



Florida Equestrian Trails

A Guide to Florida's
Top Equestrian Trails



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www.VISITFLORIDA.com



Horsin' Around on Florida's Trails

Florida's natural beauty and varied terrain offer hundreds of miles of adventure, from pine scrub trails winding through Jonathan Dickinson State Park -- to unmatched topography along the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway -- to trails bordering the world's largest freshwater spring in Wakulla Springs State Park. The internationally known Florida Horse Park, located on the Cross Florida Greenway near Ocala, offers world class competitive events for every level of experience as well as camping and leisurely trail riding.

This brochure highlights over 30 of the many trails throughout Florida that accommodate both beginners and experienced equestrians and a variety of styles. Whether your equestrian adventure includes an afternoon or camping overnight under the stars, riding Florida's trails is an experience that will be treasured long after the day is over.

How to use this Guide:

Each trail listed in the brochure corresponds numerically on the fold out map. The icons below will assist you in knowing the amenities each trail has to offer.

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Restrooms |  Horse Trailer Parking |
|  Primitive Camping |  Multi-Use Trails |
|  Full Facility Camping |  Horse Rentals |
|  Food and/or Water |  Stables |
|  Fresh Water for Horses |  Overnight Stay for Horses |
|  Carnegie Trail |  Paddock or Tie-out |

An electronic version of this brochure can be downloaded at www.VISITFLORIDA.com or www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com.

Disclaimer: Since trail conditions, amenities and accessibility may vary, we strongly recommend contacting the managing agency in advance to confirm information listed in this publication.

ADR: Alternate format available upon request. For accessibility information, please contact the managing agency of the property.

Note: Owners of horses, transporting horses within the State of Florida and/or using on public lands, **must provide proof of current negative Coggins test.** This is strictly enforced. Chapter 5C-18.010, F.A.C.

Please visit the following web sites for additional equestrian information:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Greenways & Trails
(877) 822-5208
www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

Florida State Parks
(850) 245-2157
www.floridastateparks.org

Florida State Forests
(850) 414-0871
www.fl-dof.com

VISIT FLORIDA
(888) 735-2872
www.VISITFLORIDA.com

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
(850) 488-4676
www.myfwc.com/Recreation



Trail Tips

- Carry a copy of the negative Coggins test with you (Chapter 5C-18.010, F.A.C.). Without documentation, you could be subject to fine.
- Wear a properly fitting helmet. Florida law requires helmets for riders under 16 years of age. s. 773.06, F.S.
- Check out trail rules in advance and whether water is available for you and/or your horse. Prepare for weather changes and carry adequate food and supplies.
- Orange vests are recommended if you plan to ride during hunting season.
- Stay on equestrian approved trails. When riding on multi-use trails, be aware of cyclists and hikers and communicate clearly and courteously.
- Ride at a safe speed and keep your horse a careful distance away from other horses and trail users.
- Obey gate closures and other regulatory signs. Leave gates as you find them.
- Carry out or dispose of litter properly and leave the trail, parking and camping areas as you find them.





Florida's Equestrian Trails

1. Blackwater River State Forest

Length: 40 miles

If searching for a natural retreat set amidst some of the most scenic woodlands, meandering streams and gently rolling hills in Northwest Florida, look no further. Blackwater River State Forest, the largest state forest in Florida, offers more than 40 miles of trails that wind riders through sections of this majestic forest.

www.fl-dof.com



2. Florida Caverns State Park

Length: 6 miles

With more than six miles of scenic multi-use trails through woodlands, Florida Caverns State Park is located along the Chipola River. The park's equestrian facility includes stalls, three equestrian camp sites with electric and water, a full bathroom facility and a picnic pavilion with grill. While Florida Caverns doesn't offer horse rentals, the equestrian area is open from 8:00 a.m. until sundown for any park patron wanting to bring their own horse for the day.

www.floridastateparks.org



3. Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area

Length: 24 miles

Joe Budd WMA has lightly-traveled routes traversing flatwoods and sandhills and offering plenty of opportunities to view wildlife. The scenic wood roads are an excellent highlight for any rider. Though the area is closed to horses during hunting seasons, individual seasons are short and total only 54 days of the year.

www.myfwc.com/recreation



4. Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park

Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park is located in North Florida near Live Oak. Riders can enjoy hundreds of miles of trails within the park and on surrounding public lands. Supplies are available as are a full service restaurant, a full service stable, a designated horse camping area, a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and year-round musical entertainment.

www.musicliveshere.com



5. Amelia Island State Park

Length: 3 miles

Amelia Island State Park near Fernandina Beach offers a 45-minute riding tour of the beach suitable for both experienced and inexperienced riders. For more information on this tour call (904) 491-5166. Reservations may be made through Kelly Seahorse Ranch. Horses must be rented from this concessionaire.

www.floridastateparks.org



6. R.O. Ranch Equestrian Park

Length: 34 miles

Long-range plans for this 2500-acre property in Lafayette County include camping facilities, cabins, stables and a cross-country course. Currently, five trails (including 30 miles of wagon trail) are open for day-use rides through floodplain swamp, pastures and mixed hardwood forests. Special-use authorization permits are required but there is no fee. The self-serve permits are available at the Crossway Branch Trailhead.

www.roranch.org



7. Mattair Springs Tract

Length: 11 miles

The Mattair Springs Tract is located northeast of Live Oak and offers two marked horse trails. Riders can explore a mixed forest with pine plantations and sandhill throughout the Yellow Trail and the White Trail, which includes approximately four miles of trail along the Suwannee River.

www.mysuwanneeriver.com





8. River Rise State Park

Length: 20 miles

Located along the banks of the Santa Fe River, this park features sinkholes, hardwood hammocks, river swamps, sandhills as well as full facility campsites and a 20-stall horse barn (available on first-come, first-serve basis). Entrance to River Rise horse trails and facilities is through O'Leno State Park on U.S. 441.

www.floridastateparks.org



9. Guana River Wildlife Management Area

Length: 27 miles

With nearly 10,000 acres to explore, the Guana River WMA has a network of trails and scenic roads that make the area a popular riding destination and excellent area for wildlife viewing. Routes pass through maritime hammock, coastal scrub and shady flatwoods.

Mounting blocks and ties are located at picnic stops and viewing structures. Located between Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Horse trailer parking at Roscoe Road entrance only.

www.myfwc.com/recreation



10. Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Length: 15 miles

Located in Micanopy, Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, offers more than 20 distinct biological communities and a rich array of habitats for wildlife including bison, alligators and wild horses. One of the eight trails available is set aside solely for horseback riding.

www.floridastateparks.org



11. Devil's Hammock Wildlife Management Area

Length: 8 miles

Located southwest of Bronson, Devil's Hammock WMA gives riders the opportunity to experience a tranquil, natural environment. The Otter Creek Trail (marked with yellow diamonds) is a 4-mile out-and-back trail into the swamp; the Bear Foot Trail (marked with red diamonds) is a 4-mile loop trail.

www.mysuwanneeriver.com



16. Wekiwa Springs, Rock Springs Run and Lower Wekiwa River State Parks

Length: 53 miles

Would you like a glimpse of life in Central Florida during the Timucuan Indian era? Then search no more. Located at the headwaters of the Wekiwa River, this trio of parks offers a native and serene setting. Trail guides are available to the public and private horses can be boarded overnight at primitive equestrian camping areas at Rock Springs and Lower Wekiwa River. There are also horse rentals available at Rock Springs Run. Wekiwa Springs State Park limits equestrian riding to day use only.

www.floridastateparks.org



17. Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area

Length: 36 miles

The Tosohatchee WMA offers an extensive network of roads and trails with an abundance of birds and wildlife to view while taking a relaxing ride. Butterfly and plant enthusiasts will appreciate the wildflowers that bloom in the fall and spring and the butterflies they attract. A primitive overnight equestrian camp provides the opportunity for a longer stay. Though the area is closed to horses during hunting seasons, individual seasons are short and total only 45 days of the year.

