Four Freedoms Park is a pet-friendly community park in Madison. It offers open green spaces where leashed dogs can roam. The park also features historical monuments, picnic areas, and playgrounds.

Address: 300 W Base St
Madison, FL 32340
Phone: 850-973-2788

3. Suwannee River State Park

Leashed pets are allowed on the Suwannee River State Park's trails and campgrounds. The park offers some of the best backcountry canoeing opportunities in the state. Visitors can see cypress trees, southern magnolia, herons, American coots, turtles, and hawks. Activities include fishing and exploring historic sites along the river.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/suwannee-river-state-park

Address: 3631 201st Path
Live Oak, FL 32060
Phone: 386-362-2746



Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

4. Forest Capital Museum State Park

In Taylor County, at the Forest Capital Museum State Park, pets are allowed on leashes in the park's outdoor areas. This 13-acre Florida State Park is located 1 mile south of Perry on US 19/US 98. Visitors can also enjoy a museum, picnic spots, and a scenic nature trail. The museum contains displays that recount the history of the forest industry and the forest's wildlife.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/forest-capital-museum-state-park

Address: 204 Forest Park Dr

Perry, FL 32348

Phone: 850-584-3227

5. Lafayette Blue Springs State Park

Pets are welcome in designated areas such as the trails and picnic spots at Lafayette Blue Springs State Park, located on the west side of the Suwannee River, seven miles northwest of Mayo. The park contains one of the state's 33 first-magnitude springs, with a daily discharge of up to 168 million gallons. Visitors can experience the natural springs for swimming, paddling, and snorkeling.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lafayette-blue-springs-state-park

Address: 799 NW Blue Spring Rd

Mayo, FL 32066

Phone: 386-294-3667

6. Hart Springs Park

This Gilchrist County Park is pet-friendly, with leashed dogs allowed in outdoor areas. Visitors can enjoy swimming, hiking, and camping near the natural springs. Hart Springs has one of the largest spring-fed swimming areas in Florida. Located along the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail as well as the Gilchrist Blueway Trail, the park offers visitors a chance to take a scenic stroll on a half-mile-long boardwalk, see where the springs flow up out of the earth, and how the freshwater flows down the run and merges with the famous Suwannee River.

Web: hartsprings.com

Address: 4240 SW 86th Ave

Bell, FL 32619

Phone: 352-463-3444

8. Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

In Gainesville, leashed pets are allowed in the outdoor garden areas at this beautiful Alachua County site. The gardens feature plant collections, walking paths, and ponds. The name for the garden comes from the nearby 250-acre Lake Kanapaha, "Kanapaha," originating from two Timucua words for "palmetto leaves" and "house." The North Florida Botanical Society manages the gardens.

Web: kanapaha.org

Address: 4700 SW 58th Dr

Gainesville, FL 32608

Phone: 352-372-4981

7. Cedar Key Museum State Park

Leashed pets are welcome in Cedar Key Museum State Park's outdoor areas. The 18-acre park includes nature trails and access to the historic Cedar Key. The museum displays items collected by Saint Clair Whitman, a local resident who established the first museum in his home for his collection, which included Indian artifacts. Visitors can tour the historic Whitman home, commemorating Saint Clair Whitman's life.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/cedar-key-museum-state-park

Address: 12231 SW 166th Ct

Cedar Key, FL 32625

Phone: 352-543-5350

Continued on page 113



Forest Capital Museum State Park



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(see our ad on page 113)

Continued from page 98

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(see our ad on page 105)

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www.wildernessrvparkestates.com



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(see our ad on pages 66-67 & 132)



