Experience the best recreation destination on the Forgotten Coast!

Wright Lake Recreation Area and Hickory Landing are located approximately 25 miles from the Gulf of Mexico by car in an area known as the Forgotten Coast. These two hidden gems provide easy access to the Apalachicola River, known for its sport fishing, boating and paddling; you'll never run out of things to do! It's also an easy ride down to the Gulf of Mexico.

Wright Lake Recreation Area is adjacent to Hickory Landing. The site offers both a day use area for picnicking and hiking, and a campground in a beautiful forest setting along one portion of the lakeshore. The campground includes 18 campsites suitable for RV and tent camping. Each campsite includes picnic tables, grills, tent pads and fire rings. A large bathhouse includes hot showers and flushing toilets. RVers can access the nearby dump station just beyond the entrance gate.

There's a common area facing the lake, where visitors can grill out, play games and enjoy star gazing at night. Electric trolling motors or paddle boats are welcome.. A great place for nature viewing, the area around Wright Lake is one of the best places in the Apalachicola National Forest to see pitcher plants, which bloom en masse in late March through early April.

One of the more ecologically diverse hikes, Wright Lake Trail also offers the best opportunities to see pitcher plants in bloom. Along its 5-mile route, you'll walk along creeks, balance on a one-beam-wide bridge through floodplain forest and see red-cockaded woodpecker nests and pitcher plant bogs.

Hook up your boat and head down to Hickory Landing, which has a free boat ramp, located less than a mile away. Within minutes enjoy your favorite watersport or head out to the Gulf!

Wright Lake has ample space for large trailers to pull into each campsite. A volunteer host lives on site to assist visitors.

Fees: Day use fee $3.00, overnight camping $10.00. Open year round. Summer hours 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and winter hours 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Directions: From the intersection of CR 379 and SR 65 in Sumatra, drive south on SR 65 for 2.5 miles. Turn right onto FR 101 (Wright Lake Rd) and follow it west for 1.5 miles to the Wright Lake Recreation Area entrance on the right. Turn right and follow the entrance road up to the kiosk.

Hickory Landing is a picturesque campground situated among cypress stands along the bank of Owl Creek and provides easy access to the Apalachicola River. There are 10 sites with picnic tables and grills, suitable for RV and tent camping and a free boating ramp with ample trailer parking.

Owl Creek is deep and wide, lined by the beautiful river swamp habitat of the Apalachicola floodplain, a scenic route on the way to the Apalachicola River just two miles away. For canoe enthusiasts, the trip from Cotton Landing on Kennedy Creek, to Hickory Landing on Owl Creek via the Apalachicola River is a favorite full-day paddle.

Hickory Landing's intimate tropical setting provides plenty of wildlife viewing, especially for birding aficionados. This campground serves as a designated hunt camp during hunting season. Camp hosts are on site to assist visitors and vaulted toilets are centrally located for convenience.

Directions: From Sumatra, take SR 65 south for 1.6 miles. Turn right on Forest Road 101 and go one mile. Then turn left (south) on Forest Road 101B and go one mile to Hickory Landing's campground entrance.

Fees: Overnight camping $3.00. Open year round, quiet hours 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Things to do while you're visiting us.

Take in the beach while you're in the area. St. George Island is only 35 minutes away to the southwest. Enjoy this small, relaxed and scenic beach destination with plenty of restaurants serving local seafood. Only a few minutes further west is historic downtown Apalachicola, a very popular destination for shopping, local arts and crafts, museums as well as restaurants. Known for its oysters and seafood, the town of Apalachicola has more restaurants per capita than any other city in the country. In the opposite direction, heading southeast is Carrabelle Beach. About the same distance from Wright Lake, Highway 98 runs along the beachfront, with restaurants in downtown Carrabelle.

Historic Fort Gadsden is less than six miles from Wright Lake with an expansive overlook of the Apalachicola River from Prospect Bluff, the National Historic Landmark "British Fort" was built at the end of the War of 1812 and is co-located with a Seminole War period fort and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as "Fort Gadsden Historic Memorial."

Festivals: Florida Seafood Festival, Apalachicola Oyster Cook Off, The Forgotten Coast Black Bear Festival, Stone Age and Primitive Art Festival, Spring Jazz Fest, Worm-Gruntin' Festival, Riverfront Festival, Blue Crab Festival, Tours of Historic Homes, Mighty Mullet Maritime Festival, Oyster Spat Festival, Downtown Oyster Roast, Fall Jazz Festival, Boat Parade of Lights

Museums: Apalachicola Maritime Museum, Apalachicola Museum of Art, Camp Gordon Johnston Museum, John Gorrie State Museum, Raney House Museum

Lighthouses: Cape St George Lighthouse, Crooked River Lighthouse

Scenic Drives: Big Bend Scenic Byway, Apalachee Savannahs Scenic Byway

Wildlife: Apalachicola River Blueway, Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, St Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, Cape St George State Reserve, Tate's Hell State Forest

State Parks: St George Island State Park, St Joseph Peninsula State Park, Dead Lakes State Recreation Area, Ochlocknee River State Park

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Sportfishing, boating, paddling, camping, and hiking . . .

Start your adventure on the Apalachicola National Forest!