

Some Highlighted Locations on the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway:

Highlighted Spring: Juniper Springs

Juniper Springs is the most representative of all the springs of the byway - it has a swimming area, the water wheel created by the Civilian Conservation Corps to bring electricity to the area, and if you take the board walk trail back to Fern Hammock Springs – second-magnitude spring and is one of the most picturesque springs in St. Johns River Water Management District. A wooden footbridge spans the spring pool near its center. There are over 25 sand boils scattered on the bottom of the spring pool, with the largest sand boil situated under the footbridge. The bottom of the pool is mostly sand, with patches of aquatic grasses. The clear, bluish spring water is exceptionally, for a Florida spring.

The historian in your group will marvel at the construction of the main spring's millhouse, the most advanced project of the CCC in this area. The naturalist will love the flora, fauna, and spectacular beauty. The adventurer will grab a canoe or kayak and paddle Juniper Run, one of the most rewarding and challenging runs in Florida. The vacationer will splash around with the kids in the jeweled pool of the main spring.

Barberville Pioneer Settlement for the Arts

Authentic period buildings have been gathered to create this authentic settlement, including the original schoolhouse, the old Astor Bridge, a turpentine still, a church, and a blacksmith's shop. The Settlement was established as "... to render constructive, educational, and cultural services to the community through collection, preservation, conservation and exposition of objects which are the cultural heritage of this community." There are popular festivals in spring and fall with wonderful music and crafts.

Silver Springs Nature Park

Since the 19th century, Silver Springs has been one of Florida's most treasured landscapes. As one of the largest artesian springs ever discovered, audiences have long been captured by the springs' natural beauty and vibrant clarity. From the glass bottom boat tours, kayak and canoe trips to the special event productions, creative culture and romantic appeal, the springs are yours to discover. Come experience Silver Springs State Park. Explore this central Florida destination that invites all guests to enjoy nature's most charming attraction. Guests are welcome 8 am – sunset, 365 days a year.

The Yearling Locations

The Pulitzer prize-winning novel, *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings is set along this byway. Some sites mentioned in the novel, which are great to check out, are:

- Hike the Yearling Trail in the morning to see scrub jays, and possibly a black bear
- Visit beautiful Silver Glen Springs and check out the and the boils trail
- Head to Astor and Volusia, towns on either side of the St. Johns River to see more sites associated with the old town of Volusia

World-Class Paddling

The byway features plenty of places to canoe or kayak. In addition to two major rivers – the Ocklawaha and St. Johns – there are spring runs flowing from every major spring, and lakes to be paddled as well. Here are some highlighted spots to check out.

- **Alexander Springs Run** – 5 miles, 3 hours, casual
- **Juniper Creek Run** – 7 mile run; 4 hours; strenuous/challenging
- **Salt Springs** - Camp with full hookup for RVs, great swimming hole, too. Close to Lake George, the St. John's River, and the Ocklawaha River
- **Silver River State Park** - Educational museum, Cracker Village, and hiking path down to the Silver River