

## HISTORY & NATURE

Evidence from midden mounds (discarded debris from Native American communities) and a large mound adjacent to the park, indicate that Native Americans used this area for fishing, hunting and camping. The variety of food and natural resources found in the freshwater coastal dune lakes, Choctawhatchee Bay and the Gulf of Mexico allowed Native Americans to camp on this coast for extended periods of time.

From the late 1800s to the mid-1900s, workers from the Quarters Turpentine Village turpented old-growth longleaf pines in forests now part of Topsail Hill. Turpentine was important for maintaining the wooden ships used to transport goods and people. Chippers carved cat-face patterns into the trees and inserted a metal strip to allow the sap to flow into clay pots. Cat-face scars can still be seen in many living trees in the park.

During World War II, the western portion of the preserve was used as a munitions testing range for developing the first missiles in the United States. Iron and rebar tracks were laid down to allow trucks to travel across the soft sand. Visitors can see these tracks, especially along the hiking trail south of Morris Lake. This 1,640-acre park features a variety of habitats: pristine beaches, freshwater coastal dune lakes, old-growth longleaf pine forests and wetlands.



## TOPSAIL HILL PRESERVE STATE PARK

7525 W. Scenic Highway 30A  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
850-267-8330

### PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited in all Florida state parks.
- To become a volunteer, inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at 800-326-3521, or visit [ReserveAmerica.com](http://ReserveAmerica.com).
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

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

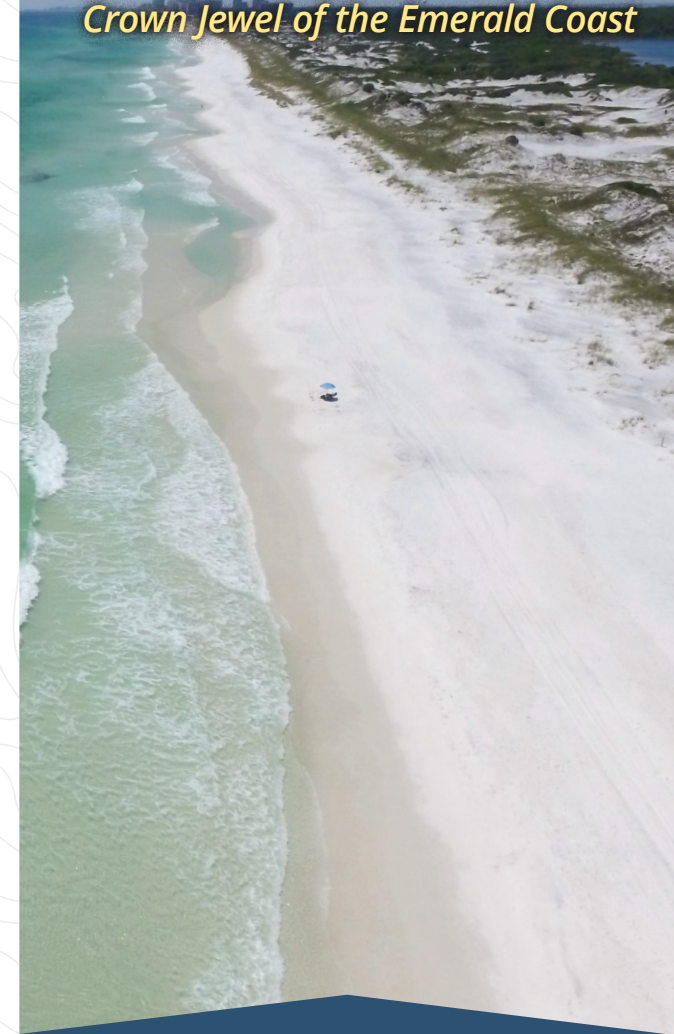
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# TOPSAIL HILL PRESERVE STATE PARK

*Crown Jewel of the Emerald Coast*



**FLORIDA  
STATE PARKS**

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

## EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park is named for a majestic dune, resembling a ship's topsail, which stands twenty-five feet above sea level. Visitors can enjoy 3.2 miles of secluded, white sand beaches, three coastal dune lakes and coastal forests.

**Swimming** and sunbathing can be enjoyed along 3.2 miles of beach. Lifeguards are not provided. Anglers are able to **fish** along the beach. A Florida saltwater fishing license is required for persons between the ages of 16 and 65. Boats are prohibited in the park.

The Morris Lake Nature Trail is a 2.5-mile walk along Morris Lake and ancient coastal dunes. The Campbell Lake **multiuse trail** leads from the tram station to Campbell Lake for **hikers** and **bicyclists**. Hikers can also enjoy miles of abandoned jeep trails while picnickers can lunch at the **boardwalk** to the beach or at the Morris Lake beach access.

A tram shuttles visitors to the beach from the day-use parking area. Visitors may also walk or ride their bikes down to the beach on the shared use trail. **Nature hikes** and **educational programs** are scheduled regularly. Ask at the ranger station for more information.

**Campsites** are available and can accommodate RVs up to 45 feet long. **RV Campground** amenities include sewer, water, electric, cable, bathhouses, swimming pool, shuffleboard and beach access. There are **22 tent-only campsites** with water and electric services. **Cabins** are also available for daily and weekly rentals. To make a reservation, call 800- 326-3521 or go online to ReserveAmerica.com.

