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Spring/Summer 2005 Newsletter

Fun Florida destinations

From exciting theme parks and attractions to festivals, cultural events, museums and fun activities for the whole family, summer in Florida can be the most exciting time of year for Florida residents. When scheduling your family's vacation this summer, consider the following suggestions that are just a hop, skip and a jump from Florida's Turnpike, and don't forget to bring your SunPass!



* **Viernes Culturales (Cultural Fridays)**

Enjoy the rhythm, sounds and sights of Little Havana at this open-air cultural event held the last Friday night of each month on Calle Ocho featuring the music, dance, poetry, visual arts, food and heritage of Cuban-Americans. For more information, call (305) 644-9555 or visit www.viernes culturales.com. Located on 8th Street in Miami between 14th and 17th Avenues.

* **Billie Swamp Safari and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum**

Learn about the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, go for an exhilarating airboat ride, experience an eco-tour in a swamp buggy and you may even come face to face with one of the locals (alligators!) on the Billie Swamp Safari. For more information, call (800) 949-6101. While you're on the Seminole Reservation, be sure to check out the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum with rare artifacts, dramatic films, nature trails and an authentic Native American village. For more information, call (863) 902-1113. Located on the Big Cypress Reservation west of Fort Lauderdale off Alligator Alley (I-75).

* **Lion Country Safari**

A safari of a different kind; experience two great parks for one price with an exciting drive-through zoo featuring 1,000 animals roaming free, as well as an animal theater, boat tour, paddle boats, mini golf, picnic areas and KOA Campground. For more information, call (561) 793-1084. Located west of Florida's Turnpike on Southern Boulevard in Loxahatchee (west of West Palm Beach).

* **Orlando's family attractions**

Where else can you visit seven theme parks, four water parks and more than 80 other attractions all just moments away from Florida's Turnpike? Walt Disney World® Resort's four theme parks are always conjuring up some special magic for the whole family. Check out the newest rides and attractions at Universal Studios Florida® and Islands of Adventure®. See Shamu and his marine animal friends for some good, clean fun at SeaWorld® Orlando. Call the official Travel Counselors from the Orlando/Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau for more information at (800) 643-9492. Be sure to ask about Florida resident discounts! For all parks, exit Florida's Turnpike at I-4.

* **Tampa's family attractions**

Give an elephant a shower and ride the thrilling roller coasters at beautiful Busch Gardens®, located at 3605 E. Bougainvillea Avenue in Tampa. Other fun family destinations in the Tampa Bay area include the Lowry Park Zoo, The Florida Aquarium, the Museum of Science and Industry and the Salvador Dali Museum.

Of course, you'll want to enjoy the beautiful beaches along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts this summer, as well as fishing, sailing, snorkeling, camping, biking, hiking and more with your family. Be sure to pack your sunscreen and insect repellent. Before you travel to your summer destination, pack your car with extra coolant and water, two quarts of oil, a

gallon of windshield washer fluid, a good flashlight and batteries, a disposable camera (for a good photo opportunity), a first-aid kit, flares, a cell phone and drinking water. While driving, be sure to take breaks every couple hours. The service plazas along Florida's Turnpike are a great choice to stretch your legs and get refreshments. Happy summer travels!



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