www.myfwc.com/recreation



18. Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park

Length: 16 miles

Located southeast of Orlando, the Hal Scott Regional Preserve straddles the Econlockhatchee River providing open prairie and a vast expanse of flatwoods for your riding enjoyment. Riders can count on having many wildlife sightings with bald eagles, sandhill cranes, red-cockaded woodpeckers, gopher tortoises, bobcats and river otters in the area. The 9,515-acre Preserve's trails are multi-use.

www.sjrwmd.com



12. Welaka State Forest

Length: 7 miles

Dominated by longleaf pines and wiregrass, the Welaka State Forest offers an opportunity to escape into the openness. The Sandhill Horse Trail was established for equestrian use as well as hiking. Welaka State Forest also manages a 72-horse stable, training arenas and show horse arena, all available for rental. Pets are not allowed in the horse facility area or dorms.

www.fl-dof.com



13. Goethe State Forest

Length: 100 miles

Prepare to relax as you ride through the Goethe State Forest, known for its variety of natural ecological communities like scrubby flatwoods, dome swamps, sandhills and basin swamps. The trail system extends throughout the forest with access available at three separate trailheads. Overnight stays are allowed by permit only.

www.fl-dof.com



14. Half Moon Wildlife Management Area

Length: 24 miles

Equestrians can explore miles of trails and roads and experience the mosaic of shady hardwood hammocks, flatwoods and old pastures dotted with live oaks at the Half Moon WMA. Located east of Inverness, this Central Florida WMA also offers a number of other outdoor activities.

www.myfwc.com/recreation



15. Withlacoochee State Forest

Length: 115 miles

Located north of Brooksville, the Withlacoochee State Forest has more than 157,000 acres to meet everyone's riding needs. Trail riders love this forest, with its dense woodlands that create canopied trails, because of the rivers that meander through the forest. Declared as one of the "10 Coolest Places You've Never Been in North America" by the World Wildlife Fund, Withlacoochee State Forest offers equestrian riders the opportunity to view a variety of tree species, wildflowers and wildlife.

www.fl-dof.com



19. Lake Louisa State Park

Length: 20 miles

Only a short distance from Orlando, Lake Louisa State Park is noted for its six beautiful lakes, rolling hills and scenic landscapes. Equestrians will love the trail experiences along the Atlantic Ridge, which offers some of the broadest views in Florida. Primitive camping is available with paddocks for horses.

www.floridastateparks.org



20. Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek State Park

Length: 8 miles

Located only 35 miles south of Orlando, Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek State Park contains some of the highest and oldest hills in Central Florida. The park protects ancient natural communities that developed when Florida was an ocean shore. When you visit, be prepared for the rugged conditions typical of the preserve and bring plenty of water.

www.floridastateparks.org



21. St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park

Length: 60 miles

Horseback riding is a main feature at St. Sebastian River State Park and riders will find open grassy forests of longleaf pine, cypress domes, scrubby flatwoods, sandhills and a stand swamp. Most of the 60 miles of trails are open to equestrian riders; those marked with blue hikers-only signs should not be used for riding. This park is a nature lover's retreat with primitive camping, horse trailer parking and four horse stalls.

www.floridastateparks.org



22. Alafia River State Park

Length: 20 miles

With 20 miles of horse trails, Alafia River State Park has plenty to offer an equestrian. Your experience here will take you around lakes, over rolling hills, and through hardwood forests and pine flatwoods in one ride. Horse trails are very well marked and most are wide enough to accommodate buggies and carriages. Be prepared to share the trails with mountain bikers.

