



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 sight-seeing or wildlife viewing are what you are after, then get ready for some of the best. There are hundreds of locations that offer some of the best sight-seeing and wildlife viewing in the country. Every corner of Florida will amaze you, entertain you, relax you, and memories will find a place in your mind. 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 offering a diverse landscape of bayous, tidal marshes, wooded uplands, a shopping and dining district, and a mixture of lovely old and contemporary homes. The majestic panoramic views of Escambia Bay from tall, clay bluffs are the highest points along Florida's coastline.

The Scenic Highway possesses a rich history as well. Spanish ships sailed into Escambia Bay in 1559, clay from the bluffs was once used in the production of bricks starting in 1750, American delegates from Pensacola and St. Augustine met at Gull Point as the first Florida Legislative Council in 1822, and the Henry Hyer Sawmill, which was built in 1854, is marked by a 30 ft. chimney that stands as a monument to the corridor's timber era.

LENGTH: 11 MILES



Attractions:

Bayou Texar Boat Launch, Park, and Marina - Beautiful area to launch a boat, sit under large spanish moss-draped oaks and watch ducks splashing in the water, or take a stroll along the marina. Located at Bayou Texar and US 90.

Chimney Park - Across from Langley Drive, take a look back in time at the 30 ft. chimney, the remains of the 1854 steam-powered Hyer-Knowles Sawmill.

Bay Bluffs Park - Bay Bluffs Park, a 32-acre park just below the I-10 overpass, owned by the City of Pensacola, contains boardwalks and nature trails down the cliffs to the water, along with scenic vistas and close-up views of the bluffs. Located on the Bay side at the intersection of Summit Boulevard.

(850) 436-5670

Escambia River Estuary - Tidal wetlands of sawgrass at the head of the Bay provides spawning ground for blue crab, shrimp, mullet, redfish, and spotted sea trout.

Directions:



I-10 to I-110, exit 12. Travel south to U.S. 90/98 (Cervantes St.). Travel on U.S. 90 east along the corridor from the Bayou Texar Bridge to the U.S. 90 bridge over the Escambia River





A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway

A trip along the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway in northeast Florida is one of the most beautiful and relaxing areas 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 Beverly Beach, you may spot a fisherman reeling in a catch on the famous Flagler Beach pier or surfers riding waves along Florida's eastern coast.

Attractions:

Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area - A 144-acre park bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway offering camping, picnicking, swimming, fishing, and nature study.

LENGTH: 72 MILES



During the summer months sea turtles arrive to lay their eggs in the sand. (386) 517-2086
www.floridastateparks.org/gamblerogers/default.asp

Marineland - Marineland is an ocean-oriented park/aquarium containing two large oceanariums, a stadium, and several smaller exhibits. Marineland is home to 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/default.asp

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 U.S. 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 35 miles to U.S. A1A. Travel north or south on A1A for the A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway.





Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway

The Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway is an educational, relaxing, and family-friendly 166-mile loop that provides a first-hand look at Florida's beaches, waterways, wildlife, and space industry. This Nationally Designated Scenic Byway is one of the most rewarding drives in the entire country! Be sure to have lots of film in your camera for this experience.

Attractions:

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex - Located on more than 6,000 acres of the Canaveral National Seashore, this world-class facility is known not only for its advancement of space exploration, but also for its dedication to preserving the natural environment and providing a home for thousands of native wildlife species. The Visitor Complex is closed on Christmas Day and certain launch days. (321) 449-4444 www.ksc.nasa.gov/

LENGTH: 166 MILES
(LOOP ROAD)



Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge - The refuge contains 140,000 acres of marshes, scrub oaks, pine forest, flatwoods, and coastal dunes. The refuge is one of the most popular bird watching locations in the state, and is also used to view hundreds of species of wildlife, including the Florida manatee. (321) 861-0667 • <http://merrittisland.fws.gov>

Lagoon House Welcome Center - The Lagoon House serves as the gateway and the main visitors/welcome center for the Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway. Exhibits within the Lagoon House, which change 4 times during the year, interpret the historical, archeological, cultural, scenic, natural, and recreational resources along the Scenic Highway. Guides provide resource-specific information free of cost to visitors via video, audio, an interactive topographical map, pamphlets, brochures, and personnel knowledge. (321) 725-7775
3275 Dixie Highway, Palm Bay, Florida

Directions:

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

From South Florida:
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.





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 1 - 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 Key West is the place to be any time of the year. With tropical temperatures all year and crystal clear water around every corner Key West is a vacation paradise and destination for the entire family.

