

Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway

The Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway gives access to a National Estuary providing habitat to more species than anywhere in North America. History buffs, bird watchers, anglers, surfers, swimmers, boaters, and vacationers will find excitement at a national seashore, wildlife refuges, state park, museums, the Kennedy Space Center, beaches, and waterways.



Length: 150 miles / 240.0 km

Time Allow: Take four hours to drive or to two days to enjoy the byway.

Local Information

Indian River County Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Division

772-567-3491

Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce

772-589-5969

Email: info@sebastianchamber.com

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees to drive the byway; however, some of the state and federal lands charge park fees.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



The entire route of the byway may be traveled by bicycle or on foot. Some areas have dedicated bicycle and pedestrian lanes, while others do not.

Camping



Camping is available at Canaveral National Seashore.

Food



You can find food at any of the towns along the byway.

Gasoline



Gas is available all along the byway.



Information

For information about the byway, stop off at Lagoon House in Palm Bay. The official visitor center for the byway in Indian River County is at the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce at 700 Main Street in Sebastian.



Lodging

Find excellent lodging in Titusville, Cocoa, Merritt Island, Cocoa Beach, Melbourne Beach, and Sebastian. You can find rentals at any of these spots. Sebastian, Merritt Island, and Titusville offer Bed & Breakfasts.



Phone

Phones are available at the gas stations, restaurants, and stores along the byway.



Restrooms

Restrooms are available at the gas stations and restaurants all along the byway.



Retail

Cocoa, Merritt Island, Melbourne, and Grant offer shopping. Merritt Island, especially, boasts many one-of-a-kind shops.

Special Considerations

Patrick Air Force Base (Cape Canaveral Air Station) does not allow through traffic. Visitors can take a bus onto the base and see the Space and Missile Museum.

Florida has some of the greatest beaches in the world, with opportunities for contact with wildlife such as manatees, dolphins, sea turtles, and more. These are wild animals and may behave unpredictably. They may also be protected by law. For your safety and theirs, please do not approach them.

Restrictions

Portions of the byway that travel through Cape Canaveral are restricted or closed during space shuttle launches. Check the Kennedy Space Center website for launch listings or contact the Titusville Chamber of Commerce. Both sites are listed under our other links section.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The most enjoyable times to visit the byway are from April to May and September to November due to reasonable weather and fewer visitors in the region.

High Season

November to March is considered the byway's busy season due to the many visitors escaping winter's grasp.

Off Season

Due to the year-round temperate weather, no time is a bad time to visit Florida!

Shoulder Season

The summers in Florida are very hot, causing a reduction in tourist traffic.

Map and Directions



Legend:

■ Point of Interest	▲ Campground	▬ Featured Byway	🌊 Water	▬ State Border
🌲 Park	⛺ Picnic/Rest Area	▬ America's Byways	🌿 Wildlife Refuge	🏘 Urban Area
⚔ Mountain	🛣 Interstate	▬ Other Byway	🌳 Wilderness Area	🏛 Tribal Nation
🗺 City	🛣 U.S. Highway	▬ Other Road	🌳 Other Federal Lands	🏢 Military Base
★ Capital	🛣 State Highway	⋯ Trail	🌳 Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

From Palm Bay, at the Ais Lookout Point:

- Continue south on US-1 to Sebastian.
- Turn east on the Wabasso Causeway to State Route A1A.
- Continue north on A1A, where you will approach the Sebastian Inlet State Recreational Area.
- Continuing north on A1A to Cape Canaveral; take the Bennett Causeway (State Route 528) west.
- By veering north on State Route 3, you will enter the Kennedy Space Center.
- Turn west on State Route 405, where you will approach the Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Complex.
- From the Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Complex, you can continue on State Route 405 to US Highway 1.
- Enter Highway 1 and venture north to Kennedy Point Park, with views of the Vehicle Assembly Building.
- From Highway 1, you can take the Max Brewer Causeway (State Routes 402/406) to the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore. You can then retrace your route to Titusville and continue south to Cocoa.
- Follow US Highway 1 south through Melbourne to Palm Bay.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby airports

Orlando Executive Airport, FL (45.7 miles / 73.55 km, 51 minutes)

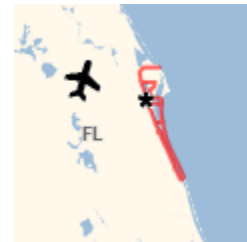
Start:



Rickenbacker Dr.
N 28.545° W 81.332° [?]

Directions:

- From the airport, head north on Rickenbacker Dr toward E Colonial Dr.
- Turn right at E Colonial Dr/FL-50.
- Turn right at FL-436/ N Semoran Blvd.
- Turn left at Lake Underhill Rd.
- Turn left at Yucatan Rd.
- Turn right to merge onto FL-408 E, which is a toll road.
- Take exit 18B to merge onto FL-417 S, which is a partial toll road.



- Take exit 26 to merge onto FL-528 E, which is a partial toll road, toward Cocoa.
- Take the US-1 exit toward Cocoa/ Titusville.
- Turn left at N Cocoa Blvd/FL-5/S US-1.

**Junction
with
byway:** * N Cocoa Blvd/FL-5/S US-1
N 28.378° W 80.739° [?]

Road Trip: Indian River Lagoon Tour

Departure: Canaveral National Seashore, Florida

Destination: Environmental Learning Center, Florida

Time to allow: 2 days

Follow the quiet beaches of the Indian River Lagoon on this tour of the eastern coast of Florida.

