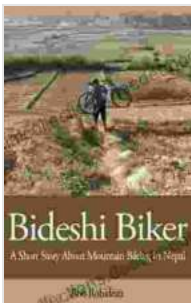


# Florida Curiosities: A Deep Dive into the Sunshine State's Quirks



## Florida Curiosities (Curiosities Series) by Rob Robideau

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

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## The Man Who Fed Alligators From His Driveway



In the quaint town of Deerfield Beach, Florida, resided a peculiar character known as "Alligator Man" Bartlett. Bartlett had a penchant for keeping four American alligators in his driveway, which he named Charlie, Max, Mandy, and Princess. Every afternoon, he would put on a show for the neighborhood, feeding the massive reptiles raw chicken from a pair of garden tongs.

Bartlett claimed to have rescued the alligators from a nearby canal, where they were struggling to survive. He developed a close bond with them, often interacting with them like they were his pets. Despite numerous complaints from neighbors concerned about the safety hazard, Bartlett refused to give up his beloved alligators.

### **The Giant Sinkhole that Swallowed a Corvette**



A sinkhole in Winter Haven, Florida, swallowed a Corvette in 1981.

In 1981, Winter Haven, Florida, became the scene of a bizarre incident when a massive sinkhole opened up in the backyard of a suburban home, swallowing a Corvette Stingray whole.

The owner, Robert Buchanan, had just parked the prized sports car in his driveway when the ground beneath it gave way. The sinkhole rapidly expanded, dragging the Corvette down into its depths. Buchanan watched in disbelief as his beloved car disappeared into the abyss.

Sinkholes are a common occurrence in Florida due to the state's porous limestone bedrock. The sinkhole that swallowed Buchanan's Corvette

measured approximately 100 feet wide and 40 feet deep.

## **The Great Catfish War of 1964**



In 1964, the tranquil waters of the Gulf of Mexico became the backdrop for a fierce conflict known as the Great Catfish War. At the heart of the dispute was the issue of fishing rights between commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen.

Commercial fishermen, who relied on the catfish industry for their livelihood, were concerned that recreational fishermen were depleting the fish stocks. They demanded stricter regulations and restrictions on recreational fishing. Meanwhile, recreational fishermen, who enjoyed the sport of catching catfish, resisted these attempts to limit their activities.

The conflict escalated into a series of confrontations between the two groups. Boats were rammed, nets were cut, and threats were exchanged. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission eventually intervened to restore order and establish a balance between the competing interests.

### **The World's Largest Cross**



The Peace Cross in Pensacola, Florida, is the world's largest cross.

Standing tall at 192 feet, the Peace Cross in Pensacola, Florida, holds the distinction of being the world's largest cross. Constructed in 1941, the cross was originally intended as a memorial to the American soldiers who lost their lives in World War I.

Over the years, the Peace Cross has become a symbol of faith and hope for many people. It is a popular tourist destination and a place for reflection and inspiration. However, it has also been the subject of controversy, with some groups arguing that its display on public land violates the separation of church and state.

## **The Woman Who Lived in a Treehouse for 7 Years**



In the lush, tropical paradise of Naples, Florida, Donna Scott spent seven years of her life living in a treehouse. Seeking refuge from her tumultuous marriage, Scott retreated to the canopy of a massive banyan tree in her backyard.

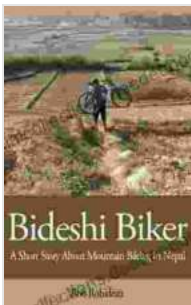
Scott's treehouse was a marvel of ingenuity. Constructed entirely from recycled materials, it featured a kitchen, a bedroom, a bathroom, and even

a fireplace. Scott became known as the "Treehouse Lady" and her story inspired a book and a documentary film.

After seven years of living in the treehouse, Scott eventually returned to ground level. She continued to advocate for environmental conservation and sustainable living.

Florida is a land of endless fascination, where the ordinary gives way to the extraordinary. From its eccentric characters to its bizarre incidents and intriguing tales, the Sunshine State is a realm where the unexpected is always just around the corner.

These curiosities, large and small, are woven into the fabric of Florida's identity. They add a touch of magic to the everyday and remind us that even in the most familiar places, there is always something new to discover.



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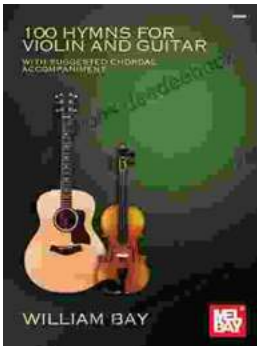






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