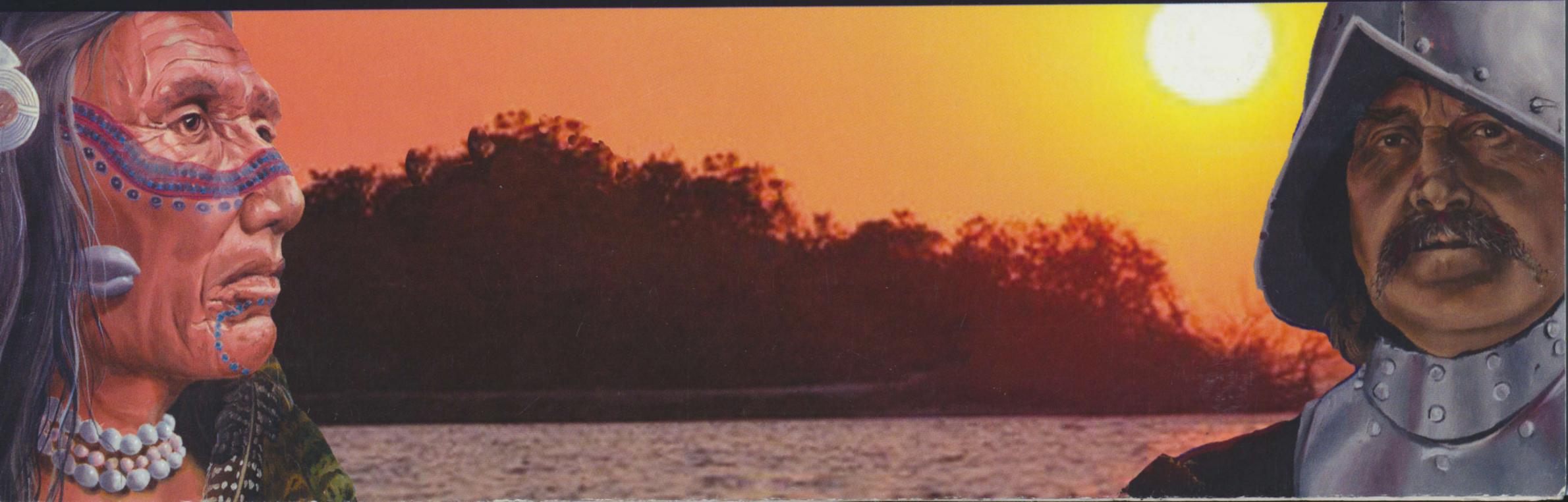


Hernando de Soto Trail of 1539



How to use this brochure

The Florida De Soto Trail follows the first year of Hernando de Soto's historic expedition through *La Florida* in 1539. Thirty-four kiosks along the trail mark various cultural, environmental, or historic points of interest. A website and this brochure connect you to all 34 sites, easily accessed by motorized vehicle.

Step back in time! At E.G. Simmons Park, imagine walking across the plaza of a Tocobaga Indian village, near present-day Tampa Bay. While kayaking from the Duval Island Boat Ramp, envision crossing the river in full Spanish conquistador armor. As you ride your horse on the St. Marks Historic Railroad Trail, picture yourself in De Soto's army. Enjoy the distinctive charm of each site along the way!

The Florida De Soto Trail was funded by a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation. A special thank you is extended to partners at each site for their support in this project.

De Soto Trail Sites

1. De Soto National Memorial
2. Skyway Rest Area South
3. Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve
4. E.G. Simmons Park
5. Bell Creek Nature Preserve
6. Tibet-Butler Preserve
7. Mike E. Sansone Community Park
8. Lake Parker Park
9. Zephyrhills Depot Museum
10. Hibiscus Park
11. Withlacoochee State Forest at Richloam Firetower Trailhead
12. Lake Townsen Regional Park
13. Duval Island Boat Ramp
14. Withlacoochee State Trail at Wallace Brooks Park
15. Withlacoochee State Trail at Turner Camp Road Trailhead
16. Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway at Ross Prairie Trailhead
17. Goethe State Forest
18. Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park
19. Sante Fe College
20. San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park
21. O'Leno State Park
22. Ichetucknee Springs State Park
23. Falling Creek Falls Park
24. Camp Weed and Cerveny Conference Center
25. First Federal Sports Complex
26. Twin Rivers State Forest at Mill Creek South Tract
27. Riley Palmer Construction
28. Lafayette Heritage Trail Park
29. Governor Martin House at De Soto's 1539 Winter Encampment Site
- 30.-32. St. Marks Historic Railroad Trail
33. Bartram Park
34. Kate Ireland Park

De Soto Trail

1539-1540

The historic route of the conquistador Hernando de Soto and his expedition through the Florida Native American territories in his quest for gold and glory.