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Continued from page 72

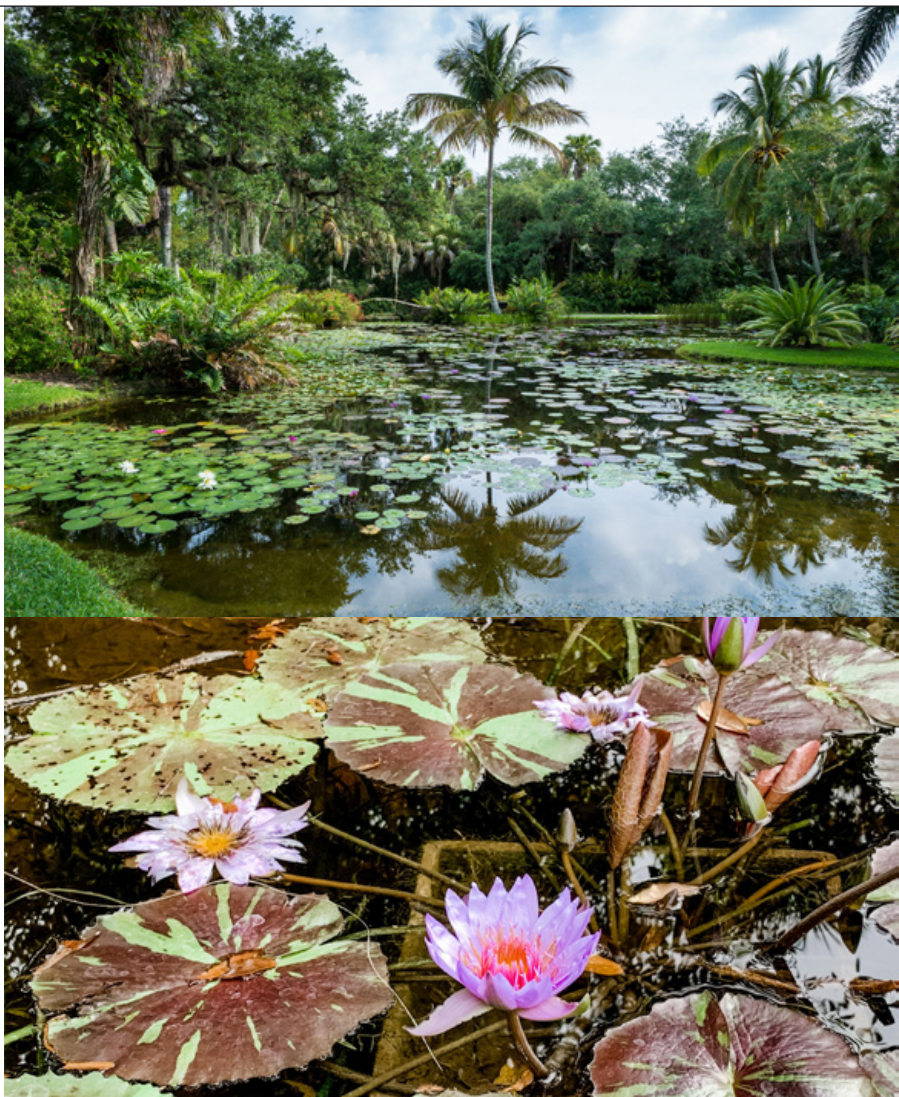
McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach

Located on a tropical hammock at the southern gateway to Vero Beach, McKee Botanical Gardens is a National Register of Historic Places site where native plants and exotic botanicals combine with historic structures. Eighteen acres of natural landscape have been preserved, providing pathways through majestic palms, ponds, and streams accented with colorful waterlilies and orchids. The subtropical landscape was originally envisioned for orange groves, but the developers quickly realized it was too beautiful in its natural state to disturb. Enhanced with species from around the world, the 80-acre McKee Jungle Gardens was opened in 1932 and quickly became one of the top three tourist attractions in Florida.

A decline in attendance forced the sale and development in 1976 of all but 18 acres, which lay dormant for 20 years. Following a successful community effort to refurbish the gardens, the site was reopened in 2001 as the McKee Botanical Garden. In addition to its more than 10,000 native and tropical plants, including one of Florida's largest collections of water lilies, McKee is a valued resource for cultural enrichment.

