

This is  
Tallahassee

# THIS IS TALLAHASSEE

Among low, rolling hills, down moss-draped canopy roads, within picturesque historical districts, and across seas of flowering azaleas lies a magical part of the Sunshine State—Tallahassee, Florida's capital city. With its intriguing combination of power-play politics and classic character splashed with a twist of Southern beauty and charm, Tallahassee is a side of Florida few expect to find.



## TALLAHASSEE

In 1823, the first civilian governor, William Pope DuVal, desired a central location for the legislature to meet. He sent one explorer on horseback from St. Augustine and another by boat from Pensacola — their rendezvous point was declared Florida's capital. Nestled among the rolling foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and located in a region of the Gulf of Mexico known as the Big Bend, the Capital region is known for its Southern characteristics, gracious hospitality and lush topography.

With the Gulf of Mexico just 25 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 in an area known as "The Big Bend." Nearer in miles to Atlanta than to Miami, Tallahassee more closely resembles its Georgia neighbor than Florida in topography, climate and lifestyle.

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 establish a permanent, central location for the seat of government. The two met at a beautiful site that the Creek and Seminole Indians called "tallahassee" — derived from the words "talwa," meaning town, and "ahassee," meaning old. This historic meeting place remains Florida's capital today.

Boasting more than 145 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Tallahassee is a living showcase of Florida history and heritage. The crowning jewel of Florida's historic "Capitol Hill" is the Old Capitol, beautifully restored to its 1902 splendor complete with the red-and-white striped awnings, a dome adorned with stained glass, antique furnishings and political memorabilia. The 22nd-floor observatory of the New Capitol Building offers a breathtaking view of this surprising Southern city, awash in flowering azaleas, snowy dogwoods, towering pines, fragrant magnolias, and hundreds of lakes, springs, swamps, rivers and sink holes.

Charming downtown historic districts graced with lush linear parks lead visitors to the Knott House Museum, The Columns, First Presbyterian Church, John G. Riley House Museum and Old City Cemetery. Free walking tours and replica turn-of-the-century street cars carry passengers to antebellum mansions, picturesque churches and other downtown delights.

Minutes from downtown lies the lush 52-acre natural habitat and 1880s farm of the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, home to the rare Florida panther and other furry "natives."

The area surrounding Tallahassee reveals numerous other historic and archaeological treasures, such as De Soto State Archaeological and Historical Site, Lake Jackson State Archaeological Site, Mission San Luis, Natural Bridge Battlefield and San Marcos de Apalache. Visitors can explore prehistoric Florida at the Museum of Florida History, where they are greeted by a giant 12,000-year-old mastodon pulled from nearby Wakulla Springs.



On the shores of Wakulla Springs, alligators still laze under the watchful eyes of "snake birds" perched on twisted cypress trees. The site of many underwater scenes in "Tarzan" movies, it's one of the world's deepest freshwater springs. Glass-bottomed boat tours across these mystical waters are available.

Other sightseeing favorites include the floral masterpiece of Alfred B. Maclay State Gardens; Bradley's Country Store; FAMU Black Archives; and the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum. Nearby small towns offer fascinating excursions to places such as Pebble Hill Plantation, Florida Caverns State Park, Monticello Opera House and St. George Island.

Tallahassee is almost as rich in cultural treasures as it is in history. A widely-acclaimed collection of art, science and history museums and galleries, year-round festivals and non-stop entertainment at the 13,500-seat Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center, feed a variety of cultural appetites.

Visitors with a hunger for the great outdoors will find Tallahassee ideal for all types of outdoor recreation—from canoeing down dark,

## CLIMATE

Tallahassee has the mild, moist climate characteristics of the Gulf States and experiences a subtropical summer similar to the rest of Florida. In contrast to the Florida peninsula, however, the panhandle, of which Tallahassee is a part, experiences four seasons.

Annual January temperature: 40-63° F  
Annual July temperature: 72-91° F  
Yearly average maximum temperature: 78.7°  
Yearly average minimum temperature: 55.7°  
Yearly average days above 90 degrees: 91.0  
Yearly average days below 32 degrees: 35.7

## POPULATION

City of Tallahassee: 153,658  
Leon County: 244,208  
Metropolitan Area: 327,869



### PHYSIOGRAPHY

Tallahassee's rolling landscape, typical of regions further north, is unique among the major cities of Florida. Some areas of the county, including the downtown ridge encompassing the Capitol complex, City Hall and the County Courthouse, exceed elevations of 200 feet. The highest elevation in Leon County is 288 feet, found in the northern part of the county. To the south of the city, the hills yield to the flat terrain that is typical throughout the peninsula of Florida.

cypress-lined rivers and biking up steep slopes to exploring backcountry wildernesses and hunting for bobwhite quail. Area lakes, rivers, ponds and the Gulf — just 30 minutes away — offer a paradise for boating and fishing. Lakes Jackson and Talquin are renowned in the bass fishing world for yielding the "big ones." Local wildlife areas, such as the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Apalachicola National Forest, are perfect spots for camping, picnicking, swimming, biking and exploring.

And while Tallahassee also features eight golf courses and plenty of places to raise a racquet, it's a wild array of spectator sports that leave the crowds screaming for more. The Florida State Seminoles and Florida A&M Rattlers provide collegiate action. And always a sure bet are the nearby greyhound races.

For another favorite "sport" — shopping — two large regional malls and many specialty centers offer an array of "playing options," from

popular chains to curiosity and antique shops. Unique shopping locales include downtown parks, lakeside cottages and small Southern towns. Tallahassee serves a scrumptious selection of tantalizing restaurants ranging from fast food to five-star. Local specialties include homemade country sausage, melt-in-your-mouth steaks, wild game and succulent seafood fresh from the Gulf.

