

The 2nd Edition BIG WATER Heritage Trail



Mission Statement

The Big Water Heritage Trail provides opportunities to discover and explore the natural, cultural, historical, educational and recreational features of the Lake Okeechobee region and will connect to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.



The BIG WATER Heritage Trail

A Guide to the Lake Okeechobee Area Hidden Charms



Lake Okeechobee, the second largest freshwater lake in the United States, the epicenter of Florida, is a majestic 730 square mile, 467,200 acre wonderland. The lake, renowned for its unique natural habitat, recreational fishing and boating, lures tourists and residents year-round. Okeechobee, an area rich with heritage and culture, is home to the Seminole Indians and means "plenty big water." Come get away from the hustle and bustle of busy city life. Just one to two hours away from Florida's east and west coast areas, you can experience quiet relaxation by going back in time to the Real Florida. On the Heritage Trail you can discover the region's natural, cultural and historical hidden treasures, within just 10 miles of the lake.

The Big Water Heritage Trail is a scenic auto tour route, which links the regional assets around Lake Okeechobee. Circling this body of water is a bracelet of five counties, each with towns that have their own distinctive charm. Clockwise, from the north they are: Okeechobee County (Okeechobee); Martin County (Port Mayaca and Indiantown); Palm Beach County (Pahokee, Belle Glade, South Bay, Canal Point and Lake Harbor); Hendry County (Clewiston); and Glades County (Moore Haven, Lakeport, Liberty Point, Otona, Palmalca).

A GUIDE TO THE BIG WATER HERITAGE TRAIL MAP/BROCHURE: The map on the reverse of this brochure will assist you in finding the destinations of your interest. These destinations

are numbered, highlighted within each county, and color-coded based on the experience: natural, cultural, historical, recreational, and educational. Additionally, don't miss the beautiful scenic drives depicted on the map: Riverside/Lake Hippochee Scenic Drive, Royal Palm Avenue and Bacom Point Road/S.R. 715 - Royal Palm Trees.

On this scenic tour you'll find monuments commemorating major events including Seminole Indian battles, horrific hurricanes, and the region's participation in World War II. You'll see examples of historic-era construction, innovative transportation and major engineering feats. Gain a behind-the-scenes perspective on the mechanics of farming, ranching and migrant work life and the struggle area pioneers encountered to create this present day agricultural mecca. These early settlers of Lake Okeechobee also developed an amazing variety of homemade swamp buggies, airboats, fishing boats, and other devices used to traverse this swampy wilderness. See how past and present converge. Meet "the people of the big water," a surprising mix of cultures and accents who have made the area their home, many for generations. Break away from the familiar and spend a day or more exploring some of this vast rural wonderland to experience the area's sense of place. Take your curiosity with you, keep your eyes open, and you're sure to discover a charming old piece of Florida you never knew.

A Little History

About 14,000 years ago, people first entered the Florida peninsula. Known as "Paleoindians," these original Floridians survived by hunting mastodons, camels, mammoths, bison and horses. Florida was a dry, large, grassy prairie with a sea level much lower than it is today.

About 9000 B.C., with glaciers melting and the sea level rising, Florida's climate became wetter, with rivers and lakes providing a more hospitable environment. In the 1500's, when Spanish explorers arrived in Florida an estimated 350,000 Native Americans were living throughout the present day state. The Apalachee and Timucuan in the north, the Belle Glade people on the vast savanna around Lake Okeechobee, and the Calusa people lived along the southwest coast. By the early 1700's, many members of Florida's original Native American groups were gone, having succumbed to European diseases for which they had no resistance. As American colonists settled more of the South, additional Indians fled to Florida, these remnants of many different southeastern Indian groups were to be later known as the Creeks and Seminoles.

By 1813, growing conflict between white immigrants and the Native inhabitants of the land led to the Creek War of 1813-1814. Conflicts continued and a series of decades wars followed. The First, Second and Third Seminole Wars were fought in the swamps and hammocks of Central Florida. After the war ended, over 3,000 Natives had been forcibly removed from Florida to Western territories with only as few as 300 remaining in Florida taking refuge in the Everglades and Big Cypress areas. Indiantown was settled by the Seminole Indians early in the 19th century. The settlement is just fourteen miles south of the site of the last battle of the Seminole War.

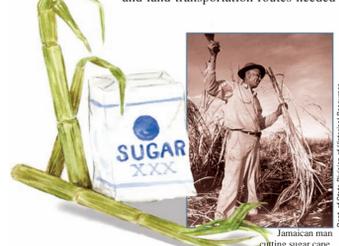
Today, the Seminole Tribe obtains significant annual gross revenues from such diverse economic sources as agriculture, citrus, aircraft production, gaming, tobacco sales, land leases, cattle and aquaculture.

In addition to the struggles of indigenous peoples with new settlers, historical events in the lake area are tied to the ancient power struggle between humans and nature. Settlements were well established by the turn of the century but these communities, protected by the first "muck dike" of dirt, were no match for the hurricane of 1926 that pounded through the dike and created significant devastation.

The hurricane of 1928 was an even deadlier assault, claiming the lives of an estimated 2,000 people. In the storm's aftermath the construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike began in the 1930's by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local labor forces and was largely completed in 1937. This incredible flood control structure is notably visible from the highway as you drive around the lake.

Discover a unique cultural and historical experience along the Big Water Heritage Trail with incredible views of the second largest lake in America. In Palm Beach County you'll find the Pahokee Marina where you can catch a magnificent sunset on Lake Okeechobee. Enjoy the vast array of wildlife to be encountered on the trail such as wading birds like the White Ibis, Great Egret, Great Blue and Little Blue Heron and the Wood Stork as well as the American Alligator. Explore some of the last vestiges of old Florida dating back to an earlier time when the still-unconquered Seminole people controlled this area. In Okeechobee County, you'll find a historic marker at the site of the Battle of Okeechobee of 1837, which occurred during the Second Seminole War (a re-enactment is held annually). You can also visit the Brighton Seminole Reservation to experience Native American culture on this 35,000-acre reservation.

The cultural landscape depicting the lives of the farmers in the communities along the lake are also seen and felt throughout the area. With almost a half million acres of farmland, a large-scale agricultural industry has developed with packing houses, livestock markets, and railroad and land transportation routes needed



for the exportation of goods. The Okeechobee Livestock Market, established in the 1930's, is the largest cattle market in Florida, hosting sales on Mondays and Tuesdays. Royal Palm Avenue offers a beautiful scenic drive in Clewiston. The planting of palms along this roadway was part of



Lake Okeechobee Agricultural Industry: "Florida's Pot of Gold."



