Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Located just south of Stuart, this park teems with wildlife in 13 natural communities, including sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, mangroves, and river swamps. The Loxahatchee River, Florida's first federally designated Wild and Scenic River, runs through the park. Ranger-guided tours of the 1930s pioneer homestead of Trapper Nelson are available year-round. Visitors can enjoy paved and off-road biking, equestrian, and hiking trails. Boating, canoeing, and kayaking along the river are also great ways to see the park. Anglers can fish along the riverbank or from a boat. The nature and history of the park comes to life through exhibits and displays in the Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center. Programs for the kids, or for the whole family, are also offered here. The park also offers two full-facility campgrounds and a youth/group primitive campground. Visitors can arrange boat tours of the river and rent canoes, kayaks, and motorboats by calling (561) 746-1466. Located 12 miles south of Stuart on U.S. 1.

[Directions to this Park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/content/directions-jonathan-dickinson-state-park)

**Directions to Jonathan Dickinson State Park**

To Jonathan Dickinson State Park from the south  
On I-95 - take Exit 87A - go east on Indiantown Road to US 1. Turn left (north) on US 1. Jonathan Dickinson is 5 miles on your left.  
  
On Florida Turnpike - take Exit 116 (Jupiter). Go east on Indiantown Road to US 1. Turn left (north) on US 1. Jonathan Dickinson is 5 miles on your left.  
  
To Jonathan Dickinson State Park from the north  
On I-95 - take Exit 96 - go east on Bridge Road to US 1. Turn right (south) on US 1. Jonathan Dickinson is 3 miles on your right.  
  
On Florida Turnpike - take Exit 116 (Jupiter). Go east on Indiantown Road to US 1. Turn left (north) on US 1. Jonathan Dickinson is 5 miles on your left.

Attractions at JD state Park

Bicycling icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Bicycling

Both paved and off-road bicycle trails are available. The paved trails run along the old roadbed of Old Dixie Highway, for about two miles. The Camp Murphy Off-road Bicycle Trail System is a nine-mile network of mountain bike trails, with loops rated for beginners all the way to "black diamond, experts only." Bicycles may be rented at the River Store.  Helmets are highly recommended for all cyclists and Florida law requires helmets for cyclists age 16 and under.

Boat ramp icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Boat Ramp

A concrete boat launch ramp is available on the Loxahatchee River. The Loxahatchee eventually leads to the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. Please observe the "idle speed" limit on the river within the park.

The boat ramp fee is $4.00 + tax.  This is in addition to the Admission Fee.

Boat tours icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Boat Tours

The 25-passenger Loxahatchee Queen II takes visitors on a two-hour tour of the river, with a stop at the restored camp of Trapper Nelson, the "Wildman of the Loxahatchee." At the site, park staff lead visitors around the grounds and buildings of a true Florida original, who made his living off the land as a trapper and fur trader. Once fame caught up with Trapper, however, he evolved himself and his home into one of the area's first tourist attractions, "Trapper's Zoo and Jungle Gardens." Trapper's unsolved death in 1968 gives a fitting sense of mystery to the site. Trapper's is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday through Monday, and is accessible only by canoe or boat or by the concession's tour boat. Call the park concession at (561) 746-1466 for information on times and prices for the Loxahatchee Queen II.

[Cabins icon](https://www.floridastateparks.org/cabins-lodging/Jonathan-Dickinson)

### [Jonathan Dickinson - Cabins](https://www.floridastateparks.org/cabins-lodging/Jonathan-Dickinson)

Jonathan Dickinson’s 12 cabins are located near the Loxahatchee River. All cabins are furnished and have one bedroom with a queen or full-size bed, one bathroom, living area, dining area and kitchen area. Maximum occupancy is 4-6 people depending upon the cabin. Cabins are supplied with bed and bath linens. All cabins have outside picnic tables as well as fire rings for outdoor cooking. Pets are not allowed.

Special Notice: Nine of the park's twelve cabins are currently available for rental through [ReserveAmerica.com](http://floridastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/jonathan-dickinson-sp/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=FL&parkId=281043).

Campfire circles icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Campfire Circles

Campfire programs are given each Saturday evening, for overnight visitors, at varied locations. Check with the Ranger Station. In addition, a ranger-guided nature walk starts each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., at varied locations. Please check with the Ranger Station for details.

