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Ideal Driving Companion for East Coast Travel ... Now Includes Florida A fun and fact-filled guide to help harried travelers

For the 42,500,000 people who drive to Florida every year down Interstate 95, Stan Posner and Sandra Phillips-Posner want to make the drive stress-free. To this end, they have diligently charted the 552 exits on I-95 all the way from Boston to Miami! They checked out food options, motels, radar traps, radio stations, 24-hour mechanics, ATM machines, golf courses and places to shop, while also amassing amazing stories to keep travelers entertained.

All this is conveniently found in the 4th edition of the award-winning *Drive I-95: Exit by Exit Info maps History and Trivia*. This book gives travelers reasons to make some pit stops in the twelve states along this route where they can try out local food and discover fun stopping places to break up the drive. Since this edition is the first to include Florida, (which occupies 30 all-new pages), here are a few of the wild and wonderful discoveries the Posners found there:

Everyone in the car will enjoy participating in a moving **chocolate contest**. Start at the top of Florida, in Jacksonville, and sample their chocolate popcorn, a 20-year-favorite that put Peterbrooke Chocolatier on the map. The combination of sweet, salty, crunchy and chocolatey is hard to resist. There are also chocolate pretzels and chocolate blueberries to sample and buy. In Daytona head for Angel & Phelps Chocolate Factory for some of their 80-year-old classics like chocolate covered potato chips (light or dark) and pretzels. Other homemade favorites are the made-from-scratch rocco, an award winning buttercrunch toffee/chocolate topped with almonds. There's even a free 30-minute guided tour. It will be hard to find a unanimous favorite.

Golf addicts will want to screech to a halt in Port St. Lucie for the PGA Learning Center, which is one of the **only PGA facilities open to the public**. The best deal in town is \$20 for an entire day to practice (at 100 stations) putting, chipping and pitching greens or on nine different bunkers - 4 kinds of sand, grass, and a fairway. Golfers can book private instruction, a group clinic or get a computerized analysis of their swing and putt.

At Dixie Crossroads in Titusville, sample the **rock shrimp**. For a long time they were ignored as a delicacy because they were too hard to peel, but Rodney Thompson invented a shell-splitting machine to break the hard shells, and ran this restaurant specializing in them. His daughter Laurilee, after captaining her own ship for ten years, has now taken over the helm of this restaurant. Don't miss their corn fritters, too.

Those who want to **fish without getting wet** can head to the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in Dania (near Ft. Lauderdale) and try their hand at five virtual reality simulators (hook a marlin, sailfish, bass, tarpon or trout). Learn that catfish "walk" on land, mudskippers sit in trees, deep sea fish shine through their own lights, cave fish swim blind and ice fish carry antifreeze. The galleries include ones about fish, tackle, places to fish, record catches and the largest collection of reference books on fishing. Hanging in the lobby is a replica of a 1,166 lb. Pacific blue marlin, and out back - live alligators in wetlands.

For those who want to rub shoulders with **NASCAR racing greats** or their memorabilia (and don't have time to stop at the Daytona Speedway), Racing's North Turn, a beach grill, sits on the exact location where racing history began. Chow down in the booths named for drivers or on the patio to "ignite your appetite, start your engines, or enjoy the back stretch sandwiches."

Did you know?

- You can swim with the sharks at the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ.
- Robert E. Lee was the only man in history who was asked to become commander of opposing armies in the same war. He paced at the Capitol in Richmond, VA before rendering his answer in favor of the South.
- You can buy bags, journals and paper made out of elephant poo at the Capron Park Zoo in MA.
- In the Blackstone Valley, RI, you can be lulled to sleep in an authentic 40-ft British canal boat B&B which has berths for four.
- The first large scale programmable computer, ENIAC, found in the U.S. Ordnance Museum in Aberdeen, MD, was designed for the military to help track the trajectory of bullets and to set up firing tables for them. Its first challenge was related to designing the hydrogen bomb.
- You can actually go golfing right in NYC at the Bronx Golf Center.
- The Ava Gardner Museum in Smithfield, NC started with a kiss.

A typically boring drive can be turned it into a fun adventure in the other eleven states as well since this new 4th edition includes a whopping 174 new stories. Ever wonder what happens to recycled garbage? Stop off at the **Garbage Museum** just east of New Haven, CT, and find out. Upstairs, enter an ordinary-looking door to the extraordinary sight of a constant stream of trucks dumping mountains of cans, paper and plastic, with people sorting conveyor belts of trash. Most will think twice about waste after this stop.

At **Pollock Johnny's** in Baltimore, MD, opened in 1921 by John Kafka, his carny background was parlayed into a family empire with his secret spicy red sauce recipe, sausages and lemonade. The “dog with the works” is perfect even without the add-ons (onions, chili, mustard, ketchup, green peppers, fried onions, cheese, kraut or gravy), but do have it with a side of amazing OC (Ocean City) fries.

Wilson, NC local folk artist Vollis Simpson’s claim to fame are his **welded painted moving sculptures**. He has about 30 on his property (which you can visit, about 15 miles away), but Wilson’s downtown area is lucky to have five sculptures twirling and whirling about. Trying to find them all makes for a fun scavenger hunt.

As early as 1784, Walterboro, SC, was a summer retreat for nearby plantations. It is easy to follow Washington St.’s crushed seashell sidewalk along the newly defined **Antique Row** with the dozen or so shops. Get here before the place is discovered and the prices go up! After a walk, grab a counter stool at the 55-year-old Hiott’s for a \$.60 or \$.80 real fountain coke — cherry or vanilla, too. (If you’re there on the right morning, 79-years-young Mr. Eddie Hiott may be the soda jerk.)

Also in SC, in Dillon (right at the top of the state), is the "**Wedding Capital of the East**" where over 7,000 ceremonies are performed each year. At the Dillon Marriage Chapel, with only 24 hours notice, no blood test and no witnesses needed, couples can get hooked for good.

“This intrepid couple has researched every exit between MA and FL,” wrote Spencer Rumsey in Newsday. “If there is a medal for this kind of work, I believe they’ve earned it 10 times over.”

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To request a review copy of Drive I-95, arrange an interview with Stan Posner and Sandra Phillips-Posner or to receive cover art or other photos electronically, contact Kate Bandos at KSB Promotions 800-304-3269 or 616-676-0758 • kate@ksbpromotions.com

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by Stan Posner and Sandra Phillips-Posner

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