Explore 15 Scenic Drives
through Northwest Florida's
Beauty, Bounty, Culture,
and Secret Places

Exit #13 174 South Spur
Carrabelle
Florida’s River Way South Country

Discover the land, people, and unforgettable places shaped by the Apalachicola and Choctawhatchee Rivers.
Acknowledgments

RiverWay South Board of Directors
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John Alter, Jackson County; Jim Bagby, South Walton County TDC; Jim Brook, Opportunity Florida; Bruce Ballister, Apalachee Regional Planning Council; Curt Blair, Franklin County TDC; Julia Bullington, Holmes County TDC; Dr. Jim Froh, Chipola College; Pam Fuqua, Jackson County TDC; Lee Garner, Gadsden County TDC; Melinda Gates, Walton County; Jerrie Lindsey, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Heather Lopez, Washington County TDC; Kristy Terry, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce; John Thornton, West Florida Electric Cooperative; Robert Voss, Calhoun County; Betty Webb, City of Apalachicola

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Additional Photographs were provided by: RiverWay South Member Counties, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Andy Wraithmell and Mark Keiser, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Eleanor Dietrich, Florida Wildflower Foundation
Drive Snapshot
An island influenced by World War II

Distance/Time
74 miles/Allow 5 hours to drive the tour and visit sites

Main Attractions
1. World’s Smallest Police Station
1. Carrabelle History Museum
6. *Bald Point State Park
7. Camp Gordon Johnston Museum

Worth the Stop
1. Carrabelle Visitor Information Center
2. Frog Pond
3. St. James Bay Golf Course
4. Seineyard Restaurant at SummerCamp
5. Leonard’s Landing

Water Access
Carrabelle Riverwalk Launch - Carrabelle River
Leonard’s Landing - Alligator Harbor
Ochlockonee Bay Landing - Ochlockonee Bay
Bald Point State Park - Tucker Lake and Chaires Creek

Trails
Big Bend National Scenic Byway
*Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail

Information Resources
RWSFL.org, Saltyflorida.com, Carrabelle.org, Mycarrabelle.com, Visitflorida.org, Floridabigbendscenicbyway.com, Floridastateparks.org, Museumsusa.org, Floridabirdingtrail.com
Exit 174 Spur Carrabelle

St. George Sound
Dog Island
Alligator Point
Bald Point
Road
Marine St.
SE Ave.
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY
SEE ENLARGEMENT

Exit 174 Spur Carrabelle

Miles
0 6

Wedding Cake Island
Carrabelle
Lanark Village
This Spur Route extends eastward from the Exit 174 Loop Tour, beginning in downtown Carrabelle at the intersection of US 98 and Tallahassee Street. The **World’s Smallest Police Station** is across the street from the Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center. Stop by for materials and information. Turn right onto Marine Street for one block and turn left to visit the **Carrabelle History Museum**. Return to Marine Street and continue along the riverfront for 0.3 miles to the **Carrabelle River Boat Launch**. The location also has a dock, interpretive information, a cleaning station, and marine sculptures. Exit town by turning left onto SE Avenue F. In 1 mile stop at **Frog Pond** on the left, which is a heron rookery during breeding season and frequently attracts a variety of waterbirds, herons, egrets, and occasionally Roseate Spoonbills.

Continue to the intersection with US 98 and turn right, driving along the coast. **Lanark Village** at mile 5.3 was the center of **Camp Gordon Johnston** and several of the original officers quarters are in use today. **The St. James Bay Golf and Country Club**, an Audubon Signature Sanctuary Course that is ranked #2 in Florida, is at mile 7.5. At the intersection with US 319 at mile 10.5, bear right toward Panacea, remaining on US 98. **The Seineyard Restaurant** at the SummerCamp
development is on the right at mile 10.8. Continue east on US 98. **Leonard’s Landing** on Alligator Harbor is at mile 17.2.

Continue east on US 98 and at mile 19.5 turn right onto Alligator Drive/CR 370. There are two entrances to Bald Point State Park. The first, on the left at mile 20.3, provides access to Chaires Creek and Tucker Lake. To reach the main entrance, continue on CR 370 and turn left onto Bald Point Road at mile 23.3. The main entrance is at mile 26.2. Return to US 98 on the same route.

Turn right to visit the **Ochlockonee Bay Boat Launch** on the left at the base of the Ochlockonee Bay Bridge at mile 33.9.

Return to Carrabelle on US 98. Upon entering town, turn right at 5th Street and follow the signs to visit the **Camp Gordon Johnston Museum**. Return to Tallahassee Street in town and continue on the Exit 174 Loop Drive to I-10.

Clam aquaculture sites were established in Alligator Harbor in 2002 and are producing a very valuable product for Florida’s economy. The harbor is a shallow estuary enclosed by the Alligator Point sand spit and is unique because it’s one of the few harbors in Florida that’s not fed directly by a river. This means the salt content of the water is almost the same as the Gulf of Mexico, thus enabling the successful clam harvesting industry.
Self-Guided Tour

Main Attractions

Camp Gordon Johnston Museum
Campgordonjohnston.com

Nationally honored by the Smithsonian Magazine for three straight years, this museum is dedicated to the heritage of World War II soldiers. The museum focuses in particular on the quarter of million men who trained for amphibious landings at Camp Gordon Johnston, which closed in June of 1946. It includes extensive history of these units as well as a photographic display of the area and life as it existed at the camp.

