

City of **LAKE BUTLER**

Scenery, serenity and YOU!

Official travel guide





HISTORY

Welcome to Lake Butler, Florida

Lake Butler is a tranquil waterfront destination where the beauty of North Florida is on full display.

Named after the American military officer Robert Butler, our town is far removed from the crowded areas around Jacksonville, Gainesville and other densely-populated Florida vacation spots. Here you'll find bountiful wildlife and nature reserves instead, including woodlands, flowing rivers, a beautiful freshwater lake, and our world-famous Palatka trail.

In short, Lake Butler is a perfect, serene place to visit for a taste of southern charm and experience the natural beauty of North Florida.

Our community is pretty special, too. We go above and beyond to accommodate visitors. So why wait? Schedule a trip today to discover the calm Southern charm of one of North Florida's most magical towns.



WEATHER

260 Days of Sunshine

Thanks to North Florida's subtropical climate, any season is a perfect time to visit the "Sunshine State."

Average temperatures in Lake Butler range from a high of 93 degrees in the summer months of July and August to a low of 41 degrees in January.



BEST TIMES TO VISIT

Beat the Crowds Year-round

Lake Butler is an ideal destination for visitors seeking relief from crowded urban environments. In any season, you can hike, bike, and paddle your way through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

While our relatively moderate climate is enjoyable year-round, May through October are the most popular times to visit. We have near-perfect temperatures in Spring and Fall. Even in Summer, it's easy to cool down by visiting Lake Butler Splash Park or dipping into the clear waters of the lake itself.

ACCESSIBILITY

Getting Here

Our central location makes Lake Butler an ideal spot for exploring Union County. Our town is easy to reach from Jacksonville by taking the interstate 10 and state road 121. To get here from Gainesville, just head north up state road 121.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Adventure for Everyone

With its endless hiking and biking opportunities, Lake Butler is the perfect destination for those who love the outdoors. Why not start out by driving through our natural woodlands a wonderful experience, especially for visitors from urban centers. Note that there is no charge for using the lake or accessing our wonderful trails and nature areas. You will need to bring your own equipment, however, since there are no rental facilities in Lake Butler.



Palatka State Trail – Cycling, Hiking, Jogging

One of the best ways to explore the Union County and its breathtaking North Florida wilderness is to walk along Lake Butler’s multi-use trail, which is full of natural fauna and wildlife. Abundant wildlife including white-tailed deer, moccasin snakes, and even alligators can be sighted in the heavily wooded area surrounding the trail.

This route, which runs parallel to the former Norfolk-Southern Railroad, is a part of the Rail to Trails program that connects regions all through our state. It’s perfect for one-day adventures, bike rides and relaxing strolls. Our trail is relatively flat—its elevation change is only about 100 feet which makes it accessible to just about everyone. Benches along the trail make perfect resting spots from which to appreciate the lush surroundings. Learn more about the trail by visiting <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/palatka-lake-butler-state-trail>.

Lake Butler – Fishing, Swimming, and Boating

No trip to Lake Butler is complete without a visit to our beautiful freshwater lake, where the Big Bass Fishing Tournament is held each year. Visitors are welcome to fish year-round in these waters. But be prepared to bring your own equipment. During the hotter summer months, families with children will delight in the Water Splash Park at Lakeside Park.

Hunting

Enthusiasts travel from around the world to experience Union County’s unique wildlife, and can coordinate a trophy hunting experience with local hunting experts. Shadd Farms specializes in growing trophy white-tailed

deer and offer visitors an all-inclusive hunt including lodging, meals, and dressing your trophy. Shadd Farms also has many different exotic species including Black Buck antelope, Axis deer, Eland, Scimitar Oryx, and Osceola turkeys.

Book your reservation today by contacting Shadd Farms!

