

FREE!

THE OFFICIAL 2026

# RVers GUIDE to Florida



Tampa Postcard Mural by Carl Cowden, III, commissioned by the City of Tampa.



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- ▶ ROUTINE MAINTENANCE
- ▶ WINTERIZATION
- ▶ BODY & CHASSIS WORK
- ▶ AND MUCH MORE!



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# Newby

## MANAGEMENT

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[NewbyRVResorts.com](http://NewbyRVResorts.com)



Punta Gorda, FL  
941-623-4242  
[HarborViewOnTheBay.com](http://HarborViewOnTheBay.com)



Vero Beach, FL  
772-567-2764  
[MidwayEstates.com](http://MidwayEstates.com)



Palmetto, FL  
941-722-4884  
[WintersetRvResort.com](http://WintersetRvResort.com)



Cortez, FL  
941-798-3090  
[ButtonwoodInletRvResort.com](http://ButtonwoodInletRvResort.com)



Sarasota, FL  
941-966-3364  
[RoyalPalmsOnline.com](http://RoyalPalmsOnline.com)



Zephyrhills, FL  
813-788-2631  
[LeisureDaysRvResort.com](http://LeisureDaysRvResort.com)



Clearwater, FL  
727-791-0550  
[ClearwaterRvResort.com](http://ClearwaterRvResort.com)



Lakeland, FL  
863-686-7462  
[WoodallsVillage.com](http://WoodallsVillage.com)



Lake Wales, FL  
863-696-1194  
[TheHarborWaterfrontResort.com](http://TheHarborWaterfrontResort.com)



Okeechobee, FL  
863-824-0675  
[EagleHarborMHC.com](http://EagleHarborMHC.com)



Okeechobee, FL  
863-763-3377  
[FLRvResort.com](http://FLRvResort.com)





**FLORIDA RV SUPERSHOW**  
JANUARY 14 - 18  
Florida State Fairgrounds

**FORT MYERS RV SHOW**  
JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 1  
JetBlue Park

**JACKSONVILLE RV MEGASHOW**  
FEBRUARY 5 - 8  
Jacksonville Equestrian Center

**WEST PALM BEACH RV SHOW**  
FEBRUARY 19 - 22  
South Florida Fairgrounds

**OCALA RV SHOW**  
MARCH 5 - 8  
Florida Horse Park

**ORLANDO RV SHOW**  
MARCH 19 - 22  
Osceola Heritage Park

**TAMPA BAY SUMMER RV SHOW**  
JUNE 18 - 21  
Florida State Fairgrounds

*All Dates Subject to change.*

For more information visit  
[www.frvta.org/shows](http://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](http://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 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.

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, visit [frvta.org](http://frvta.org) or call the FRVTA State Office at (813) 741-0488. See you there!!



# Oceanfront Camping in Myrtle Beach

Enjoy a mile of Oceanfront Camping and Beach Houses. We're open year-round!



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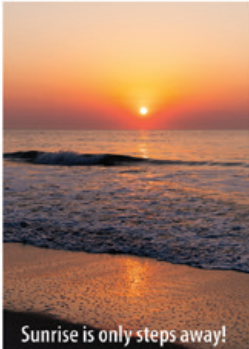
## Ocean Lakes

### FAMILY CAMPGROUND

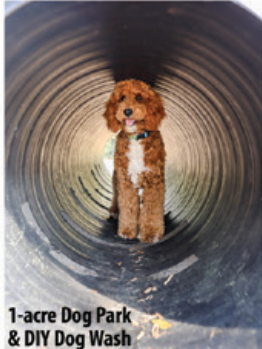


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Open every day of the year, Ocean Lakes is located about an hour off of I-95 where Highway 544 and Kings Highway intersect at the south end of Myrtle Beach. We offer a variety of planned activities year round, outstanding amenities, service, and lots 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!



6001 S. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach, SC 29575

**Myrtle Beach, SC**

**OceanLakes.com**

**Campsites**

Book Online or Call: 877.506.3891

**Beach House Rentals**

Book Online or Call: 800.845.2229



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



View our 360 video of each Campsite and Docuseries on our YouTube Channel under the "Videos" tab. Visit our website for links to our Podcasts!



# 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](mailto: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





# TRUST OUR FAMILY TO GET YOUR FAMILY OUT CAMPING

Since 1962, General RV™ has helped families make lifelong camping memories. We are a family-owned company specializing in RV sales, service, parts and accessories. With over 6,000 in-stock new and used travel trailers, fifth wheels and motorhomes, we have the perfect RV to get your family out camping.

**Sales | Service | Parts & Accessories**



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to better serve you:**



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**GENERAL RV**





# DRIVING THE RV Industry IN FLORIDA

Hernando County, Brooksville RV Park | Photo by Visit Florida



**F**or 47 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, but they are also 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](http://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 thrilled to welcome you to the Sunshine State, where adventure is endless and every journey uncovers something new. Whether you're an experienced traveler or taking your first RV trip, our members are here to make your Florida experience unforgettable.

## Your Gateway to Hassle-Free Travel

From the moment you cross into Florida, the FRVTA logo will be your go-to guide. Whether you're searching for the perfect campground, a trusted RV dealer, quality service centers, or hard-to-find parts and accessories, our members are nearby, ready to help. With locations across the state—from the pristine beaches of the Panhandle to the lively Keys—we've got everything you need.

## Uncover Florida's Hidden Treasures

This guide is more than just a directory; it's your key to discovering the diverse beauty of Florida. We've divided the state into seven regions, each offering its own unique attractions. From the crystal-clear springs of North Central Florida to the famous beaches of the Gulf Coast, there's always something new to explore.

## Beyond the Beaches: Florida's Outdoor Playground

While Florida's beaches are world-renowned, the state has so much more to offer. Picture yourself kayaking along spring-fed rivers, biking scenic trails, playing golf on lush courses, or fishing in waters rich with marine life. And at the end of the day, you can enjoy a breathtaking sunset that will stay with you forever.

## Stay Connected with FRVTA

For all things RV in Florida, look no further than the FRVTA website ([frvta.org](http://frvta.org)). Stay informed about upcoming RV events, including the Florida RV SuperShow, the largest and most popular of its kind, held every January in Tampa. This is the perfect place to connect with our members, explore the latest RV innovations, and find those hard-to-get parts and accessories. For those always on the go, the FRVTA app puts everything you need right at your fingertips. Whether you're by the beach, in the forest, or somewhere in between, support is never far away.

## 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 travels are smooth, your experiences unforgettable, and that you leave with great memories and a desire to come back.

*Hello, fellow RV enthusiasts! I'm Sean Thompson, proud owner of RV Master, LLC, serving Southeast Florida with mobile and on-site RV repair since 2004. My journey in the RV world began long before that—camping as a kid with my parents and grandparents, soaking up the wisdom and work ethic of my father and grandfather, both seasoned auto mechanics. They taught me that the day doesn't end when the clock says so—it ends when the job is done right.*

*Since joining the Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) in 2008, I've had the honor of serving in many capacities: Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Director at Large for Region 2, as well as Secretary and Treasurer for the State Executive Board. Today, I'm humbled to serve as your FRVTA President for 2025 and 2026.*

*My motto is simple: "Work Hard, Relax Harder." I encourage you to embrace the freedom of the open road, enjoy camping year-round in beautiful Florida, and never forget to RELAX. As your FRVTA President, I'm here to support you however I can. Let's keep the RV spirit alive and thriving!*



*Sean Thompson*

FRVTA President

THE OFFICIAL 2026

# RVers GUIDE to Florida



## A Membership Directory of the Florida RV Trade Association

**ADVERTISING SALES  
& PROJECT  
COORDINATOR**  
Deanna Pearce  
Elite Marketing of CFL  
863-318-0193  
[dlpearce7@gmail.com](mailto:dlpearce7@gmail.com)

**ADVERTISING DESIGN**  
Phoenix Graphics  
863-294-7083  
[pxgx.com](http://pxgx.com)

**MAGAZINE DESIGN**  
Pop Design Group  
813-354-1448  
[popdesigngroup.com](http://popdesigngroup.com)

## 2025-2026 FRVTA Board of Directors

### State Officers

Chairman of the Board – Lyn Hart  
President – Sean Thompson  
Vice President – Brian Copley  
Treasurer – Brett Howard  
Secretary – Ken Gifford

## REGIONAL OFFICERS

### Region 1

Paul Graef – President  
Everett Henkel – Director

### Region 2

Freddie Fehr – President  
Patrick White – Director

### Region 3

Meri Thomas – President  
Matt Marlatt – Director

### Region 4

Joe McNamara – President  
Mike Carter – Director

### Region 6

Jeff Lavalee – President  
Michelle Berg – Director

### Region 7

George Grimm – President  
Tyler Ervine – Director

Jennifer Johnson – Campground Liaison

## FRVTA OFFICE STAFF

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Show Director – Patty Flanagan  
Controller – Jerilyn Connetti  
Regional Show Coordinator – Cole Costello  
Event Coordinator – Ana Correia  
Membership Coordinator – Sharlene Nelson  
Administrative Assistant – Tammy Lull  
Administrative Assistant – Carolina Llano  
IT Specialist – Bill Navarro

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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 its 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](http://www.frvta.org)



f Facebook: [Florida RV Trade Association](#)  
in LinkedIn: [florida-rv-trade-association](#)  
p Pinterest: [@FloridaRVTA](#)

YouTube: [FRVTA](#)  
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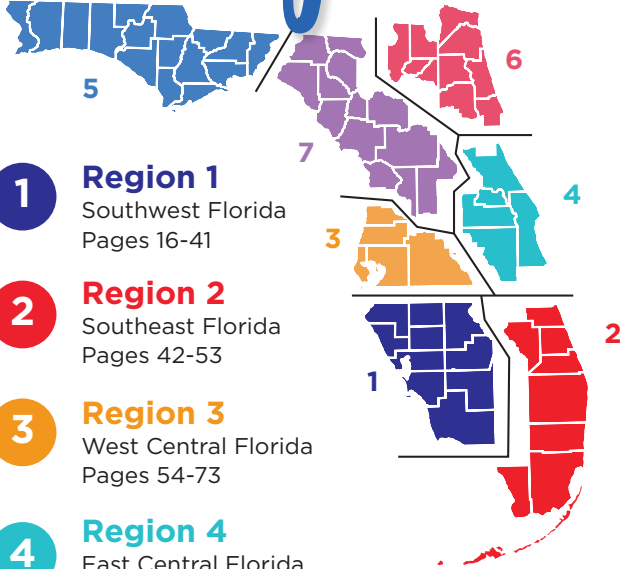
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### COVER PHOTO

A huge "thank you" to General RV Center in Dover, FL for the use of a 2026 Thor Pasadena Motorhome included on the cover of this year's magazine.

FRVTA would also like to thank the Marlatt family. Matt and Valerie along with their children Macy, Macsen, and Madylen taking a photo in front of the *Tampa Postcard Mural* by Carl Cowden, III, commissioned by the City of Tampa.

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## Discover Your Escape in the Heart of Central Florida

Welcome to Camp Margaritaville Auburndale, a two-time USA Today 10 Best Reader's Choice Best Luxury RV Resort and award-winning oasis of relaxation and adventure 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, FL. 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.



## Your Stay, Your Way

Whether you're arriving in your RV or slipping away to a cozy cabin, you'll find the perfect fit for your getaway. Spacious RV sites come with full hookups and plenty of room to unwind, while premium sites offer private tiki huts, grills, hammocks, and outdoor living spaces.

Prefer a cabin? One-bedroom Cabana Cabins blend comfort and style, ideal for couples, families, or friends. However you stay, you'll experience award-winning hospitality, relaxed vibes, and a warm welcome from the very first moment.

**Choose Your Adventure at [CampMargaritavilleAuburndale.com](https://CampMargaritavilleAuburndale.com)**

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Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

# 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](http://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 the 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](http://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.



## CONNECT WITH US!

## VISIT US AT [FRVTA.ORG](http://FRVTA.ORG)

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# Southwest Florida REGION 1

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

Southwest Florida, which stretches from south of Naples north along the Gulf of Mexico to Bradenton and inland to massive Lake Okeechobee, includes some of Florida's most expensive real estate and exotic natural landscapes. Visitors can experience a variety of Gulf beaches, great fresh food, historic sites, and exciting recreational opportunities. Here are our Top Ten unique gardens, galleries, museums, and parks you may want to visit.

*Continued on page 20*







Southwest Florida's Newest Luxury RV Destination  
**BERMUDA LAKES**  
RV RESORT

Escape to the tranquil shores of Bermuda Lakes RV Resort, your perfect getaway in sunny Fort Myers, Florida. Set beside a sparkling lake and surrounded by palms, our resort is a peaceful retreat where you can relax, recharge, and enjoy the best of RV living.

Take advantage of guest favorites like the swimming pool and spa. Have a drink and a bite to eat at our poolside bar and bistro. Enjoy our community clubhouse, fitness center, pickleball and bocce ball courts, and convenient laundry facilities. Stroll or bike along scenic paths, unwind on the lakeside dock, and explore everything that makes this spot so inviting. We're also proud to be pet friendly, with 2 dog wash stations and 2 dog parks.

Book your stay today and see why Bermuda Lakes is a hidden gem for RV travelers looking for their own slice of paradise.



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# Top 10 *Nature, Arts & Culture* Places to Visit in in Southwest Florida



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1. The southernmost part of the region offers a truly unique experience: a tour of the richly diverse wilderness swamp that is the Big Cypress National Preserve. The Big Cypress swamp's freshwater is essential to the health of the neighboring Everglades and the rich estuaries along Florida's southwest coast. The swamp can easily be experienced by the casual visitor via a boardwalk that winds through the ancient trees. Look for rare ferns, orchids, threatened bromeliads, native birds, and swamp creatures. The preserve offers camping and ranger-led programs. Famed photographer Clyde Butcher's nearby studio offers guided swamp walks, an unforgettable experience.

2. A popular vacation destination is Marco Island, which still holds remnants from its days as a turn-of-the-century Indian trading post. Numerous art galleries and boutiques can be found as you stroll the main streets. Visitors can stay and dine at Olde Marco Island Inn & Suites, a quaint gathering place for islanders since 1883, or at numerous other beachfront hotels.

Continued on page 22



Marco Island





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**Museum of the Everglades**

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

Continued from page 22

3. Everglades City, Marco Island's mainland neighbor, is the Gulf Coast entrance to the mysterious and captivating Everglades National Park, and where you will find the Gulf Coast Visitor Center. The park's 1.5 million acres protect the southern 20 percent of the original Everglades, the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in the United States. The park, accessible here for tours, provides important habitat for numerous rare and endangered species like the manatee, American crocodile, and the elusive Florida panther. Everglades wildlife is suffering from the destructive force of an overpopulation of non-native Burmese pythons with voracious appetites.

4. One of this region's most popular and sophisticated cities is Naples, where wealthy Collier County residents demand the best, and the city's upscale boutiques, galleries, and cultural arts calendar oblige. Naples has guarded its natural resources and preserved older districts so visitors can bicycle through quiet neighborhoods to explore its varied architectural past.

Continued on page 26



**Naples Shopping District**

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida





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Add some beautiful and unusual backgrounds to your photo memories and learn more about Florida's diverse artist community by stopping to enjoy some of our favorites around the state.

From soaring birds and spaceships to brown bears and bellflowers, Florida's iconic beauty can be found colorfully displayed from Pensacola to Key West. Immerse yourself in these concrete and brick canvas creations and celebrate public art Sunshine State-style.

*Continued on page 36*



TALLAHASSEE PUBLIC ART AND MURALS AT RAILROAD SQUARE  
Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



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**Edison & Ford Winter Estates**

*Continued from page 22*

5. In northern Collier County, about 30 minutes east of Naples, is a prime destination for birdwatchers and naturalists: Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, near Immokalee. Corkscrew is an 11,000-acre wilderness that includes a 2.5-mile boardwalk through pine flatwoods, wet prairie, around a marsh, and into the largest old-growth bald cypress forest in North America, offering unique wildlife viewing and nature photography opportunities.
6. Don't overlook one of the state's most fascinating historical sites, the winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, two famous friends who spent years as neighbors on the Caloosahatchee River in Fort Myers. Edison bought his property in 1906, and Ford bought the house next door in 1916. Only a fence – called the "Friendship Gate" by both families – separated the two estates. Visitors to the Edison and Ford Winter Estates can explore the homes, pool, gardens, museum, and Edison Botanical Laboratory, where the two famous inventors worked with Harvey Firestone to discover a local source of rubber that could be grown in the United States.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

*Continued on page 28*





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**Point Ybel Light**

Continued from page 26

7.

