

CENTRAL EAST FLORIDA

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

The 6,555-acre *Lake Blue Cypress* has many spotted sunfish, catfish, shellcracker, bluegill and largemouth bass, but the lake is best known for its black crappie. The primary baits used for this species are small jigs and live minnows. The fish become more active as water temperatures drop. Areas of structure or cover such as cypress trees along the shoreline provide many spots to catch largemouth bass. The inshore waters of this area are fishing enthusiasts' favorites. Tides do not affect movements of fish here because the area is largely isolated by barrier islands.

Garcia/Miami Lakes Reservoir measures 3,150 acres, with water depths reaching as deep as six feet. The reservoir is noted for high populations of smaller largemouth bass, but it usually produces a number of trophy-sized fish during the winter and early spring. Largemouth bass fishing is enjoyed among the various types of vegetation throughout the lake. Bass

anglers work from the deeper waters in the northwestern corner using live shiners, plastic worms and soft plastic jerkbaits. Other popular sport fish found in the reservoir include black crappie, bluegill and redear sunfish.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Anglers can enjoy the shallow waters of the *Indian River Lagoon*, which has an average depth of about five feet. The brackish lagoon waters provide seagrass beds, where spotted seatrout, redfish and snook hide.

Upstream, freshwater fishermen can find bluegill, black crappie and largemouth bass swimming under the marshy lily pads in the *Savannas*. Made up of more than 550 acres of freshwater ponds and marshlands, the *Savannas* consists of two parks run by both the state and the county. The area can be fished from the banks, by canoe or by small boats with electric motors. No gasoline-powered motors are allowed in the *Savannas*.

VOLUSIA COUNTY

The 46,000-acre *Lake George* was named one of Florida's Top 10 largemouth bass fishing lakes by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Largemouth bass thrive in this lake and can be caught using live shiners and artificial baits. The Florida black bass is king in the *St. Johns River* year-round, but local guides consider November through February and April through June to be

peak periods.

During fall and winter, the waters produce striped bass that commonly weigh up to 12 pounds. Using live shad or shiners, jigs and shad-imitating crankbaits around the jetties and bombing range in the lake may produce good results.

BREVARD COUNTY

Largemouth bass can be caught year-round on the 4,600-acre *Lake Washington*. Fishing enthusiasts use plastic worms, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and top water lures to attract fish.

Black crappie also are caught throughout the year on *Lake Washington*, often in open water with artificial bait, such as small jigs and minnows.

Lake Winder is located five miles upstream of *Lake Poinsett* in the St. Johns chain and can only be reached by an extended boat ride from *Lake Poinsett*. Largemouth bass are plentiful from late fall through spring, around emergent and submerged plant communities that extend into the lake.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Lake Okeechobee is the county's most famous waterway. Known as the "Crappie Capital of the World," other species found here include largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish and catfish. Crappies are best caught with minnows and jigs in open water areas. Golden shiners, spinnerbaits and crankbait are among the best to catch largemouth bass.



Courtesy of Rodney Smith

INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

Central East Florida boasts a unique fishing location that even non-anglers enjoy. The *Indian River Lagoon* is an estuary system and an inshore marine waterway that begins north of Merritt Island and stretches down the coast to south of Fort Pierce. This area has 1,350 plant species, 310 bird species and 700 fish species—both saltwater and freshwater. The inshore waters of this area are fishing enthusiasts' favorites because they surround barrier islands, so tides do not affect movements of fish.

Containing five ocean inlets, the Indian River Lagoon stretches for 155 miles and includes *Mosquito Lagoon*, the *Indian River* and the *Banana River*. Hard-pulling jack crevalle appear in large schools in the Indian River Lagoon and coastal waters during the springtime. Jack crevalle is a species that fly fishermen and light tackle anglers fish for regularly. This fish is common in both inshore waters and the open sea. Schools of jacks feed on baitfish near the surface with a commotion that can be seen from a long distance, making them easy targets for anglers.

