

# 230505 MEM BRA

## Apalachicola, Florida Trip

### Back Roads la America

1. Cedar key, Florida clam hatchery

9:50

5G%

<

Southern Cross Sea Farms

Southern Cross Sea Farms


Tripadvisor (55)

Public market, Farm

OVERVIEW

PHOTOS

REVIEWS




CALL

DIRECTIONS

WEBSITE

12170 State Road 24, Cedar Key, FL 32625



Closed · Opens tomorrow 8 AM

(352) 543-5980

2. Cemetery tour.

# Chestnut Street Cemetery

99 reviews

#5 of 18 things to do in Apalachicola

Cemeteries

[Visit website](#) [Write a review](#)



## 3. Ghost tour



Take a paranormal ghost tour of [downtown Apalachicola](#) and see if any ghosts still roam the streets. Your ghostly guide will tell you local ghost stories all while using real ghost hunting equipment to see if any spirits are still around.

ment of the Chamber of Commerce which is located at 17 Avenue E next to the Dixie Theatre and may last up to 90-minutes.

Tickets: \$15 and \$5 for kids 3 to 12 years old. Infants to 2 years of age do not require a ticket.

[Visit Website »](#)

### VENUE

Apalachicola, Florida

Apalachicola, 32320 [+ Google Map](#)

