



Ocala Unboxed – Your Moving & Setup Companion The Ultimate Relocation & Moving Directory



Your Guide to Settling Near Aurora St. Leon Apartments





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Section 1: Planning Your Move

1. MOVING PREPARATION

Moving to a new home involves significant preparation. The following sections will help you plan and execute your move efficiently.

Transferring Utilities and Other Services

Before you move, be certain you know all the utilities you are responsible for and make the transfers. The further in advance you can make the call the better, as sometimes certain utility companies will not be able to come out the next day to make the switch.

Change of Address

- USPS Change of Address Form: www.MyAddressChanger.com
- File early to receive retailer coupons from Lowes and Best Buy
- Requires credit card with current billing address for online verification
- Can be completed in person at any post office

Utility Services for Aurora St. Leon Apartments

Electric:

- Provider: City Of Ocala Electric Utilites
- Website: www.ocalafl.gov

Water:

- Individual Meter billed to your resident account monthly
- Payable to Aurora St. Leon Apartments

Cable/Internet Options:

- Mereo Networks – each home is equipped, and Aurora will provide you with a password at move in.

Finding Affordable Packing Supplies

Free Box Sources:

1. Craigslist Free Section
2. Liquor stores (boxes with lids)
3. Bookstores
4. Grocery stores (apple boxes)
5. Starbucks
6. U-Haul Box Exchange
7. Freecycle (www.freecycle.org)



8. Free Cardboard Boxes site (www.freecardboardboxes.com)
9. Military/Veterans program (email customerservice@cheapmovingboxes.com)

Tips for Box Collection:

- Contact furniture stores for many sizes
- Call ahead at least a week before packing
- Check with friends who recently moved
- Look for boxes at your workplace

U-Haul Box Exchange Program:

- Post leftover boxes
- Find available boxes
- Use "Take a Box, Leave a Box" bins
- Trade with other movers

Packing Supplies Tips:

- Invest in heavy-duty packing tape
- Consider Uline for new boxes
- Rent hand trucks and furniture dollies
- Get a quality box cutter

Taking Measurements

Use Autodesk Home Styler (free web app) for:

- Room layout planning
- Furniture placement
- Move-in day organization
- Complete apartment planning

Renting a Truck

Considerations for Truck Rental:

- Calculate mileage needs and costs
- Check insurance coverage options
- Look for online specials
- Ask about student discounts
- Book early, especially for weekend moves

Money-Saving Tips:

- Compare included mileage offers
- Check retailmenot.com and Coupons.com
- Consider one-way rentals for long distances
- Book online for better rates



Getting Help

Organizing Moving Help:

- Schedule friends in shifts
- Limit to 4-5 helpers at once
- Offer food and future help
- Split between morning and afternoon crews

2. PACKING STRATEGIES

Pack Like You're Going on Vacation

- Set aside essentials in a carry-on suitcase
- Include clothing and toiletries
- Live out of suitcase during final week
- Keep necessities easily accessible

Sort First

- Consider mixing rooms for efficiency
- Use soft items as padding
- Create a dedicated miscellaneous category
- Label clearly for unpacking

Our Favorite Packing Hacks

- Use trash bags for closet items
- Wrap spillables with plastic wrap
- Use Press'n Seal for drawers
- Photograph electronics connections

Labeling and Managing Your Inventory

- Use mobile inventory apps
- Consider QR code labeling
- Mark boxes by weight
- Include orientation instructions

3. MOVING WITH PETS

Plan Your Pet's Move

Moving can be just as stressful for pets as it is for humans. Planning ahead ensures their comfort and safety.



Arrange to Board Your Pet

- Schedule boarding 2 days before moving
- Book early for weekend moves
- Pick up after truck is loaded
- Consider a quiet room if not boarding

Local Pet Services Near Aurora St. Leon:

Pet Supply Stores:

- PetSmart 2800 SW 35th St, Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 840-1414
- Petco 3051 SW 34th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474
(352) 547-2471

Veterinary Offices:

- Caring Hands Animal Hospital 2652 SW 32nd Pl, Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 861-8600
- Paddle Paws Veterinary Hospital 1520 NW 10th St, Ocala, FL 34475
(352) 622-4640

Groomers:

- Pawsitively Posh Pooch 612 SE 24th Ave, Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 304-5980
- Bubbles and Bows Pet Grooming 1804 NE 10th St, Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 624-1112



