



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.



Ross Allen "milks" a snake, collecting the venom

Historic Area Adventurers

- James Spalding & Roger Kelsell** | Established two trading posts on the St. Johns River, one in Astor at the crossing of three Indian trails (1763)
- Hubbard L. Hart** | Operated the Hart 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 places you visit? Enjoy the historic buildings, pioneer settlements, and famous locations on the byway, and savor some local food and music.



Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings at work

Area Historians & Storytellers

- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings** | Wrote *The Yearling*, a Pulitzer Prize winning novel based upon stories of the Long family at Pat's Island (1930s)
- Dana Ste. Claire** | Author of the book *Cracker*, grew up in Ocala, and is an authority on cracker culture as well as a storyteller
- Rick Tonyan** | Author of *Guns of the Palmetto Plains*, which illustrates the rich cracker cowboy history of the area

Legend of Byway Features

- Gateway Cities for Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway
- Welcome Centers
- Ranger Stations
- Equestrian Trails
- Canoeing
- OHV
- Camping

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, lakes and forest early in order to catch nature at her finest.



Marjorie Harris Carr, tireless conservationist

Historic Naturalists

- William Bartram** | Naturalist/Painter (1760s), named "Flower Hunter" by the Native Americans
- John James Audubon** | Ornithologist/Painter and Naturalist (1860s)
- 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 from 1962 - 1971

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 Astors (William & John Jacob, son)** | Built the first hotel in Astor to bring in tourists
- Harriet Beecher Stowe** [author, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*] Wrote one of the first tourism articles about the Ocala area & St. Johns River (1879)
- Phillip Morell** | Lifetime resident of Silver Springs, commercialized the glass-bottomed boat. These boats with a view into the clear waters of the springs are still a hit today



Harriet Beecher Stowe, passionate early vacationer

