

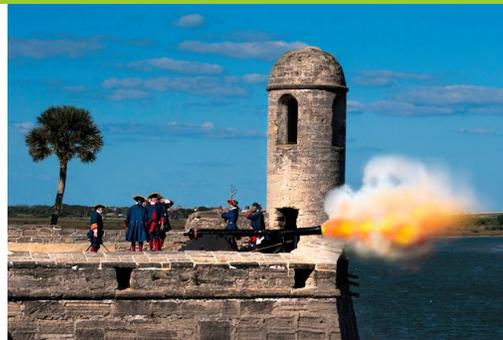
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FRIENDS OF FLORIDA STATE PARKS

Florida's Historic Coast is a nature lover's paradise

Florida's Historic Coast with its 42 miles of pristine Atlantic beaches, miles of nature trails and coastal estuary, is also home to parks with a heritage that dates back to the 16th century, which have shaped our nation.



Anastasia State Park

One of Florida's most popular parks with its white quartz sands is perfect for a day at the beach with the family. The quiet beaches here are perfect for sunbathing, swimming, fishing and bird watching. You'll find plenty of parking, permanent restrooms, snack bar and picnic areas, and watersport rentals. In 2015, Travel + Leisure magazine included Anastasia State Park on its list of America's prettiest beach.



GTM Research Reserve

Located on scenic A1A, the GTM Research Reserve is a hiker's delight with 9 plus miles of nature trails. The coastal estuary offers incredible views of lush vegetation, nesting bald eagles, and possible encounters with the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin and the West Indian manatee. The GTM is a popular fishing spot with boat ramp access. GTM volunteers and staff offer monthly guided beach explorations and seining workshops.



Fort Matanzas

Fort Matanzas, located on the Intracoastal Waterway south of St. Augustine, was built by Spanish soldiers as the back door protecting the city by preventing the British sailing through Matanzas Bay from invading St. Augustine. Today, Fort Matanzas has grown to a park of almost 300 acres and features walking trails, picnic areas, small tidal beaches and of course the fort located on Rattlesnake Island, which visitors get to by ferry.



Faver Dykes State Park

The tranquil Faver Dykes State Park borders Pellicer Creek as it winds along Florida's east coast highways down to the Matanzas River portion of the Intracoastal Waterway. More than 100 bird species can be seen during spring and fall migrations, [Faver Dykes State Park](#) is a paddling launch site and offers fishing, picnicking, and nature walks, as well as a full service camp ground.