Hernando de Soto is a controversial figure in American history. In his native country of Spain, and many parts of the United States, he is regarded as a romantic hero and trailblazing explorer. In Central and South America, as well as in American Indian tribes of the Southeast, many regard him as a monster and overzealous madman. This trail shows De Soto as a product of Medieval Europe. Hernando de Soto came not from the civilized and cultured Europe that we think of today, but from a truly brutal society forged in a crucible of 780 years of warfare, known as the *Reconquista*.

This trail also tells of the struggle of the pre-Columbian people who lived in Florida during the sixteenth century. These tribal societies were a highly advanced collection of chiefdoms and empires struggling against each other to gain dominance over their regions.

The De Soto Trail symbolizes the dramatic clash of two societies, the old world of Europe and the New World of the American Indian. Their encounters had very dire consequences for both societies and shaped the course of American history for the next 500 years.



Hernando de Soto

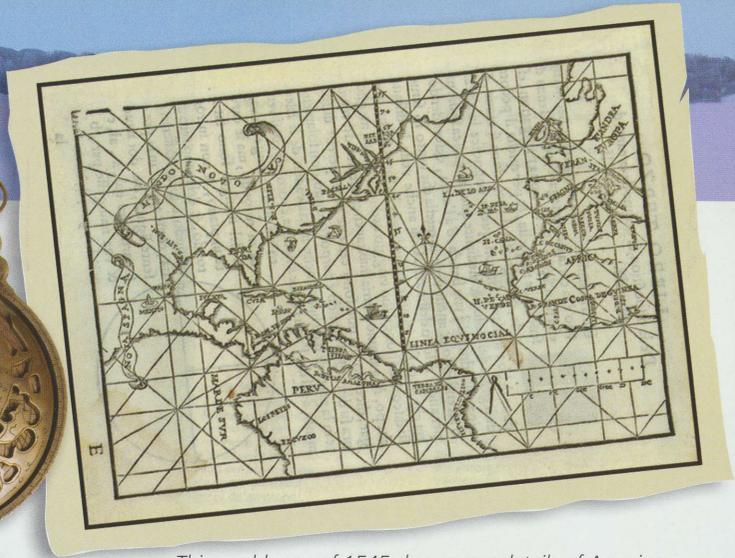
Before Arrival in the New World

Hernando de Soto was born around 1500 in Spain's western province of Extremadura. This province produced many conquistadors of note, such as Francisco Pizarro, Hernán Cortés, and Vasco Núñez de Balboa. Born the second son of a minor noble, De Soto had no claim to the family's wealth or lands. Following in the footsteps of others from his province, De Soto set his sights on the riches and glory of the New World.

At the age of fourteen, De Soto sailed to Central America and enlisted under the command of



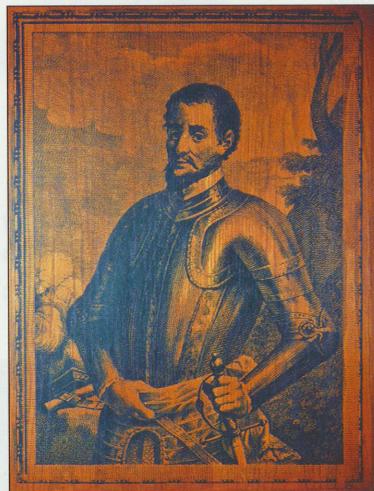
Astrolabe, an early navigation device used by European sailors [De Soto National Memorial]



This world map of 1545 shows new details of America, taken from information provided by survivors of the De Soto expedition. It also illustrates the early Spanish trade routes and knowledge of the Gulf Stream.

Map image courtesy of Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps -- www.RareMaps.com

Pedriarías Dávila. During the conquests of Nicaragua and Panama, De Soto learned the brutal tactics he would later employ in *La Florida*.



Hernando de Soto [De Soto National Memorial]

In 1531, Hernando de Soto earned a prominent rank in Francisco Pizarro's army, on its way to South America to conquer a mighty native empire known as the Inca. Pizarro's small army would overthrow the much larger army of the Incan Empire, which had ruled for hundreds of years.