### ORGANIZER

Apalach Ghost Tour

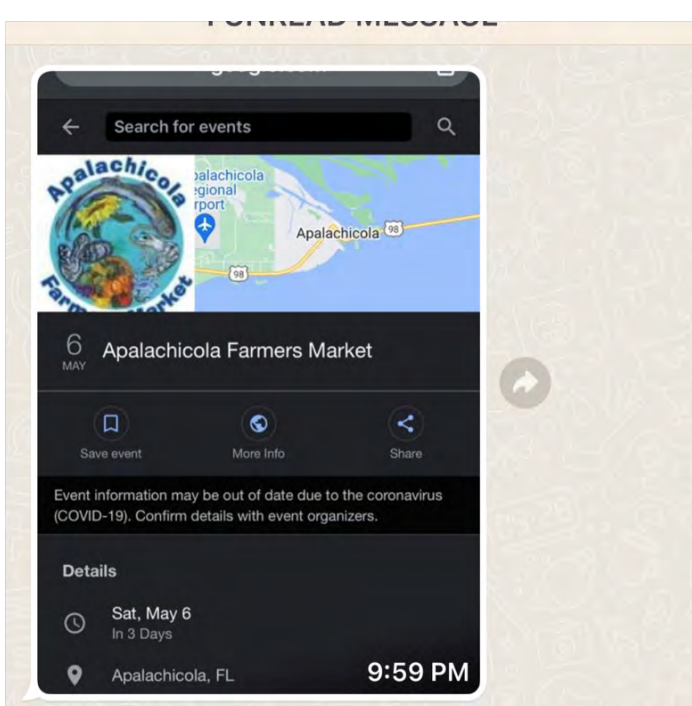
**Phone:**

(850) 583-4662

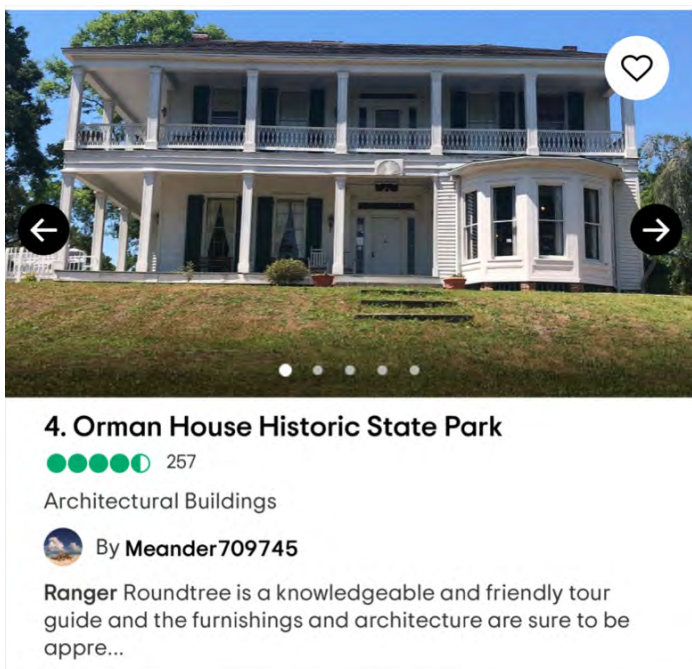
**Email:**

boo@apalachghosttour.com

## 4. Appalachia farmers market; May 6 from 9 AM to 1 PM



5. Ormon house state park; two dollars tour historic home.



6. Saint Georges Island, national Estuary research reserve

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve


Tripadvisor (209) · 6.8 mi


Nature reserve, Arts & Entertainment

OVERVIEW

PHOTOS

REVIEWS






CALL

DIRECTIONS

WEBSITE

108 Island Dr, Eastpoint, FL 32328



7. Lynn’s Seafood Market n Oyster Bar





# Lynn's Quality Oysters, Inc. & Retail Market

Seafood Market · [Franklin County, Florida](#)



Directions



Call



Website

HOURS

**Open**

YELP (202)

★ **4.5**

COST

**\$\$\$**

DISTANCE

**15 ft**



Yelp



Yelp



## Maps



## 8. Raney House Tour


# Relive Apalachicola History in this Cotton Trade Era Mansion and Museum



## The Raney History

Apalachicola was a small settlement at the mouth of the Apalachicola River when President James Monroe appointed a Port Collector in 1822. By 1828 steamboats operated between Apalachicola and Columbus, Georgia carrying manufactured goods to upriver towns and plantations and returning with cotton destined for mills in New England and Europe. In 1836, 50,000 bales of cotton were shipped from Apalachicola, making it the third largest cotton port of the Gulf coast after New Orleans and Mobile.

## 9. Chocolate and Coffee, Company

Apalachicola Chocolate & Coffee Company 

Tripadvisor (371) · 0.1 mi


\$\$ · Coffee House, Cafe, Dessert


OVERVIEW


MENU


PHOTOS


REVIEWS







  
CALL

  
DIRECTIONS

  
WEBSITE

 75 Market St, Apalachicola, FL 32320



## 10. Chestnut cemetery.

# Chestnut Cemetery



Cemetery · [Apalachicola, Florida](#)



2 min

YELP (5)

★ 5.0

DISTANCE

📍 0.5 mi



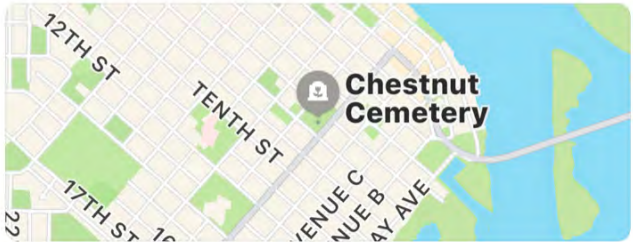
Yelp



Yelp



## Maps



## Travel log

1. 5 May 7:30 AM; departed Saint Petersburg, Florida home office in route to Cedar key. Packing was a normal affair. We tried to bring as we could. We're packing light so snacks, fresh fruit, cold pack and picnic supplies were included . We're hoping to be able to stop at Cedar Key on the way up for a clam and seafood lunch. We will also see if there's anything of interest on the way up.
2. Find me 8:30 AM; Suncoast Parkway is an expressway which goes north from Tampa. We have never used the full extent of the expressway before. This is an excellent choice between

US 19 to our west and US 275 to our east. There is hardly any traffic and the road is excellent. The scenery is classic Florida on the way up. This is also a great way to get to Crystal River and Weeki Wachee.

3. 05 May 9 AM; we have arrived at US 19 N. after taking a detour on the Suncoast Parkway. It was an excellent way to see Florida and avoid all the traffic out of Pinellas County. We were not able to stop at the Homosassa state park. There is also a Crystal River archaeological park which we will not visit. Located at this intersection is also Crystal River Florida. It is a quaint little town. It looks like it has some fresh seafood restaurants. We did not get a chance to go into the old downtown area.
4. 05 May 9:16 AM; we just passed Goath State Park. We will not visit this, but it's another example of these attractions and natural features which are hidden and out-of-the-way. This is located at the intersection of County Road 336 and US 19.
5. 05 May 9:30 AM; Burke county park is located at the intersection of County Road 326 and the US 19. A small town of Hammock Florida is also located there. We did not visit either one of these. Waccassassa River is also located here.
6. 05 May that 9:35 AM; the turn off to Cedar key is on US 19. It is 24 miles to the town. The road is two lane and in very good condition. There are no services and the speed limit can vary from 35 to 60 miles an hour.
7. 05 May 10:30 AM; Cedar Key is a beautiful little fishing town and village. There are many upscale artist residents and they have their stores



set up along the main street. If you want fresh seafood, this is the place to go. Of course, everything is clams or oysters in this part of Florida. You really can't go wrong. One other thing is if the people are lonely friendly. That's what I call it. They say that they love living here and it tells, but you can also see that they're isolated a little bit. If you ask a question of anyone be prepared for a 30 minute answer. It's all good. It's cute and good to see.