Beef cattle resting beneath the shade of oak trees.

the City Beautiful movement, popular in the early decades of the 20th Century. Sugarland Tours allow a visitor the chance to experience a real taste of agricultural life where you can learn about area history, tour sugar cane and citrus farms and partake in a scrumptious lunch at the historic Clewiston Inn, which is included in the tour.

Sites Along The Scenic Trail



Your drive will take you to sites that celebrate other diverse aspects of history. The Okeechobee Historical Society Museum is housed in the first one-room schoolhouse built in 1909. In Martin County, view the vertical lift bridge of the Florida East Coast Railroad tracks and working locks. In Hendry County, a City Park memorial to Royal Air Force Pilots of World War II



Okeechobee Historical Society Museum: former one-room schoolhouse.

should be seen as well as the Lawrence Will Museum in Belle Glade with early archaeological finds and archival records about the history of the area. The Ortona Indian Mound Park in Glades County contains remains of a large prehistoric Indian village and ceremonial center that dates back to as much as 2000 years ago. Drive along on the Riverside/Lake Hippochee Scenic Drive to check out the Lone Cypress Tree which is over 500 years old and once served as a navigational aid to early boaters and settlers.

You can spend the night at the Seminole Inn, opened in 1926 by the developer of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, and compare it with the Percy Bishop House (listed on the National Register of Historic

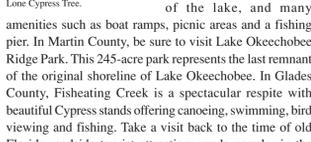


The Seminole Inn.

Places). Bishop was the vice president and general manager of Southern Sugar Company, the developers of Clewiston. While in Clewiston you may want to stay overnight at the famous Clewiston Inn built by U.S. Sugar to draw businessmen and fishermen. The Everglades Lounge features a mural that covers all four walls depicting the wildlife of the region by West Palm Beach artist L. Clinton Shepherd. Then take a stroll and check out Bond Street, the historic business district built in the 1920's and 1930's. On nearby Del Monte Avenue, you will find the homes of Clewiston's most prominent residents who helped to create Clewiston's special character.

The Clewiston Inn.

Numerous lake area recreational opportunities are afforded on the Big Water Heritage Trail offering picnicking, hiking, fishing, and boating amenities. Lock 7/Jaycee Park/Fishing Pier in Okeechobee is a beautiful park offering a great view of the lake, and many amenities such as boat ramps, picnic areas and a fishing pier. In Martin County, be sure to visit Lake Okeechobee Ridge Park. This 245-acre park represents the last remnant of the original shoreline of Lake Okeechobee. In Glades County, Fishing Creek is a spectacular respite with beautiful Cypress stands offering canoeing, swimming, bird viewing and fishing. Take a visit back to the time of old Florida roadside tourist attractions made popular in the 1950's and 1960's by visiting Gatorama which is home to hundreds of alligators and six species of crocodile all within a beautiful pristine Florida nature setting. In Hendry County, located in the heart of a lovely residential area, Woodworks Park offers a great place to picnic and has a full range of children's playground equipment to enjoy.



Lone Cypress Tree.



Royal Palm Trees along Bacom Point Road (S.R. 715).

You'll find several Lake Okeechobee overlooks where you can stop and enjoy a picturesque view like the Port Mayaca Lock and Dam in Martin County. The Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail, part of the Florida National Scenic Trail system, with its numerous trailheads offers many opportunities around the lake to park for awhile and take a quiet stroll along Herbert Hoover Dike where you can experience the natural beauty of the lake, which has been largely unchanged for hundreds of years. Bring a camera to catch images of sunlight dancing on the water. Experience the camaraderie of other visitors who come from throughout the U.S. and other countries just to enjoy activities on and around the largest of Florida's lakes. For locals, the lake has been the central gathering place for social activities since the 1930's when a trip to West Palm Beach was a major excursion taking several hours on a two-lane road. Much of the sporting activity is the same as yesterday—hunting, wildlife and bird viewing and, of course, fishing, are all bountiful.



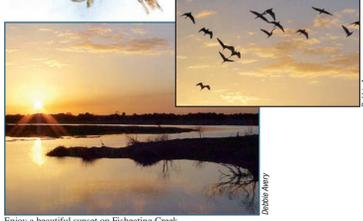
Cypress stands along Fishing Creek.

From parks and picnic sites to sky diving and airboat rides, to fishing tournaments, rodeos, festivals, and even alligator and crocodile tours—the counties around the lake offer appealing outdoor activities for all ages. From the lake you'll glimpse small boats sailing past on their way to a day's sport or heading home with a big catch of Largemouth Bass, Speckled Perch (Crappie), Shellerackers, Blue Gills, Bream, and Speckled Catfish, or just out for a leisurely cruise. Birdwatchers from around the world come to see Snail and Swallow-tailed Kites, Wood Storks, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Red-shouldered Hawks, Black Vultures, Anhingas, Cormorants, Crested Caracaras, and a myriad of other Florida bird life around the lake. Did you know that outside of Alaska, more Bald Eagles are found in Florida than in any other state? Be sure to mark your calendar for April, when Moore Haven hosts the Big "O" Birding Festival.



Wood Stork in the marsh.

Nature Abounds



Enjoy a beautiful sunset on Fishing Creek.

You'll see the American Alligator along with other numerous reptiles such as turtles, lizards and snakes such as the Kingsnake, Brown Water Snake and Eastern Ribbon Snake that are common in the Okeechobee marshes. Some native trees common to the lake area include the Bald Cypress, Laurel Oak, Sabal Palm, Sugarberry, False Mastic, Carolina Ash and Strangler Fig. Other plants you might encounter include a variety of wetland species such as Strap Fern, Iris, Pickerelweed, Sedges, and a variety of grasses, among many others.



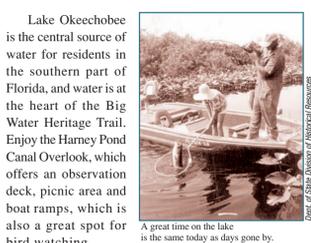
Take a walk along the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.

