Drive the Open Roads to Nature’s Paradise

Day One
There is plenty of open road in Levy County, Florida. Miles and miles of pastureland where cattle bask in the morning sunshine, and tractors are an everyday occurrence. Taking Alt-27 is a beautiful drive from the rural cities of Chiefland to Williston passing by farms, timberland and hayfields. While you are driving through this area of Florida be sure an take time to do some wildlife viewing, including bird watching.

Goethe State Forest is perfect to getting ‘off road’ either by driving your vehicle down the lime rock roads or hiking the many trails. The main area of Goethe State Forest is located in the southeastern portion of Levy County near the Gulf of Mexico. There are three trailheads: Black Prong, Apex and Tidewater. These trailheads are wonderful for taking your horse on a ride through this beautiful forest. All horseback riders must have proof of current negative Coggins test results for their horses when on state lands. Overnight camping is allowed by permit only. The Goethe Trail System extends throughout the forest. The forest is open during daylight hours for visitors to enjoy horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, fishing or wildlife viewing. Goethe State Forest has many varieties of wild orchids, just remember they are not al-

Where to Stay

Williston Crossing R.V. Resort: 410 NE 5th St. Williston, FL 32696  352-528-7100
Nature Coast Inn: 649 Highway 40 West, Inglis, FL 34449  PH.352-388-8044
Captain’s Quarters: 48 Hwy 19 S, Inglis, FL 34449  PH.352-447-5202
Day Two

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

Driving from Inglis, Florida, head north towards the Gulf of Mexico for a scenic road trip on State Road 24 to County Road 347. Along the way be sure to turn off on County Road 326 for a historical stop at the Shell Mound Archeological Park. All the shells you see at the mound were placed there thousands of years ago. Early native cultures reused and recycled their shell debris in order to fortify the mud flats and make them more stable. All middens (shell mounds) were built in a crescent shape. Walk the Past by taking the 0.3 mile loop trail across this ancient. Notice the plants that flourish in the calcium-rich mound: wild coffee, snow berries, Christmas berries, coontie and sacred cedars. Relish the same bird ’s-eye view of the salt marsh that the ancients did so long ago. Be sure you stop for a spectacular panorama of sparkling Gulf waters which can be enjoyed from a bench atop the shell mound. Call 352-493-0238 or email lowersuwannee@fws.gov

Where to Eat

Head to Cedar Key

Island Room at Cedar Cove: 192 2nd St., Cedar Key, FL PH. 352-543-6520 For several different oysters and clams dishes. Fine selection of wines. Fresh seafood. Gulf view.

Steamers Clam Bar and Grill: 420 Dock St. Cedar Key, FL PH. 352-543-5142 Excellent food and Gulf view and beautiful sunsets.

While you ’re in Cedar Key, swing by the Historical Society Museum to enrich your learning experience. The First Cross-Florida Railroad exhibit is another great spot to absorb the area ’s history. But if you want to combine your love of nature and history, there ’s no better place to do it than Cedar Key Museum State Park. The museum is full of Indian artifacts and one of Florida ’s largest shell collections. Before you leave, be sure to take a stroll on the nature trail to the Witman House.

Come visit Nature’s Paradise

VisitLevy.com or Call 877-387-5673
We will mail you a 20 page brochure