Full facility camping icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Camping

Two family campgrounds are located at Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Pine Grove Campground, with 90 sites, is located near the Ranger Station on the east side of the park. The River Campground, with 45 sites, is about four miles from the park entrance, near the Loxahatchee River. Both campgrounds have large, tiled restrooms with hot showers. All sites include water, electricity, table and grill. A dump station is located in each campground. Well behaved pets are welcome in the campground.

The park offers fun, family education programs every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. and a nature walk on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Rental canoes, kayaks, motorboats and tour boat are available from the park concession.

Maximum RV length = 81 ft.

Reservations: Reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance through [ReserveAmerica](http://floridastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/jonathan-dickinson-sp/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=FL&parkId=281043). Book Online or call (800) 326-3521 (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) or TDD (888) 433-0287.

Equestrian camping icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Camping Equestrian

A five-site, campground is available for those wishing to camp with their horses. Horses must be tethered overnight to the tieout posts provided, or confined in sturdy portable pens. Portable electric fencing or hobbling is not permitted. Eight miles of multi-use trails start at the EaglesView area, available for horseback riding, hiking and off-road bicycling. Trail maps are available at the Ranger Station.

Primitive camping icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Camping Primitive

Two backpack camps are available on segments of the Florida Trail. Maps of the Trail are available at the Ranger Station. One camp is five miles out along the trail, and the other is nine miles out. A pitcher pump is located near each camp. Water must be treated. Pets are not permitted on this trail and/or at these camps. Collection of firewood is not permitted in Florida State Parks; be sure to pack a stove for cooking. Overnight trips to these camps must begin by certain specified times of the day; reservations are not required, but are suggested. Call the Ranger Station at (772) 546-2771 for information and reservations.

Group camping icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Camping, Primitive Grp

Three group campsites accommodate 30 campers each. Youth groups (for those who are 18 or younger) may reserve a campsite. Youths must be chaperoned by at least one adult, 21 years of age or older, for each 10 youths. Pets are welcome. Sites are equipped with tables, a fire circle and a composting toilet. There is no water in this area; the closest potable water is about a mile away at the picnic area. Call the park for reservations at 772-546-2771.

Canoeing and Kayaking icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Canoeing and Kayaking

The park's concessionaire offers canoe and kayak rentals. Please call (561) 746-1466 for current rates and rental information.

Concessions icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Concession and Restaurant

The River Store is located in the picnic area, and has limited camping and grocery items, drinks, snacks, and souvenirs. The store is where canoes, kayaks, bicycles and motorboats may be rented. Tickets for the Loxahatchee Queen II are also purchased here.

Fishing icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Fishing

Fishing in the Loxahatchee River varies from freshwater fishing in the upper river to saltwater angling as you approach the picnic area and boat ramp. There can be some overlap of species; it is possible to catch snook and snapper far upriver near Trapper’s, and largemouth bass as far down as the mouth of Kitching Creek. Be sure you have the appropriate license (or licenses) for the area and species you are fishing. Freshwater fishing is also available in several of the ponds and lakes, mainly in the eastern and southeastern areas of the park.

All fishing within the park must conform to regulations concerning size, number, method of capture and season.  A [fishing license](http://www.myfwc.com/license/) may be required.  More information is available at the Florida Wildlife Commission’s [Fishing in Florida](http://www.myfwc.com/fishing/).

Geoseeking icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Geo-Seeking

Geocaching is an outdoor game using hand-held global positioning systems (GPS) devices. It's effectively an inexpensive, interactive, high-tech treasure hunt that's a great way to learn geography. Participants use location coordinates to find caches. Some caches are easy to find; others are more difficult. The biggest reward is the thrill of the search and the discovery of a place where you have never been. Geocaching should have minimal impact to the environment and conscientious land use ethics should be followed.

Florida State Parks is proud to announce the [Operation Recreation GeoTour](http://www.geocaching.com/play/geotours/operation-recreation) hosted by [Geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com/). This GeoTour stretches from Pensacola to Key West and includes 74 of the First Three Time National Gold Medal Award Winning Florida State Parks and Trails. Be one of the first 75 cachers to visit 40 caches and win the Official Operation Recreation Geocoin. Download and print the [Official Tracking Sheet](http://www.floridastateparks.org/thingstodo/location-based/doc/tracking-sheet.pdf) to begin your adventure. Remember to cache and save with unlimited entry for a year with the [Florida State Parks Annual Pass](http://www.floridastateparks.org/thingstoknow/annualpass.cfm).