Ocean whiting, weakfish, sea bass and sheepshead are species that anglers catch year-round in the Indian River Lagoon. The black-striped sheepshead can be found near oyster bars, seawalls and in tidal creeks inshore where they can be tempted with shrimp and fiddler crabs. They spawn near shore in late winter and early spring. Sheepshead caught offshore commonly weigh up to eight pounds.

SEBASTIAN INLET

In the spring, spotted seatrout and ladyfish can be found in the *Sebastian Inlet* area on drop-offs near spoil islands and deeper channels. Seatrout spawn inshore between March and November near seagrass beds. This species is often found inshore and near

shore over grass, sand and mud bottoms. In winter, sea trout move into still, deep waters.

Just eight miles north of Vero Beach on Florida's east coast is the city of Sebastian. Recognized as fishing hot-spot, it is a little known gem and the secret vacation retreat for many south Florida fishermen. What sport fisherman like best is the Sebastian Inlet, which allows for easy access to offshore fishing grounds. They also appreciate that boat slips are still available here, unlike in the Florida Keys. For saltwater anglers, Sebastian is just about perfect. It's a secret paradise. Sport fishermen know that outside of the Keys (which can be a hassle to get to) Sebastian has the best fishing. According to Tookie Smith, manager of Beach Cove—a factory-built home community in Sebastian—has seen a steady stream of sport fishermen interested in the area and looking for second homes.

Just venture a few miles out of the Sebastian Inlet and you can catch some monster-size wahoo, fill your boat with dorado and amberjack, or drop a line deep and reel in a massive grouper. Diehard fishermen can "rig up" some Ballyhoo and trawl the surface for blue marlin.

FLORIDA'S EAST COAST

The migratory tarpon is a popular sport fish found in the waters off Florida's East Coast. Tarpon populations are strongest during spring, summer and fall. It is not uncommon to see schools of 50 to 100 tarpon, and anglers can frequently catch tarpon weighing 40 to 50 pounds in this area.

Those looking to surf fish while at the beach can find a variety of species all year long. Red drum, pompano and whiting are caught in the Atlantic surf throughout the year.



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Boating & Fishing in National Parks & Refuges

Park	Phone	Camping	Fishing	Boating/ Canoeing	Boat Ramp
Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge	772-562-3909		✓		
Canaveral National Seashore	321-267-1110	✓	✓	✓	
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge	386-985-4673		✓		
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge	321-861-0667		✓	✓	✓
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge	561-562-3909				

Boating & Fishing in State Parks

Park	Phone	Camping	Freshwater Fishing	Saltwater Fishing	Boating/ Canoeing	Boat Ramp
Blue Spring State Park	386-775-3663	✓	✓		✓	
DeLeon Springs State Park	386-985-4212		✓		✓	✓
Hontoon Island State Park	386-736-5309	✓	✓		✓	
Tomoka State Park	386-676-4050	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Washington Oaks Gardens State Park	386-446-6780		✓	✓		

Freshwater Fishing Piers

County	Water Body	Location	Barrier Free	Rest Rooms	Fish Attractor
Okeechobee	Lake Okeechobee	U.S. 441, south of Okeechobee	✓		✓
Volusia	St. Johns River	Bluffton Recreation Area; Dexter/Mary Farms Unit; Lake George Wildlife Management Area	✓		
Volusia	St. Johns River	Ed Stone Park			



