

LAKE COUNTY IS A HAVEN FOR ALL TYPES OF BICYCLISTS FROM THE LEISURE RIDERS TO THE WELL-TUNED SPORTS COMPETITORS.

All the elements needed for a breathtaking bicycling ride are evident in Lake County's paved trails, on-road biking lanes and offroad paths. Inviting weather year-round, serene rolling vistas, lush natural habitats and quaint small towns make Lake County a haven for all types of bicyclists from the leisure riders to the well-tuned sports competitors.

The one ingredient that makes Lake County stand out from other Florida locales is its hills. The adjoining 4-mile South Lake Trail and 5.5-mile Lake Minneola Scenic Trail boast the highest elevations of any rails-to-trails project in the state. The two trails, which connect to the 22-mile West Orange Trail, offer cycling enthusiasts with an unprecedented amenity. Together, the trails feature a spectacular array of picturesque vistas from the area's rolling hills and tranquil lakes.

Utilized for training purposes and some races, the South Lake and Lake Minneola Scenic trails are an ideal location that benefits the many visiting athletes to the National Training Center in Clermont. For those that are not well-tuned sports competitors, the trails offer a pleasant trip for casual bikers and walkers with spectacular views of Lake Minneola and some breathtaking sunsets.

This brochure was created by Lake County Economic Development and Tourism.

Available Lake County publications & guides:

A Golfer's Paradise **Antiques & Collectibles** Arts & Heritage Bed & Breakfast Inns Bike Trails Bird Watching Guide **Boating & Waterways Guide Equestrian Adventures** Farmers' Markets Lake County Road Map Spas Thirty Adventures in Thirty Days **Thrifty Treasures U-Pick Farms** Waterway Adventures Welcome Magazine Wildflower Map

To request a free copy of any of these publications, or for more information about Lake County, call the number listed below or log on to www.visitlakefl.com.



Economic Development & Tourism 315 W. Main Street, Suite 520 Tavares, FL 32778 Phone 352-742-3918 Fax 352-742-3906



#### **Bourlay Historic Nature Park**

901 N. Canal St., Leesburg, FL 34748 (352) 343-3777 | www.lcwa.org

Length: 2.2 miles Difficulty Rating: Easy Trail Type: Off-Road





A Lake County Water Authority property, this nature park is excellent for beginning birders as it contains several lakeside habitats where birds can be spotted readily.

# Emeralda Marsh

Between SR 42 and SR 44, just north of Lisbon, on the east side of Lake Griffin and west of CR 452

Leesburg, FL 34788

(386) 329-4404 | www.sirwmd.org

Length: 4.3 miles Difficulty Rating: Easy Trail Type: Off-Road







Local bird watchers and environmentalists rave about the large and diverse wildlife population of the 7.089-acre Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area, which is managed by the St. Johns Water Management District. The 4.3-mile loop drive is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., opening sometime in February and normally extending through March, April and May.

# Gen. James A. Van Fleet State Trail

Mascotte. FL 34753

(352) 516-7384 | www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com

Length: 29.2 miles Difficulty Rating: Easy Trail Type: Paved Trail











#### Three trailheads:

- Mabel Trailhead: From Clermont, take SR 50 west to the trailhead about 5 miles past the intersection with CR 565 and Bay Lake Road.
- Bay Lake Trailhead: From Clermont, take SR 50 west to CR 565 and Bay Lake Road. Turn left (heading south) and follow the road until reaching the trailhead on the left at the intersection with the trail.
- Green Pond Road Trailhead: From Clermont, take SR 50 west to SR 33. Turn left (heading south) and follow SR 33 until reaching Green Pond Road. Take a right (heading west) and continue until reaching the trailhead.

The 29-mile trail intersects the counties of Lake. Polk and Sumter and is officially designated as part of Florida's Statewide System of Greenways and Trails.