www.floridastateparks.org





23. Little Manatee River State Park

Length: 12 miles

Located south of Sun City, this park near Fort Lonesome features the Little Manatee River, designated an Outstanding Florida Water and part of the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve. Equestrians can enjoy 12 miles of trails in this park's northern wilderness areas. Four equestrian campsites are available.

www.floridastateparks.org



24. Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

Length: 100 miles

Providing protection for one of the largest remaining stretches of dry prairie in Florida, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park has more than 100 miles of dirt roads for your riding pleasure. The trails allow equestrians to explore prairies, wetlands and shady hammock. This park offers exceptional equestrian camping.

www.floridastateparks.org



25. Highlands Hammock State Park

Length: 11 miles

The 11 miles of horse trails at Highlands Hammock State Park begin in an open-field setting where riders are invited to enjoy primitive camping with their horses. Tie outs and a water trough are provided and the remote setting affords the use of generators. Pack a lunch to eat while you enjoy this Great Florida Birding Trail site or dine at the Hammock Inn Restaurant and explore the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum.

www.floridastateparks.org



26. Myakka River State Park

Length: 15 miles

The horse trails at Myakka River State Park provide visitors an opportunity to experience this park's "backcountry" of open, sunny prairies, numerous small marshes, shady cabbage palm hammocks and majestic oak trees. Trails here are divided into four loops with an overall ride of 15 miles. Helpful directional trail markers are provided at each junction or turn. Myakka trails can be wet or even flooded during summer and winter rains.

www.floridastateparks.org



31. Deer Prairie Creek Preserve

Length: 10 miles

Deer Prairie Creek Preserve, in Venice, is open for horseback riding on two designated equestrian loop trails through historical cattle ranches and habitats that include pine flatwoods and hammocks and the bank of Deer Prairie Creek. The preserve has more than 70 miles of hiking trails, which are unpaved but accessible for most visitors.

www.scgov.net/naturallands/



32. Myakka State Forest

Length: 18 miles

Recreational opportunities on Myakka State Forest include camping, hiking, off-road bicycling, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and small game hunting opportunities that include wild hogs. Visit MyFWC.com/hunting for information. The streams on the forest provide a source for fishing, boating, canoeing and kayaking.

www.fl-dof.com



33. T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Reserve

Length: 16 miles

The 24,565-acre Carlton Reserve is bordered by Myakka River State Park and the designated Wild and Scenic Myakka River. Along with over 80 miles of hiking and biking trails, the 12-mile long Myakka Island Wilderness Trail, which has both equestrian and hiking/biking segments, connects to the Myakka River State Park and features pine flatwoods, mesic hammocks and seasonal wetlands.

www.scgov.net/naturallands/



The Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway

Length: 138 miles

Stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the St. Johns River, the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (Greenway) occupies much of the land formerly known as the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The Greenway is home to a variety of natural communities such as longleaf pine sandhill and mixed hardwood. Located in the heart of Florida's horse country, the Greenway encompasses 138 miles of equestrian trails, which are unpaved, natural surface, with shared, multi-use limerock trails in certain locations. Some of the equestrian trails are also suitable for wagons or carriages.

America's first Land Bridge, completed in 2000, created a permanent trail connection across the Interstate-75 corridor to link the east and west sections of the 110-mile Greenway. Landscaped with native Florida vegetation, the Land Bridge allows safe passage across the highway for equestrians, hikers and bicyclists.

27. Savannas Preserve State Park

Length: 9 miles

Riders at Savannas Preserve State Park, near Fort Pierce, can expect to enjoy more than nine miles of trails. With pine and scrub flatwoods, marsh lakes and the globally endangered sand pine scrub, there are plenty of natural viewing areas. Watch for an eagle overhead, a gopher tortoise on the trail or an alligator leisurely swimming in the basin marsh. Trails are wide and generally flat. At certain times, some trails can be flooded.

www.floridastateparks.org



28. J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area

Length: 108 miles

The J.W. Corbett WMA, located northwest of West Palm Beach, is a popular area with miles of roads and trails within 60,228 acres of diverse natural communities. This WMA offers excellent wildlife viewing and a true wilderness experience.