It hosts a variety of programs each season, including world-class art exhibits, educational offerings, and special events. Visit www.mckeegarden.org to learn more. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m.

Continued on page 122



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9. **Silver Springs State Park**

At Silver Springs State Park, formerly known as Silver River State Park, pets are allowed in certain areas, including designated trails and campgrounds. The park is famous for its glass-bottom boat tours, wildlife, and beautiful springs on the Silver River in Marion County. It also contains Silver Springs, Florida's first tourist attraction, which dates back to the 1870s.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/silversprings

Address: 5656 E Silver Springs Blvd

Silver Springs, FL 34488

Phone: 352-236-7148

10. **Crystal River Archaeological State Park**

Crystal River State Archaeological Site is a 61-acre Florida State Park located on the Crystal River and within the Crystal River Preserve State Park. Leashed pets are welcome in the park's outdoor areas. Visitors can explore ancient Native American burial mounds, stroll along scenic trails, and enjoy picnicking with beautiful views of the Crystal River. The park is two miles northwest of Crystal River, on Museum Point, off US 19/98.

Web: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/crystal-river-archaeological-state-park

Address: 3400 N Museum Point

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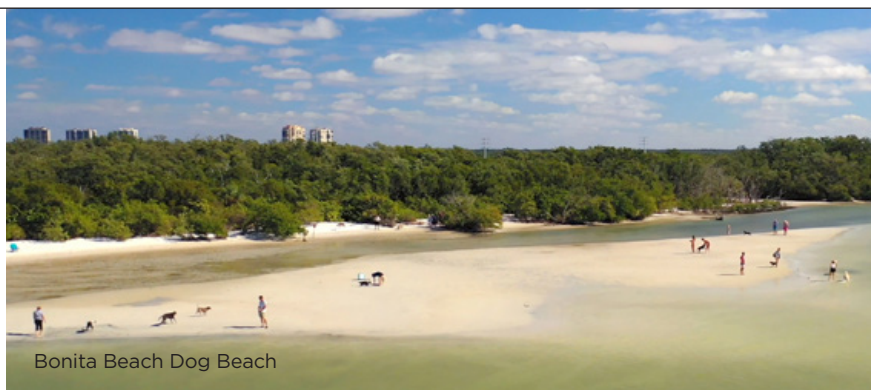
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Continued from page 99

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- Davis Islands Dog Beach, Tampa
- Sanibel Island & Captiva
- Bonita Beach Dog Beach
- Key West Dog Beach
- Rickenbacker Causeway Beach, Miami
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Bonita Beach Dog Beach



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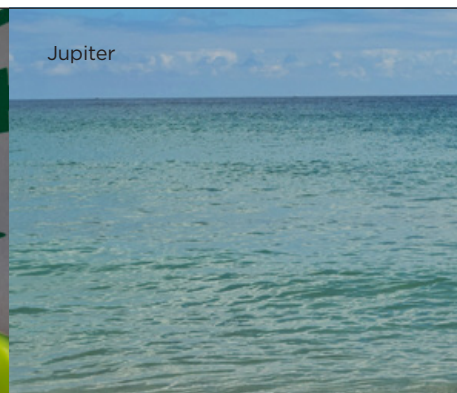
Bark Beach



Key West



Jupiter



Davis Islands



Panama City



One goal of puppy raising is to expose pups to a variety of experiences. What better opportunity for a diverse and stimulating upbringing than RV life? The changing environments, new people, and unfamiliar objects on the road are fantastic for socialization and development. Plus, puppies make campfires cozier and hikes more enjoyable—and nothing captures the spirit of adventure like a puppy discovering the world alongside you.

No matter where you travel, the Dogs Inc team will support you every step of the way. You'll find optional puppy raiser clubs nationwide for socializing, skill practice, and expert guidance tailored to help both you and your pup thrive. And if you need a break, puppy sitters are always ready to step in.

