

HISTORY AND NATURE

Norwood pottery, the earliest known pottery in North America, helped archaeologists identify the park's oldest site of human activity to 2,500 to 3,500 years before the Spanish arrived. These Native Americans hunted, fished, collected clams and oysters, and lived in relatively permanent settlements due to the abundant resources of the coast and forests.

In the mid-1800s and late 1900s, fishermen established seine yards at Bald Point. These usually primitive campsites included racks to hang, dry and repair fishing nets. Evidence of the 19th to 20th century turpentine industry is seen on larger pine trees cut with "cat face" scars.

The park hosts more than 360 species of plants and 230 animal species. Seasonal wildflowers, including the endangered Godfrey's Blazing Star, may be seen blooming throughout the park. Bald eagles, osprey and migrating falcons are common sights in season. Deer, bear, raccoon, opossums, bobcats, foxes, birds, reptiles and amphibians inhabit the woods, while monarch butterflies pause here on their autumn flight to Mexico.

Tidal marshes, flat terrain of needle rush and sawgrass along the northwestern part of Bald Point, provide breeding grounds for horseshoes crabs. The marshes are a valuable nursery for marine life and rich feeding ground for land and sea birds. Alligators also find the marsh a rich source of food.

Sea turtles nest on the beach at Bald Point from May to October each year. The park participates in a statewide sea turtle monitoring program.

BALD POINT STATE PARK

146 Box Cut Road
Alligator Point, FL 32346
850-349-9146

PARK GUIDELINES

Please remember these tips and guidelines, and enjoy your visit:

- 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 not allowed on the beach. Where allowed, pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designate areas only. Swim at your own risk. No lifeguard is on duty at any times. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Become a volunteer, visit FloridaStateParks.org to learn more.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Please contact staff at any ranger station or call 850-245-3076 (Voice) or 711 (Florida Relay Service).



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BALD POINT STATE PARK

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*Most picturesque scenic areas
along North Florida's Gulf Coast*

Bald Point State Park

EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Bald Point State Park boasts more than 4,800 acres of coastal wilderness dotted with freshwater ponds and tidal marshes. Located in Franklin County where the Ochlockonee Bay meets the Apalachee Bay, the park provides visitors outdoor activities on land and water.

The park offers picnic areas with pavilions, grills, restrooms and easy accessibility to the nearby beach. Surrounded by water, the park is a popular spot for canoeing and kayaking. A canoe/kayak launch ramp is available through the Chaires Creek entrance.

Swimming, sunbathing and windsurfing are popular activities on the sandy beach shores along the Apalachee Bay coastline. Surf-fish or wade out to oyster bars where a variety of saltwater fish are found in the brackish tidal waterway – among them redfish, trout, flounder and mackerel.

Discover the tidal marsh wildlife – jumping mullet, wading birds and an occasional alligator basking in the sun. Enjoy the many varieties of birds that migrate through or live here – shorebirds along the beach, warblers in the maritime hammocks, wading birds and birds of prey in and around the marsh areas.

Hike along the nature trails to view the many local and migratory birds that frequent the area, or walk along designated paths to enjoy seasonal wildflowers and wildlife.

Directions

From Tallahassee, travel 30 miles to Medart on SR 363 S/CR 61/US 319. Drive south on Hwy 98 about 5 miles; turn left on CR 370; proceed 5 miles and turn left on Bald Point Road and travel 3 miles to the park's entrance.