The Fort Myers living history lesson includes the charming Murphy-Burroughs House, also known as the Burroughs Home and Gardens, where tour guides in 1920s-era costumes explain historical artifacts and share insight about Fort Myers' elite. Walk among live oaks and lush gardens, and watch the river roll by from a rocking chair on the veranda of this Georgian Revival mansion built in 1901, considered to be Fort Myers' first luxury residence. It was added to the National Historic Register in 1984.

8.

Visitors will find picturesque paths and historical gems tucked along Sanibel's main thoroughfare, Periwinkle Way, with shops, galleries, and restaurants framed by tall palms. Visit the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village, which accounts for the island's history, from the Calusa and Spanish eras to the early pioneer families who settled in the 1800s. On the east end of Periwinkle Way is one of the region's most photographed landmarks, the Sanibel Island Light, also known as Point Ybel Light, which was first illuminated in 1884 when the entire island was a wildlife refuge. It was the first lighthouse on Florida's Gulf coast north of Key West and the Dry Tortugas. Although the lighthouse itself is not open to the public, the grounds surrounding it are, and there is a scenic little beach and pier nearby for pictures.

Continued on page 32



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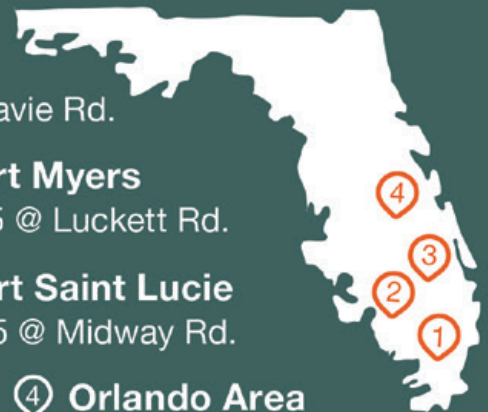
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**Ca' d'Zan**



**The Circus Museum in Sarasota**

*Continued from page 28*

9. Sarasota has long been known for its world-class cultural offerings. It's here that American circus owner John Ringling built Ca' d'Zan, modeled after the magnificent palazzos of Venice, as a love letter to his wife, Mable. This 36,000-square-foot Venetian Gothic villa served as their winter home and housed their priceless Baroque, Italian, and Flemish Renaissance art collection and exquisite 17th-century tapestries. Every piece in the collection at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, established in 1927, is now owned by the state.
10. The Circus Museum in Sarasota, a collection of original circus art and artifacts, is located on the same grounds as the art museum, along with the historic Asolo Repertory Theatre, created in Asolo, Italy, in 1798, then relocated and installed on the Ringling property in 1957. A full restoration of the elaborate gilding and technology upgrades resulted in a grand reopening in 2006. The theatre offers a regular selection of productions throughout the year.

Please be sure to go online to check hours of operation, ferry schedules, and seasonal closings for the sites mentioned.



**Sarasota Ringling Museum**

Photos courtesy of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art





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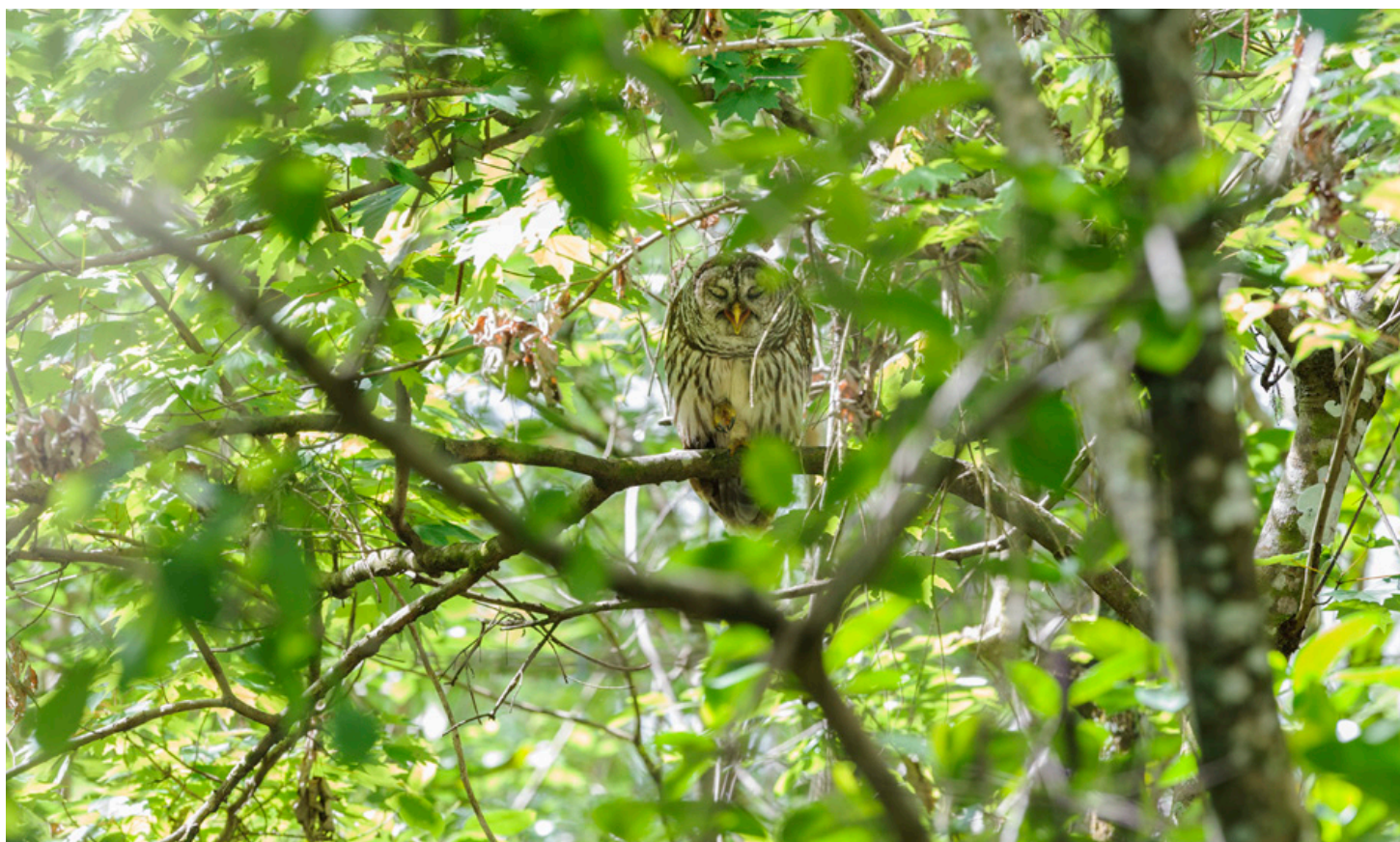
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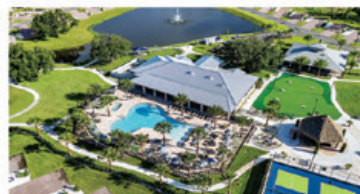
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Continued from page 24

## Murals in Region 1: **This diverse region that stretches along the Gulf of Mexico from Bradenton to Marco Island and inland to massive Lake Okeechobee includes some of Florida's most exotic natural landscapes and beautiful murals.**

In Sebring, known as “The City on the Circle,” a stunning three-dimensional mural now draws visitors into a story of revival and charm. Featured in HGTV’s Home Town Takeover, the mural by local artist Frankie Flowers celebrates Central Florida’s iconic orange groves with vibrant color and depth that leap off the wall. It’s more than art—it’s a symbol of Sebring’s transformation. Once bypassed by traffic and time, downtown Sebring now pulses with life, thanks to the Napier’s revitalization efforts. Visitors can sip cream soda at the retro Sebring Soda & Ice Cream Works, dine at the Cuban-inspired Sophie’s Café, and stroll through Circle Park, where murals even brighten the crosswalks. Whether you’re chasing photo ops, local flavors, or small-town warmth, Sebring’s mural is your gateway to a community reborn. Visitors will see how art, history, and heart converge in this unforgettable Florida gem.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

In the heart of Clewiston, a vibrant new mural is transforming the cityscape into a celebration of heritage and nature. This landmark artwork honors Clewiston’s deep agricultural roots and its vital connection to Lake Okeechobee, a lifeline for wildlife and farming alike. The mural, part of a city-wide initiative, invites visitors to explore the story of sugarcane fields, wading birds, and the lake’s shimmering waters—all captured in stunning detail by local artists. It reaffirms why Clewiston is known as “America’s Sweetest Town.”

Whether you’re a history buff, nature lover, or art enthusiast, the mural offers a perfect photo op and a meaningful glimpse into the soul of the community. Stop by the Clewiston Museum for deeper context, then stroll through town to see how art and history blend beautifully in this lakeside gem. Come for the mural—stay for the story.

In the heart of Fort Myers’ River District, a vibrant tapestry of history and culture unfolds across 57 murals in a walkable outdoor gallery that’s redefining public art in Southwest Florida. Created by 39 local artists and curated by the Fort Myers Mural Society, these murals depict life along the Caloosahatchee River—from Calusa warriors and Seminole Chief Billy Bowlegs to Flossie Hill, the city’s first department store owner, and even Elvis Presley.

Installed between the Luminary Hotel and Hendry Street, the murals are more than art, they’re storytelling in color, capturing Fort Myers’ evolution from a river port to a cultural hub. Visitors can take a self-guided tour using the Otocast app, enjoy narrated histories, and explore nearby attractions like McCollum Hall and the Fort Myers Regional Library. Whether you’re an art lover, history buff, or curious traveler, the River District murals offer a compelling reason to visit and experience Fort Myers through its walls.



Continued on page 48



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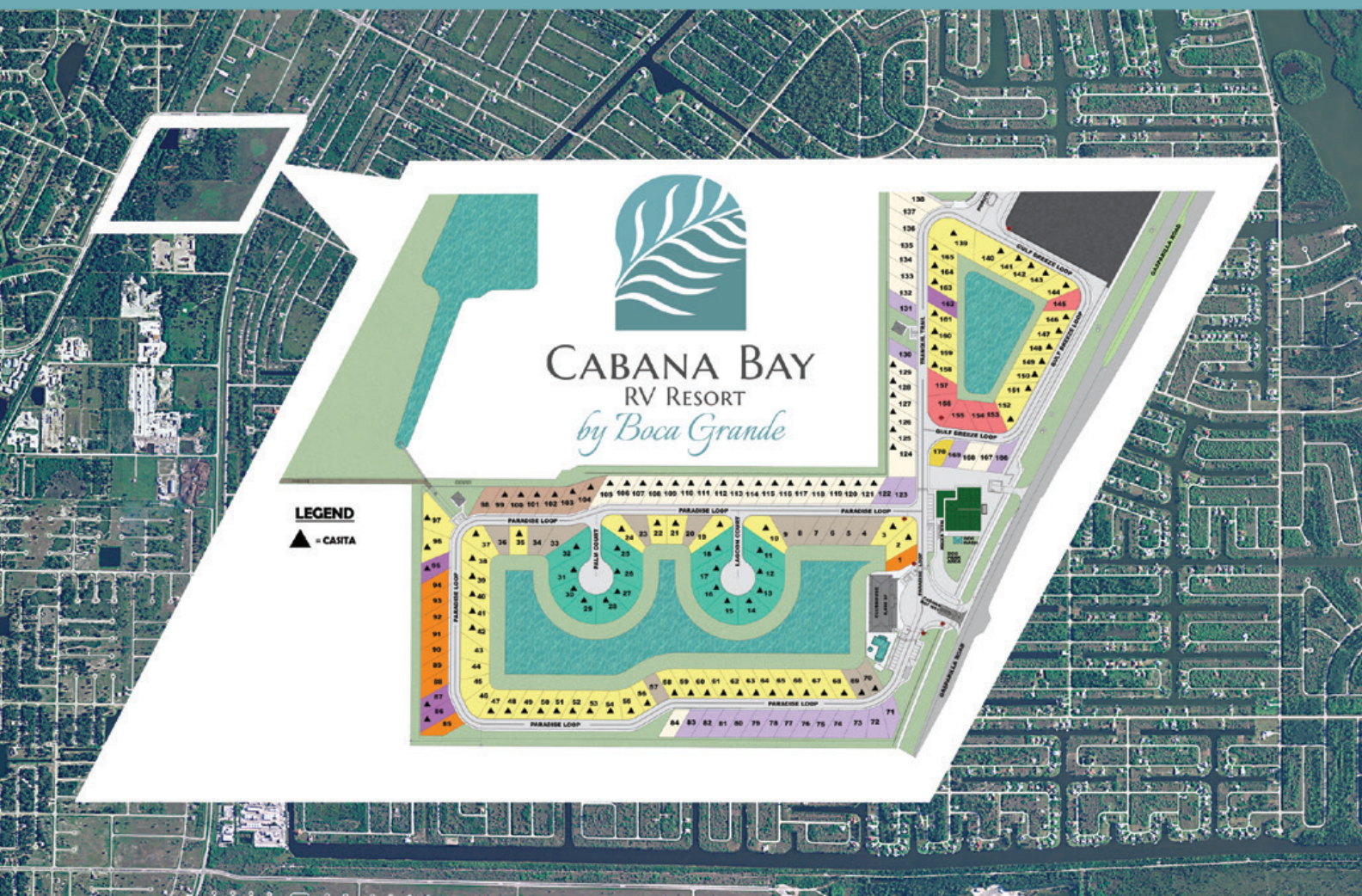
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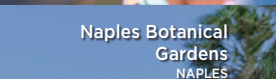
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*Continued on page 44*







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# Top 10 *Nature, Arts & Culture* Places to Visit in Southeast Florida



Key West

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

1. A must stop for a Florida Keys vacation is Key West, the eclectic end of the continent, and just a 90-mile swim from Cuba. This southernmost point of the United States is home to a fascinating mix of history, eccentricity, and island charm. Civil War-era forts, famous writers' homes, sidewalk cafes, and unusual residents add to the unique atmosphere – and watching the sun set at the docks of Mallory Square is an experience not to be missed.
2. The Miami-Dade Zoological Park and Gardens, in western Miami-Dade County, is the largest and oldest zoological garden in Florida and the only subtropical zoo in the continental United States. Established in 1948, the 750-acre, state-of-the-art Zoo Miami is home to more than 500 animal species and more than 1,000 plant species. The zoo is proud to be an active leader in many global wildlife and environmental conservation initiatives. It is the fifth largest in the United States, and the unique climate in South Florida allows it to care for a wide variety of animals from Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Americas, representing a broad mix of species that is unlike any other zoo in the country.

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3. Coral Gables, home to the University of Miami, provides a wealth of dining, relaxation, and entertainment opportunities. The 83-acre Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, considered one of the best botanic gardens in the world, offers tram and walking tours through extensive collections of rare tropical plants, including palms, cycads, flowering trees, and vines. The site includes a museum, laboratory, learning center, and conservation research facility, and features exhibits, a rare-plant house, rainforest, and sunken gardens.
4. Broward County offers a variety of interests. The town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea's living coral reef just 100 yards offshore is accessible to snorkelers and divers. Visitors may tour the 1907 Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse in Hillsboro Beach, marking the northern limit of the Florida Reef. The historical landmark Hollywood Beach Boardwalk is popular for dawn-to-dark walking, cycling, and skating. Visit the Historic Stranahan House Museum, built in 1901 as a home for pioneers Frank and Ivy Stranahan and the oldest surviving structure in Broward County, located on the New River site where Fort Lauderdale began as a trading post in 1893. The Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park, a beachside park just south of Port Everglades and the last example of an undeveloped coastal ecosystem in Broward County, is popular for boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, bicycling, and picnicking.