Day 1

- **Start: Canaveral National Seashore**

Located just outside of Titusville, Florida, Canaveral National Seashore is situated on a barrier island and includes ocean, beach, dune, hammock, lagoon, salt marsh, and pine flatland habitats.

- **Stop 1: Enchanted Forest Sanctuary**

From previous stop: 15 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: Follow Highway 1 south into Titusville. Merge onto FL-405 Westbound or Columbia Boulevard, and continue along Columbia Boulevard to 44 Columbia Boulevard. The sanctuary will be on the north side of the street.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

The sanctuary contains a nature trail through a hammock of ancient oaks. Part of this trail is a remnant of the historic Hernandez-Capron trail built by Brigadier General Joseph M. Hernandez of the US Army in 1837.

- **Stop 2: Kennedy Space Center**



From previous stop: 15 minutes / 6 mi (9.6 km)

Directions: From the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, turn right onto Columbia Boulevard. Make a U-turn at the next available intersection, and continue east down Columbia Boulevard for 6 miles, crossing the Indian River Lagoon over the Nasa Parkway. The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center will be on the right.

Suggested time at this stop: 4 hours

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex provides an exhilarating and educational experience of the space program. Whether touring the Rocket Garden, or boarding a full-scale replica of the Space Shuttle Explorer, visitors are guaranteed an adventure.

- **End: Titusville**

From previous stop: 15 minutes / 6 mi (9.6 km)

Directions: Return across the Nasa Parkway to Titusville and your lodging accommodations.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 22 miles / 35.2 km

Total Travel Time: 45 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours 30 minutes

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Brevard Zoo**

From previous stop: 45 minutes / 31 mi (49.6 km)

stop:

Directions: From your lodgings in Titusville:

- Navigate to Hopkins Avenue, a part of the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway, and turn south.
- Hopkins Avenue becomes US-1. Continue to follow US-1 for 28 miles into Melbourne.
- Turn right onto Suntree Boulevard.
- Turn right onto Wickham Road and continue for 2.3 miles.
- Make a U-turn at Sheriff Drive to access the other side of Wickham Road.
- The Brevard Zoo is located at 8225 N Wickham Road.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

stop:

The Brevard Zoo is home to over 460 animals, representing 119 species from Latin America, Florida, Asia and Australia. The zoo also has exhibits on the wetland and estuarine ecology of east central Florida. Not only can you enjoy the animals from the walkway, but you can also sign up at the entrance for a kayaking tour among giraffes and lemurs.

• **Stop 2: Lagoon House**



From previous stop: 30 minutes / 17 mi (27.2 km)

Directions: From the Brevard Zoo:

- Head east on Wickham Boulevard.
- Turn left on Suntree Boulevard.
- Turn right onto Highway 1, or the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway, and continue for nearly 15 miles into Palm Bay.
- The Lagoon House is located on the left side of the byway, on Ais Lookout Point.

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

The Lagoon House is a two story building which showcases turn-of-the-century Florida vernacular style architecture. The building houses a visitors center, historical center, and an environmental learning center for the Indian River Lagoon. Stretch your legs in a walk down by the beach, or recline for a moment in a rocking chair on the porch.

• **Stop 3: Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian Fishing Museum, and McLarty Treasure Museum**

From previous stop: 35 minutes / 22.5 mi (36.0 km)

stop:

Directions: From the Lagoon House:

- Turn right onto US-1. Continue for 3.3 miles.
- Turn right onto Strawbridge Avenue and continue for 2.3 miles across the Indian River Lagoon.
- Turn right onto Miramar Avenue, or FL-A1A, and continue for 1.6 miles.
- Turn left onto Ocean Avenue to continue along FL-A1A.
- Follow Ocean Avenue for 15.4 miles into Sebastian Inlet State Park.
- The McLarty Treasure Museum is located at the opposite end of the park.

Suggested time 2 hours 30 minutes

at this stop:

The Sebastian Inlet State Park is one of the most visited state parks in Florida and features several amenities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking trails, and several different types of beaches. You can surf across high, long waves, or splash with the kids in the calm waters of the Cove.

After enjoying the Florida coast, visit Sebastian State Park's two museums. The Sebastian Fishing Museum contains exhibits about the fishing industry's ties to the region, along with presentations on Indian River Lagoon Wildlife. The McLarty Treasure Museum chronicles the fate of the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet, which washed up along this coast after a hurricane destroyed their ships. To this day, salvage crews are recovering treasure from where it rests at the bottom of the ocean.

• **End: Environmental Learning Center**

From previous stop: 15 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Directions: From Sebastian Inlet State Park:

- Continue down Florida A1A for 7.4 miles towards Wabasso.
- Turn right onto Wabasso Road and continue for 1.3 miles.
- Turn left onto Wabasso Island Lane.
- Turn right onto Live Oak Drive and continue for .4 miles.
- Turn left to access the parking lot of the Environmental Learning Center, located at 255 Live Oak Drive.

Our tour ends at the Environmental Learning Center, a not-for-profit activity center dedicated to discovery of the limitless wonders of nature. Follow boardwalks over 51 acres of Florida's native habitat, and see if you can't spot a dolphin at the docks or an otter in the marsh.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 80.5 miles / 128.8 km

Total Travel Time: 2 hours 5 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 6 hours 15 minutes