

CAPTURE FLORIDA

Drive A Scenic Highway!





Introduction

Florida! The land of sea and sun – and Scenic Highways! Whether you travel by foot, bicycle, or automobile, a trip along one of Florida’s Scenic Highways will be a journey to remember for a lifetime. History awaits you around every turn and recreational opportunities abound, enough to wear out even the most active traveler. Scattered along many of the State’s Scenic Highways are historic old Florida communities alive with history and culture. If a nice relaxing journey is more your style, then get out your sunglasses and your beach chair and get ready to relax. White sandy beaches and warm salty breezes grace many of the State’s Scenic Highways. If sightseeing or wildlife viewing is what you are after, then get ready for some of the best. There are hundreds of locations that offer some of the best sightseeing and wildlife viewing in the country. Every corner of Florida will amaze you, entertain you, relax you, and will create everlasting memories. With so much to do and so much to see it is no wonder that Florida’s Scenic Highways are growing in popularity as a travel destination. Come and see what they have to offer.

Capture Florida – Drive a Scenic Highway!



Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway

The Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway is a unique driving experience. It offers a diverse landscape of bayous, tidal marshes, wooded uplands and a shopping and dining district. The tall clay bluffs, the highest elevation along Florida's coastline, offer majestic panoramic views of Escambia Bay.

The corridor possesses a rich history as well as unique natural resources. Spanish ships sailed into Escambia Bay in 1559 and clay from the bluffs was used in the production of bricks in the late 1700's, most notably in forts along the Atlantic coast. Lumber mills were abundant within the corridor during the timber era in the 1800's. American delegates from Pensacola and St. Augustine met at Gull Point in 1822 as the first Florida Legislative council.

Length: 11 Miles

Attractions:

Bayou Texar Boat Launch, Park ~ A beautiful area to launch a boat, sit under large Spanish moss draped oaks or just watch pelicans and seagulls fish in the water. Located on the east side of Bayou Texar Bridge at the intersection of US 90 (Cervantes St.) and Stanley Avenue. (850) 436-5511

www.ci.pensacola.fl.us

Bay Bluffs Park ~ This beautiful 32 acre city owned park preserves the Magnolia Bluffs area of the corridor. Take a walk down the boardwalk network to the base of the giant cliffs for a totally different view of the bay or walk the nature trail for a close up view of the bluffs. The park is located on the Bay side at the intersection of Summit Boulevard. (850) 436-5511

www.ci.pensacola.fl.us

Chimney Park ~ Across from Langley Avenue, take a look back in time at the 30 ft. chimney which stands as a monument to the timber era. It is the only remains of the 1854 steam-powered Hyer-Knowles Sawmill. (850) 436-5511 • www.ci.pensacola.fl.us



Directions:

I-10 to I-110, exit 12. Travel south to US 90/98 (Cervantes St.). Travel on US 90 east. The corridor begins at the Bayou Texar bridge and terminates at the US 90 bridge over the Escambia River.

Travel Time: 20 min.



A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

www.scenicfla.org

A trip along the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway in northeast Florida is one of the most beautiful and relaxing drives in the Sunshine State. Along the northern portion of this scenic highway is the community of Ponte Vedra Beach, known for its wonderful beaches and world-class tennis and golf where the stresses of everyday life are left behind.

The City of St. Augustine, the nation's oldest continuously occupied city, can be found 30 miles south of Ponte Vedra Beach. Founded in 1565, St. Augustine is more than a quaint, historic, family-friendly, coastal town – it is a postcard coming to life. The streets are lined with cafés, stores, museums, art galleries, and parks.

Further south, the Coastal Byway offers unobstructed panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean, as well as numerous parks within the city limits of Flagler Beach and surrounding areas. Flagler Beach offers fishing off the famous Flagler Pier, shopping, the Historical Museum, excellent restaurants, a Farmers Market and live entertainment on First Fridays.

Attractions:

Castillo de San Marcos – A monument not only of stone and mortar but of human determination and endurance, the Castillo de San Marcos symbolizes

Length: 72 Miles

the clash between cultures which ultimately resulted in our uniquely unified nation. Still resonant with the struggles of an earlier time, these original walls provide tangible evidence of America's grim but remarkable history. (904) 829-6506 x 227

www.nps.gov/casa/

Marineland - Marineland is an ocean-oriented park/aquarium containing the world's first oceanarium. At Marineland visitors can swim with the dolphins and enjoy flamingos, dolphins, sharks, sea turtles, stingrays, and a wide variety of ocean life. (904) 460-1275 or (888) 279-9194

www.marineland.net/

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park - The park offers picnicking, fishing, nature trails and an interpretive center. (386) 446-6780

www.floridastateparks.org/washingtonoaks/

Directions:

From the North: I-95 South to exit 344 (SR 202/J. Turner Butler Boulevard). Travel east approximately 13 miles on SR 202 to SR A1A. Travel south on A1A for the A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway.



From the South: I-95 North to exit 284 (Moody Blvd./SR 100). Travel east approximately 3.5 miles to SR A1A. Travel north or south on A1A for the A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway.

Travel Time: 2 hrs.



Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway

www.mrcirl.org/scenichighway/index.html

From early Spanish explorers to explorers of Space, the Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway is full of great historical, natural and recreational destinations for explorers of all ages. Surfing, beaches, birding, hiking, biking, fishing, history, great food and cultural events all await you.

Attractions:

Canaveral National Seashore – A recreational paradise of open lagoon, coastal hammock, pine flatwoods and offshore waters. It is ideal for camping, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, fishing, surfing, swimming, boating and birdwatching.

(321) 267-1110

212 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, Florida

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex – Visit where history is made and get a first hand experience of what space travel is like. Time your visit right and witness a rocket or shuttle rock the ground under your feet on its way into Space. The Visitor Complex is closed on Christmas Day and certain launch days.

