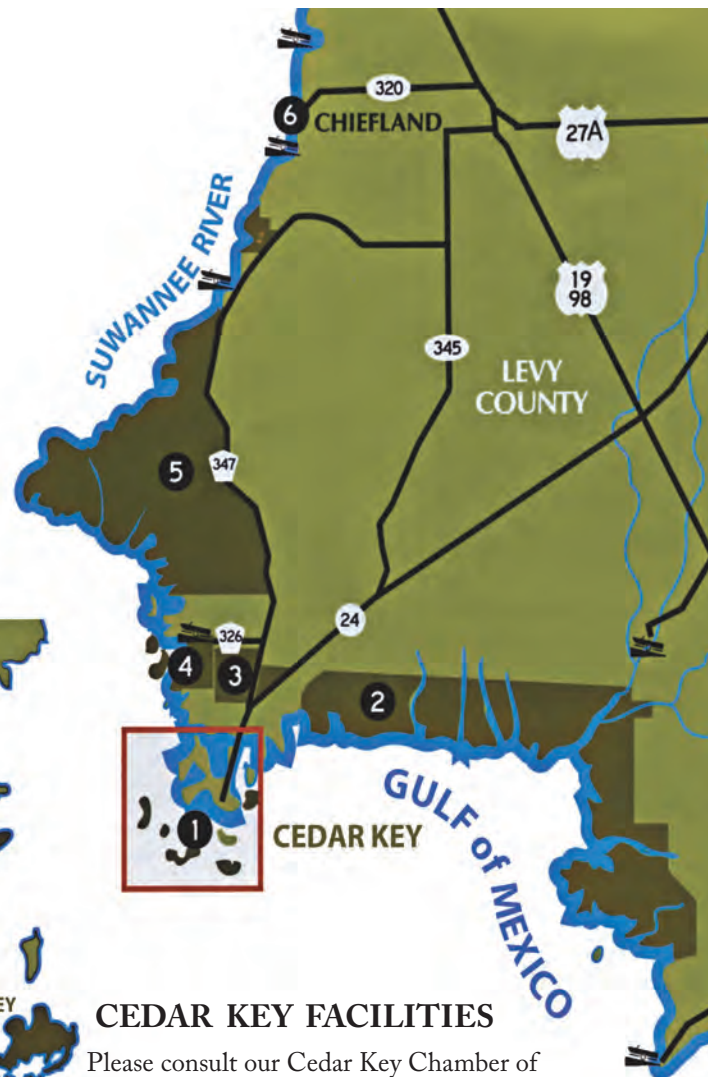


AREA NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

- 1. Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge:** A group of restricted access islands in the Gulf of Mexico. Includes a major seabird rookery and an 1850's lighthouse on Florida's highest coastal elevation. Boats are available at Cedar Key.
- 2. Waccasassa Bay State Preserve:** A 31,000 acre limited access preserve between Yankeetown and Cedar Key offers access to canoeists and campers for both freshwater and saltwater fishing, photography and historic site exploration.
- 3. Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve:** A unique scrub habitat on the mainland offers walking and birdwatching, few marked trails.
- 4. Shell Mound:** A large prehistoric Indian mound with trails, a dock and a small beach. The adjacent county campground has camping, boating, and picnicking.
- 5. Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge:** A new 53,000 acre refuge, offers nature driving and hiking trails for wildlife observation, photography and access to the famous Suwannee River.
- 6. Manatee Springs State Park:** A Florida first magnitude spring, offers camping (100 sites) diving, swimming, picnicking, boat ramp, canoe rentals, and an elevated boardwalk through primordial cypress wetlands into the historic Suwannee River. River boat tours available.



**CEDAR KEY AREA
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Cedar Key

the Islands of Florida's

Nature Coast



CEDAR KEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Credits:

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CEDAR KEY FACILITIES

Please consult our Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce listings for more specific information.

Airport: 2300 foot hard surfaced runway, dusk to dawn ighting, uncontrolled airspace.

Marina: Cedar Key Public Marina, ramps and slips are available,.

Public Facilities: Cedar Key City Park, Emergency Transport Service, Post Office, Public Library, Public Fishing Piers

Rentals: Canoes, kayaks and motorboats, as well as bicycles and golf carts.

Shopping: Banks, boutiques, bookstore, gift shops, galleries, convenience stores, grocery store, salon, hardware stores, gas and garage services.

Swimming/Picnic Areas: Cedar Key City Park offers a limited swimming area, no lifeguards. Outer islands have isolated swimming beaches.

Transportation: Taxi service is available.



As you leave the mainland, rich Gulf waters reflecting blue skies beckon you as birds float like petals over the marsh vista.

Welcome to our island, a place where time stands still and allows you to enjoy the unique qualities of our coastal environment.