While puppy raising may steal your whole heart, it doesn't have to take all your time. As a volunteer puppy raiser, you have the flexibility to choose the commitment that works best for your lifestyle. Whether you raise a puppy for three months, six months, or a full year, you're helping to shape a future service dog—and a brighter future for someone in need.

And it gets even better! Co-raising offers a unique and fun way to share this incredible journey with others. You can team up with family, friends, colleagues, or even your local community to divide responsibilities and enjoy the experience together. Some volunteers choose to take on the challenge solo, building a special one-on-one bond with their puppy, while others thrive as part of a co-raising team, celebrating every milestone together. No matter which path you choose, you'll be making an extraordinary impact, one wagging tail and wet nose at a time.

After their adventure with you, pups return to the Dogs Inc campus for advanced training at Canine University, where they'll work toward a future career. Goodbyes are hard, but, as experienced puppy raiser Meghan Watson says, "I may want this puppy, but seeing someone who needs her—nothing else compares. It makes it all worth it."

Imagine the joy of exploring new places, knowing each mile brings a puppy closer to becoming a life-changing companion for someone in need. Turn your next road trip into a mission of love and hope by welcoming a puppy into your journey for 3, 6, or 12 months—and make your travels even more rewarding.

Ready to change lives from the driver's seat of your RV? Visit dogsinc.org/get-involved/raise-a-puppy/ to get started.



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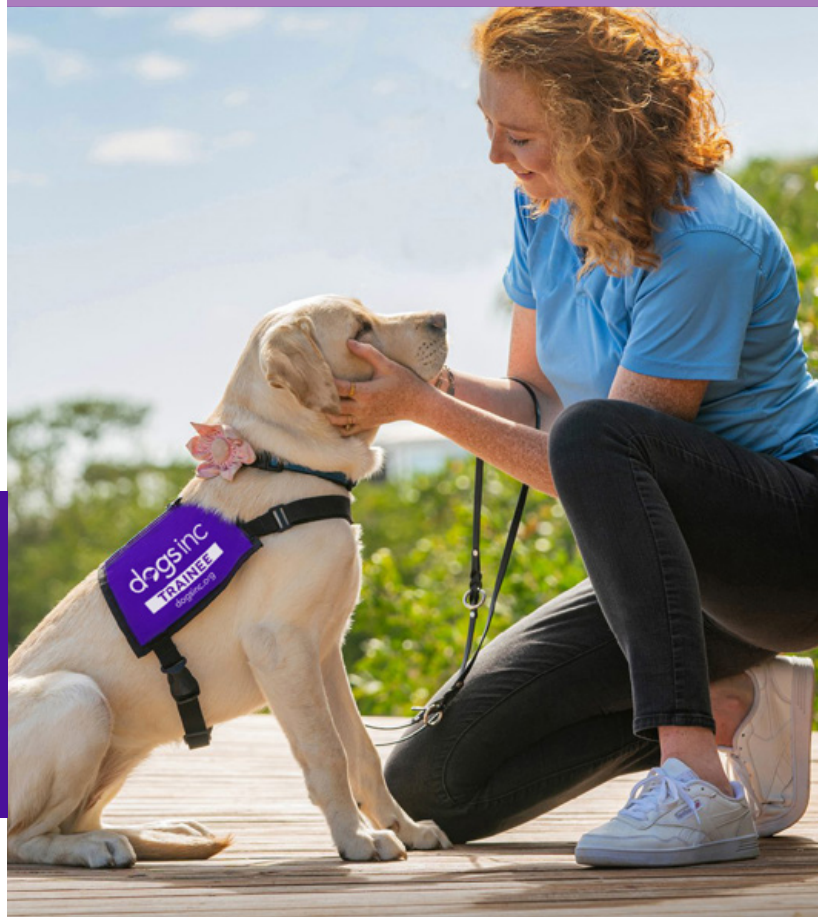
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The magical journey of puppy raising: where destinies begin and love grows

