GUIDE TO HISTORIC SITES IN Florida

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park Seminole Reenactor (top)  Cape Florida Lighthouse (center)
**Northwest**

**BRISTOL**
Torreya State Park

The park is the home to the Gregory House, a fully furnished antebellum plantation. Andrew Jackson’s armies crossed a river running through the park during the First Seminole War in 1818. The remains of a Confederate gun pit are visible. (850) 643-2674 or www.floridastateparks.org/torreya

**EGLIN VILLAGE**
Air Force Armament Museum

The museum features an extensive collection of planes and aerial weapons, including a WWII-era B-17 bomber. It also houses a GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, first tested in 2003, which is often referred to as the “Mother of All Bombs” for its unrivaled explosive power. (850) 651-1808 or www.afarmamentmuseum.com

**PENSACOLA**
Fort Barrancas & Fort Pickens

During the Civil War, the Confederacy held Fort Barrancas while the Union held Fort Pickens. Well before that, the British and Spanish had built fortifications atop the bluff on which Fort Barrancas now sits. The postwar Fort Pickens held Geronimo, the Chiricahua Apache warrior who surrendered to the federal authorities in 1886. (850) 453-1559 or www.pensacolahistory.org

**Historic Pensacola Village**

The village includes the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, which covers nearly 450 years of history, while the Discovery Gallery inside the museum engages young visitors. The 8.5-acre village complex also contains the 1832 Old Christ Church, the 1871 Dorr House, and other museums, including the Pensacola Museum of Industry and the Pensacola Museum of Commerce. (850) 595-5985 or www.historicpensacola.org

**National Naval Aviation Museum**
The museum’s 300,000-square-foot building houses 150 Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aircraft, including a number of A-4F Skyhawk jets that served in Vietnam. The most visited museum in Florida also contains a flight simulator and an IMAX theatre. (850) 453-2389 or www.navalaviationmuseum.org

**Pensacola Historical Museum**
The museum contains the Army/Navy Gallery, the Maritime Gallery, the Multicultural Gallery, the Native American Gallery, and the Forts/Civil War Gallery. An interactive touchscreen kiosk displays 18th-century maps and focuses on the 1781 Spanish siege of Pensacola, as well as the history of nearby Fort George. (850) 433-1559 or www.pensacolahistory.org

**Plaza Ferdinand VII**
The plaza, named for a colonial-era king of Spain and located near the Port of Pensacola, was the site of west Florida’s acquisition by the United States in 1821. Today a monument to Andrew Jackson, who accepted the territory from the Spanish, stands on the plaza grounds. (800) 874-1234 or www.visitpensacola.com/articles/pensacolas-rich-history

**SANTA ROSA BEACH**
Wesley Mansion and Eden Gardens State Park

The 19th-century mansion contains an extensive assortment of original Louis XVI antiques, while the grounds feature the ornamental gardens once popular among wealthy Victorian-era elites. (850) 231-4214 or www.floridastateparks.org/EdenGardens

The focal point of Eden Gardens State Park is the beautifully renovated, two-story Wesley Mansion, with its elegant white columns and wrap-around porch.
GAINESVILLE
Dudley Farm Historic State Park
The living-history farm, located west of Gainesville in Newberry, is a plantation complex that consists of 18 buildings, including the house in which the Dudley family resided, complete with the original furniture. Living-history actors reenact the duties of the farmers who worked the fields between the 1830s and the 1940s, from cultivating crops to caring for livestock. (352) 472-1142 or www.floridastateparks.org/DudleyFarm

TALLAHASSEE
Goodwood Museum & Gardens
The museum, once one of the area’s finest antebellum plantation houses and later a stately late-19th-century residence, features some of the state’s earliest frescoed ceilings. The garden has been restored to its landscaping of the early 1900s. (850) 877-4202 or www.goodwoodmuseum.org

Letchworth-Love Mounds State Park
The 46-foot-tall Letchworth-Love Mound, built between 100 and 900 C.E. by members of the Weedon Island Culture, is the tallest surviving Indian mound in Florida. Interpretive signs and guided tours lead visitors through the mound’s history. The park is in Monticello, to the east of Tallahassee. (850) 922-6007 or www.floridastateparks.org/letchworth

Mission San Luis
San Luis is Florida’s only reconstructed colonial Spanish mission. Living history presentations and hands-on exhibits illustrate the strong influence of Spain on the state’s colonial history. A council house and periodic reenactments of native ball games bring Apalachee Indian culture alive. (850) 487-3711 or www.missionsanluis.org

Museum of Florida History
The museum analyzes and interprets the state’s history through portraits of Seminole Indians, World War II uniforms and weapons, and exhibits about the first Native American inhabitants of the Tallahassee region, Spanish shipwrecks, and the use of the steamboat as a 19th-century means of transportation. (850) 245-6400 or www.tfheritage.com/museum

Natural Bridge Battlefield
Because of the Confederate soldiers’ courageous stand at Natural Bridge Battlefield in 1865, Tallahassee remained the only Southern capital east of the Mississippi that was never captured. Reenactors fight the battle on the first weekend in March. (850) 922-6007 or www.floridastateparks.org/naturalbridge

Fort Caroline National Memorial
The French established their first permanent North American colony here in 1564 at St. Johns Bluff. A visitor center provides background about the Timucuan Indians who inhabited the area for 1,000 years before the arrival of the French, the religious persecution that led the French to consider establishing Fort Caroline as a retreat for Huguenots, and the Spanish onslaught that destroyed the settlement only a year after its founding. (904) 641-7155 or www.nps.gov/timu/historyculture/foca.htm

