

## HISTORY AND NATURE

The outstanding feature of De Leon Springs State Park's 625 acres is the headspring with nearly 19 million gallons of water per day flowing from an underwater cavern. The constant, year-round temperature is 72 degrees. The spring pool is artificially maintained for swimming with a wall and bulkhead.

Wading birds such as herons, egrets and ibis stalk their prey downriver, while coots and ducks dive for dinner and bald eagles and ospreys soar overhead. Alligators, otters and manatees are also commonly seen.

Adjacent to the spring is a hydric hammock and cypress swamp – trees that flourish in wet conditions. Trails wind through a forest of red maples, sweet gums, magnolias, cabbage palms and hickories filled with the sounds of woodpeckers and songbirds. Ferns, wildflowers and vines cover the ground. The endangered Yellow Anise tree is abundant here. Non-native ornamentals such as azaleas and various palm species were planted between the 1930s and 1960s near the trails and in the parking lot. The azaleas bloom throughout the park in early spring. A paved walkway leads to "Old Methuselah," a huge bald cypress that is more than 500 years old.

Visitors may notice an abundance of white or gray snail shells in the ground – evidence of centuries of occupation by Native American groups who came to the spring to gather food. Two dugout canoes found in the spring are the oldest in North America (5,000 and 6,000 years old). The land was also a sugar and cotton plantation, a resort and a roadside attraction before becoming a state park in 1982.



## DE LEON SPRINGS STATE PARK

601 Ponce De Leon Boulevard  
De Leon Springs, FL 32130  
386-985-4212

## PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals, artifacts and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance, as well as metal detectors, are prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a handheld leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and grills are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license is required for people between the ages of 16 and 64.
- Swim at your own risk.
- Fireworks, hunting and drone launching are prohibited in all Florida state parks.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is prohibited.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to facilities and programs. If you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.
- Volunteer with us! For more information please visit [www.floridastateparks.org/volunteers](http://www.floridastateparks.org/volunteers).

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

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## DE LEON SPRINGS STATE PARK

*Spring of healing waters*



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STATE PARKS**

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

## EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Welcome to De Leon Springs State Park, named for the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon, who sought the Fountain of Youth in the 1500s. Visitors can swim in the beautiful, tranquil spring pool. A boat ramp and boat dock are available; canoes, kayaks and paddle boats can be rented at the park concession. The spring run provides access to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge with more than 18,000 acres of lakes, creeks and marshes to explore.

Anglers can fish for bass and bream from shore or from the **fishing** dock. Visitors can **hike** the half-mile paved nature trail or the 4.2-mile Wild Persimmon trail. **Picnic tables** with grills are found in shaded areas throughout the park. One large **pavilion** is open for use on the north side of the spring. Four pavilions on the south side of the spring are available for rental use.

Breakfast or lunch in the **Old Sugar Mill Restaurant** features cook-your-own pancakes, and gift items are available for purchase. **Boat tours** run daily, tickets can be purchased at the restaurant. The park offers interpretation of its natural and cultural history through ranger-guided programs, signs and kiosks, and exhibits in the visitor center.

### CSO and Volunteers

The Friends of De Leon Springs State Park, Inc. is the park's Citizen Support Organization. Become a member or volunteer for events and projects. Stop by the ranger station for additional information.



# De Leon Springs State Park

## Directions

De Leon Springs is located off U.S. 17 about 6 miles north of Deland. Take I-4 to exit 114; follow Highway 17 north to the town of De Leon Springs and look for state park signs. Turn left on Ponce De Leon Boulevard and proceed one-mile (over railroad tracks) straight into the park.

