





Paradise on Wheels

Florida is a bicyclist's paradise, offering entry to some of the state's best-kept secrets. Inviting weather year-round, unique wildlife, breathtaking coastal vistas, lush natural areas, and quaint downtowns and small towns can all be found on the paved and off-road trails described in this brochure.



Leisurely rides through sandhill communities offer glimpses of wildlife such as gopher tortoises, white-tailed deer and red-cockaded woodpeckers. Two-wheel excursions along the coast and Florida bays may give rise to brown-headed pelican, dolphin or blue heron sightings. Cruise along Florida's historic rivers, visit pre-Civil War forts and bubbling natural springs.

So check the tire pressure, strap on your helmet, fill the water bottle, scan the sky and prepare to Bike Florida!

How to use this Guide:

Each trail listed in the brochure is color-coded based on the type of trail. Trails marked **blue** are paved trails. **Green** signifies off-road bicycle trails, and those marked **red** are both paved and off-road.

P Parking

Restrooms

Water Fountain

Food and/or
Bottled Water

Picnic Area

Camping Area

All times listed are EST (Eastern Standard Time) unless otherwise noted CST (Central Standard Time). All hours listed represent hours that staff is available by phone.



Florida Bicycle Trails

1. Blackwater Heritage State Trail

Among the swamps, towering pine trees, and pastureland, this paved trail takes cyclists on a quiet tour among the back roads of rural Florida. Formerly the Florida and Alabama Railroad built in the early 1900s, it's now the westernmost rail trail in the state. It runs from Milton toward Whiting Field Naval Air Station, connecting to the Military Trail which extends another one-and-a-half miles. Cyclists enjoy the serene creek crossings found on wooden bridges with very few hills or grades. This is a pleasant trip for the whole family with lots of access.

Length: 8.1 miles (paved)



Florida Greenways & Trails (850) 983-5338; 8:00-5:00 CST, 7 days a week www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

2. Timpoochee Trail

This trail is a popular path through the Beaches of South Walton. Named after Timpoochee Kinnard, the most influential Indian Chief of the Euchee Indians, this paved path parallels Scenic Highway 30-A, surveying the sugar-sand beaches and emerald green waters of the Gulf. The path winds through 7 of 13 distinct beach communities, with unique coastal names such as Dune Allen, Blue Mountain, Grayton Beach,



Photo Credit: Beaches of South Walton and Walton County TDI Topsail Preserve State Park Found near Timpoochee

Santa Rosa Beach, Watercolor, Seaside and Water Sound. From migrating flocks of birds to blooming wildflowers and trees, this breezy coastal ride showcases nature's beauty all year long.

Length: 19 miles (paved)



Beaches of South Walton Visitor Center (800) 822-6877; 8:00-4:30 (8:00-6:00 in Summer) CST, 7 days a week www.beachesofsouthwalton.com



3. Dutch & Faye and Crooked Creek Trails

Just north of Panama City, Pine Log was the first State Forest purchased in 1936. Various natural communities found in the forest include sandhills, flatwoods and cypress ponds. The forest has three streams (Pine Log Creek, Little Crooked Creek and Ditch Branch) as well as several small lakes and ponds. Pine Log Forest is home to the Dutch & Faye and the Crooked Creek trails, which are primarily single-track with good elevation changes, comprising some of the best off-road riding in the state.

Length: 4 miles (off-road, Dutch & Faye; 9 miles (off-road, Crooked Creek)



Pine Log State Forest (850) 547-7083, 6:00-7:00 CST, 7 days a week www.fl-dof.com

4. Lines Tract Trail

Lines Tract contains a designated off-road bicycle trail that offers a dynamic course for beginner- to intermediate-level cyclists. Located in the beautiful Lake Talquin State Forest west of Tallahassee, the mostly single-track trail leads cyclists through varying terrain--pine plantation and sandhills on the northern portion, and a mix of hardwood trees along the lakeshore of Lake Talquin. Forest roads within the Lake Talquin State Forest provide additional miles for cyclists.

