



The Capital



Park Avenue

## Visit Tallahassee 'where it all comes together'

Have you seen the price of gas lately? Lots of vacationers have decided to take shorter trips from home. Luckily, we in Florida have an assortment of places to vacation at, and one of the neatest places is our state capital. Located in the Big Bend, Tallahassee is a beautiful community of great museums, fine dining, gracious southern hospitality and spectacular golf. Families can enjoy a lesson in civics while visiting the historical capitol building from period dressed docents. About a block behind the capital complex is The Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science, a Smithsonian affiliate, which is currently showcasing 50 masterpieces of Baroque Painting in Lombardy from the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan, Italy. This is the first time these magnificent paintings have ever been shown in the United States. While downtown, folks can enjoy walking tours with Beth Lacivita, who has an intimate knowledge

of the history of many of the homes, squares and cemeteries. The most fun is her great ghost tours.

Did you know St. Augustine was not the only Mission in Florida? I didn't. Mission San Luis in Tallahassee was home to the friendly Apalachee Indians and the Spanish for nearly half a century and served as the western capital of La Florida. This National Historic Landmark offers a glimpse into the past through living history, interactive exhibits and uniquely recreated structures. If you want a real wild time, you can take the family to the 52 acre Tallahassee Museum located on naturally beautiful Lake Bradford. Here history, nature and wildlife are intertwined to tell an intriguing epitaph about Florida's natural and cultural heritage. With its 1880's farmstead, historical buildings, collection of native wildlife and scenic grounds, this unique Museum provides hands on learning and entertainment for all ages.

Tallahassee has plenty of great places to stay. My suggestion for the frugalistas is the latest entry in the capital hotel scene - Aloft, a Vision of the W Hotels, perfectly situated in the heart of downtown. Aloft is a fresh, fun hotel alternative and the perfect place to work and play. The stylish, loft inspired rooms are an eclectic change to the typical standard room, and the excitement and music of Wxyz lounge in the lobby always fits the mood. Just down the street is the newly renovated boutique Hotel Duval. If you want a peek at the skyline and beauty of the city, visit Level 8, order a cocktail, and

step out on the open air patio and WOW!

Where to dine? Whether you are politician, lobbyist, FAMU or FSU fan, or just visiting, there are eateries to satisfy your taste. My appetite was fulfilled by some delightful local establishments. Chez Pierre is a fine mix of French cuisine and Southern charm with lovely outdoor or inside dining accompanied by live soft music. If you are an Asian Fusion fan or a Sushi specialist, Masa by Lucy Ho, is the 'Best of the Best' and a sure bet for an excellent meal. The place that blew me away was downtown-Avenue Eat & Drink- with their exceptional service, food and wine pairings, plate presentations and most of all simply delectable food. I would drive back to Tallahassee to experience that dinner again. If you are looking for a great lunch in charming surroundings, try Fanny's at the Goodwood Museum and Gardens. I highly recommend the Shrimp & Cheese Grits served with Herb Garlic Sour Cream Biscuits. For a great sandwich or specialty burgers, go to Wells Brothers bar & grill. I challenge you to finish it.

There are a number of wonderful golf courses around the area. The one thing they all have in common is the massive oak trees bordering the fairways and lovely rolling hill terrain. Three I have had the opportunity to play are the Bill Amick designed 27 holes at Killlearn Country Club, the Fred Couples designed and celebrated Southwood Golf Club managed by Billy Casper Golf, and the historical and gorgeous A.W. Tillinghast designed Capital City Country Club. Dale Brown is the Director of Golf at CCCC, and gave me an insight into the past with the original drawings of Tillinghast for the course. If you want to step back in time, make a tee time and enjoy a special round. And if your spouse does not play golf, you can soothe their body and soul at So- Pure Salon & Spa. They will make sure with a one-on-one consultation with Aveda comforting herbal tea, and selecting the right treatment to make the day there so refreshing.

You can go to [www.VisitTallahassee.com](http://www.VisitTallahassee.com) to learn more and make it all come together. Tally Ho! 🍷