- Bright-eyed puppies leave the Dogs Inc Puppy Academy.
- They go home with volunteer puppy raisers, like you!
- Curious dogs return to Dogs Inc to conquer Canine University.
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Continued from page 110

Sarasota Jungle Gardens, Sarasota

If Florida's iconic pink flamingo is what you are looking for, Sarasota Jungle Gardens is for you. Ten acres of lush, tropical landscaping connected by winding jungle trails is also home to more than 200 native and exotic animals, including birds of prey, parrots, primates, crocodiles, lemurs, snakes, and more. Many animals are rescued or donated – including Florida's noted pink flamingos. The fascinating flamingos are a favorite among visitors who travel from all over the world to see the long-legged, pink-hued wading birds. The flamingos are not shy and often greet guests personally, sometimes face to face.

A family-owned and operated attraction since 1939, the Gardens offers daily bird and reptile shows, plus one-on-one animal interactions. The gardens date back to the early '30s when a local newspaperman bought 10 acres of undeveloped subtropical jungle and, with the help of his friend and neighbor, owner of an adjacent nursery, imported thousands of tropical plants from all over the world that would flourish with native species. As the owners noticed people wandering the manicured jungle, they started charging admission until the official opening of the Gardens. The site has inspired children's books, fashion shoots, and films.

For information about exhibits, promotions, camps, and special programs, visit www.sarasotajunglegardens.com. The gardens are open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Continued on page 128




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Hi, Roadie here, I've taken over the Florida RV Trade Association's social media to connect with fellow roadies. RVers sharing stories about the people, places and things that we have enjoyed on our travels, exchanging tips and hacks that make the RV lifestyle more efficient, easier or more fun and asking and answering one another's questions concerning RVing and being on the road are the social current of today's RV lifestyle. To join the conversation, you can comment on my page or use **#FLroadies** in your post, be sure to like/follow me on:



Facebook: **Florida RV Trade Association**



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Sunken Gardens, St. Petersburg

Local plumber George Turner bought six acres in 1903 and nourished a plant collection in the rich soil in what would become the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg. His efforts soon attracted neighbors for a stroll, and he started changing a nickel for tours in the early 1920s. Three generations of the Turner family continued the vision that created this unique tropical garden with flowing ponds.

The city of St. Petersburg purchased Sunken Gardens in 1999 as part of a community effort to preserve the garden, located in the Historic Old Northeast neighborhood. Thanks to the support of area patrons, the gardens acquired a flock of flamingoes. The city restored the building the Turners used for a gift shop and museum to its original Mediterranean revival style. The site includes an orchid arbor, amphitheater, koi pond, coconut grove, and meditation patio.

For information about guided tours, workshops, upcoming events, volunteering, membership, or rentals, please visit www.sunkengardens.org. The site is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 4:30 p.m. It is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.



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Florida **FACTS**



Flamingos weren't considered native to Florida until 2018.

The **Florida Reef** is the only **living coral barrier reef** in the continental United States.



Crystal River is the only place in North America where it is legal to have a supervised **swim with wild manatees**.



The Kennedy Space Center is an **active space center**. It still launches rockets!



Florida enjoys **two time zones**. Gulf County, is the only county that utilizes both the Eastern and Central Time Zones.

Spring training baseball has been a Florida pastime for more than 100 years.



Florida is considered the **lightning capital** of the United States



A section of **US 441** in Alachua County was named **Tom Petty Memorial Highway**.

Key West has more bars per capita than any other place in the country.



No matter where you are in Florida you are never more than **60 miles from the ocean**.



It is the only place on earth where **alligators and crocodiles** co-exist in the same habitat.



Gatorade was named after the **University of Florida Gators** where the drink was first developed.



Key West has the **highest recorded average temperature** in the United States.

Key Largo, on the Florida Keys is known as the **Dive Capital of the World**.



