A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO VISITING

Tackson County FLORIDA



WELCOME TO

Jackson County

Jackson County is a charming Southern escape where art, period architecture, trendy boutiques, and historical significance are all set under a veil of Spanish moss.

We welcome you to discover the enchanting soul of Jackson County.



You can visit us at the Jackson County Visitor's Center located in the Historic Joseph W. Russ House in Marianna. Our team will gladly assist you in customizing your trip, gathering resources on the area, and learning about all things Jackson County.

We are open from 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday, except for major holidays.



f Visit Jackson County Fla



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4318 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL 32446 (850) 482-8061 | www.visitjacksoncountyfla.com

Thank you to all who contributed to our Visitor's Guide, with a special mention to John Starrett Photography for capturing the beauty of Jackson County through the lens, staff of Jackson County Board of County Commissioners for their reviews and input, Jackson County Tourist Development Council staff and affiliates for content curation, and The Current Agency for bringing our design vision to life.









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Fistory of County

On August 12, 1822, Jackson County Governor of Confederate Florida. On was established and became the third September 27, 1864, one of the most oldest county in Florida. The county tragic days in the county's history, a was created by an act of the Territorial Federals band raided Marianna from Legislature while meeting at Fifteen Pensacola's Union headquarters. A bold Mile House near Pensacola, FL. The but small group of older and younger county initially stretched from the citizens attempted to defend the town. Choctawhatchee River to the Suwannee River and the Alabama and Georgia borders to the Gulf of Mexico.

between Marianna and Webbville, Marianna became the government's permanent county seat on January 21, 1829. Marianna was founded in 1827 by Robert and Anna Maria Beveridge, who purchased three eighty-acre tracts of land along the Chipola River. Together with associates, they donated the land where the first courthouse would stand. Marianna's rival town in controversy over the county seat's location, Webbville, located about 9 miles northwest of Marianna, no longer exists.

In 1861, secession and the War Between the States began. In this War, Jackson County's John Milton served as

During the battle, St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Lafayette Street was burned, the community was looted After a bitter and extended controversy and plundered, and homes were countermanded. However. the dust settled, Marianna escaped destruction, and the invaders retreated.

> Once the war ended, to move forward and return to prosperity, the county's people looked towards recovery. Today, Jackson County's communities are stable with the economy based mainly upon agriculture. It is developing at the fastest pace in its history while preserving its rich heritage.

View the influence of Jackson County's culture and heritage reflected in various forms of architecture on the Self-Guided Tour of Historic Homes.

HIGHWAY 90

Sourced from Jackson County Historic Highway 90 Corridor Master Plan

The Historic Highway 90 Corridor takes you on improved travel conditions, and while a scenic drive through Jackson, Washington, it crossed or followed portions of the Gadsden, Holmes and Walton counties that provides the perfect setting for you to Florida, it does not always follow them. experience our regions' deep-rooted history, natural wonders and southern hospitality. Historic Highway 90 is one of the more unique a section of U.S. 90 just east of Sneads runs corridors in the country. With tour loops that branch out from the main corridor, you get to visit the towns and special attractions that make Jackson County so special.

east to the Washington County line in the west, the Jackson County segment of the Historic Highway 90 Corridor has no lack of history, nature, agriculture, or friendly locals. Some sites you can expect to find along the way are the Old Spanish Trail, Florida's only publicly accessible air-filled cave system, the site of the Battle of Marianna, antebellum homes, underwater caves, and even a haunted bridge.

Running parallel to and south of today's Highway 90, the Old Spanish Trail is a section of the original national highway that was never paved. After the main highway was shifted slightly to the north, the Old Spanish Trail was left intact in its original condition, making its way through beautiful Jackson County scenery. U.S. 90 was a new highway built to provide

original Old Spanish Trail roadways in In Jackson County, however, there are many intersections of the new highway withthe old; along the original Old Spanish Trail for a short distance and crosses it again at Cottondale.

CORRIDOR HISTORY Seven years after Henry Ford's production of the first Model T in Winding from the Apalachicola River in the 1908, a meeting of 419 delegates, including a number of representatives from Florida, took place in Mobile, Alabama on October 27, 1915 to begin discussion of the ambitious paved highway that would link St. Augustine, Florida across the country to San Diego, California.

As development of the automobile became a product that the average working American could come to obtain, with that grew the desire to travel far and wide. With the realization that traveling by automobile was growing increasingly popular across the country, the attendees of the original 1915 meeting sought to strike while the iron was hot and proposed the development of a "motor trail" that would stretch from the East Coast to the West Coast. To recognize the shared Spanish heritage between Florida, Texas, and California, the roadway that would become Historic Highway 90 was to be called the "Old Spanish Trail." The meeting ended in agreement to move forward with a proposed highway that would extend from Florida to Texas.

The official dedication of the project came on January 21, 1916. Over the following years, Florida invested heavily in its section of the "Old Spanish Trail" and by 1929 the highway was a reality. And although the entire dream was never realized, Highway 90 still ends today in Van Horn, Texas, with U.S. 80 continuing from that point to the Pacific Ocean.



The Spanish Heritage Trail is a self-guided driving tour that takes visitors to eleven unique Spanish colonial sites in Jackson County, including Spanish missions, historic American Indian villages, noted landmarks, and a surviving trace of the real Old Spanish Trail. It begins and ends at Marianna's Historic Russ House & Visitor's Center.

A GeoTrail accompanies the Spanish Heritage Trail consisting of a series of caches and code words that can be discovered and decoded to redeem a set of unique pathtags. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity for all ages. Participants use a GPS receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "cache boxes" or "geocaches," at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world.



HOLMES CREEK GRACEVILLE CHATTAHOOCHEE MALONE RIVER CAMPBELLTON BASCOM RIVER WMA JACOB CITY GREENWOOD US 231 TWO EGG DELLWOOD LORIDA CAVERNS STATE PARK FL 73 APALACHEE WM COTTONDALE MARIANNA MERRITT'S CHIPOLA RIVER POND 110 SPRING CREEK US 90 **CYPRESS** CHIPOLA RIVER GRAND RIDGE SNEADS ALFORD , APALACHICOLA RIVER OCHEESEE POND FL 73 ROUND LAKE QJACKSON COUNTY COMPASS LAKE * Chattahoochee River and Apalachicola River divide the Eastern and Central times zones

COUNTY

MUNICIPALITIES

ALFORD
BASCOM
CAMPBELLTON
COTTONDALE
GRACEVILLE
GRAND RIDGE
GREENWOOD
JACOB CITY
MALONE

MARIANNA SNEADS

GETTING HERE

FROM PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 63.2 MILES

FROM TALLAHASSEE, FL **65.8 MILES**

FROM SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL
81.4 MILES

FROM DESTIN, FL 96.1 MILES

FROM FORT WALTON BEACH, FL
101 MILES

FROM PENSACOLA, FL

133 MILES

Visit our virtual **Adventure Map** for places to go & things to see!





