

# Citrus County

Driving Distance: 78 Miles

From an Indian War fort, scenic bike trail, old sugar mill, and ceremonial mounds to encounters with manatees and Florida wildlife



## A (16M) Avenue of the Oaks, Ft. Cooper State Park, Withlacoochee Trail State Park, Old Courthouse Heritage Museum

From Hernando/Citrus County line, continue north on US 41. Turn east (R) on Orange Ave., which becomes a beautiful oak-lined road to Historic Floral City. Follow Orange to Lake Tsala Apopka boat ramp. Return west on Orange to Old Floral City Rd. (parallels US 41), turn north (R) to Ft. Cooper State Park.

- 710-acre site of second Seminole Indian War on Lake Holathlikaha.
- Picnic area, nature trails, swimming, boat rentals, fishing.

Continue north on Old Floral City Rd. to junction with SR 44, turn west (L) to Inverness. Turn north (R) on Park Ave., and east (R) on E. Dampier Rd. to Wallace Brooks Park and trailhead for the Withlacoochee Trail State Park, with picnic area and restrooms.

- Old railroad bed, asphalt surface with equestrian path on shoulder.



- 47-mile trail through Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco Counties.

Return west on Dampier, turn south (L) on N. Apopka to Old Courthouse Heritage Museum.

- Exhibits on county and Native Americans.

## B (31M) Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins State Historic Site, Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, Fort Island Trail Park, and Gulf Beach

From courthouse, follow signs to SR 44 W to Lecanto, turn south (L) on SR 490 to Homosassa. Turn south (L) on US 19 and west (R) on WP Hall's Rd., bear left on Fishbowl Dr. past Wildlife Park to Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins State Historic Site.

- Pre-Civil War sugar cane mill & refinery.
- 7-acre site, interpretive signs, picnic tables.

Return on Fishbowl and Hall's Rd. to US 19, turn south (R) to Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park Welcome Center for interpretive displays and boat trip to park.

- Unique "fishbowl observatory" for views of manatees and fish in natural surroundings.
- 180-acre showcase for Florida wildlife at headwaters of Homosassa River.

Turn north (L) on US 19 to CR 44/Fort Island Trail. Turn west (L) and follow to end for views of salt marshes and hardwood hammocks.

- Fort Island Trail Park, riverfront park with fishing pier, picnic facilities, boat ramp.
- Fort Island Gulf Beach, 1000-foot gulf beach with picnic facilities, boat ramp.

## C (31M) Coastal Heritage Museum, Crystal River State Archeological Site and Buffer Preserve Education Center

Return to US 19 northward to Citrus Ave. in downtown Crystal River. Turn west (L) to Coastal Heritage Museum.

- Historical artifacts and displays from the early 1900s.

Return to US 19 northbound to W. State Park Dr. Turn west (L) to Crystal River State Archeological Site and Buffer Preserve Education Center.

- Six-mound complex from 500 B.C. - 1400 A.D. is one of the longest continually occupied sites in Florida.
- Visitors Center exhibit of artifacts.
- State Buffer Preserve Education Center has wildlife displays and Xeriscape garden demonstration site.

Return northbound on US 19 to CR 488. Turn east (R) and continue to intersection of US 41, turn north (L), crossing the Withlacoochee River into City of Dunnellon, Marion County.

