

# Frugal Family Fun

Here are 25 fun things to do FREE or under \$10 in Florida's capital region.



## Historic Capitol of Florida

With its 1902 appearance and candy-striped awnings, this magnificently restored building houses the former Senate and House Chambers, Supreme Court and Governor's suite and is chock full of Florida history and memorabilia.

(FREE) (400 South Monroe Street; (850) 487-1902; [www.flhistoriccapitol.gov](http://www.flhistoriccapitol.gov))

## New Capitol/22<sup>nd</sup> floor

One of only four tower capitols in the U.S., Tallahassee's "Tower of Power" features panoramic views from the 22nd floor observatory and art gallery.

(FREE. Open 8-5 Monday-Friday)(402 South Monroe Street; (850) 488-6167; <http://myfloridacapitol.com>)

## Museum of Florida History

Tracing Florida's history throughout the centuries, exhibits include a mastodon skeleton, Native American heritage, Spanish colonial artifacts, early tourism exhibitions and World War II heritage in the Sunshine State.

(FREE) (R.A. Gray Building 500 South Bronough Street; (850) 245-6400; [www.museumoffloridahistory.com](http://www.museumoffloridahistory.com))

## Knott House

Also known as the "House that Rhymes" for the poetry throughout the house, this 1843 gem is restored to its 1928 grandeur. On these front steps on May 20, 1865, the Emancipation Proclamation was read, granting slaves their freedom.

(FREE) (301 E Park Avenue; (850) 922-2459, [museumoffloridahistory.com](http://museumoffloridahistory.com))

## Mission San Luis

In the late 1600s Mission San Luis de Apalachee was the western capitol of the Spanish mission system in Florida. Visitor's now can visit Mission San Luis, the only reconstructed Spanish Mission in Florida. History comes alive with costumed interpreters, hands-on exhibits, and on-going archaeological excavations throughout this National Historic Landmark site.

(\$5pp) (2100 West Tennessee Street; (850) 245-3406; [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org))

## John G. Riley Museum of African American History & Culture

Representing a thriving black neighborhood that once existed in what is now the downtown area of Tallahassee, Mr. Riley, a black educator and civic leader, was the principal of Lincoln Academy, the first black high school in Leon County.

(\$2pp) (419 E Jefferson Street; (850) 681-7881; <http://rileymuseum.org>)

## Union Bank Museum – FAMU Black Archives

Built in 1841, it is the oldest surviving bank building in Florida. The bank played a major financial role as a planter's bank in the territorial period and the National Freedman's Bank for newly emancipated slaves during Reconstruction in 1866. It now houses small but impressive collections from the FAMU Black Archives.

(\$1pp)(219 Apalachee Parkway; (850) 487-3803; [www.cis.famu.edu/BlackArchives/BlackArchivesAtUnionBank](http://www.cis.famu.edu/BlackArchives/BlackArchivesAtUnionBank))

War Memorials throughout the downtown include:

Korean War Memorial (corner of Gaines Street and Suwanee Street),

Vietnam War Memorial (across Monroe Street from the Old Capitol),

World War II Memorial (at the intersection of Bronough Street and St. Augustine)

It is important to remember and honor the service and sacrifice of our brave men and women who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces. ([www.floridavets.org/memorials/memorials.asp](http://www.floridavets.org/memorials/memorials.asp))

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## Railroad Square

This warehouse-district-turned-art-park is often referred to as Tallahassee's art district, offering cafés, art galleries, craft studios, funky shops, and the nationally acclaimed alternative theatre company – Mickee Faust Club.

(FREE) (567 Industrial Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310; (850) 224-1308; [www.railroadsquare.com](http://www.railroadsquare.com))

## The Kirk Collection at FSU TV/FM

A 300-piece collection of antique sound equipment from the 1900s through 1950s. Highlights include the 1950s RCA Nipper Dog and a 1933 Emerson Mickey Mouse radio. Thomas Edison would be proud.

(FREE) (1600 Red Barber Plaza; (850) 487-3170; [www.wfsu.org/about/kirk\\_collection](http://www.wfsu.org/about/kirk_collection))

## Mag Lab

The world's largest and strongest magnet on the planet can be found and viewed at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory ("The Mag Lab") at Florida State University. The magnet produces a magnetic field 1 million times stronger than the Earth's magnetic field.

(FREE) (1800 Paul Dirac Drive; (850) 644-1933 for tours/Wednesday's 11am – 2pm Open house; [www.magnet.fsu.edu](http://www.magnet.fsu.edu))



Mag Lab visitors behold the world-record 45 Tesla hybrid magnet.

## Bradley's Country Store

Step back in time at this family-owned store operated since 1927. World-renowned for their homemade sausage, Country Milled Grits, and Southern goods, just soak up the nostalgia or grab an RC Cola, sausage-dog and a Moon Pie and sit for a spell in a rocking chair on the front porch.

