Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway
A National Scenic Byway

What type of byway traveler are you?

Adventurers
This land calls out for hearty souls who blaze new trails. Like to hike, backpack, fish, or hunt? How about tackling a world-class canoe run? There are many opportunities for roughing it in these parts.

Historic Area Adventurers
James Seabrook & Roger Keeler | Established two trading posts on the St. Johns River, one in Eaton at the crossing of three Indian trails (1765)
Hubbard L. Hunt | Operated the Hunt Steamboat Line in 1870s to bring tourists down the Ocklawaha River from Palatka to Silver Springs
Ross Allen | Founded Reptile Institute of Silver Springs
Jim Kern | Man behind the 1,400 mile Florida Trail, founder of the Florida Trail Association

Historians
Do you love to know the stories and cultures of the place you visit? Enjoy the historic buildings, pioneer settlements, and famous locations on the byway, and savor some local food and music.

Area Historians & Storytellers
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings | Wrote The Yearling, a Pulitzer Prize winning novel based upon stories of the Long family at Fork Island (1938)
Dane Ste. Claire | Author of the book Ocracker, grew up in Ocala, and is an authority on cracker culture as well as a storyteller
Rick Tomlin | Author of Guns of the Palmetto Plains, which illustrates the rich cracker cowboy history of the area

Vacationers
World travelers seek the “real Florida” along this byway. Local Florida folks come here to get beyond the crowds and plastic of big amusement parks. All vacationers may find a quiet cabin by a lake, or a place to drift in a boat and dream.

Historic Vacationers
The Sturtevant House (William & John Jacob, son) | Built the first hotel in Eaton to bring in tourists
Harriet Beecher Stone | Author, Uncle Tom’s Cabin | Wrote one of the first tourism articles about the Ocala area & St. Johns River
Pittman Moreau | Limestone resident of Silver Springs, commercialized the place bottomed boat. These boats with a view into the clear waters of the springs are still a hit today

Legend of Byway Features
Gateway Cities for Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway
- Welcome Centers
- Ranger Stations
- Equestrian Trails
- OHV

Note: This map is not exhaustive, but is intended as an initial introduction to the byway

Naturalists
The ecologist, conservationist, or birdwatcher loves to check out the flora and fauna of the area. Naturalists know to rise and hit the springs, bikes and forest early in order to catch nature at its finest.

Historic Naturalists
William Bartram | Naturalist/Painter (1776), named “Flower Hunter” by the Native Americans
John James Audubon | Ornithologist/Painter and Naturalist (1800s)
Civilian Conservation Corps | Built many of the amenities, roads & trails in the Ocala National Forest during the 1930s & 1940s
Marjorie Harris Carr | Conservationist who successfully fought against the Cross Florida Barge Canal (1960 - 1971)

Marjorie Harris Carr, tireless conservationist

Historic photos courtesy of the Florida Archives