Length: 9 miles (off-road)



Loke Tolquin State Forest (850) 488-1871; 7:00-7:00, 7 days a week www.fl-dof.com





Florida Bicycle Trails

5. Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail, Munson Hills and Tall Pine Off-Road Trails

The paved trail runs from Florida's capital city, past the Apalachicola National Forest, to the coastal community of St. Marks. Cyclists will find fresh Florida seafood, fishing, and San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park. Through the early 1900s, this historic railroad corridor was used to carry cotton from the plantation belt to the coast for shipment to textile mills in Europe. Today, a canopy of foliage overhangs the trail. Deer and foxes are occasional visitors.



Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail

A short ride from the north trailhead, the single-track Munson Hills off-road trail offers a scenic and challenging ride through some of the most varied terrain in the Apalachicola National Forest. Sandhills form a foundation for a towering longleaf pine forest intermixed with ponds and wetlands. The bike trail often dips down in the sandhills through hammock ecosystems. Watch for deer, fox squirrels and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker throughout the forest. Off-road enthusiasts may choose the outer Munson Hills or the inner Tall Pine Shortcut Loops.

Length: 20.5 miles (paved, Tallahassee-St. Marks); 7.5 miles (off-road, Munson Hills Loop); 4.25 miles (off-road, Tall Pine Shortcut Loop)

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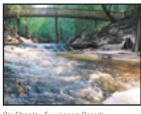
Florida Greenways & Trails (877) 822-5208; 8:00-5:00, M-F (850) 519-6594; 8:00-5:00, Weekends www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com





6. Big Shoals Public Lands Trails

This more than 4,000-acre area is bordered by the town of White Springs. Big Shoals is best known for its namesake, a one-mile stretch of rapids on the Suwannee River formed by water coursing over a limestone bed with rocky outcroppings. Riding in this area offers intermediate to expert bicyclists varied terrain with scenic



Big Shoals - Suwannee Rapids

vistas from high river bluffs. Big Shoals offers a mixture of sandhill and hammock roads and single-track trails. The paved Woodpecker Trail connects the two parking areas, and cyclists often visit Little Shoals, a smaller set of rapids, while in the area.

Length: 25 miles (off-road); 3 miles (paved)



Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park (386) 397-4331; 8:00-5:00, 7 days a week www.floridastateparks.org

7. Fort Clinch State Park Trails

Found in Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, this park offers outstanding trails, both paved and off-road. With its namesake fort and peninsular location, it also offers historic and natural features. Initial development of the park was started in the 1930s, making it one of Florida's first state parks. The trail system includes a six-mile off-road loop trail for hikers and off-road bicyclists. The park's paved road and several miles of beaches along Cumberland Sound with hard packed sand provide great riding during low tides.

Length: 6 miles (off-road); 3 miles (paved)



Fort Clinch State Park (904) 277-7274; 8:00-Sunset, 7 days a week www.floridastateparks.org





8. Jacksonville-Baldwin Trail

This rail trail offers a sense of seclusion cyclists might not expect from a trail that starts about five miles from downtown Jacksonville. The path traverses a range of natural habitats that include pine flatwoods, wetlands and hardwood uplands. Songbirds, hawks, wild turkey and white-tailed deer are frequently seen. A leafy canopy of oak, pine, maple and sumac shades the trail, and in certain locations, on a sunny day, gives the illusion of traveling in a tunnel. The trail also crosses McGirts Creek near Camp Milton, the longest continually occupied Civil War encampment in Florida. Camp Milton Historic Preserve offers educational exibits of the area's participation during the Civil War, including a historic tree trail. Restroom facilities are available at the trail's midway point, Camp Milton Historic Preserve.

