

Gainesville (Fl.) Sun

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Favorite weekend retreat of Florida residents among 'Most Endangered Historic Places'

Staff report



- Cedar Key, Florida, is listed as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Rising sea levels and severe storms, including Hurricane Helene in 2024, threaten the historic fishing village.
- Cedar Key represents a fading example of "Old Florida" with its unique blend of fishing, local businesses, and affordable lodging.

Cedar Key, a popular fishing village and weekend retreat just over an hour's drive southwest of Gainesville, is among the locations listed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's [2025 list](#) of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places."

The [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#), which has published a list of endangered historic places annually since 1988, is a privately funded nonprofit organization dedicated to helping

communities maintain and enhance the power of historic places, according to a May 7 press release.

The national story: [These are America's most endangered historic sites. Can they be saved?](#)

"Across the United States, compelling, meaningful historic sites are at risk, whether from natural disasters, underutilization, neglect, or lack of awareness," said Carol Quillen, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"Each site on this year's list has inspired passionate supporters from their surrounding communities to work together to save these cherished landmarks and repurpose them for the public, now and into the future. Their leadership shows the power of preservation to create stronger communities, energized local economies, and a healthier environment for everyone."

Local news: [WorldAtlas names 8 of the best downtowns in Florida. One is in Alachua County](#)

According to the release, Cedar Key "is increasingly threatened by rising sea levels and severe storm events, including a record storm surge brought by Hurricane Helene in 2024."

The release also notes impacts felt on the island from Hurricane Hermine in 2016, and that data shows sea-level rise will cause severe flooding risks in the future.

With its mix of fishing, small businesses and affordable accommodations, the release says, "Cedar Key represents an increasingly rare example of 'Old Florida.'"

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in its release offered a variety of solutions to the problem, and noted that it worked with the [University of Florida](#) on a "Resilient Cedar Key Adaptation Plan."

Ideas developed from the plan include "elevating and wet-proofing historic buildings, improving drainage to protect a historic cemetery, and using nature-based "living shoreline" approaches to reduce the impacts of storm surges."

The other places on the list are the French Broad and Swannanoa river corridors in Western North Carolina; Hotel Casa Blanca in Idlewild, Michigan; the May Hicks Curtis House in Flagstaff, Arizona ; Mystery Castle in Phoenix; Oregon Caves Chateau in Cave Junction, Oregon ; the Pamunkey Indian Reservation in King William County, Virginia; the San Juan Hotel in San Juan, Texas; the Terminal Island Japanese American Tuna Street Buildings in Los Angeles; [The Turtle, also known as the Native American Center for the Living Arts, in Niagara Falls, New York](#) ; and The Wellington Hotel in Pine Hill, New York.