In the cold winter months you might even see the endangered West Indian Manatee; this gentle mammal swims great distances, especially in the winter seeking warm water, and sometimes has been known to utilize the area waterway locks with boats. Occasionally, a River Otter playing in the waterway can be seen. Bobcats also inhabit the area.

The Okeechobee Waterway, completed in 1937 connects commercial and recreational boat traffic between Stuart and Fort Myers, but canals have provided a historical link between the lake communities and both coasts since the days of the early settlers.



Take an airboat ride and experience nature close-up.



A great time on the lake is the same today as days gone by.

Another must see is the Okeechobee Tropic Campground and Marina in Okeechobee County, which provides marina facilities and direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (a 110-mile multipurpose recreational trail on top of

the Herbert Hoover Dike). Further along the Heritage Trail in Glades County, you'll find Uncle Joe's Fishing Camp across from a former World War II German prisoner-of-war camp in Liberty Point.



At every point of interest on the Big Water Heritage Trail, you'll find people of various colors, cultures and accents who consider themselves natives and call the Lake area home. Florida has always been a pioneer place, drawing people from around the globe. Diversity is woven within its history. In the late 1830's with the end of the Seminole Wars, the Seminoles settled within the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp areas forming clan camps. The clans would come together each year for the traditional Green Corn Dance (which is a tradition still carried on to this day). They grew corn, squash, melons and peas on the rich soil, ran their cattle on lands that were dry enough, and hunted local game, which included deer as well as the then-abundant manatee, which they called "giant beaver." They built chickees, distinctive open-air structures built of cypress poles with palmetto-thatched roofs. After the Civil War, the Seminoles, like their Creek ancestors, began to hunt commercially and provided traders with skins of otters, deer, raccoons and alligators. From the 1920's onward, the development boom exploded in South Florida, with lands being drained for agriculture as well as tourists and settlers taking over the landscape. The Seminoles adapted their trades by entertaining tourists with alligator wrestling and later with airboat rides and crafting Seminole dolls and patchwork clothing. Today, members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida live on area reservations including Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and additionally, throughout Florida in Hollywood (formerly Dania) and Tampa.



Seminole people wove baskets from palmetto leaves and other plant fibers, such as sweet grass and pine needles to store their belongings. Today, sweet grass baskets, in particular, are sold as souvenirs.

Discover Diversity People of the Big Water

During the Depression of the 1930's, an influx of people from all over came seeking a better life as farmers. Farmers and migrant workers sweltered in the sun and the "muck dust," planting, harvesting, boxing and shipping vegetables and citrus, and herding cattle. They went



Seminole woman.

from small-time operations to big business, and later to sugar cane and sugar production, as agricultural work became increasingly more mechanized. Today, over 23 different cultures are represented within the lake area, including Caribbean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Central Americans and Arabs with businesses catering to everyone.

The "people of the big water" have many stories to tell. The Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation in Hendry County is 45 miles from the lake, but well worth the trip. While visiting, one will learn more about the Tribe's cultural heritage and traditions through exhibits, artifacts and theatrical performances at the Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki Museum. Don't miss airboat or swamp buggy rides available at Billy Swamp Safari which is a great thrill adventure. The 36,000-acre Brighton Reservation in Glades County, where the Cow Creek Seminoles still hunt and raise cattle, cane, and citrus, also features rodeo festivals and a casino, offering a unique blend of the past and present.

The Harlem Community, in Hendry County, began as a settlement of African Americans who were temporary sugar cane harvesters in the early 1920's. It evolved into a year-round community with a school, the Harlem Academy, producing an enviable number of educational successes, but fell on hard economic times with desegregation in the late 1960's. Beyond the palm tree-lined entrance to Harlem, a tree-lined road occurred with the new Harlem Academy Library, which opened in 2000. Each year in May, Harlem also hosts the Brown Sugar Festival.

Festivals and cultural activities can round out your scenic tour (see reverse side of this brochure for a calendar of events.) You can cheer cowpokes at the rodeos during the Speckled Perch Festival in the spring and the Labor Day Festival in the fall. If your fancy runs towards good eats and music, there are festivals dedicated to catfish, bluegrass pickin', cane grinding, sugar and the sour orange. In Pahokee, home of country star Mel Tillis, you'll pass by the Prince Theatre, in use since 1933. What could be better than celebrating an Old Florida Christmas watching boats cruise along the Caloosahatchee River in Moore Haven - except maybe to be a passenger on one? But if you prefer just enjoying yourself as a spectator, the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center in Belle Glade offers theatrical productions and musicals; it also hosts heritage events by local and visiting artists. You're sure to leave with fond memories of the proud history and the hidden cultural charms discovered on the Big Water Heritage Trail.



"Florida Crackers" It is believed that they got this nickname because of the cracking sound their whips made as they herded cattle. Florida cattlemen cracked whips to flush their stock out of the palmetto scrub while settlers used whips to spur oxen that pulled their carts and wagons.

Working to Preserve Lake Okeechobee's Environmental Values

Locally known as "Lake O" or "The Big Lake" or simply "The Lake"—this massive, natural water body is the second largest freshwater wholly contained within the United States (surpassed in size only by Lake Michigan). It is so large, it falls within the boundaries of five Florida counties: Okeechobee, Martin, Palm Beach, Hendry and Glades.

The lake covers 730 square miles, or 467,200 acres, and stretches 40 miles from north to south and 35 miles from east to west. It is about 150 miles around. Surprisingly to many, it is a shallow lake with an average depth of only 10 feet. The lake is home to one of the nation's prized Largemouth Bass and Speckled Perch fisheries, as well as an economically important commercial fishery. At the same time, it provides habitat for a wide variety of wading birds, migratory waterfowl, and the federally endangered Snail Kite. Seedpods from the flowers of the American Lotus, which are harvested out of Lake Okeechobee, account for 80 percent of this popular addition to floral arrangements throughout the nation.

The lake holds more than a trillion gallons of water. It is a vital component of South Florida's Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades ecosystem, and the main surface water storage location in the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project. It provides drinking water for five rural lakeside communities and serves as a supplemental source for Florida's heavily-populated lower east coast. It also provides irrigation for a multi-billion dollar agricultural industry of sugarcane, winter vegetables, citrus and rice.