Length: 14.5 miles (paved)



Jacksonville Parks and Recreation (904) 630-4100; 8:00-5:00, M-F www.coj.net

9. Nature Coast State Trail

This paved trail provides an excellent opportunity to experience the Sunshine State's "off the beaten path." The trail consists of two primary alignments built along former rail lines that meet at Wilcox Junction, connecting the communities of Cross City, Trenton, Fanning Springs and Chiefland. A historic train trestle carries the trail



Nature Coast State Trail Railroad Bridge

across the Suwannee River near Old Town. Trail users can cool off in the 72-degree springs in nearby Fanning Springs State Park, or watch for more wildlife at Andrews Wildlife Management Area.

Length: 32 miles (paved)



Florida Greenways & Trails (352) 535-5181; 8:00-5:00, M-F (352) 535-5581; Weekends www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com





10. San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park Trails

Just south of Alachua, San Felasco Hammock is named for a 17th century Spanish missionary, San Francisco de Potano who ministered to the Indians living here centuries ago. Early settlers mispronounced the name until the area became known as San Felasco. Trails in the southern part of the park are reserved for hikers, but the northernmost 2,000 acres accommodate nearly 20 miles of single-track for the experienced cyclist. Terrain in the grassy woodlands and old-growth forest has been sculpted by ravines and sinkholes.

Length: 20 miles (off-road)



San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park

(386) 462-7905; 8:00-Sunset, M-F www.floridastateparks.org

11. Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park and Gainesville-Hawthorne Trails

Located in the small town of Micanopy, Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park is rich in human and natural history. The first known inhabitants, the Paleo-Indians, arrived about 12,000 years ago. The off-road trails, mostly double-track, explore wet prairie and pine flatwoods. Sandhill cranes, hawks and waterfowl winter on the preserve, and some live here year round.

The paved Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail stretches from Gainesville's Boulware Springs Park through the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park and the Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area. The trail takes cyclists through some of the finest natural areas in North Central Florida. It is wooded and quiet, even though it travels close to busy highways and country roads.

Length: 20 miles (off-road, Paynes Prairie); 16 miles (paved, Gainesville-Hawthorne)

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Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park (352) 466-3397; 8:00-Sunset, 7 days a week www.floridastateparks.org





Florida Bicucle Trails

12. Withlacoochee Bay Trail / Felburn Park Trailhead

Located near Inglis and within the Cross Florida Greenway (see Trail 14), Felburn Park was formerly a limerock mine. Remnants of the mining activity include the 40-acre Phil's Lake formed when limerock mining hit the freshwater aquifer.

From its Felburn Park Trailhead, the Withlacoochee Bay Trail traverses five miles west to the Gulf of Mexico on the south side of the former Cross Florida Barge Canal. As it approaches the Gulf, it enters maritime hammocks and salt marsh, providing numerous opportunities to observe wildlife.

Length: 5 miles (paved)



Florida Greenways & Trails (352) 447-1720; 8:00-5:00, 7 days a week www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

13. Withlacoochee State Trail

The trail from Citrus Springs to Trilby is presently the longest paved rail trail in the state. The trail corridor runs through small towns, ranches, the Withlacoochee State Forest and close to the Withlacoochee River. Springtime riders will enjoy the abundance of beautiful wildflowers.

Length: 46 miles (paved)



Florida Greenways & Trails (352) 302-0051; 7:00-4:00, 7 days a week www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com



Enjoying one of the many bicycle trails throughout Florida





14. Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and Santos Trails

Stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the St. Johns River, the Cross Florida Greenway occupies much of the land formerly known as the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The multi-use trail corridor passes by communities such as Ocala, Belleview, Palatka, Inglis and Dunnellon. The greenway includes America's first land bridge, a wildlife crossing over Interstate 75 just south of Ocala. The land bridge is one of the first multi-use bridges of its kind, landscaped with native vegetation, including longleaf pine, sandhill and sand live oak. The greenway offers an array of trails and recreation areas for all visitors.



