New Smyrna Beach - Driving Access Ramps

The tradition of driving on the beach in Volusia County dates back to the early days of the automobile. The hard-packed sands offer an opportunity to leisurely drive along the water’s edge from the north jetties, five miles south to 27th Street. The Black Dolphin Inn is located on the western shore of the Indian River and Intracoastal Waterway, and is in close proximity to several of the beach access ramps.

The privilege of beach driving includes responsibility, however, and there are some rules in place: please watch for pedestrians, sunbathers and wildlife; parking is allowed east, or seaward, of the posts; observe the 10 mph speed limit; drive with headlights on and at least one front window completely open; and, texting while driving is prohibited.

Make sure you check the tides before expecting to drive on the beach as some of the ramps will close at high tide. There is a beach cam on www.volusia.org which will show you whether or not cars are able to drive due to the tides.

The beach is open to vehicles from sunrise to sunset, November 1 through April 30, and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 1 through October 31. There is a $5 per day per vehicle user fee to drive on the beach from February 1 through November 30. The following ramps allow cars to access the beach:

**Third Avenue Beach Ramp** (6 minutes by car) - Via Highway 44 South Causeway, drive 2 miles from the Black Dolphin Inn. Take Third Avenue to Live Oak; turn right to Lytle/Hwy. 44. Turn right and follow the South Causeway past the Publix shopping area to the next traffic light and turn left at the Walgreens. Two more blocks and you are on the beach ramp.

**Flagler Avenue Beach Ramp** (7 minutes by car) - Take Riverside Drive north to the traffic light at Washington Street, turn right onto the North Causeway and drive almost 2 miles to the end of Flagler Avenue.

**Crawford Avenue Beach Ramp** (8 minutes by car) - Take Riverside Drive north to Washington Street, turn right onto the North Causeway, drive 1 ½ miles to Peninsula Avenue, turn left and go seven blocks to Crawford Road where you will turn right and in two more blocks you are on the beach.

**Beachway Avenue Ramp** (9 minutes by car) - Instead of turning right on Crawford, drive another ¼ of a mile and turn right on Beachway to get to the ramp. If you turn left and travel a mile and a half on the beach, you will reach the inlet jetties, which is a popular spot for surfers and fishermen.

**27th Avenue Beach Ramp** (10 minutes by car) – This is the southernmost vehicle entrance to the beach and lies 5.5 miles from the Inn. Take the South Causeway, as above, and drive to 27th Avenue where you will turn left to the beach. The area to the south of this ramp is traffic-free, so you have to make a left turn, on the beach, and drive north.
Pets are prohibited on the beach; however there is a Dog Beach at the north end of the island where parking is available at Smyrna Dunes Park, 2995 N. Peninsula. Here you will find a spacious sandy area with a view of the lighthouse across the inlet. Your puppies will love running in and out of the water and chasing sand crabs. This state park provides two miles of elevated walkways with views of various ecosystems within. There is a $5 fee per vehicle.