(321) 449-4444

www.kennedyspacecenter.com

Length: 166 Miles

Lagoon House Welcome Center ~ The Lagoon House serves as the gateway to the Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway. Natural and historical exhibits at the Lagoon House tell the corridor's story through photographs, artifacts and interactive displays. Visitors will be oriented to stops along the corridor that suit their interest. (321) 725-7775

3275 Dixie Highway, Palm Bay, Florida

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge ~ The refuge contains 140,000 acres of coastal ecosystems, hundreds of species of wildlife, and is the crown jewel of the Great Florida Birding Trail. (321) 861-0667
<http://merrittisland.fws.gov>

Sebastian Inlet State Park ~ The most visited state park in Florida is also the premier fishing spot on Florida's east coast and the site of several major surfing competitions. It is excellent for boating, fishing, swimming, surfing, hiking and wildlife viewing. (321) 984-4852

9700 South A1A, Melbourne Beach, Florida

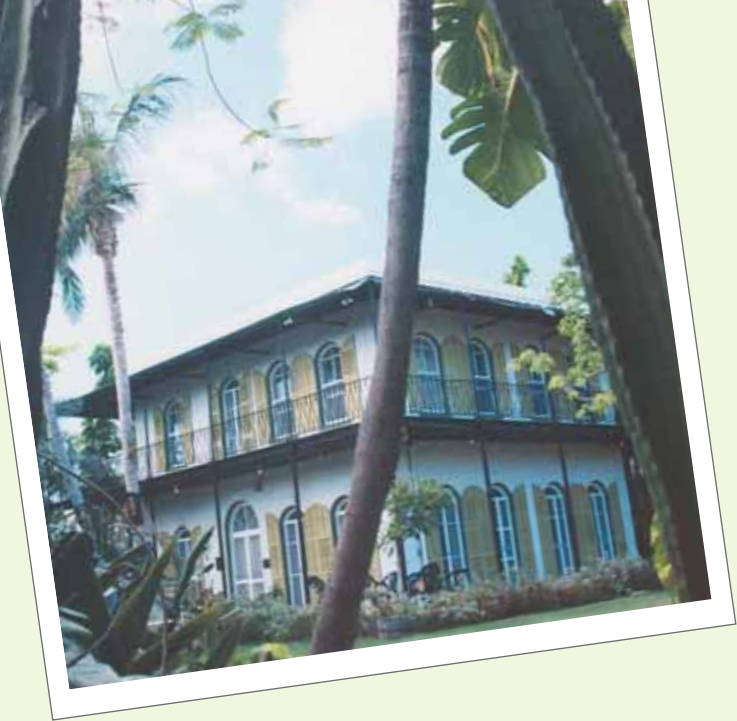
Directions:

From the North: I-95 South to exit #215 (State Road 50/County Road 405). Travel on CR 405 East to US 1 South.



From the South: I-95 North to exit #156 (County Road 512) in Fellsmere. Travel on CR 512 East to US 1 South. Take US 1 South to CR 510 East (Wabasso Causeway) to A1A North.

Travel Time: 4 hrs.



Florida Keys Scenic Highway

The Florida Keys Scenic Highway carries the traveler through the world famous Florida Keys along U.S. 1 to Mile Marker 0 - the southernmost point in the continental United States. With the gentle turquoise waters of the Gulf of Mexico on one side and the majestic Atlantic Ocean on the other, you will travel over forty-three bridges from Key Largo to Key West. With more than 800 Keys, most of them uninhabited, this drive offers breathtaking sights - so have your camera ready!

The terminus of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway is in famous Key West. If you like shopping, eating, sight-seeing or enjoying the nightlife, then the Florida Keys is the place to be any time of the year. With tropical temperatures all year and crystal clear water surrounding the islands, the Florida Keys is a vacation paradise and destination for the entire family.

Length: 106 Miles

Attractions:

Crane Point Museum, Nature Center, and Historic Site ~ Home to the historic Adderly House, constructed by a Bahamian immigrant and one of the first settlers in the area. It has over 60 acres of beautifully preserved hammock trails, excellent for bird watching or nature study. (305)743-9100
www.cranepoint.net/

Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum ~ Visit the home of Ernest Hemingway, who penned For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms and To Have and Have Not during his 10 years living in Key West. The Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum is a National Historic Landmark museum. (305) 294-1136
www.hemingwayhome.com/

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park ~ Established in 1963, this state park was the first undersea park created in the United States. It encompasses 70 nautical sq. miles of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove swamps. Enjoy view from a glass bottom boat tour or get a closer look by scuba diving or snorkeling through the reefs. (305) 451-1202
www.floridastateparks.org/pennekamp/

Directions:

Take the Florida Turnpike south toward Key West. The Turnpike ends at U.S. 1 in Florida City. Follow U.S. 1 south about 22 miles to Key Largo – the start of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway.



Travel Time: 3 1/2 hrs.



Tamiami Trail Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters Scenic Highway

The Tamiami Trail Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters Scenic Highway provides both rural openness and urban excitement, commercial convenience and water vistas. Located in an area known as the Cultural Coast, the Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway invites residents and guests to experience a wide array of cultural experiences, from the renowned John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and the Florida West Coast Symphony to local venues such as the Manatee Players Theater. The cities and counties located along the Tamiami Trail are rich in history and show the true essence of Florida's past such as: the Venezia Park Historic District, Historic Spanish Point, and Palmetto Historical Park. The Trail also abounds with scenic vistas and recreational hot spots like the Gulf of Mexico, the Manatee River, the Myakka Wild and Scenic River, and numerous other water bodies. A fun and exciting trip along the Tamiami Trail Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters Scenic Highway is a great way to put an exclamation point on your vacation!

