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MAPS (in all caps) Part II

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Photo by former USFSP student Brian Welch

I'm not saying that running from alligators is easy...

A few days ago, the first map for my bicycle trip across the country arrived in the mail. The Adventure Cycling "Florida Connector" route runs from Fort Lauderdale to St. Augustine.

Each map provides a "here's what to expect" summary of the route. My favorite line from the Florida Connector Map is:

Watch for small alligators and crocodiles in the more rural areas between LaBelle and Clewiston as you approach Alligator Alley along the I-75 corridor.

I'm not saying that running from alligators is easy, but I would venture that zig-zagging on foot is substantially easier than zig-zagging on a loaded touring bike.

How to zip through 100 foot deep sinkholes (and find your way)

Adventure Cycling has staked out plenty of bicycle compatible routes. Each route (or route portion) is decomposed into segments. The roads are carefully selected to offer an amalgamation of abundant services, light traffic, and/or wide shoulders.



A glimpse of the Florida Connector route segments

The built environment: The location of bike shops, campgrounds, convenience stores, grocery stores, hostels, hotels, libraries, restaurants, points of interest, and post offices are all right in front of your sweaty, sunscreen encrusted eyes. Many of these amenities are within a convenient distance from the route. By the way, St. Petersburg offers something similar for visiting cyclists. I urge you to check it out and use it!

The natural environment: Elevation and regional climatic information are provided. Of course the map also depicts Florida's spectacular Karst features from the tranquil lakes to the gaping sinkholes. In fact, this route offers the opportunity to ride through a 100 foot deep sinkhole near Mount Dora (according to the map.) I am super excited to cross that off my bucket list!