### Lion Country Safari

5. At Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation off Alligator Alley, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, home to more than 200,000 unique artifacts, includes a mile-long boardwalk through a 60-acre cypress dome, offering opportunities to learn about Seminole culture and wildlife. The Big Cypress RV Resort features cabins, tent sites, and full hook-ups. It's owned and operated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



### Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse

6. Visitors who seek a more urban safari instead may look no further than the Palm Beach boutiques and galleries of Worth Avenue, an upscale shopping and dining district. The Palm Beaches are known as the Gold Coast, a name reflecting the region's 47 miles of golden sand as well as its incredible wealth. Ever since railroad mogul Henry Flagler brought his railroad to town and erected fabulous hotels for his passengers, Palm Beach has been synonymous with luxury.
7. For a wild time on the western edge of West Palm Beach, visit Florida's only drive-through safari adventure and walk-through amusement park. Lion Country Safari's 600-acre wildlife preserve protects more than 900 animals, from giraffes and bison to elephants and lions, and includes animal feeding experiences, six rides, a water spray ground, food, shopping, and more. The 4-mile drive through the safari preserve is divided into seven main habitats.

Continued on page 51



## Murals in Region 2: **Florida's Southeast Region, which extends from Key West north along the Atlantic Ocean to Vero Beach and west through the one-and-only Everglades, is home to many murals worth seeing.**

In the heart of Miami's Wynwood Arts District, Wynwood Walls is a kaleidoscope of creativity that transforms a former warehouse zone into a global street art destination. Founded in 2009 by visionary developer Tony Goldman, this open-air museum features over 70 murals by renowned artists like Shepard Fairey, Os Gemeos, and Kenny Scharf.

Covering more than 80,000 square feet, the walls pulse with color, culture, and commentary—each mural a bold statement on society, identity, and imagination. Visitors can stroll through ever-changing exhibits, attend art shows and festivals, and explore nearby galleries and eateries that echo the district's vibrant energy. Wynwood Walls isn't just a place to see art—it's a place to feel it, live it, and be inspired by it. Whether you're an art lover or a curious traveler, this immersive experience offers a fresh perspective on Miami's creativity.



Fort Lauderdale's mural scene is a vibrant blend of history, culture, and imagination that draws visitors into its colorful streets. The city's mural movement gained momentum during Broward County's centennial celebration, when the VisualEYES project commissioned artists to create public art across the region. Today, Fort Lauderdale boasts a dynamic collection of murals that reflect its coastal charm and diverse community.

One standout is the "Love" mural by Cey Adams on Las Olas Boulevard, inspired by Philadelphia's iconic sculpture. Nearby, Avi Ram's "Under the Sun" mural graces the historic Riverside Hotel, blending old Florida with modern flair. Sports fans flock to Carlos Solano's tribute to the Florida Panthers, while Carrie Bennett's mural under the Riverwalk garage highlights both the team and the endangered panther. At Sistrunk Marketplace, murals by Rosanna Kalis, Orla Ananda, and Diane Portwood offer a feast of color and style. Whether you're exploring downtown or the beachside, Fort Lauderdale's murals promise a visual journey worth the visit.

The "Greetings from Key West" mural in one of Florida's best-known cities offers a splash of nostalgia and tropical charm that's impossible to resist. Located at 284 Margaret St. on the side of the Cuban Coffee Queen stand, this postcard-style mural proudly celebrates Key West's status as the southernmost city in the continental U.S. With vivid colors and iconic imagery — from conch shells to classic architecture — it's a favorite photo spot for visitors exploring the island's artistic soul. Just steps from Bahama Village and the Historic Seaport, the mural is part of a larger tapestry of public art that reflects the island's vibrant culture and laid-back vibe.

Whether you're sipping Cuban coffee or strolling through the colorful streets, this mural invites you to pause, snap a photo, and soak in the spirit of Key West. It's more than a wall — it's a welcome sign to paradise.



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

Continued on page 68



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8. Fishing enthusiasts will want to try the waters off Stuart, known as the "Sailfish Capital of the World." Convenient and intriguing alternatives to the beach include Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center, a 57-acre marine life nature center, an educational and research site with a network of nature trails, a lagoon, and saltwater tanks. The Hutchinson Island center, managed by the Florida Oceanographic Society, offers educational programs for all ages and conducts research and restoration programs that lead to healthy coastal ecosystems.
9. Off the Fort Pierce coast, recreational divers can explore Urca de Lima, a 1715 Spanish shipwreck opened to the public in the 1980s as the state's first Underwater Archaeological Preserve. It was part of the 1715 Treasure Fleet, one of the numerous Spanish treasure fleets that sailed between Spain and her colonies in the Americas, and sank during a hurricane. The shipwreck is part of the U.S. National Park Service.



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10. Vero Beach hosts McKee Botanical Garden, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and known for its subtropical jungle hammock. It was founded in 1929 when Waldo Sexton and Arthur G. McKee purchased an 80-acre tropical hammock along the Indian River. For visitors to Vero Beach and the surrounding areas, it is a popular surfing, scuba diving, paddling, and saltwater fishing haven. Sebastian Inlet State Park is also home to many types of shorebirds and migratory species, making it a stop on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. The park hosts two museums: the McLarty Treasure Museum, a national historical landmark situated on a campsite for survivors of a 1715 Spanish fleet, and the Sebastian Fishing Museum, commemorating early fishing families.

Please be sure to go online to check hours of operation, ferry schedules, and seasonal closings for the sites mentioned.



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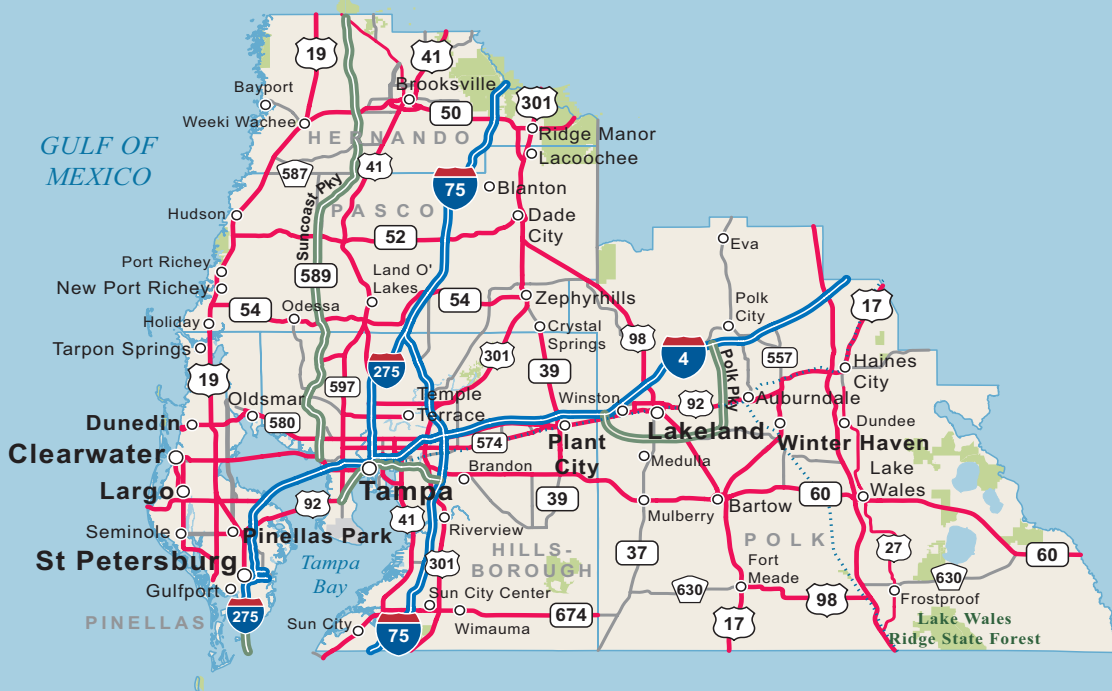


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*Continued on page 58*





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# Top 10 *Nature, Arts & Culture*

## Places to Visit in West Central Florida



Historic Columbia Restaurant

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

1. Winter Haven, first homesteaded in the 1860s, is where a young George Jenkins opened the first Publix Food Store in 1930. However, it was Cypress Gardens in 1936 that opened the eyes of the world to the beauty of Florida. Its water ski shows, gardens, and Southern traditions were once one of the biggest attractions in Florida. Today, the site is LEGOLAND Florida Resort, which includes a theme park, water park, and aquarium. Opened in 2011, LEGOLAND preserved the beautiful gardens in its 145-acre layout and offers more than 50 attractions over 14 themed lands, including multiple roller coasters and a water slide to fit its amazing collection of giant Lego figures. Lego Movie World is based on the company's movie franchises and offers three themed rides, character meet-and-greets, and a giant playground for kids.
2. Ybor City, where Tampa's historic Latin Quarter is rich in Spanish, Italian, Greek, and Cuban traditions, is a popular destination. Founded as a cigar-manufacturing center, Ybor City is one of only two National Historic Landmark Districts in Florida.



Ybor City

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida




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Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

## The Florida Aquarium

History buffs can visit the Ybor City Museum State Park inside the former Ferlita Bakery building, where a cigar industry walking tour also begins. The area offers lively nightlife, hand-rolled cigars, and some of the best food around, including the historic Columbia Restaurant, the oldest restaurant in Florida, owned by the same family since 1905. Enjoy a Cuban sandwich at Barrio Tacos or Carmine's Restaurant & Bar, or dine on home-style Northern Italian cuisine at La Terrazza (limited hours).

3. Riverwalk is a wonderful way to experience the downtown Tampa waterfront. A continuous pedestrian walkway from the Channelside district to Tampa Heights along the east side of the Hillsborough River, Riverwalk connects Tampa's dynamic cultural venues and incorporates interpretive elements, parks, retail, and restaurants. Busts of prominent Tampa citizens continue to be added along the route of this phased project. Armature Works, a fully restored mixed-use building on the curve of the river, provides a variety of food and drink offerings, event spaces, and co-working spaces located amongst open seating and a wide patio.
4. The Florida Aquarium, located in the Channelside district, is a large-scale aquarium that allows visitors to get up close to many of Florida's aquatic and terrestrial animals and ecosystems, as well as other animals from around the world. Its conservation mission includes efforts to save the imperiled Florida Reef Tract and involves customized laboratories and innovative research.

*Continued on page 62*



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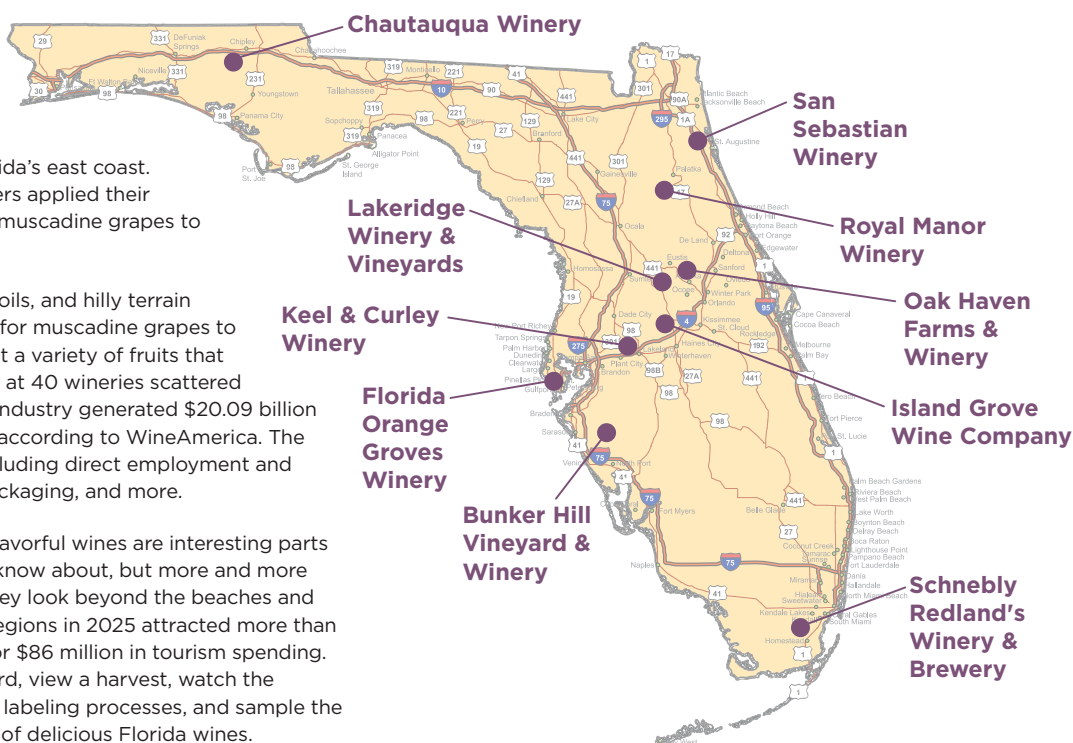


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Florida's vineyards, wineries, and flavorful wines are interesting parts of Florida history that few people know about, but more and more families are discovering them as they look beyond the beaches and amusement parks. Florida's wine regions in 2025 attracted more than 450,000 tourists and accounted for \$86 million in tourism spending. Visitors can stroll through a vineyard, view a harvest, watch the winemaking, corking, bottling, and labeling processes, and sample the wonderful and distinctive varieties of delicious Florida wines.



Continued on page 119



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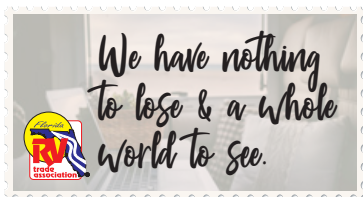
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## Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park

Continued from page 59

5. Award-winning ZooTampa at Lowry Park is a nonprofit dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and caring for animals while connecting people to wildlife in fun and immersive ways. Visitors can take a guided tour through an African habitat, see a critical care manatee center, or pet and feed stingrays in Stingray Shores, a 30,000-gallon tank. After discovering the zoo, discover the thrills of Roaring Springs, where families board a boat

and gently drift along a crystal-clear spring surrounded by native landscape and endangered Florida wildlife, before a sudden turn drops guests three stories to splash down. The less adventurous can experience the splash on the Canopy Walk, overlooking the attraction.

6. In Clearwater, at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, the nonprofit whose mission is to Rescue, Rehab, and Release, visitors get a fish-eye view of mangroves and seagrass, critical nursery habitats for juvenile fish, and watch live web cams. Staff provide effective care to sick or injured animals with the goal of returning them to their homes. Overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, Pier 60 in Clearwater Beach features a 1,080-foot fishing pier and recreational park, with a bait house, telescopes, and six covered pavilions. It offers a sunset celebration modeled after Key West's popular Mallory Square festival, nightly from 6-9 p.m. Craftsmen, artists, and entertainers perform two hours before and after sunset.

Continued on page 64



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St. Pete Pier

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

Continued from page 62

7. The city of St. Petersburg is home to art galleries, antique shops, museums, and the signature iconic St. Pete Pier. The Pier features various levels with observation platforms, shops, restaurants, and balconies offering great views of Tampa Bay. The Pier also includes event space, a beach area, a fishing deck, and an interactive water feature. Downtown museums include the Museum of Fine Arts, opened in 1965 and home to exhibits spanning 4,000 years, including African art, European paintings, American photography, a Steuben glass gallery, and a sculpture garden. The Dali Museum holds an unparalleled collection of the famed surrealist's paintings, the largest outside of Europe, with more than 2,000 works of art. The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art, opened in 2018, is home to the vast personal collection of co-founders Tom and Mary James, including collected works in oil, ink, and stone that evoke the spirit and beauty of a wide-open frontier.
8. Sunken Gardens is a botanical paradise in the midst of bustling St. Petersburg that includes an interactive children's museum. As St. Petersburg's oldest living museum, the more than 100-year-old Sunken Gardens is home to some of the oldest tropical plants in the region. Visitors stroll along meandering paths, lush with exotic plants from around the world, through cascading waterfalls, beautiful demonstration gardens, and more than 50,000 tropical plants and flowers. Great Explorations Children's Museum, located next door to Sunken Gardens, is a separate nonprofit hands-on museum designed for children under 10, featuring various interactive exhibits and programs.





