



DAY TRIP TO ELLAVILLE

From Live Oak · Madison County, Florida



MILL, LUMBER
AND COMPANY



Photo: Ebyabe, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

RUINS ON PUBLIC LAND

Woods, a picnic area and a state marker on the west bank of the Suwannee at US 90. Little of the town stands: mansion foundations and the bypassed Hillman Bridge.

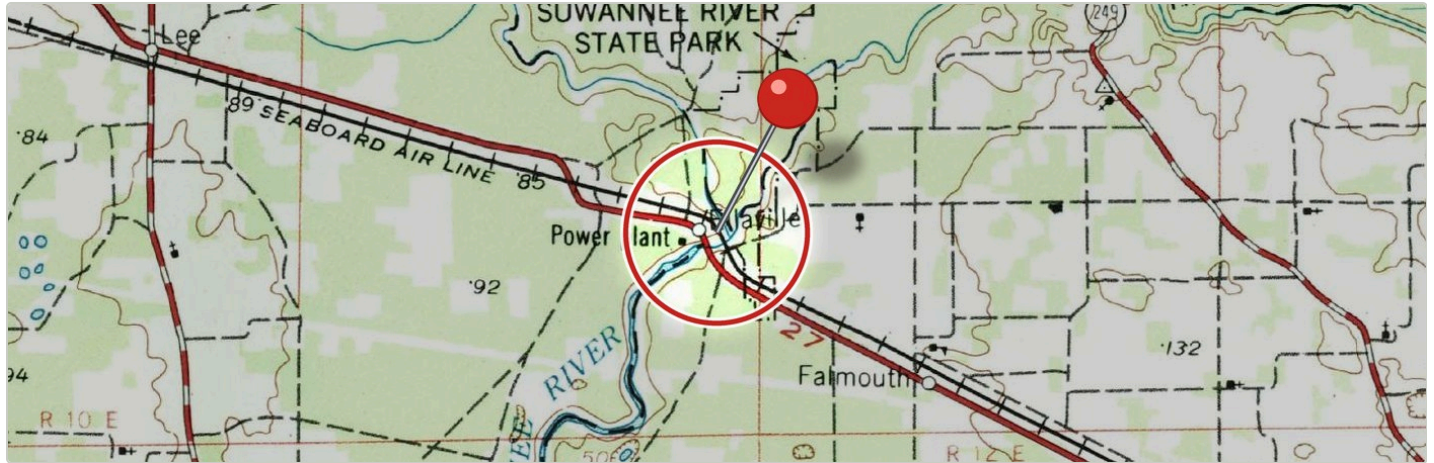
Ellaville is a short stop off US 90, best paired with a walk. Park at the picnic area on Drew Way, read both sides of the marker, then walk to the old Hillman Bridge. The Ellaville Tract of Twin Rivers State Forest has a hiking loop and a stretch of the Florida National Scenic Trail if you want more. There are no services at the site, so bring water from Live Oak.

A SAMPLE DAY

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|--------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 9:00 | Leave Live Oak on US 90 west. Turn onto Drew Way past the river. |
| ☐ 9:30 | Read both sides of the 1972 marker at the picnic area. |
| ☐ 10:00 | Walk down to the old Hillman Bridge by the river. |
| ☐ 11:00 | Walk part of the forest loop. The Drew Mansion site, where WWALS planned a hike for February 2026, is half a mile northwest of the marker. |
| ☐ 12:30 | Back to Live Oak for lunch. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Hillman Bridge.** On a still day the rusted truss and its piers reflect in the dark river.
- **The two sides of the marker.** Photograph both: one tells of the mansion, the other of the town.



USGS topographic map, 1954 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	13 mi, about 19 min each way from downtown Live Oak. From Tallahassee: 72 mi, about 1 h 30 min.
HOURS	Day use from sunrise to sunset, per the Florida Forest Service.
FEES	The forest's page lists a \$2 day pass for Florida state forests, sold through ReserveAmerica (1-877-879-3859). It does not say how it applies at Ellaville.
TRAILS	The Ellaville Tract has a hiking loop of 5 miles, or 3 miles by the Trailwalker shortcut, and a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail.
RESTROOMS	None listed by the Florida Forest Service. Plan on Live Oak.
FOOD AND WATER	None at the site.
WATCH FOR	Deadfall and graffiti on the old bridge, reported by WWALS in April 2025. The bridge has been closed to traffic since 1986.
CONTACT	Twin Rivers State Forest office, (386) 339-6472.
WEBSITE	fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Twin-Rivers-State-Forest

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 30.38670, -83.17520 • 30°23'12"N
83°10'31"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/florida/ellaville/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.