



For Immediate Release

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DIVERSE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES ARE FOUND IN OCALA/MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

OCALA, FL (February 2018) – Florida often conjures up visions of beaches and theme parks, however, the diversity found in Ocala/Marion County will have guests envisioning vacations filled with outdoor adventures. Its natural setting helps distinguish this Central Florida county from the rest of the state. Whether you spend the day on one of the many rivers, lakes or springs, soaring through lush landscapes on a zip line adventure or enjoying quaint shops and restaurants in a historic setting, there are countless opportunities to create lasting memories in Ocala/Marion County, Florida.

Enjoy a casual stroll through Historic Downtown Ocala, where charming shops, casual bars, and more local treasures line the brick paved streets. Share a delicious meal at one of a kind restaurant and dine al' fresco in the mild Florida temperatures. Save room for dessert by selecting a sweet treat from [Ocala's Chocolate & Confections](#) or Stella's Modern Pantry where display cases are filled with hand crafted chocolates, beautiful pastries and delicately whipped mousses and cakes.

Just 40 minutes outside of historic Downtown Ocala, the Ocala National Forest holds endless possibilities for hikers, nature lovers and adventure seekers to enjoy. From boardwalks to biking and hiking trails ranging from beginner to advanced, to more than 100 miles of designated equestrian paths, the second largest national forest in Florida offers exciting additions to any itinerary. For those wanting to spend a night under the canopy of ancient oaks and dazzling starlight, camping areas are located within the forest, allowing you to close out your day of exploring in the most relaxing way.

If a relaxing day on the water is more your style, there are several natural springs sprinkled throughout the Ocala National Forest. One of our most popular, [Juniper Springs](#), with year round water temperatures of 72 degrees, is a fantastic spot to cool off from Florida's heat. Another popular spring is [The Salt Springs Recreation Area](#), also located in the Ocala National Forest. Its name originated from naturally occurring minerals carried to the surface from underground aquifers, providing a level of salinity not found in the other springs.

Another charming location is [Silver Springs State Park](#). As one of the largest artesian springs in the world, visitors will love the historical and cultural artifacts, wildlife and vegetation. Silver Springs is home of the famous glass-bottom boats: where people get the opportunity to see thousands of fish, turtles and alligators. Adventurers can canoe or kayak the 1.1-mile trip around Ross Allen Island and explore unique habitats.

Another perfect stop during your vacation is [KP Hole](#), a public park that rests on the banks of the Rainbow River. The six-mile long river is known for its clear glass-like water, with underwater visibility of over 150 feet. Its clarity makes it perfect for finding a wide array of underwater species. Aside from its attractive scenery, KP Hole Park is famously known for tubing, kayaking, canoeing and diving. Tubing down the river is a four-hour trip, while kayaking or canoeing usually takes half the time, making it a memorable way to spend the day with a group.

If you're fueled by adrenaline-pumping off-road adventures, the [Santos Mountain Bike Trails](#) fits the bill. They are one of only six bike trails in the U.S. offering more than 60 miles of off-road area covering the county's beautiful landscape. For more experienced mountain bikers, [Vortex Bike Trails](#) have a vertical drop of about 20 feet, options for higher jumps and more challenging trails. The 49 Ave. Trails are another must-see in the region, lined with remnants of historic ship canal "diggings" that exist today as miniature valleys.

Ocala/Marion County's gorgeous year-round climate and captivating scenery also make it a prime location for horseback riding through the destination's many natural attractions. [Cactus Jack's Trail Rides](#) take visitors through acres of trails on the Cross Greenway Trail System, offering countless opportunities to spot local wildlife and enjoy the fresh, forest air. Guests can also learn about the unique factors that keep Ocala amongst the leaders of the equestrian world on a carriage ride from [Horse Country Carriage Co. and Tours](#).

To finish off your trip, soar through the county's limestone canyons on the longest, highest and fastest zip lines in Florida, including the longest zip line over water in the U.S., at the [Canyons Zip Line and Canopy Tours](#). You can also explore the one-of-a-kind grounds on horseback, weaving through nature trails to reach breathtaking sights.

This is just a glimpse of what Ocala/Marion County has to offer. Explore all of the unforgettable activities and attractions available to you and ensure you don't miss a thing by planning out your spring break adventure using the county's [itinerary builder](#).

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About: Outdoor adventures abound. Ocala/Marion County offers countless opportunities to connect with nature and relax in a classic Florida destination. Home to the Ocala National Forest, the second largest national forest in the state, as well as historic Silver Springs. This unique destination is ideal for both leisure and business travelers who seek authentic outdoor experiences. Known as the Horse Capital of the World™ with more than 700 horse farms, the County boasts a legacy of breeding and training world champion thoroughbreds. Centrally located less than two hours from Orlando, Daytona Beach

and Tampa, Ocala/Marion County is a must-stop when visiting Central Florida. For more information on Ocala/Marion County, visit our [website](#), follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Twitter](#), or call toll-free 1.888.FL.OCALA.