LENGTH: 106 MILES



Attractions:

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/

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) - Encompassing 2,800 square nautical miles, the Sanctuary stretches from Biscayne National Park, east of Homestead on Florida's mainland, down to Key West and beyond. (305) 743-2437
www.florida-keys.fl.us/ntmarine.htm

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park - This National Landmark covers a total of 87 acres and was one in a system of sea coastal forts built in the 1800s to prevent hostile invasions. Take a ranger-guided tour and hear tales of its past or browse the fort on your own. Then, go enjoy one of the best beaches in Key West. (305) 292-6713
www.floridastateparks.org/forttaylor/

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.





Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway

The Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway provides travelers with breathtaking views of a tropical wilderness like no other—the Florida Everglades. The Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway covers a small portion of the 275-mile Tamiami Trail (US 41), which reaches from Tampa to Miami and is considered among the world's great engineering feats. Built through oak hammocks, sandy pines and the inhospitable swamps of the Everglades, the trail took a dozen years, almost three million sticks of dynamite, and one stubborn ox named "Blue" to complete.

Attractions:

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park - The Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve State Park is a 75,000-acre wilderness area with limited access and limited facilities. The extreme wilderness character of

LENGTH: 50 MILES



the preserve and the diverse plant and animal life found within the Fakahatchee Strand are what attracts visitors who are seeking an out of the way, beyond the usual type of outdoor experience.

(239) 695-4593 • www.floridastateparks.org/fakahatcheestrand/default.asp

Collier-Seminole State Park - The Collier-Seminole State Park provides numerous hiking trails, canoeing on the Blackwater River, and bicycling. Anglers can enjoy both freshwater and saltwater fishing and there are full camping facilities on-site. The park is located about 8-miles south of the intersection of US 41 and CR 92. (239) 394-3397 • www.floridastateparks.org/collier-seminole/default.cfm

Big Cypress National Preserve - The Big Cypress National Preserve offers visitors the opportunity to stop and escape into the wilds of Florida and possibly catch a glimpse of a ghost orchid or the endangered Florida panther. A great stop for a true taste of Florida! (239) 695-1201

www.nps.gov/bicy/

Directions:

I-75 to exit 101, CR 951 (Collier Blvd.). Travel south on 951 to U.S. 41. Travel east on U.S. 41

The Scenic Highway begins south of Naples, eight miles west of the intersection of S.R. 951 and U.S. 41.





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) 255-7653

www.fl-dot.com/state_forests/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

