

# This is Tallahassee



*Florida State University is located in Tallahassee – the capital city of the state of Florida.*

Near, but far from the glaring strips of neon amusement and the castles and crowds of Disney, lies another magical place in the Sunshine State – one of pow-wows, plantations, politics and great pride.

Often described as “The Other Florida” with its deep-rooted history, rolling hills, canopy roads of moss-draped oaks, cool climate and Southern-style hospitality, it is a Florida few have seen. It is Tallahassee – Florida with a Southern accent.

Best known as Florida’s capital, Tallahassee is an intimate neo-metropolitan city where the power of state government, the academic and the artistic are complemented by subtle, old-fashioned charm. It is the perfect two or three-day diversion for the more than 41 million annual visitors to Florida and 13 million residents.

Tallahassee touts a menagerie of sights including one of the world’s deepest freshwater springs, site of America’s first Christmas, a wildlife habitat, Capitol buildings, fascinating museums of history, sprawling plantations, highly acclaimed fishing and hunting adventures and nearby beaches.

Spirited area festivals range from celebrations of Tallahassee’s spectacular spring and swamp stomps to genuine rattlesnake roundups and seafood festivals.

With the Gulf of Mexico just 20 miles south and the Georgia border only 14 miles north, Tallahassee rests between the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and the juncture of Florida’s panhandle and peninsula. Nearer in miles to Atlanta than to Miami, Tallahassee more closely resembles its Southern neighbors than Florida in topography, climate and lifestyle.

Accentuating Tallahassee’s Southern persona are lush rolling hills, likened to the seven hills of Rome, and five “official” canopy roads of patriarch oaks. The fertile, rich soil and four distinct, yet pleasant, seasons breed floral brilliance and natural vitality year-round.

Like the city itself, the story of how Tallahassee was chosen as the state capital is rich in history. In 1823, two explorers set out – one on horseback from St. Augustine and the other by boat from Pensacola – to find a permanent, central location for the legislature to convene. The two met at a beautiful site that the Creek and Seminole Indians called “tallahassee” – derived from the words “talwa” meaning “town” and “ahasee” meaning “old.” The rendezvous point remains Florida’s capital.



The “old town” has undergone many changes, but one thing remains the same – it is still a government town fiercely proud and dedicated to preserving its heritage. The Capitol buildings, both old and new, epitomize Tallahassee’s perseverance.

The 22nd floor of the New Capitol provides a panoramic scope of a sophisticated Southern city awash in a sea of flowering azaleas, snowy dogwoods, towering pines, fragrant magnolias, and hundreds of shimmering lakes, springs, swamps, rivers and sink holes. Special legislative viewing galleries are open during the legislative session.

Below, in the shade of giant live oaks, proudly stands the Old Capitol, originally constructed in 1845 and restored to its 1902 splendor complete with red-and-white candy-striped awnings, a dome adorned with stained glass, antique furnishings and political memorabilia.

Across from the Old Capitol are the 40-foot twin granite towers of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial, and the blue stone Union Bank, Florida’s oldest surviving financial institution. The nostalgic Old Town Trolley, a replica turn-of-the-century street car, carries passengers through restored Adams Street Commons to numerous other historical downtown shops for free – unheard of even 100 years ago.

Minutes from downtown lies the Governor’s Mansion – which resembles the home of Florida’s military hero Andrew Jackson – and the 52-acre natural animal habitat and 1880s farm of the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, which provide the rare chance to walk and talk with native Florida animals.

Tallahassee remains firmly linked with the past as evidenced by the unearthed 1539 winter encampment of Spanish Hernando de Soto, the site of the first Christmas celebration in America. Visitors travel back through time as they stand in the shadow of a giant 12,000-year-old American Mastodon at the Museum of Florida History or explore other historical spots including The Knott House that Rhymes, The Columns, San Luis Mission, Lake Jackson State Archaeological Site, Natural Bridge Battlefield, First Presbyterian Church, Brokaw-McDougall House, Goodwood Plantation and Adams Street Commons. Nearby, alligators lazing in the sunshine and anhinga “snake birds” perched on twisted cypress branches are seen at Wakulla Springs,

one of the world’s deepest freshwater springs and site of many underwater scenes in the “Tarzan” movies with Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O’Sullivan. Safaris aboard glass-bottomed and jungle cruise boats whisk visitors within arm’s length of “The Other Florida.”

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy adventures including boating and fishing on area lakes, rivers, ponds and the Gulf – just 30 minutes away. Lakes Seminole, Jackson and Talquin are renowned in the bass fishing world for yielding the “big ones,” and dense forests offer an abundance of prize-winning game. Local wildlife areas such as the Florida National Scenic Trail, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Apalachicola National Forest are among many spots for

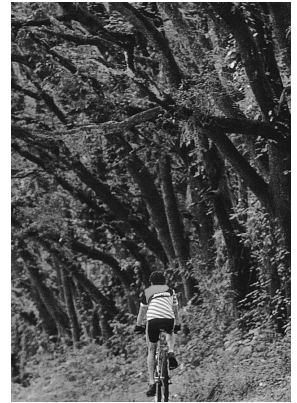
camping, picnicking, swimming, biking and exploring.

Appealing to the strokes of different folks, Tallahassee also features 99 holes of golf on six courses and a proliferation of tennis centers. Sideline athletes cheer the nationally ranked Florida State Seminoles and Florida A&M Rattlers. And always a sure bet are the nearby greyhound races.

A sport of sorts, shopping at two regional malls and many specialty centers offer many “playing options” – from popular chains to curiosity and antique shops.

Cultural interests are sparked by widely acclaimed museums and galleries and elaborate entertainment at the 14,000-seat Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center.

Tallahassee is a collaboration of power-play politics and classical character splashed with a twist of Southern beauty and charm. Tallahassee is Florida with a Southern accent.



*A perfect example is its famous “canopy roads” streets and thoroughfares lined with 200-year-old oaks draped with Spanish moss.*



## WE WON!

Tallahassee’s an All-America City! On June 26, judges from the National Civic League named Tallahassee as one of 10 cities to win the prestigious All-America City (AAC) award from the 1999 All-America City conference in Philadelphia. The All-America City award is the most prestigious and coveted award a community can win. The annual award recognizes exemplary grassroots and problem-solving efforts of communities that cooperatively tackle challenges and achieve measurable results. Judging is based on the overall level of community involvement in solving critical local problems, including public-private partnerships.

“This is clearly one of the most exciting things to ever happen to Tallahassee,” said a jubilant Mayor Scott Maddox. “For those of us who call Tallahassee home, the All-America City award verifies what we’ve known for so long – that we have one of the greatest cities in all of America!”

