



Ancient Gate of St. Augustine

The Descriptive Log

The information here given is carefully prepared for its service to travel. Hotels, garages, camps and service stations are selected with the desire to convey proper information and to build up good service along the highway. If in addition any of these houses are paying their rated subscription to this work they are printed in black faced type. Except for the subscribing members the Old Spanish Trail work would not be possible.

Villages and hamlets are not included, as a rule. They are numerous along the way, so also garages, service stations and camping places. Many hotels fill early. New hotels are being continually built or old ones remodeled. Service improves all the time, for this is an important travelway.

*Indicates county seats. Inf., Information Headquarters

FLORIDA—439 MILES

All State and Federal standard road and all being rapidly paved. At present over 250 mi. of the pavement is laid.

No ferries. Maintenance is good, detours during paving construction well maintained. The Florida sector is one of the best examples of good trunkline highway construction on the Old Spanish Trail.

The eastern coastal section, palmetto plains and pinelands. This soon gives way to rolling hills, with live oak and other fine trees. Elevations reach 262 ft. at De Funiak Springs. There are rich farming sections, truck raising, peean and sausage orange orchards, shade tobacco, dairying and poultry. The little old trees shade the streets. Around Tallahassee many enterprisers maintain large estates. The gulf shores, bays and waterways are shaded with trees and are very attractive. Across Florida the drinking water is very good. In the western part pinelands again occur and lumbering has been a basic industry. Now homeseekers are flocking in and finding the Florida Old Spanish Trail territory good.

San Augustin was settled in 1565, the oldest city in the United States. Ponce de Leon discovered and named Florida in 1513. The De Narvaez expedition landed at Tampa Bay in 1528 and De Soto in 1539, and both found their way around westward in Old Spanish Trail territory to the Tallahassee country where De Narvaez turned south to escape by sea and De Soto's body was buried in the Mississippi River. De Narvaez was lost in the Gulf of Mexico, Cabeza de Vaca, De Narvaez' treasurer and three others, were the only survivors to reach Mexico and their story is told under "The El Paso Valley." Ragged survivors of the De Soto expedition years later escaped down the Mississippi River and to Mexico.

There are records of 38 missions established out of St. Augustine, westward to Tallahassee and up into Georgia. They were probably of wood for no ruins are known except some of oyster shell cement north of Brunswick, Ga. De Luna landed at Pensacola Bay in 1559 with the largest expedition of them all, but Indian enmity soon drove him back to Vera Cruz. While the Spaniards were exploring the Floridas other remarkable expeditions were moving northward from Mexico into Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Santa Fe became the second oldest city in the U. S., while others lay claim to existence back in the dim past. When the thirteen states were fighting for independence Spain controlled an empire south and west, and was building the California missions. Florida was Spanish until 1821, except for an English period, 1763-1783; Spain sold Old Louisiana back to France in 1800; France sold to the U. S. in 1802; Texas independence was won in 1836 and that territory was annexed by the U. S. in 1845. The Mexican War was 1846-47. The New Mexico-Arizona-Southern California territory was ceded to the U. S. by Mexico in 1848. The Gadsden Purchase of part of southern New Mexico and Arizona was in 1853.

The five great centers of mission and colonization effort of the Spaniards are along the Old Spanish Trail—St. Augustine, Fla.; San Antonio, Tex.; El Paso—Santa Fe, Tucson—Nogales, Ariz.; San Diego and the California coast. The Old Spanish Trail of today is a thread binding together for all time the old Spanish lands and legend of three and four centuries past. In these hands the mines sought riches to lay up in heaven and the often conquistadores sought riches for personal glory and often found disaster for their vain but romantic search. Now a new race is finding riches in the crannies of industry.

*ST. AUGUSTINE. A charmingly attractive city of ancient buildings, streets and types characteristic of old Spain. Oldest house in the United States now occupied by the splendid historical society. The tropical growths have aged with the years and fine old homes and hotels add to the distinction of the city.

Hotels—ALHAMBRA, BENNETT, KENWOOD, MARION, MONSON, OCEAN VIEW, open all year. ALCAZAR, BARCELONA, BUCKINGHAM, PONCE DE LEON, ST. GEORGE, open in winter.

Two private cabin camps, good. Inf.—Chamber of Commerce.

ST. JOHNS RIVER. Toll bridge. At Jacksonville.

*JACKSONVILLE. Gateway to South Florida and tourist and industrial city. Large lumber and naval stores market, railroad center and deep seaport.

Hotels—ALBERT, moderate rates; ARAGON, medium rates; CARLING, new and high class; MASON, first-class commercial and tourist; SEMINOLE, first-class commercial and tourist; WINDSOR, first-class, comfortable lounges. Faces park; GEORGE WASHINGTON, new and high class.

Phoenix Park camp on river in a grove, 40 cabins, good. Inf.—Jacksonville Motor Club. (AAA).

*MACLENNY. Village. HOTEL ANNIE over store. Camp space. Glen St. Mary nurseries, 3 mi. west, noted nurseries, open to visitors.

OLUSTEE. Lodging. Camp space in live oak grove. Olustee Battlefield, Civil War, east 2.5 mi., marked by monument.

*LAKE CITY. Jct. highway from northern states to South Florida. Important gateway city. Numerous lakes. BLANCHE HOTEL leads. Also POWELL HOTEL. Two cabin camps, 25c to \$1.50, good.

Inf.—West Coast Information Bureau or Chamber of Commerce.

*LIVE OAK. An attractive home city, paved streets, old live oak shade trees. Hogs, dairying, farming, tobacco and HOTEL SUWANNEE, brick building, good. Camp and cabins 1 mi. west, 25c to \$1.00 Inf.—Chamber of Commerce.