

# Scenic Watch



Covering  
News  
From  
Dec  
2018

Happy New Year Florida!



Photo: DateNightGuide.com

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"44 Islands and 42 Bridges: A Florida Keys Road Trip"



Fun  
Festivals  
and Events

Central

Jan 3-13  
Mecum Auction and



Photo: Scott McIntyre, The New York Times

"It's only 113 miles from Key Largo to Key West, but take it slow and savor the subtropical, sometimes kitschy, flavor, of these fragile isles.

Seagulls and squadrons of brown pelicans flew alongside my rented Hyundai as I drove across the astonishing seven-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 1 that runs across Moser Sound, just south of Marathon, in the Florida Keys. The proximity of birds and water blurred the distinctions between sea and sky, drive and flight.

The string of coral islands that arc from the Florida peninsula south toward Havana has a long history of attracting pirates, profiteers and seekers of a Caribbean lifestyle within the United States. Henry Flagler, an early developer of the Florida Keys, inadvertently gave the country one of its most scenic roadways when his Overseas Railway, running from mainland Florida down to Key West, was destroyed in a 1935 hurricane. That land route eventually became the Overseas Highway, or U.S. 1, vaulting across channels, and linking 44 islands, via 42 bridges...Below is a guide to this classic coastal road trip. You could drive it in a single afternoon, but you won't want to. Three languid days is more like it.

-- Elaine Glusac, The New York Times

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Collector Car Show,  
Kissimmee  
Jan 5  
Oviedo Farmers  
Market, Oviedo  
Jan 5-6  
The Venice FL  
Antiques Show,  
Venice  
Jan 5-6  
Dade's Battle Re-  
enactment and Trade  
Fair, Bushnell  
Jan 6  
Annual Epiphany  
Celebration, Tarpon  
Springs  
Jan 6  
Elvis Ultimate  
Birthday Bash,  
Clearwater  
Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26  
Winter Music Series  
at the Lakeridge  
Winery and  
Vineyards, Clermont  
Jan 10-20  
19th Annual Tampa  
Bay Black Heritage  
Festival, Tampa  
Jan 12  
Jan 12-13  
Sarasota Winter Fine  
Arts Festival,  
Sarasota  
Jan 15-20  
Yeehaw Music  
Festival, Yeehaw  
Junction  
Jan 16-19  
Florida Flywheelers  
32nd Annual Antique  
Engine and Tractor  
Swamp Meet  
Jan 17-20  
Fellsmere Frog Leg  
Festival, Fellsmere  
Jan 18-20  
Sarasota Seafood and  
Music Festival,  
Sarasota  
Jan 19  
Florida Key Lime Pie  
Festival, Merritt  
Island  
Jan 19-20

## "Madeira Beach to ban flutter signs"



"In what will likely be a major change to the city's visual landscape, the commission has voted to prohibit flutter signs, so called because they flutter when blown by the wind..."

Community Development Director Linda Portal said the city has become very cluttered with signs.

'A cleanup is overdue, and we're doing it one issue at a time,' she said.

Most commission members agreed the flutter signs are, in Commissioner Nancy Oakley's words, 'sign pollution.'

'Each business has a flutter flag,' said Mayor Maggi Black, 'and people can't even see what the store is...' The commission voted 4-1 in favor of the flutter sign ban. It does permit their use in limited number and duration for new business openings and special events. A six-month grace period at the beginning of 2019 also will be allowed before enforcing the prohibition of flutter signs."

-- Wayne Ayers, Tampa Bay News

[Read entire article](#)

## "Florida billboards hacked with satanic Corgi and 'naughty' gorilla"

Central Florida  
Scottish Highland  
Games, Winter  
Springs  
Jan 19-20  
Brooksville Raid Re-  
enactment,  
Brooksville  
Jan 19-21  
Tarpon Springs  
Sponge Docks Art and  
Craft Festival,  
Tarpon Springs  
Jan 19-20 and 26-27  
4th Annual Brevard  
Renaissance Fair,  
Melbourne  
Jan 23-28  
Space Coast Birding  
and Wildlife Festival,  
Titusville  
Jan 25-27  
Images, a Festival of  
the Arts, New Smyrna  
Beach  
Jan 26  
Gasparilla pirate  
parade and street  
festival, Tampa  
Jan 26  
Kumquat Festival,  
Dade City  
Jan 26-27  
Blue Spring Manatee  
Festival, Orange City  
Jan 26-Feb 3  
Zora Neale Hurston  
Festival of the Arts  
and Humanities,  
Orlando/Eatonville  
Jan 31-Feb 2  
World Quilt Florida,  
Tampa

## South

Jan 5-6  
Downtown Naples  
New Year's Art Fair,  
Naples  
Jan 5-6  
Las Olas Art Fair,  
Fort Lauderdale  
Jan 10-20  
Uncorked Key Largo



Photo: Markelle Maddock via WTSP Channel 10 News

"The poor dog definitely isn't feeling the Christmas spirit. [The main character on one of the billboards] Corgi is hungry for some burgers and fries, but be warned in case you join him for dinner: 'Satan is the one true god.'