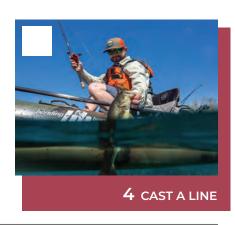
THE ULTIMATE JACKSON COUNTY

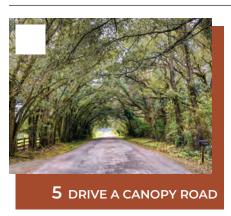
BUCKET LIST

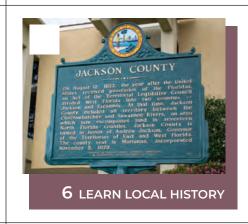
Up for a challenge? Try to check off all the activities on our ultimate bucket list while visiting Jackson County!



















Share your bucket list adventures with us on social media using #LoveJCOFL

8 #LoveJCOFL **9**

FACTS, FINDS, AND FUN

A CLOSER LOOK

Get to know our communities with a rundown on notable people and places, things you can find only here, and some unexpected history.



ALFORD

A water-powered grist mill that helped develop the small farming community was established here in 1864 by Marion Alford. The mill still stands today on private property located south of Alford. Florida's first olive grove, Green Gate Olive Grove, was established in 1999 as an experimental grove just north of **Compass Lake**. The grove is still active and operates a food truck with many farm-to-table meals.

BASCOM

Bascom is the childhood home of actress Faye Dunaway. Known around here as Dorothy Faye Dunaway, she went on to receive an Emmy Award, an Academy Award, A BAFTA Award, and three Golden Globe Awards. Bascom also home to Sturgeon Aguafarms, the only farm in the U.S. to possess the critically endangered species, Beluga, Sevruga, and Sterlet sturgeon. The farm has the unique position to protect these species and serve as an educational resource for caviar trading and sturgeon meat. The Bascom School is being converted into a museum and community events center. More information can be obtained by contacting Bascom Town Hall.





CAMPBELLTON

The Gateway to Florida runs right through Campbellton. The 912 mile stretch of U.S. Highway 231 runs north to south, beginning in Indiana and ending in Panama City, Florida. Southern Fields Brewing is located in the heart of Campbellton in a repurposed 120-year old bank building. A few miles to the east of Highway 231 you will find Rockin' M Farms, an industry leader of chestnut harvesting in Florida. The family-owned farm sells their gourmet chestnuts nationwide.



COTTONDALE

Dori's Bonsai Stand is located near the intersection of Highway 231 and US 90 and is a stop for travelers to purchase their own handcrated bonsai trees. In an area once known as "watermelon alley" for its abundance of roadside produce stands, Cottondale is the "Crossroads of the Panhandle". Cottondale is home to Register's Meat Company, founded by Sparks "Pappy" Register in 1941. Register's Meat Company can be purchased in over 140 grocery stores and restaurants across the Florida Panhandle, Georgia, and Alabama.

CYPRESS

Cypress is an unincorporated community on Highway 90 between Marianna and Grand Ridge. Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Cypress was a leader in the timber industry. Spanish Trail Lumber Company continues to harvest timber here and sells it on a global level. Visitors to Cypress can stop in at Lisa Ann's Country Crib to marvel at the antique farm tools on display or purchase seasonal produce, including boiled peanuts. The roadside attraction also sells bait and tackle.



DELLWOOD

Over the years, Dellwood Amaryllis Farms has grown and maintained around 5,000 potted amaryllis bulbs and plants. They also typically market 60-70 hybrids and varieties of amaryllis bulbs and have a unique claim to fame - The Largest Bed in Jackson County (flower bed, that is!). In 1910, Dr. Charles H. Ryals provided means to build the **Dellwood Methodist** Church. Restored in 1987, the building contains the original pulpit and bell.



GRACEVILLE

Cader Alexander Lee, grandfather of "To Kill A Mockingbird" author, Harper Lee, called Graceville home and is buried at Marvin Chapel Cemetery. Graceville is also home to former NFL football players Neal Anderson, Colston Weatherington, and Michael Clark. The Graceville Oilers was a Minor League Baseball team that represented the city of Graceville in the Alabama–Florida League from 1947 to 1958. The Baptist College of Florida is a private Baptist College in Graceville, where you'll find the Heritage Village, a stop on the Jackson County Spanish Heritage Trail and site of the Chacato Rebellion. Graceville is also well known for its seafood establishments.





GRAND RIDGE

Downed in 2018, Porter's Store, originally standing near the railroad tracks, was owned by the Porter family. They were attributed to founding Grand Ridge, named after their hometown of Grand Ridge, Illinois. Ocheesee **Creamery** is a small, three-generation dairy known for their healthy whole milk, ice cream, and other dairy items (try the chocolate milk!). You'll also find Ocheesee Pond and the legend of the "Wild Man" in Grand Ridge. Human-like in appearance with a "phenomenal growth of hair," the legendary creature is said to have roamed the swamp since the 19th century.

GREENWOOD

Located south of the junction of SR 69 and 71 is **Great Oaks Plantation**, a historic site in Greenwood. Added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1972, it is the last antebellum mansion completed before the Civil War. Built in 1869, LS Pender Store, a historic general store, is believed to be the oldest such enterprise still in operation in Florida. Located on Fort Road, east of SR 71, is The Erwin House, known as the oldest standing residence in Jackson County. It was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1974.



Photo provided by Ronstance Pittman 12

JACOB CITY

In the mid-19th century, the small town of Jacob City was established as the county's first black community, where blacks settled to escape oppression. Midwife Mamie Gillette Pittman served the area by delivering over 600 babies in a pink house in the heart of Jacob **City** from 1935-1973.



MALONE

One of America's still-unsolved UFO encounters took place in the skies over Malone on December 6, 1955. A radar operator at Graham Air Base (now the Marianna Airport) observed an Unidentified Flying Object traveling north across Jackson County at a high rate of speed. The famed American frontiersman Daniel Boone once traveled on present-day Highway 2 as he led a party overland from St. Augustine to Pensacola. Malone is also home to the Malone Pecan Company, owned and operated by the Hart family for over 50 years. The town also hosts an annual Pecan Festival & Fun Day.