8. 05. May 11:30 AM; we stopped at many restaurants to look, but decided on eating at Steamers. Its overlooks. The water has a great view and a simple, but hearty menu. Of course plenty to choose from between clams or oysters. We had a giant bucket of 50 clams and oysters Rockefeller.
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9. 05 May 12:45 PM; the historical Cedar Key Society museum is a beautifully done and organized must see visit. It has the history of Cedar key, which is the oldest incorporated city in Florida. It has been the home of many industries, including the pencil, hat, brush, and finally clam industry. The museum is well organized, clean and well proportioned with displays. It's very reasonable and includes two buildings.



10. 05 May 1:45 PM; we depart at Cedar

Key and continued our trip to Apalachicola Florida. Cedar Key is a beautiful village town in a beautiful setting. It has plenty of restaurants any of which are excellent. The seafood is extremely fresh, and of course, oysters and clams especially are the specialty. there are lots of artist shops, and other similar boutique stores along the main road. The village of 800 people it is certainly a beautiful place to visit.

11. 05 and 07 May 3:15 pm; Forest Museum, Perry, FL. Perry, Florida is the center of lumber and wood industry in the state. You would not think Florida is known for timber. Well, this is mostly white long leaf pine. White pine is fast growing and in seven years is commercial. The trees are normally 30-40 feet tall and 4 to 6 inches in diameter. Wood is mostly used for pulp or wood chips but there is timber that also comes out of the process. Composite board and beams are also manufactured from the chips and pieces produced. The museum showcases this industry.
12. 05 May 4:00 pm; San Marcos de Apalache State Park and Preserve. This is an extensive area of wilderness. There are many entrances to trails both on north and south exposures of State Route 98 along the highway. There is also a Park headquarters located on the gulf coast.
13. 05 May 4:29 pm; Ochlecochee state park. This is yet another one of the wildlife reserves and areas that have been set aside along the coast. The area is populated Mackenna, but has extensive areas of wilderness therapy. Set aside. State parks

generally are one of the unknown gems of the American wildlife scene. Most are seldom visited but are great natural resources.

14. 05 May 5:00 pm; st. George state park is located along the shoreline. This park is an extensive barrier island connected to the mainland by a bridge. Saint Georges Island is the location where all the oyster farming is done. We will see if we can visit some of the oyster bed farms.



15. 05 May 7 PM; the Station oyster bar what is the place we had dinner. We had three dozen fresh oysters which all came from St. George's Island. We also had fried okra, hush puppies and crabcakes. The seafood was extremely fresh. Apalachicola is known throughout. Most of the southeast four is oysters. They are small and sweet. When they're on ice and fresh, they're absolutely delicious.
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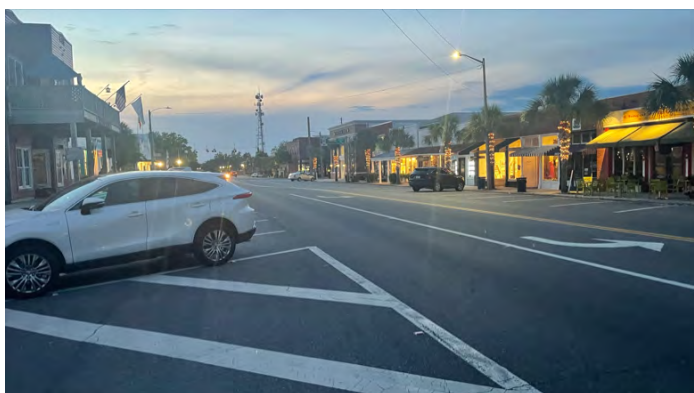




