



Historic North Florida Bike Tour

a 6 day USA Bicycle Tour



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Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Meet in Gainesville, warm up ride to Steinhatchee Falls.

Your group will meet at Gainesville Regional Airport around lunch time, then shuttle to Steinhatchee, a fishing port on the Gulf Coast of Florida. We'll get the bikes fitted and enjoy a warmup ride to Steinhatchee Falls and Rise, including a ride on one of Florida's renowned limestone roads. Later we welcome everyone with a great seafood dinner at one of Steinhatchee's better restaurants.

Ride: 18 mi / 29 km, Land: flat

Eat: Dinner

Sleep: Steinhatchee Landing

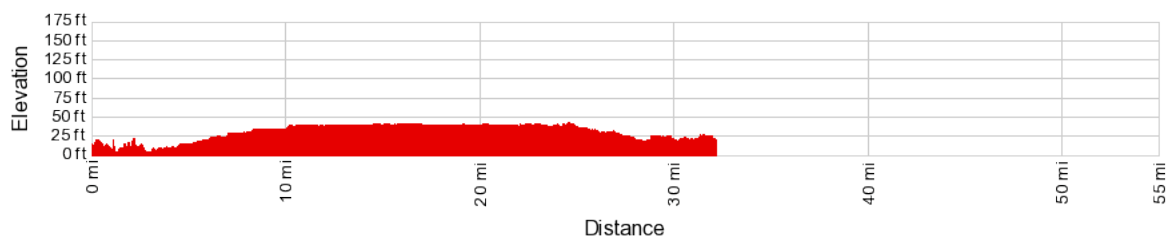
Day 2 - Cycle through pine forests and small rural towns, bike the Nature Coast Rail Trail

We will head out for a local breakfast, then cycle through parts of the Steinhatchee Wildlife Management Area along quiet backroads. Reaching Cross City we pick up the Nature Coast Rail Trail, a beautifully paved bike route that keeps us off the highways and roads for most of the rest of our ride today. The ride takes us through farmlands, small towns and forests to Old Town, where it crosses the Suwannee River on an old trestle bridge. Reaching Fanning Springs we turn south for a bit, then back across the Suwannee to our motel for the night, simple lodging with a magnificent riverfront location. Small town charm and southern cooking highlights our dinner choice to tonight.

Ride: 40 mi / 64 km, Land: flat

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Suwannee Gables Marina



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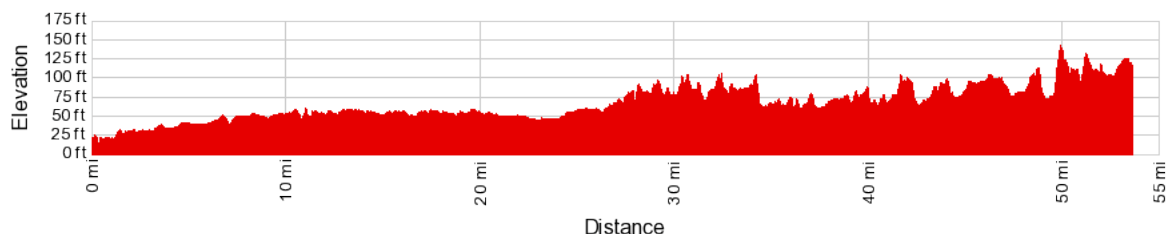
Day 3 - Bike the Nature Coast Trail, through horse farm country, bed down in historic Micanopy.

We will bike to breakfast in Fanning Springs, before continuing along the Nature Coast Trail to the old rail station in Trenton. From Trenton we ride south towards the horse farm region of Florida, considered to be the Horse Capital of the World and renowned for its thoroughbreds. We only pass through a small slice of this massive region enroute to historic Micanopy. This afternoon wander the main street of Micanopy, poking around in antique dealers, art galleries and bric-a-brac shops, before relaxing in our 1850's era Bed & Breakfast. And no trip to Florida is complete without at least one BBQ dinner and the diminutive cafe you enjoy tonight is ranked in the Top 5 in all of barbecue joints in Florida. We will also enjoy a tasting of the excellent craft beers from several breweries in Gainesville.