The Santos Trails System, part of the Cross Florida Greenway, is located in the picturesque town of Ocala. A mecca for off-road bicyclists, Santos draws riders from all over the state and country. Over 50 miles of trails with three levels of difficulty accommodate beginners to experts. The nearby vortex free ride area provides an exciting venue for advanced riders to push their limits.

The Greenway is 110 miles long and consists of more than 183 miles of off-road connector and loop trails. The Landbridge Trailhead and 49th Avenue Trailhead near Ocala also offer access to the Greenway bicycle trail network, as well as to a 10-mile multi-use lime rock road through the historic canal diggings. The Baseline Road Trailhead near Ocala and the Withlacoochee Bay Trail/Felburn Park near Inglis offers paved trail options for Greenway cyclists.

Length: 183 miles (off-road, Cross Florida); 30 miles (off-road, Santos); 11.5 miles (paved)



Florida Greenwaus & Trails (352) 236-7143; 8:00-5:00, M-F www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com





Florida Bicucle Trails

15. Seminole-Wekiva Trail

This paved trail was built on a portion of the former Orange Belt Railway, which ran from Jacksonville to St. Petersburg and was once the longest narrow gauge railroad in the nation. The trail begins in Altamonte Springs where it skirts lakes, pastures, a country club and connects to the Rinehart Road Trail in Lake Mary via the Interstate 4 trail overpass in Heathrow.

Length: 14 miles (paved)



Seminole County Parks and Recreation (407) 788-0405; 8:00-5:00, M-F

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/pw/trails

16. West Orange Trail

For most of its way, this paved trail follows the route of the former Orange Belt Railway through the old farming towns of Oakland, Winter Garden, Ocoee and Apopka. The Winter Garden Heritage Museum, housed in a former depot, tells the story of Winter Garden's past as a packing and shipping center for oranges, grapefruit, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce and other Central Florida crops. Trail users can catch glimpses of Lake Apopka, see a butterfly garden and stop for refreshments at the outdoor cafes along the way.

Length: 19 miles (paved)



Orange County Parks and Recreation

(407) 654-1108; 7:30-6:00 (7:30-8:00 in Summer), 7 days a week www.parks.orangecountyfl.net





17. Cady Way Trail

This multi-use urban trail runs from the Fashion Square Mall in Orlando to Cady Way Park in Winter Park. The trail passes Baldwin Park, a community with architecture reminiscent of the pre-1940s era in Central Florida. The trail also passes the spectacular homes of Winter Park and a golf course. An oak-tree canopy provides shade on portions of the trail.

Length: 3.5 miles (paved)



Orange County Parks and Recreation (407) 836-6200; 8:00-5:00, M-F

www.parks.orangecountyfl.net

18. Little Econ Greenway

Also known as the Little Econ Trail, this paved greenway runs along the Little Econlockhatchee River, an ideal location for fishing, canoeing and picnicking. Beginning near the corner of Alafaya and Lokanotosa Trail, the path winds through Jay Blanchard Park, an excellent location to access the trail, and continues to Forsyth Road in Orlando. Abundant wildlife includes red-shouldered hawks, osprey and alligators. Along the way, users can stop and watch the butterflies in the butterfly garden.

Length: 8 miles (paved)



Jay Blanchard Park

(407) 249-6194; 8:00-6:00 (8:00-8:00 in Summer),

7 days a week

www.parks.orangecountyfl.net



19. General James A. Van Fleet State Trail

One of Florida's most rural, paved rail trails, it begins in Polk City and runs through Green Swamp, the headwaters for some of Florida's most frequently canoed rivers--the Withlacoochee, Hillsborough and Peace. Landscapes include former citrus lands and cattle ranches. With only one curve in the entire trail, cyclists can choose to go slow or enjoy it at a brisk pace. The trail has excellent wildlife viewing opportunities between Green Pond Road and Bay Lake Road.

