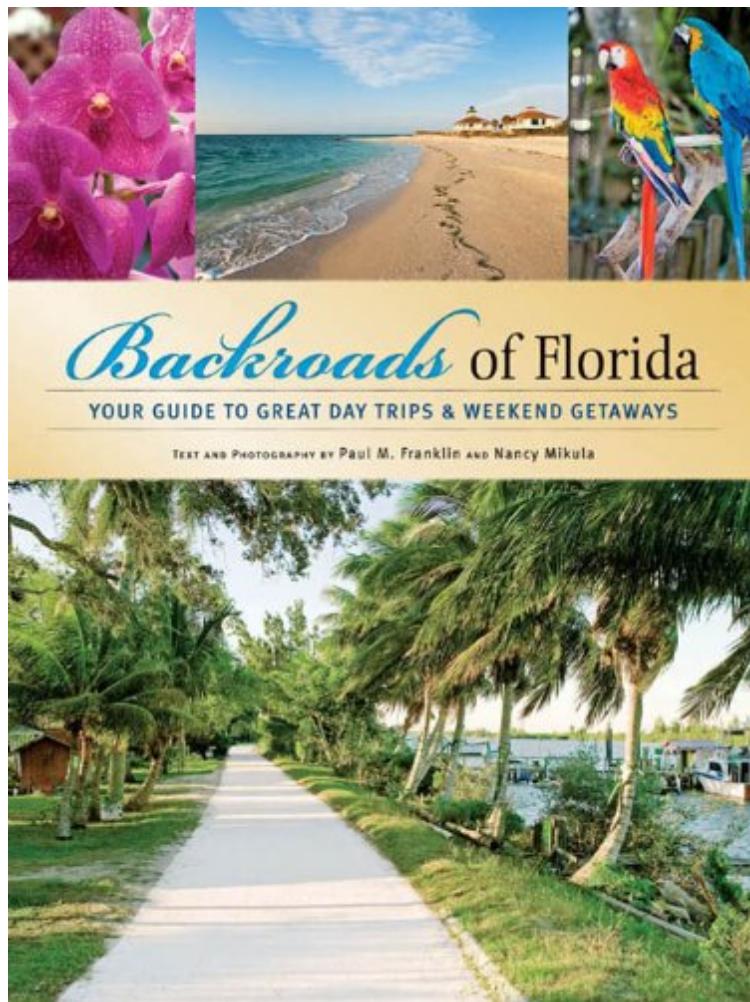


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Backroads of Florida: Your Guide to Great Day Trips Weekend Getaways (Backroads of ...)

Paul M. Franklin, Nancy Joyce Mikula
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Away from the bustle of Miami Beach and the tourist extravaganza of Disney World, another Florida beckons to those

looking for backroads adventure, quieter fare, or more discriminating fun. This is the Florida where backroads and secret splendors unfold in a landscape rich in the flavors and colors of ancient indigenous cultures, early European settlements, Civil War battles, and myriad Caribbean influences. Authors Paul Franklin and Nancy Mikula take you to every corner of the Sunshine State, from the Panhandle to the Florida Keys, with journeys along miles of spectacular coastline and forays into the wonders of lush interior forests, pristine lakes, and otherworldly swamplands. Florida is home to nearly a dozen national parks, forests, and seashores, and *Backroads of Florida* explores these attractions and many more, illustrated with breathtaking color photographs throughout. The book presents the background history and culture for Florida's varied natural and human communities along with descriptions of the best destinations and sites to visit during your travels.

From the Back Cover Can you still find wild, untrammeled stretches of sand and sea in the Sunshine State? Or follow shady byways to citrus-filled orchards, mesmerizing blue springs, and charming towns filled with colorful galleries and antique shops? *Backroads of Florida* answers both questions with a resounding yes! Here are thirty-one driving tours that lead to some of the state's most secret splendors. From the funky, timeless charm of Key West to the haunted history of Amelia Island, veteran travel writers Paul Franklin and Nancy Mikula will introduce you to a Florida that few travelers experience, where quiet country byways and quirky roadside charm lie just beyond the glittering coastal cities and trendy beach resorts. Along the way, you'll follow in the footsteps of the Spanish explorers, pirates, and cowboys who shaped Florida's earliest history. And you'll find adventure! Whether it's rocketing across the Everglades in an airboat, snorkeling with manatees in a crystalline river, or paddling your kayak through a cypress swamp alive with alligators, orchids, and tropical birds, there's a world of excitement and beauty waiting for you along the *Backroads of Florida*.