Email: shadddeerfarms@gmail.com

Phone: 352-258-6510



ATTRACTIONS

Museum and History

Union County Historical Museum

Union County Historical Museum: Lake Butler was chartered 125 years ago. Our Union County Historical museum displays relics and artifacts that capture the city's deep roots in the American south.

The museum's main room contains some unique pieces Lake Butler's history, including military uniforms, vintage medical supplies, and early 19th century agriculture equipment such as plows and devices to grind cane sugar.

Address: 401 W Main St suite c, Lake Butler, FL 32054

Hours: Open Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Email: uchistorical@yahoo.com



Union County Public Library

Make sure to stop by the Union County Public Library to learn more about exciting local news and events. This 9,000 square-foot facility houses 40,000 books and other materials. The library also features 15 public access computers, free WiFi and thousands of e-book titles.

Address: 250 SE 5th Ave, Lake Butler, FL 32054

Hours: Mon: 9AM-6PM

Tues – Fri: 9AM-6PM

Sat: 9AM-3PM

Sun: Closed

Phone: 386-496-3432





RESTAURANTS

A Culinary Adventure Through American Southern Cuisine

Lake Butler features excellent restaurants, offering such options as traditional Southern cooking and Mexican cuisine.

The Willow Café

This fun breakfast spot features homemade dishes prepared with fresh ingredients by a wonderful local chef, Pam Moore. Located just a few blocks from the lake, the Willow is a great place to fuel up before heading to the water.

Address: 850 E Main St
(Inside Lake Butler Hospital)
Lake Butler, FL

Hours: Mon-Fri: 6:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Phone: 386-496-9230

Website: <https://lakebutlerhospital.com/willows-cafe-2/>

Simmer Down

This very child-friendly restaurant offers new American and Southern fare—and even a sport lounge! All meals are freshly prepared. If you stop by on a Thursday night you might even catch some Lake Butler locals singing karaoke. You're welcome to join in!

Address: 315 N Lake Ave
Lake Butler, Florida

Hours: Mon: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
Tues – Wed: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
Thurs – Sat: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
Sun: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Phone: 386-496-0844

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/simmerdownLB/>

Laredo Mexican

One of Lake Butler's newest restaurants, Laredo features delectable South-of-the-Border cuisine, a full bar and very affordable prices.

Address: 225 W Main St
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Hours: Mon - Thurs: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Fri – Sat: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Sun: Closed

Phone: 386-496-8000

Website: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/laredo-mexican-lake-butler>



RETAIL

Shopping

Make sure to take a bit of Lake Butler with you when you leave! Our local retailers offer wonderful local crafts and souvenirs. Check out **Spires Market**, which features a country deli, and the **Hairbiz Styling Salon** (85 SW 2nd Ave), for cosmetics and other beauty supplies. For fresh flowers and more, stop in to **Terry's Florals** (665 E Main Street).

EVENTS

Community Fun

Lake Butler's annual Big Bass Fishing Tournament is our best-known local event. Still, there are plenty of other exciting ones to discover. Check out our [community calendar](#) to learn more.

Big Bass Fishing Tournament

Hosted by the Lake Butler Rotary club, the annual Big Bass Fishing Tournament takes place every July 4th. Some recent competitors have even reeled in five-pounders!

1st Annual Mayor's Art Award

Entries into the first annual Mayor's Art Fair will be displayed at the Lake Shore Park during the July 4th celebration under the Mayor's Tent from 10AM to 2PM.

Movie Night

Do check out our local [calendar listings](#) to see if one of Lake Butler's monthly movie nights is scheduled during your stay. These lively screenings

take place at the Lake Butler Firehouse. They're a great way to experience local hospitality and a night of family-centered fun.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Places to Stay

Visitors to Lake Butler should plan day trips only. There are no accommodations located in the town itself. Lodging can be booked on a limited basis through [AirBnB](#).





Visit us!

For more information,
please contact (386) 496-3401



LAKE BUTLER
FLORIDA



Dale Walker,
City Manager



Sara S. Owen,
Deputy City Manager