Length: 69 Miles

Attractions:

Myakka State Forest – The 8,593 acre forest is a wonderful place to stop with the family for a picnic, a nice walk, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, or off-road cycling. (941) 460-1333

www.fl-dof.com/stateforests/Myakka.htm

Ringling Museum – One of the “must-see” attractions in Sarasota is the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, recognized as the state art museum of Florida, which includes 21 galleries of internationally recognized European and American art by such artists as Rubens, Van Dyck, Poussin and other baroque masters. The estate also includes Cà d’Zan, the 32-room Ringling mansion; the Circus Museum; the Asolo Theater; the Rose Garden and beautifully landscaped grounds overlooking Sarasota Bay. (941) 359-5700

www.ringling.org/

Directions:

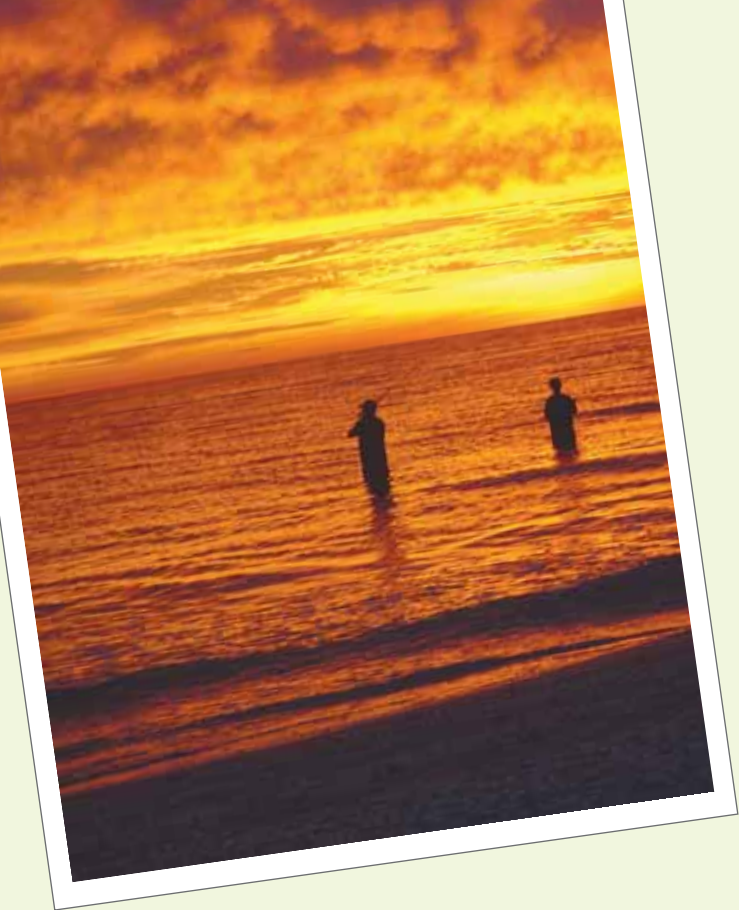
From the North: Travel south on I-75 to exit 224 (U.S. 301). Travel west/south on U.S. 301 to U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail. Travel south on U.S. 41 towards the Sarasota/Charlotte county line.

From the South:

Travel north on I-75 to North Port, exit 182 (Sumter Blvd.). Travel west/south towards U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail. Travel north on U.S. 41 towards the Hillsborough/Manatee county line.



Travel Time: 2 hrs.



Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway

While only 2.8 miles in length, the Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway is well worth the drive! This Scenic Highway travels through a unique beach town, offering panoramic views of the Gulf of Mexico and Sarasota Bay, providing amazing sunsets, and traveling along some of the most beautiful beaches in the State of Florida.

Attractions:

Coquina Beach - Located at the southern end of Anna Maria Island, Coquina Beach is one of the largest beaches in the area. The surrounding waters are known

Length: 2.8 Miles

as “The Nursery” due to the large number of bottlenose dolphins that live and raise their young here. Free parking, lifeguards, concessions, picnic tables, playground, restrooms and showers are all available at Coquina Beach. Open year round.

Coquina Bay Walk at Leffis Key – Just across the street from Coquina Beach on Anna Maria Island, this small peninsula offers numerous walkways through 30 acres of Florida vegetation and wildlife. The area is open year round and admission is free. (941) 776-2295

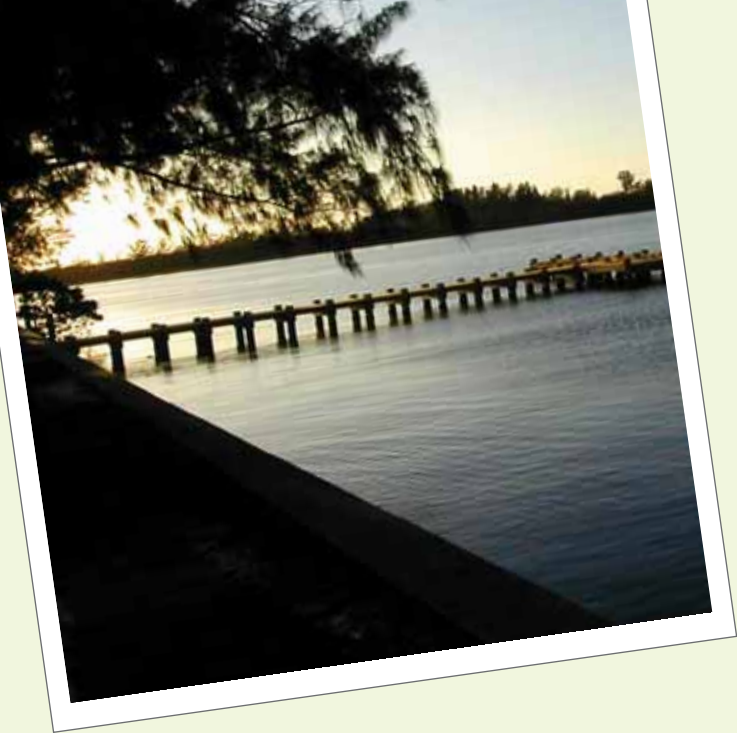
Directions:

Take I-75 to Exit 220 (SR 64)*. Travel West on SR 64 14 miles to SR 789. Go South on SR 789.