Over the years, Lake Okeechobee has experienced a number of changes due to excessive nutrient inputs (primarily phosphorus), extreme high and low water levels, and an invasion of exotic and nuisance plants and animals. A variety of efforts are now under way to help stem the flow of phosphorus into the lake, to maintain more healthy water levels, and to reduce or eliminate harmful, non-native species.

Historically, Lake Okeechobee once stretched unbounded from the Kissimmee River to the sawgrass plains of the Everglades and was described by early explorers as an inland sea. Following the devastation and loss of life from the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928, Congress authorized construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike in 1930 to protect residents and businesses from the threat of future lake flooding. The construction of the 30-foot-high earthen levee—along with the regional network of canals, levees, pumping stations, water control structures and storage areas—has made it possible to safely live, work and play around the lake. But, it has also radically changed the nature of the lake and downstream ecosystems such as coastal estuaries and the Everglades.

To learn more about Lake Okeechobee restoration efforts, please visit the South Florida Water Management District web site at www.sfwmd.gov or phone the District's Okeechobee Service Center at 1-800-250-4200 (toll-free in Florida) or 1-863-462-5260.

Putting plans into action

Protecting and managing the lake to ensure that it will continue to provide recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, flood protection, drinking water, and a host of other beneficial values is a daily challenge for the various local, regional, state and federal agencies that work together to manage this magnificent natural resource. Although the issues do not have easy, one-size-fits-all solutions, a multi-faceted plan of attack has been developed and is being implemented — from common-sense practices to public-private partnerships and leading edge technology. The Lake Okeechobee Protection Act, passed by the Florida Legislature in 2000, outlines a number of restoration activities that government agencies have begun and will continue to undertake in future years to protect and restore Lake Okeechobee.

In addition, increasing water storage around the lake is a critical aspect of the comprehensive plan to restore the greater Everglades ecosystem. The construction of reservoirs and wetland marshes—which also provide water quality benefits—will give the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers greater flexibility in moving water throughout the interconnected water management system.

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Points of Interest of the Big Water

Informational Kiosk located here

Okeechobee County

- 1. **Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Butterfly Garden**
(14895 N.W. 30th Terrace, Okeechobee) This Center is dedicated to bringing people and wildlife together to develop a community awareness of the value of our Florida wildlife. Dedicated to the goal to rescue, rehabilitate and return recovered animals to their natural habitat and if not, offer them a permanent home. Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center offers tours featuring a scenic trail, 1-1/2 miles in length, with indigenous plants and wildlife as well as beautiful Florida landscapes and a new beautiful Butterfly Garden featuring over 60 species of free roaming butterflies. Outreach programs to Okeechobee and neighboring counties are a continued effort to make it possible for people and wildlife to coexist together. (863) 763-4630

- 2. **Battle of Okeechobee Historic Marker**
(900 Hwy. 78 West, Okeechobee) Zachary Taylor met the Seminoles who were led by Chief Wild Cat (Caucaschoe), Alligator (Halpatter) and Sam Jones (Arpeka) in this largest battle of the Second Seminole War. Taylor captured about 600 cattle and 100 horses but his troops suffered about 138 casualties (26 fatal) before the Seminoles retreated with an estimated 25 casualties (11 fatal).
- 3. **C. Scott Driver Trailhead**
(Hwy. 78 West on the Kissimmee River, Okeechobee) This area provides access to Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail and features public boat ramps with direct access to the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee. (863) 763-3959 or 800-871-4403
- 4. **Cattlemen's Rodeo Arena**
(Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee) The arena is used for an Annual Labor Day Rodeo, and is the site of the *Speckled Perch Rodeo* held the second week in March.

- 5. **Eagle Bay Airboat Rides**
(900 Hwy. 78 West, Okeechobee) Guided tours of the lake. Get up close and personal with one of the many alligators inhabiting our trails through the Okeechobee wilderness. View and photograph wildlife in their natural habitat, you'll see alligators, snakes, turtles, and many different species of birds and native plants and vegetation. (863) 763-0500
- 6. **Flagler Park/Veterans War Memorial Park**
(Downtown, intersection of Hwy. 441 and SR 70, Okeechobee) The park is the central gathering place for festivals held in Okeechobee including the *Speckled Perch Festival* and *Labor Day Festival*, held in March.
- 7. **Garrard's Tackle**
(4259 Hwy. 441 South, Okeechobee) Professional fishing guides are available here. (863) 763-3416 www.okeecheebassguides.com
- 8. **Henry Creek**
(Hwy. 441 SE, Okeechobee) Henry Creek, at the north end of Lake Okeechobee, offers public boat ramps.
- 9. **Lake Okeechobee Guide Association/Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters**
(5286 SW 16th Ave., Okeechobee) Professional fishing guides may be hired for lake tours. (863) 763-3248 www.fishokeechee.com

- 10. **Lock 7/Jaycee Park/Fishing Pier**
(Intersection of Hwy. 441 and Hwy. 78 W, Okeechobee) The park offers a great view of the lake, and includes boat ramps, picnic area, and a fishing pier. Gulls, terns, skimmers and other birds are regulars at the lake's edge.
- 11. **Hubbin Slough**
(Hwy. 441 North, Okeechobee) The park features public boat ramps.
- 12. **Okeechobee City Hall**
(55 SE 3rd Ave., Okeechobee) The city hall was built in 1926 at the height of the Florida Real Estate boom. Okeechobee was one of the first settlements to prosper when Flagler brought his railroad into the town in 1915. The city hall reflects the grand aspirations of its citizens, and is designed in a Mediterranean-Revival style, so popular during the boom. (863) 763-3372
- 13. **Okeechobee County Courthouse**
(304 NW 2nd St., Okeechobee) Constructed in 1927 this Mediterranean-Revival style courthouse now holds county offices. A nomination for its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places is being sought. (863) 763-6441

- 14. **Okeechobee County Sports Complex**
(580 NW 27th Lane, Okeechobee) Public pool, tennis courts, batting cages, baseball, basketball, soccer and a wooden jungle playground. (863) 467-7667
- 15. **Okeechobee Freshman Campus Historical Mural**
(610 SW 2nd Ave., Okeechobee) This was Okeechobee's first high school completed in 1926. Outside the gymnasium is a mural that depicts the early settlers to the area.
- 16. **Okeechobee Historical Society Museum & Schoolhouse**
(1850 Hwy. 80 North, Okeechobee) The society maintains a collection of historical materials inside this one-room schoolhouse, constructed in 1907 and used as a school until 1916. Guided tours may be arranged by appointment. (863) 763-4344
- 17. **Okeechobee Livestock Market**
(1055 Hwy. 98 North, Okeechobee) The market was built in 1937 by the Cattlemen's Association, and as Florida's largest livestock market, it reflects the importance of the cattle industry to the region. (863) 763-3127

