



For More Information:

Ashley Dobbs

352-438-2800

[Ashley.Dobbs@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:Ashley.Dobbs@marioncountyfl.org)

### **Ocala/Marion County is filled with Florida's Unique Nature Areas**

Ocala, FL – (March 2019) – Breathtaking, inspiring, charming—there are many ways to describe Ocala/Marion County. But, only one word truly captures the essence of this picturesque region: unique. One-of-a-kind attractions are a specialty for this hidden Central Florida gem, and the “off the beaten path” activities that await visitors can fill a lifelong itinerary.

Ocala/Marion County is home to many rivers, lakes, and world famous springs. Visitors to the area can enjoy water views aboard a canoe, kayak, or boat. The area is rich in crystal-clear, artesian springs popular for eco-enthusiasts seeking moments of up-close, nature driven encounters. [Silver Springs State Park](#), home to the famous glass bottom boat tours, is known as Florida's oldest attraction. The \$2 per person admission fee allows visitors to explore the gardens and boardwalk out to the famed Ross Allen Island. Glass bottom boat tickets can be purchased for an additional nominal fee. This narrated family friendly boat tour provides one-of-a-kind views of the springs revealing Hollywood props, ancient Native American artifacts and a Spanish boat that was recovered and put back due to its historic significance.

Rainbow Springs, the fourth largest spring in the state and designated as a Natural Florida Landmark is another paddle paradise. Enjoy a leisurely paddle down the Rainbow River, surrounded by towering palm trees, ferns, and lush landscapes. [Rainbow Springs State Park](#), costs only \$2 per person and provides visitors with 1,470 acres of ecological and recreation fun; hiking, swimming, tubing (an additional fee of \$20), and paddling (additional fees will apply for kayak and canoe rentals).

Those looking to experience history and adventure rolled into one can take a once-in-a-lifetime tour of breathtaking underwater caves at [Paradise Springs](#). Accompanied by experienced divers, descend into an underwater maze and stunning ecosystem with lime rock and fossils lining the cavern. The crystal-

clear waters you'll find at Paradise Springs remain a constant 72 degrees year-round, making this the perfect all-season activity. Please note: Divers must provide proof of SCUBA certification upon arrival to enter the spring.

[Carney Island Park at Lake Weir](#) is another great recreational area for those looking for a little bit of everything. With over 750 acres of sand hill islands, causeways, wetlands systems and shoreline beaches, this destination offers hiking, swimming, picnic pavilions, playgrounds and sand volleyball courts fit for the true adventure seekers.

The [Canyons Zip Lines & Canopy Tours](#) offer views from the air, by land and now by water with the addition of kayak tours on site. You can go flying through the air via zip line, enjoy a leisurely ride on horseback or try the newest eco-adventure in a kayak to paddle along a spring fed lake through limestone quarries. Visitors may even catch the occasional glimpse of Florida fossils in the lime stone rough. Guests now have the opportunity to mine for gems just like miners in the old days, and keep their treasures, with the all-new gem mining activity or try the Taste of History tour with a "behind the scenes" look at the property's unique story and how there are cliffs and "mountains" in Central Florida. Outdoor enthusiasts will appreciate picking their own adventure at this all-encompassing attraction set amid nature's playground.

If you are seeking additional adventures on land, look no further than the many trail systems throughout Ocala/Marion County. No matter what time of year it is a great time to explore the county by foot or bike. For nature lover's wanting the convenience of a map anywhere on the go, there is a [trail guide](#) that is easily accessible from your mobile device.

To learn more about unique attractions in Ocala/Marion County, as well as many other adventures available in the area, visit [OcalaMarion.com](#), follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Twitter](#), or call toll-free 1.888.FL.OCALA.

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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 leisure 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.