Courtesy of Keith Kalbfleisch

Central East Florida Marinas

County	Marina	Phone	Water Body	Restaurant	Lodging	Accepts Transients	Fuel	Mechanical Repairs	Store	Fishing Guides	Boat Charters	Overnight Dockage
Brevard	Cape Marina at Port Canaveral	321-783-8410	Atlantic Ocean			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brevard	Sunrise Marina & Tiki Bar	321-783-9535	Atlantic Ocean	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Brevard	Orange Cove Marina	321-783-8349	Banana River			✓				✓		✓
Brevard	Whitley Bay Marina	321-632-5445	Indian River & Intracoastal Waterway			✓						✓
Brevard	Treasure Coast Marina & Boat Yard	321-733-3390	Indian River Lagoon			✓	✓		✓		✓	
Brevard	Telemar Bay Marina	321-773-2468	Banana River			✓	✓	✓				✓
Brevard	Anchorage Yacht Basin	321-773-3620	Indian River			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Brevard	Camp Holly	321-723-2179	St. Johns River			✓			✓		✓	
Brevard	Eau Gallie Boat Works	321-254-1766	Indian River					✓				
Brevard	Eau Gallie Yacht Basin	321-242-6577	Eau Gallie River			✓		✓	✓			✓
Brevard	Intracoastal Marina	321-725-0090	Indian River	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓
Brevard	Melbourne Harbor Marina	321-725-9054	Crane Creek	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Brevard	Pineda Point Marina	321-254-4199	Indian River & Intracoastal Waterway						✓			
Brevard	Inlet Marina	321-724-5424	Indian River Lagoon			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Brevard	Harbor Square Marina & Yacht	321-453-2464	Indian River			✓						✓
Brevard	Harbortown Marina	321-453-0160	Barge Canal	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Brevard	Loughman Lake Lodge	321-268-2277	Loughman Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Brevard	Palm Bay Marina	321-723-0851	Turkey Creek			✓		✓	✓			
Brevard	Kennedy Point Marina & Yacht	321-383-0280	Indian River			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Brevard	Westland Marina	321-267-1667	Indian River					✓	✓			✓
Brevard	Sebastian Inlet Marina	772-664-8500	Sebastian Inlet				✓	✓	✓			✓
Indian River	Captain Hiram's	772-589-4345	Indian River	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Indian River	Fins Marina	772-589-4843	Indian River Lagoon	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
Indian River	Aqua-Marine Services, Inc.	772-564-0040	Indian River			✓		✓	✓			✓
Indian River	Loggerhead Club Marina	772-770-4470	Indian River Lagoon		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Okeechobee	Angler's Waterfront Motel	863-763-4031	Lake Okeechobee		✓					✓		✓
Okeechobee	Big Lake Marina	863-467-2000	Lake Okeechobee				✓	✓	✓			
Okeechobee	Okee-Tantie Campground & Marina	863-763-9645	Kissimmee River & Lake Okeechobee	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
St. Lucie	Fort Pierce City Marina	772-464-1245	Indian River	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Lucie	Harbortown Marina	772-466-7300	Indian River	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
St. Lucie	Pelican Yacht Club	772-464-2700	Fort Pierce Inlet	✓		✓			✓			✓
St. Lucie	Riverside Marina, Inc.	772-464-5720	Indian River			✓		✓	✓			✓
St. Lucie	Taylor Creek Marina	772-465-2663	Intracoastal Waterway				✓	✓	✓			✓
St. Lucie	Club Med Sandpiper	772-335-4400	St. Lucie River	✓	✓		✓				✓	
Volusia	Caribbean Jack's Restaurant & Marina	386-253-5557	Halifax River	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Volusia	Daytona Marina & Boatworks	386-252-6421	Halifax River/ Intracoastal Waterway	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Volusia	Halifax Harbor Marina	386-671-3600	Halifax River	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Volusia	Lighthouse Boat Yard & Marina	386-767-0683	Ponce Inlet			✓	✓		✓			✓
Volusia	Highbanks Marina & Camp Resort	386-668-4491	St. Johns River	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Volusia	Boat Show Marina	386-736-6601	St. Johns River	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓
Volusia	Holly Bluff Marina	386-822-9992	St. Johns River			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Volusia	Pier 44 Marina Sales & Service	352-589-8370	St. Johns River		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Volusia	Tropical Resort & Marina	386-734-3080	Lake Beresford		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Volusia	Marker 57 at Cameron's	386-428-3063	Indian River & Intracoastal Waterway		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
Volusia	Fishin' Cove Marina	386-428-7827	Intracoastal Waterway				✓	✓			✓	
Volusia	Adventure Yacht Harbor Inc.	386-756-2180	Intracoastal Waterway	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓
Volusia	Seven Seas Marina & Boatyard	386-761-3221	Intracoastal Waterway	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓





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