Ride: 43 mi / 69 km, Land: flat few small hills

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Herlong Mansion



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Day 4 - Visit Majorie Kenning Rawlins home, bike to the St John River, enjoy historic Inn.

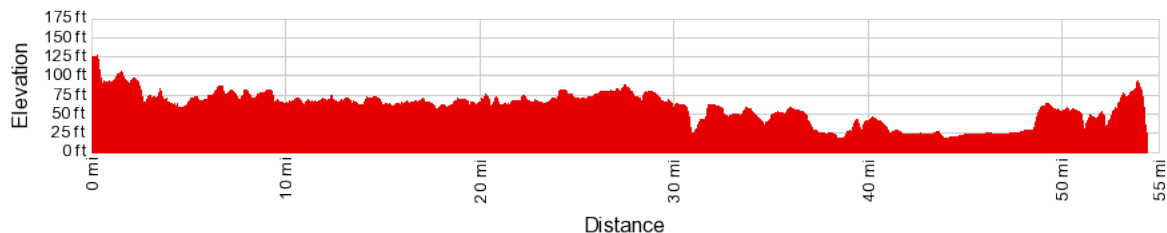
The boomers among us may recall a story and film - The Yearling by Majorie Kinnan Rawlings, set in 1870s Florida, today we cycle past her home in Cross Creek, the area that inspired the book.

Nowadays, a small fishing town, Cross Creek itself connects two large lakes (Orange & Lochloosa), we'll stop for a quick look at her house before cycling through this region dotted with numerous small lakes and ponds. We'll check out a bit of the ill-fated Cross Florida Barge Canal before reaching Palatka, our stop for the night. Palatka sits on the banks of the St John River one of the few rivers in the world that flows south to north. As we are getting closer to the Atlantic coast, seafood is again on the menu.

Ride: 54 mi / 86 km, Land: flat few small hills

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Grand Gables Inn



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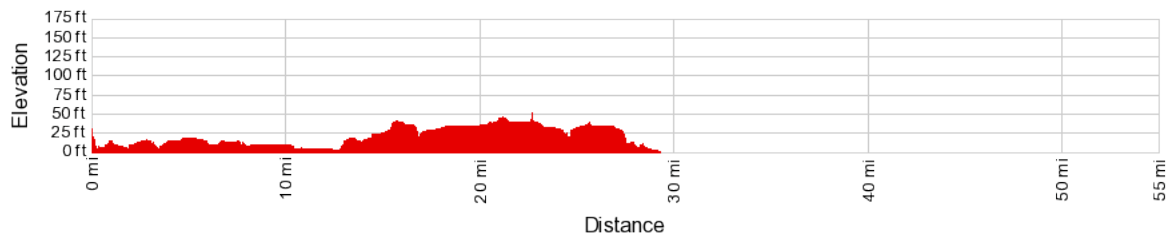
Day 5 - Ride the Palatka Rail Trail to the Atlantic Ocean, walk the streets of 450 year old St Augustine

After breakfast we pick up another of the Florida Rail Trails, taking us first across the St John's River on Memorial Bridge and then through the pine forests and sandy dunes of coastal Florida towards St Augustine. Unfortunately it is not completed all the way yet, you will pop out onto the local roads and finish our ride into St Augustine. St Augustine is America's oldest continually inhabited city, founded by Spanish explorers in 1565. Your short 30 miles of flat cycling will give you lots of time to explore this picturesque city. Perhaps explore the historic district, limited to foot traffic only, stroll the ramparts of the 350 year old Castillo de San Marcos or just sit on the balcony of our bed & breakfast in the historic district and people watch. Our final dinner will be a short stroll away, where ocean fresh seafood meets traditional southern cooking, plus maybe a few craft beers from the local microbreweries.

Ride: 30 mi / 48 km, Land: flat

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: St George Inn



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Day 6 - Return to Gainesville Airport for your flights home.

