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Seminole County: Three Ways to Experience Florida's Natural Choice

Discover an eco-friendly exploration, family adventure or romantic getaway

SEMINOLE COUNTY, Fla. – Whether it's an outdoorsy individual determined to spend some downtime with nature, a family on a quest for adventuresome attractions or a couple longing for a relaxing, romantic getaway, there is more than one way to discover Central Florida's Seminole County. Known as Florida's Natural Choice, this destination has it all and can offer an experience for anyone looking to get out of town this spring.

Eco-Traveler

Seminole County is the perfect destination for the eco-traveler with its pristine landscapes and blossoming flora and fauna. What the county lacks in the winter weather and snowy terrains, it makes up for in wildlife sightings and warm, gentle waterways. Eco-friendly travelers will enjoy pushing deep into the wilderness experience, by hiking over to the **Geneva Wilderness Center**. Take a hike through some of Seminole's rich, tree-canopied trails and get a glimpse into the county's most natural beauty. The wilderness center offers overnight camping so stay for an hour, or for a week! Stop by the center's Ed Yarborough Center to check out exhibits on the area's wildlife. Ready to eat? Boaters, bikers and land lovers alike will feel at home dining at **Gators Riverside Grille** overlooking the St. John's River. And while visiting in the month of May, don't miss the charming Memorial Day Parade in Sanford. But for a day full of exploring *and* exercise, take a guided kayak tour with the crew at **Central Florida Nature Adventures**. Work your muscles as you paddle down the pure Seminole waterways, getting a first-hand look into the home of some of Florida's most unique wildlife such as the alligator, great blue heron and manatee. If you haven't gotten a close enough look at the Florida



Alligator, visit **Lake Jesup**, which is known as Seminole's most-populated, natural alligator gathering place. Either way, Seminole County is a nature lover's paradise.

Families

While Seminole boasts its ability to provide a fun stay just a short drive away from all of Orlando's famous attractions, it also has a lot to keep the family busy here in its own backyard. For starters, cruise over to **Aiguille Rock Climbing Center** to burn off some energy and reach great heights. Aiguille Rock Climbing Center is a place for climbers of all ages and abilities. Beginners will be taught basic skills, while more experienced climbers will be put to their limits. Feeling famished? Head on over to **Bubbalou's Bodacious Bar-B-Q** and enjoy pulled chicken and pork with beef brisket, ribs and sausage while saving room for homemade pies and brownies. While vacationing during the Easter holiday, be sure to hop over to the Easter Egg hunt in Winter Springs. Take the family for a walk on the wild side at the **Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens** where they'll embark on America's most unique eco-exploration - ZOOM Air Adventure. This attraction allows visitors to catch a bird's-eye view of the zoo as they travel by zip line from tree to tree. The design of the courses intentionally blends with the natural environment, inspired by the trees and the natural flow of the terrain and flora. When the course is finished take a look at the zoo's hundreds of exotic animals and birds. But let's face it—Florida gets hot. So instead of wiping the sweat from your brow, take a dip in the cool spring waters at **Wekiwa State Park**. Here the whole family can swim, canoe or play on the playground. Bring a picnic and eat on shore of one of Florida's natural springs which stays a consistent 72 degrees year round. For those more adventurous, snorkel over the boil to see the root of the spring's water supply gushing from underground. For something a little more faced paced, hop onto an airboat at **Black Hammock Adventures**. Children will love this experience as you speed through the waterways practically flying over marshlands and breezing by gators. Stop by for a bite after the ride at the Black Hammock's family restaurant.



Romantics

Seminole county is for lovers and it's not afraid to show it. The area provides a unique setting for the perfect romantic getaway. Escape the daily stressors of life and board the **Rivership Romance**, an old-fashioned steamboat dinner cruise. Enjoy a full course meal followed by dancing as you chug down the St. Johns River. For a relaxing formal brunch, settle in at table for two at the elegant **Maison & Jardin** villa, garden setting restaurant. For a romantic evening, get tickets for one of the many productions at the **Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center**. This charming, community theatre provides excellent entertainment after a quiet dinner. For a more hands-on experience swing by **Hot Spots** where you and your partner can spend the afternoon molding and painting your own pottery. After all that creativity and hard work, wind down at the **Zen Essentials Day Spa** and treat yourself to a calming massage or invigorating facial. While in town for the month of April, check out the **Taste of Oviedo**, a free event with the chance to taste local treats and be entertained by local talent. For that extra romantic touch stay at the **Kings Manor Bed and Breakfast** and enjoy the Victorian style rooms and quaint settings.

Accommodations

Whichever path you choose, don't worry about where to stay; Seminole County has great options for every budget. All three experiences can lead you to the nicest, newest hotel in town, the **Westin Lake Mary Orlando North**. Come find comfort, beautiful rooms, convenient amenities and the delicious and cozy Shula's 347. Located right on the County's trail system, this brand new hotel is the perfect place to lay your head. As another option, try the newly remodeled **Hilton Garden Inn** in beautiful Lake Mary. Here, comfort and amenities like complimentary wireless, mini fridges and deluxe rooms are the standard. The comfortable **Clarion Inn and Conference Center** takes luxury to the next level. This location offers complimentary wireless internet and a complimentary full breakfast every



morning at the facility's Waterfall Café, located conveniently right next to the Inn's waterfall pool. If none of this meets your fancy, check out the **Candlewood Suites** in Altamonte Springs, which gives you all the comforts of home such a fully-equipped kitchen and a large work space. For the campers, make your post at **Wekiwa State Park**, the **Geneva Wilderness Center** or **Lake Mills Park**, all which provide camping areas, bathrooms and other amenities.

Seminole County offers a wide range of lodging, attractions, dining spots and events to fulfill a traveler's quest for a spring getaway. Whether a traveler is craving to experience the outdoors, hit the fun parks, or attend some charming local events, Seminole County has it covered. Or make your own way! Check out VisitSeminole.com to begin planning a spring trip today and to see the many seasonal events scheduled during your stay.

About Seminole County:

Just a short drive from all the major attractions of Central Florida and within a 15-minute drive from Orlando, Seminole County offers great accommodations, fine dining, upscale shopping, superb golf courses and state-of-the-art sports facilities and training complexes – nestled among charming historical villages. Surrounded by the beauty of natural Florida, Seminole County also offers the classic Florida experience of peaceful rivers, fishing, boating, hiking and more. For destination information call 1-800-800-7832 or 407-665-2900 or visit www.VisitSeminole.com.

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