

RECREATION PARADISE

SEMINOLE COUNTY HAS IT ALL



Seminole County offers visitors and residents alike a few attractions of its own, in the form of pristine nature and abundant wildlife. Those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of urban life can lose themselves in the miles of enchanting rivers and forest trails that wind through Central Florida's striking landscape. It's no wonder that Seminole County is called Florida's natural choice.

Wekiwa Springs State Park

Located just west of Seminole County, Wekiwa Springs State Park offers locals a chance to experience an oasis of nature in the busy metro Orlando area. Wekiwa Springs is the oldest tourist attraction in Central Florida, and thousands have flocked to its crystal clear waters since its discovery in the 1860s.

Visiting swimmers will enjoy the half-acre spring that maintains a refreshing 72 degrees year-round. After a refreshing dips, visitors can relax or picnic on the spring slope, which includes ample space for sunbathing and shaded pavilions.

People interested in a walking tour of Florida's natural splendor can explore one of the park's trails. Ranging from less than

a mile to more than 13, the trails offer vigorous experiences to hikers of all abilities. During a hike, visitors may encounter white-tailed deer, gopher tortoises, turkeys, and perhaps even a rare bobcat or Florida black bear.



Ospreys in their nest

Seminole County Waterways

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.

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.

Seminole County Trails

Seminole County is home to several miles of picturesque trails perfect for hiking, biking and enjoying the sights and sounds of



(From left to right) Historic Sanford Memorial Stadium, Wekiwa Springs State Park, airboat rides by Black Hammock



Sunset over the marina at Lake Monroe (Photo by Mark James)

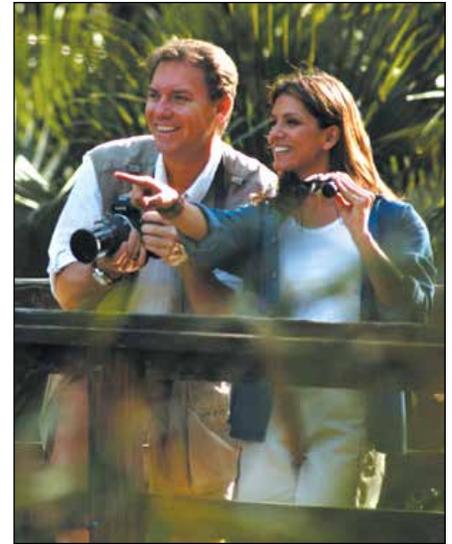
nature. The Great Florida Birding Trail runs across several Seminole County wilderness areas, giving visitors the chance to see some of the world's most enchanting birds. They can also discover some of the most scenic areas of the county on the Florida National Scenic Trail, a 1,300-mile trail that runs 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 shops. These include the Altamonte Mall, which offers specialty shops, 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.



Cyclists enjoy the many trails and paths in Seminole County.



Whether celebrating holidays like the 4th of July and Halloween or spending a quiet afternoon enjoying the area's natural splendor, there's always something to do in Seminole County.

Next is the Seminole Towne Center in Sanford, which features numerous retail stores and an innovative array of dining and entertainment options. The nearby Marketplace at Seminole Towne Center has a dynamic array of retailers and restaurants as well.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Oviedo Mall, which offers a variety of retailers, restaurants, and a movie theater.

But malls aren't the only shopping attractions available in Seminole County. Antiques abound in historic downtown Longwood. There's also Sanford's constantly expanding downtown district, where brick streets are home to shops, boutiques, and restaurants 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

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 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.

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

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