

DRIVING TOUR FROM LAKESIDE INN – MT. DORA

This driving tour was created by Jan Reker for the Porsche 356 Florida Owners Group “Gathering of the Faithful” at the Lakeside Inn, January 2008. The first segment goes from the Inn to Yalaha Bakery and takes about one hour. The second segment is one half hour back to the Inn. Check the Yalaha hours, entertainment and food offerings at www.yalahabakery.com or call 352-324-3366. In addition to pastries they also have a small deli that serves lunch.

The city of Mount Dora evokes quiet and comfortable “Southern” charm and hospitality of a lakefront community nestled among gentle hills and orange groves. At an elevation of 184 feet above sea level, Mount Dora is Florida’s equivalent of a mountain top town. It was settled in 1874 by David M. Simpson and was named Royellou by postmaster Ross Tremain, after his children Roy, Ella, and Louis. The community was later renamed Mount Dora, after Dora Ann Drawdy, who lived on Lake Dora. In 1883 Alexander House (the present Lakeside Inn) opened. At that time it was a two-story hotel with 10 rooms. The railroad arrived in 1887 and the community became a winter retreat for hunting, fishing, and boating. R. C. Tremain and Son, the postmaster, built the first orange packing house in 1891. In 1893 the Alexander House was renamed The Lake House. In 1903 Lake House was renamed the Lakeside Inn. Mount Dora became incorporated in 1910. The railway depot was built in 1915 and today is the home of the Chamber of Commerce. In 1979, the Inn closed down for the winter season because the film Honky Tonk Freeway was being filmed in Mount Dora. The Inn was painted pink for the occasion and an Indian elephant was shipped in and taught to water-ski on Lake Dora. Lakeside Inn dodged the wrecking ball to survive as one of Florida’s few historical wooden hotels.

Now that you know some of the history of Mount Dora and The Lakeside Inn, enjoy the roads surrounding this quaint area. Have fun!

Approximate Mileage

- 0.0 From front of Lakeside Inn – **go straight** on Alexander Street to traffic light
- 0.1 At traffic light, turn **Right** onto 5th Avenue.
- 0.4 Turn **Right** at 3rd intersection onto Tremain Street – it turns into Liberty Avenue when the road turns left at Gilbert Park
Historical Note - Gilbert Park was established in 1955.
- 1.0 At stop sign, turn **Right** onto S. Clayton Street
- 2.1 At T, turn **Right** onto Beauclair Drive
- 2.4 Road turns **Left** onto Dora Drive. Lake Dora will be on your right and Lake Ola will be on your left

- 4.5 Turn **Right** onto Sadler Avenue. When you enter Lake County, road becomes CR 448.
- 5.7 At stop sign, turn **Left** onto 448A toward Zellwood/Apopka
Note – Will be passing Long Scott Farms which has a corn maze during the fall, hay rides, and produce for sale.
- 7.2 Turn **Right** onto West CR 48 toward Astatula
Notice all the sod farms and cattle ranches
Historical Note – Name Astatula comes from an Indian term variously translated as “lake of sunbeams”, “lake of moonbeams” and “people of different tribes”
- 11.4 At traffic light, turn **Left** onto South CR 561 (Monroe Street).
- 14.4 At intersection of CR 561 and CR 455 – turn **Left** onto CR South 455
Note – This is part of the Green Mountain Scenic Byway
Be alert for traffic circle at Sugarloaf Mt. Information Center. This area is soon to be a golf community with many, many homes.
- 18.9 Turn **Right** onto CR West 561A
- 19.6 Turn **Right** onto Sugarloaf Mountain Road (share the road – bicycles use this road lots) – Stay on Sugarloaf Mountain Road.
Notice the road dips in the center – rather unusual
Lake Apopka is on the right
Notice octagon house on the left at 22.1
Slow down and admire the view

Notice the house on left with the old gas station signs and gas station memorabilia – Gulf, Esso, Pure, Texaco, Sinclair – 22.6
Historical Note – Sugarloaf Mountain is the highest point in peninsular Florida at 312 feet above sea level. The highest elevation in Florida is in the western Florida panhandle at Britton Hill which is 345 ft.
- 23.2 Turn **Right** onto CR 561
- 24.6 Turn **Left** onto North 455. You have been at this intersection before.
- 27.3 Turn **Right** onto SR 19 towards Howey-in-the-Hills
Notice all the orange groves
Observe the 35 mph speed limit in Howey-in-the-Hills
Historical Note – Howey-in-the-Hills was named after W.J. Howey, founder. Its ancestry is German and Irish

- 30.3 Turn **Left** at blinking light onto W. Central Avenue/Number Two Road
Pass Silver Springs Citrus and notice more orange groves
New developments are being planned along this road.
- 36.2 Turn **Right** onto CR 48
- 37.5 **Stop at Yalaha Bakery on the right** – great German bakery – Open until 5 pm
on Saturday – Opportunity to get fresh baked bread, sweets, and pastries, German
biers (Paulaner, Becks, Bitburger, and Warsteiner) in addition to wine, coffee, tea,
and soft drinks. For your information the deli is open from 10 to 3.
Historical Note – The name Yalaha is derived from the Seminole for
“orange”. Its ancestry is German and Irish.

Right out of Yalaha Bakery onto CR 48.

Enter Howey-in-the-Hills

Mission Inn Resort on the Right

- 40.7 At traffic light, turn **Left** towards Tavares onto SR 19
Cross Little Lake Harris – The lakes in the Harris Chain of Lakes are within an
inch of the all-time low and now are 2.5 feet lower than preferred levels
Bass fishing tournaments are held here
Stay on RT 19 passing numerous housing developments – many of them are for
55 and older. CR 561 merges onto SR 19.

Entering Tavares – Historical Note –The city was founded by newspaper
and railroad man Alexander St. Clair-Abrams in 1880 and named after a
Portuguese ancestor. While St. Clair-Abrams did not achieve his dream
that Tavares become the state capital of Florida, in 1887 the city was
named the seat of Lake County. St. Clair-Abrams later chartered a railroad
to run from Tavares to Orlando. A notable resident is NASCAR driver
Fireball Roberts.

- 46.7 Turn **Right** at traffic light onto Main Street. You will pass the Lake County Court
House, Tavares City Hall, and numerous stop signs.

Follow W. Main St, becomes E. Main St. and Lake Dora Dr. (along the railroad
tracks) and then CR452. It will follow along the shore of Lake Dora on your right
and the road is named Lakeshore Dr.

- 52.1 At the intersection of CR 452, Lakeshore Drive, and W Old US441 (there is a
stop sign) – turn **Right** onto Old US441. Road turns to the left and becomes W.
5th Avenue.
- 52.9 At traffic light, turn **Right** onto N. Alexander St. Follow Alexander back to
Lakeside Inn.

53.4 Front entrance of Lakeside Inn.