Our cycling holiday must come to an end today. We will shuttle back to the Gainesville Airport in our vans, one last chance to enjoy the scenery through which you pedaled for the last few days. See ya'll later.

Travel: Shuttle to airport

Eat: Breakfast

Meals: B

* Why are some route profiles cut off? Our profiles are all based on the same vertical and horizontal scale, so shorter days don't fill the graphic image. We feel this lets you compare days to each other better.



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Scheduled Dates You Can Join:

You can find the most up to date information on available departures and book your spots on the tour's webpage linked below. Lets Travel!

<https://pedalers.travel/florida-bicycle-tour-cycling-historic-north.htm>

Private Dates For Your Gang:

Any Pedalers tour can be made private at your request. If you don't see the date you want, we'll create one for you. A tip from our local experts, this tour is best enjoyed March through May and September through November.

Why Pedalers?

Experience the Heart and Soul of Each Country with Our Local Expert Team

Our passionate and diverse team of local experts will guide you through their homeland, sharing intimate knowledge and hidden wonders. They are not just guides but also skilled bike mechanics, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable ride. Unlike other tour companies, Pedalers' local crew brings an insider's perspective to the table. You'll be pampered by a friendly team, equipped with the skills to fix anything. A sweep rider and sag wagon provide support, and your baggage travels comfortably with you. Pedalers treats you like family, making your journey unforgettable.

Indulge in Mouthwatering Local Delights on a Culinary Adventure

Unlock the essence of culture through food as we take you on a culinary extravaganza. Bond with fellow riders over scrumptious dishes at local restaurants specializing in regional cuisine. Family-style dining lets you sample outstanding dishes, carefully chosen by our expert guides. Lunch is satisfying but not overwhelming, and breakfast offers comforting Western delights. Pedalers knows the importance of good food for cyclists, creating a mouthwatering experience that combines riding and dining.



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Immerse Yourself in Authentic Accommodations, Where Culture Meets Comfort

Discover the charm of our handpicked accommodations. Pedalers takes a unique approach to accommodations, ensuring an authentic and immersive experience. Choose between Classic and Première Classe tours, each offering carefully selected lodging options. Classic tours feature mid-priced boutique inns that blend comfort with local character, while Première Classe tours add a touch of luxury to your adventure with upscale lodges and inns. Regardless of your choice, Pedalers' accommodations reflect the local culture, providing a delightful and comfortable stay that complements your journey.

Lodging: Classic

Historic bed & breakfasts, small motels

What's Included:

- 5 nights Accommodation in the area's better hotels (double occupancy)
- Meals from Dinner on Day 1 until Breakfast on Day 6, except as noted in itinerary
- Water, sodas or beer included at dinner
- Rental bike
- Service of Pedalers Guide(s)
- Full Van Support
- Sightseeing and cultural activities
- Airport pick up & drop off

Bikes:

Specialized Allez road bikes are provided for riders to enjoy the tour with.



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Meeting & Flights:

Your group will meet in Gainesville at Gainesville Regional Airport.

Fly into Gainesville Airport (GNV) before 1 pm on Day 1

Fly out of Gainesville Airport (GNV) after 1 pm on Day 6

For assistance with flights contact our friends at Exito Travel: help.pedalers.travel/flights.htm

For guests choosing to drive to the tour, long term parking is available at Gainesville Airport. The cost is \$9 per day or \$55 per week.

Guests booking a private departure can elect to fly via Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) which offers more choices of airlines, but the first day shuttle will be double (about 3 hours). Jacksonville is NOT an option on scheduled dates.

Route Conditions:

The vast majority of the ride is on paved roads or paved bike trails, with one short ride on hard packed limestone roads. Traffic is light to moderate. The route is flat with a few small, low hills.

Scattered rain showers are always a possibility in Florida, so riders should be prepared with rain gear.

Passport, Visa and Travel Documents:

Passports are not required for US citizens or US Green Card holders. Citizens of other countries should check with the nearest US Embassy to see if you can enter with an ESTA or require a visa. We strongly recommend looking into this well in advance of your tour, as visa processing times can sometimes be quite long. To locate the nearest US Embassy visit: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>.