*SR 64 is also known as the Palma Sola Scenic Highway.



Travel Time: 10 min.



Palma Sola Scenic Highway

The Palma Sola Scenic Highway (State Road 64/Manatee Avenue West) between Bradenton and Bradenton Beach on Florida's west coast is a family oriented drive with numerous water recreation opportunities and well maintained landscaping with native vegetation. The corridor has a unique park-like feel with picnic areas, restrooms, and many amenities that allow travelers to enjoy the unlimited offering of water sports such as fishing, swimming, sailing, water skiing, and jet skiing along the entire causeway. The beaches are well maintained and provide the ideal environment for relaxing, enjoying the sun, pitching some horseshoes, or taking a nap until the colorful sunset puts her stamp on a day of fun! The Palma Sola Scenic Highway holds the true essence of a leisure drive, so take a ride and experience the Palma Sola Scenic Highway for yourself.

Length: 4 Miles

Attractions:

De Soto National Memorial ~ The De Soto National Memorial preserves the controversial story of Hernando de Soto's four-year, four thousand-mile odyssey and interprets its significance in American history. Visitors can attend living history demonstrations, try on a piece of armor, or walk the nature trail through a Florida coastal landscape similar to the one encountered by conquistadors almost five hundred years ago. Open all year 9:00am to 5:00pm. (941) 792-0458

www.nps.gov/deso/

Cortez Schoolhouse ~ Built in 1912, this brick schoolhouse is defined by classically inspired wooden piers. The schoolhouse retains its original floor plan, architectural detailing, and character. A great site to see for the whole family! 4415 119th Street West, Cortez, Florida

Directions:

I-75 to exit 220B (SR 64 West). Travel west on SR 64 approximately 10 miles. The Palma Sola Scenic Highway begins at 75th Street West and ends at East Bay Drive.



Travel Time: 10 min.



Old Florida Heritage Highway

www.scenicus441.com

The Old Florida Heritage Highway makes up a 48-mile trail that winds its way through forested and pastoral countryside and the historic communities of Micanopy, Rochelle, Evinston, and Cross Creek. Be sure to visit the Evinston Wood and Swink Country Store and Post Office. For a true taste of Old Florida, stop in the town of Micanopy – the oldest inland town in Florida. You really get a sense of history and heritage when you arrive among the old Florida bungalow homes, stately oak trees, quaint cafés, and antique stores. Any afternoon see the Micanopy Historic Society Museum in the center of the National Register District along Chokolka Blvd.

Attractions:

Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park – Less than a mile north of Micanopy along U.S. 441, stop and stretch your legs at Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park. This 21,000-acre park has a national reputation for its abundance and diversity of wildlife, including buffalo (year-round) and sandhill cranes (late Nov.–mid Feb). The park offers wonderful recreational activities such

Length: 48 Miles

as hiking, biking, horseback riding, paddling, fishing, and camping. (352) 466-3397

www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie/

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park ~

Located 10 miles east of U.S. 441 in Cross Creek (take C.R. 346 to C.R. 325). A visit here will let you reconnect with the past. Meander through the National Historic Landmark home and grove where Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *The Yearling*, lived and worked from 1928-1953.

Hours vary; call: (352) 466-3672

www.floridastateparks.org/marjoriekinnanrawlings/

Directions:

From the North: I-75 South to exit 382, SR 331 (Williston Rd.). Travel south on U.S. 441. Along the way, “Spur and loop roads” are Alachua County Roads 18 (Wacahoota Rd.), 234, 225, 325, 346, 2082, and SE 185th Ave. (County Line Rd.).

From the South: I-75 North to exit 374, Micanopy (CR 234). Travel east along CR 234 to Alachua County Roads 18 (Wacahoota Rd.), 225, 325, 346, 2082, and SE 185th Ave. (County Line Rd.) For the other segment travel east along CR 234 to U.S. 441. Head north on U.S. 441 for the twelve-mile stretch including an “ecopassage.”



Travel Time: 3 hrs.



Green Mountain Scenic Byway

www.greenmountainbyway.org

Yes, Florida does have hills

In Central Florida, approximately 20 miles to the west of Downtown Orlando is the 15.7-mile Green Mountain Scenic Byway. This rolling highway provides tranquil views of the small town of Montverde, with the town cemetery framed by moss-draped live oaks, and the Mediterranean Revival buildings of the 125-acre campus of the Montverde Academy. The rolling hills and winding roadway draws cyclists from around the world for competition, training, and touring. The Byway is one of the most popular cycling routes in Florida, and is the site of several internationally recognized triathlons each year. In addition to cyclists, the Green Mountain Scenic Byway is a favorite of motorcyclists, antique car clubs, and Sunday drivers.

Attractions:

Ferndale Preserve - The 192 acre preserve provides a 360 degree view of Lake Apopka and the Lake Wales Ridge from the hilltop fronting Lake Apopka.

Length: 15.7 Miles

The former orange grove also offers nature lovers lots of animals, native plants and endangered species.