### Green Mountain Scenic Byway

County Road 455, Montverde, FL 34756 www.greenmountainbyway.org Lenath: 10 miles Difficulty Rating: Advanced Trail Type: On-Road



Cyclists regularly visit this byway to enjoy the rural country scenery while challenging themselves on this winding road. The byway is included in routes for several large, internationally recognized triathlons and is one of the most heavily used routes in the Southeast for bicyclists.

#### Lake Louisa State Park

7305 U.S. Highway 27, Clermont, FL 34714 (352) 394-3969 | www.floridastateparks.org/lakelouisa

Length: 25 miles Difficulty Rating: Easy Trail Type: Off-Road









The park features cabins and campsites and is a popular spot for fishing, canoeing, bird watching and hiking. The 25 miles of trails accommodate hikers and horseback riders.

### Lake Minneola Scenic Trail & South Lake Trail

Length: 5.5 miles & 4 miles Difficulty Rating: Intermediate Trail Type: Paved Trail







# Two trailheads:

- Minneola Trailhead Park 315 Madison St., Minneola, FL 34715 (352) 394-3598 | www.minneola.us
- Waterfront Park East Avenue & Madison Street, Clermont, FL 34711 (352) 253-4915 | www.cityofclermontfl.com

The Minneola Trailhead Park includes two practice ball fields, a basketball court, a playground, paved parking, ball fields, restrooms and a covered pavilion near the trail. Waterfront Park is perfect is for sunbathing or picnicking at the lakeside beach.

# Lake Norris Conservation Area

Lake Norris Road, Eustis, FL 32726 (352) 343-3777 | www.lcwa.org Length: 4 miles Difficulty Rating: Easy Trail Type: Off-Road







This area includes a hardwood swamp and the shoreline of Black Water Creek, a major tributary of the Wekiya River, Lake Norris supports an impressive number of ospreys.

# Trail Accessibility Legend



Equestrian

Walking



Hiking

Wheelchair



NA N

Bikes

Camping / Lodging

Mountain

# Paisley Woods Bicycle Trail

Length: 22 miles Difficulty Rating: Easy Trail Type: Off-Road





#### Two trailheads:

- Clearwater Lake Recreation Area 24511 County Road 42. Paisley. FL 32767 (352) 669-0078
- Alexander Springs Recreation Area 49525 County Road 445, Altoona, FL 32702 (352) 669-3522

This 22-mile loop trail in the Ocala National Forest features shorter loops available at the halfway point. Alexander Springs is located on the north end of the trail and Clearwater Lake on the south end.

# Sugarloaf Mountain

Sugarloaf Mountain Road Clermont, FL 34715 Difficulty Rating: Advanced Trail Type: On-Road



Sugarloaf Mountain is the highest point in the peninsula of Florida rising to about 308 feet above sea level. This daunting climb is a favorite for triathlon and cycling event organizers to include in their routes.

### Bike Rentals, Parts and Accessories:

**Clermont Bicycles** 

1712 E. Highway 50 Clermont Florida 34711 (352) 241-6054 www.clermontbicycles.com Mon, Wed.,-Fri. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tues & Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Epic Cycles USA 2507 S. Highway 27 Clermont, FL 34711 (352) 394-3009 Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gear for MultiSport Athletic Store 1935 Don Wickham Dr. Clermont, FL 34711 (352) 394-7434 Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pure Cycles 51 W Magnolia Ave. Eustis, FL 32726 Phone: (352) 357-2500 Www.purecycles.net Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10a.m. to 6 p.m.

Southlake Bicycles 121 W. Washington St. Minneola, FL 34755 (352) 394-3848 www.southlakebikes.com Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun Cycle Centers 100 W. Burleigh Blvd. Tavares. FL 32778 (352) 343-4181 www.suncyclecenter.com Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. 12-5

The Cycling Hub 1200 Óakley Seaver Dr. Suite111 Clermont, FL 34711 (352) 536-2453 www.thecyclinghub.com Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Village Cycles 1102 Bichara Blvd. Lady Lake, FL 32159 (352) 751-3443 www.villagecycle.com Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat. 10a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Clermont Waterfront** Bikes and Boards 15 2nd street Clermont, FL 34711 (352) 394-0535 Sat. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.