 **Fort Desoto Park**

9. The 1,136-acre Fort DeSoto Park, the largest in Pinellas County, is made up of five interconnected islands and is home to more than 330 species of birds documented over the last 60 years, making it one of the most popular birding destinations in the United States. It rates among the top 10 U.S. beaches and offers visitors a peaceful refuge. More than a beautiful beach and a great place to camp, it includes a historic fort and museum. Another spectacular spot is Egmont Key, an island that lies southwest of Fort DeSoto in the mouth of Tampa Bay, accessible only by boat. A ferry departs for Egmont Key State Park from Fort DeSoto's bay pier. Primarily a wildlife refuge, this island is also a place to collect shells along secluded, pristine beaches.
10. On the Gulf coast is Tarpon Springs, a seaside village settled by Greek sponge divers at the turn of the century, where visitors will enjoy delicious Greek pastries and shoppers will find treasures in markets with a Mediterranean flair. At the Tarpon Springs Heritage Museum, you can learn about the history of Tarpon Springs and the sponge industry. Nicholas Toth handcrafted sponge diving helmets, a craft he learned from his grandfather, Anthony Leros. Leros came to the area in 1913 and was renowned for his helmets that helped fuel the sponge industry. Toth carries on the tradition in a small shop nearby, investing 350 hours to make one iconic helmet.

Please be sure to go online to check hours of operation, schedules, and seasonal closings for the sites mentioned.



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## Murals in Region 3: The West

Central Florida Region, which stretches through the Tampa, St. Petersburg, Clearwater area to Lakeland and Winter Haven, and north to Brooksville, is already an artsy region enhanced by numerous murals.

In St. Petersburg, the whimsical “Phoebe & Friends” mural by Bunnie Reiss brings a burst of magic to the city’s dynamic art scene. Installed in 2023 at MTBH Studios on Central Avenue, this mural was part of the SHINE Mural Festival, a celebrated event that has transformed St. Pete into a global mural destination. Inspired by flamingos — both the sculpture at Tampa International Airport and real ones that moved in after Hurricane Idalia — the mural features Reiss’s signature folk-art style, blending bright colors, playful patterns, and mystical creatures.

Bunnie Reiss, a California-based artist with Eastern European roots, is known for turning everyday spaces into enchanted realms. Her work in St. Pete adds to the city’s reputation as a canvas for creativity and community spirit. Whether you’re an art lover or a curious traveler, “Phoebe & Friends” offers a joyful, photo-worthy experience that captures the heart of St. Pete’s artistic vibe.

Photo courtesy of CityofStPete, Flickr



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

In the heart of Brooksville, the Bear Mural stands as a stunning tribute to the state’s wild heritage and a gateway to the Florida Wildlife Corridor, a statewide network of nearly 18 million acres of connected land and water supporting wildlife and people. Painted by award-winning artist Justin Alsedek on the walls of City Hall, this is the largest mural in Brooksville’s history and a centerpiece of a statewide initiative to raise awareness about Florida’s protection corridor project. The mural features native wildlife — including the Florida Brown Bear and the endangered Brooksville Bellflower — set against a backdrop of the region’s lush landscapes.

Brooksville’s location is a vital link between the Green Swamp and the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, making it a hotspot for biodiversity and outdoor recreation. Visitors can hike, kayak, explore nearby trails, then admire the mural that captures the essence of Florida’s natural beauty. It’s not just art — it’s a call to protect the wild spaces that make Florida extraordinary.

In Downtown Tampa, the iconic Tampa Postcard mural is more than a photo op — it’s a vibrant tribute to the city’s rich heritage and evolving identity. Originally commissioned in 2003 and repainted in 2012, the mural by Carl Cowden III helped spark Tampa’s public art renaissance. Each letter in the word “TAMPA” is filled with imagery that captures the city’s spirit: the Gasparilla pirate ship, the University of Tampa’s minarets, historic streetcars, and children fishing along the Hillsborough River. Cowden blended his background in sign painting with Art Nouveau influences to create a piece that’s both nostalgic and visually striking.

Located at the intersection of Florida Avenue and Royal Street, the mural welcomes visitors with a colorful reminder of Tampa’s charm and diversity. Whether you’re exploring downtown or attending a nearby event, this mural offers the perfect backdrop for a memorable visit—and a deeper appreciation of the city’s story.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



Continued on page 77



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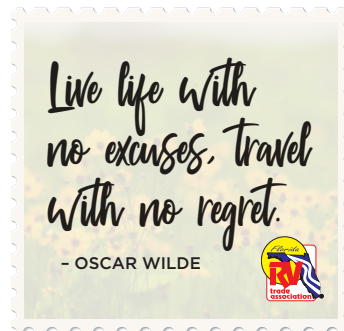


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**"365 Million Things to Do" mural in St. Petersburg, Florida by Derek Donnelly.**

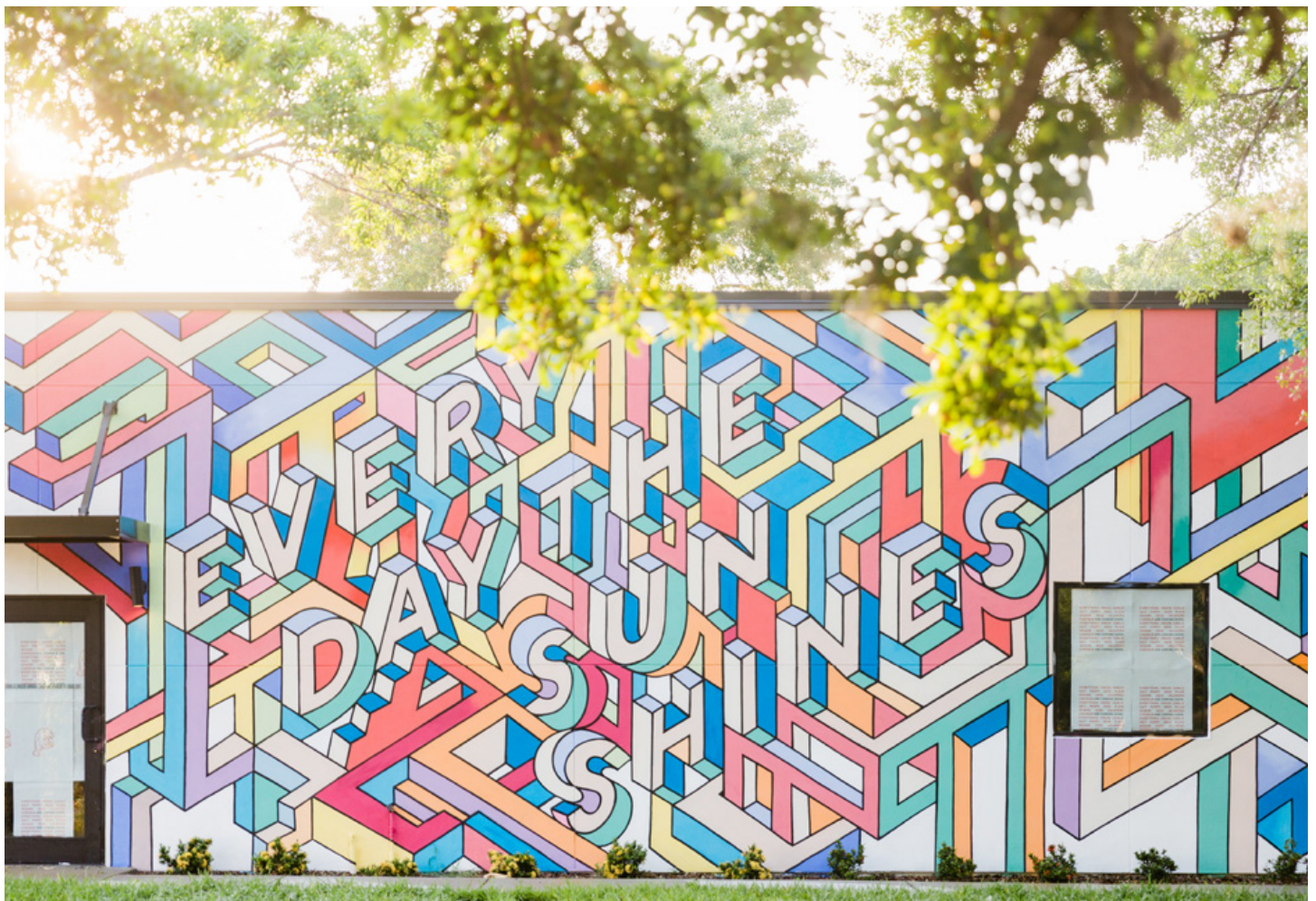


Photo courtesy of CityofStPete, Flickr.com

**"Every Day The Sun Shines" mural in St. Petersburg, Florida by Kate Lewis.**



REGION

3

# West Central Florida

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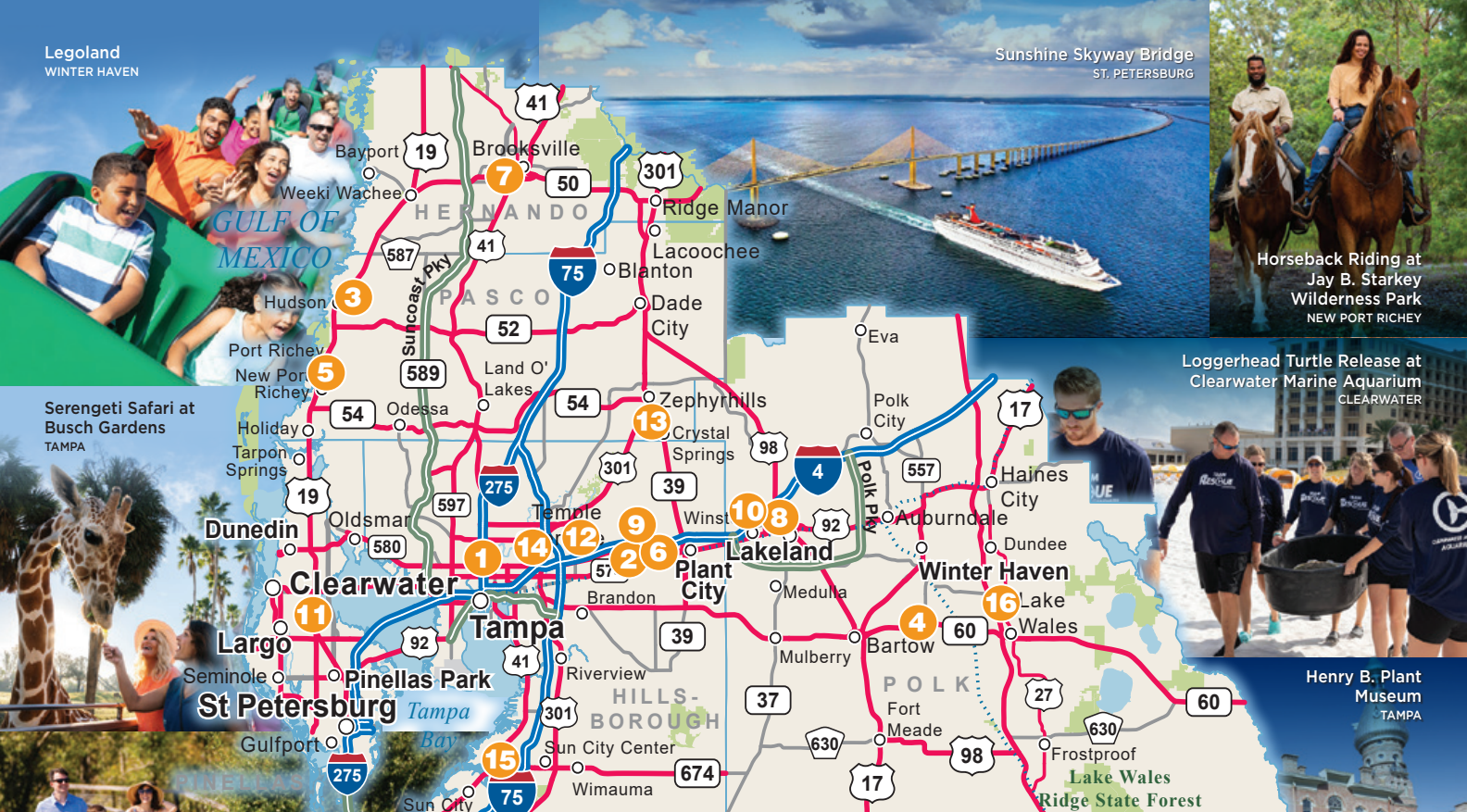


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# Florida **FACTS**



**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.



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# East Central Florida REGION 4

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East Central Florida, along the Atlantic Ocean from Ormond Beach to Melbourne and inland to Orlando, includes some of Florida's most famous beaches, wildlife havens, and thrilling theme parks. Here are our Top Ten unique gardens, galleries, museums, and parks you may want to visit.

*Continued on page 76*





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(see our ad on page 75)

# Top 10 Nature, Arts & Culture Places to Visit in East Central Florida



Gatorland

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

Continued from page 74

1. In Kissimmee, Gatorland, a favorite “real Florida” attraction for decades, offers a variety of guest adventures, including the Gator Night Shine tour, Croc Rock, Stompin’ Gator Off-Road Adventure, and Trainer for a Day. The Screamin’ Gator Zipline sends visitors flying over 1,200 feet from towers standing seven stories high, and the Gator Gauntlet Zipline takes visitors over the Alligator Breeding Marsh.
2. Orlando’s main attractions, which draw visitors from around the world, include the renowned theme parks offered by Disney, Universal, and SeaWorld. SeaWorld Adventure Park is a wonderful place to be entertained while learning more about whales, dolphins, sea lions, and other marine creatures. Themed lands include famous roller coasters like Kraken and Mako, other

Continued on page 79



**Murals in Region 4:** Sprawling ranches can still be found inland in East Central Florida, lending credence to the historical stories of land grants, citrus cultivation, and battles between natives and settlers. This region that spreads along the Atlantic Ocean from Ormond Beach to Melbourne and inland to Orlando includes some of Florida's most famous beaches, wildlife havens, and historical and heritage sites, further captured in murals.

Tucked just off 4th Street in Lake Mary, the Lake Mary Alley Mural is a vibrant burst of creativity that's transforming the city's downtown into a must-see destination. Once an unassuming alley, it's now a colorful corridor filled with Instagram-worthy murals created by local artists like Jill Jordan, Ronni Villanueva, and Brook Stefanelli. Each piece reflects the spirit of Lake Mary — from regal sandhill cranes and whimsical balloons to black-and-white wings filled with city landmarks.

The mural project was the brainchild of local business owner Kristin Koldenhoven, who envisioned the alley as a way to bring foot traffic and community pride to the area. Today, families, teens, and even pets pose for photos in front of the colorful artwork, making it a joyful stop for locals and visitors alike. Surrounded by shops and cafés, the mural alley offers a perfect blend of art, charm, and small-town hospitality.

Photos courtesy of VisitFlorida



In Melbourne's Eau Gallie Arts District, the "Wave" mural at the Eau Gallie Library is a striking mosaic that blends art, education, and community spirit. Originally created to honor Nancy Dillen, a beloved art educator at Eastern Florida State College, the mural was relocated to the library in 2018 to ensure broader public access. Its flowing design and bright colors evoke the energy of the nearby Indian River Lagoon, reflecting both the natural beauty and artistic pulse of the region.

The mural is part of EGAD's Outdoor Museum of Murals, a curated collection that has transformed the district into a cultural destination. Visitors can explore more than 30 murals by local and international artists, each telling a unique story of creativity and place. Whether you're a mural enthusiast or simply seeking inspiration, "The Wave" offers a serene yet powerful reason to visit Eau Gallie and experience its art.

Continued on page 91

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida





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fun rides, interactive experiences, character meets, and a daily parade. A Dolphin Nursery underwater viewing window lets visitors see dolphin calves jump and play with their moms. SeaWorld's Aquatica water park includes KareKare Curl, a curve-shaped wave attraction for two passengers that delivers a high-adrenaline, weightless adventure. The park also includes Discovery Cove by SeaWorld. Discovery Cove is a reservations-only tropical park where guests can swim and interact with dolphins, tropical fish, sharks, and stingrays.

3. Orlando's Walt Disney World includes four theme parks, two water parks, and an entertainment complex, Disney Springs, with shopping and dining. Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, and Disney's Animal Kingdom provide visitors with numerous exciting rides, including Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway, the Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, the Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular, Pandora – The World of Avatar, Expedition Everest – Legend of the Forbidden Mountain, and Tiana's Bayou Adventure, to name a few.



