

Nature Centers

Water Works Environmental Center

The restored historical Old Palatka Water Works, adjacent to Ravine Gardens State Park, provides an educational experience for environmental and water issues in Northeast Florida. For more information, visit www.palatkawaterworks.com.

St. Johns River Center

Showcases the unique and varied ecosystems of the St. Johns River as well its unique history, culture and commerce. Visitors can participate in group tours or self-guided visits. Staff-led programs, offered by appointment, include topics on: natural history of the area, William Bartram's travels in Palatka and Putnam County, 19th century steamboat trade, commerce and industry of the river; types of wetlands and their importance, and plants and animals of the river. Field trip programs are available for public and private schools, youth groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and home school groups. Reservations are required. Please visit [Facebook.com/stjohnsrivercenter](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsrivercenter) or www.palatka-fl.gov for hours of operation.

Museums & Attractions

Bronson-Mulholland House

This gorgeous historic Greek Revival plantation home offers guided tours that include a description of the house and people who lived there through the Civil War era and into the 20th Century. Located in Downtown Palatka at 100 Madison St. For more information, visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org or call (386) 329-0140.

Putnam Historic Museum

Formerly used as military barracks during the Seminole Indian Wars, this building houses the region's historic memorabilia that depicts historic events from the early Spanish settlements through the 20th Century. Located next to the Bronson-Mulholland House at 100 Madison St. For more information, visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org or call (386) 329-0140.

Palatka Historic Tour

Features spectacular homes and buildings from the 1800s to the early 1900s. An architectural delight featuring designs from Frame Vernacular to Victorian Gothic Revival. For more information and a copy of the brochure, call or visit the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce at (386) 328-1503 or www.putnamcountychamber.com.

Larimer Arts Center

Once the local library, founded by James Mellon, this center houses a gallery of local artists' works and the Arts Council of Greater Palatka. Located at 260 Reid St., Palatka. For more information, visit www.artsinputnam.org or call (386) 328-8998.

Historic Tilghman House

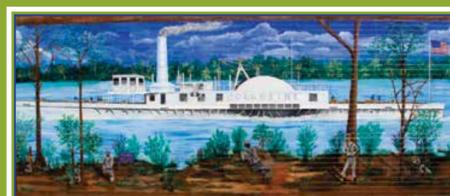
Home of the Palatka Art League, this historic home on the bank of the St. Johns River in Palatka houses a gallery of local artists' works. Located at 324 River St., Palatka. For more information, visit www.palatkaartleague.com

Florida School of the Arts Gallery & Theatre

The Gallery and Theatre offer scheduled exhibits of works by the students and faculty of Florida's first supported Professional Arts College. Located on the campus of St. Johns River State College, 5001 St. Johns Ave., Palatka. For more information, visit www.floarts.org or call (386) 312-4300.

Historic Union Depot & David Browning Railroad Museum

Union Station is located in Downtown Palatka. The station is also the home of the David Browning Railroad Museum, which has displays of the history of the railroad in Northeast Florida. Memorabilia, documents, and an operating model train are on display. Located at 11th St. and Reid St., Palatka. For more information, visit www.railsofpalatka.org or call (386) 328-0305.



Cultural Attractions

Palatka - A City of Murals

This series of more than 30 murals are located throughout downtown Palatka and accurately depict the historic, cultural and natural riches of Putnam County. For more information and a copy of the Mural Driving and Walking Tour brochure, call or visit the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce at (386) 328-1503 • www.conleemurals.org.



For information, visit www.palatkagolfclub.com or call (386) 329-0141.

The Palatka Golf Course is one of the few public-owned, Donald Ross designed courses in the country. This 18-hole vintage course is a part of an authentic experience with holes that gently tumble over sandy ridges and wrap the tranquil woods of Ravine Gardens State Park. The course can be played quickly and enjoyably, offering golfers the best thrills of the game without taking up the day. If you're looking for a course that is big on fun, find your way to Palatka Golf Club.

