Carrabelle Multi-Day Travel Itinerary

Carrabelle is a small coastal fishing village nestled along the Carrabelle River that continues to be an important center of the Forgotten Coast's maritime heritage. Choose from the options below to plan your own adventures while making Carrabelle a comfortable home base for exploring the history and natural wonders of the region. While traveling to this scenic area savor the slow roads and visit Big Bend Scenic Byway Tour Itineraries for your in-depth guide to exploring the authentic flavor of North Florida. For lodging opportunities visit where to stay.

Day 1, Visit Carrabelle

Visit the Camp Gordon Johnston Museum (**1**), 1001 Gray Ave., to learn the story of troops training on the beaches of Franklin County for the D-Day Invasion of Normandy in World War II. There are great old photos of soldiers storming off actual landing craft onto Carrabelle Beach mined with explosives with blimps overhead.

Stop by the world's smallest police station (**2**) for a fun photo opportunity, located at 105 St. James Street (US 98). It is also a popular geocache location and for those interested in botany, the old chinaberry tree now has a palm tree growing out of it.

The Carrabelle History Museum (**3**) offers a glimpse of the fascinating history of the area in the Old City Hall building located at 106 Avenue B, SE (Behind the BP Station.) It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Thursday, Friday and Saturday and by appointment.

Driving west on US 98 stop and visit the Crooked River Lighthouse (**4**), 1975 US 98 W, Carrabelle, 32322. For nearly 100 years it stood as a guiding light for ships and fishermen navigating the treacherous pass between Dog and St. George Islands. Today the lighthouse and keepers' house museum stand on the mainland where the light was originally built in 1895, replacing the three short-lived beacons destroyed by hurricanes on Dog Island. The Keeper's House Museum and Gift Shop is open from noon to 5:00 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. Weather permitting; visitors can climb the Crooked River Lighthouse on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. for a small fee and must be taller than 44 inches.

Day 2, Outdoor Recreation

Tate's Hell State Forest is located west of the Crooked River Lighthouse on US 98. Look for signs for the High Bluff Coastal Hiking Trail (**5**) (map), [29.809317,-84.729067]. It is an easy hike from either of the two parking areas on US 98, through coastal scrub habitat along an ancient dune system that climbs to an elevation offering views of St. George Sound. The 4-mile route crosses old sand dunes covered by seasonal wildflowers, scrub oaks, and isolated groups of sand pines, dense palmettos, slash and longleaf pine, providing excellent habitat for wildlife viewing. There are many other opportunities for Recreation in Tate's Hell State Forest including paddling, hiking, camping, and off-road ATV trails. A worthy side trip is the Ralph G. Kendrick Boardwalk that offers an observation tower

overlooking one of the most prolific areas of unique stands of cypress wetlands located within the forest. These stunted cypress trees are documented to be over 150 years old but only reach a mature height of approximately 15 feet, hence the name “dwarf cypress”. They are also referred to as “miniature” or “hat-rack” cypress. The site can reached from CR 65 or US 98, follow posted signs. The dirt roads can be rough, especially after wet weather, so drive with caution.

Continuing west of Carrabelle add a side trip driving north on State Road 65 (**6**), 29.757785, –84.833013. Seasonal wildflowers are spectacular in spring and fall. Fall entices migrating butterflies to visit the roadside plants while the pitcher plant displays in the spring are unforgettable. Also in this area is the Apalachicola River Paddling Trail System,(**7**) (Cash Creek, 29.819901, -84.850356). Excellent opportunities for canoeing and kayaking entice paddlers with all levels of ability to enjoy a variety of scenic waterways along the lower estuary of the Apalachicola River. Eleven trails totaling about 100 miles in distance range from short, easy trips meandering through mysterious tupelo swamps to a variety of multi-day river trips flowing into open bays embracing the Gulf of Mexico. The best times to paddle are fall and spring when temperatures are pleasant, wildflowers are blooming, and birding opportunities are at their peak. Fresh and saltwater fishing opportunities abound throughout the estuary year-round. This area is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail and its outstanding diverse wildlife habitats support significant populations of both rare and common wildlife.

Carrabelle
319
98
30
Tate's Hell State Forest
Tate's Hell Wildlife Management Area
7
65
5
4
98
6
Jeff Lewis Wilderness Preserve
Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area
Eastpoint Preserve
Eastpoint
300
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park
Gulf of Mexico
0
2.5
5
10 Miles
Legend
Lighthouse
St. George Island Bike Path
Trailhead
Visitors Center
Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail
Other Roads
Hiking Trails
US Route
State Route
Big Bend Scenic Highway
Designated Paddling Trails
Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Public Lands and Parks
N
NW AVE F
W 9TH ST
W 8TH ST
W 7TH ST
W 6
W 1ST
NW AVE D
NW AVE C
NW AVE B
W 11TH ST
NW 9TH ST
W 2ND ST
TALLAHASSEE ST
NE AVE C
NE 1ST ST
US 98/US 319/SR 30
CR 30A
CR 67
SE 5TH ST
SE 3RD ST
SE AVE B
SE AVE C
1
2
3