MARIANNA

One of the most beautiful Classical Revival homes in America, the **Russ House** was built in 1895 by Joseph W. Russ, Jr., a notable Marianna merchant. Today, it houses Jackson County's official Visitors Center and is a stop of the Self-Guided Tour of Historic Homes.



SNEADS



Pirate William Augustus Bowles "Billy Bowlegs," helped Native Americans attempt to create their own state outside the control of the U.S., Spain, and Great Britain. He lived in The Perryman Towns near today's Parramore Landing off River Road. The Barbara Hunt, the last original commercial paddlewheel steamboat to operate on the Apalachicola River, was sunk in 1940 near the Jackson County shore and remains there today.

TWO EGG

Two Egg, America's #1 Place Named for a Breakfast Food by Food Network Magazine, is one of the more uniquely named towns in the United States. The unusual name originated during the Great Depression when residents of Allison traded farm items for necessities from the Bevis Store. Two Egg holds the annual Robert E. Long Cane Syrup Festival to celebrate the heritage of locally-made cane syrup.



JACKSON COUNTY FROM YOUR

POINT OF VIEW

When visiting Jackson County, we encourage you to share your photos with us by using #LoveJCOFL.









COLBY S. LUANNE L. KIM B.











ESHA H.

TAMMY M.

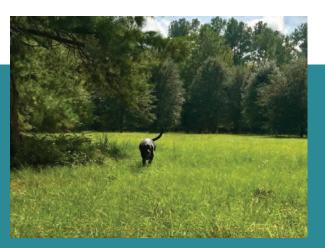
KELLY Z.

LUANNE L.









ALLISON A. KIM B.

MEGHAN BASFORD PORTRAIT STUDIO

ALLISON A.



Shopping

Charming boutiques, eclectic shops, and gear for the great outdoors.

Jackson County is home to a wide variety of unique, locally-owned furniture and antique shops. Our local stores provide everything needed to furnish your home to perfection, along with charming, custom wood furniture designs with a rustic farmhouse style. The pieces range anywhere from dining room tables to wine racks and bar carts. For antique and vintage enthusiasts, our shops have a wide selection of antique furniture, collectibles, vintage quilts, china, kitchenware, and much more.

For something newer, give the gift of sparkle from one of our local jewelers. Our jewelers offer a timeless collection of glistening wedding bands, engagement rings, bracelets, and more casual interchangeable jewelry. Clothing, accessories, and a variety of home

CARPENTER'S SON

WOOD SHOP

decor to suit any interior decorating theme can also be found at many of our local businesses! You can even take home a piece of Jackson County with a fine art painting from one of our local artists or hand-crafted pottery as a souvenir.

Speaking of souvenirs, you'll want to be sure to take home plenty, and we've got keepsakes of all kinds at every turn. Many mom and pop stores and roadside stands offer homemade fudge, jellies, and Jackson County memorabilia. Visit one of our nurseries to choose from imported and domestic bonsai trees or beautiful native Florida plants.

Because you'll be spending most of your time here outdoors, our locally-owned shops have all the essentials. From high-quality guns, to fishing gear, bait, and tackle, you'll find everything you could possibly need right at your fingertips for a day out in Jackson County nature.



Dime AT **#JCOEATS**



A variety of cuisines seasoned with Southern hospitality.

With flavors that could only come from recipes passed down from generation to generation, it's no surprise that our local restaurants have a loyal following from residents and visitors alike. From Southern comfort food to award-winning barbeque and everything in between, we have several restaurants throughout Jackson County known to create a home-cooked meal that brings back the comforting food memories from days gone by.

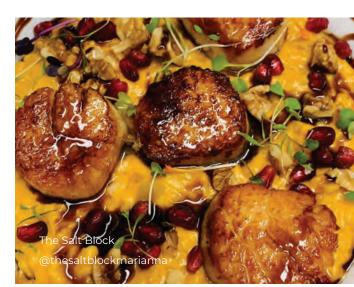
But don't think homestyle is all we know. With

precise attention to detail, perfect execution, and exceptional service, Jackson County's restaurants aim for top-notch experiences. Home to world champion chefs and the highest quality ingredients, you'll receive nothing less than extraordinary at our fine dining establishments.

Of course with the American South comes some of the freshest seafood you can come by - especially when you're in Florida. With access to beautiful beaches, it's no surprise that Jackson County is home to several restaurants with locally-caught seafood. Whether you want it served fresh and raw right out of the salty Gulf, or if you prefer your seafood deepfried Southern-style, this is the place to get it.







Looking for something you can pack for a from one generation to the next, local picnic by the water or need a quick bite to eat? We've got sandwich shops, burger joints, and delis to cover you. Craving something on the lighter side? Try one of our juice and shake shops offering nutritious drinks made from fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy ingredients.

If you're in the mood for something world! With heirloom recipes proudly passed





cuisine has evolved over the past 200 years. Whether Italian, Mexican, Meditteranean, Chinese, German, or Japanese, discover our global cuisine.

When your sweet tooth kicks in, Jackson County is home to some of the best homemade candies, baked treats, and locally-churched ice cream in the region. Trust us - you'll want international, we can take you all over the to ask what the dessert of the day is when dining out.

OUR Matwral PLAYGROUND

A magical world of picturesque springs, mystic caves, and expansive lands



FISH SPECIES FOUND IN JACKSON COUNTY

Species illustrations provided by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Being outdoors on a beautiful sunny day is one of the best ways to experience Jackson County. Our crystal clear rivers, lakes, ponds, parks on an exciting retreat through Old Florida. and public lands lend way to lush landscapes and diverse wildlife. Whether it is for fitness. fun, or finding a new way to spend time with your family, there is no shortage of outdoor adventure in Jackson County.

