

THE ITINERARY:
This lowland ramble, punctuated by skeleton beaches and a ferry ride, becomes a 2-lane road with wide-open ocean views and seafood pit stops.

TOTAL MILES: 97
TIME EN ROUTE: 2 days

St. Augustine lighthouse, an A1A landmark

The Scenic Route Jacksonville to Daytona

Hug the coastline and sample Old Florida charm along this scenic, salty road.

DAY 1: Jacksonville to St. Augustine (40 miles)
Ditch the I-95 slog (and Daytona 500 traffic) for scenic State A1A, a two-lane coastal ramble that was Florida's primary artery before the interstate. Pick it up 20 miles east of Jacksonville around **Big Talbot Island State Park** (floridastateparks.org/bigtalbotisland or 904/251-2320). Here, high bluffs overlook a beach strewn with smooth, bleached white skeletons of giant trees. Take the car ferry (\$5) across the St. Johns River to Mayport and watch fishermen unload mackerel and snapper while you enjoy the spoils on the back porch of the **Safe Harbor Seafood Market and Restaurant** (safeharborseafood.com or 904/246-4911). →

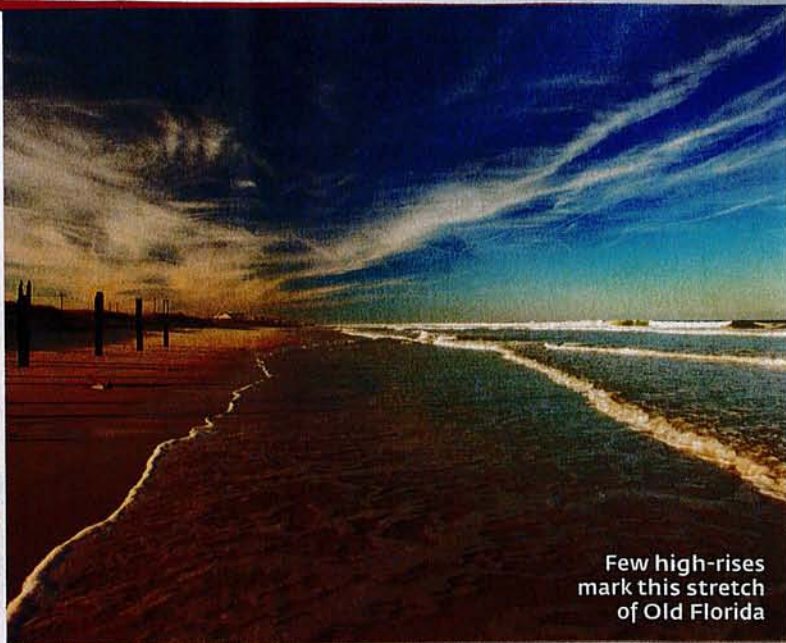
ILLUSTRATION: RYAN KELLY



Penny Farthing Inn, St. Augustine

In St. Augustine, stop by **Faver** (faverpottery.com or 904/304-2310), where fifth-generation native Worley Favor creates pottery using the 5,000-year-old method passed down from ancient Egyptians: pinching and forming the vessels by hand, with prehistoric tools—red Georgia clay, a bit of coral and a Virginia walnut for texturing—plus several metal picks. Stop for dinner at **O'Steen's Restaurant** (904/829-6974, closed Sunday/Monday), where local shrimp doused with sweet datil pepper sauce, made only in St. Johns County, is the reason for the long waits. End the day at the **Penny Farthing Inn** (pennyfarthinginn.net or 904/824-2100; rooms from \$109), an eight-room 1897 Victorian B&B with a prime location in the center of the old city.

DAY 2: St. Augustine to Daytona Beach (57 miles) Head south to **Fort Matanzas National Monument** (nps.gov/foma or 904/471-0116), a park with free admission and a complimentary shuttle boat over to the river island fort, which was built by the Spanish army. Like its larger cousin, the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, this fort was built with *coquina*, a rock made of tiny seashells. During battle, the soft *coquina* absorbed the impact of cannon balls, leaving the walls intact. The boat leaves hourly starting at 9:30.



Few high-rises mark this stretch of Old Florida

SOUVENIRS

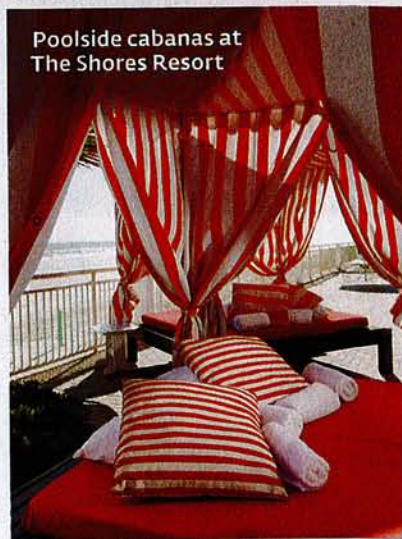


UKULELE
From Grampa's Uke Joint (\$124)

DOLPHIN ART
Painted by a flipped artist at Marineland (\$40)



EARTHENWARE
Handmade by a master potter at Faver (\$550)



Poolside cabanas at The Shores Resort

Marineland Dolphin Conservation Center (marineland.net or 877/432-2317; admission \$8.50) replaced its dolphin shows with personalized “touch and feed” programs (\$26 and up), but for \$8.50 you can see the oceanarium’s 12 dolphins up close through the glass. Just before the **Flagler Beach** pier, visit the coolest, kookiest store on the coast: **Grampa's Uke Joint** (386/439-9906), for aloha shirts and painted ukuleles. Stop for lunch at the **Salty Dog Lunch Spot** (386/503-0340, closed Sundays), hidden down a side street in Flagler Beach. Shop owners often close before noon so they can get first crack at the chicken salad wraps with lemon aioli. As the sun sinks, you'll arrive at **The Shores Resort & Spa** (shoresresort.com or 386/767-7350), a revamped classic beach high-rise just south of Daytona Beach (and well out of the fray). The resort has a long tradition of communal s'mores around fire pits at the close of day. Why argue with tradition? *

PRODUCTS: RALPH ANDERSON; STYLING: AMY BURKE

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