

Discover Hidden Gems in Nature's Place to Play

Escape the crowds on [Florida's Adventure Coast – Brooksville, Weeki Wachee](#), where historic attractions and natural landscapes bring 'Old Florida' memories back to life. Located an hour's drive west from Orlando or 45 minutes north of Tampa, the Adventure Coast makes the perfect home-base for visiting Florida's diverse attractions, or an escape from it all. Explore dozens of trails, waterways, history and nature here in *Nature's Place to Play*.

Take a trip back in time at [Weeki Wachee Springs State Park](#), entertaining guests since 1947. See an underwater performance of 'live Mermaids' who swim gracefully in a first-magnitude spring for which the park is named. Attractions besides the underwater mermaid show include a riverboat cruise, wildlife show, and Buccaneer Bay, where guests can slip along waterslides and swim in the clear, cool springs, a constant 72 degrees year-round. Due to scheduled renovations, the show park is currently closed, but the swimming area and kayak rentals are open daily. Mermaid shows, river boat & wildlife program are scheduled to reopen June 15, 2019.

Nearby restaurants in Weeki Wachee and Hernando Beach offer coastal vibes and a variety of seafood. Enjoy fish tacos or the famous crunchy fish sandwich at [BeckyJack's Food Shack](#) with it's funky decor, or try the Hawaiian pork chops at [The Cove](#), where guests can feed the turtles in the adjacent canal. Try the lobster roll and other New England favorites at [Hernando Beach Tropical Grille](#), an all-you-can-eat fish fry at Bayport Inn, or a margarita at the [Upper Deck Restaurant](#) overlooking the Weeki Wachee River – all while watching the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico.

For water adventures, rent a kayak, canoe or paddleboard (or bring your own!) to launch onto the new [Bayport-Linda Pedersen Paddling Trail](#). Set in an estuary where rivers run to the Gulf of Mexico, this coastal waterway offers a chance to experience Florida's natural coastline and spot wildlife including manatees. The paddling trail connects two launches: Bayport Park and Linda Pedersen Park, which double as great places for fishing. Cast a line or enjoy a day on the water with one of our experienced charter guides. Anglers can enjoy a variety of fishing experiences, from flats fishing for tarpon and redfish; deep-sea fishing in the Gulf for grouper, cobia and snapper; or lake fishing for largemouth bass, bream, and crappie.

Time spent on Florida's Adventure Coast is not complete without a visit to Brooksville, a town rich in history and southern charm. Take a stroll through downtown for antiquing, shopping, and viewing local art murals decorating the exteriors of many buildings. Locals are proud of their 'Mom and Pop' restaurants, including the original [Florida Cracker Kitchen](#) and [Little Lady Café](#), popular for their home-style breakfasts. Enjoy a home-cooked lunch and deserts at [Mallie Kyla's Cafe](#), or the famous Cuban sandwich at [Main Street Eatery](#), followed by their mile-high peanut butter pie.

Step back in time at [Chinsegut Hill Retreat & Manor Museum](#), featuring an antebellum home located at the highest point on Florida's Adventure Coast, and offering special lunches followed by a tour on Wednesdays. See over 11,000 artifacts on display at the [May-Stringer House Museum](#), a four-story home built in 1856, with themed rooms including a military room, an 1880's doctor's office and a 1900's communication room. Take in the nostalgic charm of the [1928 Richloam General Store](#), selling time-period goods from cast ironware, to canned fruits and veggies and Nehi soda. Shop for unique gifts at The Wired Bird and The Country Depot, or search for vintage goodies at Transformed Treasures. The Peace Tree Trading Post is another must-visit for beautiful and authentic Native American art and goods.

Cyclists have access to trails throughout the Adventure Coast. The newly paved Good Neighbor Trail runs 10 miles east from downtown Brooksville, connecting to the 46-mile Withlacoochee State Trail and part of the future [Coast-to-Coast Trail](#). The 42-mile Suncoast Trail parallels the Suncoast Parkway, connecting Weeki Wachee to Hillsborough County. Both trails traverse agricultural, suburban and natural areas, offering sections of shady and hilly terrain.

The Withlacoochee State Forest offers miles of off-road cycling, hiking, and the [Croom Motorcycle Park](#) dedicated to off-road vehicles. Visitors can learn all about local wildlife and hike the trails at the [Chinsegut Conservation Center](#), hosting educational wildlife programs and guided hikes throughout the year.

Coming soon to Brooksville, the new [FLG X Extreme Adventure Course](#) will offer hours of tree-to-tree adventure! Explore the outdoors on an elevated obstacle course, with features including bridges, swings and ziplines. The courses are made for every experience level; even children too young for the trees have their own 'Little Ninja Course' on the ground.

There's no shortage of things to do, least of all events. Make plans on your calendar for music festivals, including blues, bluegrass and country, plus the Brooksville Native American Festival, Brooksville Blueberry Festival, Weeki Wachee Swampfest, Art in the Park and so much more. Find a calendar of events and plan your visit at www.FloridasAdventureCoast.com

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