- 18. **Okeechobee Campground and Marina**
(10430 Hwy. 78 West, Okeechobee) Okeechobee is well known as one of the finest fishing and water sports locations in the county. Add the picture perfect weather and Okeechobee becomes the ideal outdoor vacation spot. Developed by the South Florida Water Management District the park offers superior facilities for boating, fishing, camping and picnicking. This area is located on the Kissimmee River providing direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. (863) 763-2622
- 19. **Peter Raulerson Home**
(600 South Parrot Ave., Okeechobee) This house was built in 1923 by early merchant Abraham Freedman. It was later owned by Hiram Raulerson, a civic leader, and descendant of one of the earlier families to settle in the area. The building is now used for offices and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Martin County

- 20. **Big Mound Park**
(Indian Mound Dr.) The park's 21 acres includes picnic facilities, shaded playground, soccer and football fields, as well as baseball diamonds and a skateboard park.
- 21. **DuPuis Management Area**
(23500 SW Kanner Hwy., Canal Point/SR 76, Indiantown) The Dupuis Management Area encompasses 21,875 acres of pine flatwoods, wet prairie, cypress domes, scrub cypress, and marsh in the western reach of Palm Beach and Martin Counties. The area is home to numerous species of wildlife, including deer, turkey, quail, squirrel, fox and bobcat. Wading birds utilize the wetland areas. Bald eagles, hawks, and owls are frequently sighted throughout the forest, and woodpeckers and song birds are common in upland areas. Recreational opportunities at DuPuis include: fishing, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, canoeing, camping and nature study. This beautiful recreational area is managed by the South Florida Water Management District. (561) 924-5310 www.sfwmd.gov email: bert.trammell@sfwmd.gov
- 22. **FEC Railroad Bridge**
(SR 76, Port Mayaca) This railroad bridge over the St. Lucie Canal is a marvel of engineering that is still in operation today. The bridge, which must carry the weight of a train, contains a 56 foot section that lifts vertically to allow boats to pass underneath.
- 23. **Indiantown Marina**
(16300 SW Famed Ave./Warfield Boulevard, Indiantown) The marina was established in 1957 on the St. Lucie Canal. Ocean going vessels moor here on their way to Stuart on the east coast or Fort Myers on the west coast, via Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River. This 32-slip marina is equipped for a multitude of services including gas, showers, groceries, a Captain's Lounge and a shady picnic area on the canal. (772) 597-2455 email: IndiantownMarina@juno.com
- 24. **Lake Okeechobee Ridge Park**
(441, just north of intersection with SR 76) Lake Okeechobee Ridge Park represents the largest remnant of the original shoreline of Lake Okeechobee. This is a 245-acre park and includes a 6-mile long hiking trail (The Rafael E. Sanchez Memorial Trail), which offers a shaded alternative to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. The park is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail.
- 25. **Port Mayaca Mass Cemetery**
(SR 76, Port Mayaca) Following the devastation of the 1928 flooding of Lake Okeechobee, victims were buried in several locations including towns as far away as West Palm Beach. This mass burial site contains some 1600 of the flood victims' unidentified bodies.
- 26. **Port Mayaca Lock and Dam/Park**
(Intersection of 441 to SR 76, Port Mayaca) Site of working locks that raise or lower vessels to compensate for the difference in elevation, that they may enter or depart Lake Okeechobee. This area is located on the St. Lucie Canal providing direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.
- 27. **Seminole Inn**
(15885 SW Warfield Blvd., Indiantown) In the early 1920's, S. Davies Warfield, the President of the Seaboard Airline Railroad Company, constructed this Mediterranean-styled hotel building which opened as a gala gathering in 1927. Among those attending the opening was Warfield's niece, Wallis, who later married the King of England and became the Duchess of Windsor. Today, this charming Inn boasts being the "Best Bed and Breakfast in Florida" by *Florida Living Magazine* and offers fine dining as well as a multitude of area outdoor recreational and cultural pursuits. (772) 597-8777 www.seminoleinn.com
- 28. **Timer Powers Park**
(14100 SW Citrus Blvd., Indiantown) This 37-acre park rests on the banks of the St. Lucie Canal. The facilities include a public boat ramp, equestrian area, playground, exercise trails, and a nature trail.
- 29. **Belle Glade Marina**
(off SR 715 to SR 717, Belle Glade) The marina offers 8 public boat ramps, a nature walkway, picnic and barbecue facilities, a bicycle trail, wildlife and nature viewing, a campground, access to a challenging 18-hole golf course, airboat tours, and a family-oriented restaurant. The marina provides direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. (561) 996-6322
- 30. **Canal Point Lions Club Park**
(off US 98/441, Canal Point) The park offers public boat ramp, picnic and barbecue facilities, a bicycle trail, wildlife and nature viewing. The park provides direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. (863) 983-7979
- 31. **Canal Point Missionary Baptist Church**
(Approximately 40 miles south of Clewiston on SR 833) This 50,000-acre reservation is the largest Seminole Indian community. Visitors are invited to experience the Native American culture through overnight accommodations and swamp buggy tours at Rattle Swamp Safari - Everglades Eco-Tours through the reservation. (800) 949-6101 www.seminoletribe.com/safari
- 32. **City Park & Library**
(525 Bacon Point Rd., Pahokee) Newly renovated library and playground equipped with picnic area, tennis courts, basketball courts and a special interactive water feature, the "Splash Pad".
- 33. **Community Methodist Church**
(Corkscrew Blvd., just west of Canal St., Lake Harbor) The church, built in 1935, exemplifies the flavor of rural architecture in its design. A small church, with board and batten siding, is a more typical material of the late 19th Century. The church is perfectly proportioned, and with its steep gabled roofed porch and pyramidal bell tower, is reminiscent of Gothic Revival design.
- 34. **Erickson Tropical Fruit Farm**
(13646 US Hwy. 441, Canal Point) Located at this site is the Erickson home. The oldest farm house of the lake area, constructed in 1911. Currently it is a tropical fruit and herb farm. (561) 924-7714 www.ericksonfarm.com