Section 2: Getting To Know Ocala

1. TRANSPORTATION HUB

Personal Vehicle Information

- Gas prices below national average
- Ample parking throughout city
- Easy access to I-75 and highways

Public Transportation

- Sun Tran Bus Service available
- Affordable monthly passes
- ADA-accessible vehicles

Airport Access

- Orlando International Airport (90 minutes)
- Gainesville Regional Airport (45 minutes)





2. HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Hospitals

- Advent Health Ocala 1500 SW 1st Ave
(352) 351-7200
24/7 Emergency Care
- HCA Florida Ocala Hospital 1431 SW 1st Ave
(352) 401-1000
Level II Trauma Center

Urgent Care Centers

- Care Spot Urgent Care 2415 SW College Rd
(352) 237-3741
Open 8am-8pm daily
- MedExpress Urgent Care 1714 SW 17th St
(352) 620-2331
Walk-ins welcome





3. EDUCATION

Public Schools

Elementary:

- Dr. N.H. Jones Elementary (A-rated)
- Madison Street Elementary

Middle:

- Howard Middle School
- Osceola Middle School

High:

- Forest High School
- Vanguard High School

Private Schools

- Ocala Christian Academy K-12, Religious
(352) 351-1913
- The Cornerstone School PreK-8
(352) 351-8840

Higher Education

- College of Central Florida 3001 SW College Rd
(352) 873-5800
- Rasmussen University 4755 SW 46th Ct
(352) 629-1941

4. SHOPPING & SERVICES

Grocery Stores

- Publix Super Market 2765 NW 49th Ave, Ste 301 (2.4 miles)
(352) 622-1318
- Walmart Supercenter 2600 SW 19th Ave Rd (2.1 miles)
- Aldi 2450 SW 19th Ave Rd (2.5 miles)
Budget-friendly options



Dry Cleaners

- Ocala Dry Cleaners 2135 NW 10th St (0.8 miles)
 (352) 629-4994
 Same-day service available
- Premier Dry Cleaners 2701 SW College Rd (1.5 miles)
 (352) 237-5478
 Expert alterations





Section 3: Setting Up Your New Home

1. ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Moving Companies

- Two Men and a Truck Ocala (352) 369-6683
Local & long-distance moves
Packing services available
- Ocala Moving & Storage (352) 622-6688
Climate-controlled storage
Full-service packing
- All My Sons Moving & Storage (352) 321-0964
Residential & commercial moves
Free furniture padding

Utility Services

- Electric: City Of Ocala Utilities (352) 629-2489
www.ocalafl.org/utilities
Online account setup available or visit in office
- Water/Sewer: City of Ocala Utilities (352) 629-2489
Aurora sets up an account for you, first billing you 30-45 days (about 1 and a half months) after the lease begins date.

Waste Management

- City of Ocala – Compactor on site (352) 351-6697
Pickup schedule: Monday - Saturday
Recycling: Waste Pro Recycling
3621 NW 10th St, Ocala FL 34475
(352)624-3100

2. ON MOVING DAY

Assembling Furniture

- Keep all hardware in labeled Ziploc bags
- Contact manufacturer for missing instructions
- Assemble items in their final location



Clean and Dust as You Go

- Wipe furniture before bringing inside
- Clean rooms before placing furniture
- Dust thoroughly after placement
- Plan for rain, have a mat at entrance door to dry feet

Planning for Lunch and Dinner

Popular Delivery Options:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ La Cuisine French Restaurant | Authentic French dishes and pastries |
| ▪ Cuban Café | Traditional Cuban sandwiches |
| ▪ The Braised Onion | American fare and comfort food |
| ▪ Mark's Prime Steakhouse & Seafood | Quality steak and seafood |
| ▪ Mamma Mia Italian Restaurant | Classic Italian dishes and pizzas |
| ▪ The Hummus House | Mediterranean dishes and salads |
| ▪ Blue Highway Pizzeria | Gourmet pizzas |
| ▪ El Toreador | Traditional Mexican dishes |

3. ENJOYING YOUR NEW APARTMENT

Unpack Your Stuff

- Start with essentials
- Set up kitchen early
- Take breaks as needed
- Organize room by room

Get To Know Your Neighborhood

- Take walks to explore
- Meet your neighbors
- Find local amenities
- Join community events