ON THE WATER

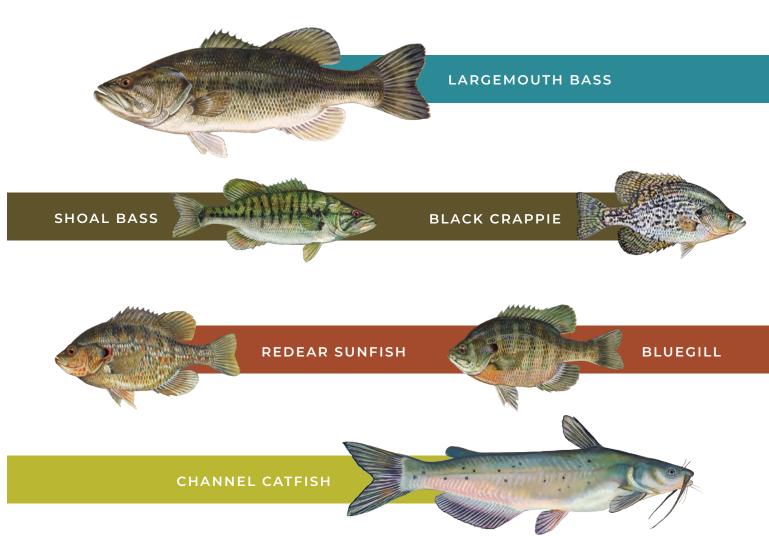
KAYAKING, CANOEING, & PADDLING

Outdoor enthusiasts say Jackson County has some of Florida's most beautiful paddling trails. There are several places to explore, such as Merritt's Mill Pond, Compass Lake, Round Lake, Lake Seminole, Ocheesee Pond, and Upper Chipola River.

Whether you're taking a relaxing paddle with family and friends along the sparkling Merritt's Mill Pond or taking on the challenge of all 51 miles of the Chipola River Paddling Trail, let the relaxing blue and green waters guide you

WATER SPORTS Home to nine major bodies of water, Jackson County offers incredible water sport opportunities for novice and experienced enthusiasts. From kayaking to jet skiing, the fun times on the water do not run short. For a thrill, Compass Lake, Round Lake, and Merritt's Mill Pond allow for power boating, wakeboarding, tubing, water skiing, pontooning and so much more to keep you on the water. And since you'll be out in the Florida sun all day, don't forget the SPF! They don't call it the Sunshine State for nothing.

If fishing is more your thing, Lake Seminole, the county's largest lake, is a competitive fisherman's paradise where you can often find high-caliber fishing tournaments taking place throughout the year.



FISHING Nationally known as a sport fishing destination, Jackson County waters are abundant in marine life, boasting worldrecord Shellcracker out of Merritt's Mill Pond and dozens of species in the depths of Lake Seminole, which spans over 37,500 acres. For seasoned fishermen and novices alike, once the line is cast, you're sure to get a bite!

The Apalachicola River and Ocheesee Pond are popular places to drop a line for bluegill and feisty largemouth bass from the boat. In fact, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission's TrophyCatch program has documented the catch and successful release of two largemouth bass in Ocheesee Pond. Enjoy fishing for shellcracker, channel catfish, and bass from the bank at Sneads Park or some of Lake Seminole's backwaters in Apalachee WMA. Whether you catch anything or not, a day fishing in Jackson County is a good day!

A LIST OF BOAT LANDINGS & KAYAK LAUNCHES CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERACTIVE ADVENTURE MAP ON OUR WEBSITE.

20



LAKE SEMINOLE Located where the Flint, Chattahoochee, and Apalachicola Rivers meet, Lake Seminole spans over 37,500 acres and is bordered by Florida and Georgia. Lake Seminole is a man-made reservoir resulting from the completion of the Jim Woodruff Dam in 1957 and is home to many world record fish. Many fishing tournaments are held on Lake Seminole year round, from youth events and amateurs to professional anglers looking for a trophy catch.

Wildlife here comes in many varieties of fish, various waterfowl, alligators, and even songbirds. The lake also hosts a large assortment of flowers that include hydrilla, water lilies, cattails, and pondweeds.





APALACHICOLA RIVER Approximately 160 miles long, the Apalachicola River was formed on the state line between Florida and Georgia. This river contains nationally significant forests, with some of the highest biological diversity in the nation. Substantial areas of temperate-deciduous forests and remaining longleaf pine landscapes serve as the home for more than 280 bird species and other wildlife. People come to enjoy hunting, fishing, and miles of paddling trails along the Apalachicola River.

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER, a tributary of the Apalachicola River, separates Florida and Alabama from Georgia, and is the boundary line for Central and Eastern time zones. The river is home to trout, bass, and catfish, among other fish species.

COMPASS LAKE & ROUND LAKE

Among the many waterways in Jackson County, you will find several that are springfed. Two of these are Compass Lake and Round Lake located near Alford in the southwest corner of the county. Round Lake is an ideal spot for kayaking and canoeing or smaller watercraft for fishing.

Compass Lake in the Hills is a 10,000 acre master-planned community that showcases northwest Florida's natural beauty. Members and guests can enjoy amenities like boats, disc golf, a private outdoor pool, a starlight terrace, and tennis and handball courts. One of the mesmerizing things about Compass Lake includes cypress being found throughout the area. Cypress trees are known for shedding their needles and cones in the fall and their root outgrowths are known as "knees." Compass Lake is suitable for ski boats, wakeboarding, fishing, casual boating, swimming, as well as kayaking, canoeing, or paddleboarding.



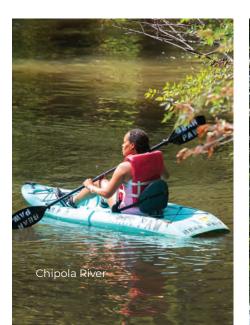




SPRING CREEK Spring Creek Park is located on the south side of Highway 90 across from Merritt's Mill Pond. Rent a kayak or canoe from Bear Paw and use the available launch for a fun adventure as you travel down two miles of crystal clear water before entering the Chipola River. Paddling on Spring Creek is best in fall and winter as the spring and summer are busy times for tubers floating down the creek.

CHIPOLA RIVER Stretching over 51 miles, the Chipola River Paddling Trail is home to more than 60 freshwater springs. This designated Florida Paddling Trail runs from just below Florida Caverns State Park to Scott's Ferry near the Dead Lakes, and the Upper Chipola River runs 4.5 miles from Christoff Landing to Florida Caverns State Park. As a tributary of the Apalachicola River, the Chipola River crosses from Jackson County into Calhoun and Gulf counties, where it eventually flows into the Dead Lakes just before reaching the Apalachicola River. The river flows through river bottomlands and hardwood forests where shoal bass, sunfish, alligators, turtles, beavers, rare plants, and animals are often seen. The uppermost portion of Chipola River is accessible at Lilypad Adventures, where you can rent kayaks and canoes.







OCHEESEE POND is a 2,225-acre pond in Grand Ridge just north of I-10 that is an excellent destination for fishing. While the majority of the pond (around 2,000 acres) is covered in cypress trees, experienced anglers have no difficulty in catching Black Crappie, Bluegill, Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass, and Redear Sunfish. In fact, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's TrophyCatch program has documented the catch and successful release of two largemouth bass, each weighing between eight to ten pounds, since the program's inception. More information about the program is available on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website.

