



Flatwoods-Wilderness Trail

The Flatwoods-Wilderness Trail travels through southern Jefferson County, along a number of canopy roads (Avalon, Fanlew, and Aucilla River), through plantations (El Destino, and Avalon (Welaunee)), past historic sites (Casa Bianca, Rosewood, and Avalon) and past recreation areas (Wacissa Springs, Goose Pasture, Aucilla Sinks, Natural Bridge, St Marks and Aucilla Rivers), and magnitude-one springs (Wacissa and Horsehead). The countryside begins with the rolling Red Hills and drops dramatically at the Cody escarpment into the Flatwoods of the coastal plain.

We are delighted to have you visit with us and we hope you enjoy traveling our Heritage Roads. Please remember you need to check your fuel gauge and cell phone service then slow down and enjoy the view - here, most drivers still wave when passing each other.

Travel: Time 2:30 Miles: 77.4

Services are limited and many roads are un-paved.

FLATWOODS WILDERNESS TRAIL Rev 03/04/14

No. Road Mile Sites of Interest

1. SR-259 2.8 Monticello Vineyards & Ladybird Organics: Produces award winning Muscadine wines and organic fruits. Seasonal grape picking: tours and tasting by appointment.

Casa Bianca: A former 3,000 acre plantation (1834), owned by Joseph White and his wife Ellen "Florida" White. Joseph was the Florida's first territorial delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives (1825-1837). The house was struck by lightning and burned in 1906.
- SR-259 11.4 Old St. Augustine Road: A beautiful canopy road and is a remaining fragment of a Spanish Road, built nearly 500 years ago, ran from St. Augustine to Pensacola and the Old "Bellamy" road. In 1824 John Bellamy, a Jefferson County cotton planter, built the Ochlockonee to St. Johns River section of the Federal Highway (aka "Bellamy" Road - one of the first roads built in Florida).

Waukeenah : An early settler community (Est. early 1800s). A number of skirmishes with Indians took place here in the 1830s.
- SR-259 14.3 Sites of Old Spanish Missions: Site of Spanish Mission (San Juan de Aspalaga) which was burned in 1704 is just to the east of SR-259.
- SR-259 14.3 Cody Escarpment: The dramatic drop from the Red Hills to the Flatwoods here. Once the shoreline of an ancient sea, it provides an impressive view to the south. On a clear day you may be able to see Apalachee Bay (Gulf) and St. Marks Lighthouse.
- SR-259 16.6 Wacissa: A residential community focused on pine timber logging and ranching community now. Once a center for naval stores (turpentine). In the early 1900s a daily turpentine train ran to Thomasville, Georgia.
2. Wacissa 17.8 Wacissa River County Park: The Wacissa River begins here with two first magnitude springs (Wacissa and Horsehead Springs). It is one of most pristine, beautiful and unspoiled spring fed rivers in Florida. You can enjoy boating, canoeing (vendors outside the park offer rentals), swimming and picnicking. From here the Wacissa flows about 15 miles south to Goose Pasture and disappears into sloughs emptying into the Aucilla River near Nuttall Rise.
3. SR-59 20.3 Aucilla WMA: The Aucilla Wildlife Management Area ("WMA") stretches over more than 89,000 acres of the Flatwoods. The WMA is

public and is open for hunting, hiking and camping - check FWC Regulations.

- US-98 31.8 St. Marks Waterfowl Refuge Area: To the west (9 miles) is the St. Marks River and entrance to the St. Marks Waterfowl Refuge Area and the St. Marks Lighthouse (One of the oldest lighthouses in Florida).
- 36.8 Lost Volcano: Tales of smoke eerily spiraling up from the swamp have been told from 1830s to 1890s, when the spiraling smoke disappeared. Its origin has been attributed to smoke from a pirates camp to a peat fire.
- US-98 37.7 Aucilla River: The Aucilla River area has been the home to humans for more than 14,000 years. In the past, Mastodon and Saber tooth tigers roamed this area. It is one of the richest areas for archeological finds in the United States. Boating, canoeing and fishing are available.