www.myfwc.com/recreation



29. Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Length: 8 miles

Equestrian opportunities in Jonathan Dickinson State Park include a set of multi-use trails totaling eight miles. The trails are interconnected loops and spurs with color-coded directional posts at each intersection. The trailhead at the Eagles View Equestrian Area has five campsites with water, electric, a table and grill. A full-service restroom and non-potable water is also available. Tie-out posts are provided. Trailers and vehicles of all sizes can be accommodated.

www.floridastateparks.org



30. Picayune Strand State Forest

Length: 22 miles

In the heart of an ecosystem called the Big Cypress Basin, equestrian riders will appreciate the Picayune Strand State Forest for its wildlife viewing opportunities. Located just two miles east of Naples in Southwest Florida, the Belle Meade Tract provides equestrians with a 22-mile horse trail, 10 paddocks, and non-potable water along with an equestrian camping area.

www.fl-dof.com



The Florida Horse Park is also located within the Cross Florida Greenway. Near Ocala, known as the "Horse Capital of the World,™" this 500 acre facility is the ideal setting for horse enthusiasts of all ages and levels of ability to camp out, ride the trails at a leisurely pace or challenge their skills in competitive trail rides. For specific information about the Horse Park, visit www.flhorsepark.com; (352) 307-6699.

For information on the trailheads that access the Greenway's extensive equestrian trails, contact:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Greenways & Trails

Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, Headquarters, Ocala
Phone (352) 236-7143, www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Equestrian Trailheads

Buckman Lock / St. Johns Trailhead, South Palatka



Santos, Belleview



Shangri-La, Ocala



Land Bridge, Ocala



Florida Horse Park, Ocala



Ross Prairie, Dunnellon



Pruitt, Dunnellon (shared with SW FL Water Management District)



Withlacoochee Bay / Dixon Hammock, Inglis



Florida's State Trails

Six state trails, managed by the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways & Trails, offer "out & back" equestrian experiences, on unpaved trails that typically run parallel to the paved, multi-use surface. For information, visit www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com or call toll free (877) 822-5208.

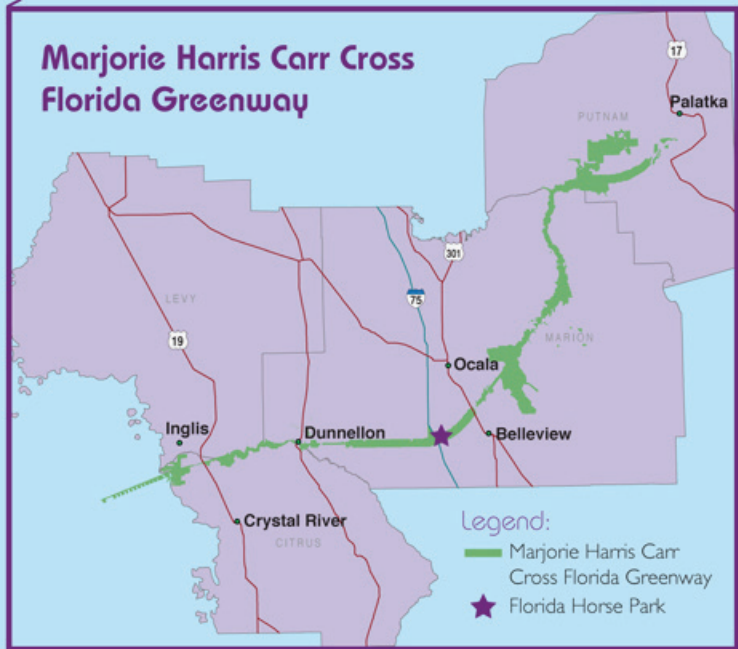




Legend:

○ Equestrian Trails

See "How to use this Guide" for a more detailed description.



Legend:
 — Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway
 ★ Florida Horse Park

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