



Explore Undiscovered North Florida

The Big Bend Scenic Byway will Transport You to a Different Time and Place through its Wildlife, Waterways, Woods, and Way of Life

Belle of the Byway Tour

Overview

- Walking, Biking, Driving
- Self - guided
- 4-6 Hours
- Lunch in Town
- Uneven Pavement (wear comfortable shoes)

Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce
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ailed as one of a "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the City of Apalachicola boasts over 200 historically significant homes and commercial structures. The original town plan, developed in the 1830s with wide tree-lined streets, remained intact when the town became the port of shipment for southwest Georgia and the Chattahoochee River valley cotton. The rows of cotton warehouses, ships' stores, net factories, and sponge exchanges now house restaurants, shops, and galleries.

Park at each Orientation Stop to visit nearby sites, then drive to the next stop. Or, forget the parking and bike the entire route. It's up to you. You can spend as much time as you like, and do bring your camera. When you get hungry, enjoy fresh locally harvested seafood, produce, and tupelo honey at one of the many fine restaurants in the town center or along the water's edge.

- Dixie Theatre. 21 Ave. E. built 1912, it continues to be the entertainment center for the region.
- Sponge Exchange. Ave. E and Commerce St., built 1840, by 1895 there were up to 120 men employed in the sponge trade.
- Cotton Warehouse. Ave. E and Water St., built 1838, was one of 43 river front warehouses built 30 ft. wide and 3 stories high of brick and granite.



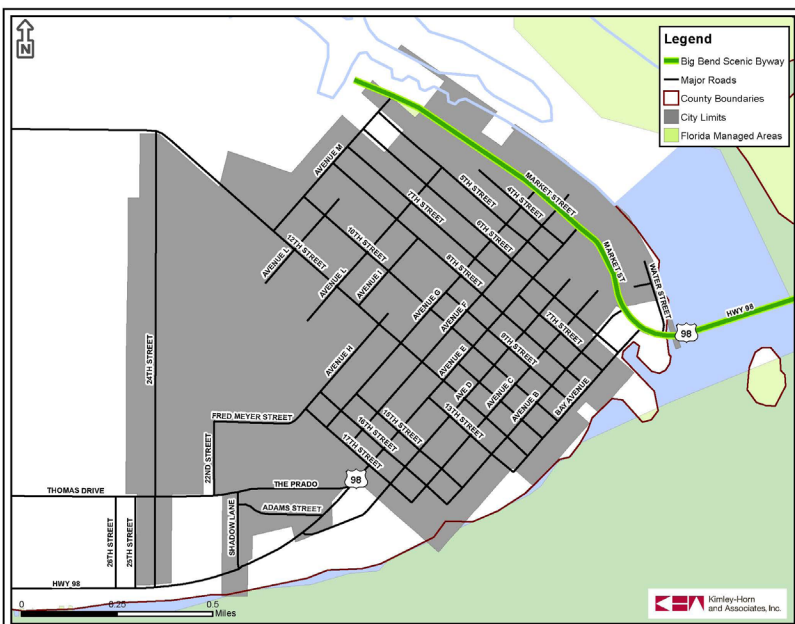
Directions and Interpretation

#1. Downtown Walking Tour

Covers six blocks. Park at Market St. & Ave. E

From Market Street, walk toward the water on E Street to begin this tour. Many of the sites have interpretive panels.

- Grady Building/Consulate. 76 Water St., built in the late 1880's and rebuilt after the 1900 fire, it served as a ship's chandlery and general store. The French Consulate was on the second floor to serve the interests of their citizens who shipped cotton and timber.
- US Post Office. Ave. D and Commerce St., initially built as a Customs House in 1923.
- O.E. Cone Building. 67 Commerce St., built after the 1900 fire, it was a barbershop, laundry, and wood yard of an African American businessman, Mr. Cone.
- Orman Building. Ave. D & Market St., Thomas Orman (1799-1880) owned lots in 22 blocks downtown, including extensive wharf space. Built of hard-fired brick and tabby mortar, exterior stucco was applied between 1920-1930.
- Hayes House. Ave. D & 4th St., built in 1908 of black cypress and heart pine from East Bay, across the river.
- Ft. Coombs Armory. Ave. D & 4th St., the oldest building continuously used by a U.S. National Guard Company. Construction began in 1901 and was completed in 1905.
- Messina House. 50 Ave. F, built in 1885, this classic-revival style home was renovated in 2000 as a guesthouse.
- The Rainey House. Market St. and Ave. F, built in 1838, this Greek-Revival mansion is open for tours Tues.-Fri. 1-4 pm and Sat. 9 am-5 pm.





