

Points of Interest

Clay County

Clay County has four major communities: *Orange Park*, *Green Cove Springs*, *Middleburg*, and *Keystone Heights*. Among the county's smaller communities is *Penney Farms*, which was built in 1927 by J.C. Penney as a retirement community for ministers.

Historic **MIDDLEBURG** along Main Street and Historic **GREEN COVE SPRINGS**, a multiple district with over 84 structures, are listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. Middleburg was used as a harbor by pirates preying on Spanish treasure fleets. Green Cove Springs became Florida's first resort when word spread about its therapeutic warm mineral spring. In the 1880s, grand hotels surrounded the spring.

The Clay County Historical Museum is located in the Old Clay County Courthouse in *Green Cove Springs*. A Railroad Museum is also located on the courthouse grounds.

Putnam County

Putnam County municipalities are *Palatka*, *Welaka*, *Pomona Park*, *Crescent City*, and *Interlachen*. Long-known as the "Bass Capital of the World," Putnam County is renowned for its trophy bass fishing.

PALATKA, the county seat, was established as a trading post in 1821. The Putnam Historic Museum is located adjacent to the Bronson-Mulholland House (a Greek Revival Plantation home from 1857) in Mulholland Park in Palatka's South Historic District on 2nd and Madison Streets.

INTERLACHEN is another historic community. It is surrounded by dozens of small natural lakes.

CRESCENT CITY'S antique and gift shops along U.S. 17 and Central Ave. create a lively shopping atmosphere. Pick up a walking tour guide of historic buildings at City Hall, 115 N. Summit St.

Points of Interest

(Numbers in parenthesis correspond to numbers on the maps)

Jennings State Forest (1)

Check hunt dates and hunt season restrictions. Endangered species or species of special concern found here include *Bartram's Ixia* and Black Creek Crayfish.

Main Street Park

This park on Main Street in Middleburg has restrooms, picnic facilities, and playground.

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area (2)

Site exhibits a remarkable amount of relief for Florida landscapes, with elevations ranging from 5 feet above mean sea level at points along the creek to 90 feet above mean sea level on the sandhills in the southern portion. Distinctive characteristics are the seepage slopes and steep ravines that result from a series of naturally eroding seepage streams.

Black Creek Park (4)

This park serves as the head of the Black Creek Trail, a new off-street trailway from Black Creek to Doctors Inlet.

Bayard Conservation Area (5)

Access to Area 2 and Area 3 is restricted during hunting periods.

Camp Blanding Museum and Memorial Park

The Museum, a refurbished WWII barracks, houses a colorful collection of weapons, photo exhibits, uniformed mannequins and other artifacts that tell the story of Camp Blanding and the surrounding area during World War II. The Memorial Park is a large military memorabilia exhibition area surrounding a lagoon with pathways leading to monuments. Picnic area. Located near the main entrance to Camp Blanding on SR 16 just east of Starke.

Gold Head Branch State Park (6)

Located on the rolling "sandhills" in an area known as the central ridge of Florida. The sandhills are remnants of ancient sand dunes formed during the rising and lowering of sea levels. A steephead ravine system cuts through the sandhills. Freshwater springs along the sides form a stream known as Gold Head Branch which meanders through the park and empties into Lake

Johnson. There are 4 marked trails, including a portion of the Florida Trail (recommended for experienced hikers) that traverses the park. The park also has 3 separate camping areas, and 14 furnished rental cottages overlooking Lake Johnson.

Roadside Flowing Well

A local watering hole with fresh, potable, free-flowing spring water provides refreshment for travelers on CR 315 between CR 310 and Kenwood Recreation Area (8).

Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area (10)

Biking/hiking trails closed during hunting season. Bounded on the east by the St. Johns River and the south by the Ocklawaha River, this large, diverse tract connects the Cross-Florida Greenway with the Ocala National Forest. In the rivers, manatee and snail bullhead are among other commonly seen species.

Fort Gates Ferry

A simple flat barge, the oldest operating ferry in Florida, shuttles automobiles and passengers between Welaka and the Ocala National Forest from 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily except Tuesday.

Welaka Aquarium and Fish Hatchery

Located on SR 309. Observation tower, nature trail, picnic area.

Dunns Creek Conservation Area (12)

Walk-through access for hikers, bicycle riders and horseback riders at gated entries. Restricted during hunting periods.

Ravine State Gardens (13)

This beautiful park is set in a deep 80-acre ravine that blossoms each spring with azaleas and camellias. 1.8-mile bike and auto trail along the creek, several foot paths in ravine. Picnic areas, Civic Center, outdoor amphitheater, interpretive guides and maps. The steep ravine was created by water flowing from beneath sandy ridges that flank the west shore of the St. Johns River. Trees eventually became established and grew into a mature, mixed hardwood forest. The park is home to Palatka's Azalea Festival each spring.