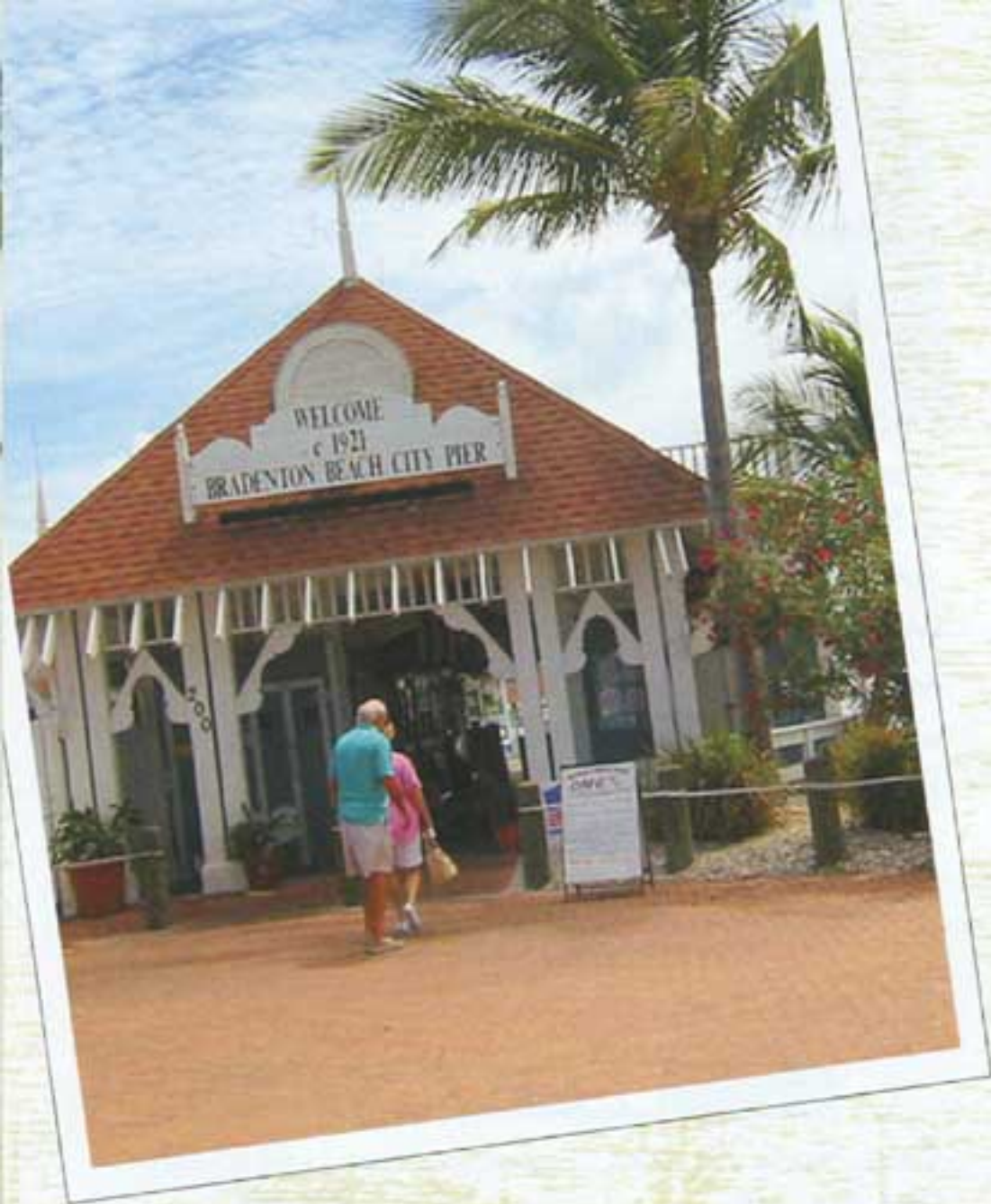
www.ringling.org/

Directions:

From North Florida: 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 South Florida: 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.





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

LENGTH: 2.8 MILES



are known 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. 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.





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:

DeSoto 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.





Old Florida Heritage Highway

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. 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. The cafés and restaurants alone are worth the trip!

Attractions:

Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park - Just a couple of miles 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. The park offers wonderful recreational activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, paddling, fishing and camping. (352) 466-3397

www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie/

LENGTH: 48 MILES



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 historic home and farmland 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.). For one segment of the Old Florida Heritage Highway, travel south on U.S. 441 for the twelve-mile stretch of the Heritage Highway. For the other segment, continue south on U.S. 441 to CR 234 east which traverses to the Alachua County Roads 34, 18 (Wacahoota Rd.), 225, 325, 346, 2082, and SE 185th Ave. (County Line Rd.).

From the South: I-75 North to exit 374, Micanopy (CR 234). For one segment of the Old Florida Heritage Highway, travel east along CR 234 to Alachua County Roads 34, 18 (Wacahoota Rd.), 225, 325, 346, 2082, and SE 185th Ave. (County Line Rd.) For the other segment of the Old Florida Heritage Highway, travel east along CR 234 to U.S. 441. Head north on U.S. 441 for the twelve-mile stretch of the Heritage Highway.





Green Mountain Scenic Byway

Yes, Florida does have hills

In Central Florida, approximately 20 miles to the west of Downtown Orlando is the 12.4-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:

Montverde Academy - Montverde Academy is located on a 125-acre campus on County Road 455 in

LENGTH: 20 MILES



Montverde, Florida (just outside of Orlando). It is a fully operational boarding school containing some great examples of Mediterranean Revival architecture and large, stately oaks. 17235 7th Street (CR 455) (407) 469-2561 • www.montverde.org/

The Harper House - An example of pre-war 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

West Orange Trail

Orange County Parks and Recreation Department - The County Line Station trailhead of the West Orange Trail is located at the southern terminus of the Scenic Byway. This trail is a 19 mile, 14 foot wide paved bicycle/pedestrian trail that travels through some beautiful Florida lands. (407) 654-5144 parks.onetgov.net/index.htm

Directions:

Take the Florida Turnpike to exit 272 (SR 50). Travel west on SR 50 (Colonial Drive) to Old Highway 50 north. Stay to the right at Montverde Junction and take Lake County Road 455 north, or the Green

Mountain Scenic Byway, until the Byway ends at Lake County Road 561 (Howey Crossroads).





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 Fredrick Law Olmsted, enjoy music at the impressive 205-foot

carillon tower, and view the magnificence and splendor of the Pinewood Estate. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (last admission at 5 p.m).
(863) 676-1408 • www.boktower.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 tortises, 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).



LENGTH: 35 MILES



Travel Notes

Where we went...

What we saw...

What we did...

"Capture Florida"



Florida Scenic Highways Program

www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/scenichighway/

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