Palatka Municipal Golf Course

Golf



Places to Go

Historic Museum

Interlachen Town Hall

The original Interlachen Hall was burned down in 1891 by cattlemen in a local dispute. The present Interlachen Hall was constructed in 1892 and housed an office, jail and a social room upstairs. It was later used as a library. The renovation of Interlachen Hall was completed in 2003. The first floor currently houses the Interlachen Museum, which is operated by the Interlachen Historical Society. For more information, call (386) 684-3811.



Historic Churches Tour

There are 15 documented churches in Putnam County that are over 100 years old. For more information and a copy of the brochure, call or visit the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, (386) 328-1503 or www.putnamcountychamber.com



Cultural & Historic Attractions

Fort Gates Ferry

Florida's oldest ferry service, Fort Gates Ferry operates on the St. Johns River transporting vehicles from Welaka on the east bank to the Ocala National Forest on the west. The service operates in good and fair weather only. For more information, call (386) 467-2411.

Mount Royal Indian Temple Mound

This 20 foot high archaeological site dates back to 1250 and is the largest sand mound in Florida. It was built and used as a ceremonial center by the Timucuan Indians. Located in Welaka at 136 William Bartram Dr. For more information, call (386) 467-9709.

Welaka National Fish Hatchery & Aquarium

A warm water Fish Hatchery and Aquarium that displays local fresh water fish species and educational information about the efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agencies to preserve native wildlife. Located on C.R. 309 in Welaka. For more information, call (386) 467-2374.



Cultural & Historic Attractions

Little Blue House Heritage Museum & Art Center

Located in Downtown Crescent City, owned by the General Federation of Womens Clubs (GFWC), South Putnam Woman's Club. Florida history, art displays, and gift shop. Located at 602 N. Summit St., Crescent City. For more information, call (386) 698-4711.



Crescent City Historic Walking Tour

Take a walk along streets shaded by generous oak canopies where wonderfully crafted homes and buildings will transport you back to another era. For more information and a copy of the brochure, call or visit the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, (386) 328-1503 or www.putnamcountychamber.com

Location, Location, Location

Putnam County is located in Northeast Florida just 30 miles inland from Historic St. Augustine and the Atlantic Ocean and less than two hours from Central Florida's major theme parks.



Bostwick • Crescent City • East Palatka • Florahome

- Fruitland • Grandin • Georgetown • Hollister
- Interlachen • Melrose • Palatka • Pomona Park
- Putnam Hall • San Mateo • Satsuma • Welaka

Other Visitor Information

Available at the
Putnam County Chamber of Commerce
Visit our website:
putnamcountychamber.com

Enjoy Your Visit and Please Come Again... for a day, a week, or a lifetime!

Whether you're looking for something different in an off-the-beaten path destination, educational experiences, special interest subjects or you just want to have a relaxing visit, Putnam County is the ideal destination.

All of the North and Central Florida attractions are just a short distance from this pristine part of the state. Come experience true Floridian culture through the many local festivals and events in Putnam County.



Funded by:

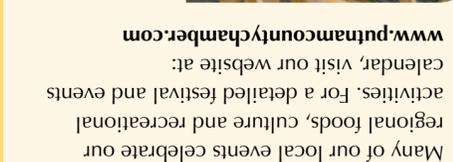
PUTNAM COUNTY
Tourist Development Council

Seasonal Events

OUR ANNUAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Giant Shitake Mushroom Fest - January
- Bluegrass Festivals - February & November
- African American Cultural Arts Festival - February
- Welaka Spring Fest - February
- Florida Azalea Festival - March
- St. Patrick's Day Celebrations - March
- Putnam County Fair - March
- St. Johns River Catfish Festival - April
- Mug Race - May
- Bostwick Blueberry Festival - May
- Blue Crab Festival - May
- Independence Day Celebrations - July
- Shrimp Blast - September
- Occupation of Palatka 1864 - September
- Azalea City Cruisers Car Show - October
- Palatka Railfest - October
- Artoberfest - October
- Christmas Parades & Events - November & December

Many of our local events celebrate our regional foods, culture and recreational activities. For a detailed festival and events calendar, visit our website at: www.putnamcountychamber.com



Seeking real Florida landscapes, visiting historical sites, going to local festivals or just relaxing, we have it all!