(352) 343-9800

www.lakecountyfl.gov/departments/public_works/parks/ferndale_preserve.aspx

The Harper House - An example of pre-boom frame vernacular, circa 1875, The Harper House is the oldest house in the area and is located just east of the Scenic Byway on Porter Street in the Town of Montverde. **17408 East Porter Avenue**

Oakland Nature Preserve - This 192-acre preserve has a 3,000-foot boardwalk that winds through wetlands to a pavilion overlooking Lake Apopka, and two miles of upland hiking trails. (407) 905-0054

<http://www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org/>

Directions:

Take the Florida Turnpike to exit 272 (SR 50). Travel east on SR 50 (Colonial Drive) to Orange County Road 545 (Avalon Road). Turn left (north) on CR 545 to Oakland Avenue (the Green Mountain Scenic Byway) then turn left again (west). The Byway will take you through the community of Tildenville, the towns of Oakland and Montverde, and the community

of Ferndale. The northern terminus is at the intersection of Lake County Roads 545 (the Scenic Byway) and 561. This intersection is known as the Howey Cross Roads.



Travel Time: 30 min.



The Ridge Scenic Highway

A peaceful drive along the Ridge Scenic Highway offers travelers a glimpse into Florida's past, when citrus groves graced the rolling landscape and small communities developed with the arrival of the railroad during the Florida land boom of the 1920's.

The northern portion of the Ridge Scenic Highway will bring you through historic Haines City. The Southern ambience of Haines City is highlighted along its streets with the friendly faces and old Florida feel found throughout the city.

The Town of Frostproof highlights the southern portion of the Ridge Scenic Highway. Frostproof, with a year-round population of about 3,000 residents, is a citrus town with orange groves gracing the horizon. Two large fresh water lakes frame the town, offering some of the best bass fishing in the country.

Attractions:

Historic Bok Sanctuary - The Historic Bok Sanctuary offers visitors the opportunity to walk through lush gardens designed by the famous

Length: 35 Miles

Fredrick Law Olmsted, enjoy music at the impressive 205 foot carillon tower, and view the magnificence and splendor of the Pinewood Estate. Open daily.

(863) 676-1408

www.boksantuary.org/

Spook Hill ~ The legend of Spook Hill claims that many years ago an Indian village on Lake Wales was plagued by a huge alligator. The Chief, a great warrior, killed the gator in a battle that created a small lake. Many years later, when the road was paved, cars miraculously coasted up hill. This natural phenomenon is a popular visitor attraction and is great fun for the whole family. No admission fee. Take Highway 27 south to 17A (before Lake Wales), turn left (east) and follow the signs for Spook Hill.

Crooked Lake Prairie ~ A 525 acre wet and dry prairie with pine flatwoods, marshes, bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and several other wildlife species. Amenities include paved parking areas, marked walking trails, picnic tables, and restroom facilities. From State Road 17 turn west onto Cody Villa Road, turn right at the Minute Maid and Ohlinger

intersection.

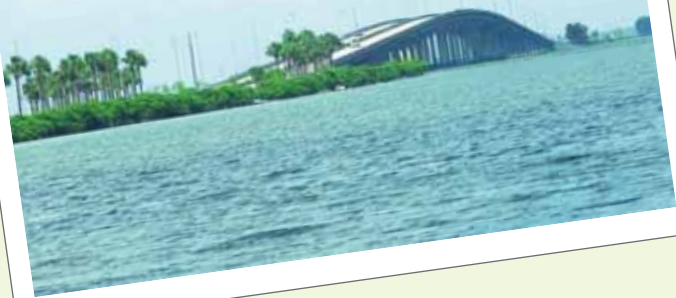
(863) 534-7377



Directions:

Take I-4 to exit #55 towards Haines City. Turn left on US 17/92 for approximately 1 mile. Turn right on State Road 17 (The Ridge Scenic Highway).

Travel Time: 1 hr.



Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway

www.tbrpc.org/scenic/

The Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway is a testament to modern society and nature coexisting in a productive, equally beneficial manner. The Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway is a vital artery in the water body that is Tampa Bay, providing a vital link to the cities of Tampa and Clearwater. The most significant scenic, natural, and recreational resources of the corridor are set aside for use by visitors and the community in the form of nature preserves, beaches, and recreational sites. The scenic highway, running at sea level along the Bay, is picturesque for the entire length. Be prepared to stay awhile – actually, you may not ever want to leave!

Attractions:

Ben T. Davis Beach - This state-owned beach was named after Captain Ben T. Davis who started construction of the Causeway in 1927. The beach is open daily with picnic and recreational areas that provide a great view of Tampa Bay. (813) 282-2909
7650 W. Courtney Cambell Causeway
Tampa, FL 33607

http://tampabay.citysearch.com/profile/map/11341841/tampa_fl/ben_t_davis_beach.html

Length: 9.5 Miles

Clearwater/Pinellas Suncoast Welcome Center - Stop here for information on Clearwater and its island beaches, or for maps directions and the latest on what is happening in town during your visit.

(727) 726-1547 • 3350 Gulf to Bay Blvd.

(W. Courtney Campbell Causeway)

Clearwater, FL 33759

www.visitclearwaterflorida

Great Florida Birding Trail - The Great Florida Birding Trail (GFBT) is a collection of 445 sites throughout Florida selected for their excellent bird-watching or bird education opportunities. This is just one of the areas where a visitor can enjoy Florida's bird habitat. (727) 669-1947

<http://floridabirdingtrail.com/>

Directions:

From the North: I-75 South to exit #274 (I-275 S) in Tampa. Travel on I-275 S to exit 39 (Mem Hwy/SR-60 W) toward Clearwater. Take SR-60 W exit on left toward Clearwater. Travel across bay on Courtney Campbell Causeway, end at Gulf to Bay Blvd.

From the South: I-75 North to exit #261 (I-4 W) in Tampa. Take exit onto I-275 S toward Tampa Airport. Travel on I-275 S to exit 39 (Mem Hwy/SR-60 W) toward Clearwater. Take SR-60 W exit on left toward Clearwater. Travel across bay on Courtney Campbell Causeway, end at Gulf to Bay Blvd.



Travel Time: 20 min.