Most anglers prefer to fish by motorized boats, but Ocheesee Pond is also ideal for kayak fishing. Recreational kayakers can also enjoy the 5.2 mile paddling trail that has been marked along the pond, allowing for a scenic paddle along the perimeter of the cypress swamp.

Because of the density of the cypress trees in Ocheesee Pond, kayaking and other forms of boating are recommended for experienced users that are familiar with the pond as it is very easy to lose your bearings and become lost in the remote pond.







MERRITT'S MILL POND is a 202acre reservoir with over 80 million gallons of water flowing through the pond each day, fed mostly by Jackson Blue Springs. The pond is known as an area to enjoy snorkeling, swimming, fishing, and diving. A paddling trail has been designated along the perimeter of the four-mile long body of water. Leisure boaters enjoy long days on the cool, clear waters year round.

JACKSON BLUE SPRINGS, the headwaters of Merritt's Mill Pond, pumps out 72 million gallons of water per day and has been a site for recreational activities for centuries. Jackson Blue Springs Recreational Area, a county maintained park, has all the amenities needed for a fun summer day on the water. Park improvements completed in Fall 2020 were designed to enhance the experience and create additional accessibility for all.

DIVING For a more in-depth experience, Jackson County has some of the most breathtaking underwater experiences to explore in North America. Experience oncein-a-lifetime cave diving at Merritt's Mill Pond and Jackson Blue Springs, some of the incredible spots found only in the Sunshine State.

Here you can join the ranks of cave divers from over 30 countries and all 50 states as you experience Jackson County from a perspective that few are daring to do. From pristine coves to impressive limestone and gypsum caverns, Jackson County's waterfilled caves should be on every diver's bucket list. All cave diving requires a permit that must be obtained through Cave Adventurers.











PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Many of Jackson County's parks are free and open to the public, including recreational areas perfect for a day of exploring and historical sites that show off our history. These public and state parks include the Apalachee Wildlife Management Area, Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail, Butler Tract, Chipola River Greenway, Citizen's Lodge Park, Florida Caverns State Park, Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area, Three Rivers State Park, and St. Andrews Tract of the Ecofina Creek Water Management Area.

HIKING, WALKING, & BIKING TRAILS

Visitors and locals alike find that time in Jackson County is best spent outdoors, and our communities offer a plethora of picturesque trails waiting for you to take a walk, hike, or bike ride. Many of our trail systems combine our love for the outdoors with water. Walk along the water's edge at a handful of our trails. Multi-use trails are also a great way to get the whole family outside!

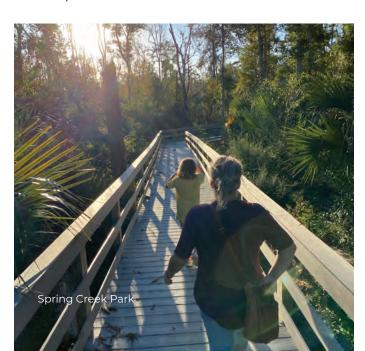
HORSEBACK RIDING If you're an experienced rider, saddle up and head to Three Rivers State Park or Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area for a relaxing ride. Simply Southern: An Equine Retreat offers lessons and trail riding services that accommodate all experience levels. Hitchin' Post Corral and RV Campground in Cottondale is specially designed with equestrian and livestock travelers in mind. Their campground allows plenty of space to unload your horses for an overnight stay.

CHIPOLA RIVER GREENWAY

Portions of the Chipola River Greenway are found on both the east and west banks of the Chipola River in Marianna. Several sites make up the Greenway, including Citizen's Lodge and the Chipola River Greenway Trail, Butler Tract, Overlook Park, and Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area.

Located on the west side of the Chipola River, the Chipola River Greenway Trail is home to sinkholes, caves, rock formations, and rare plants and animals that will leave visitors and nature enthusiasts speechless. The trail also provides fitness opportunities as grade changes are common in the river floodplain.

BUTLER TRACT Named a National Recreation Trail in 2013, Butler Trail is a beautiful walking path maintained by the City of Marianna located on 110-acres. It provides access to an unspoiled section of the historic Chipola River and descends from the high ground on which the City stands through the floodplain swamps to the Chipola. The two-mile loop trail is popular for bird watching, and is a great place to spot songbirds, woodpeckers, warblers, wrens, and a variety of other species.





BIRD SPECIES FOUND IN JACKSON COUNTY

Species photos provided by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



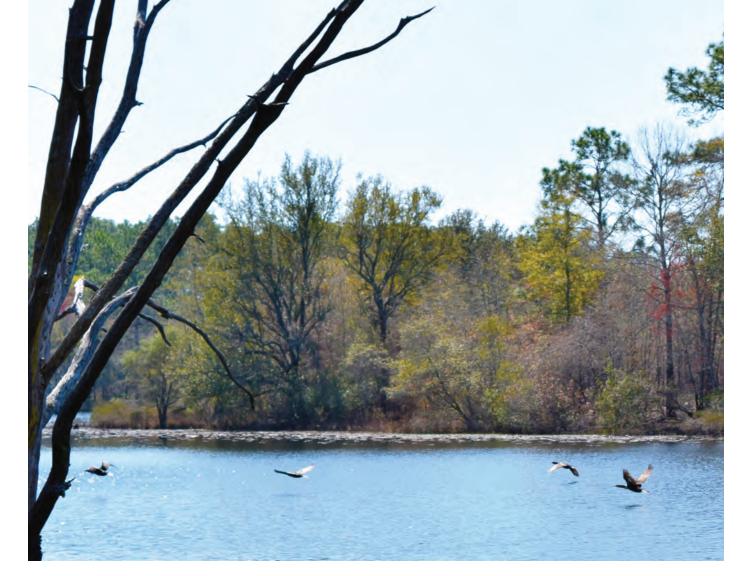


Whether you're a beginner looking through your first pair of binoculars or an experienced birder searching for rare sightings, the opportunities for bird watching are endless.

There have been over 500 canvasback sightings near Lake Seminole and the watchful eye is bound to see birds like American coots, King rails, American purple gallinules, and Least bitterns. Horned Larks can be found primarily in Greenwood and the northern part of the county between Malone and the Chattahoochee River. Over 20 species of warblers have been spotted along the Chipola River at the Hinson Conservation & Recreation Area.

Other types of wildlife and nature viewing opportunities are present in Jackson County around every turn. Look for the vibrant colors of seasonal wildflowers from spring to fall, usually accompanied by a variety of pollinators such as bees, wasps, and beetles. White-tailed deer, otters, foxes, squirrels, and alligators are also prevalent in the area.

