

On the Florida Antique Trail Feb 2011 Milton - Pensacola – Fort Walton Beach

My objectives in taking this trip were to deliver Alabama Antique Trail 2011 brochures to stores in southwest Alabama and to relax near the ocean for a few days. We did eventually deliver many brochures to Fairhope, Daphne, and Mobile. However, I did not follow my plan to relax.

We traveled south via one of our member shops in Andalusia, Alabama and thought we may as well go on to Milton, Florida since it was nearby. One of the trail member store owners, Jim, at Remember When Antiques in Clanton had told me about a great mall called The Copper 'Possum (TheCopperPossum.com). Thanks to Jim's recommendation, The Copper 'Possum became the first Florida antique store to become a member of FloridaAntiqueTrail.com!



The mall has many treasures! I collect child-size chairs. This small sample table and chairs above caught my eye immediately. It took all my will power not to purchase. Maybe next trip! (We were in the “two seater” sports car. Ray thinks it keeps me from buying antiques when we drive the little car; he is correct.) By the time we finished looking around there, it was too late to drive onto Fairhope and Daphne. We decided to stay in nearby Pensacola.



I do not remember having visited Pensacola before; we found it to be a delightful historical town! The downtown area had a slight “New Orleans” look and feel with lively night spots and coffee shops. The downtown looked as if it has just been cleaned and painted; but some of the buildings looked very old! We learned that it was one of the earliest settlements in the United States! We spent the night at [The Noble Manor Bed and Breakfast](http://TheNobleManorBedandBreakfast.com). The owners made us feel so at home! The breakfast was perfect. It was Valentine's Day; the innkeeper had shaped the strawberry on top of the fruit salad in the shape of a heart. I was so impressed with the fact that **all** the linens including the mattress cover and bedspreads were removed, bleached, and washed each day. They also ironed all the sheets. The bed was so comfy!

In the Pensacola historic district between Jackson Hill Antique Shop and Betty Paul's Antique Shop was a red camellia



tree dripping with blooms! Blooms covered the tree and petals covered the ground. It was a vision! Camellias are sooo deep south! A person from Tennessee asked me if the picture above was upside down; she had not seen a Camellia "tree" before. I was in heaven – camellias and three antique shops in one block! La Maison d'Elodie – Antiques, in another period home, sits on the other side of these shops.

It was a mini European antique tour when I visited Pensacola's Poor Richards Antiques pictured below left; he has a warehouse of imported pieces that he has selected in his European travels.



Amy's Attic and Southern Belle Antiques in Fort Walton are also worth an afternoon away from the beach!

One can see why Snowbirds love the wonderful antique shops here in the Florida Panhandle.

We have found so many great antique stores here; to see all the shops' websites go to FloridaAntiqueTrail.com. The website has eleven stores in that area as of our trip date! Let me know if you find more! It is amazing to me that I have been in the Gulf coast area so often and never found these stores. Somehow I had not connected Florida beach visits to antiques. To be able to visit all the stores, we decided to stay on Pensacola Beach for two days and on Fort Walton Beach for a day.

The National Sea Shore Park on Santa Rosa Island is heavenly; the sand is white as snow! The baby blue ocean and sky seem to melt into each other. I had not thought of the Antique Trail taking us along the beach trail! I love it!



Happy Trails!

Marcia