William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway

The William Bartram Scenic and Historic Trail provides a unique experience for those who choose to explore its winding path. Most apparent are the views provided by the immense live oak canopies along the route and splendid vistas of the St. Johns River, an American Heritage River. This window into “Old Florida” preserves and enhances the resources of the region by telling the story of the first Indian settlers, the early European pioneers, plantation owners, and of the travels and discoveries of renowned naturalist William Bartram who attempted to establish a plantation on the banks of the nearby river. This amazing corridor will provide a journey that you will not forget!

Attractions:

Alpine Groves Park - This park contains 54.5 acres and is located between the St. Johns River and William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway (SR13). Recreational opportunities on the site include hiking trails, a river boardwalk, picnicking, fishing, a visitor center, playgrounds and nature and historical/archaeological interpretation. (904) 829-1711
610 Swiss Lane, Switzerland, FL 32259
TDC/Visitors Convention Bureau

Length: 17 Miles

Trout Creek Park – Trout Creek Park is a 16.5-acre passive park open free of charge to all visitors. The site features a double boat ramp with handy access to Trout Creek and the St. Johns River. A covered picnic area complete with tables and grill is located adjacent to the playscape. Other facilities include a trail, restrooms and a Community Center. (904) 829-1711
TDC/Visitors Convention Bureau

Beluthahatchee Park – The Beluthahatchee Park is a 4-acre park located within the 70-acre tract of land purchased by famed author Stetson Kennedy in 1948. This park provides wildlife habitat and serves as a rookery and roosting place for ospreys, eagles, snowy egrets and many other species. Beluthahatchee Park also continues the legacy of the author, Stetson Kennedy and his vision for the future as a Literary Landmark. (904) 829-1711
TDC/Visitors Convention Bureau

Directions:

I-95 to exit #337 (I-295 W). Travel on I-295 W to exit #5A (San Jose Blvd./ SR 13 S). Travel south on SR 13 to experience the scenic highway.



Travel Time: 30 min.



Indian River Lagoon-Treasure Coast Scenic Highway

The Indian River Lagoon-Treasure Coast Scenic Highway has many facilities that will be easily identified as part of the 42-mile corridor. What makes the highway extraordinary is the view from the sandy, coastal dunes that drift out into the Atlantic Ocean, to the mangrove-covered banks of the Indian River Lagoon – home to more than 4,000 species of plants and animals, including 50 species that are endangered or threatened.

Even though you are surrounded by Florida's natural beauty, it's the things you can't see that make this Scenic Highway truly unique. It's the remnants of pineapple farms, fishing villages, Indian mounds, and military forts that rest along the banks of the Indian River that make this corridor a must see.

Attractions:

Navy Seal Museum – The National Navy SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors. The Museum promotes public education by providing the opportunity to explore the history of the Navy SEALs in an atmosphere of respect

Length: 42 Miles

and honor. (772) 595-5845
www.navysealmuseum.com/

Fort Pierce State Recreation Area - The shores and coastal waters at this park provide an abundance of recreational opportunities. The breathtakingly beautiful half-mile beach welcomes visitors for swimming, snorkeling, surfing, scuba diving, or just relaxing on the sand. (772) 468-3985
www.floridastateparks.org/fortpierceinlet/

Manatee Center - The Manatee Observation and Education Center is a waterfront wildlife observation and nature education center. The center lies just west of the Atlantic Ocean and overlooks the nationally recognized Indian River Lagoon and Moore's Creek - a historical resting spot for the Florida manatee. (772) 466-1600, ext. 3333
www.manateecenter.com

Directions:

From the North: I-95 South to exit #129 or Florida's Turnpike South to exit #152(Okeechobee Rd/ SR 70 E). Continue on SR 70 to US 1. Turn north on US 1 to Orange Ave./ SR 68. Turn east to South Indian River Dr.



From the South: I-95 North to exit # 129 or Florida's Turnpike North to exit #152(Okeechobee Rd/ SR 70 E). Continue on SR 70 to US 1. Turn north on US 1 to Orange Ave./ SR 68. Turn east to South Indian River Dr.

Travel Time: 1.5 hrs.



Suncoast Scenic Parkway: Gateway to the Nature Coast

The 42-mile Suncoast Corridor provides a safe and convenient limited access transportation corridor with access to recreational opportunities. The Suncoast Trail, which is located on the west side of the Suncoast Parkway, is designated as a National Recreation Trail, a Millennium Trail, and is an important component of Florida's System of Greenways and Trails. The Suncoast Trail enables non-motorized travel while providing connections to an ever-increasing number of multi-use trails, and nature parks. The Suncoast Corridor improves and enhances the quality of life for visitors and residents of West Central Florida.

Attractions:

J.B. Starkey Wilderness Park - This 12,570-acre park offers a variety of recreational opportunities such as bicycling, skating, bird watching, equestrian trails, fishing, and hiking. Park and picnic facilities are also available. (727) 834-3247

www.visitpasco.net

Length: 42 Miles

Historic Brooksville - Here visitors will find the Hernando Heritage Museum, and many other things that describe the long history of Florida.

(352) 799-0129

www.hernandocounty.us/visit/

Weeki Wachee Springs/Buccaneer Bay -

Weeki Wachee Springs offers live mermaid shows. Visitors can swim at Buccaneer Bay, or take a riverboat ride down the Weeki Wachee River into Old Florida. Buccaneer Bay Waterpark is Florida's only spring-fed waterpark! Visitors will enjoy white sandy beaches, and the constant 72-degree spring water of Weeki Wachee Springs. **(352) 596-2062**

www.weekiwachee.com

Directions:

From the North: I-75 South to exit #301 (Cortez Blvd/US 98 N) towards Brooksville. Turn left onto SR-589-TOLL S ramp to Tampa, merge onto Suncoast Parkway. Travel south to Van Dyke Road in Hillsborough County.