Seven sites in Jackson County are on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail: Apalachee Wildlife Management Area, Butler Tract, Chipola River Wildlife Management Area, Florida Caverns State Park, Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area, Sneads Park, and Three Rivers State Park.







APALACHEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

AREA Located three miles north of Sneads along River Road you will find Apalachee Wildlife Management Area, 7,952 acres of public land that border Lake Seminole and the Chattahoochee River. The upland longleaf pine and wetland habitat is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and is a great site for a number of activities. From hunting and mountain biking to hiking and wildlife and nature viewing, the Apalachee Wildlife Management area provides year-round outdoor recreation opportunities for all types of visitors. Photographers and wildflower enthusiasts particularly love this area because of its natural beauty, and bird watchers delight in the many migratory species that pass through each year.

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BELLAMY BRIDGE HERITAGE TRAIL

The one-half mile Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail leads through the beautiful canopied forests of the Upper Chipola River Water Management Area to the historic and haunted Bellamy Bridge. It is home to rare and endangered plant species along the path and was made possible by a group of dedicated volunteers and a cooperative venture between Northwest Florida Water Management District and Jackson County Parks & Recycling.

Said to be the most haunted bridge in the State of Florida, Bellamy Bridge was built in 1914. Its surviving steel frame is believed to be the oldest standing bridge in the state. According to a well-known local legend, the bridge's area is haunted by the restless ghost of Elizabeth Jane Croom Bellamy. On May 11, 1837, she died in a tragic accident on her wedding night, but supposedly came back from the grave to search for her beloved husband, Dr. Samuel Bellamy. The trail is open to the public during daylight hours and is subject to flooding from high water levels along the Chipola River.





HINSON CONSERVATION **RECREATION AREA** This magnificent outdoor paradise was once the private farm of the Hinson family, which generously made the property available for state purchase. Now managed by the City of Marianna, the Hinson Conservation & Recreation Area features miles of hiking trails, wildlife and nature viewing opportunities, a trail for horseback riding, a canoe and kayak launch, and a picnic area overlooking the Chipola River. The 226-acre park is home to an array of natural features, including a high limestone outcrop, a karst window, sinkholes, and a small natural spring.

Visitors enjoy walking and bicycling along the 4-mile perimeter trail with their friends and leashed pets or exploring the Alamo and

Ovens, two open-air caves part of a larger cave system along the Chipola River. Maps of Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area are available at the Jackson County Visitor's Center.

CITIZEN'S LODGE PARK is a sizable public-recreation area operated by the Jackson County Parks Department and includes six multi-use trails (both paved and unpaved), a playground, a pond for youth fishing, picnic areas, and a lodge available for community events. A large, open-air stage makes a great venue for concerts and festivals, and the park has plans to add a dog park and disc golf course in the near future. The park is located on the site of a 1950s-1960s pony farm, which trained a black stallion that was later purchased by country music star Randy Travis.



FLORIDA CAVERNS STATE PARK As

the land that is now the southeastern United States was once submerged under ocean waters millions of years ago, shells, corals, and sediments gradually accumulated on the seafloor. As sea levels dropped, these materials hardened into limestone creating cave tunnels - the same tunnels that are now part of Florida Caverns State Park. The park was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s-1940s, who worked to make the tunnels large enough for people to walk through.

The 1,300-acre state park is home to numerous rare plants and animals and the caves provide habitat for blind cave crayfish, cave salamanders, and three species of caveroosting bats. The karst terrain of the park is composed of several unique natural features like cliffs, bluffs, sinkholes, and beautiful blue springs.

What would a trip to Jackson County's Florida Caverns State Park be without taking the cave tour? In this 45-minute tour, expect cool air, the

sound of dripping water, glistening pools, and stunning formations as you explore Florida's only public guided cave. Tickets for cave tours can be purchased at the Visitor's Center and Cift Shop inside the park, where you can also not only learn about rock formations, but you can take one home with you, too.

The Florida Caverns State Park provides a variety of amenities accessible for all visitors. Spend a night under the stars, utilizing the campgrounds where you can find parking for your RV, campfire circles, picnic facilities with tables and grills, and a shower station. Other amenities at the Park include a boat ramp, canoe-kayak launch, an equestrian trail, and a playground.

The Florida State Caverns State Park is still recovering from damage sustained during Hurricane Michael, so some amenities are temporarily closed. To learn more about which amenities are operating during the time of your visit, please call the Florida State Caverns State Park at (850) 482-1228 or visit their website.





THREE RIVERS STATE PARK is a 686-acre Florida State Park located north of Sneads, named for the main rivers associated with Lake Seminole: the Chattahoochee, the Flint, and the Apalachicola. The Park offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with their families and friends through hiking, camping, fishing, and biking, as well as special events like weddings and family reunions or park hosted educational events. Campers can make use of a modern cabin and full-facility campgrounds

with tables and grills overlooking the lake. Anglers can launch from the park's boat ramp to enjoy freshwater fishing or fish from a 100foot pier located in the camping area.

For the avid bird watchers visiting Jackson County, we recommend visiting Three Rivers State Park, a site on the Great Florida Birding Trail, for some serene nature viewing. American bald eagles and waterfowls are commonly found within the park.



SPORTS

From basketball and baseball to motocross and golf, Jackson County has a wide array of sports to play, spectate, or participate in, taking advantage of the natural landscape and established recreation centers.

HUNTING Like many other rural, southern communities, the culture and heritage of hunting has been passed down for many generations in Jackson County.

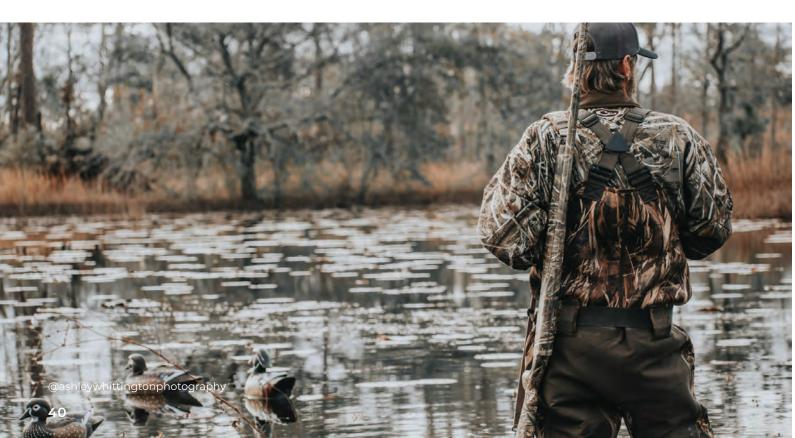
Licensed hunters can find wildlife, including Whitetail deer, wild hogs, turkeys, small game, and waterfowl roaming over thousands of acres of public lands, specifically within the Chipola River Wildlife Management Area and near Lake Seminole in the Apalachee Wildlife Management Area. It's important to check current rules and regulations, obtain the proper licenses and permits, and ensure the safety of yourself and other individuals who may be utilizing the public lands.

