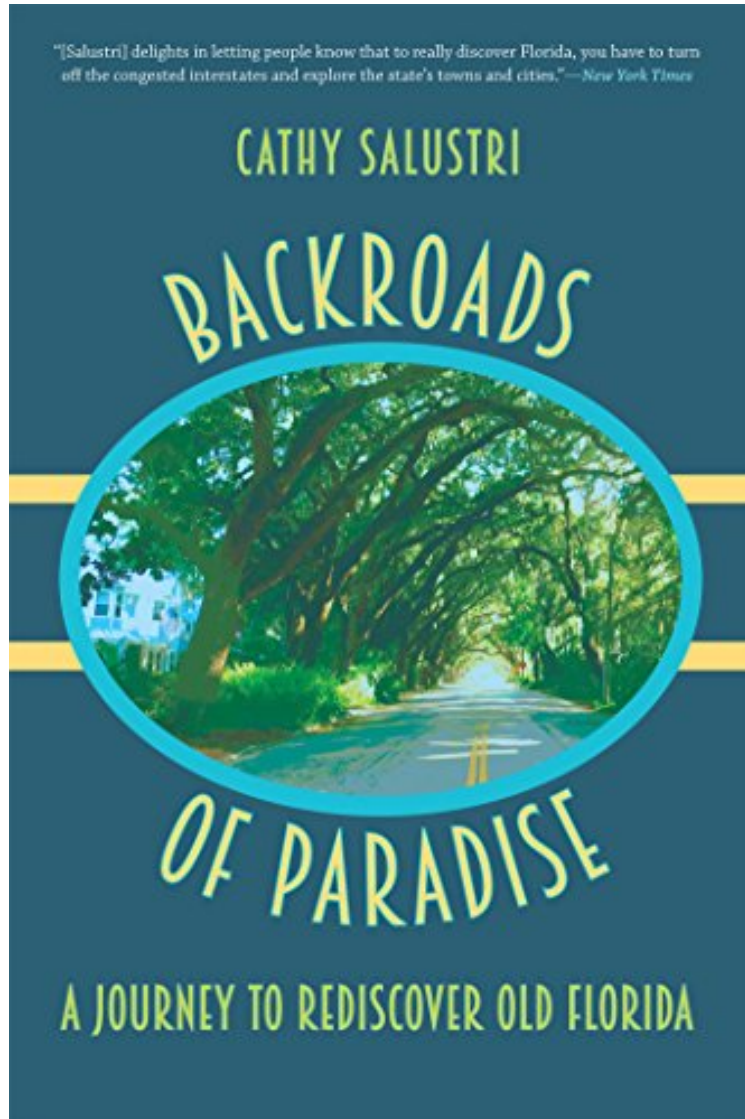


Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida

Cathy Salustri

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#503393 in Books Cathy Salustri 2016-10-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .50 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0813062969240 pagesBackroads of Paradise A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida | File size: 63.Mb

Cathy Salustri : Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A nice blend of Florida history and entertaining personalized storiesBy sandwoodA nice blend of Florida history and entertaining personalized stories. Makes me want to explore these hidden places and experience old Florida before it disappears. Love the author's first book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... this yet but my girlfriend has and she has enjoyed it very muchBy PhotogI have not

waded in to this yet but my girlfriend has and she has enjoyed it very much. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent book for anyone that loves Florida. By Gavin Livingston This is an excellent book for anyone that loves Florida. I so enjoyed reading through the author's journey around the state tracing the roads of the past, and finding the good, bad, and the ugly that makes up today's Florida. I was in Orlando for a conference in November and had some extra time, so I took a couple of the more off the beaten path old routes in this book, and I am so glad I did. Even though it seems like all the charm of Florida is being paved over, there is still plenty of old Florida out there.

In the 1930s, the Federal Writers' Project sent mostly anonymous writers, but also Zora Neale Hurston and Stetson Kennedy, into the depths of Florida to reveal its splendor to the world. The FWP and the State of Florida jointly published the results as *Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State*, which included twenty-two driving tours of the state's main roads. Eventually, after Eisenhower built the interstates, drivers bypassed the small towns that thrived along these roads in favor of making better time. Those main roads are now the state's backroads forgotten by all but local residents, a few commuters, and dedicated road-trippers. Retracing the original routes in the Guide, Cathy Salustri rekindles our notions of paradise by bringing a modern eye to the historic travelogues. Salustri's 5,000-mile road trip reveals a patchwork quilt of Florida cultures: startling pockets of history and environmental bliss stitched against the blight of strip malls and franchise restaurants. The journey begins on US 98, heading west toward the Florida/Alabama state line, where coastal towns dot the roadway. Here, locals depend on the tourism industry, spurred by sugar sand beaches, as well as the abundance of local seafood. On US 41, Salustri takes us past the state's only whitewater rapids, a retired carnie town, and a dazzling array of springs, swamps, and rivers interspersed with farms that produce a bounty of fruit. Along US 17, she stops for milkshakes and hamburgers at Florida's oldest diner and visits a collection of springs interconnected by underwater mazes tumbling through white spongy limestone, before stopping in Arcadia, where men still bring cattle to auction. Desperately searching for skunk apes, the Sunshine State's version of Bigfoot, she encounters more than one gator on her way through the Everglades, Ochopee, and the Skunk Ape Research Headquarters. Following the original Guide, Salustri crisscrosses the state from the panhandle to the Keys. She guides readers through forgotten and unknown corners of the state--nude beaches, a rattlesnake cannery, Devil's Millhopper in Gainesville--as well as more familiar haunts--Kennedy Space Center and The Villages, "Florida's Friendliest Retirement Hometown." Woven through these journeys are nuggets of history, environmental debates about Florida's future, and a narrative that combines humor with a strong affection for an oft-maligned state. Today, Salustri urges, tourists need a new nudge to get off the interstates or away from Disney in order to discover the real Florida. Her travel narrative, following what are now backroads and scenic routes, guides armchair travelers and road warriors alike to historic sites, natural wonders, and notable man-made attractions--comparing the past views with the present landscape and commenting on the changes, some barely noticeable, others extreme, along the way.

"Provides a perspective different from the theme park and beach images most commonly associated with Florida."--Library Journal "Salustri recreates the ultimate Florida road-trip...Anyone who shuns interstates for backroads in order to rediscover old Florida should rush to buy this lovely book!"--Tallahassee Democrat "Delights in letting people know that to really discover Florida, you have to turn off the congested Interstates and explore the state's towns and cities."--New York Times "This delightful trip through space and time gives us glimpses back and ahead at our ever-evolving Florida. Salustri stops along the way to mourn the parts of paradise we've lost and to celebrate what's still around to enjoy."--Craig Pittman, author of *Oh, Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country* "A compelling, bittersweet odyssey across seventy-five years of Florida changes, a trip filled with dreams tarnished now by overdevelopment but still harboring a few unspoiled pieces of paradise."--Brian Rucker, author of *Treasures of the Panhandle: A Journey through West Florida* "A handy road companion for any tourist, newcomer, or longtime Floridian who wants to get off the beaten path and travel back in time."--Bobby Braddock, Country Music Hall of Fame songwriter "In staccato bursts of frenzy and passion, Salustri has written a modern love story affirming her tangled relationship with the Sunshine State. Retracing the routes of 1930s guidebooks, she re-creates the great Florida road trip."--Gary R. Mormino, author of *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida* From the Author Funny, salty . . . informative and poignant. Creative Loafing Tampa