

1stFlorida.com

Alachua County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · NORTH FLORIDA & FIRST COAST

The full guide: 1stflorida.com/counties/alachua · 1stFlorida.com is privately owned and is not affiliated with Florida state or county government.

REGION

North Florida & First Coast

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

Gainesville, Alachua, Newberry, High Springs

PRINTED

October 6, 2026

A university and healthcare hub surrounded by springs, trails, established neighborhoods, newer communities and rural land.

Lifestyle: Education · Healthcare · Culture

Alachua County by the numbers

Population **285,492**
Census estimate

Median age **32.3**

Under 18 **17.8%**

Median home value **\$288,800**
what owners estimate

People per household **2.28**

At the last full count **278,468**
2020 Census

Aged 65 and over **15.3%**

Median household income **\$61,949**

Homeownership **54.1%**

Average commute **21.8 minutes**

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, published January 2026, read September 19, 2026. Survey figures are estimates; median home value is what owners estimate their home is worth, not a sale price.

Communities to compare

Gainesville

Start with Gainesville to understand the established center, nearby services and everyday rhythm within Alachua County.

Newberry

Walk or drive through Newberry at different times of day to judge traffic, neighborhood character and access to outdoor space.

Alachua

Use Alachua to compare housing patterns, main-road access and the shopping or medical stops used during a normal week.

High Springs

Compare High Springs with the county's other major places for commute direction, home choices and the pace you want in Alachua County.

Places that reveal the county

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Florida's first state preserve, nearly 23,000 acres of wet prairie south of Gainesville, with wild bison and horses on it.

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Sixty-two acres of planted gardens southwest of Gainesville, run by a botanical society and built around a one-mile paved loop.

Harn Museum of Art

The University of Florida's art museum, holding more than 11,300 objects across African, Asian, modern, contemporary and photographic collections.

Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo

A ten-acre zoo on Santa Fe College's Gainesville campus, holding over 200 animals and training the people who will look after them.

Morningside Nature Center

A 416-acre city preserve in east Gainesville with seven miles of trails and a working farm dressed as an 1800s homestead.

San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park

A mature hardwood hammock holding eighteen natural communities, with separate trailheads for walkers and for riders.

Ben Hill Griffin Stadium

The largest stadium in Florida, seating 88,548, and the place Gatorade was invented.

Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park

A limestone sinkhole 120 feet deep and 500 feet across on the north side of Gainesville, with a boardwalk down into it.

Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention

A hands-on invention museum in Gainesville's Depot Park, named for the University of Florida physician who led the team that made Gatorade.

Matheson History Museum

A free local history museum on University Avenue, with an archive of more than 20,000 Florida postcards and a barn of a thousand old tools.

Sweetwater Wetlands Park

More than 125 acres of built wetland that cleans water on its way to Paynes Prairie, with 3.5 miles of trail through it.

University of Florida Bat Houses

Three buildings holding an estimated 450,000 to 500,000 bats, which pour out together at dusk.

Where to check

Florida disaster preparedness maps · Official evacuation-zone, route and storm-surge planning maps.

floridadisaster.org

Florida school accountability reports · Current state school and district accountability information.

fldoe.org

Florida community health data · County-level public health indicators and community reports.

flhealthcharts.gov

Florida housing resources · State resources for homebuyers, renters and local assistance programs.

floridahousing.org