



Tomoka River State Park Real Florida Guide

Note: Colored numbers correspond with numbers on the map and represent destinations for each day. **Red** = Day 1, **Green** = Day 2 and **Blue** = Day 3.

Rich in history and wildlife, [Tomoka River State Park](#) is situated along the Tomoka River and Intracoastal Waterway and is popular for fishing and birdwatching. Tomoka is a site on the [Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#) and a bird-watcher's paradise, with over 160 species sighted, especially during the spring and fall migrations. Paddling and boating is enjoyed on the river and the park features a full-service campground and youth camping. [Bulow Creek State Park](#), [Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park](#) and [North Peninsula State Park](#) are sister parks in the area and all are connected by the [Ormond Scenic Loop](#).

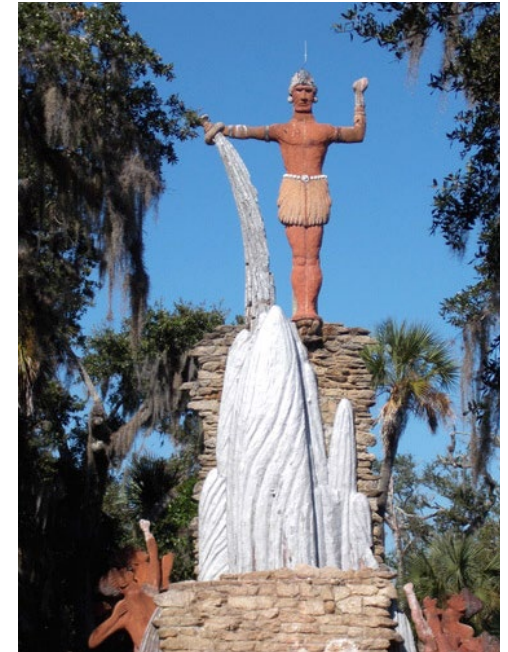
While enjoying your exploration try [geocaching](#) (or geo seeking), a popular pastime in many state parks. Hidden treasures are sought by participants using smartphones



or handheld GPS receivers. See the website www.geocaching.com for locations of local treasures all over the world, and for more information on the sport.

Day 1

Explore Tomoka State Park (**1**) on this first day. You can begin your day by walking the half mile





interpretive trail through a scenic hardwood hammock that was the site of the Timucuan village known as Nocoroco. Only large shell middens along the river—some as high as 40 feet—mark their occupation. Through an interpretive exhibit, you can learn about the 20,000-acre Mount Oswald Plantation and how dyes were made from indigo.

Next, explore the [Tomoka River Paddling Trail \(2\)](#). Canoe and kayak rentals are available at the park store -- (386)-673-0022 and visitors can launch at the state park ramp and paddle upstream as far as 13 miles. There is also a small ramp on the edge of the park boundary but no other ramp upstream. The river is generally suited for beginners, although the Tomoka Basin along the Intracoastal Waterway can become choppy. The park is a stop along the 1,515-mile [Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail](#).



Day 2

For a leisurely drive or bike ride, take the 34-mile [Ormond Scenic Loop](#). The Loop covers rivers, creeks, marshes, historic dwellings, and barrier island dunes and beaches. The route through Tomoka State Park is on the Old Dixie Highway, the first major north-south paved highway from Michigan to Miami Beach. A longer scenic highway in the region just north of the Ormond Loop is the [Miles of History Scenic Highway](#). It includes the longest continuous stretch of original brick road in the Southeast (9 miles) and the Old Kings Road, the oldest commercial road in Florida having been built by British Engineers in 1776.

In Ormond Beach, make sure to stop by the historic winter home of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller. Built in 1913 and known as [The Casements \(3\)](#), the house was occupied by Rockefeller from 1918 until his death in 1937. House guests included Thomas Edison,



Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and Will Rogers. The house, now owned and maintained by the City of Ormond Beach, is open Monday through Friday from 8-5 and Saturday mornings. Tours are free (donations accepted). Address is 25 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach, 32176; (386) 676-3216.

Along A1A near Ormond Beach, you can climb one of the few surviving [WWII Submarine Watch Towers](#). Erected in 1942, this was one of more than 15,000 civilian observation posts. German U-boats sunk an estimated 24 ships in Florida waters.

[North Peninsula State Park \(4\)](#) features a pristine two-mile long beach but you can also hike the Coastal Strand Trail where gopher tortoises and rare indigo snakes can be seen. There is also a bike path along State Road A1A.

Day 3



The ruins of the Bulow sugar mill at [Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park \(5\)](#) appears to be the gutted remains of a medieval castle. Gray and black stone columns stand tall, contrasting with bright green moss that has covered stones on the ground. The Bulow family once grew sugar cane, rice, cotton and indigo on a 2,000-acre plantation, but the buildings were burned by Seminole Indians in 1836 and never rebuilt.

You can access the [Bulow Creek Paddling Trail](#) from the park and can paddle upstream about three miles until the creek becomes too narrow. Heading downstream, it is 6.5 miles to the Smith Creek Landing at North Peninsula State Park. If leaving a car at Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park, be sure to return before 5 p.m. when the



gates lock.

