

Manager's Message

The summer tubing season has finally arrived at Ichetucknee Springs State Park! Get your friends, family, and tubes and head to the park for a great way to beat the heat this summer. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, Ichetucknee offers 3 different options for tubers. For the full experience, a 3 hour float, start at the North Entrance. The driver of your vehicle will drop off passengers and tubes at the North Entrance, then park at the South Entrance where a shuttle van will meet the driver and return him or her to the North to meet the rest of the party. Allow 45 min for shuttling time and be sure to arrive early as only 750 people per day are permitted to experience this shallow, fragile section of the river. Another, 1.5 hour float is available at the South Entrance. Near the South parking lot, board the Midpoint Tram for a ride up river. The final, 45 minute float is from Dampier's Landing. For this trip, you will arrive at the South Entrance and walk past the trams for a short walk to the river. All tubing options end at the Last Take-Out where buoys will guide you in from the river. At the Take-Out, you will board a tram to take you back to the South parking lot, where your vehicle will be waiting for you. Pack a picnic lunch in a cooler to enjoy in the picnic area when you get off the river. Please remember that food, drinks, tobacco products, and disposable items are not permitted on the river to maintain the pristine river conditions that you will experience. Tubes are not available within the park. Tubes can be rented from numerous vendors outside of the park or you may bring your own tube as long as it is less than 5 feet long and wide. The Ichetucknee is kept in its natural state, meaning that larger tubes may not be able to pass branches or other obstacles in the water. If you are not interested in tubing, you can still enjoy the crystal clear, cool spring water at the Headspring or Blue Hole Spring at the North Entrance.

- Sherry McGowan, Park Manager

Welcome to Ichetucknee Springs State Park

The crystalline Ichetucknee River flows six miles through shaded hammocks and wetlands before it joins the Santa Fe River. In 1972, the head spring of the river was declared a National Natural Landmark by the U. S. Department of the Interior. From the end of May until early September, tubing down the river is the premier activity in the area. In addition to tubing, visitors can enjoy picnicking, snorkeling, canoeing, swimming, hiking, and wildlife viewing. October through March scuba diving is available in the Blue Hole only (you must be cave certified). White-tailed deer, raccoons, wild turkeys, wood ducks and great blue herons can be seen from the river. Picnic areas, equipped with tables and grills, are available throughout the park. A full-service concession offers food, refreshments, and outdoor products from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Tubes plus snorkeling and diving equipment can be rented from private vendors outside the park located four miles northwest of Fort White, off State Roads 47 and 238.

<u>Contact the Florida Park Service Information Center for general inquiries.</u> For Information about Ichetucknee Springs State Park, please call 386-497-4690.

Hours of Operation

Florida state parks are open from 8 a.m. until sundown 365 days a year.

Driving Directions

From the north, take I-75 south to exit 423. Take SR 47 south, turn on CR 238 and follow the park signs. From the south, take I-75 north to exit 399. Take US 441 north to the city of High Springs. Take US 27 north to Ft. White, stay on US 27 north approximately 4 miles to the South Park Entrance.

Park Fees

Admission Fee:

\$6.00 per vehicle. Limit 2-8 people per vehicle. No river use.

\$4.00 Single Occupant Vehicle.

\$2.00 Pedestrians, bicyclists, extra passengers, passengers in vehicle with holder of Annual Individual Entrance Pass.

River Use Fees

\$5.00 per person: canoeing.

\$5.00 per person, tubing from North Entrance-Summer Season (Begins the Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day). Children 5 and under are free.

\$5.00 per person, tubing from South Entrance-Summer Season (Begins the Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day). Children 5 and under are free.

\$5.00 per vehicle, 2-8 people per vehicle, tubing from South Entrance-Off-Season (Begins the Tuesday after Labor Day thru the Friday before Memorial Day).

Ichetucknee Springs State Park

12087 S.W. US Hwy 27 Fort White, Florida 32038 Phone: 386-497-4690 Fax: Contact Park for Number

Citizen Support Organization

Friends of Ichetucknee Springs, Inc. Craig Harper, 196 SW Mission Springs Court Ft. White, FL 32038

LOWE'S TUBELAND Near Ichetucknee Springs Rent Rafts and Tubes For a Day's Float Large or Small Groups Welcome Hwy. 238 • Ft. White, FL 32038

Bill Harper Chet Harper Craig Harper

(386) 497-1115 www.lowestubeland.com

June E Hayes . *Owner*

www.ichetuckneespringscampground.com 386-497-2285

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