

Palatka was established as a trading post in 1821 and is today the county seat of Putnam County. The name comes from the Timucuan Indian word *Pilotakata*, meaning “crossing.” The original settlement was burned during the Seminole War of 1836. In 1838, the U.S. government constructed Fort Shannon, which served as a garrison, supply depot and hospital for the forts in the area. Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor and William Sherman were all stationed here at some point in time.

During the American Civil War, Federal Troops occupied the city. During the postwar period, riverboats plied the St. Johns River to points south and Palatka became the gateway to the interior of Florida. Palatka became known as the “Gem of the St. Johns” and boasted several world-class hotels that included the Arlington, Saratoga, La Fayette and the Putnam House, with accommodations to host 6,000 visitors. Palatka prospered in the late 1800’s as an enormous resource for timber and citrus and had a reputation for natural beauty that attracted many visitors. A devastating fire in downtown Palatka in 1884 destroyed many of the grand hotels and deep freezes in 1894 and 1895 devastated the area’s citrus industry, causing a decline in the area’s visitation and industry.

Today, Palatka has a large downtown business district, a beautiful waterfront park, and many historic and cultural sites. Palatka also hosts many wonderful festivals and events.

*We invite you to
experience our hospitality.*

Festivals and Events

Florida Azalea Festival

First Weekend of March – www.flazaleafest.com

Mug Race

First Saturday in May – www.rudderclub.com

Blue Crab Festival

Memorial Day Weekend – www.bluecrabfestival.com

Fourth of July Fireworks

Palatka City Hall • 386-329-0100 – www.palatka-fl.gov

Gem City Shrimp Blast

Labor Day Weekend – www.palatkadowntown.com

Occupation of Palatka

Last Weekend in September – Email: phnna@yahoo.com

Artoberfest

October – www.keepputnambeautiful.org

St. Johns River Blues Festival

November – www.stjohnsriverbluesfestival.com

Light the Riverfront

Pilot Club of Palatka

Third Friday Downtown Street Party

Third Friday of each month
Palatka Main Street – www.palatkamainstreet.com

Fourth Saturday Downtown Cruise In

Fourth Saturday of each month
Palatka Main Street – www.palatkamainstreet.com

Parades

Martin Luther King Jr. Parade – *Always MLK Day*

St. Patrick’s Day Parade – *March 17*

Florida Azalea Festival Shrine Parade

– *First Saturday in March*

Blue Crab Festival Parade – *Memorial Day*

Fourth of July Parade – *July 4*

Veterans Day Parade – *November 11*

Palatka Christmas Parade

– *Friday after Thanksgiving*

DISCOVER



HISTORY, ARTS, TRAILS & FESTIVALS

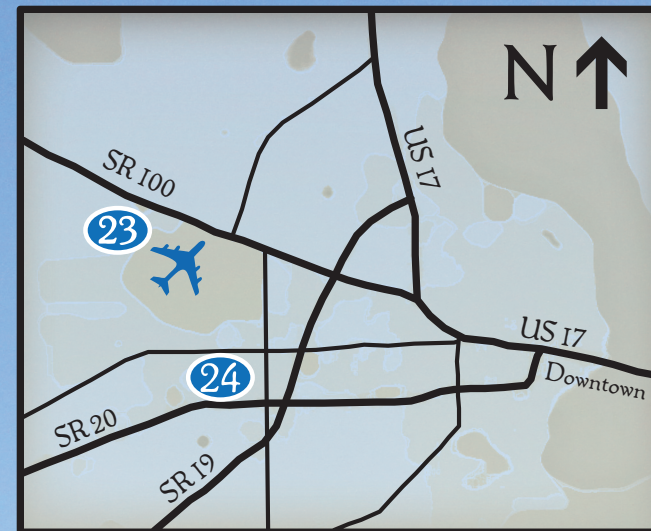
... *it's our nature*



I

World War I Doughboy Statues

Four life-sized copper statues, commemorating the soldiers who served, stand at both ends of the Palatka Memorial Bridge. Designed and produced by Ernest Viquesney and installed in 1925, Palatka is the only location to have a complete set. For more information please visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org



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Palatka Golf Club

This vintage course offers an authentic experience at a reasonable cost. Designed by Donald Ross, the holes gently tumble over the sandy ridges and wrap the tranquil woods of Ravine Gardens State Park. The course can be played quickly and enjoyably, offering golfers the best thrills of the game without taking up the day. If you're looking for a course that is big on fun and light on your wallet, find your way to Palatka Golf Club. For information visit www.palatkagolfclub.com



Ravine Gardens State Park

A 2.8 mile scenic driveway borders the 70-120 feet deep ravine. The 89-acre gardens, dating back to 1930, were planted with over 95,000 azaleas, including 64 varieties, 11,000 palm trees and more than 250,000 ornamental plants. The 64 foot tall obelisk, dedicated to Franklin D. Roosevelt, is located near the park entrance. The park boasts extensive fieldstone terraces, rock gardens and massive cypress building construction, and is open seven days a week. www.floridastatepark.org



Kay Larkin Airport

Palatka's airport is strategically located in the center of northeast Florida, with easy access to major State and Interstate highways, CSX, Amtrak and river travel. With a full service terminal, the airport offers fueling, hangers, repair work and storage. For more information visit www.palatkakaylarkin.com or call 386-329-0148.



