

Lake Kissimmee State Park

Named for Lake Kissimmee, the third largest lake in the state, the 5,930-acre park is teeming with plant and animal life. The park offers outstanding fishing, bird watching, picnicking, camping, boating, and hiking on 13 miles of trails. An observation tower is located in the picnic area and provides views of Lake Kissimmee and its marsh lands. During the Civil War the area was used for raising cattle that were shipped to the Confederate Army or traded with Cuba for supplies. After the war, cattle became the main industry, and this continues to the present day.

TRAIL ENTRANCE:

14248 Camp Mack Road,
Lake Wales, Florida 33853

PARKING COORDINATES:

N27 56.656 W081 21.340

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The park is 15 miles east of Lake Wales. Take State Road 60 to Boy Scout Road then to Camp Mack Road. Take a right and the park is 5 miles on the right. Pick up a trail map at the ranger station. Park at the Kristen Jacobs YELLOW Trail: first turn-off from the main park road.



NOTE: The park is open 8 a.m. to sunset, 365 days a year. Cow Camp: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays (Nov. 6, 2021, to March 26, 2022). Closed Christmas. **FEES:** \$5 per vehicle (two to eight people).

1876 Cow Camp:

Florida's cowboy heritage comes alive with living history demonstrations of the early Florida "cow hunters" at the cow camp. As you meander down the trail, you go back in time. Cowboys cook, make coffee, tend the cattle, or just rest up until the next round-up.



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

Although the parking area is for the Kristin Jacobs (Yellow) Trail, DO NOT TAKE THAT TRAIL. Follow the White blazed posts to the bridge. Cross the bridge. Pass the kayak boat launch on your right. Continue to follow the white blazed two-track trail and the sign towards the equestrian area. You will come to the clearing with an informational sign on your left, a horse trailer parking sign ahead of you, and the white blaze trail with a bench on your right. Continue on the right white blazed trail. Pass Bench #1. Continue on the Buster Island Loop Trail. Pass Mile Marker 6 on your left. Pass Trail Marker 22 on your right. Pass Trail Marker 56 on your right and cross the trail. Continue on the white blazed trail. Pass Mile Marker 5 on your left. Look for a very distinctive oak tree with a low hanging branch that crossed over the trail and hooks around the oak tree on the other side of the trail. Here, make a right into the woods and pass an oak tree on your left. Pass a pine and oak growing next to each other in a V shape on your left. Look for another oak tree whose trunk is in a V shape and is surrounded by palmettos.

THINGS TO SEE

White-tailed deer, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, turkeys, and bobcats have been seen in the park. The park's abundance of water, wetlands and numerous different habitats offers birders views of different water fowl and birds of prey. The scrub habitat throughout the park is home to the Florida scrub-jay.



The cache is secured to the root of the large palmetto at the base of the oak tree.

(HIKE: 3.9 miles round trip)
(If you want to complete the Buster Island Loop:
6.7 miles)

TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N27 56.145 W081 22.768



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