From the South: I-75 North to exit #261 (I-4 W) in Tampa. Take exit onto I-275 S toward Tampa Airport. Travel on I-275 S to exit 39 (Mem Hwy/SR-60 W) toward Clearwater. Continue on Veterans Expy/SR-589-TOLL N. Start at Van Dyke Road in Hillsborough County, go north on Suncoast Parkway, end at US 98.



Travel Time: 1 hr.



Big Bend Scenic Byway

www.floridabigbendscenicbyway.org

The Big Bend Scenic Byway is 220 miles of wonderland inhabited by birds, butterflies animals, and wildflowers. Whether you choose the Forest Trail rich with pine forests, hardwood hammocks, grasslands, springs, and rivers, or the Coastal Trail of salt marshes, bays, sand dunes, and beaches, it's the natural place to be. Savor the diversity of scenery, small towns, museums, and rural countryside that is "Old Florida." Discover the rich maritime heritage at historic fishing ports which today house restaurants, galleries, and antique shops welcoming visitors from around the globe. Smiles and friendly people are the norm. You won't be disappointed... rain or shine. Come make memories!

Attractions

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge - Encompassing 68,000 acres along the Gulf Coast, the refuge features the historic St. Marks Lighthouse and provides prime habitat for migratory birds and monarch butterflies. (850)925-6121
www.fws.gov/saintmarks/

Length: 220 Miles

Apalachicola National Forest - Covering 569,804 acres between Tallahassee and the Apalachicola River, its vast Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass ecosystem houses many endangered species, including the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. (850) 643-2282 www.fs.fed.us/r8/florida/

Wakulla Springs State Park - This park is internationally known as one of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world, with daily boat tours providing close encounters with an abundance of wildlife. (850) 224-5950 www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/

Directions:

From the North: I-10 to Tallahassee, Exit 196 South on Capital Circle (SR 263) for 3 miles to Byway at intersection of Blountstown Highway (SR 20). Travel South on SR 263 toward Coastal Highway US 98 or West on SR 20 through Lake Talquin State Forest and Apalachicola National Forest.

From the South: I-75 North to exit #435 (I-10 W). Travel on I-10 W to exit #181 (SR 267 S) toward the Gulf of Mexico. Travel on SR 267 S to Coastal Highway/ US 98.



Travel Time: 8 hrs.



Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail

www.ormondscenicloopandtrail.com

The Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail is a 34 mile loop road where the live oaks reach gracefully over the road to provide a complete shady canopy and where the true beauty of Florida can be seen, felt, and experienced throughout the year. The roadway view includes unobstructed vistas of two rivers, creeks and marshes, barrier island dunes, and historic dwellings. A favorite drive for motorcyclists and recreational vehicles, the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail is a memory waiting to be experienced.

Attractions:

North Peninsula State Park ~ More than two miles of beautiful, unspoiled Atlantic beaches beckon visitors to this park. Across State Road A1A, this Florida haven shelters rare creatures such as Florida scrub-jays, indigo snakes, and gopher tortoises. Visitors can spend the afternoon swimming, sunning at the beach, or surf fishing. Bird-watchers will enjoy the

Length: 34 Miles

native and migratory species seen in this park.

(386) 517-2086

www.floridastateparks.org/northpeninsula/

Tomoka State Park - Native Americans once dwelled here, living off fish-filled lagoons. Today, these waters are popular for canoeing, boating, and fishing. The park protects a variety of wildlife habitats and endangered species, such as the West Indian manatee. Tomoka is a bird-watcher's paradise, with over 160 species sighted, especially during the spring and fall migrations. There are also nature trails, a museum, a boat ramp, and camping areas that visitors can enjoy. (386) 676-4050

www.floridastateparks.org/tomoka/default.cfm

The Hotel Ormond Cupola - The Cupola from the Hotel Ormond (a small porch-like structure) was held in storage after the demise of the hotel in late 1992. In 1997 the Cupola was reconstructed and placed as the center piece of Fortunato Park. Many interesting early photos and paintings are on display in the Cupola.

(386) 677-7005

www.obht.org/cupola.htm

Directions:



I-95 exit #268 (W Granada Blvd./ SR 40). Travel on SR 40 to US 1 then SR A1A (South end of Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail). Travel north for the two loops.

Travel Time: 1 hr.



Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway

www.flbbb.org

Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway visitors travel along the 60-mile segment of State Road 40 and spur roads to access world-class resource-based recreational adventures and outdoor learning experiences in a vibrant, scenic landscape of natural pinelands and wetlands. The corridor between Ormond Beach and Silver Springs serves as the backbone for a network of scenic roads and interpretive trails that foster an understanding and appreciation of the Greater Ocala region and its inhabitants.

Attractions:

Silver River State Park – This park has more than 10 distinct natural communities, dozens of springs, and miles of beautiful trails. The park is home to a pioneer cracker village and the Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center. The center is open to the public on weekends and holidays. Visitors can canoe down the crystal clear river, hike or bike along one of the nature trails, or just sit and watch for the wide variety of birds and wildlife. (352) 236-7148
www.floridastateparks.org/silverriver/default.ctm

Length: 60 Miles

Ocala National Forest – The Ocala National Forest is a unique and fascinating forest that offers an accommodating climate for year round recreating. The cool crystal-clear water of Juniper Springs, Alexander Springs, Salt Springs and Silver Glen Springs entice many visitors to take a swim. Snorkelers frequently find a thrilling underwater view of fish, swaying vegetation and cavernous springs. (352) 625-2520 www.fs.fed.us/r8/florida/

Silver Springs – Silver Springs is a 350-acre nature theme park that surrounds the headwaters of the beautiful Silver River, the largest artesian spring formation in the world. Here you can view the underground springs from our famous glass-bottom boats, where you'll see fish, shellfish, turtles and alligators in water that's up to 80 feet deep and 99.8% pure. Visitors can also walk the beautiful grounds and experience the natural habitats of Florida's largest alligators, endangered bears, and panthers. (352) 236-2121 www.silversprings.com/

Directions:

From I-75: Exit #352 (W Silver Springs Blvd./ SR 40). Travel on SR 40 to intersection of SR 35 and SR 40 in Silver Springs (West end of Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway).