Jonathan Dickinson has hundreds of caches hidden throughout our 11,500 acres of park lands.

Hiking and nature trail icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Hiking Nature Trail

Three scenic nature trails wind through the park, allowing visitors to explore the park's various habitats. The Kitching Creek-Wilson Creek Trails start in the picnic area parking lot, and lead the visitor through pine flatwoods and along the creeks. The Kitching Creek portion is a self-guiding trail, with a brochure available. The Hobe Mountain Trail is a short, beautiful boardwalk that climbs up through the sand pine scrub to the observation tower, from which commanding views of the entire park and surrounding area may be had.

Horse and equestrian trails icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Horse Equestrian Trail

Eight miles of multi-use trails start at the EaglesView area, available for horseback riding, hiking and off-road bicycling. Trail maps are available at the Ranger Station. A five-site, campground is available for those wishing to camp with their horses. Horses must be tethered overnight to the tieout posts provided, or confined in sturdy portable pens. Portable electric fencing or hobbling is not permitted. Proof of negative Coggins is required.

Mountain biking icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Mountain Biking

The Camp Murphy Off-road Bicycle Trail System is a nine-mile network of mountain bike trails, with loops rated for beginners all the way to "black diamond, experts only." Bicycles may be rented at the River Store.

Picnicking icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Picnicking

A large picnic area is found on the shores of the Loxahatchee River, with dozens of picnic tables and grills. Four picnic pavilions are found here, three of which are reservable for a fee. The "Loxahatchee" and "Wilson Creek" pavilions are $60.00 plus tax (10 tables - 60 persons) and the larger "Kitching Creek" pavilion is $100.00 plus tax (20 tables - 150 persons). Call the Ranger Station at (772) 546-2771 for reservations. One pavilion is left for first-come, first-served, and the other three may be similarly used if they have not been reserved. The concession store is located here, with drinks, snacks, tour boat tickets, and canoe rentals. Two nature trails start here, and a children's playground is centrally located.

Swimming icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Swimming

A beautiful grassy swimming beach is available on the shores of the Loxahatchee River. **No lifeguards are present, so please exercise caution**. It is adjacent to the reservable Loxahatchee picnic pavilion, and a modern restroom with outdoor shower. Please call for current swimming conditions.

Tours icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Tours

**Equestrian activities are offered seasonally each year from the 3rd Saturday in December through Easter.**

Guided horseback rides are once again available at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, starting at the EaglesView Equestrian Area and meandering along scenic backcountry routes. Trail rides take place 7 days a week starting at 9:00 a.m. and running until 3:30 p.m. Rides are $25 per person and last about an hour. Riders must be age 6 or older. Hand-led pony rides are available for children under 6, 15 minutes for $12. And what could be nicer than a trip along the back roads of the park in our big farm wagon, pulled by a team of two beautiful Percheron draft horses? The wagon will carry up to 14 folks, and each pays only $10 for a 45-minute trail ride.

There are also Ranger-guided nature hikes on weekends. Call (772) 546-2771 for more information.

Visitor center icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Visitor Center

The Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center is a great place to begin a trip to the park. Visitors can 'tour' the natural and cultural resources of the park with interactive and informational displays. The park video, “A Balancing Act: Recreation and Preservation at Jonathan Dickinson State Park” is shown all day upon request.The classrooms and research laboratory provide children and adults an opportunity to learn and discover more about the variety of natural communities in the park, including the Loxahatchee River. For more information about our current programs, please visit the [Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc. website](http://www.friendsofjdsp.org/) or call the Kimbell Center at (561) 745-5551. The Kimbell Center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Wildlife viewing icon

### Jonathan Dickinson - Wildlife Viewing

Many species of wildlife may be observed at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, including deer, raccoons, foxes, otters, bobcats, and more. Alligators are commonly seen, as are turtles along the river. Threatened and endangered species include Florida scrub-jays, gopher tortoises, manatees, and Eastern indigo snakes. Over 150 species of birds have been identified here, making Jonathan Dickinson a premier birding destination.

Camping reservations site

<http://floridastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/jonathan-dickinson-sp/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=FL&parkId=281043>

River store JD state Park

<http://www.jdstatepark.com/>