THE NATURAL RHYTHM OF ISLAND TIME



Cedar Key is a naturalists paradise where hundreds of species of birds and animals make their home. From sunrise to sunset, a stroll along the shorelines and marshes reveals the ongoing cycles of the Nature Coast. Ospreys build their nests and feed their young. Great Blue Herons, Egrets, Ibis and

a myriad of other waders quietly work the waters edge in search of food.

Frigate birds soar high above in their graceful circles over the Gulf and dolphins play just off the shore. Watch carefully and you may see the elusive Roseate Spoonbills, or flocks of rare White Pelicans. At dusk, mischievous raccoons come out to work the oyster bars and marshes, home to many species of shellfish and crustaceans. Throughout the day thousands of brown pelicans dive and fish, following the fishing boats and generally entertaining all who watch.

TAKE TIME TO EXPLORE

A walk or bike ride through Cedar Key is a delightful way to discover the many hidden niches of island life. The island is located near a variety of parks and preserves, easy day trips and most are only an hour or less away. The Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, a group of barrier islands off the coast of Cedar Key is accessible by boat. The Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge offers several hiking trails set within 53,000 acres of unspoiled habitat.

Shell Mound is a large prehistoric Indian mound with trails, a dock and a small beach.

The adjacent campground has camping, boating and picnicking facilities. The Waccasassa Bay State Preserve is accessible to canoeists and campers. Manatee Springs State Park, a first magnitude spring, offers camping, swimming, diving, canoe rentals and an elevated boardwalk through Cypress wetlands to the Suwannee River where Manatees are often sighted.



STEP BACK IN TIME

Days in Cedar Key don't belong to clocks or newspapers. Our 200 years of island history is kept alive by generations of families handing down traditions and memories that continue to shape our community today. This historic community is alive with the architecture of the past, homes built of tabby and wood, with gables and porches, where generations of islanders raise their families and preserve the island lifestyle.

While you're here, explore the Cedar Key State Museum which presents exhibits ranging from Indian artifacts to folklore as well as the natural history of the area.



A visit to The Cedar Key Historical Society Museum reveals a wealth of information about the island's social and architectural history, including the famous 1000 mile walk of naturalist John Muir who reached his destination here in 1867. "Today I reached the sea" Muir wrote "and many gems of tiny islets called keys."

TIME AND TIDES

The Gulf of Mexico moves to its own tidal cycles and sets the pulse of life in Cedar Key. Take time to discover the mysteries of the Gulf and its barrier islands and indulge in a little solitude with quiet walks along uninhabited beaches, accessible only by boat. Become a part of the ultimate Nature Coast experience as you observe the salt marshes alive with plants and wildlife, long acclimated to the coastal environment in which they must survive. Guided nature tours are available and it is recommended that you take your camera and leave only your footprints.

The Gulf waters of Cedar Key offer excellent sport-fishing, and there are a number of well qualified guides who will take you to their choice fishing grounds. The City Pier is also a favorite fishing spot, as well as great place to watch the daily routines of local fisherman. It is also one of the best places to view our spectacular sunsets.

AN ISLAND WAY OF LIFE

Cedar Key is nationally famous for its abundance of seafood, and an active commercial fishing industry is still a way of life for many families on the islands, most of whom have made their living on the water for generations and define the character of Cedar Key. In recent years, aquaculture has been introduced to the area and the clams are raised and harvested in new ways. Talk to the local clambers and learn about their modern



methods of providing the shellfish you may be enjoying later. While dining in one of our many excellent restaurants be sure to sample our traditional island dishes, such as heart of palm salad, smoked mullet, fish, clams, shrimp, stone crab claws, blue crabs, soft-shell crabs and oysters, all fresh from the Gulf. Every year in mid October, Cedar Key celebrates its bounty with a seafood festival, where thousands flock to the island to sample the fresh seafood delicacies while enjoying a craft show of artists from the region.



TIMELESS INSPIRATION

If you've ever wanted to pick up a paintbrush, or try your hand at some serious nature photography, a visit to Cedar Key provides not only the time but the inspiration.

From the historic Thomas House silhouetted against the sunrise, to the sun setting over the marshes, the area offers an incredible palette of color and light to awaken the artist in us all.



Many artists live in Cedar Key and are represented in local galleries with works reflecting their own special visions of the area. For over 25 years, Cedar Key has celebrated its

appreciation of the arts and hosts the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts in April. This high quality, juried show attracts artists from all over the country and crowds of art lovers turn out every year to enjoy a wide variety of fine art as well as fresh seafood in the park.

COAST INTO ISLAND TIME

Although there is plenty to see and do in and around the islands of Florida's Nature Coast, one of the best things to do is relax.

Spend time with your family and friends.. Check into one of our comfortable hotels, motels, cottages, condos and bed and breakfast inns...

Browse the fine shops, galleries and boutiques along the quiet streets...

Sample the fresh seafood specialties of our wonderful restaurants...

Enjoy the night-life at local area lounges... Put your feet up and read a book... Go for long walks at sunset...

Explore...

Discover...

Renew.

Remember...you're on island time, which is the best time of all.