Photo courtesy of Universal Orlando

4. Orlando's Universal Orlando Resort complex includes four theme parks – Universal Studios Florida, Universal Islands of Adventure, Universal's Volcano Bay, and Universal Epic Universe, which opened in 2025 and features five themed worlds: Celestial Park, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Ministry of Magic, SUPER NINTENDO WORLD, How to Train Your Dragon Isle of Berk, and Dark Universe. Universal offers 11 resort hotels plus CityWalk, a 30-acre shopping, dining, and entertainment area that includes the world's largest Hard Rock Cafe. The theme parks combine technology with some of the world's most beloved characters, drawing visitors from around the globe.

5. Just a bit north of Orlando, in Seminole County, the Wekiva River flows through the shade of a semi-tropical forest. Wekiwa Springs State Park, located at the headwaters of the river, provides for horseback riding, fishing, bird watching, and nature hiking on 13 miles of trails. A canoe trip is the best way to experience the river, and several canoe outfitters operate nearby.



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

6. East of the Orlando region is Florida's Space Coast, including Cocoa Beach, Cape Canaveral, Melbourne/Palm Bay, and Titusville, which allows visitors a chance to spend sunny days on the beach, learn about space exploration at the Kennedy Space Center, and commune with nature at Canaveral National Seashore and the 140,000-acre Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge, an overlay of the space center, was established in 1963 as a buffer zone for rocket launches. The coastal site is a major wintering area for migratory birds located on the Atlantic Flyway, a key corridor for migration, and currently protects 15 federally listed species. At Kennedy Space Center, visitors can hear veteran NASA pilots tell their stories at the Astronaut Encounter Theater or view the history of space travel through exhibits and actual rockets.

Continued on page 80



7. The Daytona Beach area also offers historical sites with surprising twists. At Dunlawton Sugar Mill Gardens in Port Orange, visitors can explore extensive botanical gardens surrounding the ruins of an 1832 plantation sugar mill. The original Dunlawton plantation's history began before Florida became a state in 1845. Visit the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach for a unique combination of art, science, and history. Large permanent collections include African, American, Chinese, Cuban, Floridian, and Decorative Arts. The digital state-of-the-art Lowell and Nancy Lohman Family Planetarium, along with Expedition Dinosaur, newly opened in fall 2025, allows visitors to explore and learn.

8. The coast in Ormond Beach, in Volusia County at the region's northern tip, was once the playground for America's early millionaires, including oil magnate John D. Rockefeller. The city played host in 1903 to Florida's first auto races on its smooth, hard-packed beaches, earning it the title "Birthplace of Speed." Today, in addition to the Birthplace of Speed Park, Ormond Beach offers quiet beachside vacations and tours of The Casements, Rockefeller's mansion and former winter home, and the current Ormond Beach cultural center and park. The 30-plus miles of natural scenery along the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail, called "The Loop" by locals, draws motorcyclists from around the world.



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Ormond Beach Scenic Loop



9. Visitors to the northern part of the region will find the small town of DeLand interesting, once named the best downtown in the nation in America's Main Street competition. Stetson University, Florida's oldest college, is located there. DeLand's commitment to community and the city's successful efforts to revitalize the once-struggling downtown area set it apart. Visitors can stroll along a charming row of quaint shops, boutiques, and cafes, while three state parks and a national wildlife refuge offer nature encounters.

10. Nearby Blue Spring State Park in Orange City is a favorite place to see manatees in the winter and swim in cool, clear water in the summer. The park stays open late mid-March to mid-April for visitors to experience "Firefly Nights," when thousands of fireflies light up the woods.

Please be sure to go online to check hours of operation, schedules, and seasonal closings for the sites mentioned.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



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4

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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

Northwest Florida, stretching from Pensacola east to Tallahassee, is only about 100 miles wide but offers visitors a multitude of outdoor activities, including boating, diving, world-renowned fishing, or simply sunbathing on gorgeous white beaches. Here are our Top Ten unique gardens, galleries, museums, and parks you may want to visit.



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## Top 10 *Nature, Arts & Culture* Places to Visit in Northwest Florida



Tallahassee Historic Capitol

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

1. Tallahassee, Florida's capital, is geographically closer to Atlanta than Miami. It exudes the charm of a small Southern city with its oak-canopied roads, colorful azaleas, and rolling hills. Visiting RVers will enjoy touring the state seat of government, including the Old Capitol, restored to its 1902 American Renaissance splendor with red candy-striped awnings and a stained-glass dome. Behind the historic Capitol is the New Capitol, complete with a 22nd-floor observation deck offering a 360-degree view of the area, including, on a clear day, shimmering blue water to the south. Near the Capitol is the campus of Florida State University.
2. Just to the southwest of the city, a 52-acre natural habitat is the home of red wolves, Florida panthers, and river otters at the Tallahassee Museum. This privately funded, nonprofit museum, for over 60 years, has combined a natural habitat zoo, nature trails, natural gardens, rare historic buildings, and educational programs to become one of the most unique museums in the South.

*Continued on page 86*





## Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

*Continued from page 85*

3. The Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, a 6,000-acre wildlife sanctuary located south of Tallahassee, offers hiking, biking, or a river boat tour along the Wakulla River and one of the world's deepest and largest freshwater springs. Step back to slower times with a stay at The Lodge at Wakulla Springs, an elegant hotel surrounded by pristine forest built in 1937 and listed along with the park on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. The Cape St. George Lighthouse originally stood for 153 years on St. George Island before falling in 2005. It was rebuilt using as much of the original brick and other materials as possible, 72-feet high, in a new location in 2008. A museum and keeper's house on site are open for seasonal tours. This beautiful barrier island includes St. George Island State Park and miles of undeveloped white-sand beaches for visitors and campers. Birdwatchers should not miss the nearby undeveloped barrier island of St. Vincent, just offshore from the mouth of the Apalachicola River, and the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge. Water shuttles are available near Port St. Joe.



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

## Cape St. George Lighthouse

5. The amazing Florida Caverns State Park in Marianna, Jackson County, is the state's only public access to underground caves. The park is a rare opportunity to tour dry caves and see dazzling formations of limestone stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstones. The park's caves have a long geological history beginning about 38 million years ago! The Chipola River and the freshwater Blue Hole Spring provide swimming, fishing, boating, and canoeing, plus the park has camping and horseback riding.



6. The Panama City area, with 27 miles of white-sand beaches and a wide variety of entertainment, continues to make Panama City a family favorite. In Panama City Beach, there's Shipwreck Island Waterpark, a 20-acre tropical landscape filled with waterslides, a lazy river, rapids, tube rides, and a wave pool. ZooWorld Zoological and Botanical Conservatory in Panama City Beach is a zoo focusing on conservation with more than 260 animals, programs, and shows in a tropical setting.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



**Panama City Beach**

7. In Fort Walton Beach, the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park's live exhibits and performances display a panorama of sea life, including sea lions, penguins, sharks, stingrays, and sea turtles. Open since 1955, this marine park features dolphin encounters, a snorkel swim in Stingray Bay, and shows with sharks, rays, and dolphins. At the Indian Temple Mound Museum, also in Fort Walton Beach, visitors can journey through exhibits depicting 12,000 years of Native American occupation. More than 1,000 artifacts of bone, stone, clay, and shell are exhibited from European explorers, local pirates, and early settlers. The massive Fort Walton Temple Mound, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964, was believed to have been built in the 1500s for political, religious, and ceremonial purposes.

Photo courtesy of Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park



**Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park**

8. In Milton, dubbed the "Canoe Capital of Florida" thanks to the Blackwater River State Forest, visitors can canoe, kayak, and tube along the crystal-clear, spring-fed waters of the Blackwater River. It is also home to the West Florida Railroad Museum, located in the L&N Railroad Depot and open on Friday and Saturday only, devoted to preserving the railroad legacy of Northwest Florida.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



**Blackwater River State Forest**

*Continued on page 90*



# REGION 5

## Northwest Florida

BAY, CALHOUN, ESCAMBIA, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, GULF, HOLMES,  
JACKSON, JEFFERSON, LEON, LIBERTY, OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA,  
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Continued from page 87

9. Pensacola, at Florida's western tip, was the site of North America's first European settlement, with Spanish colonists arriving here in 1559. The place to start a family tour is Historic Pensacola Village, a complex of unique museums. Tour a portion of the Pensacola Historic District and several historic homes, including the circa 1871 Clara Barkley Dorr House, the oldest surviving example of a high house in the city, boasting beautiful grounds and spectacular views of Pensacola Bay. Visit the Discovery Gallery of the Pensacola Children's Museum and realize how five different flags have flown over the city – Spain, France, Britain, the United States, and the Confederate States of America. Geared for children aged 10 and younger, the museum allows families to meander through Creole and Victorian homes, dating from the 1780s to the 1800s, restored and converted into charming shops and restaurants.

10. For a look at Pensacola's more recent history, visitors can "take off" to explore the National Naval Aviation Museum, located at Naval Air Station Pensacola, that spans a century of military flying, from the first flight in a wood-and-fabric biplane to today's space travels with a Skylab command module. Attractions include more than 150 restored military aircraft, motion-based flight simulator rides, and an IMAX theater. Check the website for the U.S. Navy Blue Angels practice schedule.

Please be sure to go online to check hours of operation, ferry schedules, and seasonal closings for the sites mentioned.



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

National Naval Aviation Museum



## Murals in Region 5: Much of Northwest Florida's history can be seen in heritage sites covering hundreds of years of war, pioneer settlements, and agricultural development. The eastern Panhandle region, stretching from Pensacola to Tallahassee, known as the Capital Region, shares that history in numerous murals.

In downtown Pensacola, the Pensacola Postcard mural offers a cheerful and nostalgic welcome to visitors exploring the city's rich history and art scene. The "Wish You Were Here Pensacola" mural can be found on Palafox and Romana Streets on the side of the Zarzaur Law Firm. It is a favorite photo spot, capturing the essence of Pensacola in bold, postcard-style letters. Each letter showcases iconic imagery — from sugar-white beaches and historic architecture to the Blue Angels soaring overhead — celebrating the city's coastal charm and cultural pride.

Part of a broader public art initiative supported by Visit Pensacola and the University of West Florida Historic Trust, the mural contributes to a growing collection of outdoor artworks that tell the story of Pensacola's 450+ years of history. With nearby food trucks, easy parking, and walkable access to other murals and attractions, the postcard mural is a perfect starting point for a day of discovery. Snap a photo, grab a bite, and let Pensacola's artful spirit welcome you in.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

In Panama City, the Egret and Sun mural is a radiant celebration of nature and community that invites visitors to explore the city's growing public art scene. Located across from the St. Andrews Slice House, this mural features a serene egret basking in the glow of a golden sunset, with kayakers gliding through tranquil waters and an alligator lounging nearby. It's part of the Panama City Mural Trail, a city-wide initiative launched by the Bay Arts Alliance to revitalize downtown and showcase local creativity.

The mural reflects the city's coastal beauty and commitment to conservation, incorporating native Florida wildlife and landscapes to highlight the importance of protecting these natural treasures. Whether you're an art lover, nature enthusiast, or simply seeking a scenic stroll, the Egret and Sun mural offers a peaceful yet powerful reminder of Florida's wild charm. It's a perfect photo stop and a gateway to discovering more murals throughout historic Panama City.

In downtown Quincy, the restored Coca-Cola mural is more than a nostalgic nod — it's a vibrant symbol of the town's unique legacy. Located on the side of Padgett Jewelry at 21 E. Jefferson Street, the mural was unveiled in 2020 after a full restoration, celebrating over a century of partnership between Quincy and Coca-Cola. The mural honors the town's famed "Coca-Cola Millionaires," a group of locals who, guided by banker Pat Munroe in the 1920s, invested early in Coca-Cola stock and helped shape Quincy's prosperity.

With its bold colors and classic design, the mural invites visitors to step into a story where small-town vision met global success. It's a perfect stop for history buffs, art lovers, and anyone seeking a slice of Americana. Take a selfie, explore the charming downtown, and discover how a single investment turned Quincy into one of the richest small towns in America.

Continued on page 99

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida





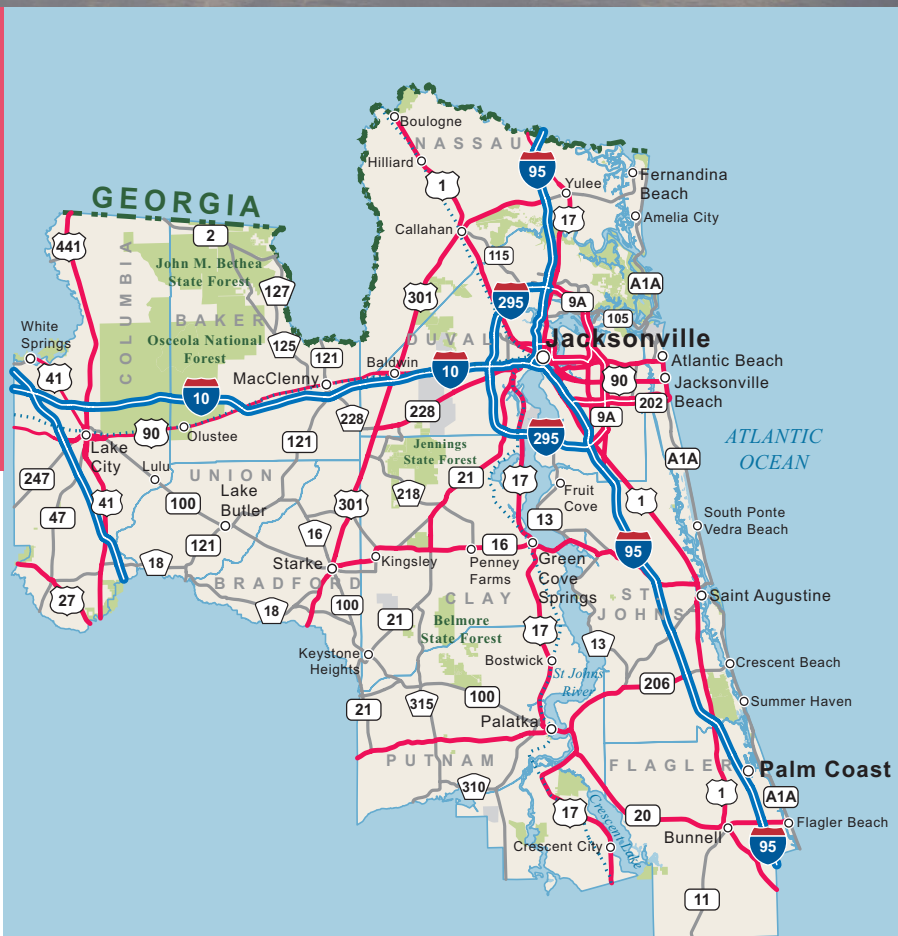


# Northeast Florida REGION 6

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St. Johns, and Union counties**

Northeast Florida is known as Florida's First Coast, and despite being the northernmost part of Florida's Atlantic Ocean coast, you will notice a southern feel. The region includes historic St. Augustine, metropolitan Jacksonville, rural inland towns, miles of scenic Atlantic beaches, and some of the most acclaimed golf courses in the world. Here are our Top Ten unique gardens, galleries, museums, and parks you may want to visit.

*Continued on page 94*







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# Top 10 Nature, Arts & Culture Places to Visit in Northeast Florida



Ravine Gardens State Park

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

Continued from page 92

1. A local highlight is Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka. A ravine created by water flowing thousands of years from the sandy ridges on the shore of the St. Johns River was transformed in 1933 into a dramatic garden by the Federal Works Progress Administration. Much of the original landscaping still exists as formal gardens and an extensive trail system. The peak flowering period is the azalea season, February to April. The 59-acre park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
2. In Putnam County, visitors can tour the Welaka National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium, Florida's only warm-water fish hatchery used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to raise fish for stocking programs throughout the southeast. Instead of driving off the birds attracted by the ponds, the hatchery constructed a viewing tower for birdwatchers, who see bald eagles, ospreys, egrets, herons, anhingas, white ibises, and wood storks.





**Flagler Beach Fishing Pier**

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

3. Flagler County offers the Flagler Beach Fishing Pier, which overlooks smooth, sandy beaches and serves as a prime location for sunning or fishing. Known as the quiet side of Florida, the area offers spectacular natural beauty and charm, plus some of the best golf in the state. In Palm Coast, you'll find a number of golf courses with interesting layouts designed by Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, and Jack Nicklaus.