Length: 29 miles (paved)



Florida Greenways & Trails

(352) 516-7384; 8:00-5:00, 7 days a week www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

20. Suncoast Trail

This paved trail parallels the Suncoast Parkway toll road from Tampa through Land O' Lakes and Brooksville. At points along the trail, resting spots and markers recall historical significance, emphasize transitions between ecological communities and identify native species.

Length: 42 miles (paved)



Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation

(813) 801-6729; 8:00-5:00, 7 days a week

Pasco County Parks and Recreation (813) 929-1260; 8:00-5:00, M-F

Hernando Countu Parks and Recreation (352) 754-4027; 8:00-5:00, M-F

www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com



Suncoast Trail





21. Upper Tampa Bay Trail

This paved trail winds its way from the quaint community of Town 'N Country to suburban Citrus Park. The path follows a former railroad corridor, crossing Rocky Creek by way of a wooden suspension trail bridge built on top of the original railroad bridge timbers, and affords a view of the CSX railroad trestle. Other points of interest along the trail include the Town 'N Country Preserve, Town 'N Country YMCA, the Citrus Park Town Center (shopping) and Ballyhoos restaurant.

Length: 7.5 miles (paved)



Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation (813) 801-6729; 8:00-5:00; 7 days a week www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks

22. Friendship TrailBridge

The pavement of this trail is the deck of the "old" Gandy Bridge, saved from demolition at the urging of local citizens of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties when a new bridge across Tampa Bay was built for the Gandy Highway in the late 1990s. Connecting the Tampa and St. Petersburg areas, the TrailBridge is now used by bicyclists, walkers, skaters and



Friendship TrailBridge at Sunset

even fishermen, and is a good way to catch bay breezes all year long. Users may see dolphins jumping in the bay and brownheaded pelicans flying above.

Length: 2.6 miles (paved)



Pinellas County Parks Department (727) 549-6099; 8:00-Sunset, 7 days a week www.friendshiptrail.org





Florida Bicucle Trails

23. Pinellas Trail

This is one of Florida's premier urban trails. Stretching from Tarpon Springs, known for its sponges and Greek food, to St. Petersburg, the trail links some of the area's most picturesque parks, towns and scenic coastal areas. The paved trail provides cyclists with an excellent alternative to the automobile – even for the visitor – amidst Florida's most densely populated county. Eight overpasses allow trail-goers to travel above traffic at busy roadways.

Length: 43 miles (paved)



Pinellas County Parks Department (727) 549-6099; 8:00-Sunset, 7 days a week www.pinellascounty.org/park

24. Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST)

This paved and off-road trail circles the second largest freshwater lake in the United States, Lake Okeechobee. The trail is located atop the Herbert Hoover Dike, built in the 1930s, which surrounds the lake for flood protection. The trail takes users near and through communities that are at the heart of agriculture in this part of the state, such as Clewiston and Belle Glade. The area affords opportunities for viewing wildlife, particularly in fall and winter, when birds such as herons, egrets and a variety of wintering waterfowl are abundant, and world-class fishing opportunities are limitless.

Length: 62 miles (paved); 48 miles (unpaved)



Florida Greenways & Trails (863) 983-8101; 8:00-5:00, M-F (772) 219-4575; 10:00-2:00, Weekends www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com



25. Gasparilla Island-Boca Grande Trail

This first paved rail trail built in Florida runs the length of Gasparilla Island through the town of Boca Grande. The railroad it replaced once brought phosphates from the mainland to the deepwater port on the southern tip of the island. Ride by stately homes, retail shops and swaying palms. The terrain is flat, the vegetation is lush and there's always something interesting to see, such as



gopher tortoises crossing the trail. Gasparilla Island State Park, at the southern terminus of the trail, is home to the Boca Grande Lighthouse Museum.