Heavily laden with his Incan wealth, De Soto triumphantly returned to Spain and was received at the Court of King Charles V. He soon married the daughter of Dávila, Isabel de Bombadilla, but grew tired of his privileged and sedentary life. Within two years of his return from Peru, he convinced the king to grant him the rights to conquer and govern *La Florida*. Undeterred by the reports of the ill-fated expedition of Pánfilo de Narváez in *La Florida*, De Soto was intrigued by the reports of fantastic wealth and glory that might await him in the New World. He formed an army and embarked on a campaign that claimed his life and altered the history of North America forever.



This matchlock gun is typical of weapons used by the conquistadors. [De Soto National Memorial]

Native American Indians

Everyday Life

In 1539, the year Hernando de Soto arrived in Florida, the Native people of the American Southeast were experiencing cultural change and strife. The great mound-building Mississippian chiefdoms had fallen into decline.



These vessels have been reconstructed using original pottery pieces, or potsherds, found at De Soto's winter encampment site.
[Florida Division of Historical Resources]

Now, new tribal empires were asserting their dominance. The Atahachi, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Apalachee chiefdoms were staking their claims over the remnants of the once-dominant Mississippian chiefdoms.

In Florida, small village societies populated the landscape. These villages would trade, make alliances, and wage warfare with each other. Tribal governments were led by chiefs, who inherited power through their mothers' bloodlines. Influenced by Mississippian traditions, mounds were built of earth and shell. Their height invoked reverence for the temples erected on top. It also signified the importance of elite tribal members who lived there. Some mounds were used for sacred burials, while others were used as refuse piles for harvested shells and broken earthenware.



Depiction of Florida native people harvesting food from the sea. A man points to a ship on the horizon. He holds a fish trap made from reed and vines. ["In Ages Past" by Christopher M. Still]

Daily life for Florida's people was relatively peaceful. The men and young boys spent their days in dugout canoes harvesting their night's catch. Warriors patrolled the forests and hunted the bountiful wildlife. Women and young girls spent their time making pottery, weaving baskets, and preparing meals for the village. Extensive trade routes and networks of commerce stretched throughout Florida, creating alliances and competition between tribes. Village routines were broken up by warfare and religious observances.

Ceremonies would take place at the raised temples, often in the center of the village.

At the time of Hernando de Soto's conquest, nearly 350,000 native people lived in Florida. Less than 20 years later, Spanish conquistador Tristan de Luna, traveling parts of the same route as De Soto, found many abandoned villages and scattered people. Great tribes such as Calusa, Potano, Apalachee, and Timucuan, who once ruled chiefdoms throughout Florida, had been decimated by European diseases.

Reenactment of Florida Indian
[De Soto National Memorial]

Replica of a Native American shell hammer and fishing hook
[De Soto National Memorial]



1. TRAILHEAD: De Soto National Memorial

This National Park Service site offers nature trails, a canoe/kayak launch, and a living history camp. The camp is open from December through April and offers visitors a chance to experience both Native American and Spanish life from the period. The visitor center offers educational films and a museum that displays artifacts from the sixteenth century.



5300 De Soto Memorial Hwy., Bradenton
27°31'25.431"N / 82°38'39.0"W
www.nps.gov/deso

1539
Spring

De Soto
Trail Journal



May 30 — The Landing: *Skyway Fishing Pier State Park*. Near here, the conquistador Hernando de Soto made landfall and began a four year, 4,000 mile march through the southeastern United States.

June 1 — After unloading his ships, he marched to an abandoned village: *Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve*.

June 2 — The Village of Uzita: *E.G. Simmons Park*. De Soto's men lived here for six weeks.

June 20 — Village of Urriparacoxi: *Tibet-Butler Nature Preserve*. De Soto sent Baltasar de Gallegos to visit the Urriparacoxi (war chief) to gain permission to cross his chiefdom.



Hernando de Soto
[De Soto National Memorial]



2. TRAILHEAD: Skyway Rest Area South

This scenic rest area is a fun place to explore and have your picture taken with the Sunshine Skyway Bridge as a backdrop. The Sunshine Skyway Bridge, spanning Tampa Bay, is the world's longest bridge with a cable-stayed main span. It is 29,040 feet in length (exactly 5.5 miles or approximately 8.85 km).

Exit at the South Skyway Fishing Pier and go to the Rest Area.

It is accessible from both sides of I-275.

27°35'06.415"N / 82°36'54.058"W

www.floridastateparks.org/skyway

3. Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve

Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve is Tampa Bay's premier estuarine outdoor classroom for students of all ages. This site is on the Florida Birding Trail, with many migratory songbirds, ducks, and white pelicans seen during the fall, winter, and spring. The preserve includes two paddling trails that wind through mangrove labyrinths.