- 35. **Everglades Inn**
(164 2nd St., Pahokee) Established in 1934 and restored to its original charm. Complete with vintage furnishings, original staircase, woodwork and fireplace in the lounge. Visit the herb and fruit/vegetable garden with tropical varieties including bananas, sugarcane, and pineapples. (561) 833-9291 email: evergladesinn@hotmail.com
- 36. **Everglades Reclamation Site**
(Canal Rd. north of Corkscrew Blvd., Old US 27, Lake Harbor) This park like area contains the restored Lock Number 1 of the Miami Canal. The lock was constructed in 1919 at a time when the lake area was sparsely populated. Miami Canal connected Miami and parts of South Florida to Lake Okeechobee.
- 37. **John Stretch Park**
(47225 US Hwy. 27, Lake Harbor) This recreation area adjacent to the Hoover Dike includes an active pumping station that pumps 1.6 billion gallons every 24 hours, for agricultural and urban uses. The picnic area features historical machinery on display. This area provides direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.
- 38. **Lawrence Will Museum**
(530 South Main St., Belle Glade) The museum, housed within the Belle Glade Branch Library, features rotating exhibits and archival records about the region's history. Outside the library is a sculpture which commemorates the 1928 hurricane's devastation and loss of life. The museum was named for local historian Lawrence E. Will who authored "A Cracker History of Okeechobee," "Okeechobee Hurricanes," and "The Hoover Dike." (561) 996-3453; (561) 996-0100 ext. 601
- 39. **Old Belle Glade City Hall**
(33 West Ave. A, Belle Glade) This distinctive building was constructed in 1939, and was built as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Program. Subsequent additions were made in 1955, however the building has retained its historically significant character. A nomination for its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places is being sought. Future plans for the Old City Hall include offices, an agricultural museum and training center and a multi-purpose performance area. (561) 992-9500; (561) 996-2745
- 40. **Pahokee Marina and Everglades Adventures**
(190 North Lake Ave., Pahokee) The only breakwater located on Lake Okeechobee, complete with protected dockage, lakeside cabin rentals, good fishing opportunities, bait and supplies. A beautiful spot for an evening sunset. The marina serves as a primary access point to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. (863) 983-7979
- 41. **Ritta Island**
(Lake Harbor) One of the three islands on the lake, Ritta Island was settled as early as 1912. The island may be reached via boat near the town of Lake Harbor located on the shore of Lake Okeechobee. The town was originally called "Ritta," then "Miami Locks" until it was changed to Lake Harbor in 1931.
- 42. **Sem-Chi Rice Processing**
(Approximately 15 miles from Belle Glade SR 880 & Atlantic Sugar Rd., Belle Glade) Sem-Chi, short for Seminole Chief, is the brand name of an organic rice grown by the Florida Crystals Company. The rice is grown in rotation with sugarcane, that helps to restore the soil. (954) 971-5657
- 43. **South Bay Park**
(100 Levee Rd., off US 27, South Bay) This County-owned facility is directly adjacent to the Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee. Facilities include boat ramps, picnic areas and planned nature trails. This area provides direct access to Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.
- 44. **St. Mary's Catholic Church**
(1200 Main St., Pahokee) St. Mary's Catholic Church was built in 1935 as a part of the missionary outreach of St. Ann's Church in West Palm Beach. Using elements associated with a Classical Revival style, this exquisite chapel contains pews and stained glass over one hundred years old. (561) 924-7305 www.stmaryspahokee.com
- 45. **Torry Island Swing Bridge**
(Torry Island Rd., Belle Glade) One of the few remaining hand-cranked swing bridges in Florida. The bridge was constructed in 1916 and originally installed at another location along the Intracoastal Waterway. In 1939 the bridge was removed and hinged to Lake Okeechobee to span the canal separating the mainland from Torry Island. It was the first time Torry Island could be accessed by land. A short distance away is the famed Dabridge Cafe. Used heavily by locals for fishing, this area is located on the Hillsboro Canal providing direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.
- 46. **West Palm Beach Canal Locks**
(100 Levee Rd., off US 27, South Bay) The park alongside the locks offers recreational opportunities. This area provides direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.

Hendry County

- 47. **Air Adventures of Clewiston**
(309 Airglades Blvd., Clewiston) Air Adventures provides sky-diving lessons for both newcomers and the experienced. The airport is located approximately 8 miles west of Clewiston. (800) 533-6151 www.skydivell.com
- 48. **Army Corps of Engineers Settlement Homes**
(Area between Ponce de Leon Ave. and Royal Palm Ave., and crossing streets of Balboa, Acadia and Cawcaw, Clewiston) These distinctive frame bungalow were built in the 1930's to house the Army Corps workers building the dike around the lake. (863) 983-7979
- 49. **B.G. Dahlberg Executive House**
(125 West Del Monte Ave., Clewiston) Dahlberg was the inventor of Celotex, a fiberboard building material manufactured from the residue of processed sugar cane. He organized the Southern Sugar Company at Clewiston in 1924 that was later absorbed by US Sugar Corporation in 1931, and is still the largest land owner in the region. This house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (863) 983-7979
- 50. **Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation**
(Approximately 40 miles south of Clewiston on SR 833) This 50,000-acre reservation is the largest Seminole Indian community. Visitors are invited to experience the Native American culture through overnight accommodations and swamp buggy tours at Rattle Swamp Safari - Everglades Eco-Tours through the reservation. (800) 949-6101 www.seminoletribe.com/safari
- 51. **Big "O" Airboat Tours**
(920 East Del Monte Ave., Clewiston) This commercial firm operates from Roland Martin's Marina. The trip by airboat is the perfect way to view the grandeur and primordial quality of the lake. (863) 973-6766; (863) 983-2037 www.bigofishing.com
- 52. **Bond Street Historic Business District**
(Downtown, Clewiston) The concentration of commercial buildings along Bond Street represents the era of the 1920's and 30's when Clewiston was in the height of its early development. (863) 983-7979
- 53. **Civic Center Park Royal Air Force Memorial**
(Civic Center Park, Clewiston) The park is a favorite gathering place for local festivals, including the Annual Sugar Festival. The monument honors British Royal Air Force pilots who attended flight school at nearby Riddle Field while in Clewiston during WWII. (863) 983-7979

