



What's it like to live in Tallahassee, FL?

Florida is known for its sandy beaches and summertime weather, but Tallahassee has a different vibe. Located on the edge of the tree-covered Red Hills region near the border of Georgia, this state capital enjoys four distinct seasons.



Profile written by local expert: [Nancy Moreland](#)

It boasts three institutions of higher learning: Florida State University, Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community College. And the city's Southern heritage influences its architecture, landscape, attitude and pace of life.

As author Gloria Jahoda described Tallahassee in her book "The Other Florida": "There is no other city in Florida, or in the South, quite like it."

Founded in 1824 as a stopover between St. Augustine and Pensacola, Tallahassee remains relatively remote. Still, locals are friendly and inviting, uniting every football season to cheer on their hometown heroes, the FSU Seminoles and FAMU Rattlers.

What's the cost of living in Tallahassee, FL?

Local real estate remains affordable, despite rising property values. In Leon County, where Tallahassee is located, the property tax rate falls near or below the national

average. There is no state income tax and no property tax on vehicles. Business owners and landlords do pay a personal property tax.

What's the weather like in Tallahassee, FL?

In Tallahassee, spring and fall are brief but pleasant. The short winters, though colder than in Florida's coastal regions, seldom see below-freezing temperatures. Summers are long, hot and humid – temperatures frequently reach 90 degrees and above. The capital also receives plenty of precipitation.

What's the best way to get around Tallahassee, FL?

Driving is the most common way to get around in Tallahassee. With an average commute time below the national average and a well-connected road system, the city is easy to travel through.

Interstate 10 facilitates east-west travel. The Capital Circle beltway connects the west, east and south sides of town. Though locally loved, nine designated tree canopy roads experience rush-hour congestion. Downtown, College Town and midtown are the most pedestrian-friendly areas of Tallahassee. Downtown parking is adequate but harder to find during college football season and homecoming weekends.

Tallahassee isn't serviced by Amtrak trains. However, Greyhound buses connect travelers to cities throughout Florida and the United States. A commercial shuttle service also transports passengers to several major Florida cities and airports. Public transit includes bus routes on the StarMetro system and a low-cost shuttle van. Between certain hours, a free trolley transports patrons to dining and entertainment venues.

Tallahassee International Airport, about seven miles from downtown, offers daily flights serviced by three airlines. Despite recent airport expansions, routes from Tallahassee remain limited and costlier than from other Florida metropolitan airports.

Who lives in Tallahassee, FL?

Tallahassee is economically and racially diverse. Nearly half of Tallahassee's residents have a bachelor's degree, and most work white-collar jobs.

Sixty-thousand or so college students aside, the population is relatively stable, with seasonal variations. For 60 days each year, Capitol Hill buzzes with business suits as lawmakers and lobbyists engage in the legislative session. In colorful contrast, an eclectic concentration of visual artists, musicians and writers live here year-round.

In a state popular among retirees, Tallahassee is one of Florida's youngest cities. Gen Z residents gravitate toward dormitories and apartments in College Town and midtown. A mix of professionals, families, retirees, lawmakers and lobbyists reside downtown and in midtown, in condominiums, townhomes and historic single-family homes. Middle-class neighborhoods are prevalent in outlying areas. Affluent gated communities northeast of town attract retirees, professionals and families.

What is there to do in Tallahassee, FL?

With three higher education institutions, locals can take advantage of cultural activities, sporting events and nightlife. The two universities' music schools host student concerts and attract professional performers. Florida State University's art, dance and writing programs also offer events.

Both Florida State and Florida A&M host lectures and public forums. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Florida State attracts the 55+ crowd with classes taught by university professors. The universities' intellectual and creative influence resonates throughout town, as several community arts, theater and music organizations thrive here.

Tallahassee also has several museums, historic sites and parks. One stop on the Mississippi Blues Trail, the iconic Bradfordville Blues Club, is just outside town. Springtime brings the Chain of Parks Art Festival and Word of South, a literary and musical celebration. During the school year, Florida State University holds its Opening Nights performing arts series.

Outdoor enthusiasts appreciate Tallahassee's proximity to forests, lakes, rivers, springs and a 700-mile trail system. St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park are within a 30-minute drive from the state capital. Fishermen and boaters access the Gulf of Mexico about 40 minutes from town; sun worshippers drive another hour to bask on white sand beaches.

What kind of jobs are there in Tallahassee, FL?

As befits a state capital and college town, Tallahassee's major industries are government and education. Health services is another big sector, with local hospitals including Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and Capital Regional Medical Center. Finance, information technology, social services and manufacturing follow just behind.

Research jobs also exist, thanks to the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and research institutes at the universities and at Innovation Park of Tallahassee. As Tallahassee's reputation as an entrepreneurial incubator grows, more graduates choose to stay and start small businesses here.

How good are the schools in Tallahassee, FL?

Tallahassee encompasses 24 public elementary, middle and high schools. Tallahassee also has 35 private schools. Three high schools are recognized on U.S. News & World Report's Best High Schools rankings.

Tallahassee is also home to two colleges and/or universities, one of which earned a place on U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings.

How safe is Tallahassee, FL?

The metropolitan area's violent crime rate is higher than the national rate in 2016. Its rate of property crime is higher than the national rate.

Photos



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A lunchtime dog walker passes the Cascades Park amphitheater. – NANCY MORELAND



Nancy Moreland

Contributor



In more than two decades of freelance writing, Nancy Moreland has covered a variety of topics. Her specialties include travel, health and business. She is a frequent contributor to the Chicago Tribune travel section and a contributing blogger to the University of Miami Health News. Moreland's other publication credits include the Orlando Sentinel, The Week, AAA Southern Traveler and others. When not writing articles, she creates content for tourism, business and nonprofit clients through her company, ConveyMore Communications. She is a member of the Society of American Travel Writers.

A graduate of the University of West Florida, Moreland has lived in various parts of the U.S. and Florida. She now lives and writes in Tallahassee. You can read more of her work at conveymore.com, follow her on Instagram or connect with her on LinkedIn.