

WILDFLOWERS of Florida

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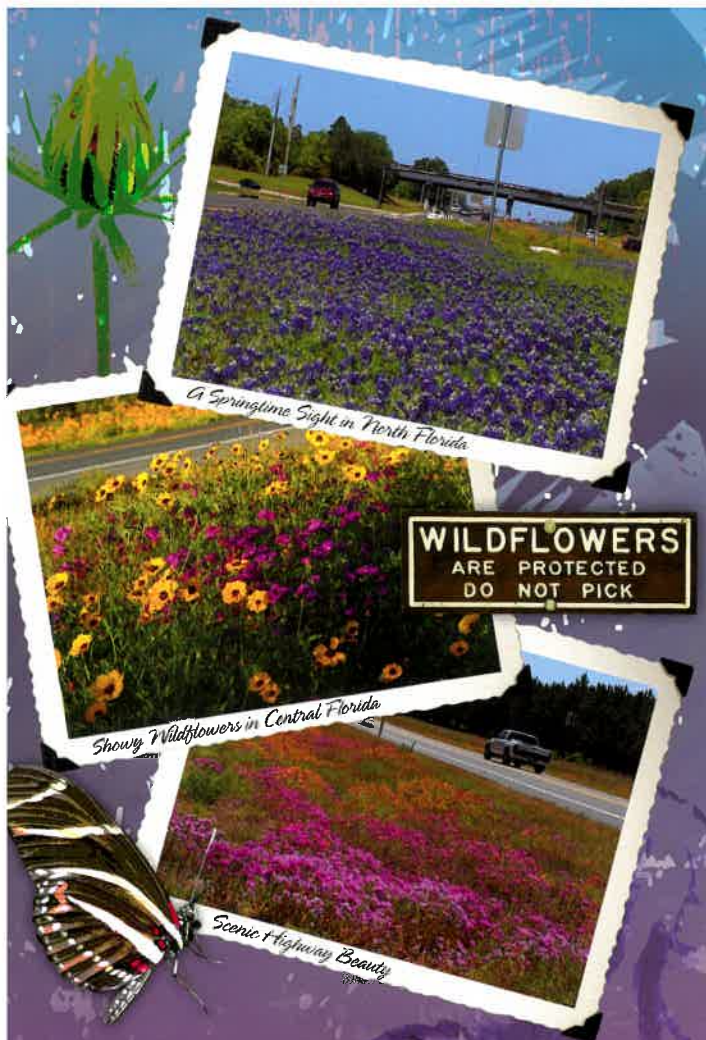
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Experience the beauty
of wildflowers along a



WILDFLOWERS
ARE PROTECTED
DO NOT PICK

Wildflowers

Explore "La Florida," or "the land of flowers," as it was named when explorer Juan Ponce de Leon claimed this beautiful land for Spain in 1513. Experience beauty and variety unlike any other part of the country, with more than 3,600 glorious native and naturalized flowering species found throughout the state. Native wildflowers, which occur in most of Florida's natural ecosystems, are also being cultivated for use along roadsides and landscapes.





Country Views Along Scenic Highways



3 St. Johns River-to-the-Sea Loop

If two-wheeled travel is what you enjoy, pedal the **St. Johns River-to-the-Sea Loop**, a 260-mile cycling trail in East Central Florida that traverses five counties through cities such as St. Augustine, Palatka, DeLand and Titusville. Keep your eyes open for the greenfly orchid. This little beauty grows throughout the entire area, which is perfect for cycling, hiking and enjoying nature while viewing many spectacular wildflower species. Riders experience five Scenic Highways along the Loop: **A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail, Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway, River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway** and the **Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway**. All have both naturally growing and cultivated populations of Florida wildflowers for you to enjoy during your visit.

5 Panhandle Region

Scenic Highway 30A and the **Pensacola Scenic Bluffs** in the Panhandle region are two other Scenic Highways with a dazzling display of wildflowers. This area of the Panhandle has been documented to have more than 250 native wildflower species. The white picket fences and pedestrian pathways along **Scenic Highway 30A** offer a taste of coastal paradise made charming by the wildflowers sprinkled about. When you visit, don't miss the majestic views of Escambia Bay from the **Pensacola Scenic Bluffs** and a diverse landscape of marshes, woodlands and wildflowers.

1 River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Scenic Highway

Wildflowers are such a big part of Florida that they even have their own festival. The Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival is held every spring in DeLand – a charming historic town along the **River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Scenic Highway**. The festival features vendors, artists, organizations, garden clubs and numerous experts who share fascinating facts about Florida's wildflowers and natural places. After the festival, drive or pedal along the Scenic Highway to see the abundance of native wildflower blooms.

Wild About Wildflowers

Take a break from your WiFi hotspot to enjoy one of many wildflower "hotspots" around the state. Wildflowers flourish in spring, summer and fall along Florida's highways and back roads. Thanks to the example set by Lady Bird Johnson many years ago, wildflowers are planted and allowed to flourish for your enjoyment along many Florida roadsides.

4 Apalachicola National Forest

The Florida Panhandle and Big Bend regions have been widely recognized by the Florida Wildflower Foundation for their abundance of wildflowers, especially around the Apalachicola National Forest. The **Big Bend Scenic Byway** winds its way all around and through the forest, covering more than 200 miles and providing access to lush vegetation and abundant wildflowers. State Road 65 and its side roads through the Apalachicola National Forest are considered to be Florida's premier location for viewing naturally occurring native wildflowers and grasses. It is even considered by some experts to be the best native wildflower road in the lower South. In late winter, keep your eyes open for yellow jessamine, a flowering vine native to the Southeast that produces a sweet, fragrant aroma commonly used in perfumes. Also, look for wild columbine, which has red and yellow flowers that bloom throughout spring and summer.

2 Suncoast Scenic Parkway

Florida's Turnpike system features beautifully landscaped and maintained wildflowers. Other areas are left to flourish on their own – native and naturally beautiful – offering waves of wildflowers that provide amazing scenery while you travel. Florida's **Suncoast Scenic Parkway** makes up more than 40 miles of the Turnpike system. This tollway – one of few in the nation designated as a Scenic Highway – has plentiful wildflowers lining its medians and shoulders.



Coreopsis Flowers

