

Levy County

Driving Distance: 155 Miles

From the Withlacoochee to the Suwannee with springs, shell mounds, picturesque Cedar Key and museums in between



A (67M) Withlacoochee River, Bird Creek Park and Beach, Henry Beck Park, Wekiva River, Goethe State Forest

From the Marion/Levy County line, head west on CR 40 past US 19 to Bird Creek Park and Beach, where the Withlacoochee River meets the Gulf of Mexico.

- Wildlife viewing, picnic area, boat launch.
- Scenic drive, with view of vast salt marshes, sable palms, and hardwood hammocks.

Return north on CR 40, turn north (L) on CR 40-A to US 19. Turn north (L) on US 19 to Gulf Hammock. Turn east (R) on CR 326 and north (L) on CR 343 to Henry Beck Park.

- Wekiva River, designated an Outstanding Florida Water, swimming, picnic area, fishing.

Return to CR 326 and continue east to Goethe State Forest, turn north (L) at CR 337 to Black Prong Trailhead.

- 50,000 acres with equestrian trails and wildlife viewing.

Return to Gulf Hammock and head north on US 19.

B (25M) Cedar Key, Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve, Cedar Key Museum State Park, Cedar Key Historical Society

From US 19 turn west (L) on SR 24 to Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve, then continue to Cedar Key.

- 12 miles of hiking trails through salt marsh and sand pine scrub, birdwatching.
- Drive around town, quaint shops, historic buildings (Cedar Key Historical Society Museum at SR 24/2nd St.).

Follow signs to Cedar Key Museum State Park (12231 SW 166 Ct., off SR 24).

- Exhibits of Civil War period and history of Cedar Key.
- Walking trails, garden, picnic site.

C (42M) Shell Mound, Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, Manatee Springs State Park

Return east on SR 24, turn north (L) at CR 347, bordering Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, 36,000 acres of wetlands and 16,000 acres of uplands along 26 miles of the Gulf of Mexico to the mouth of the Suwannee River. Turn west (L) on SR 326 to visit Shell Mound.

- Prehistoric Indian mound with camping, picnic tables, boating.

Continue north on CR 347 and turn west (L) at the South Entrance-Gate 9. Loop road joins CR 347 at North Entrance-Gate 1. Continue on CR 347, turn north (L) on CR 345, and left on 70th St. (at bend in road). Continue on 70th St., turn west (L) on SR 320 to Manatee Springs State Park, 2,075-acre facility, visited by manatees.

- Springs, boardwalk through swamp of cypress, gum, ash, and maple, sinkholes in upland area.

- Nature trails, swimming, canoeing, camping, picnicking, biking.

D (21M) Andrews Wildlife Management Area, Fanning Springs State Park, Suwannee River

Return on SR 320 east to US 19, turn north (L) to NW 160th Street. Turn left to Andrews Wildlife Management Area.

- 3,877 acres of one of Florida's largest unaltered contiguous hardwood hammock forests.
- 4 Florida Champion Trees and 2 on the National Registry.
- Driving tour, hiking, picnicking, wildlife viewing, observation tower.

Return to US 19 and continue north to Fanning Springs State Park, located on the east bank of the Suwannee River.

- First-magnitude spring, nearby Fort Fanning was built in 1883 during the Second Seminole War.
- 188 acres, swimming, picnic tables, boardwalk.

Continue north on US 19, crossing the Suwannee River into Dixie County.

