



GUIDES like this one for the South Brunswick Islands help bicyclists avoid the worst roads and traffic.

TRY TOURING BY BICYCLE

See The Coast From A Different Point Of View

BY SUSAN USHER

Why not check out touring by bicycle, either the entire trip or just a daytime sightseeing junket for the entire family while in the South Brunswick Islands?

Bicycle touring is becoming increasingly popular as a way to see and experience North Carolina. The coastal plain's flat terrain lends itself to easy peddling, particularly in the cooler, less humid days of spring and fall.

Like any vacation, though, a cycling junket requires advance planning.

One recent spring day, for example, Keith Maupin pulled a well-

equipped touring bike with off-road tires to the shoulder of Village Road and wiped his brow.

On his way from Charlottesville, Va., to St. Augustine, Fla., Maupin didn't know the secondary routes that parallel U.S. 17.

In blissful ignorance of what was ahead, he struck out south from Wilmington on the Ocean Highway.

He breathed a sigh of relief upon reaching N.C. 179 and its route along the South Brunswick Islands beaches to the South Carolina line.

"Boy, am I glad to be off that," he said of U.S. 17 with its rush of motorists and frequent construction projects, shaking his head in amazement. "It's for the birds."

But the glories of the road make up for the rough moments. By heading south, said Maupin, "I get to force spring. It's beautiful to see everything coming alive."

While roads like N.C. 179 may be narrower and busier than a bicyclist would wish, Maupin finds it and other side roads much more to his liking than U.S. 17.

After all, the routes may take him a little out of the way, but it is the trip, not the destination, that provides the greatest pleasure for bicyclists.

As Maupin learned the hard way, most of North Carolina's official "biking highways" don't show up on the state transportation maps.

That means if you're ready to head to the beach again, but want a vacation with a different twist, you need to plan ahead.

Whether you're arriving from the mountains or piedmont or from a neighboring state, there's a North Carolina "bicycling highway" to follow to or through the South Brunswick Islands.

In this area, for example, you'll follow the signs for Route 3, better known presently as "Ports of Call." The vertical signs in green and white include an arrow, the symbol of a bicycle and the route number.

State highway maps don't show the bicycling routes, but the Department of Transportation

(DOT) bicycling program provides on request free route guides in sections that average about 45 miles each in length, along with helpful information for those traveling by bicycle.

The signs make sticking to the trail easier and alert motorists to the possibility of bicyclists along the way.

Route 3 or "Ports of Call" roughly parallels U.S. 17. The South Brunswick Islands segment tracks along N.C. 179 from Calabash to Shallotte then follows N.C. 130 east to Civietown Road (S.R. 1132).

(See SEE, Page 52)

YOU'LL LOVE OUR BREAKFAST BISCUITS

Ham Biscuit 99¢ with Egg \$1.19
 Steak Biscuit 89¢ with Egg \$1.09
 Link Sausage Biscuit 89¢ with Egg \$1.09
 New Breakfast Bacon Biscuit 89¢

Sausage Biscuit 59¢ with Egg \$1.09

New For Lunch! Chef's & Garden Salads
 Chicken 2-pc. Snack Pack \$1.99
 2 pc. dark meat, 4 potato wedges (add 99¢ for white meat)

2 Liter Pepsi \$1.29 Hotdogs 2/\$1.00
 Daily Hot Lunch Specials with cornbread only \$1.25

Buy any frozen yogurt product & GET 1 FREE With Coupon
 1 coupon per item. Also good at our N. Myrtle Beach & Yaupon Beach Stores

Express Stop
 24 Hours A Day—7 Days
 Shallotte-Jct. Hwy. 17 & Holden Bch Rd.
 ©1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Ceiling Fans

Chandeliers & Lighting Fixtures

Outdoor Lighting

©1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

See Your Home In A New Light

Whether you're building or remodeling, come see the experts at...

Marsh Lighting, Inc.
 Showroom
 Island Village Shoppes
 Hwy. 179, Ocean Isle Beach
 579-7180 (Behind IGA)

SIGNS such as this mark the way.

M1-8

M7-2