Old Salt Works: In a time before refrigeration, salt was an important commodity for preserving meat. A salt factory existed for many years near the coast and increased in importance during the Civil War.
- US-98 39.5 Mandalay: Is a small fishing community located on the Aucilla River. A public boat launch is available.

Florida Canoe/Kayak Trails: Runs along the Gulf very near here.
- Goose 45.4 Aucilla Sinks: The Aucilla River disappears underground seven times which forms the Aucilla sinks. The Florida Hiking Trails run along the river and an informational sign marks the trail entrance from the road.
- Goose 48.2 Goose Pasture Park: Goose Pasture Park is open year round for picnicking, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and camping (except hunting season). It is operated by the SRWM. It is a beautiful and unspoiled area with clear water.

The Old "Slave Canal" is just south of the park. In 1831, a group of Jefferson County cotton planters formed a company to dig a canal connecting the Wacissa and Aucilla rivers. Digging started in 1850s. The canal, never a success, today is a canoeing trail to Aucilla River.
- Welaunee Landing: North (8 miles) is an old boat launching site. Directly across the river is the dark and mysterious swamp, known as "Hell's Half Acre."
- Avalon 63.6 Avalon Plantation: Avalon Plantation (Formerly Welaunee) is now owned by Ted Turner and comprises some 31,000 acres. Col. Robert

Gamble, son of Captain Robert Gamble (Revolutionary War) purchased the property in the 1820's. A settler's fort was built on the property near the Wacissa River later known as Ft. Gamble 1839-1843. Gamble's mother was the daughter of General James Breckenridge (Revolutionary War).

Welaunee Church: Welaunee Church was founded in late 1800s.

US-19 67.5 Tungsten : The original wooden tung oil plant is on the left. This was a bustling "mini" city from 1930s to 1950s. Tung oil was used in varnish (paint) until 1960s. There were thousands of acres of Tung trees, an imported native of China. The Tung oil is made from the nut.

US-19 67.1 Rosewood: This antebellum plantation house was built for Robert McBride, ca.1834. Margaret, his daughter, married Asa May and were given the Rosewood in 1848. Asa May was one of the wealthiest planters in North Florida owning more than 3,000 acres. "Rosewood" is on the National Register and is one of only three surviving antebellum plantation houses in Jefferson County.

US-19 67.1 Turner Youth Camp: A day camp operated by Beau Turner to teach youngsters the art of fishing, hunting and outdoor life and the value of good environmental practices.

Alternate Route 1:

Bridge 31.5 Natural Bridge State Park: This natural bridge over the St. Marks River, was the site of the second largest Civil War battle in Florida. In March 1865, a Union flotilla landed in Apalachee Bay and began to march to Tallahassee. A Confederate militia, made up of old men and young boys (students at the seminary in Tallahassee) repelled the Union forces. Tallahassee was the only capital east of the Mississippi that was not taken by Union forces. A re-enactment of the battle is held every year in March.

Plank 37.4 Sulphur Springs: Roadside spring that empties into St. Marks River. You can smell the sulphur in the water.

Alternate Route 2:

River Rd 54.4 Aucilla River: The Aucilla River begins near the Georgia State line, disappears into the Aucilla sinks near Goose Pasture and empties into the Gulf near Mandalay. Boating, Canoeing and kayaking.

66.9 Lamont: Small community named after James Lamont. At one time the community was known as "Lick Skillet." The ford and ferry on the old Bellamy Road was formerly located just east of Lamont.