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2

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Bronson-Mulholland House

c. 1854. Colonial Revival Plantation home has original furnishing. Owned by the City of Palatka and furnished by the Putnam County Historical Society. Tours available five days per week by reservation. The house is on the National Register. For more information visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org or www.palatka-fl.gov

3

Putnam County Historical Museum

c. 1836. Officers quarters from Fort Shannon. This small museum illustrates the history of the area with photos, post cards, maps and artifacts. Visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org for hours and to make arrangements for private and group tours.

4

Palatka City Hall

c. 1915. Built as Palatka's Post Office, this wonderfully preserved building now serves as City Hall. Open Monday through Friday. Visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org for a pictorial slide show on the process of building this edifice. City Hall website: www.palatka-fl.gov

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Palatka Riverfront Park

This scenic park overlooks a wide sweep of the St. Johns River. Many festivals and activities take place at the park and it also serves as space for a daily respite from the rush of life. Recent work on the park has made this a favorite spot for relaxation on the riverfront. For more information visit www.palatka-fl.gov

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City of Palatka National Register Marker

Read the history of Palatka and take your "Palatka" photo here! Also, enjoy the Fountain and Submarine Memorial.

7

City of Palatka Boat Launch & Dock

Site of weekly fishing tournaments and a local favorite during the shrimping season. Open 7 days a week unless a special event is being held. There is no charge to launch your boat. Restrooms are available. For more information please visit www.palatka-fl.gov

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City of Palatka Kayak Launch

A soft launch for canoes and kayaks with free parking. Open seven days a week. Follow the Bartram River Trail found at <http://bartram.putnam-fl.com> or find more information at www.putnambluewaysandtrails.org

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Palatka Art League/Tilghman House

c. 1884. Built in the Colonial Revival style, this house is owned by the City of Palatka and leased to the Palatka Art League as an artist cooperative and is open five afternoons a week. Visit www.palatkaartleague.com or call 386-325-8750 for more information.

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Reid's Garden North Historic District

More than 50 spectacular homes and buildings from the 1850s through the turn of the century. An architectural delight featuring designs from Frame Vernacular to Victorian Gothic Revival. For more info e-mail: phnna@yahoo.com

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church

c. 1854. Listed on the National Historic Register. This church is built in the Carpenter Gothic style. One of 11 churches in north Florida designed to be easily built in the "frontier." St. Mark's members played a leading role in the development of early Palatka.

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Fort Shannon Historical Marker

c. 1830s. Relating the history of Fort Shannon during the Second Seminole War. Visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org for more information.

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Larimer Arts Center

c. 1930. Designed by famed prairie style architect H.J. Klutho and donated by James R. Mellon as a library for the city. This well detailed structure combines the Prairie style with bit of Art Deco over the arched entrance. Now serving as the home of the Arts Council of Greater Palatka. Black box theatre, art galleries, concerts and art classes. For more information visit www.artsinputnam.org

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"The Hammock" South Historic District

Over 200 homes and churches featuring architectural styles from the 1880s to the early 1900s. From Bungalow to Romanesque Revival. Visit www.shnapalatka.com for more information.

15

Putnam County Court House

c. 1909. Putnam County Court House is an historic brick building located in the center of Palatka. It was designed by architects Robinson and Reidy in the Classical Revival Style of architecture. It originally had a central cupola which is now gone. Wings have been added on each side of the front portico. Monuments to all veterans since the Civil War grace the lawn. The Historic Maltby Oak also stands on the east side.

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Putnam County Chamber of Commerce

Centrally located in the City of Palatka. The Chamber operates a Visitors Center Monday through Friday with brochures and information about local events and attractions. Visit: www.putnamcountychamber.com or call 386-328-1503.

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Price Martin Community Center

Community Center located in the center of the City. Used for many events and activities. Visit www.palatka-fl.gov or call 386-329-0100 for more information.

18

Browning Railroad Museum

Located at the Union Railroad Station c.1909. Recently restored to its former glory, this museum is operated by the Railroad Preservation Society. It features the wonderful scale model, Railroad Rodeo, as well as railroad memorabilia, photos and artifacts. Visit www.railsofpalatka.org for information and hours of operation.

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Amtrak Train Station at Palatka Union Depot

Offered at the Union Railroad Station, Amtrak Rail makes four stops a day. Two north to Washington and New York and two south to Miami. Visit www.amtrak.com for more information.

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Palatka Golf Course

Please see other side of the brochure.

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Ravine Gardens State Park

Please see other side of the brochure.

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Water Works Environment Center

Housed in the original Palatka Water Works - 1886, the WWEECO provides informative exhibits, walking trails and natural habitat demonstrations. Please visit www.palatkawaterworks.com for more information and hours.

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Kay Larkin Airport

Please see other side of the brochure.

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Florida School of the Performing Arts

Art shows, plays, recitals, etc. Please visit www.floarts.org for more information.

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Westview Cemetery

First Governor of Florida, Civil War troops, the "who's who" of Historic Palatka. For more information visit www.putnam-fl-historical-society.org.

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Murals - Conlee Snyder Mural Committee

For complete information on each mural please visit www.conleemurals.org.

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Putnam Blueways and Trails

Palatka is one of the hubs of this statewide program of hiking, cycling and water activities. Visit www.putnambluewaysandtrails.org for more information.