Length: 6.5 miles (paved)

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Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association (941) 964-2667; 8:00-5:00, M-F www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

26. Collier-Seminole State Park Trails

Slightly east of Naples, the park's bicycle trails run through a pine forest that is bordered by a beautiful hardwood hammock. The off-road bicycle trail has a sandy base, and overlaps the historic Marco Road. The area is abundant with wildlife, including alligators, osprey and bobcats.

Length: 3.5 miles (off-road)

Collier-Seminole State Park (239) 394-3397; 8:00-Sunset, 7 days a week www.floridastateparks.org





Florida Bicucle Trails

27. Oleta River State Park Trails

Located on the banks of the Oleta River and the Intracoastal Waterway, both paved and off-road trails provide excellent recreational opportunities in the urbanized areas of North Miami. The trails wind through areas of lush vegetation along mangrove creeks and tall pines and back to a wading pool where a variety of birds come to feed and rest. Primitive cabins along the trail and a small swimming beach are other amenities within the park.

Length: 14 miles (off-road); 3 miles (paved)



Oleta River State Park

(305) 919-1846; 8:00-Sunset, 7 days a week www.floridastateparks.org

28. Shark Valley Tram Road Trail

Bicycling at Shark Valley is a great way to experience the quiet beauty of the Florida Everglades. This flat, paved loop trail provides visitors with a gateway into the beautiful Everglades National Park, located between Naples and Miami. Along the trail, where limestone was quarried from borrow pits to build the trailbed, cyclists can



Everglades National Park

see alligators, blue heron, egrets, deer, turtles and snail kites. An observation tower at the half-way point provides a panoramic view of the Everglades.

Length: 15 miles (paved)



Everglades National Park, Shark Valley Visitors Center (305) 221-8776; 8:30-4:45, 7 days a week www.nps.gov







29. Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

The Florida Keys were connected in 1912 by Henry Flagler's Florida Overseas Railway, which was the basis for today's Overseas Highway and bicycle trail. The paved path runs through the small Keys communities, takes in views of shimmering Gulf and ocean waters and pauses for a breather at benches and picnic tables. John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the nation's first undersea park, can be found along the way. The 61-mile trail will eventually grow to 106.5 miles long, extending the entire length of the Keys. Although not yet contiguous, the current length is still worth the ride.

Length: 61 miles (completed and paved)



Florida Greenways & Trails (305) 853-3571; 8:00-5:00, M-F www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

Florida has many more beautiful trails not listed in this brochure. Please visit the following web sites for additional bicycle trail information and possible maps:

Florida Greenways & Trails: www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

Florida State Parks: www.floridastateparks.org

Florida State Forests:

www.fl-dof.com

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: www.myfwc.com

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy: www.railtrails.org

VISIT FLORIDA: www.VISITFLORIDA.com



Help make Florida a bicycle-friendly state with the purchase of a "Share the Road" license plate. Proceeds from the "Share the Road" license plate go to Bike Florida and the Florida Bicycle Association to promote safe cycling. Visit www.bikeflorida.org or www.floridabicycle.org for more information.





Many of the featured bicycle trails can be found on Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails' web site. Detailed trail maps can be found by visiting www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com and clicking on the Trail Guide icon.

An electronic version of the bicycle trails brochure can be downloaded by visiting www.VISITFLORIDA.com or www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com. You can also order a free copy by calling (888) 735-2872.





C. Big Oaks Ranch
One location in Centra

One location in Central Florida Near Little Econ Greenway (407) 365-8885 www.bigoaksranch.com F. Hampton's Edge Trailside Bike Shop

One location in Central West Florida Near Withlachoochee State Trail (352) 799-4979

The bicycle rental locations listed in this brochure are VISIT FLORIDA Partners. For more information on our Partners, please visit www.VISITFLORIDA.com.



FLORIDA BAY

Big Pine Key

Key West,

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www.floridabicycle.org



www.bikeflorida.org



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