

Wakulla County

Driving Distance: 98 Miles

From wildlife refuge ponds, a lighthouse, Spanish fort, and historic lodge to pine/wiregrass forests and tea-colored rivers running into Apalachee Bay



A (35M) St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge & Lighthouse, St. Marks River, Wakulla Springs State Park & Lodge

From the Jefferson County line on US 98, continue west to CR 59. Turn south (L) to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and St. Marks Lighthouse (built in 1831), with 90,000 acres of wetlands and pine forests, black bear, bobcat, deer, and bird and butterfly migrations.

- Visitor Center with books, maps, displays.
- Picnic facilities, hiking/biking trails, boat ramp, observation towers, wildlife viewing.

Return to US 98 west, cross the St. Marks River, turn north (R) on SR 267, cross SR 363 to Wakulla Springs State Park and Lodge, a National "Natural" Landmark.

- One of the largest, deepest springs in the world, where "Tarzan" movies were filmed.
- Historic lodge with hand-painted ceiling.
- Guided river boat trips for wildlife viewing, swimming, walking/biking trails, birdwatching.

B (18M) San Marcos De Apalache State Historical Park, St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail, Wakulla River

Return east on SR 267, turn south (L) on SR 363, past US 98, to the city of St. Marks. Follow signs to San Marcos De Apalache State Historical Park, location of two Spanish colonial forts, dating from the late 1600s to 1718.

- Visitor center, picnic tables, guided trails. Confluence of the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers.

Southern trailhead for the St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail is across a parking lot, next to St. Marks River City Park.

- 16-mile rails-to-trail toward Tallahassee.
- Picnic facilities, rest stations.

Return to US 98 west (L) to canoe rentals and boat launch just before the Wakulla River Bridge (watch for manatees).

C (21M) Bottoms Road, Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory, Mashers Sands County Park

Continue west, then south on US 98, through Medart, turn east (L) at Bottoms Road, just before Panacea, for birdwatching on Dickerson Bay. Return to US 98, in Panacea follow signs to Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory for an educational "touch tank" experience. Continue south on US 98, turn east (L) at the blinking light on Mashers Sands Road (CR 372) to County Park.

- Beach, birdwatching, picnic facilities, fishing pier, boat launch.

D (24M) Ochlockonee River State Park, City of Sopchoppy, River, and School

Continue south on US 98, cross Ochlockonee Bay Bridge. At US 319 turn north (R) to Ochlockonee River State Park.

- 392 acres of pine flatwoods and oak thickets bordering two rivers.

- Canoe rentals, boat launch, archeological canoe trail.
- Camping, picnic facilities, hiking/biking trails, wildlife viewing, birdwatching.

Return to US 319 north, turn west (L) at Sheldon St. for Myron B. Hodge City Park on the scenic Sopchoppy River.

- Camping, swimming, boardwalk, picnic tables, historic buildings, boat launch.

Return on Sheldon, turn left on Yellow Jacket St. to Sopchoppy School Gymnasium (National Register of Historic Places), and right on Rose St. to Historic Sopchoppy with 1893 railroad depot.

