



## Sources and Suggested Reading:

# Inventing the Florida Vacation

*Compiled by Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.*

Doug Anderson, *A New Guide to Old Florida Attractions*, second edition (2020). Both a history of classic Florida attractions and a guidebook for modern-day visitors to the ones that remain

Tim Hollis, *Dixie Before Disney* (1999). A fun-filled look back at tourism in the American South by a top nostalgia historian

Steve Rajtar, *Remembering Florida Tourist Attractions* (2010). Beautiful photos of mostly lost tourist sites

Tracy C. Revels, *Sunshine Paradise: A History of Florida Tourism* (2011). An academic, but fascinating and very readable, study of the growth and evolution of tourism in the sunshine state

Online sources:

“10 Classic Old Florida Attractions (That You Can Still Visit),”

<https://www.visitflorida.com/travel-ideas/articles/classic-florida-attractions/>

“Florida,” Roadsideamerica.com. <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/location/fl>

(exhaustive site detailing attractions that still exist)

“Florida’s Lost Tourist Attractions,” Lostparks.com.

<http://www.lostparks.com/thelist.html> (devoted to attractions that are now closed)

“We have done it! Whether in the body or not, we have been to dream-land ... the land where reality ceases and romance begins.”

-- Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1873, about a steamboat trip to Silver Springs, FL



## Timeline

- 1513 Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon makes first contact with Native Americans in what is today Florida
- 1845 Florida becomes the 27<sup>th</sup> state
- 1878 Hullam Jones invents the first glass bottom boat in Silver Springs
- 1888 Henry Flagler opens the Hotel Ponce de León, first in a series of luxury resorts along Florida's east coast
- 1893 St. Augustine Alligator Farm opens
- 1929 Edward Bok builds Bok Tower
- 1936 Cypress Gardens opens (closes 2006). Parrot Jungle (today Jungle Island) opens
- 1938 Marine Studios (later Marineland) opens. It will pioneer dolphin shows in the early 1950s
- 1947 Everglades National Park is dedicated. First mermaid shows at Weeki Wachee Springs
- 1956 Florida Citrus Tower opens. The Federal-Aid Highway Act establishes the Interstate Highway System
- 1971 Walt Disney World opens in Orlando
- 2022 Florida welcomes a record 137.6 million visitors



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