

# Florida's BIG BEND SHELLFISH TRAIL



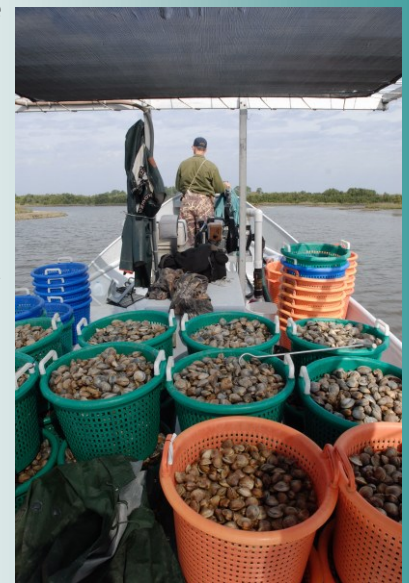
**Day One:** The beautiful coastal communities of **Steinhatchee** and **Keaton Beach, Florida** are known for their abundance of recreational scallops during harvesting season, usually the second week of June until Labor Day. Bring your own boat (a saltwater fishing license is required for all who scallop) or hire a local charter boat and captain for an amazing day of scalloping. Snorkeling with mask and fins in about 5 feet of water is the most popular way of 'catching' the scallops that are laying on the sandy bottom and aquatic grasses. After a day out on the water, take your scallops to one of the local restaurants and they will prepare them just like you like them...fried, grilled, baked or blackened. Dine at **Roy's Restaurant** to watch the sun set into the Gulf of Mexico or **Fiddler's Restaurant** for a great view of the Steinhatchee River, both are two great choices for shellfish. Keaton Beach is a quiet, restful, 'Off the Beaten Path' place, offering a small beach, vacation rentals, marina and is a wonderful coastal area for photography.

**Day Two:** Just across the Steinhatchee River, (on the Dixie county side of the river), is the tranquil coastal community of **Jena**. Here you will find a laid back atmosphere where you can really 'Get Away From It All'. For fishing supplies, motel/cabins and the **Who Dat Bar & Grill** make your reservations at the **Good Times Motel and Marina**. Located right on the riverbanks of the Steinhatchee River, this restaurant is a 'locals favorite' with fresh catch daily. Bring in your scallop or fish catch, and they will prepare a nice dish for you. Look for all the working waterfronts along the river as they are abundant in this area. Look for stacks of crab traps, crab boats and oystermen. While you are visiting, be sure to charter a fishing trip for some of the best Trout and Red fishing in Florida.



**Day Three:** Monticello's **Brick House Eatery** in Jefferson County is the place to stop to 'eat like a local'. For delicious Shrimp and Grits, Crab Cakes and home made Jambalaya visit **The Rev Café** on south Jefferson Street, downtown Monticello. Take a kayak or canoe paddling trip down the Wacissa or Aucilla Rivers. Jefferson County has many bike and hiking trails and an abundance of historic houses to see. A great place to visit!

**Day Four:** Meander your way south along US 19-98 to the peaceful and picturesque island of **Cedar Key** in Levy County. Aquaculture is king on the island, harvesting clams and oysters right from the Gulf of Mexico. Pictured to the far right are clam farmers bringing baskets of fresh clams to market. Many local restaurants offer several different dishes featuring clams and oysters. **Southern Cross Sea Farms** host a 'clam tours' once a week to learn all about aquaculture.



**Plan your trip today!** Experience Florida's largest shellfish trail. Contact [www.VisiLevy.com](http://www.VisiLevy.com); [www.TaylorCountyChamber.com](http://www.TaylorCountyChamber.com); [www.VisitDixie.com](http://www.VisitDixie.com); or [www.MonticelloJeffersonFL.com](http://www.MonticelloJeffersonFL.com)

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