Plant City is known as the **Strawberry Capital of the World**, hosting an annual Strawberry Festival.



Florida has **60+ commercial wineries** that produce both Vinifera and native Muscadine wines.

Tampa's Clearwater Beach is recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the **"most days of sunshine."**



The **first suntan lotion** was **invented** by Miami Beach pharmacist, Benjamin Green in 1944.



Florida produces about **75% of the U.S. oranges** and accounts for about **40% of the world's orange juice supply**.



State Road A1A was renamed the **Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway**.



Florida's Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park is the only state park certified by the International **Dark-Sky** Association.

Golfers love Florida. Florida has **more golf courses** than any other state in the country.



Siesta Key beach won an award in 1987 for having the **finest whitest beach sand in the world**. It is 99% pure quartz crystal and is therefore cool to the feet.

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A Vacation Inn Resort.....44	FRVTA, Region 5 90-91	Ocala Sun RV Resort..... 105
Advance Group USA..... 79	FRVTA, Region 6100-101	Ocean Lakes Family Campground..... 5
Adventure Caravans 103	FRVTA, Region 7 114-115	Orange Harbor RV Resort35
America's Mailbox Inc. 128	General RV 7	Protect-A-Plug48
American RV Technology.....34	Gerzeny's RV World 22-23	Roadtrek Inc.....11
Beach RV.....87	Giant Recreation World 75	RV Roofing Solutions117
Bermuda Lakes RV Resort..... 21	Glacier RV36	RV Specialist / Mobile Service, Inc. 78
Belle Parc RV Resort.....56	Glastop RV Furniture 41	Signature Resorts by Zeman Homes... 27
Blue Compass RV66-67 & 132	Grassy Key RV Park & Resort43	Suncoast Designers.....69
Camp Margaritaville Resorts..... 13	Gulf Atlantic Cottages58	Sunkissed Village RV Resort109
Campers Inn RV..... 93 & 131	Keystone Heights RV Resort.....96-97	Sweet Citrus Acres RV Resort.....113
Chesaco RV.....42	La Mesa RV53	Upriver RV Resort 37
Classic Coach Works..... 81	Lakewood Camping Resort..... 130	Waterside RV Resort.....33
Coach House Inc.....25	Lazydays 2	Westfalia by RoadTrek 15
Coach House RV Resort.....29	Liberty Coach.....47	WhimCycle Trail RV Park 111
Darren Thomas Glass Company55	Linger Lodge RV Resort..... 31	Wild Frontier RV Resort.....105
FLARVC.....89	Lion Country Safari52	Wilder Resorts LLC 70-71
FRVTA, Region 1.....38-39	MagneShade..... 73	Williston Crossings RV Resort.....112
FRVTA, Region 2 50-51	Newby Management RV Resorts 3	
FRVTA, Region 364-65	North Trail RV Center18-19	
FRVTA, Region 482-83	Olde Florida Motorcoach Resort 17	



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OUR STORY



Campers Inn RV was born after Arthur and Frances Hirsch had a bad experience at an RV dealership in the mid-1960s. After years of camping in a tent, they saved up some money and went to find something more comfortable. The couple brought their kids so the whole family could find the perfect RV together. However, when they arrived, the salespeople were more interested in playing cards than helping them find an RV. Art was furious. He worked as a mold maker and was wearing his work clothes that day. He felt that he had been judged on his appearance, and, by Art's standards, his money was just as green as anyone else's.

On the way home, the family had a discussion about how they were treated. That is when Art and Fran, along with their sons Robert, David and Jeffrey, decided they could do a better job running a dealership. In 1966, they invested the family's life savings, bought four folding tent trailers and began selling out of their front yard in Acton, Mass.

The whole family helped get the store going— from selling tent trailers and mounting hitches to demonstrating the unit at delivery. In the early 70s, Art decided to quit his day job and the family committed themselves to the dealership full-time. Since then, the business has expanded and is now one of the largest RV retail outlets in the U.S.

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