Section 4: Community Resources

1. RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Outdoor Activities

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Silver Springs State Park | <p>Glass bottom boat tours
Kayaking and canoeing
Hiking trails</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sholom Park | <p>Peaceful gardens
Walking paths
Free admission</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ocala Wetland Recharge Park | <p>2 ½ paved walking trail
60 Acre engineered wetland
Endless photo ops of bright flowers and wildlife.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Equestrian Center | <p>Year-round events - from high-level horse shows to family-friendly festivals, all year long.
World-class competitions, events, and training - top destination for equestrian enthusiasts
State of the art facilities - expansive arenas, luxury accommodations, and top-tier amenities.</p> |

Cultural Attractions

- Appleton Museum of Art
- Reilly Arts Center
- Ocala Civic Theatre

Shopping Destinations

- Paddock Mall
- Downtown Square
- Ocala Downtown Market

2. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Police (non-emergency): (352) 369-7000
- Fire Department: (352) 629-8306
- Animal Control: (352) 671-8727
- Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222



3. GETTING SETTLED CHECKLIST

- Update driver's license (within 30 days)
- Register to vote
- Register your vehicle
- Set up electric utilities
- Update your address
- Find local healthcare providers
- Explore neighborhood amenities
- Sign up for local community events
- Join neighborhood social media groups
- Discover local parks and recreation areas
- Locate preferred grocery stores and shops
- Identify emergency services locations

Important Phone Numbers

- Aurora St. Leon Office: (352) 233-4133
- Ocala Utilities: (352) 629-2489
- City of Ocala After Hours: (352) 351-6666
- Cable/Internet Support:
 - Mereo Networks: Support@mereonetworks.com or 844-44-MEREO





Appendix A: Detailed Packing Resources

BOX COLLECTION LOCATIONS IN OCALA

- Local furniture stores
- Liquor stores
- Bookstores
- Grocery stores
- Retail stores
- Office buildings

FREE MOVING RESOURCES

- U-Haul Box Exchange program details
- Local Facebook Marketplace listings
- Next-door app community shares
- Military/veteran discounts
- Student moving specials

PACKING TIPS BY ROOM

Kitchen:

- Pack dishes vertically
- Use towels as padding
- Label boxes "FRAGILE"
- Keep essential dishes separate

Bedroom:

- Use wardrobe boxes for hanging clothes
- Keep bedding accessible
- Pack jewelry separately
- Label seasonal items

Living Room:

- Photograph electronics setup
- Use original boxes when possible
- Protect artwork and mirrors
- Label cords and cables

Bathroom:

- Pack toiletries separately
- Keep medications accessible
- Use plastic bins for liquids
- Pack shower curtain separately



Appendix B: Local Resources Directory

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Major banks in area
- ATM locations
- Notary services
- Check cashing services

HEALTH & FITNESS

- Gyms and fitness centers – on site
- Walking trails
- Parks and recreation areas
- Yoga studios – on site

ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

- Movie theaters
- Live music venues
- Community centers
- Sports facilities

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

- Churches
- Synagogues
- Mosques
- Religious centers

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Tax preparation
- Legal services
- Insurance agents
- Financial advisors



Appendix C: Seasonal Information

WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Average temperatures by season
- Rainfall patterns
- Hurricane preparation
- Severe weather protocols

SEASONAL EVENTS

- Spring festivals
- Summer activities
- Fall celebrations
- Winter holidays

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Best times for activities
- Seasonal Park hours
- Swimming seasons
- Hiking conditions



Final Notes

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- City of Ocala: www.ocalafl.org
- Chamber of Commerce: www.ocalachamber.com
- Visitor Information: www.ocalamarion.com
- Local News: www.ocala.com

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

- Facebook community groups
- Local Instagram accounts to follow
- Twitter feeds for news and updates
- Next-door neighborhood groups

ADDITIONAL MOVING TIPS

- Start packing early
- Label boxes clearly
- Keep important documents accessible
- Take photos of valuable items
- Make copies of keys
- Update insurance policies
- Schedule utility installations
- Plan for pet care
- Prepare an essentials box
- Create a moving day timeline

Remember, the Aurora St. Leon leasing team is here to help make your move as smooth as possible. Do not hesitate to ask any questions or concerns.

Welcome to your new home in Ocala!

For emergency maintenance requests after hours, please call: (352) 233-4133