Artifacts are displayed in themes -- Barracks, Equipment, War, Home Front, Camp Gordon Johnston, and Franklin County Veterans. The museum is located in the Carrabelle City Complex at 1001 Gray Avenue in Carrabelle. Museum hours are: Monday through Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Friday from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Nationwide, birding is big business: 46.7 million people observed birds around the home and on trips in 2011; there are nearly 72 million wildlife watchers in the U.S. and nationwide, and the estimated economic impact of wildlife watching is $54.9 billion. In 2011, wildlife viewing activities generated more than $4.9 billion for Florida’s economy. Wildlife viewing in Florida supports 44,623 full- and part-time jobs. That is more jobs than the entire air transportation industry statewide.
World’s Smallest Police Station
Featured on “Real People,” “Ripley’s Believe It or Not,” and the “Today Show,” the World’s Smallest Police Station is located in Carrabelle on the north side of US 98 as you drive west. In the early 1960s, the police phone was bolted to a building at the corner of US 98 and Tallahassee Street. To avoid problems with tourists making unauthorized long distance calls and protect officers from the elements, the phone was later placed in a booth at its current location. However, the illegal calls continued and eventually the dial was removed from the phone. Vandals later ripped phones from the booth, shot holes through its glass, and knocked it over. A tourist once asked a gas station attendant to help him load it into his vehicle so he could take it back to Tennessee. The original booth is on display in the Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce office.

Carrabelle History Museum
Carrabellehistorymuseum.org

Opened in 2009, local residents have built the collection through donated historical pictures, genealogy, memories, and household and work items. Special displays highlight Carrabelle’s First People, Local Heroes, and the Steamship Tarpon, which was key to building Carrabelle in the early 1900s. The museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. til 5 p.m.
Franklin County, which was named for Benjamin Franklin, was founded in 1832. Its coastline was inhabited by Native Americans for about 12,000 years. Life was good since seafood was abundant. One style of pottery first found in Carrabelle is named Carrabelle Punctuated. A clay pot was made and, while it was still damp, the potter would take a small stick and press the end into the clay until the entire pot was covered with small indentations, resulting in a decorated water-resistant pot.

**Bald Point State Park**

Some of the most picturesque areas along the North Florida Gulf Coast can be found at this park, one of the newest additions to the award-winning Florida Park System. Located on Alligator Point where Ochlockonee Bay meets Apalachee Bay, Bald Point offers a multitude of land and water activities. Coastal marshes, pine flatwoods, and oak thickets foster a diversity of biological communities that make the park a popular destination for birding and wildlife viewing. Every fall, Bald Eagles, other migrating raptors, and Monarch Butterflies are commonly sighted here as they head south for the winter. A surprising site, you might even see Black Bears, Sea Turtles, and Alligators sharing the same stretch of beach… watch for tracks!

**Worth the Stop**

**Frog Pond**

Located just east of Carrabelle on SE Avenue F, this is a great birdwatching spot for waterbirds.
St. James Bay Golf Course
Stjamesbay.com
This Audubon Signature Sanctuary public golf course has been rated #2 in the State of Florida and #26 in the nation. The challenge is not being distracted by all of the wildlife, including Black Bear, Red Fox, White-Tailed Deer, Turkey, Bald Eagles, Osprey, and more. The facility includes rental units, pool, and a restaurant/grill.

The Seineyard at SummerCamp
Theseineyardatsummercamp.com
Located in a waterfront development, this open, spacious restaurant offers fresh seafood and drinks overlooking the Gulf. The native plants surrounding the facility are an attraction to both butterflies and birds.

Leonard’s Landing
This waterside pull-off features an interpretive display on the aquaculture practices being used at this location for clam and oyster harvests. It also has a sand launch for small boats and kayaks and access to miles of coastline for sunning and fishing.
Self-Guided Tour

Water Access

Riverfront Launch - Carrabelle River
Located downtown on the riverfront walk with cleaning stations.

Leonard’s Landing - Alligator Harbor
Direct sand launch to Alligator Harbor with parking.

Ochlockonee Bay Landing - Ochlockonee Bay
The facility is located at the base of the Ochlockonee Bay Bridge with dock, picnic, trash facilities, and access to shoreline fishing sites.

Alligator Harbor is one of the world’s largest feeding grounds for the Kemp’s Ridley Turtles which is the rarest and most endangered of all marine turtles. The area’s abundance of blue crabs, jellyfish, shellfish, and sea grass provide an important food source for all sea turtles. The unspoiled waters and beaches are valuable breeding and nesting grounds for marine sea turtles. Alligator Harbor, in addition to being a valuable natural resource, is also archaeologically rich with several Miccosukee and Seminole Indian artifacts and burial mounds.
**Bald Point State Park - Tucker Lake and Chaires Creek**

Located 3/4 mile from US 98 off County Rd 370 on the left. Range Road is a paved drive which reaches the interior of the park and provides access to a fishing bridge over the tidal Chaires Creek and a canoe and kayak launch on Tucker Lake. Access to the kayak and canoe launch is just off the paved drive south of the bridge down a dirt service road. This facility provides access directly into Tucker Lake, a large brackish lake connected to the Ochlockonee Bay via Chaires Creek.

**Big Bend Scenic Byway**

[Floridabigbendscenicbyway.com](http://Floridabigbendscenicbyway.com)

This Florida and nationally designated 220-mile scenic drive travels through coastal and forest portions of Leon, Wakulla, and Franklin Counties. In Franklin County it connects nature- and cultural-based resources along Coastal Highway US 98 and Forest Route 65.
A publication of RiverWay South Apalachicola Choctawhatchee, a dynamic river-based rural tourism organization serving Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Holmes, Jackson, Walton, and Washington Counties.

#Explore Our Florida
RWSFL.org

Funding provided by RiverWay Contributing Partners, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity