

THE ULTIMATE CITY, STATE & NATIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE IN JACKSONVILLE'S NORTHSIDE.

visit
Jacksonville

**WITH THE LARGEST
URBAN PARK SYSTEM IN
THE ENTIRE NATION,**

VISITORS CAN EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE COASTAL
ECO ADVENTURE IN OUR DESTINATION!



Jacksonville's City, State and National Parks take you from peaceful riverfront views, to kayaking marshes and wetlands, biking miles of nature trails, paddleboarding in freshwaters lagoons, surfing the best waves in the region, fishing all year-round, and connecting to the local wildlife in settings you've never experienced in Florida before. Our parks are active, family friendly and waiting to host your next green adventure!

For the weekend explorer, we have a 3-day itinerary that will have you experiencing the best parks in Jacksonville's Northside: Camping at a State Park, exploring historical sites at a National Park and swimming in a City Park. All within 5 miles of each other, and just a few miles from Downtown Jacksonville yet completely immersed in our local natural wonderland.

DAY 1 SET UP CAMP!

Arrive at **LITTLE TALBOT ISLAND STATE PARK** in Jacksonville's Northside. With more than five miles of relaxing unspoiled white-sandy beaches, **Little Talbot** is a natural barrier island in Northeast Florida. They have camping grounds for RV's and tents. Register before arriving to secure the best spot.

Address: Little Talbot Island State Park, 12157 Heckscher Drive,
Jacksonville FL, 32226

Phone Number: (904) 251-2320

- Little Talbot is one of **seven Florida State Parks in Jacksonville**, it is a premier natural spot for birding, surfing, shelling, hiking, surf fishing, biking, and enjoying the Salt Life!
- There are **24 camping sites for RV's and 12 for tents at Little Talbot**. Rates are \$24 per night, per site, you can book online or via the phone.
- Facilities include **shower stations and bathrooms, picnic tables, outdoor grills, bike rentals and trails, a boat ramp, fishing pier and nature trails**. Be sure to bring plenty of food, as the State Park is a secluded area without restaurants nearby.
- Well-behaved **pets are welcome** at Little Talbot Island State Park on all nature trails, hiking trails, paved roads, parking lots, campgrounds, pavilions and picnic areas. Pets are not permitted on the beach.





DAY 2 LET'S GET ON THE WATER

6:30 A.M. Rise and Shine! Enjoy one of the best sunrises in Florida just feet away from your campsite.

8 A.M. Go for a swim at the beach or enjoy the surf. Jacksonville is one of the best spots in Florida to learn how to surf.

9:30 A.M. Rent a bike (\$2 per hour, \$10 a day) and make your way to **Big Talbot Island State Park** (5 miles north on the designated **Timucuan Bike Trail**) to explore the must-see **Boneyard Beach** with all its downed oak trees lining the shore.

11 A.M. Make your way back on the same path and stop at **Kayak Amelia** (just before the entrance to Little Talbot) and join one of their **guided kayak tours or rent kayaks** and explore the marshes and wetlands on your own.

- Guided tours at **Kayak Amelia** take you to **Ft. George Island** where you can explore **Kingsley Plantation**, the last remaining Plantation house in Florida and **Jacksonville's oldest home**.
- If no guided tour is scheduled during your visit, rent a kayak and ask for a map of **Kingsley** and explore it on your own. Kingsley is located inside the **Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve**, one of Jacksonville's National Parks.
- More info: www.kayakamelia.com

4P.M. Make your way back to camp and look for seashells on the beach and enjoy the local wildlife.

- From migrating red knots and piping plovers to great horned owls and painted buntings, even the **occasional and rare snowy owl**, Talbot does not disappoint when it comes to birding. Make sure and visit in the late Spring and Early Summer to catch rare glimpses of nesting shorebirds and their young. Super relaxing!

7 P.M. If you have a car with you (or don't mind bringing down the camp a little bit), you can venture out to the **Sandollar Restaurant** on Heckscher Drive (5 Miles South of the park) to enjoy some delicious locally caught seafood. Be sure to try the **Mayport shrimp**, caught just a few miles offshore from the restaurant.

9 P.M. Let there be light! Set up at one of the campfire circles, next to the peaceful marshes, and gather the troops for an evening of stories and s'mores.

DAY 3 LET'S FISH

9 A.M. With five miles of coastline, **Little Talbot is a great spot for surf fishing**. Just walk over to the beach or the coastal salt marshes and wait for the perfect catch. Redfish, flounder, trout and black drum, you are sure to find something to "stretch your string."

- Bait fish like mud minnows and finger mullet may be caught using a cast net in the shallows. Shrimp, fiddler crabs and artificial lures are also popular options.
- The park does not sell fishing licenses. So be sure to get one before beginning your trip www.myfwc.com/license.

IF YOU WANT A MORE UNFORGETTABLE FISHING EXPERIENCE IN JACKSONVILLE, THEN A FISHING CHARTER IS THE WAY TO GO!

Jacksonville has dozens of experienced Captains ready to take you and your family on a deep-sea or Intracoastal fishing trip. Follow this link to book your charter: www.visitjacksonville.com/things-to-do/water-activities/fishing/fishing-guides.

- A fishing charter boat can pick you up at Fort. George Island Marina or at the Sisters Creek Boat Ramp.

2 P.M. On your way back from fishing, explore **Huguenot Memorial Park**, the beach in Jacksonville where you can drive on the sand. This park offers beautiful white-sandy beaches and extra relaxing views of the ocean or you can go for a hike at the beautiful **Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve**. It offers 3 miles of hiking trails and 4 trails of multi-use trails. Extend your hike and use our trails to connect to adjacent City of Jacksonville parks **Betz Tiger Point, Cedar Point and the Jim Wingate Preserve**.

- Address for **Huguenot Memorial Park**: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, 10980 Heckscher Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32226.
- Address for **Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve**: 13802 Pumpkin Hill Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32226.

EVENING: Relax at the camp site or if you are craving a little civilization, make your way to the **Beaches Town Center via the St. Johns River Ferry** for a coastal Jacksonville experience. It runs every 30 minutes until 8:30 p.m. Eat, shop and enjoy the local Salt Life before heading back home!

SEE YOU SOON!



For more information on experiences that can only be had in Jacksonville go to www.VisitJacksonville.com and follow us on social media at [@Visit_Jax](https://twitter.com/Visit_Jax). Use the hashtag [#onlyinJax](https://twitter.com/onlyinJax) to tag your Jax posts.