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AMITY GAY/AMANDA RUSSO  
THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY • 850-668-2222  
TALLAHASSEEPR@ZIMMERMAN.COM



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## **THE DISCOVERIES OF YESTERDAY MEET THE SCIENCE OF TOMORROW**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – A longtime mecca for discovery and exploration, from early Spanish settlers to the world renowned Magnetic Lab at Florida State University, Tallahassee is a hub for the inquisitive mind and scientifically inclined, whether it's visiting a pre-historic underwater cave system, exploring the galaxy in a planetarium or manning the space station in a state-of-the-art space simulator. Benefiting from the tremendous resources of state government, as well as two major universities and a community college, Florida's Capital City provides edu-tourism opportunities that feed every level of curiosity. ([www.VisitTallahassee.com](http://www.VisitTallahassee.com))

The Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science, in association with The Smithsonian Institution, is a cornerstone of learning and a resource for the community, with exhibits and programs ranging from visual arts, humanities education and science exploration. The Brogan regularly features rare art collections, whether it's a traveling collection from the National Museum of Art or an exhibit dedicated to the women of the Napoleonic era, in addition to its programs specifically designed to entertain and educate its younger patrons. From learning the migratory paths of birds to creating musical instruments using water, Brogan Buddies! is a 30-minute program targeted at children ages 3 – 5 and is offered monthly on the second Monday and fourth Saturday of every month.

Fun for the whole family, Saturdays at The Brogan are filled with Super Science and Smart Art experiences, including the StarLab portable planetarium

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show presented by the Tallahassee Astronomical Society -- where stargazers get a sneak peak at the night sky and take home their very own star chart -- and the Chemistry Magic Show, bursting with exciting explosions and cool chemical compounds. All programs are free with museum admission.

As Tallahassee's one-stop-shop for state-of-the-art education and entertainment, the Challenger Learning Center is an outpost of the joint Florida A&M University and Florida State University College of Engineering and uses aerospace as a theme to foster long-term interest in math, science, engineering and technology. For the kids who dream of one day donning a space suit or a lab coat, the Challenger Learning Center is the place to be. The Space Mission Simulator allows aspiring astronauts to trade iPod headphones for a NASA headset and guide a crew of astronauts on an orbiting space station while based in a Mission Control room designed after NASA Johnson Space Center. The 50-foot, high-definition Digital Dome Theatre and Planetarium provides optimal viewing and exploration of the galaxy and night sky, all from the comforts of being grounded on Earth, while the IMAX theatre is the ultimate in immersive learning, with crystal clear images five stories high and wrap-around digital surround sound that bring shark diving, Mars exploration and African safaris to vivid life.

From Bellevue Plantation -- the home of Catherine Murat, the great grand niece of George Washington and wife to Napoleon's nephew, Prince Achille Murat -- to the red wolf habitat where visitors can spot the once-extinct-in-the-wild animal in its natural setting, Tallahassee Museum on Lake Bradford is one of the few museums in the country to combine a natural habitat zoo of indigenous wildlife with a collection of historic buildings and artifacts and an environmental center on a 52-acre lake setting. Permanent exhibits, in addition to the Florida panthers, black bears, red wolves, bobcats and other wildlife habitats, include the Big Bend Farm, a

living exhibit reminiscent of an area farm in the 1880s that grows seasonal vegetables, raises farm animals and includes restored 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings; Old Florida, where the bygone era of life on the railroad is brought back to life through a 1920s caboose and railway exhibit; and the Discovery Center, which caters to the younger museum-goers and encourages learning while having fun with interactive displays and experiences, such as the stereoscope examination of 19<sup>th</sup> century “people and places” and the Wet Lab Exploratorium, where science enthusiasts discover what lives in an aquarium, vivarium and terrarium.

Chronicling the history of early Florida through more than 40,000 artifacts and permanent exhibits, the Museum of Florida History, located downtown in the R.A. Gray Building, is the official state history museum and focuses on eras unique to the growth and development of the 27<sup>th</sup> state. At the entrance, a nine-foot-tall, pre-historic mastodon skeleton (named Herman) pulled from nearby Wakulla Springs State Park stands guard as the Museum’s official mascot and serves as a welcome for visitors about to embark on a tour of the state’s history. From First Families of Florida, which explores campaign trails, mansion life and inauguration ceremonies, to the Seminole People of Florida, an up-close look at the history and culture of a group that played an integral part in Florida’s history, the Museum reflects the roles of those who have influenced the forming and shaping of the state’s cultural and natural environments.

For a drive back in time, the Tallahassee Automobile Museum presents one of the finest collections of rare automobiles and collectibles in the Southeast, from President Lincoln’s 1860 Horse Drawn Hearse to the 1894 Duryea, the oldest known surviving fully manufactured pre-production Duryea and considered by many to be America’s most historically significant automobile. Also highlighting the collection is the Batmobile from the 1995 movie, “Batman Forever.”

The wonders of yesteryear are balanced with research of today and beyond at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, or the Mag Lab, the only facility of its kind in the United States and the largest and highest-powered magnet laboratory in the world. The sprawling 370,000 square-foot complex near Florida State University attracts scientists from around the globe, as well as inquisitive visitors, and was established in 1990 by the National Science Foundation as an interdisciplinary way to advance basic science, engineering and technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Mag Lab is a playground for scientific experiments and boasts equipment that produces a magnetic field 1 million times stronger than the Earth's magnetic field, providing insights that lead to breakthroughs in physics, biology, bioengineering, chemistry, biochemistry, materials science and engineering. Aspiring scientists and curious onlookers alike can tour the Mag Lab free of charge in groups of eight or more with advance notice.

For a less technical experience, nearby Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park is home to one of the world's deepest freshwater springs and largest cave systems, with more than 250 million gallons of water flowing daily into the spring and featuring more than 12 miles of mapped tunnels. The ancient aquifer has attracted people to its cool waters for more than 12,000 years and is the centerpiece of the 6,000-acre state park and wildlife sanctuary.

With daily riverboat and glass bottom boat tours, revelers can spot manatees year round, as well as alligators, native birds and twisting cypresses, all which served as the backdrop for the very first "Tarzan" and "Creature from the Black Lagoon." The Lodge, which opened in 1937 and showcased Wakulla Springs as a national tourism destination, is still open today and serves Southern fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Also a short drive from Tallahassee and boasting a cavernous history, the

Florida Caverns State Park in Marianna is one of the few state parks with dry (air-filled) caves and the only Florida state park to offer cave tours to the public. Magnificent limestone stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flowstones and draperies grace the walls, ceilings and floors of the cave's winding tunnels. The state park is also a popular spot for swimming, hiking, biking, horseback riding and boating.

With a broad range of wonderment to spark any inquisitive mind, aspiring astronaut or natural history buff, Tallahassee is a mecca for science and discovery. A fusion of cosmopolitan flair and charming personality defines the spirit of Florida's Capital City – where it all comes together for visitors. Stretching along Florida's Panhandle, Tallahassee is a place where college town meets cultural center, politics meets performing arts and history meets nature – a place where the vibrancy of what to do is matched only by the city's inviting hospitality. Additional visitor information is available from **Visit Tallahassee** at [www.VisitTallahassee.com](http://www.VisitTallahassee.com) or (800) 628-2866.

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