For hiking or mountain biking, visit the adjacent [Bulow Creek State Park](#) at the historic Fairchild Oak (6). The oak is estimated to be between 400-500 years old, having witnessed the comings and goings of Native Americans, plantation owners, orange grove operators and now, park visitors. The 6.8 mile (one-way) Bulow Woods Trail starts at the oak and is open to both hikers and mountain bikers. It takes visitors through an old-growth live oak hammock, past seepage creeks, and ends at Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park. There is also a short loop known as the Wahlin Trail around a groundwater spring.

Other Stops and Links

[Addison Blockhouse Historic State Park](#) (7) is currently inaccessible except by boat from the Tomoka River. This site houses the ruins of a 19th century plantation owned by John Addison, which thrived from 1816 to 1836 when it was burned in the Seminole wars. The small coquina rock blockhouse was originally an outside kitchen. After the plantation was burned, the Carolina Regiment of Volunteers fortified the abandoned building for defense against further Seminole attacks. Although the foundation is from the 19th century, the upper part of the blockhouse was added in the 1920s. The site also contains the ruins of a house foundation with tabby (a mixture of lime, sand, shells, and water) floors, and a well-constructed of coquina rock.



[Tomoka Marsh Aquatic Preserve](#)

[Flagler County/Graham Swamp Conservation Area](#)



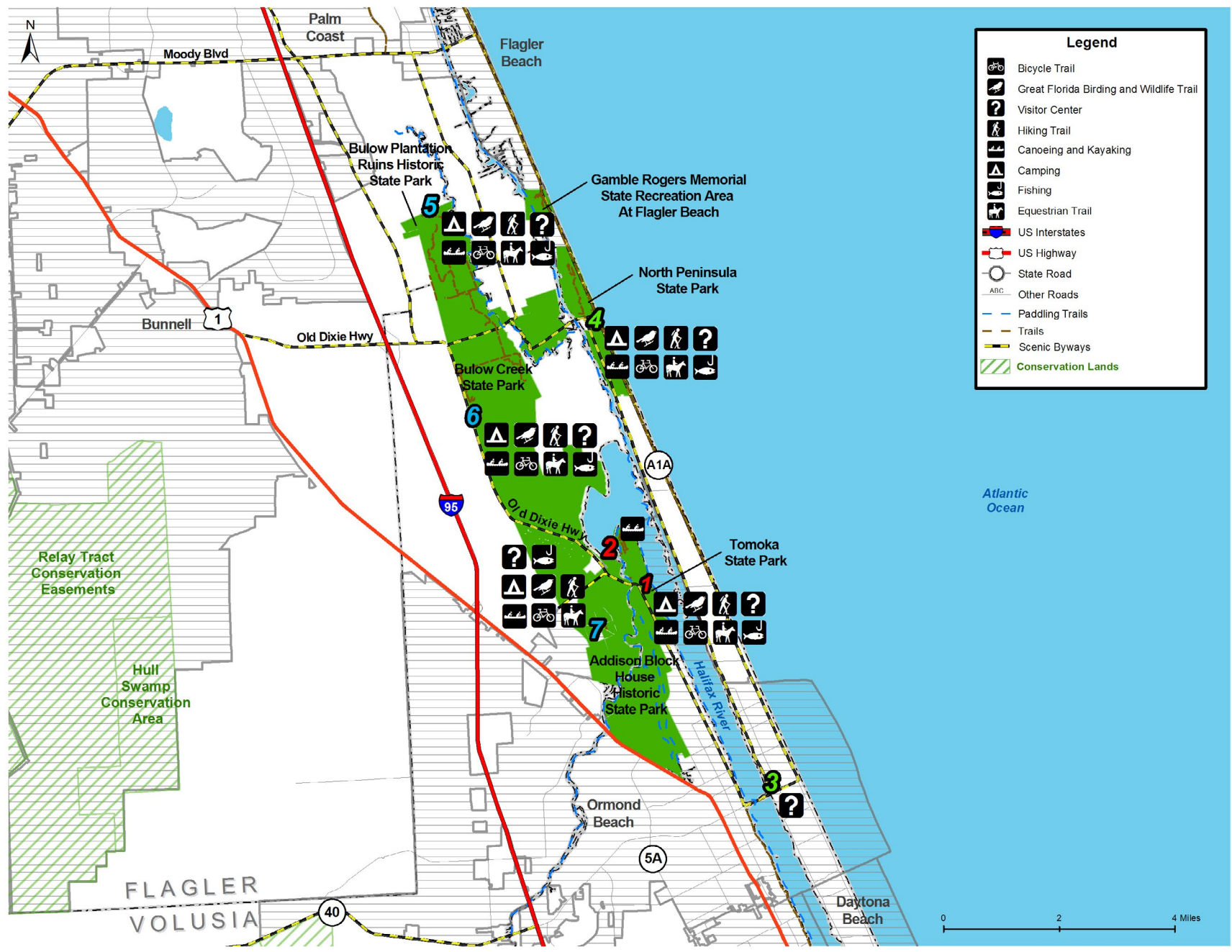
[Dunns Creek Conservation Area](#)

Cultural and Historic Centers:

[Halifax Historical Museum](#)

[Halifax Plantation](#)





Legend	
	Bicycle Trail
	Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail
	Visitor Center
	Hiking Trail
	Canoeing and Kayaking
	Camping
	Fishing
	Equestrian Trail
	US Interstates
	US Highway
	State Road
	Other Roads
	Paddling Trails
	Trails
	Scenic Byways
	Conservation Lands