

# FLORIDA FOOD Festivals

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Taste what makes Florida so special!  
Travel a Scenic Highway way to visit



## Flavors to Savor

What do most people think of when they think of Florida? Beautiful beaches, tropical weather and theme parks. One thing that most people overlook is Florida's unique cuisine, which can be enjoyed at food festivals found along a Scenic Highway. So if you're taking a trip to Florida to see the ocean and soak in the warm weather, avoid the fast-food belly bomber and stop at a food festival or two. You'll be amazed at the spectacular foods that can only



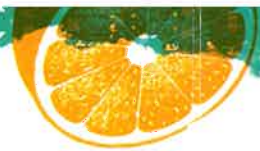


### 1 Florida Keys Scenic Highway

The **Florida Keys Scenic Highway** hosts many events and festivals during the year along each of the Keys. Three of the Keys' largest festivals just so happen to be all about food! The Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival in Key West, usually in January, is a free seafood fest hosted by the same men and women who caught your meal – the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen. The festival offers many family-oriented things to do while you savor the food. A perfect time to be had for all ages!

If you're looking for a more adult atmosphere, try mixing a little food and drink at the Key Largo Wine and Food Festival. This annual festival is typically held around the beginning of August and features tasty temptations prepared by the culinary experts of Key Largo paired with some of your favorite wines. And when it comes to wine, this festival has it all: cooking demonstrations, wine dinners, food and wine pairing classes, cook book signings, and cigars and wine. And don't forget the everyday attractions like the famous sunsets, scuba diving and shopping.

What could be better than Oktoberfest? How about Conchtoberfest? Why not pair some great beer with a conch fritter, some conch chowder or a cracked conch? This family-friendly event is held annually in October at Hawks Cay Resort in Marathon. This is a week-long celebration in which local businesses host a themed party leading up to a grand celebration weekend. The festival offers games and activities for little kids or beer tents with local brews and live music for the big kids. Along with all the conch dishes, sink your teeth into some fresh fish, stone crab or lobster, and then don't forget the dessert. Top it off with some world-famous Key Lime pie!



### 2 Tamiami Trail – Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters Scenic Highway

If you are looking for another festival perfect for adults and a little more upscale, check out the Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival in Sarasota, along the **Tamiami Trail – Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters Scenic Highway**. This festival showcases a number of palate-pleasing products from international winery owners paired with diverse cuisine from over 50 members of the Sarasota-Manatee Originals Restaurants Club. This event is perfect for those who might call themselves aficionados. Here, you'll find a world-class weekend of food, wine, beer and interactive wine seminars – capped off with The Sunset Grand Tasting, which highlights a variety of wine and beer, food samplings from the local restaurants, live entertainment and a charity wine auction. Typically held at the end of January every year, this is an event not to be missed!

### 3 Broward A1A Scenic Highway

Interested in a food and wine event with a Hispanic flare? Then you won't want to miss the Las Olas Wine & Food Festival along the street of the same name, near the **Broward A1A Scenic Highway** in southeast Florida. This festival is held annually in the Spring and features tastings of both wine and food right in the middle of Las Olas Boulevard. The event has changed many times over the years, but no matter what, it has always featured great food, fine wine and musical entertainment that contribute to a spectacular evening under the stars, in one of the most picturesque places in Ft. Lauderdale.

### 4 Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway

Maybe you fancy a food festival that is a little out of the ordinary and slightly on the wacky side? Well, the Fellsmere Frog Leg Festival is perfect for you! Located along the **Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway**, this festival is not for the faint of heart. This event features frog legs and gator tail. Yum! If you don't think you can handle that, you'll find a variety of other foods – from sausage and peppers to candy apples. Fun

features live entertainment, a midway, crafts, pony rides and helicopter rides. Recently celebrating its 20th anniversary, this annual January festival has grown by leaps and bounds – pun intended!

### 5 Pensacola Scenic Bluffs

Better not leave your appetite at home, as the Pensacola Crawfish Festival brings a little of the Louisiana bayou – with its variety of spices and tastes – right to Pensacola Bay. Known for one of the largest crawfish boils in the state, this event is located around the **Pensacola Scenic Bluffs** highway. Held during the end of April/beginning of May every year, this festival features a wide range of Cajun fare such as crawfish po' boys, crawfish pies and over 15,000 lbs. of boiled crawfish! Don't like crawfish? Then enjoy a traditional hot dog or hamburger while you experience the festivities.

### 6 Big Bend Scenic Byway

If you want to stick around the Florida Panhandle and visit another festival, then try out the annual Florida Seafood Festival in the historic Town of Apalachicola, along the **Big Bend Scenic Byway**. Known as Florida's oldest maritime event, this food festival draws thousands of visitors to the area each year. It features delicious seafood, arts and crafts exhibits, seafood-related events and musical entertainment for all ages. Some of the noteworthy events include oyster eating and oyster shucking contests, blue crab races, a cooking contest, a parade, the 5K Redfish Run and the blessing of the fleet.