16. 05 May 8pm; ghost tour, Apalachicola, Florida. We did. He goes tour starting at 8 PM. That lasted for 90 minutes. The organizer was very entertaining. She was dressed in Garb with Halloween accents. Her make up also was that of a ghostly figure, mostly black with eyes completely obscured. She walked about the town and told stories of apparitions, murder, and other diabolical historical events. In all it was entertaining, but had some limitations. She was not able to tell her stories in front of the buildings where events occurred. She had electronic op apparatus, which may have not lent more to the overall ambience of the night. The best part of the night was the last story she told, which was animated, detailed, personal, and transported us back to the era when it occurred.
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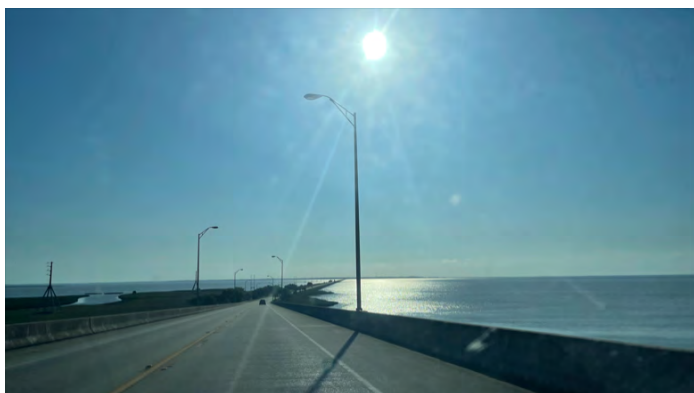
17. 05 May 10 pm; Apalachicola does not have a nightlife. At 5 PM all of the shops are closed, including those that cater to tourists. May must not be a tourist month and the number of visitors was low. By 10 PM everything is closed. Don't depend on the Internet when it tells you for example, there an ice cream store is open till midnight because when you walked and check, it will have long closed. So at this time of the year there's not much activity after five or 6 PM.



18. 06 May 9 am; the farmers market. Well, the address on the web site is wrong; it's a private drive way. Then

it's only done the 2d and 4th Saturday of the month. We of course visited on the first Saturday of the month and we're not even sure we were in the right location, but there was nothing organized which makes sense according to the schedule.

19. 06 May 9:30 AM; Saint George's Island. It's an easy trip from Apalachicola to the island and there is a causeway that takes you there. The island is home to less than 2000 people and is 25 miles long. There are a great mini vacation homes on the island. It is very narrow and the roads are in good condition. There is public access to the beach. The beach is narrow and accessible. There is not much to do on the island other than vacation. We called on one of the services and the range is from 2000 to over 20,000 per week. it appears that all the rentals are full for this year. So this is a great place to come if you want to get away from it all and just do everything beach oriented. Otherwise there's not much else to do here.



20. 06 may 10 AM; Saint Georges lighthouse. This lighthouse was moved here by volunteers over a five-year period. Each brick was cleaned and even the top of the lighthouse was recovered. It's an amazing testament to the local population. They had no help from government



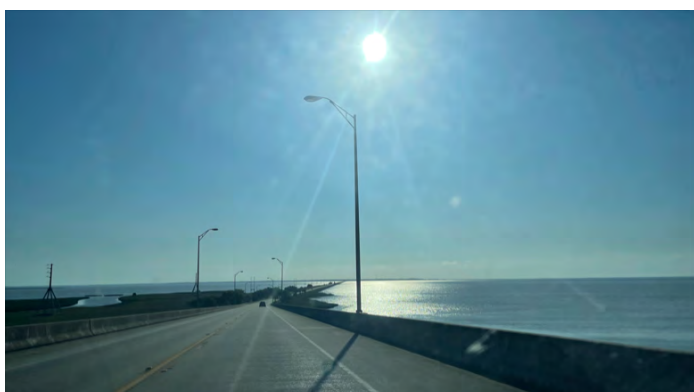
and were able to move the White House and reassembled it in place. We climb to the top five dollar ticket per person. Well worth the price and the spectacular view is your reward. It really gives you some vertigo when you're up because it there's nothing but clear glass and a long drop. Well recommended and worth the price. The museum is small, but well apporportioned and illustrated.



21. 06 May 10:00 am; St George's Island State Park. If you like beaches, but have always complained that there's too many people on them then this is the state park for you. You can come out to these beaches and there are turnout every half a mile with limited parking for 10 cars. When you go



onto the beach, there are miles of beach on each side with no one there. And if there are, there's only nine other families that can be there. The beaches are absolutely pristine and unspoiled. The park goes on for miles and the Beach continues in the same manner with hardly anyone on it. The entrance is only six dollars for car with up to eight people. You can't beat the sand as its sugar white. There's no pets allowed on the beach which is unusual for Florida but I guess they want to keep it pristine, and they are worried about the birds nesting on the sand dune's. It's worth the drive and if you like beaches, it doesn't get any better than this.



