

THE FUN STARTS *here*



TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN THE VILLAGES® & SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Whether you choose to live within The Villages or somewhere nearby, there are so many fun and exciting things to entertain you and your family. Here's just a sampling of the amazing things you can do when you live here in Florida – one of the top vacation destinations in the world.

1. VISIT THE SPRINGS

There are lots of beautiful natural springs nearby – such as Silver Springs, Crystal River, Homosassa and more. Go canoeing, kayaking or paddle-boarding on clear, cool water, or swim with some friendly manatees. Want to experience old school Florida? Head to one of Florida's oldest tourist attractions – the Mermaid Show at Weeki Wachee Springs.



2. HEAD TO THE BEACH

Find out why Florida's beaches have been rated some of the best in the world. If you're looking for a day of sun and sand, you have ample choices. Cocoa Beach is probably the closest, but Ormond, Daytona (known for famously wide beaches you can drive on) and nearby New Smyrna Beach are also good options.

3. ENTERTAIN THE KIDS

Kids of all ages will be thrilled to live near some of the greatest theme parks and attractions in the world. Of course there is Walt Disney World, featuring the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, water parks and much more. But there is also Universal Studios, Sea World, LegoLand, Discovery Cove, Gatorland and in nearby Tampa - Busch Gardens.

4. HIT THE LINKS

If you're a golfer, this is the place to be. Did you know there are over 600 holes of golf available for residents to play in The Villages? The area offers over 30 executive 9-hole courses in addition to several championship courses. There are also plenty of beautiful public golf courses outside of The Villages in every direction – far too many to list here. Start practicing your swing!



5. GO FISH

Florida is a mecca for fishermen – the warm weather provides year-round opportunities to catch a wide variety of fish. If you're into fresh water fishing, there are good fishing spots around The Villages including Lake Mira Mar, Lake Shula Vista and Silver Lake. Seeking something bigger? Crystal River, which is only about an hour away, is known for some of the best Tarpon fishing in the world.



6. ENJOY THE NIGHTLIFE

If you're looking for a night out on the town – restaurants, bars, clubs and live entertainment – nearby Orlando has a ton of exciting options. Wall Street Plaza brings together all of the above in the heart of downtown, while Pointe Orlando is another entertainment all-in-one area off of International Drive. Dance the night away at any of the popular new nightclubs that have sprung up in the lively downtown area around Lake Eola Park.

7. VISIT A WINERY

Did you know, a century before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, wine was being made in Florida? Visit one of the many wineries and vineyards near The Villages and spend the day sipping Sauvignon Blancs or perusing Pinot Noirs. Nearby wineries include The Corkscrew Winery, Backyard Barn Winery & Microbrewery, Whispering Oaks Winery and Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards.

8. TAKE A HIKE

There are great hiking trails within The Villages and also throughout Florida. Explore the scenic trails in Pear Park, the shady Withlacoochee State Trail, the Landbridge Trailhead, the Black Bear Wilderness Area and the Silver Springs Forest Conservation Area. Many of these parks also offer trails for bike riding or horseback riding.

9. EXPLORE A SMALL TOWN

The Villages is just a short drive from a number of quaint, charming and historic small towns – perfect for a day of exploring. Visit DeLand – home of Stetson University, Eustis – a cute little town on Lake Eustis, Lakeland with the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright designed buildings in the world, Mount Dora with its charming New England look, St. Augustine – the oldest city in the US, and Winter Park with its fine shopping and dining.



10. GO SHOPPING

Did someone say “Outlet Mall”? Spend a day in the air conditioning getting amazing deals on all your favorite brands. Go check out Orlando International Premium Outlets, Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets, Orlando Outlet Marketplace (near Universal Studios), Lake Buena Vista Factory Stores, MARNI – Orlando Premium Outlets and more.

Life near The Villages is full of amazing places to visit, and things to see and do. Whether you like relaxing on the beach or tasting wine, or you prefer roller coasters and dancing the night away, we can guarantee that life here will never be boring.