



# Seminole County Entertainment For All Tastes

Seminole County offers visitors and residents alike a few attractions of its own, in the form of pristine, untouched nature and wildlife. It's no wonder that Seminole County is called Florida's natural choice.

## Parks and recreation

Seminole County visitors and residents can canoe or kayak on crystal-clear rivers, enjoy a thrilling airboat ride, or go horseback riding on scenic trails. Seminole County has over 2,000 rivers and lakes to explore, including the scenic St. Johns River, Florida's longest at 342 miles, and the Wekiva River. One of Florida's two federally designated "Wild and Scenic Rivers," the Wekiva River is located in the Wekiwa Springs State Park, where visitors can enjoy swimming, canoeing, kayaking tubing, or overnight camping. Wekiwa Springs State Park has even recently built a children's swimming area as part of a larger renovation project.

Adventurous visitors will enjoy seeing alligators on an exciting airboat ride on Lake Jesup, widely known for having the largest alligator population in Florida. Black Hammock Adventures - Airboat Tours offers airboat rides and exhibits containing alligators and macaws.

Those who like sailing will like Monroe Harbour Marina in Sanford, where they can dock their own boat or rent a sailboat or charter. Daily boat rentals are offered on fully-equipped fishing and pontoon boats, where patrons can enjoy fishing or cruising on the scenic St. Johns River. Visitors can also enjoy a guided kayaking tour or paddleboard lessons on any one of Seminole County's waterways.

For those who prefer dry land, Seminole County has more than 30 parks and preserves that make it a favorite destination for bird watching,

wildlife study, nature photography, hiking and bicycling. Even pets can enjoy the outdoors in one of Seminole County's several dog parks.

### **Seminole County trails**

Seminole County is home to several miles of picturesque trails perfect for hiking, biking and enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. The Great Florida Birding Trail runs across several Seminole County wilderness areas, giving visitors the chance to see some of the world's most enchanting birds. They can also discover some of the most scenic areas of the county on the Florida National Scenic Trail, a 1,300-mile trail that runs from the Panhandle to the Everglades.

### **Shopping**

Seminole County has a wide array of shopping selections to feed any shopaholic's addiction. To start, there are three shopping malls featuring major chain stores as well as unique specialty shops. These include the Altamonte Mall, which offers over 130 specialty shops, department stores and restaurants, and an 18-screen AMC movie theater. And if that's not enough, there's Uptown Altamonte, which has street shops and a park area with a square for weddings, festivals and city holidays.

Next is the Seminole Towne Center in Sanford, which features more than 120 specialty stores and an innovative array of dining and entertainment options, including a United Artists movie theater. And if that's not enough, the Marketplace at Seminole Towne Center has a dynamic array of retailers and restaurants as well.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Oviedo Marketplace, which offers anchor department stores and retailers, numerous restaurants, and a movie theater.

But malls aren't the only shopping attractions available in Seminole County. Antiques abound in historic downtown Longwood. Then there is historic downtown Sanford, with over 60 shops, boutiques, and restaurants lining brick streets with charming storefronts that sell imported goods and fun, vintage kitsch.

In Heathrow/Lake Mary, Park Place and the Colonial TownPark provide upscale shopping and dining options. Another mixed-use development is the Winter Springs Town Center, which features a variety of upscale stores and restaurants, prime office space and luxury condominiums surrounded by the beauty of the nearby Lake Jesup wetlands.

### **Dining**

After a busy day of shopping, famished shoppers may find a nice respite at one of Seminole County's many dining options that feed appetites and budgets of all tastes, from the economy to the exquisite.

The city of Sanford has a growing variety of restaurants, from local eateries to well-known chains. A favorite in downtown Sanford is Theo Hollerbach's Willow Tree Cafe, which serves German food with a side of German Gemütlichkeit, a sense of well-being and happiness that comes from enjoying the company of friends and family while savoring good food and drink along with the cultural entertainment of German polka music.

Lake Mary has a variety of eateries as well, from high-end to affordable. For the affluent diner, there is Ruth's Chris Steak House, known for its expertly prepared USDA Prime steaks and an award-winning wine list. For those who want to go easy on their wallets, there is BurgerFi, which serves up classic American hamburgers, fries, and onion rings in an earth-friendly and sustainable environment.

In nearby Heathrow, diners can take an exotic culinary adventure without ever leaving the county at Istanbul Turkish Cuisine, which serves authentic Turkish food in an elegant atmosphere.

### **Entertainment**

As far as entertainment is concerned, multi-screen movie theaters are conveniently located at each of the malls, as is The Picture Show, a discount theater located in Altamonte Springs, across S.R. 436 from Uptown Altamonte. Uptown Altamonte's Cranes Roost Park also



offers a variety of fun activities, including frequent art and wine festivals, and Red Hot & Boom, a massive Fourth of July celebration that features food and live music and culminates in spectacular fireworks display.

For art lovers, fine art can be found abundantly throughout Seminole County. The Sanford Historical Museum features exhibits on local history and the life of the city founder, and the Casselberry Art House offers exhibits, workshops and art classes.

For live theater, there's the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center in Sanford, a beautifully restored historic Vaudeville theater that hosts a wide range of performances.

Many of the cities in Seminole County also provide a regular schedule of free events, such as the City of Sanford's Alive After 5, Central Florida's largest recurring monthly street party, and Art Walk, a monthly arts and music showcase, both located on historic First Street. Throughout the county, live music can also be heard at many bars and clubs.