



An interpreter portrays a Spanish friar at Mission San Luis in Tallahassee, Florida.

Courtesy Mission San Luis

can also tour the living-history village, where characters represent native and European residents of the town.

"We mix third-person with first-person, and build characters for our people out there," Stanford said. "They have biographies, like Señora Julieta, who was the governor's wife."

The living-history area includes a priest's house, a blacksmith shop, a kitchen and a church.

www.missionsanluis.org

Billie Swamp Safari Hollywood, Florida

At the other end of the state, near Florida's Everglades, a large Seminole reservation offers visitors a variety of ways to learn about native culture in the area. The Billie Swamp Safari is one of the most popular activities for those looking to discover the cultural and natural aspects of the Seminole land.

"The Billie Swamp Safari is an eco-heritage park that the Seminole tribe of Florida started about 14 years ago," said Ed Woods, the safari's director. "A lot of people came into Seminole country wanting to check out the land and explore."

Groups tour the area in specially created swamp buggies that seat up to 32. Along the way, guides point out animals that still inhabit the land, such as

bison and native white tail deer.

Besides the boat ride, several programs and demonstrations at Billie Swamp offer insight into Seminole customs. Visitors can see demonstrations of aboriginal tools, attend storytelling sessions and go on nighttime swamp tours.

Alligator-wresting demonstrations may be the most entertaining programs.

"The Seminoles would catch alligators," Woods said. "But if you're two days from camp, you don't want to kill an alligator, because the meat would spoil on you. So wrestling was a technique for keeping the alligator alive before you take him back and eat him."

www.seminoletribe.com

Cherokee, North Carolina

At the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, the town of Cherokee is the headquarters of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. A number of attractions in town give visitors a look at the past and present of these native people.

Oconaluftee Indian Village is a living-history site that represents the year 1750 in the Cherokee nation. At the site, groups can see re-created Cherokee dwellings, as well as numerous other buildings and workshops where tradespeople demonstrate beadwork, pottery,

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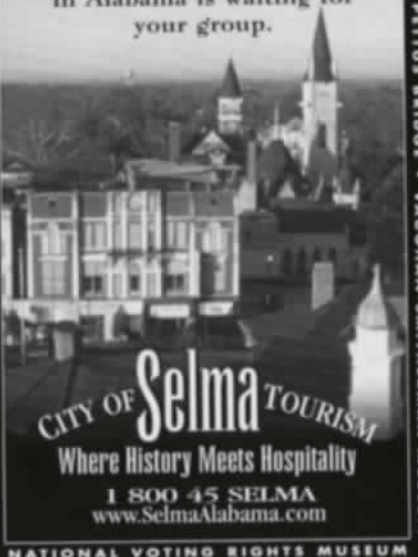


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