FLATWOODS WILDERNESS TRAIL			Rev 3/24/14
Direction	ROAD	Segment / Total	Sites of Interest
▼	South US-19	1.6 / 0	Courthouse ☺
→	South Waukeenah Hwy	14.8 / 1.6	1. Monticello Vineyards
		2.8	Casa Bianca
		4.0	Oakfield Cemetery
		6.3	Sardis Church
		6.3	KOA Campground
		11.2	US-27 Intersection ☺
		11.4	Old St. Augustine Rd
		14.3	Spanish Mission Sites
		14.3	Cody Escarpment
←	South SR-59 (Gamble Rd)	.7 / 16.6	Wacissa ☺
			← Thomas City
▲	South Wacissa Springs Rd	.5 / 17.3	
▼	North Wacissa Springs Rd	.5 / 17.8	2. Wacissa River County Park *
←	West SR-59 (Gamble Rd)	13.3 / 18.4	
		20.3	Aucilla WMA (Grade 25)
		24.3	Alternate Route - 1
			→ Natural Bridge (7.6 mi)
			→ Sulphur Springs (13.1 mi)
←	East US-98	8.1 / 31.8	
			→ St Marks Lighthouse (19 mi)
			→ St Marks WMA (19 mi)
		35.5	Aucilla WMA
		37.7	Salt Works (Former Site)
		37.7	Aucilla River ☺
		39.5	Nuttall Rise
		39.5	→ Mandalay (Aucilla/ Gulf)*
			→ Kayak/Canoe Trails (9 mi)*
			→ Econfina St Park (12 mi)*
←	North Powell Hammock	4.3 / 40.0	Pavement Ends 2.2 mi.
←	West Goose Pasture Rd	4.2 / 44.3	← Florida Birding Trail
		45.4	Aucilla Sinks
		45.4	Florida Hiking Trails
		45.6	"Y" Bear Left
▲	East Goose Pasture Rd	2.3 / 48.2	5. Goose Pasture Landing
		50.5	Alternate Route - 2
			(Recommended Route)
←	North O'Neel Tram Rd	10.1 / 50.7	Flatwoods
		53.1	Bear left at "Y"
			← Welaunee Boat Ramp*
←	West Walker Springs Rd	1.0 / 60.8	Flatwoods
→	North Avalon Rd	8.2 / 61.9	
		63.6	Avalon Plantation
		66.8	Welaunee Church

←	East E. Capps (US-27)	.3 / 67.1	
		67.5	Old Tung Oil Plant
→	North US-19	9.9 / 67.5	Stonewall Jackson Highway
		67.1	Rosewood - Asa May House
		67.1	Turner Youth Camp
		72.1	I-10 Intersection ☺
		72.1	Campground ☺
		75.7	Simpson's Nurseries
		77.4	Monticello ☺
	TRAVEL TIME 2:00	MILES 77.4	☺ Services * Recreation

ALTERNATE ROUTE - 1			Starts at 24.3 on SR-59 & Fanlew Rd
Direction	ROAD	Segment / Total	Sites of Interest
→	South Fanlew	1.0 / 24.3	
→	West Natural Bridge	6.6 / 25.3	
		31.5	Natural Bridge State Park
←	South Old Plank Rd	6.3 / 31.9	Pavement Ends (1.7 mi.)
		/ 37.4	Sulphur Springs
←	East US-98	7.6 / 38.3	Newport ☺
			→ St. Marks * ☺ (6 mi.)
			→ Fort de Apalachee (7 mi)
			→ Wakulla River * (9 mi)
			St Marks River *
			← St. Marks Lighthouse 11 mi
			← St Marks WMA 11 mi *
▲	US-98 at Fla - 59	/ 45.9	Reenter Original Route Here
	Added Travel Time + 30 minutes	+ 14.1 miles	☺ Services * Recreation

ALTERNATE ROUTE - 2			Starts at 50.7 Goose Pasture Rd
			(Recommended Route)
Direction	ROAD	Segment / Total	Sites of Interest
▲	East Goose Pasture Rd	1.5 / 50.7	
←	North Powell Hammock	1.7 / 52.2	
		.5 / 53.9	↗ Bear Right at "Y"
←	North Co 14 (Aucilla Riv)	12.6 / 54.4	Pavement Begins (.5 mi)
		58.8	Aucilla River *
←	East E. Capps (US-27)	6.5 / 66.9	Lamont ☺
		71.0	WPA Road
		73.0	← Avalon Road
		73.4	Old Tung Oil Plant
→	North US -19	/ 73.4	Reenter Original Route to Court House
	ADDED TRAVEL + 10 Minutes	+ 5.9 miles	☺ Services * Recreation
			© AVR Development, Inc.