From I-95: Exit #268 (W Granada Blvd./ SR 40). Intersection of I-95 and SR 40 is East end of Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway.



Travel Time: 2 hrs.



Scenic 30-A

Scenic Highway 30-A is a 28.5-mile corridor that hugs the Gulf of Mexico coastline in Northwest Florida's Walton County. Along this breath-taking drive you will see sugar-white sand beaches and some very rare coastal dune lakes. Scenic Highway 30-A is a tourist attraction of major proportions. It is an exciting and eclectic mix of hot Caribbean colors and soft pastels, with architecture to match each community's charm, whether it be Old Florida's traditional 2-3 story homes, or the cottages of Seaside with white picket fences and pedestrian pathways to New Urbanism, or its miles of greenway trails connecting state parks, preserves and residential areas.

Attractions:

Grayton Beach State Park - Golden in the morning sun, silvered by moonlight, Grayton Beach has consistently been ranked among the most beautiful and pristine beaches in the United States. The beach provides an idyllic setting for swimming, sunbathing,

Length: 28 Miles

surf fishing, canoeing or kayaking. (850) 231-4210
www.floridastateparks.org/graytonbeach/

Topsail Hill Preserve State Park - This park offers a wide variety of natural resources including 3.2 miles of secluded, white sand beaches with majestic dunes over 25 feet tall. Three rare coastal dune lakes provide excellent freshwater fishing. Visitors may bike, walk, or enjoy a quick ride to the beach on our timely tram service to swim, fish, sunbathe, or beachcomb.
(850) 267-0299

www.floridastateparks.org/topsailhill/default.cfm/

The Beaches of South Walton - Charm and scenic beauty define this stretch of Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast, and the sugar-white sand beaches and emerald green waters offer a natural setting for a soothing retreat. Visitors here will find beautiful beaches complemented by world-class accommodations, award-winning dining, diverse shopping, the arts, and outdoor pursuits.
(850) 267-1216

www.beachesofsouthwalton.com

Directions:

Travel on I-10 to exit #85 (US 331 S). Travel south on US 331 to US 98. Travel west on US 98 toward Destin to W 30A intersection.



Travel Time: 1 hr.



Lemon Bay/ Myakka Trail

The Lemon Bay/Myakka Trail travels a total distance of 47.9 miles, including two loop roads along its path. The trail contains a wide variety of diverse and exceptional intrinsic resources that represent Florida's special history, sites, and features. These cultural and historic resources, some of which are one-of-a-kind sites within the state, preserve a Florida from long-ago. Natural and scenic resources provide active and leisured recreational and educational experiences while providing the traveler with breathtaking vistas complete with wildlife in native habitats.

Attractions:

Manasota Key Beaches - Manasota Key is an enchanting barrier island off the coast of Englewood where there are no high-rises and no traffic lights, just a two-lane road and pristine beaches.

www.bestbeaches.org/manasotakeybeaches/

Tippecanoe Environmental Park - Tippecanoe Environmental Park is a 380-acre preserve consisting

Length: 33 Miles

of many native species. Boardwalks provide visitors the opportunity to observe the bird life within the mangroves and look out over the marshes.

(941) 625-7529

www.charlottecountyfl.com/Parks/ParkPages/tippecanoepark.html

Myakka State Forest – Myakka State Forest is made up primarily of mesic flatwoods with numerous marshes are scattered throughout the area, providing many opportunities for viewing wading birds and other wildlife. The forest includes approximately 2.5 miles of frontage on the Myakka River. Recreational opportunities in Myakka State Forest include camping, hiking, off-road bicycling, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and small game hunting opportunities that include wild hogs. (941) 460-1333

www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/myakka.html

Directions:

From the North: I-75 South to exit #200 (SR 681 S). Travel on SR 681, then turn south onto Tamiami Trail/SR 41 toward Venice. Travel on Tamiami Trail/ US 41 then turn right onto SR 776 (West end of Lemon Bay/ Myakka Trail).

From the South:
I-75 North to exit #170 (Kings Hwy S). Travel on Kings Hwy to Tamiami Trail/ US 41. Travel north on Tamiami Trail/ US 41 toward Murdock. Turn west onto SR 776 (East end of Lemon Bay/ Myakka Trail).








Travel Time: 1 hr.



-  A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway (pg. 6-7)
-  Big Bend Scenic Byway (pg. 32-33)
-  Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway (pg. 14-15)
-  Courtney Campbell Causeway (pg. 24-25)
-  Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway (pg. 36-37)
-  Florida Keys Scenic Highway (pg. 10-11)
-  Green Mountain Scenic Byway (pg. 20-21)
-  Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway (pg. 8-9)
-  Indian River Lagoon-Treasure Coast Scenic Byway (pg. 28-29)
-  Lemon Bay/Myakka Trail (pg. 40-41)
-  Old Florida Heritage Highway (pg. 18-19)
-  Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail (pg. 34-35)
-  Palma Sola Scenic Highway (pg. 16-17)
-  Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway (pg. 4-5)
-  Scenic 30-A (pg. 40-41)
-  Suncoast Scenic Parkway (pg. 30-31)
-  Tamiami Trail Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters Scenic Highway (pg. 12-31)
-  The Ridge Scenic Highway (pg. 22-23)
-  William Bartram Scenic & Historic Coastal Highway (pg. 26-27)

Legend

-  National Scenic Byway
-  Florida Scenic Highway
-  Toll Road
-  Interstate Highway
-  U.S. Highways and State Roads