3709 Gulf City Rd., Ruskin

27°41'40.519"N / 82°30'07.040"W

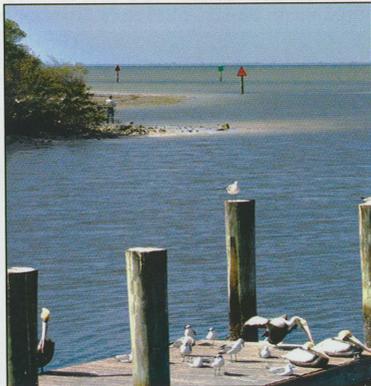
www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/cockroach



4. E.G. Simmons Park

Located near Ruskin, on Tampa Bay, this 469-acre park and preserve is a popular area for outdoor enthusiasts. The park has picnic areas and a campground with a beautiful waterfront view, a public beach, a boat launch, fishing piers, and areas for bank fishing. Bird watching among the shallow waters of the surrounding mangrove swamps is also a favorite pastime.

19th Ave. NW (off US 41), Ruskin
27°44'49.803"N / 82°28'19.966"W
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks



7. Mike E. Sansone Community Park

The Mike E. Sansone Community Park is home to Plant City Little League baseball and softball programs. This park is also home to the Girl Scouts of Suncoast clubhouse. Besides the many ball fields, the park features basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, playgrounds, pavilions, a skate park, and a .38-mile paved walking trail through a wetland area. A tourist information center, run by the Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce, is located at the entrance of the park.

1702 North Park Rd., Plant City
28°01'47.423"N / 82°06'17.644"W
www.plantcitygov.com



5. Bell Creek Nature Preserve

Bell Creek Preserve is a 500-acre sanctuary protecting a large area of high quality sand pine scrub. The site also marks the headwaters of Rice Creek, as well as a forested tributary of Bell Creek.

10940 McMullen Rd., Riverview
27°50'25.894"N / 82°18'03.645"W
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks

6. Tibet-Butler Preserve

Along the southwest shore of Lake Tibet-Butler in Orange County, over three miles of trails and elevated boardwalks radiate out from the Vera Carter Environmental Center. The bay and cypress swamps, freshwater marshes, scrub, and pine flatwoods host a diversity of wildlife.

8777 County Road 535, Orlando
5 miles northwest of I-4 on CR 535 (Winter Garden - Vineland Rd.)
28°26'34.146"N / 81°32'29.663"W
www.orangecountyparks.net



8. Lake Parker Park

Lake Parker Park offers a roller hockey rink, rental pavilions, shuffleboard, lawn bowling, nature trails, playgrounds, boat ramp, fishing, tennis, soccer, and sand volleyball on 100 acres.

910 E. Granada St. (off Lakeland Hills Blvd.), Lakeland
28°05'02.076"N / 81°56'53.921"W
www.lakelandgov.net/parkrec/parks/lakeparkerpark.html





9. Zephyrhills Depot Museum

The Zephyrhills Depot Museum is housed in the restored 1927 Atlantic Coast Line Railroad

Depot. The museum emphasizes the history of trains and Zephyrhills.

39110 South Ave. (off US 301), Zephyrhills

28°13'47.81"N / 82°10'08.64"W

www.ci.zephyrhills.fl.us



10. Hibiscus Park

Picnic tables and shade trees are located at this park.

South 7th St. and Bougainvillea Ave.

(where US 301 and Bus. 301 merge), Dade City

28°21'21.652"N / 82°11'16.729"W

www.visitdadciteam.com



11. Withlacoochee State Forest at Richloam Firetower Trailhead

Withlacoochee is an Indian word meaning "crooked river," which accurately describes the river as it makes its 70-mile journey from the Green Swamp in northern Polk County to the Gulf of Mexico at Yankeetown.

0.6 miles southeast of SR 50 on Richloam Clay Sink Rd. The trailhead is located on the Richloam Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest, 10 miles north of Dade City, and 19 miles east of Brooksville.

28°30'01.378"N / 82°06'45.681"W

www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/withlacoochee.html

1539
Summer

De Soto
Trail Journal



July 18 — Plain or Grassland (sabana):
Zephyrhills Depot Museum.

De Soto's army marched a string of sand hills in the vicinity of Zephyrhills and Lumberton. They traveled under a day of hot sun, unable to get water, and one of De Soto's men died of thirst.

July 26 — Crossing the Swamp:

Withlacoochee State Trail, Turner Road.

De Soto crossed the Cove of the Withlacoochee, a wetlands area which measures 24 miles long and 6 miles wide and is bounded on the east by the Withlacoochee River.