22. 06 May 1 PM; Saint George estuary reserve visitors center. A joint NOAA and state facility this is a Museum which is superbly done. There are three living aquariums, extensive exhibits and educational material available. A superb explanation of the estuary, its function and importance is provided. A must see in this area. It is lightly visited, but just superbly done.
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23. 06 May 12:00; Lynn's seafood market and oyster bar. Located east of the estuary visitor center. Lynn's seafood market is both a retail and restaurant outlet for fresh seafood. This is the place to get fresh seafood for reasonable prices. The oysters are really fresh and reasonably priced. They have a full menu with all the seafood that you might want to eat. The restaurant is right on the ocean and you can set an oyster bar and hang your feet right next to the water. A great place to have a great lunch. Highly recommended.







24. 06 May 3 PM; the Orman house is a state facility that has long since past its prime. It's obvious that it has lack funds to maintain its original appearance for quite some time. The home was closed for renovations, which is an understatement. The house is literally falling down. It's a shame as it is a beautiful antebellum home. Two stories with two full fireplace chimneys. But the house is in very bad repair. There is a well-maintained garden around the outside. But this facility is long past its prime, and it's doubtful. They have the money or will to fix it.
25. 06 May 2:30 PM; Raney House tour. The Raney house is like the Ormond house and is a Plantation antebellum built in the heyday of cotton. Mr.



Rainey was a cotton wholesaler by today's standards. He was the middleman between cotton producers and cotton export buyers. Boats from all over the world, especially England in Europe would anchor outside the harbor as it was not deep enough for oceangoing vessel's. The Chattahoochee and Flint River cotton plantations would ship their cotton south to Appalachicola. It was here collected in warehouses consolidated, and then re-sold as exports. It's amazing how much can be produced from one 500 bales of cotton. Literally hundreds if not close to 1000 pieces of women's and men's clothing could be manufactured. Cotton is king has real meaning when you see how much can be made from a bale of cotton. The Raney home is open for tours, and it is well maintain inside. There is furniture, clothing, and home accessory which are well maintained and labeled. The home is under renovation and they hope to have it restored in the next few years. There is a Tour Guide that will meet you and is very knowledgeable about the home and the area as well as the period. An excellent idea for a tour if you're in the area.



26. 06 May 3 PM; Chestnut cemetery. Just at cemetery is the oldest in Apalachicola and one grave stone was marked as having been born in 1800. It's an interesting cemetery and a self guide is provided. This will side in a tour of the tombstones. 90% of the graves have long-ago been abandoned by family and are overgrown. Some are so old that the live oaks have grown into them and fractured and displaced the tombstones and coffins. Some of the graves are collapsed obviously haven't been put over wooden coffins whom long ago rotted and gave way displacing the soil above them. Touching was a new tombstone of a Korean War veterans buried in 2008. His surname was Wallace. When I looked next to his gravestone it was a very old tombstone that was also with the surname Wallace, but it said that it was the burial place of a soldier in the first Florida infantry. CSA. Well, that's the Confederate

states of America. Astonishingly enough we did the numbers using the tombstone and it appears that one man was buried next to his father. A civil war veteran had his Korean War son buried next to him. It's touching and honorable, but if you saw the cemetery, it's also an act of courage, because the cemetery long ago has been abandoned, and the graves are not maintained. the cemetery is worth visiting despite this and it's a good arithmetic exercise to estimate the ages. There are many, many tombstones of children not more than five years old. It also appears that the average age of adults was no more than 60 to 65 years of age. As the lady at the Raney house said, life was very hard. And in that era before penicillin was discovered many an infection led to death, even a common cold was fatal. I would visit the cemetery again and take the tour. Make sure you start at the front gate and not the back gate which we did. The tour takes you around the cemetery and the graves can be found simply by matching the name of the number with its location on the map. They do have a description of the families in the guide and many are simply telling you who they were. In some instances it does say there historical importance, but a lot of the information is just chronological and simply lists all the description of the family surnames, and where they came from.