4. Visitors escape to the past in St. Augustine, the nation's oldest continuously occupied European-established settlement and port in the continental United States. Founded in 1565, 42 years before the English colonized Jamestown, St. Augustine has diligently preserved much of its rich heritage in the downtown historic district. Tour the historic area by horse-drawn carriage (something visitors have done since 1877), trolley, or on foot, armed with tour maps. Visit the 17th-century Castillo de San Marcos, the reconstructed Spanish Quarter, historic churches, and see colorful re-enactments of colonial days. St. George Street, a cobbled lane that bisects the St. Augustine historic district, offers shops, restaurants, and several historic attractions.



**St. Augustine Historic District**

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

5. Cross Matanzas Bay by way of the fabled Bridge of Lions and you'll find yourself on Anastasia Island, home of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. Adults and children at least 44 inches tall can climb the 219 steps to reach the observation deck of the lighthouse, weather permitting. Various tours are available, including the Dark of the Moon Ghost Tour, St. Augustine's only "all ghosts, no gimmicks" paranormal tour, to explore the 1874 lighthouse tower and the keeper's house. After exploring St. Augustine, consider a drink from the Fountain of Youth, which is fortunately nearby. Commemorating Ponce de Leon's 1513 landing in the area, the legendary fountain is located on a 25-acre landscaped archaeological park overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. Visitors can actually sip water from the famed spring of eternal youth.



**Ponte Verda Beach**

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

6. Ponte Vedra Beach, just 20 miles southeast of Jacksonville, is home to beautiful beaches, as well as world-class tennis, shopping, and professional golf. The area's 40-foot sand dunes are among the highest in Florida. The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is celebrating 97 years of quiet opulence, grace, stateliness, and history with its oceanfront accommodations and wide array of leisure pursuits, including miles of Atlantic beach and 36 holes of seaside golf. Golfers won't want to miss the World Golf Village, home of two championship golf courses and the World Golf Hall of Fame. The World Golf Village showcases golf's rich heritage and growing popularity in a world-class resort setting that includes upscale shopping and dining.

7. Jacksonville, "Florida's River City by the Sea," offers a festive waterfront marketplace, shopping, dining, and museums of art and history. The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Jacksonville showcases 5,000 objects in its permanent collection, including art spanning from 2100 B.C. through the 21st century,

*Continued on page 102*



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Jacksonville Museum of Science and History





Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

*Continued from page 91*

## Murals in Region 6: Northeast Florida, known as Florida's First Coast, has a distinctive southern feel, despite being the northernmost part of Florida's Atlantic Ocean coast. The region includes historic St. Augustine, metropolitan Jacksonville, rural inland towns, miles of scenic Atlantic beaches, and many beautiful murals.

In downtown Jacksonville, the Dourone mural is a mesmerizing fusion of surrealism and social commentary that invites visitors to pause and reflect. Created by Spanish artist Fabio Lopez, known as Dourone, this large-scale mural was part of the ArtRepublic initiative, which brought internationally acclaimed artists to transform Jacksonville's urban landscape. Dourone's work often explores themes of unity, diversity, and human emotion, and his Jacksonville piece is no exception — featuring bold lines, vibrant colors, and layered symbolism that speaks to the complexity of modern life.

Located on West Forsyth Street, the mural is a standout among the city's 60+ public artworks, many of which are concentrated in the downtown area. Whether you're on a self-guided mural tour or simply exploring the city, Dourone's mural offers a powerful visual experience that blends global artistry with local culture. It's a must-see for art lovers, photographers, and anyone seeking inspiration in Jacksonville.

At Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History (MOSH), a hidden gem awaits art and history lovers — the historic mural by Elmer Grey. Measuring 35 feet long, this oil-on-canvas masterpiece was originally painted in 1941 as a gift to the U.S. Navy and displayed at NAS Jacksonville for decades before being relocated to MOSH for conservation and public viewing. The mural vividly illustrates the impact of Spanish and French colonization on Northeast Florida, blending artistic beauty with historical depth.

Now housed within MOSH's "Currents of Time" exhibit, the mural complements the museum's mission to explore 12,000 years of regional history — from Indigenous cultures to modern Jacksonville. Visitors can immerse themselves in interactive exhibits, planetarium shows, and this powerful visual narrative that connects past and present. Whether you're a history buff or a curious traveler, the Elmer Grey mural offers a compelling reason to visit MOSH and experience Jacksonville's story through art.

In Palatka, the William Bartram mural offers a vivid window into the region's rich natural and cultural history. Painted by artist Dean Quigley and located on North 3rd Street, this mural commemorates Bartram's 1774 expedition up the St. Johns River, where he documented a thriving Native American village on the site of present-day Palatka. The mural is part of the Conlee-Snyder Mural Committee's efforts to preserve and celebrate local heritage through public art.

Bartram, a British botanist and explorer, was captivated by Florida's lush landscapes and diverse wildlife. His writings and illustrations introduced the world to the beauty of the region, and his visit to Palatka included encounters with cultivated orange groves and fields of corn, squash, and tobacco. Today, the mural invites visitors to step back in time and experience the wonder that inspired one of America's earliest naturalists. It's a must-see for history buffs, nature lovers, and art enthusiasts alike.



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

*Continued on page 113*



REGION

6

# Northeast Florida

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



Photo courtesy of GoRVing.com

Big Talbot State Park  
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Museum of  
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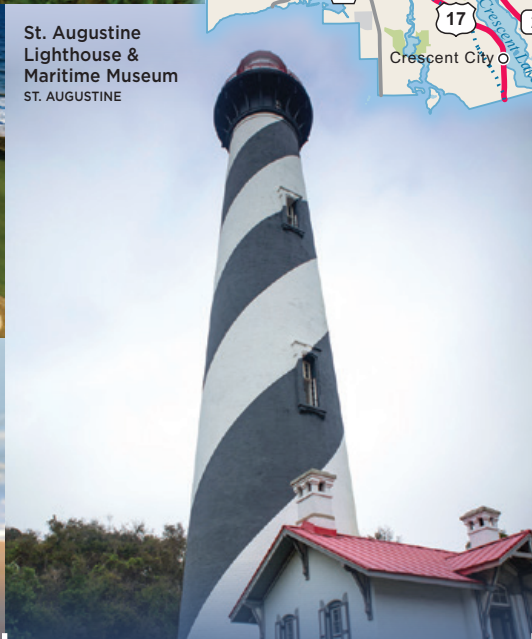


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**Kingsley Plantation**

*Continued from page 95*

a rare porcelain collection, and 2-and-a-half acres of historic gardens. The museum was founded in 1961 after the death of Ninah Cummer, who bequeathed her gardens and personal art collection, especially strong in European and American paintings.

8. Families can explore the area's colonial past at the Fort Caroline National Memorial, the short-lived but first French colony in the present-day United States. Guided tours of the reconstructed 16th-century French fort explain the struggle between European colonial powers for control of Florida. The fort is part of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, along with Kingsley Plantation, a state-owned historic site. Visitors here can listen to the story of Zephaniah Kingsley, a plantation owner and slave trader, as they tour the restored antebellum plantation house and tabby slave quarters. The site also showcases the lowland area's natural beauty, with spectacular views of barrier islands and savannas, and of the Theodore Roosevelt Area, 600 acres of hardwood forest, wetland, and scrub vegetation.



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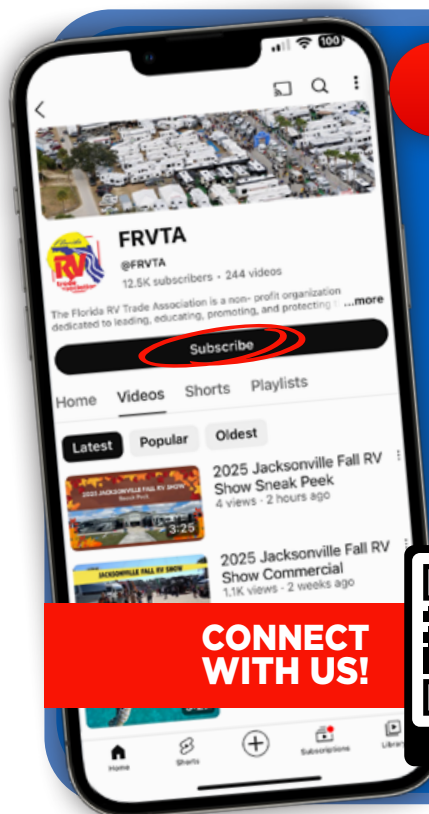
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9. On the Atlantic coast is Amelia Island, a refreshing change of pace for RVers. On this small barrier island, visitors find blocks of old mansions, miles of beaches, and lots of seafood. The island's seaport village of Fernandina Beach showcases a collection of shops, fine restaurants, and historic homes. Tours of the historic district are conducted from the Amelia Island Museum of History, where a storytelling tradition makes it the first spoken history museum in Florida. The museum is located inside the old Nassau County jail and includes a research library and archives. It hosts a ghost tour every Friday that begins in the cemetery behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Beautiful natural areas can be easily found: Amelia Island State Park is located 7 miles north of Little Talbot Island State Park on State Road A1A and 8 miles south of Fernandina Beach.



Fernandina Beach

10. Explore the Civil War-era Fort Clinch, one of the most well-preserved 19th-century forts in the country, at Fort Clinch State Park. In addition to the fort, the park offers great birding, fishing, shelling, swimming, picnicking, bicycling, shark-tooth hunting, and wildlife viewing. Several miles of beach with hard-packed sand can be ridden during low tide with large-tire bicycles, available for rent at the Visitor Center for a nominal fee. On the first weekend of each month, a soldier garrison fires cannons and demonstrates other battlefield skills. At sunset, watch for shrimp boats laden with the day's catch as they return to the docks.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



Fort Clinch

Please be sure to go online to check hours of operation, ferry schedules, and seasonal closings for the sites mentioned.





# North Central Florida REGION 7

Alachua, Citrus, Dixie, Gilchrist,  
Hamilton, Lafayette, Lake,  
Levy, Madison, Marion, Sumter,  
Suwannee, and Taylor counties

North Central Florida is home to the Nature Coast and some of the state's best natural wonders. Exploring the middle part of the state is unlike touring many other Florida destinations, with its wide-open spaces offering a place to escape crowds and get back to basics. Here are our Top Ten unique gardens, galleries, museums, and parks you may want to visit.

*Continued on page 106*







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## Top 10 Nature, Arts & Culture Places to Visit in North Central Florida



Historic Downtown Clermont

Continued from page 104

1. At the southern end of Lake County, the city of Clermont used to be the “countryside” outside Orlando, but at 22 miles, that distance is easily driven today by commuters living in housing developments built on old orange groves. The Florida Citrus Tower, a 226-foot-tall structure opened in 1956, was once one of the most famous landmarks of the Orlando area, built to allow visitors to observe the miles of orange groves surrounding it. The tower’s antenna pierces the sky at 500 feet above sea level. The tower is one of the highest observation points in Florida, where visitors get a 360-degree view of eight counties from the glass-enclosed observation deck.
2. Lake County is named for the 1,440 lakes carved into its gently rolling landscape. It’s the ideal setting for the area’s sloping vineyards and popular Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards, a 127-acre estate in Clermont just 25 miles west of downtown Orlando. Lakeridge, a pioneer in the development of premium and sparkling wines from the native Muscadine and Vinifera grape varieties, draws thousands of visitors annually to enjoy its extensive tasting room, festivals, and gift shop. Bike riders love the challenging hills.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida





## Lake County Mount Dora

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

3 Lush parks and historic landmarks are spread throughout Mount Dora, in the eastern portion of Lake County. Specialty shops and boutiques are plentiful in the downtown area, and nearby is the famous Renninger's. This 117-acre complex includes Renninger's Vintage Antique Center and a separate Flea and Farmer's Market. Two large buildings and a number of open-air shopping areas house a wide variety of dealers from produce stands, clothing shops, and oddity vendors, to high-quality antiques and collectibles. Renninger's is also home to a large number of special events, including antique fairs and extravaganzas, car and guitar shows, swap meets, and vintage garden shows.

4 Marion County includes miles of beautiful white fences on thoroughbred horse farms, earning Ocala and Marion counties the title "Horse Capital of the World." At nearby attractions, vacationers can see antiquities at the Marion County Museum of History and Archaeology in Ocala, a research and teaching institution that covers 13,000 years of human history in the county. Marion County also boasts the vast expanse of the 378,000-acre Ocala National Forest. Hiking and biking trails offer a variety of opportunities for visitors to explore the largest sand pine forest in the world.

5 Just outside of Ocala is Silver Springs State Park, part of a natural area that has attracted visitors for well over 150 years. While Silver Springs itself is ancient, development as a tourist attraction with views of crystal-clear waters through glass-bottom boats began in the late 1870s. Tourists first arrived by stagecoach and steamboat to marvel at one of the largest artesian spring systems in the world, still one of the last uninhabited spring runs in the state. Today, Silver Springs is a 350-acre nature theme park that includes the Silver River and undeveloped Florida

wetlands teeming with native wildlife. Hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, glass-bottom boat rides, camping, cabins, special events, and concerts are available through a public/private partnership. The park was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1971.

6 Devil's Den Prehistoric Spring is a unique and popular natural attraction located southwest of Gainesville, in Williston, which operates as a SCUBA diving training and recreational facility. The prehistoric springs and cave are privately owned but available for exploration by snorkeling or diving. Devil's Den is a karst window that allows visitors to experience the subterranean river that winds under Florida and surfaces as springs across the state. Be sure to visit the website before planning a trip, as rainfall amounts can limit snorkeling areas. Reservations are required.

*Continued on page 110*



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Reddick, FL 32686-2667  
www.southernhammock.com

### Stillwater Preserve Rv Resort

352-327-3863  
2862 S MacArthur Ter  
Homosassa, FL 34448-2439  
www.stillwaterpreservervresort.com

### Strawberry Fields For RV'ers

352-507-7035  
1043 NE 4th St  
Cheifland, FL 32626-1307  
www.strawberryfieldsforrvs.com



### Sunkissed Village RV Resort

352-480-5000  
14330 S US Highway 441  
Summerfield, FL 34491-3474  
www.sunkissedvillage.com  
(see our ad on page 108)

### Sunshine Village

352-254-5675 • 866-584-1883  
2236 SE 100th Ln  
Webster, FL 33597-3954  
www.sunshinevillageflorida.com

### Suwannee River Rendezvous Resort & Campground

386-294-2510  
828 NE Primrose Rd  
Mayo, FL 32066-5338  
www.suwanneeriverrendezvous.com

### Sweet Citrus Acres RV Resort

352-565-4284  
3995 N Turkey Oak Dr  
Crystal River, FL 34428-2757  
www.sweetcitrusacres.com

### The Hideaway

352-542-7800  
1218 SE Highway 346  
Old Town, FL 32680-4376  
www.TheHideawayFL.com

### Whimcycletrail RV Park

352-581-9917  
3085 SE 95th St  
Ocala, FL 34480-8976  
www.whimcycletrail.com



### Wild Frontier RV Resort

352-629-3540  
3101 NW 16th Ave  
Ocala, FL 34475-4285  
www.wildfrontierrvresort.com  
(see our ad on page 105)

### Wilderness RV Resort

352-625-1122  
2771 NE 102nd Ave Rd  
Silver Springs, FL 34488-8325  
www.wildernessrvparkestates.com



UF Museum of Natural History

Continued from page 107

7. The city of Gainesville, home to the sprawling University of Florida campus, offers a surprising number of natural attractions along with accommodations and other amenities. The University's Florida Museum of Natural History, one of the nation's top five natural history museums, hosts permanent exhibits and frequent events.

In 2018, the museum launched the Thompson Earth Systems Institute to advance communication and public understanding of current research discoveries about Earth's natural systems – air, water, land, and life – in Florida and beyond.

8. Just south of Gainesville in Micanopy is the 21,000-acre Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, a unique savanna designated as a National Natural Landmark. A rich array of habitats for wildlife and livestock, including alligators, bison, horses, and nearly 300 species of birds, live in numerous distinct biological communities here. This park became Florida's first state preserve in 1971 and includes a 50-foot-high observation tower for panoramic views. Noted artist and naturalist William Bartram called it the great Alachua Savannah when he wrote about his visit to the prairie in 1774. Find some great home-cooked food at the Pearl Country Store & Barbeque.