Reenactment of a Conquistador
[De Soto National Memorial]



12. Lake Townsen Regional Park

Lake Townsen Regional Park offers hiking, biking, and horseback riding in a densely wooded area, bounded by the State Forest to the north and the Withlacoochee River on the east. Located on 375 acres, this park has something for everyone – baseball, basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, a fishing pier/ boat ramp, picnic areas, and playground.

28011 Lake Lindsay Rd. (CR 476), Brooksville

28°39'03.407"N / 82°16'.084"W

www.co.hernando.fl.us/parks_rec/

13. Duval Island Boat Ramp

Floral City Lake and other adjacent lakes can be accessed from the Duval Island Boat Ramp.

7790 South Duval Island Dr., Floral City

28°45'02.055"N / 82°16'49.435"W

www.visitcitrus.com/boatramps.asp





14. Withlacoochee State Trail at Wallace Brooks Trailhead

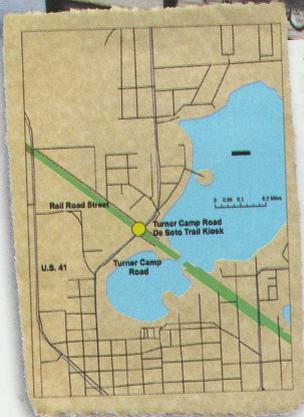
Situated on the Lake Tsala Apopka chain of lakes, the park offers many activities, including a playground, shuffleboard, picnic tables and grills, a fishing pier, and restroom facilities.

328 E. Dampier St., Inverness
28°50'17.028"N / 82°19'36.605"W
www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/state/with

15. Withlacoochee State Trail at Turner Camp Road Trailhead

A short walk south from this kiosk leads to the Withlacoochee Trail picnic area on Tsala Apopka Lake.

2700 N. Dee River Rd., Inverness
8°50'44.856"N / 82°20'15.866"W
www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/state/with



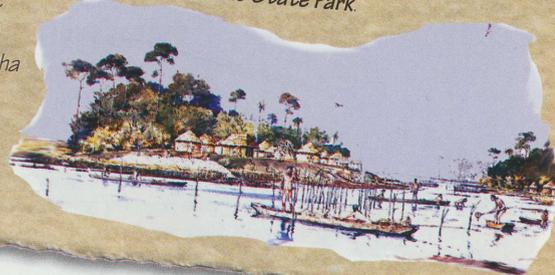
1539
Summer

De Soto
Trail Journal



August 11 — Village of Itaraholata: Goethe State Forest.
De Soto left Ocale with a force of fifty cavalry and sixty infantry and quickly moved northward towards Apalachee. They arrived that night in the village of Itaraholata.

August 15 — Village of Cholupaha: O'Leno State Park.
They arrived at a pretty village named Cholupaha before the Santa Fe River.



16. Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway at Ross Prairie Trailhead

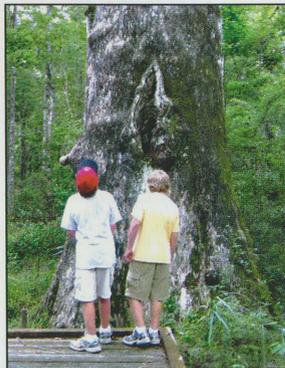
The Cross Florida Greenway is a wonderfully complex collection of natural areas and built features. Stretching from the St. Johns River to the Gulf of Mexico, it is a linear system of scenic and historic rivers, floodplains, lakes, wetlands, ridges, and uplands. This 93,228 acre, 110-mile long corridor contains many species of flora and fauna, some found only in Florida. Ross Prairie Trailhead provides a campground and miles of hiking and equestrian trails.

10660 SW Hwy. 200, Dunnellon
29°02'17.506"N / 82°17'46.764"W
www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/cfg

17. Goethe State Forest

Goethe State Forest may contain the largest tract of contiguous, old-growth longleaf pine flatwoods in the state. This extensive forest has one of the largest red-cockaded woodpecker populations on state lands in Florida.

9110 SE CR 337, Dunnellon
29°11'51.489"N / 82°34'40.509"W
www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/goethe.html



18. Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Paynes Prairie offers an abundance of opportunities in one place. The visitor center gives an overview of the 21,000-acre preserve through a video, exhibits, and wildlife photography. The 50-foot observation tower offers panoramic views of the prairie. Florida's first people were drawn here over 10,000 years ago. Find out what attracted them to this unique place and mingle your footprints with theirs.