Let's just hope 'password' wasn't the password to gain access to this seemingly hacked billboard posted up on U.S. Route 441 in central Florida.

An eagle-eyed driver and her boyfriend heading home for Christmas spotted the sign and claims to have caught a message that just didn't seem right: a gorilla saying he's been a naughty boy (plus a word not appropriate on this family-friendly news site).

Markelle Maddock made a U-turn to try and catch it again...

And another, with maybe a word or two of advice from a Twitter user who knows a thing or two about hacking billboards across the country: "These people think connecting a billboard to the internet is a good idea.

and Islamorada Food and Wine Festival, Key Largo

**Jan 11**

Shakespeare in the Park, Miami

**Jan 11-12**

Florida's Creative Coast Weekend, Pine Island

**Jan 12-13**

Cape Coral Festival of the Arts, Cape Coral

**Jan 12-13**

Bonita Springs National Art Festival, Bonita Springs

**Jan 12-13**

Boca Fest, Boca Raton

Punta Gorda

**Jan 16-20**

Art Palm Beach 2018, West Palm Beach

**Jan 18-19**

Historic House Tours, Key West

**Jan 18-20**

Art Deco Weekend, Miami Beach

**Jan 18-20**

BayGrass Bluegrass Festival, Islamorada

**Jan 18 - Feb 3**

South Florida Fair, West Palm Beach

**Jan 19-20**

Florida Keys Seafood Festival, Key West

**Jan 25-27**

International Chocolate Festival, Coral Gables

**Jan 26**

Port Salerno Seafood Festival, Port Salerno

**Jan 26-27**

ClamJam of Southwest Florida Seafood and Music Festival, Cape Coral

**North**

**Thru Jan 31**

These people are wrong."

'I understand where people could get offended, especially with the 'Satan is the one true god,' but it made for a good laugh and I'll always remember it,' Maddock said.

She adds the billboard since has been turned off."

-- Andrew Krietz, WTSP Channel 10 News

[Read entire article](#)

## "Smith, board differ on developer's sign complaint"



Photo: Mike Write, Citrus County Chronicle

"County officials say a wall that separates the Stonegate development from Crystal Oaks [in Lacanto] is not permitted.

County Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith went to bat for a Lecanto developer during Tuesday's board meeting but found no help from other commissioners after they learned the company has a pending code case.

Smith questioned whether the county's sign ordinance

Nights of Pints, St Augustine  
Thru Jan 31  
Art Association 95th Anniversary Parade of Art, St Augustine  
Thru Feb 3  
Nights of Lights Festival and Celebration, St Augustine  
Jan 4  
Frogs and Friends Friday, Gainesville  
Jan 5  
Mardi Gras Kick-Off, Pensacola  
Jan 6  
Tours of the Historic Haile Homestead, Gainesville  
Jan 12-13  
Jacksonville Landings Food and Craft Festival, Jacksonville  
Jan 18-19  
Apalachicola Oyster Cook Off, Apalachicola  
Jan 19-20  
Florida Manatee Festival, Crystal River  
Jan 26-27  
Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, Gainesville

[For many more events and details please visit the Orlando Times Travel Calendar here](#)

violates free speech after a contractor for the Stonegate at Westchase housing development complained to him about the county removing his 'feather' for-sale flags.

Smith said the contractor told him he had no place to advertise the development, which is separate but adjacent to the Crystal Oaks community...

Commissioners weren't convinced.

'We're talking about a developer who bought a section of land in Crystal Oaks,' Commissioner Scott Carnahan said. 'He can learn how to advertise without flying signs out front...'

I'm not willing to change our policy,' Carnahan said. 'When it comes to he doesn't know how to advertise, I don't buy that one.'

-- Mike Wright, Citrus County Chronicle

[Read entire article](#)



Citizens for a Scenic Florida  
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