(FREE) (10655 Centerville Road; (850) 893-1647; <http://bradleyscountrystore.com>)

## Goodwood Museum & Gardens

This 1830s plantation boasts 20 structures on the property and 95% of the artifacts have remained in the Main House since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Tour the gardens and grounds or enjoy one of the regularly scheduled Main House tours. Fanny's restaurant on-site is also a great place to grab a fresh light bite to eat.

(Garden/Grounds Tours FREE; Main House Tours \$5 pp) (1600 Miccosukee Road; (850) 877-4202; <http://goodwoodmuseum.org>)

## Hernando DeSoto Winter Encampment Historic Site

Tucked away behind an office complex and the historic Governor Martin House, archaeologists confirm this is the site of Desoto's expedition in early Spanish Colonial exploration and also the site of the first North American Christmas celebration.

(FREE) (1022 Desoto Park Drive; (850) 922-6007)

## Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park

Going back almost 12,000 years, visit the Mounds at Lake Jackson to see impressive remains and temple mounds of paleo-indian life along Lake Jackson.

(\$2 vehicle) (3600 Indian Mound Road; (850) 922-6007; <http://floridastateparks.org/lakejackson>)

## Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park

This archaeological site features Florida's tallest Native American ceremonial mound.

(\$3 vehicle) (4500 Sunray Road; (850) 922-6007; [www.floridastateparks.org/letchworth](http://www.floridastateparks.org/letchworth))

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## St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

The Visitor Center will give a great overview of the site and activities. The Refuge is also a “Gateway Site” for the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail, with “loaner” binoculars and scopes available to view the plethora of fine-feathered friends and wildlife found here. The lighthouse is also a must-see. Each October thousands of Monarch butterflies stop over here for food and rest on their migration from Canada to Mexico. With brief training, visitors can “tag” these majestic creatures to help track their incredible cross-continental journey.

(\$5 vehicle) (1255 Lighthouse Road; (850) 925- 6121; <http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks>)

## San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park

This National Historic Landmark site began in 1528 when Spanish explorer Panfilo de Navarez arrived in the area with 300 men. Located at the confluence of the Wakulla and St. Marks Rivers, the Spanish built the original fort in 1679 to protect the Spanish missions in the area.

(\$2pp) (148 Old Fort Road; (850) 925-6216; <http://www.floridastateparks.org/sanmarcos>)

## Stroll Lake Ella

This beautiful park is perfect for a quiet stroll, a cup of coffee, or an ice cream while enjoying the shops and galleries in the cottages around the lake

(N Monroe Street, Tallahassee; (850) 891-3866)

## Pebble Hill Plantation

The Tallahassee area is a very fertile area where the largest concentration of antebellum plantations still exists. Just over the Florida border into Georgia, via Plantation Parkway (U.S. Highway 319) through the Red Hills Region, is the magnificent Pebble Hill Plantation. The house is graced with antiques, horse & hound paintings, a collection of Audubon prints and a wealth of sporting art. Pebble Hill Plantation offers house, art and walking tours.

(\$5 pp)(125 U.S. Highway 319 S.; 229-226-2344, [pebblehill.com](http://pebblehill.com))

## Southeast Regional Black Archives at FAMU

Located in historic Carnegie Hall, this extensive collection of African American artifacts includes local and international pieces and more than one-half million historical documents. This is a must-see site in Tallahassee.

(FREE) (FAMU Campus, off Martin Luther King Blvd. and Gamble Street; (850) 599-3020; [FAMU Black Archives famu.edu/Black Archives](http://FAMU Black Archives famu.edu/Black Archives))

## FSU Reservation

Freshwater beach on Lake Bradford offers kayak/canoe rentals, swimming, trails and wildlife viewing

(\$2 pp) (3226 Flastacowo Road; (850-644-6892 weekdays/(850) 644-2449 weekends; [fsu.campusrec.com/reservation](http://fsu.campusrec.com/reservation))

## Lemoyne Center for Visual Arts

Known for its art exhibitions ranging from watercolors to oils and avant garde to traditional.

(\$1 pp) (125 N. Gadsden Street; (850) 222-8800; [lemoyne.org](http://lemoyne.org))

## Maclay Gardens State Park

Enchanting floral architecture with 200+ varieties, a historic home and hiking, biking and nature trails along with swimming, fishing and boating.

(\$4 pp or \$6 vehicle) (3540 Thomasville Road; (850) 487-4556; [floridastateparks.org/maclaygardens](http://floridastateparks.org/maclaygardens))

## Stroll the Park Avenue Historic District and Chain of Parks

Promenade through Tallahassee’s oldest continuous green space with historic homes and seven parks anchored by two historic cemeteries.

(FREE) (Downtown Tallahassee (850) 488-7334; [taltrust.com](http://taltrust.com))