Putnam County Chamber of Commerce
1100 Reid Street
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 328-1503
putnamcountychamber.com

Come Discover The Natural Beauty, History And Cultural Charm of Putnam County...

Check out these locations for fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, wildlife viewing and equestrian trails. They are not only known for the abundance of wildlife, but also scenic views. Many trails are multi-use, so remember to share paths.

Caravelle Ranch Conservation Area

24,869 acres of river bottom hardwoods, pasture and pine-palmetto flatwoods with small hammocks intermingled. Camping is allowed with a permit. No dogs or ATVs are permitted. Located on S.R. 19 South, approximately 9 miles south of Palatka.

There are a series of trails that are mixed use and traverse through a variety of ecosystems. Picnic area and wildlife viewing are available. Seasonal use is included for hiking, biking, boating and canoeing.

Several equestrian trail areas are available which are accessible at the S.R. 19 entrance.

View sparrows, turkeys, wading birds, and swallowtail kites.

Hunting season is from September to March. Turkey hunting is excellent, while deer, migratory bird, small game, and wild hog hunting are fair to good. A special-opportunity dove hunt is offered on four 50-acre dove fields. Be aware, trails are closed during hunting season.

For more information, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Northeast Region Office, 1239 S.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL. (352) 732-1225.



St. Johns River and Tributaries

For nearly 300 miles, the twisted course of the St. Johns River runs northward, up nearly one half the length of the state.

William Bartram explored the river in 1773, however the source of the river wasn't charted until 1822. Flowing northward, the St. Johns passes through nine lakes, eventually emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

The waterways in Putnam County are popular for boating activities, including sailing, kayaking and canoeing. The riverbanks are perfect for viewing wildlife, so make sure to bring binoculars. The annual Mug Race held the first Saturday in May draws hundreds of sailboats of all shapes and sizes.

Putnam County is home to three of the "Top 10" fisheries in Florida, as designated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The climate ensures excellent fishing year round. While known as the "Bass Capital of the World," Putnam offers a wide variety of freshwater, saltwater and brackish water fishing. Freshwater species includes largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, shellcracker and catfish. Salt water species includes red fish, flounder, sea trout and tarpon. In the summer and early fall months, shrimp migrate up the St. Johns River and are easily caught off docks or by boat with cast nets.

Lake George, the second largest lake in Florida after Lake Okeechobee, is not only one of the premier largemouth bass fishing lakes, it is also perfect for crappie and blue gill.

If you are looking for catfish, the St. Johns River and Dunns Creek are top spots for channel catfish and white catfish. Big channel catfish are usually reported in the upper and lower St. Johns River and Dunns Creek system from early May through June. Small catfish can be caught all year, but best fishing occurs in the spring and fall. This area is listed as a top spot according to Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The St. Johns River is also a prime spot for catching striped bass and sunshine bass, with fish in the 8 to 12-pound range being common. Striped bass move through the system during fall and winter. Popular spots include Memorial Bridge, and the jetties and bombing ranges in Lake George.



Etoniah Creek State Forest

Etoniah Creek State Forest named for Etoniah Creek, has 7,145 acres of pine-palmetto flatwoods, sand hill, hardwood hammocks, and creek bottoms.

Recreational activities in the forest include hiking, fishing, hunting, nature study, wildlife viewing and photography. There is one designated trail for horseback riding and trails for bicycling will be established in the future.

Deer, squirrel and turkey hunting are good, while wild hog, migratory bird, and small game hunting is fair.

Camping is authorized only by permit from the Division of Forestry. No dogs or ATVs are permitted. Etoniah Creek State Forest is located in the north-west part of the County off S.R. 100 on Holloway Rd. For more information, contact Etoniah Creek State Forest, 390 Holloway Road, Florahome, FL. (386) 329-2552



Get a Fishing License

Toll free 1-888-347-4356 from anywhere in the United States or Canada. You'll receive a temporary license and a permanent one will be mailed within 48 hours.

May be purchased at:
Putnam County Tax Collectors Office (3 local offices)
312 Oak Street, Palatka
1114 Hwy 20, Interlachen
19 N. Summit Street, Crescent City

or from sub-agents who are generally located at tackle shops, fish camps, hardware stores, etc. or visit www.floridaconservation.org for more information.

Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, Kenwood and Rodman Recreation Area



Crossing Central Florida from the St. Johns River to the Gulf of Mexico, the Cross Florida Greenway is a 110-mile corridor that crosses a variety of natural habitats.

Putnam County is the east trailhead for the Greenway, with several recreation areas including Kenwood and Rodman Recreation Areas, located on Rodman Reservoir, Buckman Lock and the St. Johns Loop Trails.

At the trailhead, south of Palatka, there are a series of trails that include a 4.5-mile hiking trail that meanders through natural woodlands of cypress wetlands and hydric hammocks.

The Putnam County segment of the 1,300-mile footpath for the Florida National Scenic Trail is accessible at the Cross Florida Greenway. The trail runs north to Rice Creek Sanctuary, connects with the Palatka-to-Lake Butler Trail and Etoniah State Forest. For more information, contact Florida Trail Association. 1-(877) HIKE-FLA.

The St. Johns Loop trail has a 2-mile equestrian trail that travels along the south side of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. Cross Florida Greenway, Kenwood and Rodman Recreation Areas provide observation spots for viewing all types of birds, including limpkin, coot, common gallinule, wood ducks, swallowtail kite, osprey, southern bald eagle, woodpeckers, jays, hawks, flycatchers, wrens, heron, white ibis, and a variety of egrets.

Recommended launch area for the Oklawaha River for boating, kayaking and canoeing is located at Rodman Recreation Dam and pull out is located at the S. R. 19 Bridge. Camping is available by reservation at Rodman Recreation area. Sites include Recreational vehicle hook-ups, bathrooms and primitive campsites for tents. To reserve a site, call (386) 328-2846.

The Cross Florida Greenway is located approximately 9 miles south of Palatka on S. R. 19. To get to Rodman Dam, travel south on S. R. 19 to Rodman Recreation Area. Turn right on Rodman Dam Road and follow to the Dam launch.



Equestrian Trails

Remember - All horses must have proof of current negative Coggins Test results when on state lands.

Murphy Creek & Island

Murphy Creek is approximately 4 miles long and runs along the east bank of Murphy Island, located at the confluence of Dunns Creek and the St. Johns River. Paddlers can put in at Brown's Landing Road south of Palatka and paddle across the St. Johns River at Marker 16 to the mouth of Dunns Creek.

Murphy Creek Conservation Area has 1,707 acres that are predominantly hardwood swamp. Murphy Island contains one of the few upland areas along the St. Johns River that can be reached by boat. Primitive camping is permitted at designated sites only in Murphy Creek Conservation Area. The entrance to the conservation area is located off of U.S. 17, west on C.R. 309-B. A parking area is approximately one-half mile on the north side of the road.

Access to Murphy Island is by boat only. For more information, contact the St. Johns River Water Management District Division of Land Management at (386) 329-4404.



Welaka State Forest Trails

A series of foot trails offers the public an opportunity to walk and observe wildlife. While walking the trails of Welaka State Forest, look for woodpeckers, eagles, hawks, wrens, warblers, Osceola turkey, heron, egrets, and owls.

The Sandhill Horse Trail is available for equestrian use, as well as hiking. Welaka State Forest also manages a 72-horse stable, training arenas and horse show arena, which are all available for rental.

Welaka State Forest has 2,288 acres of various ecosystems along the east bank of the St. Johns River. The Division of Forestry maintains the integrity of the natural systems while allowing outdoor recreation use and environmental education, including complete equestrian facilities. Welaka State Forest is located approximately 17 miles south of Palatka on C.R. 309, one mile south of the town of Welaka. For more information, contact the Welaka State Forest at (386) 467-2388.



Welaka Fish Hatchery

A 3/4 mile footpath that travels through natural pine forest. Picnic area, wildlife observation deck and interpretive information is available.

The Hatchery's ponds attract fish-eating wading birds, eagles, ospreys, hawks, waders, white ibis, sandhill cranes, kingfishers and mergansers.



