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Lake County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · CENTRAL FLORIDA

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REGION

Central Florida

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

**Clermont, Mount
Dora, Leesburg,
Tavares**

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Rolling terrain, large lakes, historic downtowns and expanding communities connect old Florida character with the western Orlando growth corridor.

Lake County combines Clermont's western Orlando growth corridor, Mount Dora's historic downtown, the government and lakefront centers of Tavares and Leesburg, and large rural and conservation areas. Rolling terrain and hundreds of lakes give the county a different physical character from much of Central Florida.

Healthcare, education, government, construction, logistics, tourism and small business support the local economy, while many households connect to Orange or Sumter County. Florida's Turnpike, U.S. 27, U.S. 441 and SR 429 are essential, but the surface-road trip to an interchange often determines whether a commute works.

Compare a south or east Lake option with a central or north Lake option. Drive the full route toward Orlando or The Villages, verify hospital and school access, and check drainage, floodplain, sinkhole history, well or septic service and future development for the exact property.

Lifestyle: Lake life · Small cities · Orlando access

Lake County by the numbers

Population Census estimate	412,924	At the last full count 2020 Census	383,956
Median age	46.5	Aged 65 and over	26.6%
Under 18	19.0%	Median household income	\$73,161
Median home value what owners estimate	\$318,400	Homeownership	77.6%
People per household	2.48	Average commute	30.2 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

Clermont

Clermont is a fast-growing south Lake city with hills, lakes, newer communities and strong access toward Orlando through U.S. 27, SR 429 and the Turnpike. Test peak travel to the actual job center and include association, district and construction conditions in newer areas.

Leesburg

Leesburg is an established regional service and healthcare center near the Harris Chain of Lakes and The Villages. Distinguish city, retirement-community and rural options, and verify the route to the chosen medical network and employment corridor.

Mount Dora

Mount Dora offers a compact historic downtown, arts and lakefront character near eastern Lake County. Compare walkable in-town neighborhoods with outlying addresses, then test routes toward Orlando, Sanford or local healthcare.

Tavares

Tavares is the county seat and a lakefront government center between Mount Dora and Leesburg. Review city services, shoreline or flood conditions and U.S. 441 travel while comparing older neighborhoods with nearby growth.

Checks before Lake County becomes the answer

- ☐ **Choose the travel direction first.** Identify whether work and family ties point toward Orlando, Sanford, The Villages or local Lake County centers before comparing distant communities.
- ☐ **Drive past the interchange.** Test U.S. 27, U.S. 441, SR 429 or the Turnpike plus the complete surface-road segment at the hours the household would use it.
- ☐ **Check lake, drainage and flood conditions.** Review the county floodplain map, lot drainage, road access, shoreline responsibility and recent high-water conditions for the address.
- ☐ **Verify well, septic and utilities.** For rural or fringe properties, confirm potable water, septic condition, internet, road maintenance and future utility plans before comparing price.
- ☐ **Map hospitals and specialists.** Leesburg, Clermont and nearby regional systems offer different provider networks; confirm ordinary and specialty routes from the neighborhood.
- ☐ **Review growth around the property.** Check planned roads, subdivisions and land use near fast-growing south and east Lake communities, not only today's view and traffic.

Questions to answer for Lake County

Lake County has several small-city centers

Clermont, Mount Dora, Leesburg and Tavares offer different combinations of growth, history, healthcare and regional access. The right center depends on the weekly routine.

Local work and regional commuting overlap

Healthcare, government, education, construction and services create local jobs, while the Orlando and Villages corridors expand the employment map for some households.

Healthcare is distributed

Clermont and Leesburg anchor major care areas, but provider networks and specialty access vary. Confirm the actual hospital and doctor route before choosing a side of the county.

Highway access is not uniform

The Turnpike, U.S. 27, U.S. 441 and SR 429 help regional movement, yet local two-lane and suburban roads can add substantial time. Drive the whole trip.

Lakes bring beauty and due diligence

Floodplain, drainage, shoreline, sinkhole, well and septic questions vary by parcel. Use county maps and qualified inspections for the property.

Places that reveal the county

Historic Downtown Mount Dora

A hill town of about sixteen thousand people, 184 feet above sea level on the shore of Lake Dora.

Venetian Gardens

A chain of landscaped islands on Lake Harris at 201 East Dixie Avenue, Leesburg.

Presidents Hall of Fame

A roadside museum of the American presidency in Clermont, beside the Citrus Tower.

Trout Lake Nature Center

230 forested acres on the north shore of Trout Lake at 520 East County Road 44, Eustis.

Ferndale Preserve

A Lake County preserve at 19220 County Road 455, on the western shore of Lake Apopka.

Florida Citrus Tower

A 226-foot observation tower on US 27 at Clermont, opened on July 14, 1956.

Dora Canal

A little over a mile of cypress-lined water joining Lake Dora to Lake Eustis, reached only by boat.

Lake Louisa State Park

4,372 acres in the northeast corner of the Green Swamp, about seven miles south of State Road 50 near Clermont.

Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards

A 127-acre estate on US Highway 27 north of Clermont, with more than eighty acres under vine.

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

An eleven-mile one-way drive across the restored north shore of Lake Apopka, free to use.

Alexander Springs Recreation Area

A first-magnitude spring in the Ocala National Forest, and the only place in that forest where scuba diving is allowed.

Modernism Museum Mount Dora

A museum of American studio craft and art furniture at 145 East 4th Avenue, opened on October 6, 2013.

Renninger's Antique Center

117 acres of oak-shaded ground on US Highway 441 at Mount Dora, holding two separate markets.

Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead

An observation tower 132 feet above sea level at 20700 County Road 455, Montverde.

Where to check

Lake County Government · Official county services, departments, projects and resident information.

lakecountyfl.gov

Lake County Public Works · County roads, engineering, projects, stormwater and infrastructure resources.

lakecountyfl.gov

Lake County Floodplain Management · Official flood-map assistance and county floodplain information.

lakecountyfl.gov

Lake County Emergency Management · Current alerts, plans, evacuation, shelter and preparedness guidance.

lakecountyfl.gov