

## **Itinerary**

### **St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Bicycle tour**

Sunday, November 8: Convene in Palatka, an Amtrak city and headquarters of Bike Florida, the state's premier touring company. Rental bikes available. Short city tours, including to Ravine Gardens State Park and North and South Historic Districts. Overnight Quality Inn.

Monday, November 9: Ride to St. Augustine Beach, about 35 miles. Route through farmlands, small towns. Region surrounds lands of the Florida Agricultural Museum. Notable sites: railroad museum, produce stands, small ag town of Hastings that the Loop will help revive; Ancient City of St. Augustine, Lighthouse Museum. Overnight TBD.

Tuesday, November 10: Ride along portions of coastal Highway A1A accompanied by Herb Hiller, author of the definitive work on the coastal road. About 40 miles through Washington Oaks State Park, across un-tamed Matanzas Inlet, along historic beach settlements eroded almost to vanishing by the sea, and designated portions of the East Coast Greenway through Flagler County. Overnight TBD.

Wednesday, November 11: Further along the coastal road through Gamble Rogers Memorial, North Peninsula, Tomoka and Bulow Creek State Parks, altogether some 40 miles also along the Halifax River past John D. Rockefeller's Ormond Beach winter home, through trail ready for designation in Holly Hill, through Daytona Beach to Ponce Inlet. Cross by water taxi direct to Night Swan Bed & Breakfast, New Smyrna Beach.

Thursday, November 12: Early start on some 35 miles, much the way through Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Late lunch at Titusville's landmark Dixie Crossroads Restaurant, domain of legendary Florida conservationist Laurilee Thompson. Continue by bus with narration by trail advocate John Harper to DeLand, historic seat of Volusia County and home of Stetson University. Overnight TBD.

Friday, November 13: Bike portions of Volusia County Spring-to-Spring Trail, late breakfast at famous Old Sugar Mill Pancake House, DeLeon Springs State Park. Conclude a roughly 55-mile day in Crescent City, an enduring small town on a chain of lakes in south Putnam County. Overnight Sprague House B&B and host Crescent City homes.

Saturday, November 14: Bike 10 miles to Welaka Steamboat Museum, then board houseboat down the St. Johns River to Dunns Creek Bridge. Ride Old San Mateo back to Palatka, about five miles.