OLUSTEE
Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park
On February 20, 1864, the rolling fields of Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park served as the site of Florida’s largest Civil War battle. Interpretive signs recount the battle, which resulted in a Confederate victory, and a monument pays tribute to the 2,807 casualties. (386) 758-0400 or www.floridastateparks.org/olusteebattlefield

ST. AUGUSTINE
Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
Since 1672, the Castillo de San Marcos has guarded the northern gateway to St. Augustine along the Matanzas River; today it remains the only intact 17th-century fort left standing in the United States. Reenactors in dress dating from the colonial period and a museum help visitors learn about the Indians, African Americans, English, Spanish, and Americans who have interacted here over five centuries. (904) 829-6506 or www.nps.gov/casa

Fort Caroline National Monument, a unit of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

Jacksonville
Beaches Museum and History Center
The center contains a number of railroad buildings built when 19th-century oil tycoon and transportation pioneer Henry Flager ran the Florida East Coast railroad company, a steam locomotive dating from 1911, and the 1903 Pablo Beach post office. The museum contains traveling exhibits, an archives reading room, and the “Shore Stories” permanent exhibit, which explores the history of the six beach communities in the area. The museum is in Jacksonville Beach, east of Jacksonville. (904) 241-5657 or www.bm-hc.com

Treasures of the Florida History Museum. Reenactors at Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest masonry fort in the United States.
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Tampa Bay History Center
Opening in December 2008, the center will feature displays covering the past 12,500 years of regional history, from the Native Americans who flourished here for thousands of years through the explorations of Europeans and beyond. An exhibit on the early cigar industry in the Tampa Bay region will showcase original advertising posters and cigar boxes. (813) 228-0097 or www.tampabayhistorycenter.org

Orange County Regional History Center
The center’s many exhibits look at Florida’s past, from Indian prehistory, through pioneer times and the turbulent Seminole Wars that rocked the state in the first half of the 19th century, to 20th-century history. Close by is the Orlando Fire Museum, featuring a number of antique fire engines. (407) 856-8500 or www.thehistorycenter.org

SANFORD Museum of Seminole County History
The museum’s 22 galleries draw from a large collection of artifacts, including photographs, documents, 19th- and 20th-century furniture, and the archaeological remains of Indian civilizations, to help illustrate the history of Seminole County, the longtime gateway to Florida. (407) 665-2489 or www.seminolecountyfl.gov/museum

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The center was established by Crealde School of Art in partnership with the City of Winter Park. This project is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Arts & Cultural Affairs Program.

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**Southeast**

**KEY WEST**

**Audubon House & Tropical Gardens**
During his 1832 visit to the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas, famed ornithologist John James Audubon lived in the house, walked its gardens, and produced 18 new drawings for his “Birds of America” folio. Visitors can wander the same pathways he did, as well as view the collection of 19th-century European antiques and 28 first-edition Audubon works. (305) 294-2116 or www.audubonhouse.com

**Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum**
Ernest Hemingway finished the final draft of *A Farewell to Arms* and composed *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* and *The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber* during his eight-year stay in this Key West house. Visitors can tour his writing studio and the grounds. (305) 294-1136 or www.hemingwayhome.com

**Fort Jefferson**
The remote, Civil War-era island fort held prisoner Samuel A. Mudd, the doctor who provided medical treatment for Abraham Lincoln’s assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Visitors can tour the fort, scuba dive, snorkel, and learn about the many shipwrecks in the surrounding area, including the 1622 wreck of vessels in a Spanish treasure fleet. The fort is on the Dry Tortugas, to the west of Key West. (888) 382-7846 or www.nps.gov/drto/index.htm

Ernest Hemingway’s home is the largest residential property on the island of Key West. Hemingway lived and wrote here for more than ten years.

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**History in the remaking.**
Harry S. Truman Little White House Museum

Between 1946 and 1952, President Truman spent his winters at the Little White House, which has now become a museum with exhibits ranging from a look at the 1948 election to the state of the world at the close of the 1940s. (305) 294-9911 or www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com

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Cape Florida Lighthouse

The lighthouse overlooking Biscayne Bay was first built to a height of 65 feet in 1825. It was burned down during the 1836 Seminole War and rebuilt in 1856 to its present height of 95 feet. The lighthouse is in Key Biscayne, to the east of Miami. (305) 361-6016 or www.key-biscayne.com/about/light.html

Gold Coast Railroad Museum

The museum houses an extensive collection of train cars, including the “Ferdinand Magellan,” a Pullman railcar commissioned for use by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. (305) 253-0063 or http://gcrm.org

Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

Agricultural industrialist James Deering built this Italianate mansion in 1916, living here during the winters until his death in 1925. Visitors can tour 34 decorated rooms with 15th–19th-century antiques and walk in the 10 acres of formal gardens. Vizcaya has hosted Pope John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth II of England, and the Summit of the Americas. (305) 250-9133 or www.vizcayamuseum.org

P A M  B E A C H

Henry M. Flagler Museum

The Whitehall Mansion, originally built in 1902 by Henry Flagler as a winter home, today serves as a museum that chronicles the life of the co-founder of Standard Oil. The 22 rooms that are open to the public are ornately decorated in the same Gilded Age style as when Flagler lived there. Docents lead daily tours through the first floor of the mansion, including the Grand Hall, which features a double staircase and paintings on the ceilings. The museum’s collection includes the railway car in which the Flaglers traveled to the site every winter. (561) 655-2833 or www.flaglermuseum.us

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

The 105-foot-tall lighthouse, which dates from 1860, now serves as a museum offering exhibits that deal with Florida pioneers, maritime history, and Native American culture. The lighthouse is in Jupiter, to the north of Palm Beach. (561) 747-8380 or www.jupiterlighthouse.org

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