

MADISON COUNTY



along...the Northwest corridor.

Today's traveler is seeking a simpler and peaceful vacation experience. Away from the bumper-to-bumper traffic and elbow-to-elbow crowds found in many of Florida's larger communities, [A SLOWER, SOUTHERN EXPERIENCE](#) awaits along the Northwest corridor...

Named after the fourth President of the United States, James Madison, and located just a short drive from Jacksonville and Florida's State Capital of Tallahassee, Madison County has replaced theme park thrills with tree-canopied roads, quaint gift shops, antique stores and down-home cooking. While making your way through Madison County, make it a priority to stop and enjoy small town Florida's hospitality.

Communities...

With just a little over 3,000 permanent residents, the community of Madison has been designated as one of the "Best Little Towns in Florida" by Visit Florida, and serves as the county seat. Nestled along Georgia's border, Madison features centuries-old landmarks, homes and antique shops. The community invites historians to fully enjoy the

area's unique history by wandering through, admiring and photographing more than 50 identified landmarks of this historic district. From the gracious mansions dated back to the 19th century and relics of the technology that gave life to the agricultural basis of our economy, a special brochure, available at the Chamber of Commerce, provides the dates and ownership of each featured structure, along with the important architectural details.

While self-exploring Madison County take time to admire the smaller communities that make up this pristine destination. The town of Lee "Little, But Proud," will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary on April 4, 2009 with a giant parade and festival! Greenville, Pinetta, Cherry Lake, Lovett, and Eridu are highlighted with historic monuments, cemeteries and burial grounds dating back to the late 1600s and are the final resting places of some soldiers who fought



in America's Revolutionary War.

The Outdoors...

Madison County is an eco-tourist's paradise. Whether it's bicycling "The Loop", a 135-mile trail through Madison County and its challenging hills and breathtaking farmland, the county's rails to trails facilities and designated bike lanes make exploring by bike easy and enjoyable.

For those who prefer to do their sightseeing via the water, the 600-acre Cherry Lake, is the ideal spot for quality fishing and kayaking. Visitors who prefer a little more excitement to their water play, boating facilities, wakeboarding and water skiing are popular activities. For those who prefer the unique, Madison Blue Springs, one of the 18 first magnitude springs in the state, is located in Madison County along the banks of the Withlacoochee River.

Bring your binoculars and plan to see some mesmerizing sights. Madison County's forests, rivers and ponds attract hundreds of native species, such as the sand hill cranes, along with birds that migrate here seasonally. Located on the campus of North Florida Community College in Madison, the 20-acre Ladell Brothers Outdoor Environmental Center was developed to preserve the homes of as many species of plants and animals as possible. Habitat diversity includes a black gum-red maple swamp, marsh area, a four-acre pond, spring-fed stream, deciduous woods, pine woods, campus grasslands, and a planted field. Over 200 species of organisms... plants from

violets to hickory trees...and animals from the grey fox to plant mites have been sighted or identified. Habitats, animals, and plants may be observed by walking the loop trail system at the Center.

Stay a night...or two...

When it comes to finding an accommodation that best suits your needs, there's no better locale. The historic Grace Manor Bed and Breakfast, a Queen Anne Victorian Inn, features an aesthetic blend of antique furnishings in each of its four double guest rooms. Each room is decorated with distinction, and all rooms come with modern amenities such as private baths, fireplaces, CD stereos, TV and video players. For those celebrating an event, candlelit dinners, receptions and poolside gatherings are available.

For travelers wanting a more rustic experience, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park features kids playgrounds, activities and a nostalgic outdoor experience within Madison County's great outdoors. Several other Bed & Breakfast facilities are scheduled to open in the spring of 2009. Full service RV camping, tent and onsite cabin rentals are available.

Other hotels and inns, such as the Holiday Inn Express, Days Inn, Super 8 Motel and Deerwood Inn, are available at the Highway 53 interchange with Interstate 10.

For additional information about historic Madison County, please visit their new web site at www.madisonfl.org. *

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