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27. 06 May 4;15 PM; the chocolate and coffee company, Market St., Apalachicola. We were in this coffee shop at 8 AM to get coffee and they were still baking some of the items for the day. We were at the same coffee shop at 3:45 pm and were lucky to get served. As we were sitting outside having our coffee and the hour hand swiped past 4 PM, the door promptly closed and the sign on it flipped likewise. Still being very light outside we saw many tourists come up and try to enter. I tired of telling them one after the other that the coffee shop was closed. Many were confused because it is not that late in the day and on a Saturday, in a tourist area, you would think that they would still be open. But it seems to be the general attitude in town here that they only work as long as they need to, not as long as you could, and should been a tourist environment. So we sat and watched perhaps half a dozen families come up to the door try to open it and then walked away, scratching their heads wondering why a café is closed so early in the day. But this seems to be the general attitude as most of the other shops in town promptly close at five. This town really does dry up and blow away in the early evening. It seems to be the general mentality which I cover in my closing comments. There must be a reason



why the population of the town has not changed since the late 1800s! Oh, the coffee this earlier today was good and the ice cream we just had was acceptable. The cinnamon rolls we bought earlier...each one would would have given a normal person diabetes. Other than that great coffee shop.

28. 06 May 5:30 PM; fort Lafayette Park at Pier. Fort Lafayette Park was established in 1830 and there is a new pier built, which must be no more than 10 years old. The area is also what is called "the hill" in town. It is in a high part of the city of Apalachicola, and has some of the best and newest homes in the area. The park is indiscript and the pier is simple, but worth a stroll especially in the evenings if you were trying to stretch your legs and wake up. It does extend over the marshes and from the end you can get a good view of the entrance to the harbor, as well as the Gulf of Mexico. I would not go out of my way to visit this part of the city, but a drive through the old historic area is worthwhile and a visitor. The pier is a good way to end the day.
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29. 06 May 8:00 pm; Owl Restaurant. This is a sit down linen and silverware, formal restaurant located on the second floor above the owl café. Out-of-the-way but worth a trip. The pricing is moderate and includes a vegetable entrée feature for those that had a heavy lunch. We had a fried oyster salad with greens, which was what we needed after having gumbo and three dozen oysters for lunch. Vinaigrette and balsamic dressing along with fresh squeezed lemon was perfect. The oysters were lightly breaded and fried and had a excellent taste. One of our members had a jambalaya which was beautifully served on a 14 inch plate. There was plenty left for leftovers. I would recommend this

restaurant to anyone that comes to Apalachicola.



30. 07 May 8:00 am; Apalachicola, Florida. This is a town which is located on Florida's 'forgotten coast.' That's what they call it and in many ways the town is aptly located in a region correctly named. The town really has a small town feel to it. Stores close properly at four if not 5 PM even on a Friday and Saturday night. It really doesn't matter if there's tourist lined up to get in, the proprietors have obviously made the money they need and don't really want any more. There's a sort of beauty to that I suppose that they've balance quality of life versus quantity. But if you're a tourist and it's 4 o'clock in the afternoon and you'd like an ice cream or a cup of coffee, it's bothersome. Would I come back? Probably not. I think Apalachicola is one of those places that if you have time you should see once. The area around it is stunning

for its natural beauty and pristine state, but Apalachicola is indistinct from many small towns of the same size scattered around the area along Florida's forgotten, lost coast.



31. 07 May 8:30 am; Ochlockonee Florida. We departed early from Apalachicola on our way back to Saint Petersburg. Route 98 goes along the coast for approximately one hour before it reaches a fork. We decided not to take the same route back and took the coastal road instead. This is a detour off of Route 319 which bypasses the town of Ochlockochee . It's a very strange name so we thought we would go directly through town this time.



32. 07 May 9:00 am; Otter Lake Refuge; this is a turn off, proximately 2 miles off the road. It's a very classic national wildlife refuge. It's a good place to have a picnic with the shelter. There's also a boat launch into a small lake called otter lake. There aren't any other services here, but it would be a good place to stop if you wanted to picnic.



33. 07 May 9:15 am; San Marco de Apalache State Park. The small attraction proves once again that Americas state parks are really the unknown gems of the park system. Fort Saint Marco de Apalache was where 9 empires clashed over the course of 400 years. The fort was central to the expansion of the United States into Florida. Andrew Jackson himself wage a milit campaign here to conquer the fort and subjugate the new territory. The Muscogee independent nation was temporarily formed here by a British officer named Bowles. It's interesting how something so small today was it is time of great significance. Well worth a visit. The state park has 4 times won national recognition as one of the best state parks in the United States.
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