

Head down the road for some old-fashioned fun!

Day One



The sunny days of June will be here before we know it, just in time for ripe and juicy ice cold watermelon, of course -- Fresh from Florida. Start your trip out by driving to Chiefland, FL, bring your bike to the intersection of U.S. 19/98 and NW First Ave. and register for the annual **Tour de Melon Bike Ride**. You can go online to register ahead of time to sign up for the route you want. There is a CENTURY RIDE (100 miles) through the beautiful country roads of Levy County. You will pass watermelon fields, cattle and beautiful miles of farmland, most of the time without any traffic to disturb your ride. If your not up to a Century Ride you can take a scenic ride on the Nature Coast State Trail, a 10' foot flat paved Rails to Trails system that will

take you from Chiefland to the next town, Fanning Springs and beyond. While you are on the Tour de Melon Bike Ride you will encounter rest stops that feature fresh watermelon, drinks and snacks to keep you going. You will meet people from all over who have come to ride in this amazing event. Go to www.TourDeMelon.com to register for this wonderful bike ride. Everyone who registers will receive a free T-shirt but be sure to purchase your Tour de Melon Bike Jersey so you can have bragging rights that day and when you get back home. Event is sponsored by Suwannee Valley Rotary Club.



This fabulous bike ride is held the same day the Chiefland Woman's Club host their **Chiefland Watermelon Festival**. You can join in some down-home fun, tasty foods, good music, the Watermelon Queen pageant, a parade, and watermelon spitting contest, Who Grew The BIGGEST Watermelon Weigh-In, local talent, Hula Hoop contest, watermelon eating contest and of course an abundance of FREE ice cold watermelon for everyone. Come out and enjoy the entire day riding the country roads or trail system.

[Click here](#) for more Watermelon Festival info.

While you are in town, head north on Highway US 19 to the charming **Dakotah Winery** at 14365 NW Hwy 19-Chiefland, FL for a wine tasting and stroll through their amazing gift shop and don't forget to visit the duck pond with Wood Ducks and Koi fish. It is a wonderful place to stretch your legs and learn about wine making in Florida. www.DakotahWinery.com Closed on Sunday.

Where To Stay

RVCampgrounds: Breezy Acres, Chiefland Flea Market RV Park or Manatee Springs State Park.

or stay at Quality Inn, Days Inn, or Manatee Springs Motel. For more information on accommodations go to our website www.VisitLevy.com or call 1-877-387-5673.



Day Two

Wake up to a good old Southern breakfast at **The Gathering Table** located at 116 Main St., Chiefland. After resting your bellies and having that last cup of coffee gather up your crew and head north on US 19 to CR 320, turn left, road will terminate at **Manatee Springs State Park** entrance.



This beautiful crystal clear first magnitude spring is open year round and offers a scenic boardwalk to the historic Suwannee River. In winter, West Indian manatees swim upriver to the warmer waters of the springs. Bring your camera and binoculars for spotting native and migratory birds. Popular for snorkeling and scuba diving, the headwaters of the spring are also a great spot for swimming. Canoe and kayaks can be rented May through September. Children enjoy the playground in the picnic area. Hiking and bicycling are available on the north end trail system. The full-facility campground is surrounded by red oak woods.

www.floridastateparks.org/manateesprings/default.cfm

Address: 11650 N.W. 115th Street-Chiefland, Florida 32626.
(352) 493-6072

Where To Eat

Beef O'brady's Restaurant: 7050 NW 140 St.,
Chiefland, FL (352) 493-9964

Bar-B-Q Bills, 1901 N. Young Blvd.,
Chiefland, FL (352) 493-4444

BubbaQue's Bar-B-Q: 1306 N Young Blvd.,
Chiefland (352) 493-4BBQ

Gathering Table Steakhouse: 116 N. Main St.,
Chiefland (352) 493-1590



After a pleasant lunch and ice cream dessert take a short drive outside of town

(approximately 5 miles) to **Levy County Quilt Museum**, the only registered quilt museum in the state of Florida. Located between Chiefland and Bronson (on Alternate 27) the museum offers a chance to view local quilters at work and appreciate the centuries-old tradition of quilting. Bring back memories of when mother and grandma made those beautiful quilts and you are going to see some of the best quilts in the state.

Festivals and shows provide a chance to purchase these hand-made masterpieces. Visitors are welcome at the museum. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 AM-3PM, Closed Sunday and Monday. Address is 11050 NW 10th Ave, Chiefland, Florida. (352) 493-2801



Come back and visit us at www.AmericanRoadMagazine.com for other wonderful places in LEVY COUNTY, or take a look by visiting our website at www.VisitLevy.com. We can't wait to see you when you come visit!

You now have a brief overview of a few places to visit in LEVY COUNTY, but remember, there are many other exciting places to discover in this county. Come visit, you'll be glad you did. Thank you for visiting!

www.VisitLevy.com

1-877-387-5673 or (352) 486-3396