Continued on page 112





### Williston Crossing RV Resort

352-528-7100  
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Williston, FL 32696-1843  
www.willistoncrossingrv.com  
(see our ad on page 107)

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7461 US Highway 441  
Ocala, FL 34480-8027  
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### Blue Compass RV - Gainesville

386-462-3039  
12380 NW US Highway 441  
Alachua, FL 32615-8500  
www.BlueCompassRV.com  
(see our ad on pages 66-67 & 132)



### Campers Inn of Leesburg

352-787-7744  
3230 US Highway 27/441  
Fruitland Park, FL 34731-4472  
www.campersinn.com  
(see our ad on pages 93 & 131)



### Campers Inn of Ocala

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7677 S US Highway 441  
Ocala, FL 34480-8007  
www.campersinn.com  
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www.comorv.com

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3335 S Suncoast Blvd  
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www.funtownrv.com



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www.generalrv.com  
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Ocala, FL 34480-8010  
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352-629-7007  
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www.cavcoocala.com

### Skyline Corp

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Ocala, FL 34471-0326  
www.skylinehomes.com

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### Freedom Mobile RV Services

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Bushnell, FL 33513-4459  
www.freedommobilervservices.com

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www.beaconrvb.com

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ggrimm1001@aol.com

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don@precisesatellite.com

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www.safe-t-plus.com

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Dunnellon, FL 34432-5824  
www.alstvdish.com



Cedar Key

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

Continued from page 110

9. Cedar Key, back on the Gulf side, is a quiet island community that offers bed-and-breakfast inns, small boardwalk shops, and fresh seafood in local restaurants, making this area an enjoyable destination. Once one of Florida's most prominent ports, Cedar Key is now a quiet, rustic fishing village and artists' community. A group of fragile islands just off the coast was protected in 1929 as the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge.

10. In the northern part of the region, the city of Madison, with a population of just over 3,000, was designated as one of the "Best Little Towns in Florida" by VISIT FLORIDA. Downtown Madison, and its classic 150- to nearly 200-year-old homes and buildings, is filled with quaint gift shops, antique stores, outdoor shops, and eateries. Guided walking tours of the historic downtown area are available. In the heart of downtown Madison is Four Freedoms Park, which features a memorial dedicated to World War II hero Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. The monument in the park is dedicated to the Four Freedoms (freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear) as stated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his 1941 address.



Madison County Museum

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida

Please be sure to go online to check hours of operation, ferry schedules, and seasonal closings for the sites mentioned.



**Murals in Region 7:** Visitors to North Central Florida, including what is called the Nature Coast, experience some of the state's most interesting historical sites. The region that stretches from Lake County around the "Big Bend" to Taylor County includes natural wonders, wide-open spaces, and historical offerings to better understand Florida's rural background, all depicted in murals.

In Jasper, the Hamilton County mural is a colorful tribute to the town's rich heritage and welcoming spirit. Located in the heart of downtown, this vibrant artwork greets visitors with imagery that reflects the area's agricultural roots, natural beauty, and historical significance. Painted by local artists and supported by community organizations, the mural is part of a broader effort to revitalize Jasper and celebrate its identity as "North Florida's Front Porch."

The mural honors figures like Revolutionary War hero Sergeant William Jasper, for whom the town is named, and evokes the region's connection to the Suwannee River and its Native American history. It's a perfect photo stop for travelers exploring Florida's quieter, scenic corners. Surrounded by historic buildings, charming shops, and the nearby Hamilton County Historical Museum, the mural invites visitors to slow down, learn, and appreciate the stories that shaped this small but proud community.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



In Trenton, the Florida Quilt Mural Trail offers a charming and colorful journey through the town's rich quilting heritage. As the birthplace of Florida's first quilt trail, Trenton has transformed its historic downtown into an open-air gallery of quilt-inspired murals adorning the walls of local businesses and public buildings. These vibrant designs, painted by local artists, reflect traditional quilt patterns and celebrate the community's deep-rooted appreciation for craftsmanship and storytelling.

Visitors can explore the Florida Quilt Museum, housed in a former Coca-Cola bottling plant, and stroll through streets lined with murals that evoke warmth, nostalgia, and artistic pride. One standout is the "Compass Rose" mural, symbolizing Trenton's leadership in the quilt trail movement and its role as a cultural guidepost for the region. Quilt enthusiasts, art lovers, and curious travelers will all love Trenton's mural trail and its unique and heartwarming experience that stitches together history, creativity, and community.

Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



In Homosassa, the Guy Harvey and Robert Wyland mural at the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park is a wonderful tribute to Florida's marine life and conservation legacy. Created by two of the world's most celebrated marine artists, this mural showcases manatees in vivid detail, capturing the serene beauty of these gentle giants in their natural habitat. Wyland, known for his global "Whaling Wall" series, partnered with Harvey to leave a lasting mark in Homosassa — one that inspires awe and environmental awareness.

Located at the park's visitor center, the mural is a perfect starting point for exploring the springs, where visitors can see manatees up close, stroll through native wildlife exhibits, and enjoy scenic boardwalks. The mural's lively colors and lifelike imagery make it a favorite photo spot and a powerful reminder of Florida's commitment to protecting its natural treasures. It's a must-see for art lovers, nature enthusiasts, and anyone seeking inspiration.





REGION

7

# North Central Florida

ALACHUA, CITRUS, DIXIE, GILCHRIST, HAMILTON, LAFAYETTE, LAKE,  
LEVY, MADISON, MARION, SUMTER, SUWANNEE AND TAYLOR COUNTIES



Photo courtesy of GoRVing.com

Manatees  
CRYSTAL RIVER



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[www.crossingcreeksrvresort.com](http://www.crossingcreeksrvresort.com)

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[www.gardensrvvillage.com](http://www.gardensrvvillage.com)

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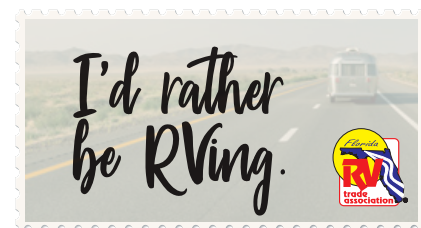
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(see our ad on page 5)

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574-773-7761

503 S Oakland Ave  
Nappanee, IN 46550-2328  
www.gulfstreamcoach.com

### Heartland Recreational Vehicles

574-266-8726

903 S Main St  
Middlebury, IN 46540-8529  
www.heartlandrvs.com

### Highland Ridge RV

800-945-4787

903 S Main St  
Middlebury, IN 46540-8529  
www.highlandridgerv.com



Here are a few of our favorites, listed by region.

## Region 1

### **Bunker Hill Vineyard and Winery**

[www.bunkerhillvineyard.com](http://www.bunkerhillvineyard.com)

Located not too far from Bradenton and 14 miles east of Parrish, the Bunker Hill Vineyard and Winery prides itself on being an environmentally friendly vineyard. Owners Larry and Lenora Woodham are committed to reducing their impact by eliminating the use of electricity from the grid and opting for alternative forms of energy whenever possible. Their use of 100 percent recycled wine bottles helps reduce their carbon footprint. The Vineyard hosts complimentary daily tours and wine tastings.

## Region 2

### **Schnebly Redland's Winery & Brewery**

[www.schneblywinery.com](http://www.schneblywinery.com)

The southernmost winery in the continental United States, Schnebly Redland's Winery in Homestead, is the result of Peter and Denise Schnebly's goal to start an agro-tourism business based from their farms in the Redlands of South Florida. Sustainable farming became a top priority, and Schnebly wines are made from only the finest fruit. Each mango, lychee, guava, passion fruit, and carambola (star fruit) are personally picked for fermentation. The winery offers weekend tours and a lush tropical setting.



## Region 3

### **Florida Orange Groves Winery**

[www.floridawine.com](http://www.floridawine.com)

Florida Orange Groves Winery is a third-generation, family-owned and operated, tropical fruit winery. They started shipping and packing fresh citrus in the early 1970s in St. Petersburg and grew to include retail sales of fresh-squeezed juice plus a gift shop. They started experimenting with fruit wines more than a decade ago and are now a fully operational, working winery producing more than 43 different varieties of premium tropical fruit wines, including Key Lime and Mango Momma.

### **Keel and Curley Winery**

[www.keelandcurleywinery.com](http://www.keelandcurleywinery.com)

Keel and Curley Winery in Plant City was started by blueberry farmer Joe Keel with 100 percent blueberry wine, and now produces more than 20,000 cases each year of sweet, semi-dry, and dry. The winery has branched into blackberry wine, fusion wines, cider, and even craft beers. Enjoy a tasting room for either beer or wine with indoor and outdoor seating, a full-service restaurant, romantic lakeside views, live music, and events.

## Region 4

### **Island Grove Wine Company at Formosa Gardens**

[www.islandgrovewinecompany.com](http://www.islandgrovewinecompany.com)

Island Grove Wine Company at Formosa Gardens is a family-friendly agritourism destination. Tour the wine-making area and taste unique fruit wines, traditional grape wines, and local craft beers, plus visitors can explore more than seven acres of botanical gardens. Island Grove is known for making fruit wine, including sustainable berry wines and delicious fruit wine blends.

Continued on page 129



Photo courtesy of Keel & Curley Winery



### **Intech Trailers**

574-773-9536  
29286 County Road 52  
Nappanee, IN 46550-9470  
www.intech.com

### **International RV Manufacturing, LLC**

229-924-1185  
111 Mathews Dr  
Americus, GA 31709-5528  
www.livtraveltrailers.com

### **Jayco, Inc**

574-825-5861  
903 S Main St  
Middlebury, IN 46540-8529  
www.jayco.com

### **K.Z., Inc**

260-768-4016  
0985 N 900 W  
Shipshewana, IN 46565-9139  
www.kz-rv.com

### **Keystone RV Company**

574-535-1461  
2642 Hackberry Dr  
Goshen, IN 46527-6811  
www.keystonerv.com

### **Lance Camper Manufacturing Company**

661-949-3322  
43120 Venture St  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
www.lancecamper.com



### **Liberty Coach**

772-463-2701 • 800-554-9877  
1400 Morrow Ave  
North Chicago, IL 60064-3220  
www.libertycoach.com  
(see our ad on page 43)

### **Modern Buggy RV, LLC**

269-224-1126  
19475 US Highway 12  
Edwardsburg, MI 49112-9264  
www.modernbuggyrv.com

### **New Horizons RV Corp**

785-238-7575 • 800-235-3140  
2401 Lacy Dr  
Junction City, KS 66441-8035  
www.horizonsrv.com

### **Newell Coach Corp**

918-542-3344 • 888-363-9355  
3900 N Main St  
Miami, OK 74354-1937  
www.newellcoach.com

### **Newmar Corp**

574-773-7791 • 800-731-8300  
355 N Delaware St  
Nappanee, IN 46550-0030  
www.newmarcorp.com

### **Nexus RVs, LLC**

574-970-0848 • 855-786-3987  
3400 Reedy Dr  
Elkhart, IN 46514-7667  
www.nexusrv.com

### **Noovo**

619-576-4730  
Las Vegas, NV 89120-2953  
www.noovolife.com

### **Northern Lite Manufacturing**

250-765-3702  
322 Totom Ave  
Kelowna, BC V1X 5W6  
www.northern-lite.com

### **nuCamp**

330-852-4811  
661 Belden Pkwy NE  
Sugar Creek, OH 44681-7699  
www.nucamprv.com

### **Outside Van LLC**

503-858-8107  
18943 NE Sandy Blvd  
Portland, OR 97230-6808  
www.outsidevan.com

### **Phoenix USA, Inc.**

574-266-2020  
55169 County Road 3  
Elkhart, IN 46514-1341  
www.phoenixusarv.com

### **Pleasure-Way Industries, LTD**

306-934-6578 • 800-364-0189  
302 Portage Ave  
Saskatoon, SK S7J 4C6  
www.pleasureway.com

### **Prevost Car**

336-389-7856  
35 Gagnon Blvd  
Sainte-Claire, QC G0R 2V0  
www.prevostmotorhomes.com

### **Remote Vans, LLC**

513-201-7553  
800 E Ross Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45217-1177  
www.remotevans.com

### **REV Recreation Group**

800-854-1344  
Decatur, IN 46733-0031  
www.revgroup.com

### **Roadtrek, Inc**

519-745-1160 • 888-762-3873  
20 Tyler St  
Cambridge, ON N1T 0E4  
www.roadtrek.com

### **Showhauler Trucks, Inc**

574-825-6764  
116 Industrial Pkwy E  
Middlebury, IN 46540-8510  
www.showhauler.com

### **Soaring Eagle Campers**

574-900-1997  
1025 E Waterford St  
Wakarusa, IN 46573-9304  
www.soaringeaglecampers.com

### **Space Craft Manufacturing**

660-463-7520 • 888-463-7520  
28115 W US Highway 40  
Concordia, MO 64020-7423  
www.spacecraftmfg.com

### **Spartan RV Chassis**

517-543-6400 • 877-743-4539  
1111 Mikesell St  
Charlotte, MI 48813-2013  
www.spartanrvchassis.com



**SportChassis, LLC**

580-323-4100  
2300 S 13th St  
Clinton, OK 73601-9529  
www.sportchassis.com

**Starcraft RV, Inc**

800-945-4787  
903 S Main St  
Middlebury, IN 46540-8529  
www.starcraftrv.com

**Sunset Park & RV, Inc**

866-865-7848  
1055 N 625 W  
Shipshewana, IN 46565-8564  
www.sunsettrailers.com

**Thor Motor Coach**

574-266-1111  
701 County Road 15  
Elkhart, IN 46515-9731  
www.thormotorcoach.com

**Tiffin Motor Homes**

256-394-2226  
105 NW 2nd St  
Red Bay, AL 35582-3859  
www.tiffinmotorhomes.com

**TM Industries, LLC**

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42021 268th St  
Parkston, SD 57366-5206  
www.trailmanor.com

**Leisure Travel Vans**

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301 Roblin Blvd  
Winkler, MB R6W 4C4  
www.leisurevans.com

**Wingamm USA**

310-963-9516  
Franklin, TN 37067-1613  
www.wingammus.com

**Winnebago**

641-585-6215  
605 W Crystal Lake Rd  
Forest City, IA 50436-0152  
www.winnebagoind.com

## REPAIRS

**906 RV Services**

906-828-1411  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-2119  
www.906rvservices.com

**Steadfast RV Service**

615-415-5757  
Hendersonville, TN 37075-2402  
www.steadfastrvservice.com

## SERVICES

**50 State DMV**

844-522-5967  
Las Cruces, NM 88001-6006  
www.50stateDMV.com

**Adventure Caravans**

936-327-3428  
Livingston, TX 77351-0030  
www.adventurecaravans.com  
(see our ad on page 117)

**Adventure Genie, Inc**

203-605-3309  
Bluffton, SC 29910-8387  
www.AdventureGenie.com

**Americas Mailbox, Inc**

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Box Elder, SD 57719  
www.americasmailbox.com

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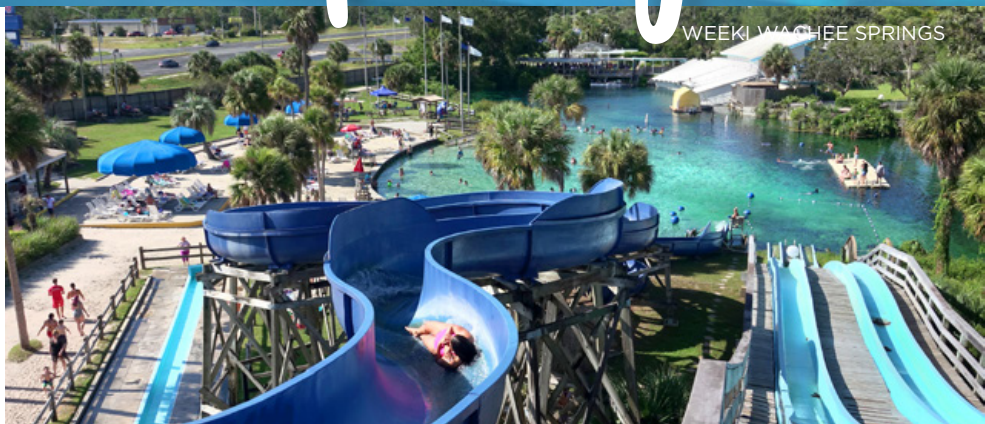


# FLORIDA Springs

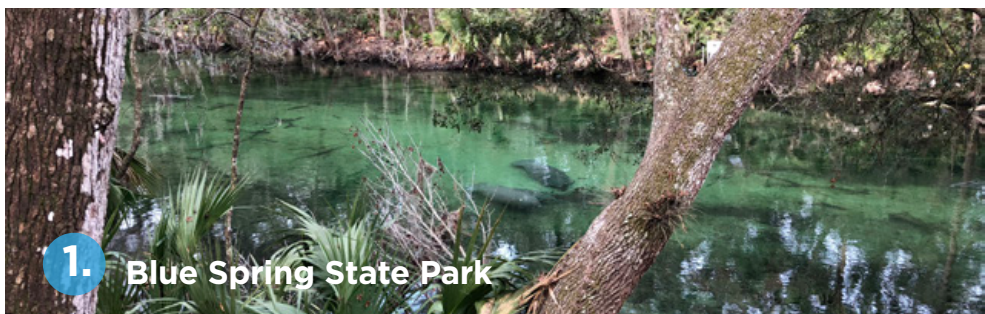
**N**atural karst limestone landscapes can be seen around the world, such as the towering rock pillars in China's Shilin, formed 270 million years ago. But karst landscapes also exist underground where eroded limestone creates caves, and underground rivers often fill the landscape with water. Such is the case with Florida's freshwater springs, a karst system of underwater limestone caves flowing with water that occasionally surfaces in sinkholes. With 750 springs, Florida has the highest concentration of freshwater springs on the planet.

While Weeki Wachee and Wakulla Springs have both become world-famous, many Florida springs flow in places tucked away and far less traveled, offering a more tranquil or romantic escape into nature. For centuries, travelers have come to Florida's freshwater springs in search of their fabled ability to restore health. Though the state's springs likely won't cure what ails you, they will provide a moment of peace and profound beauty.

Photo by Maurice Rivenbark for VISIT FLORIDA



WEEKI WACHEE SPRINGS



## 1. Blue Spring State Park

A 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. Phone 386-775-3663.  
[floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/blue-spring-state-park](http://floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/blue-spring-state-park)



**America's RV Warranty**

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[www.americasrvwarranty.com](http://www.americasrvwarranty.com)

**Anderson's Brochure  
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**CDI, LLC**

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[www.cdicustompaint.com](http://www.cdicustompaint.com)

**Coach-Net**

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[www.coach-net.com](http://www.coach-net.com)

**Express Employment Professionals**

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3325 S Washington St  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-7100  
[www.TheUnbeetableExperience.com](http://www.TheUnbeetableExperience.com)

**EZ-Com, LLC**

660-345-0000 • 888-757-7557  
Boonville, MO 65233-2046  
[www.ezcom.us](http://www.ezcom.us)

**Family RV Association**

513-474-3622 • 800-543-3622  
8291 Clough Pike  
Cincinnati, OH 45244-2796  
[www.fmca.com](http://www.fmca.com)

**Fantasy RV Tours**

800-952-8496  
7250 Peak Dr, Ste 108  
Las Vegas, NV 89128-9028  
[www.fantasyrvtours.com](http://www.fantasyrvtours.com)

**Good Sam**

805-667-4134 • 800-685-6246  
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Oxnard, CA 93036-5458  
[www.goodsam.com](http://www.goodsam.com)

**Good Sam**

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Lincolnshire, IL 60069-3700  
[www.goodsam.com](http://www.goodsam.com)

**Harvest Hosts**

970-361-3314  
Vail, CO 81657-9944  
[www.harvesthosts.com](http://www.harvesthosts.com)

**IDS Software**

919-230-9412  
12339 Wake Union Church Rd Ste 107  
Wake Forest, NC 27587-4512  
[www.ids-astra.com](http://www.ids-astra.com)

**Northeast Campground Association**

860-684-6389  
76 Lamb Rd  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076-3313  
[www.campnca.com](http://www.campnca.com)

**Rapidious**

830-510-3553  
Windsor, NJ 08550-3287  
[www.rapidious.com](http://www.rapidious.com)

**Russell Cellular Inc**

417-886-7542  
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[www.rvista.com](http://www.rvista.com)  
(see our ad on page 130)

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120 W Harvest Dr  
Lincoln, NE 68521-4408  
[www.RVUniverse.com](http://www.RVUniverse.com)

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Malvern, PA 19355-1755  
[www.swiftnetwifi.com](http://www.swiftnetwifi.com)

travlf<sup>TM</sup>i

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507-424-4946  
3582 Technology Dr NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-7687  
[www.travlf.com](http://www.travlf.com)  
(see our ad on page 73)

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[www.vehicleadminservices.com](http://www.vehicleadminservices.com)

**Virginia Tourism**

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3124 Bradwill Rd  
Richmond, VA 23225-1506  
[www.virginia.org](http://www.virginia.org)

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818-706-1949  
29901 Agoura Rd  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301-2513  
[www.vitu.com](http://www.vitu.com)

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W Yellowstone, MT 59758  
<https://careers.delawarenorth.com/>

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1820 Trade St  
Florence, SC 29501-6963  
[www.5startuning.com](http://www.5startuning.com)



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921 Verdant Dr  
Elkhart, IN 46516-9041  
www.abcupfitters.com

### AguaSeal Acquisition, LLC

843-614-9663  
7269 Cross Park Dr, Ste B  
North Charleston, SC 29418-7426  
www.aguseal.net

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720-826-9244  
7755 Miller Dr  
Frederick, CO 80504-5456  
www.airxcel.com

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www.blueox.com

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www.craftvillage.com

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www.clm-products.com

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Minneapolis, MN 55432-3702  
www.power.cummins.com

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Olean, NY 14760-3152  
www.thebestcutlery.com

### Daiwa by U.S. Jaclean, Inc

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www.daiwamassage.com

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4010 320th St  
Boyden, IA 51234-7502  
www.demco-products.com

### Diamond Shield/ American Automotive, Inc

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Rochester, NY 14606-4235  
www.diamond-shield.com

### Dometic Corporation

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Elkhart, IN 46516-9315  
www.dometic.com

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www.e-pedals.com

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23663 US Highway 33  
Elkhart, IN 46517-3646  
www.elkhartsatellite.com

### EQ Systems

574-264-3437 • 800-846-9659  
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Cassopolis, MI 49031-9501  
www.eqsystems.us

### Firefly Integrations

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1013 Elroy Dr  
Middlebury, IN 46540-8550  
www.fireflyint.com

### First 2 Market Products, LLC

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Perrysburg, OH 43551-1191  
www.gripstic.com

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www.garmin.com

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www.haserulife.com

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Antigo, WI 54409-1572  
www.slide-master.com





# Renting

## IS A GREAT WAY TO GET STARTED

**R**enting an RV is one of the most economical and “Green” ways to vacation. By renting an RV, you can try various types and learn from experience which RV best suits your needs. It is also a great way to enjoy the flexibility, freedom, and discovery of the RV lifestyle without making a long-term purchase commitment.

### Reconnect with Your Family

Something happens when families spend time together. Bonds are built, secrets are shared, and memories are formed that last a lifetime. RV rentals offer families an affordable way to spend time together away from their overscheduled everyday lives.

### RV Vacations Save Money

You shouldn't have to spend a lot of money on your vacation. Renting an RV makes good economic sense.

Many RV models allow a family of four to save up to 57 percent on vacation costs over other forms of travel. Want to take your family of four to Orlando for a week? In a motorhome, that trip will cost 53 percent less than flying, renting a car, staying in a hotel, and eating out.

**For more information on RV rentals, see the companies below or visit [rvra.org](http://rvra.org).**

**A to Z RV Supercenter**  
352-203-4227  
7461 US Highway 441  
Ocala, FL 34480-8027  
[www.atozrvs.com](http://www.atozrvs.com)

**Alec's Truck Trailer & RV**  
305-234-5444  
17110 S Dixie Highway  
Miami, FL 33157-4352  
[www.alecstrucktrailerrv.com](http://www.alecstrucktrailerrv.com)

**Allstar Coaches**  
954-235-0802 • 866-838-4465  
2851 Hammondville Rd  
Pompano Beach, FL 33069-1137  
[www.allstarcoaches.com](http://www.allstarcoaches.com)

**American RV Technology, Inc**  
941-429-0298  
11155 S Tamiami Trl  
North Port, FL 34287-1072  
[www.americanrvtechnology.com](http://www.americanrvtechnology.com)

**Family Fun RV Rental**  
616-606-0375  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656-2134  
[www.familyfunrv.com](http://www.familyfunrv.com)

**Fort Lauderdale RV Rentals**  
954-797-9553  
1545 S State Road 7  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33317-6405  
[www.fortlauderdalerv.com](http://www.fortlauderdalerv.com)

**Giant Recreation World, Inc**  
386-673-1615 • 800-893-2552  
280 Destination Daytona Ln  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174-1500  
[www.giantrecreationworld.com](http://www.giantrecreationworld.com)

**Giant Recreation World - Winter Garden**  
407-656-6444 • 800-654-8475  
13906 W Colonial Dr  
Winter Garden, FL 34787-4200  
[www.giantrecreationworld.com](http://www.giantrecreationworld.com)

**Giant Recreation World, Inc**  
321-242-6261 • 800-700-1021  
1355 NE Culver Dr  
Palm Bay, FL 32907-1185  
[www.giantrecreationworld.com](http://www.giantrecreationworld.com)

**Mid Florida RV Rentals**  
813-494-8501 • 866-643-3578  
6114 Lewis Ave  
Gibsonton, FL 33534-4704  
[www.midfloridarvrental.com](http://www.midfloridarvrental.com)

**Roadmaster, Inc**  
800-669-9690  
5131 NE 148th Ave  
Portland, OR 97230-3435  
[www.roadmasterinc.com](http://www.roadmasterinc.com)

**RV Club USA LLC**  
904-438-5898  
13591 N Main St  
Jacksonville, FL 32218-2709  
[www.rvclubusa.com](http://www.rvclubusa.com)

**Suncoast RV Rental**  
813-984-0107  
8821 Valletta Dr  
Tampa, FL 33637-6724  
[www.suncoastrvrental.com](http://www.suncoastrvrental.com)

**Tallahassee RV Rental**  
850-778-3379  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-3802  
[www.tallahasseervrental.com](http://www.tallahasseervrental.com)

**For more information on RV rentals, see the companies above or visit [www.rvra.org](http://www.rvra.org).**







## 2. Ginnie Springs

The world's top freshwater dive destination, privately owned Ginnie Springs is home to two separate spring systems and incredibly clear water. Guided dives are available. Those without dive experience can try the Discovery SCUBA course. Camping is available. Phone 386-454-7188. [ginniespringsoutdoors.com](http://ginniespringsoutdoors.com)



## 5. De Leon Springs State Park

The Florida Panhandle's De Leon Springs State Park offers over 6,000 years of cultural and natural history amongst a subtropical forest that features a massive old-growth bald cypress tree. Named after the famed explorer Ponce de Leon who sought the Fountain of Youth, this spring stays at a refreshing 72-degree water temperature year-round and produces 14 million gallons of water every day. After taking a dip, many visitors enjoy picnicking and fishing. Phone 386-985-4212. [floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/de-leon-springs-state-park](http://floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/de-leon-springs-state-park)



## 3. Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park

Though not a swimmer's destination, this state park offers the chance to catch a glimpse of the West Indian manatee year-round from an underwater observatory. The Pepper Creek Trail offers opportunities for birding and nature study. Black bears, bobcats, white-tailed deer, alligators, crocodiles, and river otters also call Homosassa Springs home. A boat tour is included in admission. The park is about 75 miles north of Tampa. Phone 352-423-5600. [floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/ellie-schiller-homosassa-springs-wildlife-state-park](http://floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/ellie-schiller-homosassa-springs-wildlife-state-park)



## 6. Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

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. Water temperature is always a refreshing 69 degrees. The swimming area features a dive tower and swimming platforms, and the park features nature trails and glass-bottom boat rides. Phone 850-561-7276. [floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings](http://floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings)



## 4. Wes Skiles Peacock Springs State Park

This beautiful site is one of the longest underwater cave systems in the continental United States. Peacock Springs State Park is home to two major springs, a spring run, and six sinkholes - not to mention nearly 33,000 feet of surveyed underwater passages. Visitors wishing to cavern and cave dive must present proof of certification. Those not diving can still enjoy walking an interpretive cave dive trail, swimming, picnicking, and nature walks. Phone 386-294-3667. [floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/wes-skiles-peacock-springs-state-park](http://floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/wes-skiles-peacock-springs-state-park)



## 7. Wekiwa Springs State Park

At the headwaters of the Wekiva River in Apopka (and, yes, the river is spelled differently), this park gives visitors a glimpse of what Florida looked like when the Timucuan tribe fished and hunted the land. Take a swim in the cool spring or enjoy fishing and picnicking. Canoeists can hit the river and 13 miles of nature trails offer many sites for hikers. Phone 407-553-4348. [floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/wekiwa-springs-state-park](http://floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/wekiwa-springs-state-park)



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*Continued from page 119*

## Region 5

### **Chautauqua Winery**

[www.chautauquawinery.com](http://www.chautauquawinery.com)

Near the interesting town of De Funiak Springs, not far off Interstate 10 in the Panhandle, is the Chautauqua Winery, established in 1989. It carries a large inventory of home-grown wine made from cultivated varietal grapes specially cultured for Floridian soil and environment. The results are flavorful and vibrant. Visitors are offered tours of the bottling process and free samples, plus food and gifts are available for purchase.

## Region 6

### **San Sebastian Winery**

[www.sansebastianwinery.com](http://www.sansebastianwinery.com)

Near St. Augustine is the San Sebastian Winery, founded in 1996 and a pioneer in the development of table, sparkling, and dessert wines from hybrid and muscadine grapes. San Sebastian Winery labels have won more than 700 awards for excellence in winemaking. Visitors will find guided tours, tastings, and a rooftop jazz bar.

## Region 7

### **Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards**

[www.lakeridgewinery.com](http://www.lakeridgewinery.com)

Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards opened its doors in February 1989 in Clermont and sits on a 127-acre estate in gently rolling countryside some 25 miles west of downtown Orlando. This area was once the center of the state's grape industry. Lakeridge ranks as Florida's largest premium winery and remains a pioneer in the development of premium and sparkling wines from the native Muscadine grape varieties Noble, Carlos, and Welder, as well as vinifera varieties to include Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Petite Sirah, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Together, these labels have won more than 600 awards for excellence in winemaking. Lakeridge offers weekend festivals with food trucks and live music.



Photo courtesy of VisitFlorida



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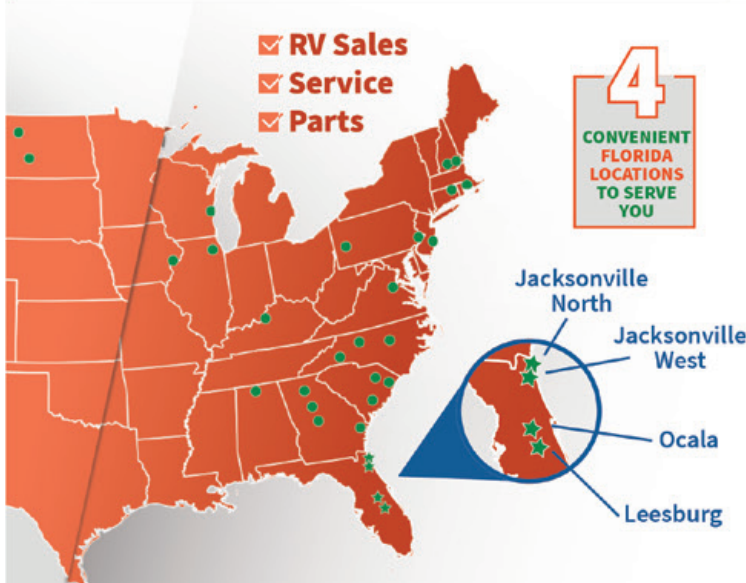
On the way home, the family had a discussion about how they were treated. That is when Art and Fran, along with their sons Robert, David and Jeffrey, decided they could do a better job running a dealership. In 1966, they invested the family's life savings, bought four folding tent trailers and began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