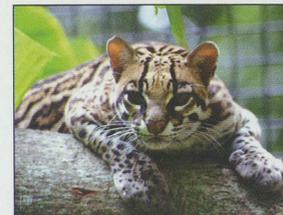
100 Savannah Blvd., Micanopy
29°33'55.120"N / 82°19'47.713"W
www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie



19. Santa Fe College

Santa Fe College adds value to the lives of its students and enriches the community through several unique educational experiences. It has two art galleries, four intercollegiate athletic programs, 10 acres of natural area, a planetarium, and an accredited 10-acre college zoo that is open to the public.

3000 NW 83rd St., Gainesville
29°40'43.462"N / 82°25'50.739"W
www.sfcollege.edu



20. San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park

This preserve has one of the few remaining mature forests in Florida. The limestone outcrops and extreme changes in elevation provide ideal conditions for many species of hardwood trees, including several champions. The park offers outdoor adventure to hikers, off-road bicyclists, horseback riders, and nature lovers.

2720 N.W. 109 Lane, Alachua
4 miles northwest of Gainesville on SR 232
29°42'51.818"N / 82°27'39.113"W

www.floridastateparks.org/sanfelascohammock



21. O'Leno State Park

Located along the banks of the scenic Santa Fe River, a tributary of the Suwannee River, the park features sinkholes, hardwood hammocks, river swamps, and sandhills. As the river courses through the park, it disappears underground and reemerges over three miles away in the River Rise State Preserve. One of Florida's first state parks, O'Leno was developed by the CCC in the 1930s. The suspension bridge built by the CCC still spans the river. Canoes and bicycles are available for rent. The shady, full-facility campground is the perfect place for a relaxing overnight stay.

410 SE O'Leno Park Rd., High Springs
29°54'54.146"N / 82°34'53.682"W

www.floridastateparks.org/oleno



22. Ichetucknee Springs State Park

The crystalline Ichetucknee River flows 6 miles through shaded hammocks and wetlands before it joins the Santa Fe River. In 1972, the head spring of the river was declared a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. From the end of May until early September, tubing down the river is the premier activity in the area. October through March, scuba diving is available in the Blue Hole only (you must be cave certified). Picnic areas, equipped with tables and grills, are available throughout the park. A full-service concession is open Memorial Day through Labor Day.

12087 SW US Hwy. 27, Fort White
29°57'22.334"N / 82°46'11.792"W

www.floridastateparks.org/ichetuckneesprings



1539
Summer

De Soto
Trail Journal



August 17 — Village of Aguacaleyquen:
Ichetucknee Springs State Park. After crossing the river, the advance party arrived at Aguacaleyquen, a moderately large town near a second river.

De Soto and his advance party rested for several days. Although the town had been abandoned, a couple of natives were captured, including the chief's daughter and eventually the chief. August 22, 1539: A great multitude of Indians appeared and De Soto rethought his precarious military position. Eight horsemen were dispatched back to Ocale to tell Moscoso to move forward to Aguacaleyquen. September 4, 1539: The army arrived in Aguacaleyquen, meaning it took the horsemen probably six to seven days to reach Ocale. September 9: De Soto's army departed from Aguacaleyquen, taking the chief and his daughter as hostages.

September 15th — Village of Napituca: **First Federal Sports Complex.**
The army continued west and crossed a marsh and reached the village of Napituca, a fine village with plenty of food. De Soto remained in Napituca for more than a week.

23. Falling Creek Falls Park

During normal water levels, Falling Creek Falls roars over a 10-foot drop. It then flows under Falling Creek Road through a deep ravine, before going underground. A trail system allows you to explore mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, pine plantation, and scrubby flatwoods.

The Falling Creek Park is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail west section. The recreation area includes picnic tables, restroom facilities, and two historic buildings.



953 NW Falling Creek Rd. (CR 131), Lake City
Travel north of US 41, pass under I-10, turn right on NW Falling Creek Rd., travel 1 mile. The park is on the right before crossing the creek.
30°15'28.937"N / 82°40'07.673"W

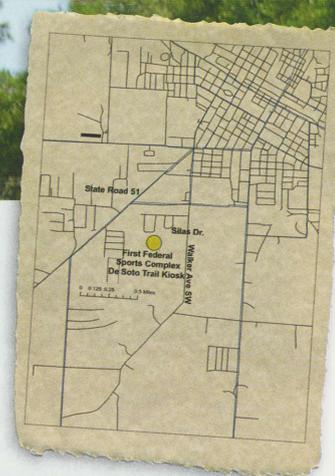
www.columbiacountyfla.com/parksandrecreation.asp

25. First Federal Sports Complex

The First Federal Sports Complex features 5 ball fields, complete with a concession stand, restrooms, two picnic pavilions, the Rotary Centennial Pavilion, batting cages, and a large play structure.

1201 Silas Dr., Live Oak
30°16'38.886"N / 83°00'04.244"W

www.suwanneeparksandrecreation.org



24. Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center

Camp Weed is set in the center of North Florida. With 500 acres of beautiful, unspoiled land, Camp Weed celebrates the best in nature with a retreat center set apart from the bustle of the world. The hiking, swimming, fishing, and other joyful activities will relieve your stress.



11057 Camp Weed Place, Live Oak
30°14'59.839"N / 82°54'06.707"W

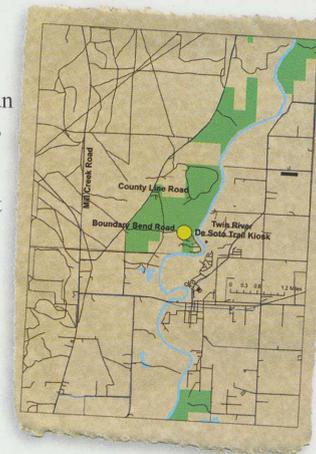
www.campweed.org

26. Twin Rivers State Forest at Mill Creek South Tract

Historically, the junction of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers was an important point of commerce. In the 1800s, both rivers were used as major commercial routes, and steamboats were a common sight. Today, the majority of the state forest lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers. Among its many natural communities are sandhills, floodplains, swamps, and sinkholes. Each tract of Twin Rivers State Forest offers many recreational opportunities, including nature study, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, and fishing.

Office: 7620 133rd Rd., Live Oak
From I-10: south on NE County Hwy. 255, east on County Line Rd., then right on Boundary Bend Rd. to Mill Creek South Tract
30°16'03.275"N / 83°14'41.472"W

www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/twin_rivers.html



27. Riley Palmer Construction

This Neoclassical architectural building was Fred Mahan's Monticello Nursery office. In 1925, Mr. Mahan won a worldwide contest for the best pecan. He donated funds and plants for a US 90 beautification in Jefferson County. The road was later named Mahan Road in his honor. The building was renovated by Riley Palmer Construction to its original condition and serves as their local office.

1180 W Washington St., Monticello, I-10 to Exit 225 to US 19 N in Monticello. At traffic circle, take the third exit.

www.rileypalmerconstruction.com

28. Lafayette Heritage Trail Park

Lafayette Heritage Trail Park is a mixed-use trail system. It branches out over 10 miles in both directions covering nearly 2,000 acres of contiguous parklands and conservation easements on Lake Piney Z. The park has an ADA accessible pier, a canoe/kayak launch, picnic areas, restrooms, playground, miles of shoreline for fishing and birding, and the seven-mile Cadillac Bike Trail.

4900 Heritage Park Blvd., Tallahassee

30°26'23.481"N / 84°11'32.023"W

www.talgov.com/parks/

29. TRAILHEAD: Governor Martin House at De Soto's 1539 Winter Encampment Site

The Governor Martin House was built in the early 1930s by the 24th Governor of Florida, John W. Martin (1884-1958). It is Georgian Revival in style with an interior decor reminiscent of a hunting lodge. Intent on a second term of office following his governorship (1925-1929), Martin designed a residence to be located close to the state capitol building. Less than a mile away, its relaxed country setting was for entertaining friends and business associates.



1539
Autumn

De Soto
Trail Journal



October 1 — Swamp of Ivitachuco: De Soto and his army left Agile and marched into Apalachee. They came to the Swamp of Ivitachuco (Aucilla River) and built a bridge to cross it near the present-day U.S. 27 bridge.

October 6 — Town of Apalachee: Iniahica (**the Governor Martin House**) De Soto and his army traveled to the main town of Apalachee, Iniahica. The Spaniards spent five months in the town, which the Apalachees had deserted. Shortly after he arrived, De Soto sent explorers to the north and the south.

October 11 — Village of Aute: **St. Marks Trail** (beginning trailhead), St. Marks Trail (Wakulla Trailhead Station), San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park (end of St. Marks Trail). Captain Juan de Anasco was sent south and discovered an Indian village named Aute.

October 20 — De Soto sent Juan de Anasco with thirty cavalry back to the Tampa Bay base camp. Anasco made this journey in just ten days.

The governor called his estate “Apalachee,” though it is unlikely that he knew the true significance of the name. The house had been partially constructed on the former site of an Apalachee village and the 1539-40 winter encampment of Hernando de Soto’s expedition. After failing to receive a reelection bid, Martin sold the house in 1941. It remained a private residence until being purchased by the State of Florida in the late 1980s. Today, it serves as headquarters for the Bureau of Archaeological Research. An interpretive display about Hernando de Soto is located in the Governor Martin House lobby.