- 54. **Clewiston Inn/The Everglades Mural**
(108 2nd St., Pahokee) This magnificent Colonial-Revival hotel was constructed in 1938. The inn was, and still remains a favorite meeting place, as its charm and local flavor are evident in the beamed ceiling, cypress paneled walls and brick fireplace. The inn has hosted the very prominent over its long history, including President Herbert Hoover, who was instrumental in the creation of the flood-controlling dike around Lake Okeechobee. The Clewiston Inn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Everglades Mural: The unique ecology of the Everglades is showcased in this mural that wraps around the walls of the Everglades Lounge. The oil painting, by artist J. Clinton Shephard, was finished in 1945. (800) 749-4466; (863) 983-8151 www.clewistoninn.com
- 55. **Clewiston Museum**
(109 Central Ave., Clewiston) The collection is housed in the former Clewiston City Hall built in 1928 and features an exceptional archival record of the early days in Clewiston and the Lake Okeechobee region. (863) 983-2870 www.clewiston.org/museum.htm
- 56. **Clewiston Theater**
(100 East Sugarland Hwy., Clewiston) The theater, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a striking example of the Art Deco architectural style, extremely popular during the 1930's. (863) 983-6494
- 57. **Clewiston Waterfront Park**
(At end of Hoover Dike Rd. on the waterfront, Clewiston) This shoreline park offers an extensive picnic area with pavilions, 8 boat ramps, and restroom facilities. Also it provides easy access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail.
- 58. **Hoover Dike Memorial**
(Above boat ramp on top of Hoover Dike, Clewiston) As a result of killer hurricanes in 1926 and 1928, President Herbert Hoover directed the construction of an earthen rampart around the lake. The construction began in 1931 with a 68-mile segment completed by 1936 and an additional 16 miles added in 1938. The final segment of the 115-mile levee was finished in 1960 and was dedicated in 1961 with President Hoover in attendance. (863) 983-7979
- 59. **Number 5 British Flying Training School**
(Off Glades, located 8 miles west of Clewiston on State Rd 800/US 27) The No. 5 British Flying Training School operated from Riddle Field (now Air Glades) during World War II. Their mission was to train Royal Air Force pilots for the British government, since flying over England was impossible due to German air superiority. Over 1,800 pilots were trained during the 1942-1945 period. Inside the terminal area a collection of photographs from the flying days of Riddle Field.
- 60. **JT Airboat Adventures**
(330 W. Sugarland Hwy., Clewiston) Wildlife tours, nighttime gator watching, airboat rides and an alligator farm on Lake Okeechobee. (863) 983-3889 www.jtairboatadventures.com
- 61. **Original Clewiston High School**
(475 E. Osceola Ave., Clewiston) This impressive brick school was constructed in 1926, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Though no longer needed as a school, the building has been beautifully adapted for offices. (863) 983-7979
- 62. **Percy Bishop House**
(325 East Del Monte Ave., Clewiston) Bishop was the executive vice-president and general manager of the Southern Sugar Company, the developers of Clewiston. This Mediterranean-Revival style home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (863) 983-7979
- 63. **Roland Martin's Lakeside Resort**
(920 E. Del Monte Ave., Clewiston) A luxurious lakeside resort surrounding the most complete marina facility on Lake Okeechobee. The marina at Roland Martin's provides everything for the fisherman and boater, with easy access to fuel, bait, ice, supplies and of course, the fabulous lake where World Class Tournaments are held year-round. They offer the largest guide service on the lake to help you hook Large Mouth Bass. The resort is a favorite stopping place for boaters traveling across the Okeechobee Waterway. (800) 473-6766; (863) 983-3151 www.rolandmartinmarina.com
- 64. **St. Margaret Catholic Church**
(208 N. Deane Duff Ave., Clewiston) St. Margaret was built in 1932 to serve the Catholic community. Although it is relatively small in size, the design with its compound arched entry and crenelated bell tower gives the impression of grandness. (863) 983-4885
- 65. **Sugarland Tours**
(109 Central Ave., Clewiston) Take a tour of Clewiston and the shore of Lake Okeechobee, learn about area history, tour sugarcane and citrus farms and view harvesting of both sugarcane and citrus processing operations. Tours include lodging at the historic Clewiston Inn. Reservations for the tours are required. (877) 693-4372 www.clewiston.org/sugarlandtours.htm
- 66. **The Captain Deane Duff House**
(151 West Del Monte Ave., Clewiston) Captain Duff was instrumental in the development of Clewiston from the beginning. Duff was the General Manager of the Clewiston Development Company, and envisioned a planned city of the highest standard. When Clewiston was incorporated in 1931, Duff became its first Mayor, serving for over 12 years in that post. His impressive French Normandy Revival residence is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (863) 983-7979
- 67. **Woodworks Park**
(Corner of Ponce de Leon Ave. and Osceola St., Clewiston) Located in the heart of a low-rise residential area, the park is part of the overall master plan for the city designed by the internationally known city planner John Nolen of Boston in 1925. The park offers a great place to picnic and has a full range of children's playground equipment to enjoy. (863) 983-7979