From luxury to economy, accommodations are plentiful and include restored bed and breakfast's, rustic "gentlemen" lodges, beachside escapes and comfortable chain hotels. For those who choose to follow in the footsteps of early travelers, Tallahassee also boasts 15 beautiful campsites. Continuous air service, Amtrak and four major highways make it easy for visitors to get to Tallahassee. But no matter how you arrive, the history and hospitality of Tallahassee make it difficult to ever leave for long.

### TALLAHASSEE-LEON COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

The Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center is a multi-purpose convention and entertainment facility featuring a 13,500 seat arena, Luxury Suites and Club Seats and over 52,000 sq. ft. of meeting and exhibition space plus an arena view restaurant, Spotlight Grille. The Civic Center hosts a wide variety of concerts, family shows, Broadway shows, ice shows and sporting events including FSU basketball.

It is easy to understand why over one million people a year flock to the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center, what with the varied array of attractions it offers. Some people go to the Civic Center to enjoy the sounds of rock, country, pop and urban concerts. Some go for the thrills of basketball, rodeos and three-ring spectaculars. While others come for conventions, banquets, expositions, or consumer and trade shows.

Located downtown on Pensacola Street, the Civic Center is only two blocks from the Capitol building.



"Kiss Me Kate"



"Sesame Street Live"



Alabama

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SEMINOLE VOLLEYBALL 2004

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Tallahassee

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SEMINOLE VOLLEYBALL  
2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004 2004



**TOP:** The Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science  
**CENTER:** The Museum of Florida History  
**BOTTOM:** The Challenger Learning Center



## MUSEUMS AND CULTURE

The federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) named the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science as one of the nation's exemplary museums on September 19, 2000. The Tallahassee Museum, along with 176 other museums, was selected out of a field of 823 applications from museums throughout the nation in a highly competitive competition. The museum features a 52-acre natural habitat zoo, nature trails, authentic 1880s farmstead, hands-on Discovery Center, birds of prey aviary, reptile exhibits, annual events and more!

### THE CAPITOL

One of five tower Capitols in the U.S. features panoramic view from 22-floor observatory/art gallery, House and Senate viewing galleries.

### CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

The Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee is a 32,000 square foot facility located on beautiful Klemm Plaza in downtown Tallahassee. The Challenger Learning Center is the K-12 outreach facility of the Florida A&M University — Florida State University College of Engineering and a visitor destination. The Center features a state-of-the-art Space Mission Simulator and utilizes the immersiveness of an IMAX theatre and a digital domed planetarium to create an unforgettable experience for all.

### MACLAY STATE GARDENS

Enchanting floral architecture surrounds 1930s home of NY financier Alfred B. Maclay. Impressive grounds feature 200+ floral varieties plus hiking, biking and nature trails, swimming, fishing and boating.

### MARY BROGAN MUSEUM OF ART & SCIENCE

Interactive hands-on science center and national traveling art and science exhibitions.

### MISSION SAN LUIS

Site of Spanish/Indian village settled from 1656-1704. Ongoing excavations/ exhibits/reconstructions.

### MUSEUM OF FLORIDA HISTORY

Permanent exhibits include a nine-foot mastodon, Spanish galleon treasures, Civil War memorabilia, reconstructed steamboat and Prehistoric Florida plus traveling exhibits.

### OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM

Restored to 1902 appearance featuring red candy-striped awnings, stained glass dome, House and Senate Chambers, Supreme Court and Governor's office.

### TALLAHASSEE ANTIQUE CAR MUSEUM

Impressive showroom features award winning Chevys, one-of-a-kind Ford Roadster, 1913 CarNation Tourer, 1931 Duesenberg, 1956 T-Bird, Delorean, Cadillacs, Corvettes and more. Plus two original Bat Mobiles.



**TALLAHASSEE'S  
AN ALL-AMERICA CITY!**

On June 26, 1999, 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!"



**WHERE'S THE BEACH?**

Where sunny days are filled with the great outdoors...where time is measured by tides and life's rhythms move with the surf...beaches are just a short drive from Tallahassee.

**ALLIGATOR POINT**

Natural dune public beach, 45 miles south of Tallahassee

**CARRABELLE**

Coarse public beach, featuring swimming and shelling, 60 miles southwest of Tallahassee

**DEKLE BEACH**

Pristine sandy beach, clear water featuring boating, swimming, picnicking and more, 70 miles east of Tallahassee

**MASHES SANDS BEACH**

Public beach, shallow bay water featuring swimming and crabbing, 40 miles southwest of Tallahassee

**ST. GEORGE ISLAND**

Pristine 29-mile barrier island beach, clear water, featuring swimming, shelling, boating, and fishing, 80 miles southwest of Tallahassee

**SHELL POINT**

Lovely, small peninsula surrounded by St. Marks Wildlife refuge. Secluded beach and clear water that is popular for sailing and windsurfing, 25 miles south of Tallahassee



**CANOPY ROADS**

The abundance of trees and timber is a resource uncommon to many other areas of the state. The beauty of the local trees is exemplified in Maclay Gardens State Park, which is the site of several of Florida's champion trees including the flowering Dogwood, the Hawthorn tree, the Horsesugar tree, the Sweetbay Magnolia and the Silverbell tree. These trees and others often extend their branches over the roadway to create a canopied effect, a feature that is held in high esteem by local residents and visitors.

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**SEMINOLE**  
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