



Sebastian Inlet State Park Real Florida Guide

Note: Colored numbers correspond with numbers on the map. **Red** = State Park Overview and **Green** = Other Activities

[Sebastian Inlet State Park](#) – Sebastian Inlet State Park is 971 acres located in Brevard and Indian River counties on a barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River Lagoon. Access to the park is from State Road (SR) A1A, 12 miles north of the City of Vero Beach and 18 miles south of the City of Melbourne. SR A1A traverses the full length of the park, and a paved four-mile bicycle path is located within the state road right-of-way through the park.



The park is divided north and south by the man-made Sebastian Inlet. The two jetties, one on each side of the inlet, make the park a premier saltwater fishing spot on Florida's east coast, and a favorite for anglers nationwide to catch snook, redfish, bluefish and Spanish mackerel. Check out the park's website which features a [webcam](#) of the beach, inlet and jetties, current weather data, water and weather forecasts, and various photos from panoramic to high resolution still shots.

North of the Inlet

Located at the most northern point of the park, amenities include a North Entrance/





Ranger Station (1) and the [Inlet Marina](#) (2) with a boat ramp to the Indian River Lagoon, and 22 boat slips. Located closer to the north side of the inlet and north jetty are two bathhouses and three dune boardwalks for beach users, pavilion, snack bar/gift shop, bait and tackle store, beachside swim and surf area, and cove swim area.

South of the Inlet

Located at the most southern end of the park is the [McLarty Treasure Museum](#) (3), a dune boardwalk and overlook. The south beach use area features a bath house and dune boardwalk. Located on the south side of the inlet and close to the south jetty, the park features the Southern Entrance/Ranger Station/Sebastian Fishing Museum (4), two picnic areas, a

playground, restrooms, RV/tent campground, bath houses, fishing dock and a boat ramp. This area provides access to the Indian River Lagoon and is used by fishermen, pleasure boaters and paddlers.

Accommodations

Make the Sebastian Inlet south-side, full facility 51-site RV and tent campground your home base for a multi-day stay in the area. All campsites have water and electric, a fire ring with grill, and a picnic table. Reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance through [ReserveAmerica](#). Book online or call (800) 326-3521 8:00am-8:00 pm. The state park also has primitive camping. Call (321) 724-5424 for information and reservations. Although most of the primitive campsites are walk in/carry in sites, a few can accommodate a vehicle drive up and drop off.

Brevard County operates [Long Point Park](#) (5), an 85-acre conservation area and campground on an island in the Indian River Lagoon adjacent to the northwest corner of

the state park.

Day 1, Beaches & Wildlife Viewing

Three miles of beautiful beaches provide opportunities for swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling, shelling and sunbathing. The beach shoreline is extremely popular for surfing. The north jetty creates breaks which draw surfers from around the world.



The state park is part of [the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#) and home to many types of shorebirds and migratory bird species. Visitors have a chance to view over 180 species of birds during the course of the year. Ask for the bird checklist from a Ranger Station. The Pelican Island Audubon Society completed a [YouTube video](#) of a birding field trip to Sebastian Inlet State Park.

During June and July visitors have an opportunity to witness nesting loggerhead sea turtles on a ranger-led walk. Reservations for these tours are necessary. Juvenile green sea turtles feed in the seagrass beds of the Indian River Lagoon and can be seen on the reefs off the McLarty Treasure Museum. In the water surrounding the park, Atlantic bottlenose dolphins are commonly seen. Manatees inhabit these waters from March to October.

The most endangered whale species in the world is the right whale, with a population of only 300. During the months of January and February, right whales can sometimes be observed traveling close to the coast. Raccoons, opossums and many other small animals can be routinely observed. Bobcats, alligators and river otters are occasionally seen. Wildlife viewing is also at the Inlet Marina, and the marina docks are a great





location to see various bird species and view manatees and dolphins year-round. Call the Inlet Marina for inquiries about private wildlife viewing tours and Ranger-led canoe/kayak tours, (321) 724-5424. Visitors can also relax with a stroll down the mile-long Hammock Trail. Waterfront pavilions and picnic areas are great for family outings.

Day 2, Boating

Boat launch ramps are available on both sides of Sebastian Inlet. Ramp docks are ADA accessible. A mile north of Sebastian Inlet, the Inlet Marina boat ramp is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. The Inlet Marina also rents pontoon boats, skiffs and kayaks, and it has a gift shop. The main boat launch facility with three boat ramps is located on the south side of Sebastian Inlet. It is open 24 hours, every day. A non-motorized boat launch is also located on the south side of Sebastian Inlet at Coconut Point. Canoes, kayaks and sailboats are easily launched from this sandy, gentle sloping area.

Day 3, Museums

The park contains two museums, the McLarty Treasure Museum and the Sebastian Inlet Fishing Museum. The McLarty Museum was built in 1969 on land donated by Robert McLarty on a portion of the site whose history it interprets, the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet Survivors and Salvagers' Camp. The museum exhibits artifacts from the string of such camps and shipwrecks in the area as well as artifacts related to Florida's French colonial activity. This stretch of Florida is known as the Treasure Coast because of the Spanish

shipwrecks just offshore.

The Sebastian Inlet Fishing Museum was built to commemorate, preserve and interpret the history of commercial fishing in the area. The museum is managed by the park's Citizen Support Organization, the [Friends of Sebastian Inlet State Park, Inc.](#) The organization's volunteers support the park and host several events. Check websites for the park or Friends group for a list of upcoming events.

Other Activities

[Environmental Learning Center \(6\)](#): This is a 64-acre preserve on Wabasso Island. It is located approximately 17 miles driving distance from the state park and north of the City of Vero Beach off CR 510 at the western end of the Wabasso Bridge. Its campus includes an interactive museum and aquariums, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop, and a visitor center. A list of field excursions and ecology adventures, including nature walks, canoe excursions and boating adventures, can be found on the website. Make reservations by calling (772) 589-5050.