Lake George Conservation Area

More than 10 miles of horse trails traverse through this conservation area. There are several access points to Lake George Conservation area. Trail use is limited during hunting season.

Located in Putnam and Volusia Counties, Lake George Conservation Area has 35,380 acres of planted pine plantations, oak hammocks, bayheads, and dense creek swamps. Camping is allowed with a permit. No ATVs allowed. Lake George Conservation Area is located 3 miles west of Crescent City on Georgetown-Denver Rd. For more information, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Northeast Region Office, 1239 S.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL. (352) 732-1225.



Lake Butler - Palatka Trail

Replacing abandoned railroad lines, the Lake Butler-Palatka Trail is part of a larger project goal to connect St. Augustine to Lake City and make the total length of paved trail more than 100 miles. Currently sections of the trail are developed, but not all sections connect. Sections from Keystone Heights to Grandin and the urban Palatka section are completed. The trail heads can be found on U.S. 17 along this route. Trails are still under construction and will be opened as completed. For more information and status updates on the trail, contact Ravine Gardens State Park at (386) 329-3721 or the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce at (386) 328-1503.



Ravine Gardens State Park

Ravine Gardens is a representation of the never-ending shaping that occurs by Florida's water flow. The steep ravine was created by water flowing from beneath the sandy ridges that flank the west shore of the St. Johns River. In 1933, the Federal Works Administration (WPA) created a dramatic garden landscape in the ravine with azaleas and other exotic plantings. The landscape still flourishes as formal gardens with hiking trails. The garden's peak flowering period is late January to April.

The hardwood forest provides the ideal habitat for cedar waxwings, cardinals, mocking birds, robins, woodpeckers, jays, bald eagles, hummingbirds, and a variety of butterflies.

Recreation facilities include picnic areas, ornamental gardens, numerous hiking trails and a 1.8 mile paved perimeter loop trail that traverses along the upper rim of this 80-acre ravine. A community civic center complex is available for meetings, weddings and special events. Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. Located at 1600 Twigg Street, Palatka (386) 329-3721.



Ocala National Forest

Located in Marion, Putnam and Lake Counties, the Ocala National Forest has 382,408 acres that range from dense sand pine-scrub oak communities to wet and dry prairies to longleaf pine-palmetto flatwoods. Camping, dogs and ATVs are allowed.

Small game hunting is good, and deer and turkey hunting is fair to good. Hunters could encounter bears while hunting.

To access, travel south on S.R. 19 from Palatka approximately 15 miles. For more information, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Northeast Region Office, 1239 S.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL. (352) 732-1225.



Dunns Creek State Park

6,200 acres of natural Florida wilderness with more than 17 natural communities. Blue Pond Trail is a 2.5-mile loop hiking trail in Dunns Creek State Park. Picnic and wildlife viewing areas are available. The park is currently under development and will include a campground, trails, picnic areas, a small boat ramp, canoe/kayak launch, boardwalks, overlooks and equestrian facilities. Twice annually, the park hosts an open house for visitors which includes a boat tour, trail rides for equestrians, poker run for kayakers and trail rides for cyclists. Located on U.S. 17, north of Pomona Park. For more information, contact Ravine Gardens State Park at (386) 329-3721.



Get a Hunting License

Toll free 1-888-486-8356 from anywhere in the United States or Canada. You'll receive a temporary license and a permanent one will be mailed within 48 hours.

May be purchased at:
Putnam County Tax Collectors Office (3 local offices)
312 Oak Street, Palatka
1114 Hwy 20, Interlachen
19 N. Summit Street, Crescent City

or from sub-agents who are generally located at tackle shops, fish camps, hardware stores, etc. or visit www.floridaconservation.org for more information.



Georgia-Pacific Wildlife Management Area

3,661 acres of creek bottom hardwoods and pine-palmetto flatwoods. Camping is allowed with a permit. No dogs or ATVs are allowed. Small game and turkey hunting is good, while deer, wild hog, and migratory bird hunting is fair.

Georgia-Pacific Wildlife Management Area is located west of Palatka on S.R. 100. For more information, contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Northeast Region Office, 1239 S.W. 10th St., Ocala, FL. (352) 732-1225.

