



Wakulla Springs State Park Real Florida Guide

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

Choose from the options below to plan your own day-long adventure or make historic Wakulla Springs State Park Lodge a comfortable home base for a three-day stay or longer. Savor the slow roads and visit [Big Bend Scenic Byway Tour Itineraries](#) for more options.

Day One:

Stay at [Wakulla Springs State Park](#); 465 Wakulla Park Drive Wakulla Springs, Florida 32327; (850) 561-7276. The historic 27-room [Wakulla Springs Lodge](#) (1), built in 1937, features

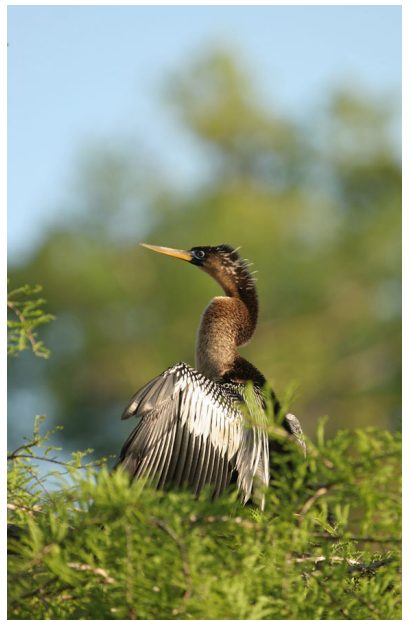


Tennessee marble, heart cypress boards and decorative ceilings.

- Swim or enjoy late afternoon river boat cruise
- Dinner at Lodge

Day Two, Choose from the following:

Pick up a trail map at the Lodge front desk and hike/ bike all or part of the woodland interpretive trail in the





park (six miles one way beginning in front of Lodge). Horseback riding is allowed from the Rock Road trailhead at the southeast end of the trail (see trail map). Note: Use full precautions against tick bites during warm weather.

Bike to the town of St. Marks for lunch on the [Tallahassee-St Marks Historic Railroad State Trail \(2\)](#), a 12-foot wide paved multi-use trail. **Directions:**

From state park entrance, turn right (east) onto SR 267. Travel about five miles to intersection of SR 363 (Woodville Highway) and turn left (north). Travel about one mile and follow signs to the Wakulla Station Trailhead. From the trailhead, it is about six miles one way to the town of St. Marks down a canopied trail.



Explore the [St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge \(3\)](#), gateway site to [Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#); 1255 Lighthouse Rd, St Marks, FL 32355; (850) 925-6121. Pick up free binoculars at Visitor's Center and observe abundant wildlife. A scenic and historical highlight is the St. Marks Lighthouse a few miles south of the Visitor's Center. Note: Have exact change for \$5/vehicle entrance fee.



Day Three, Choose from the following:

Hike at [Leon Sinks Geological Area \(4\)](#), which features five miles of hiking trails through a unique region of large and small sinkholes and a small shelf cave. Bring exact change for \$3/vehicle fee at iron ranger in parking area. Moderately strenuous.





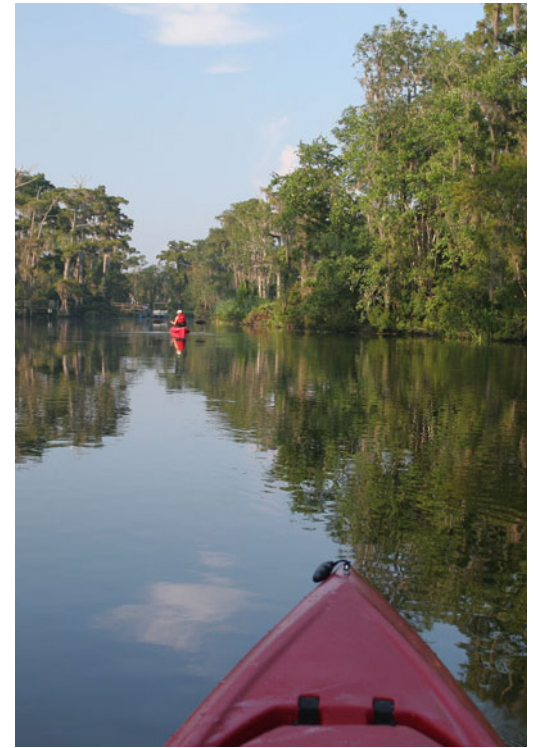
See manatees, wading birds and other wildlife by kayaking or canoeing the [Wakulla River Paddling Trail \(5\)](#) from CR 365 Bridge to US 98 Bridge (4 miles one way). An optional 3.2 mile extension is from the US 98 Bridge to the town of St. Marks. Note: Get an early start on weekends as the river can be busy on warm afternoons. See online guide for takeout information. Besides the outfitter on the river at the US 98 bridge (T-n-T Hideaway, 850-925-6412), other area outfitters are listed in the online guide. The trail is generally suited for beginners.

Visit [San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park \(6\)](#), a place where Spanish, English, American, Confederate and Native American forces fought for control of this strategic spot at the confluence of the Wakulla and St. Marks Rivers for almost 300 years; 148 Old Fort Road, St. Marks, Florida 32355. Directions: Using the map, follow SR 363 to the town of St. Marks. Turn right onto Riverside Drive when road makes a “T” near the river and follow less than a mile to the entrance.

Other options in the area:

Hike/bike the [Wakulla State Forest \(7\)](#). Two trails to choose from for a total of 6 miles. A highlight is Double Springs. Directions: From state park entrance, turn right (east) onto SR 267 and travel 1.9 miles to signed forest trailhead on left. Note: Trails can be wet during rainy seasons.

Hike/bike to [Cherokee Sink \(8\)](#), an emerald “lake sink” nearly 80 feet deep managed by





the state park. Directions: From state park entrance, turn left onto SR 267 and take an immediate left (south) onto SR 61. After 1.3 miles, a sign on the right marks the access road leading to the Cherokee Sink Trailhead. Distance is 2.4 miles round trip.

Hike/bike the [River Sinks tract \(9\)](#), another state park unit dotted with deep sinkholes that connect underground to Wakulla Springs. Directions: Following map, take U.S. 319 north 2.5 miles from the SR 267 intersection and turn right onto C.J. Spears Road. Trailhead is immediately on right. A two-mile loop trail runs through state park land, but you can extend the hike into an adjacent tract of the Apalachicola National Forest to see larger sinks. However, the national forest trails are unmarked and can be confusing, so use caution.

Explore the [Apalachee Bay Maritime Heritage Paddling Trail System \(10\)](#). Ten coastal paddling trails are featured with three that extend from the public launch in St. Marks. With the exception of the Port Leon Creek Paddling Trail, most of the trails are more suited for intermediate and experienced paddlers. Outfitters are listed in the online trail guide overview. Two trails begin at the St. Marks launch adjacent to the San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park. Other launch sites are featured on the trail system website.



For equestrian opportunities in the region, peruse the [Visit Wakulla equestrian webpage](#).