- 68. **Adventures Tours of South Florida**
(835 E. SR 78 NE, Lakeland) Customized Florida Adventures. Fishing, hunting, and Eco-Tours with rustic cabin lodging, swamp buggy, kayaking, biking, float plane and much more. (866) 504-7232 www.adventures-tours-southfl.com
- 69. **Alvin Ward Park/Boat Ramp**
(Southside of Caloosahatchee River on US 27, Moore Haven) The park offers picnic facilities as well as fishing and hiking opportunities. This area provides direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. (863) 763-4128
- 70. **Brighton Seminole Reservation**
(On 721 between SR 78 & SR 70, 17735 Reservation Rd. NE, Brighton) Brighton is one of five Seminole Reservations in Florida on some 35,000 acres of land. The major industry here is cattle production and agriculture. Tourists are invited to the Seminole Bingo Casino and the campground. (863) 763-4128
- 71. **Fishing Creek**
(US 27, Palmdale) Fishing Creek supplies water to Lake Okeechobee on the west side. The creek is a favorite waterway for canoeing, swimming and fishing. More than 1,000 swallow-tailed kites congregate here in late summer, making it the largest migratory area for them in the United States. (863) 763-5999
- 72. **Gatorama**
(61610 North US 27, Palmdale) This is one of the few remaining roadside tourist attractions that proliferated in the 1950's and 1960's. The attraction is home to hundreds of alligators as well as a species of crocodile. A thousand foot walkway winds through Gatorama, allowing an uninterrupted view not only of the reptiles, but also of a pristine Florida native hammock. (863) 763-0623 www.gatorama.com
- 73. **Glades County Courthouse**
(US 27 between 5th St. & 6th St., Moore Haven) Moore Haven is the county seat of Glades County. With its three-story central portico, the brick courthouse is an impressive Classical Revival design built in 1926 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (863) 946-0001
- 74. **Harney Pond Canal Overlook**
(SR 78 at Hwy. 721, Lakeland) This recreational area features an observation deck, picnic area, boat ramp, picnic area and boat dock. Harney Pond Canal and the Buckhead Ridge Canal, some 21,210 acres, were designated wildlife sanctuaries by the Governor and Cabinet in 1938 and the Audubon Society has been protecting them ever since (hunting and fishing are allowed).
- 75. **Historic Downtown Moore Haven**
(Downtown, Moore Haven) Designated a new Florida Main Street in 2005, historic downtown Moore Haven on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River is home to Ann-Tapes (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), sweats, collectibles, historic Moore Haven Hotel, with docks & facilities for boaters and more. (863) 946-0300
- 76. **Lone Cypress Tree**
(Ave J and the Caloosahatchee River, Moore Haven) Sometimes called the "Sentinel Cypress," this tree has long served as a navigational aid. (863) 983-9421
- 77. **Ortona Indian Mound Park**
(SR 78 west of US 27, east of US 29, Ortona) Ortona Indian Mound Park contains a segment of a prehistoric Indian canal and the remnants of at least five separate but related prehistoric Indian mounds. These features and others in the surrounding area are remnants of a large prehistoric Indian village and ceremonial center that originated as early as 1800 years ago.
- 78. **Ortona Locks**
(Ortona Lock Rd., Ortona) This recreational area offers picnicking and hiking opportunities as well as a boat ramp.
- 79. **Uncle Joe's Fishing Camp**
(2005 Griffin Rd. SE, Moore Haven) Uncle Joe's features cabins alongside the lake for overnight retreats. The camp also offers boat rentals and supplies. During WWII German POW's were interned here. Liberty Bells was named for the bells sold by Altonzo Clevis, a prominent Tampa banker, who in 1915 purchased huge tracts of land around Lake Okeechobee after learning the soil was ideal for the cultivation of sugar. The city of Clewiston was named in his honor. This area provides direct access to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. (863) 983-9421
- 80. **Vance Whidden Park**
(On US 78 between Nicodemus Slough and Fishing Creek, Moore Haven) This park area, historic in nature, is also known as Curry Island. At one time, the Lykes Brothers shipped cattle from a port that was located here. A primitive Boy Scout Camp and birders walkway is proposed.

Scenic Drives

- Riverside/Lake Hipchoee Scenic Drive**
(On the river, Moore Haven) The road follows the Caloosahatchee River from Moore Haven to Lake Hipchoee. Hipchoee is the Seminole name for "Little Prairie Lake." The area is as pristine and natural as it must have been when early settlers discovered it.
- Royal Palm Avenue**
(Between Royal Palm Ave. and the Intersection of US 27 & SR 80, Clewiston) John Nolen, the highly regarded City Planner who originally designed the city, was greatly influenced by the City Beautiful movement that was popular in the first two decades of the 20th Century. The City Beautiful, as expressed in the buildings of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, relied on classical architecture and wide boulevards that created vistas and green spaces that opened up the plan for parks and plazas. The planting of the palms along this divided street is a product of this early city-planning ideal.
- Bacon Point Rd./SR 715 - Royal Palm Trees**
(Bacon Point Rd., and SR 715, Pahokee) The royal palm trees planted here date from Pahokee's beginnings. The trees thrive in the peat-like organic soil called "muck."

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Calendar of Events

Month	Event	Location
January	Catfish Festival	Buckhead Ridge
February	Big "O" Birding Festival	Moore Haven
	Blind Bird Concert Series	Okeechobee & Glades
	Cane Grinding Festival	Ortona
March	Brighton Field Day and Rodeo	Brighton
	County Legend Concert Series	Okeechobee
	Sour Orange Festival	Lakeport
April	Youth Livestock & Rodeo	Moore Haven
	Chalo Nika Festival	Okeechobee
	Speckled Perch Festival/PRCA Rodeo	Clewiston
May	Black Gold Festival	Belle Glade
	Brown Bag Festival	Moore Haven (Harlem)
	Moore Haven Rally	Moore Haven
June	County Legend Concert Series	Okeechobee
	Labor Day PRCA Rodeo and Festival	Okeechobee
	Bay Fest	South Bay
October	Country Legend Concert Series	Okeechobee
	Southern Circuit Festivals	Brighton
	Grassy Water Family Festival	Pahokee
November	Big "O" Hike	Lakeview
	Fall Festival	Okeechobee
	County Christmas	Clewiston
December	Sabal Palm Bluegrass Pickin'	Palmdale
	Christmas on the Caloosahatchee	Moore Haven
	Lighted Christmas Parade & Festival	Okeechobee

For scheduled dates and locations of listed events, additional events, holiday schedules, county fairs, and accommodations, please refer to the Chambers of Commerce.

Clewiston Chamber of Commerce (Hendry County)
863-983-7979
www.clewiston.org

Glades County Chamber of Commerce/EDC
863-946-0440; 863-946-0300
www.gladescountync.com

Indiantown Western Martin County Chamber of Commerce & Welcome Center
772-597-2184
www.indiantownfl.com

Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce
863-763-6464
www.okeechee-tdc.com

Okeechobee Tourist Development Council
863-763-3959 or 800-871-4403
www.okeechee-tdc.com

Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce (Palm Beach County)
561-996-2745
www.bellegladecamber.com

Pahokee Chamber of Commerce (Palm Beach County)
561-924-5579
www.pahokee.com

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Other critical partners include Florida Humanities Council, Visit Florida, the Florida Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Agriculture, the Seminole Indian Tribe, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the counties of Glades, Hendry, Martin, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach and the cities located around the lake.

Additional partners include the chambers of commerce, tourism development councils, economic development councils, historical societies, and other local groups interested in promoting eco and heritage tourism and economic development in this five-county region.