Lilypad Ranch is a great place to find deer, turkey, and hogs for a guided hunting experience on private lands. If you want to be placed on a trophy whitetail to harvest, head over to Bontrager Whitetails. All hunters in Florida must possess a valid hunting license issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

PLAY BALL Spectators enjoy home games and tournaments hosted throughout the year for the basketball, baseball, and softball teams at Chipola College. An annual alumni weekend brings former players back to Jackson County for a friendly rivalry event each winter.

Many youth and high school baseball, softball, and soccer tournaments take place at the Marianna Educational and Recreational Expo (M.E.R.E.), which is also equipped with t-ball fields and a new racquetball court.

If you're visiting during the fall season, you can catch our local high school football teams kickoff under the Friday Night Lights.



GOLF If you're looking for a slower pace, grab your clubs and set out for Marianna's Indian Springs Golf Club, an 18-hole, par 72 regulation course set right in the middle of Jackson County's natural beauty. If traditional golf is not your thing, try your hand at the disc golf course located at Compass Lake in the Hills. And be on the lookout for a new disc golf course coming to the Citizen's Lodge Park.

EQUESTRIAN SPORTS From bull riding to barrel racing, avid fans travel from all over to Jackson County for various rodeo competitions throughout the year to watch those competing for the prized belt buckle and champion title here at the Jackson County Agriculture Center.

The Jackson County Agriculture Center is a 29-acre multi-purpose facility available for use for events like 4-H & FFA Events, business meetings, family reunions, festivals, livestock sales, wedding receptions, and horse shows.

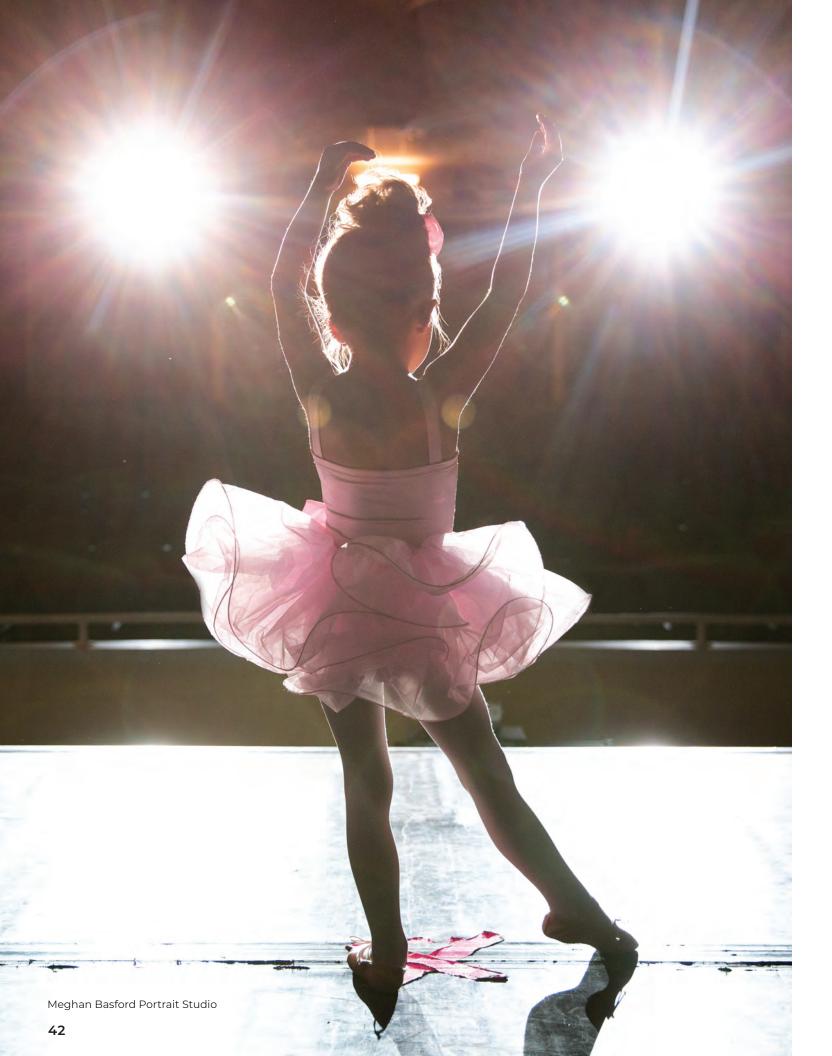
MOTOCROSS Decker Training Facility, just south of Compass Lake, is a hub for motocross events, training, and lessons. This high-caliber training facility includes a motocross track, a mini track for beginners, camper hookups, showers and bathrooms for overnight guests. The arena cross track was built and designed by professional motocross rider Matt Goerke.

SKATING Skateboarders will feel right at home at the Jamie Lynn Messer Memorial Skate Park at James Tucker Wilson Park in Sneads. The park features a quarter pipe, a vert ramp, a funbox, stairs, a flat rail, and handrails. The park is open to the public and does not have an admission fee.









THE ARTS

LIVE PERFORMANCES Throughout the Southeast, Chipola College is widely known for its exquisite arts education and programming. Serving more than 6,500 patrons yearly, Chipola Theatre has a tradition of superior ratings by the Florida College System Activities Association.

The Dr. Gene Prough Center for the Arts is a state-of-the-art proscenium main theatre for performing arts with a seating capacity of 655. Amenities also include a 150-seat black box theatre for smaller performances. An art gallery featuring works by students and locals hosts several installations each year. Tickets for Chipola College productions may be purchased online or at the Chipola College Box Office located in the Dr. Gene Prough Center for the Arts lobby.

For classical ballet performances, Agape Ballet & Performing Arts incorporates various dance styles into their performances.

ART SHOWS In Jackson County, we have The Artists Guild of Northwest Florida, Inc. dedicated to their members, their art, artists guild activities, and their sponsors. Every year, they host Arts in the Park, featuring the art and books of regional artists and authors.