Maritime Heritage Trail Interpretation - The Belle of the Byway Tour

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#2 Uptown Walking Tour

Covers 6 Blocks. Park at 6th St. & Ave. D

Begin this tour at the corner of Ave. D and 6th St., then continue west on 6th.

- John Gorrie Museum State Park. 6th and Ave. D, this state museum houses a replica of ice machine invented by Dr. Gorrie, which later became the basis of the ice industry and air conditioning.



- Trinity Church. 79 6th St., this Greek-Revival building was shipped in sections by schooner from White Plains, N.Y., and assembled with wooden pegs in 1838.
- Chapman House. Ave. E and 6th St., mid-1800's home of botanist Alvin Chapman, author of *The Flora of the Southern United States*.
- The Flatauer House. 6th St., and Ave. E, built in 1908-09, the house was later renovated for use as a bank.
- Bryant House. 6th and Ave. F, built in 1915 by Billy Bryant, an African-American builder of fine homes and boats, later renovated and now serving as a B & B.
- Fry Conter House. 5th St. and Ave. F, built in 1845 by Riverboat Captain Daniel Fry, it is now open as the Apalachicola Museum of Art.
- Witherspoon Inn. 94 5th St., built in 1871 for Captain Witherspoon and his family, restored now as a B&B.
- Mark/Clark House. 65 Ave. E, built in St. Joe in the 1800s, it was relocated to Apalachicola in 1854 and is one of a few structures to survive the 1900 fire.
- Methodist Church. 5th St. and Ave. E, built in 1846, it was destroyed by the 1900 fire, and rebuilt in 1901.
- Coombs Annex. Ave. E and 5th St., built in 1903, it is now part of the Coombs House Inn and B&B.
- Catholic Church. 6th St. and Ave. C, organized in 1845, this Romanesque building was constructed in 1929.



#3. Lafayette Park Walking Tour

Drive from 6th Street east to Bay Avenue. Turn right to 13th Street, then right to Avenue B, and park at 13th Street & Avenue B.

Take a walk through this waterfront showcase surrounded by some of the most beautiful homes in the Historic District. Established in 1832, the park quickly became the hub of social activities. Rededicated 100 years later, it features a lush landscape, period lighting, a gazebo, children's play equipment, picnic tables and a long fishing pier which stretches several hundred feet out into Apalachicola Bay.



#4. Chestnut Street Cemetery Walking Tour

Continue back on Avenue B to 8th Street to Avenue E, and park at the cemetery entrance on 8th Street & Avenue E.

Walk through this historic cemetery which was established in 1831. Interred are some of Apalachicola's founders and molders of her colonial history. Also buried here are many soldiers of the Confederacy and victims of yellow fever and shipwrecks. Seven of the Confederate veterans served with Pickett at Gettysburg in the gallant Florida Brigade, and Apalachicola's world-famed botanist, Dr. Alvin Wentworth Chapman, who died in 1899, is buried here beside his wife.



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#5. Orman House Historic State Park & Veterans Memorial Walking Tour

Continue on 8th Street to Avenue I. Turn right to 5th Street and park at 177 Fifth Street.

Visit this house built in 1838 by Thomas Orman. The wood was cut to measure in New York, and shipped here, where it



was reassembled on the bluff overlooking the river. Now a state park, it is open Thursday – Monday. Located in front of the Orman House, the Veterans Memorial Plaza features the Circle of Freedom Walkway and Three Servicemen Statue, a bronze sculpture by Fredrick Hart dedicated to Vietnam servicemen.

#6. Scipio Creek Marina & St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center Walking Tour

Return to Avenue I, turn left to Market Street. Turn left and continue to the end of Market Street and park at the Refuge Visitors Center.

Scipio Creek Marina is packed full of green-netted shrimp boats. First visit the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, which interprets the remote 12,300-acre barrier island, located at the west end of Apalachicola Bay. At the opposite end of the Marina is River Ramble Trail and Boardwalk, an interpretive nature trail that follows an historic railbed surrounded by wildflowers, ending in a panoramic overlook of Scipio Creek and the river floodplain.



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