[Indian River Lagoon Preserve State Park \(7\)](#):

The site's mangrove wetlands and salt marshes filter runoff, stabilize sediments, maintain water quality and protect shorelines from erosion. This site is currently not open to the public because it is undergoing an aggressive restoration program to remove exotic invasive plants and reintroduce native species.

[Barrier Island Sanctuary/Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge \(8\)](#): This Brevard County education





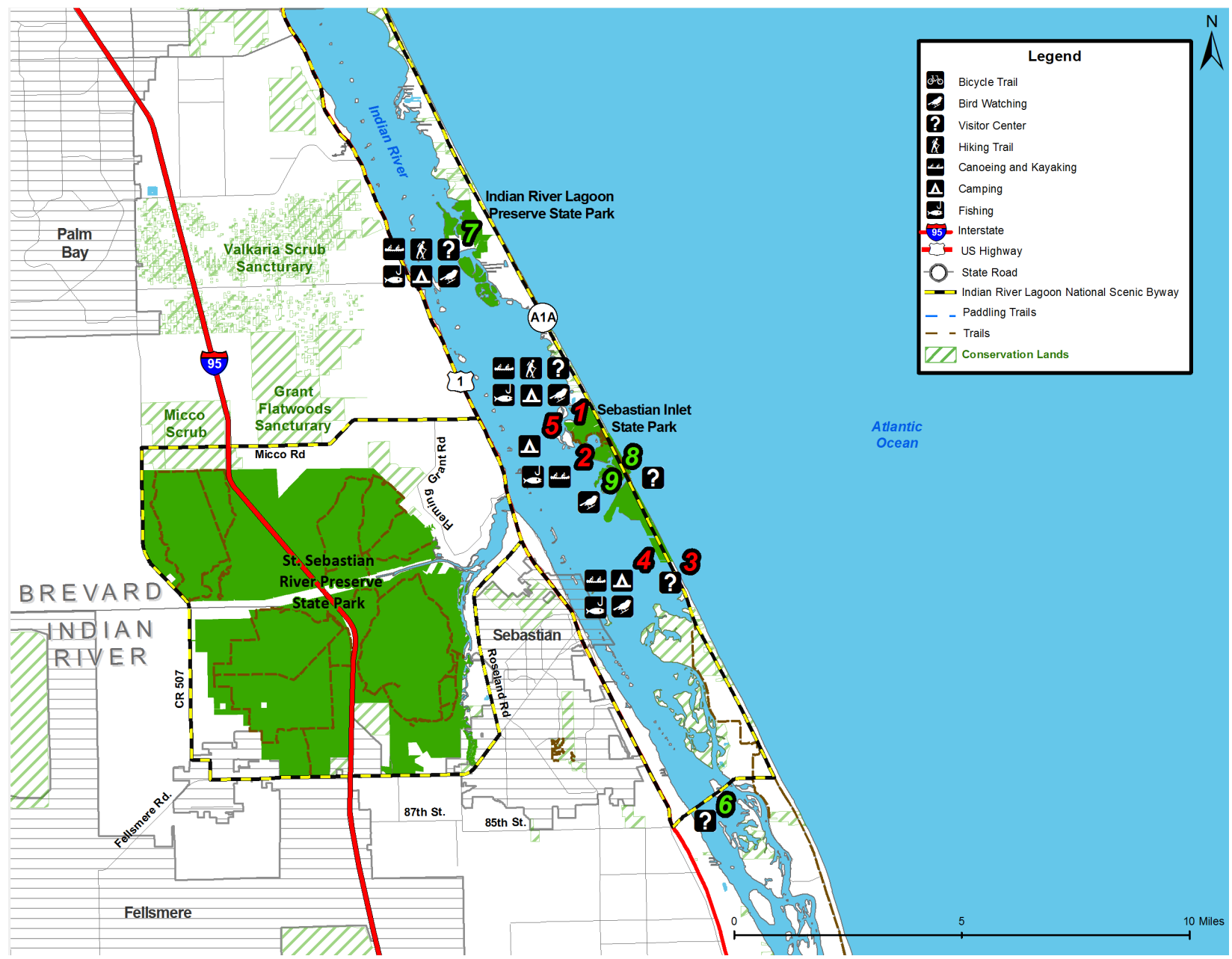
center is located less than two miles north of the state park. The facility focuses on barrier island habitats, sustainable living, and the sea turtles found in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge (ACNWR). It is also the visitor center for the two refuges in the area.

Sebastian Inlet State Park is located within the 248-acre ACNWR, a critical area for the nesting of loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*). The beaches of the ACNWR support the largest nesting colony of loggerhead sea turtles in the western hemisphere and the second largest in the world. The state park also provides important nesting habitat for green and leatherback sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea*, respectively). In addition, hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) have occasionally been seen at the park.

[Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge](#) (9): This refuge was created in 1903 by Theodore Roosevelt to protect its bird rookeries.

[Indian River–Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve](#): This 28,000-acre aquatic preserve is located adjacent and west of the state park. The aquatic preserve protects the waters of the Indian River Lagoon, a shallow estuary designated as an Outstanding Florida Water and an Estuary of National Significance. [Friends of the Spoil Islands, Inc.](#) is a Citizen Support Organization whose volunteers support aquatic preserves in the area. Check their website for events.





Legend	
	Bicycle Trail
	Bird Watching
	Visitor Center
	Hiking Trail
	Canoeing and Kayaking
	Camping
	Fishing
	Interstate
	US Highway
	State Road
	Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway
	Paddling Trails
	Trails
	Conservation Lands