MUSEUMS The Springfield School Museum is a schoolhouse preserved and partially restored as a museum. Many of the school's original interior furnishings were carefully maintained over time, like the desks, floors, and limestone walls. While the museum is not open regularly, tours can be arranged through Lillie Clark, who owns The Gallery of Art just north of the schoolhouse on Safari Road.



MURALS While in Jackson County, go on a hunt for the many murals that our local artists have created. These murals can be found at Southern Fields Brewing, the silos on Madison Street, Lafayette Landing, and a brand new mural coming soon to Wild Willy's in Graceville.

INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT Parents, are you looking for something to do with your kids while you're visiting Jackson County? At PlayBig Therapy and Learning Center, you can find an indoor play gym with swings, an obstacle course, rock walls, and climbing ropes that will give your little ones an activityfilled time. They even offer a Parents' Night Out every Friday for you to enjoy a night out in Jackson County. Looking for other indoor entertainment? Check out Marianna Cinemas for the newest movie releases.

JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

provides a variety of services and information for visitors to the area. The library provides one-hour computer guest passes available for purchase, mobile print services, and copy services. Visitors can also purchase a nonresident library card for \$25 per year, gaining access to the library's physical collection, online resources, books, CDs, DVDs, and more! For more information, visit www.jcplfl.org.



AGRITOURISM

Agritourism helps revitalize rural economies, educate the public about agriculture, and preserve agricultural heritage. Learn more about agriculture in Jackson County through our Agritourism Trail, which features farms, vineyards, u-pick events, farmers' markets, produce stands, and more.

U-PICK Visiting a working farm can be an excellent family activity, educational and entertaining for children and adults alike. From picking fruits and vegetables at Jackson Farms, to picking up jellies, preserves, and muscadines at Fox Hollow Vineyards, you are in for a treat when looking for "U-Pick" activities throughout Jackson County. Several blueberry operations open each May and satsumas become available for picking each November. Don't let the holidays pass without a fresh Christmas tree from Powell's Tree Farm or pecans shelled at Malone Pecan Company or The Crack House Pecan shelling operation in Cottondale.

FARM-TO-TABLE In recent years, more and more foodies, chefs, and families want to know where and how their food is grown. Farm-to-table is taking the best ingredients from the ground and preparing it in a way that highlights all of its flavors.

You can purchase fresh milk, local produce, free range eggs, local antibiotic-free beef, non-GMO poultry, Amish products and more year-round at many of our farms. Farms like Lazy Acres in Cottondale and Green Gate Olive Grove in Alford pay close attention to farming as naturally as possible. Ocheesee Creamery and Southern Craft Creamery use milk from

dairy cows on their farm to create delectable. Are you looking for an educational experience? ice cream - you can't get much more farm fresh than that!

BEEKEEPERS & APIARIES The Chipola Beekeepers Association serves the Jackson County area as a resource for all things bees. Their members provide guidance and information to other beekeepers, including those interested in getting into the beekeeping business or for those looking for help to safely remove unwanted bees from an area with minimal disruptions to the colony.

If you're looking for World Famous Tupelo Honey and Wildflower, Holly, and Gallberry Honey, visit Smiley B Farms in Graceville. They produce 100% raw, unfiltered honey produced by bees at the farm, meaning that you receive a premium, all-natural, raw honey that is as close to eating it out of the hive as you can get!

Millie Bee Farm south of Marianna will show you their beekeeping operation and provide training classes to interested individuals who want to learn more about honey and bees.

FARMERS MARKETS & PRODUCE STANDS Focused on serving Jackson County, the Marianna City Farmer's Market provides easy access to fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, local honey, and more. Available produce varies by the season, with peak season beginning in May. You can find the Marianna City Farmer's Market at Madison Street Park on Saturdays year round, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from March to August.

A complete list of farms, u-picks, markets, and produce stands can be found in our Agritourism Guide available at the Visitors Center.





STAY& Reax WITH US

Sleep under the stars at a riverside campsite or at a charming bed and breakfast

We are home to some great full-facility campsites for tent campers and RVers with everything you need right on site, including parks and nature trails. Some of our campsites are waterfront, creating the perfect environment to relax and unwind in.

On the other hand, what could be better than staying in a historic bed and breakfast full of Southern charm, with a scrumptious home-cooked breakfast to greet you in the morning? Several vacation homes are available throughout the county, as well as a variety of hotels and motels along the I-10 Corridor. In addition to our fantastic outdoor resources, shops, and restaurants, take some time to pamper yourself at one of our day or med spas.

EVENTS Hosting your event in Jackson County is sure to be a memorable time. Our





facilities are equipped to host a variety of events, both indoors and out. Historic homes and beautifully designed barns make excellent venues for weddings, showers, family reunions, meetings, concerts, and holiday parties. The Jackson County Ag Center is a great location for equestrian and livestock events, while Sneads Park on Lake Seminole is great for fishing tournaments or boat races.

Catering services are offered far and wide throughout Jackson County, able to suit all event needs. There's no shortage of creative talent when it comes to photographers or florists either. Local vendors' knowledge of venues and events in Jackson County - helping make planning and hosting your event a breeze.

Looking to host an event in Jackson County? Contact the Visitor's Center for more information on venues, vendors, and events.

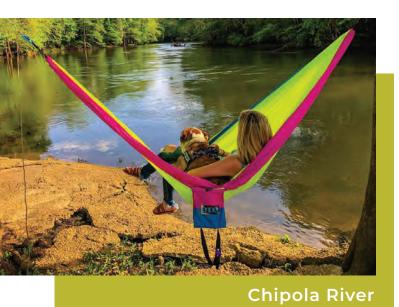




THE PERFECT PLACE FOR

FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

In Jackson County, we know that having access to pet-friendly amenities while traveling with your furry friends is essential. The importance of allowing your pet to see more than the inside of your hotel room is enormous and, as a community, being pet-friendly opens up many opportunities for businesses as well. Jackson County's pet-friendly establishments and activities offer everything from a walk in the park to sharing a pupachino with your furry friend.



LODGING

Many of our lodging partners are pet friendly. Contact us at the Visitors Center for more info.

DINING

Landshark Seafood and Oyster Bar Southern Craft Creamery Southern Fields Brewing

PARKS

Chipola River Greenway
Citizen's Lodge Park
Florida Caverns State Park
Hinson Conservation and Recreation Area
Three Rivers State Park







Soak up Jackson County's charming Southern hospitality by mingling with locals at events and festivals celebrating just about everything under the Florida sun. To learn more about our local events, scan the QR code below.







See You soon







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