

A Word About Alligators – The Wakulla River is home to a remarkable variety of wildlife, including alligators. These animals reside in an area protected from human intrusion and may be dangerous. Swim in the designated area only.

History & Nature

Humans have occupied Wakulla Springs for nearly 15,000 years. It is thought Wakulla means “river of the crying bird” or “strange and mysterious waters.” Archaeological evidence shows intermittent habitation from Paleo-Indian times through the time of European contact in 1513. Later periods are also represented, particularly the Spanish Mission, Creek and Seminole.

Edward Ball purchased the property in 1934 and developed it as an attraction that focused on the preservation of wildlife and the surrounding habitat. The Wakulla Springs Lodge, completed in 1937, is an excellent example of Mediterranean Revival architecture.

The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a National Natural Landmark.



Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park

465 Wakulla Park Drive
Wakulla Springs, Florida 32327
(850) 561-7276

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a handheld leash no longer than six feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating and ground fires are not allowed in the park. Fireworks and hunting are prohibited in all Florida state parks.
- Swimming is limited to the designated swimming area at the Wakulla Spring.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas at the lodge only.
- To become a volunteer, please call (850) 561-7281.
- Recreational scuba diving is permitted in some designated sinkhole areas.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the lodge front desk.

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Northwest
Florida

Wakulla Springs Lodge and State Park

Strange and mysterious waters



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National Gold Medal Winner

Florida State Parks - "America's First Three-Time Winner"

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Wakulla Springs State Park is a 6,000-acre wildlife sanctuary quietly hidden in Spanish moss-draped Florida woodlands, 30 minutes from Tallahassee. The heart of the park is the world famous Wakulla Springs. Cool water flows from the majestic springs to create the Wakulla River, one of the last pristine rivers in Florida.

One of Wakulla Springs' main attractions is the **boat tours** that operate 365 days a year, depending on the weather. The three-mile **River Tour** is a forty-minute cruise on the river to see alligators, native birds, turtles and other wildlife up close. When water conditions permit, **glass bottom boats** drift over the bowl of the Wakulla Spring, one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs. It is a haven for local youths who love the exhilarating rush of a leap from the **dive tower** to **swim** in the 70-degree fahrenheit water.

The **nature trail** begins at the southwest edge of the Lodge parking lot. The trail allows visitors to discover a different aspect of the Wakulla Springs forest ecosystem. The portion of the trail on the north side of the river is multi-use as designated by the trail signs.

The **Wakulla Springs Lodge** is a 1937 vision of quiet elegance, providing a retreat from the modern world. Twenty-seven guest rooms are furnished with period furniture and private bathrooms. The dining room overlooking the spring provides **elegantly prepared food** for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Gift items and light lunches are offered in the gift shop with one of the world's longest marble counters. It also is the place to see the legendary "Old Joe," an 11-foot 2-inch stuffed alligator. The lodge lobby with its intricately painted 10-foot ceiling is a place to relax. Its period furnishings include a grand piano, marble checker tables, a massive fireplace, and the lodge's only television. For reservations and information about the hotel, restaurant and gift shop, please call 850-421-2000 or visit www.wakullaspringslodge.com.



Directions

From Tallahassee, go 16 miles south on State Road 61. Then take State Road 267 east. Continue a few hundred feet to the park entrance on the right.

