



Apalachicola Real Florida Guide

Note: Colored numbers correspond with numbers on map. **Red** = Day 1, **Blue** = Day 2, **Yellow** = Day 3

Apalachicola is a charming coastal village flavored with the slow, southern pace of north Florida and is steeped in history, with great seafood, quaint shops and comfortable lodging. The Apalachicola River watershed cradles one of the nation's six biodiversity hotspots with vast tracts of public conservation lands along the river and coastline creating world-class wildlife viewing opportunities. Anchoring the majestic Apalachicola River's union with the Gulf of Mexico, the town remains the centerpiece of an important oyster and fishing industry.



Choose from the options below to plan your own adventures while making Apalachicola a comfortable home base for a three-day stay or longer. While traveling to this scenic area savor the slow roads and visit [Big Bend Scenic Byway Tour Itineraries](#) for your in-depth guide to exploring North Florida's natural wonders and colorful history at your own pace.



Day 1, Apalachicola

Put on comfortable shoes or jump on a bike to explore the [Apalachicola Historic District](#) (1) Enjoy a [scenic walking tour](#) with a map available at the Visitors Center located at 122 Commerce Street. Over 900 homes and buildings are listed in the National Register District dating as far back as the 1830s,



with cotton warehouses which housed the City's once prosperous cotton export during the 1800s, a sponge exchange, and Victorian homes nestled amid moss-draped live oak trees. A number of interesting stops include the [John Gorrie Museum State Park](#) (46 Sixth Street), the [Orman House Historic State Park](#) (177 Fifth Street), and the adjacent [Chapman Botanical Garden](#). Sampling the area's delicious seafood (or ice-cream!) between visiting shops and galleries will round out a memorable stay in Apalachicola.

Day 2, St. George Island

Drive a short distance to visit nearby St. George Island State Park, 1900 E. Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, with breath-taking vistas of the Gulf of Mexico and miles of sugar-white beach.



- Stop by the [Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) Visitors' Center (2) on the east side of the bridge to the island, 108 Island Drive (State Road 300) in Eastpoint. Enjoy the nature center with fascinating aquariums and other exhibits. Visitors can also enjoy a short boardwalk and interpretive trail.
- Stop by the restored [Cape St George Lighthouse and Museum](#) (3) 2 E Gulf Beach Dr, St George Island, taking 92 steps to the top of the historic lighthouse for a view overlooking the island.
- [St George Island State Park](#) (4) 1900 E Gulf Beach Dr, Eastpoint, offers camping, hiking on shady inland trails, excellent fishing, and a beach with nine miles of white sand. Rent a kayak from the park office or one of the island's outfitters and enjoy paddling along the salt marshes bordering the bayside with excellent fishing and



wildlife viewing. [St George Island Bikepath](#) provides a safe opportunity to explore the island by bike and several local businesses rent bikes.

Day 3, St Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge

[St Vincent Island NWR](#) (5) is an uninhabited, gorgeous barrier island at the west end of Apalachicola Bay. It is only accessible by boat and there are no facilities on the island.

Drive west on US 98, take C-30 to Indian Pass Road, turn east and proceed until road dead ends. Consider contacting [St. Vincent Island Shuttle Services](#) to arrange a trip from Indian Pass to access St Vincent NWR and explore the island on foot or by bike, traveling miles of beaches or shady roads with outstanding wildlife viewing. This is also a popular kayaking destination but conditions may be challenging and crossing Indian Pass should not be undertaken by novice paddlers.



St. Vincent is an important stop-off point in the Gulf of Mexico region for neo-tropical migratory birds. The island is a haven for endangered and threatened species, including bald eagles, sea turtles, indigo snakes, and gopher tortoises. Wood storks use the refuge during their migration. In addition, the refuge serves as a breeding area for endangered red wolves. There is a St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center in the town of Apalachicola in the Harbor Master Building at 479 Market Street.