1001 De Soto Park Dr., Tallahassee
30°26'07.639"N / 84°16'07.321"W
www.flheritage.com/archaeology



1539
Winter

De Soto
Trail Journal



December 28 — Village of Achuse: **Bartram Park**. Taking two months, Maldonado searched for and found a port to the west, the village of Achuse.

1540
Spring

March 3 — River Guacuca: **Kate Ireland Park**. At the end of the 1st day, they came to the river Guacuca.

March 4 — Crossed the River of Capachequi (the Flint River) into Georgia



30. 31. 32. St. Marks Historic Railroad Trail

St. Marks Trail follows the abandoned rail bed of the old Tallahassee – St. Marks Railroad. The paved trail provides a scenic experience for runners, walkers,

bikers, and in-line skaters. Equestrian riders can enjoy the adjacent unpaved trail. At the southern terminus of the trail, you can enjoy seafood dining and entertainment in the coastal community of St. Marks and learn about the history of the area at San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park.

To access the main trail from downtown Tallahassee, take Monroe St. south, which will turn into Woodville Hwy. (SR 363). After passing Capital Circle

(US 319), look for trailhead on right.

30°22'14.894"N / 84°16'06.038"W

30°14'42.258"N / 84°14'05.849"W

30°09'15.281"N / 84°12'15.660"W

www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/state/marks



33. Bartram Park

This beautiful 2.6-acre park was named after William Bartram, a naturalist who explored this coast in 1775. From here, you can enjoy a scenic view of Pensacola Bay. Next door, explore the Florida Public Archaeology Facility to learn more about Florida's archaeological past.

211 East Main St., Pensacola

30°24'28.430"N / 87°12'35.708"W

www.playpensacola.com

34. Kate Ireland Park

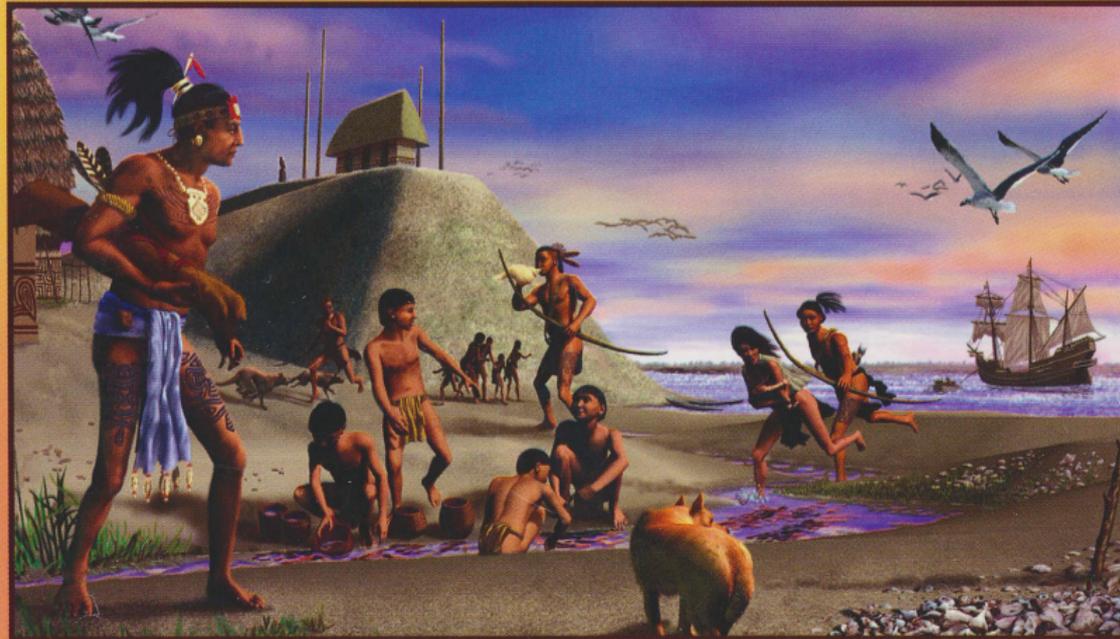
Located a short distance from beautiful Lake Iamonia, the park is a popular spot for family reunions and after-school playtime.

12271 Iamonia Landing Rd., Tallahassee

30°24'28.430"N / 87°12'35.708"W

www.leoncountyfl.gov/parks/youth.asp





Artist, Hermann Trappman