



Apalachicola, FL (Apalachicola Muni—AAF)

The Owl Cafe 🍔🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (850) 653-9888

Location: Cab ride

Open: Daily: Lunch and Dinner

PIREP In beautiful downtown Apalachicola, FL is a really nice restaurant called The Owl Cafe. The food is wonderfully prepared and when served, it is a piece of art, almost too beautiful to eat. The wait-staff are friendly, don't hover and bother you, but stand near enough to not let your water glass run dry. I recommend a coffee after, out in the garden and calling ahead for reservations on the weekend. To get there, fly in to Apalachicola muni (AAF) N29.43.45 W85.1.44. The people at the FBO are friendly and if not busy can drive you into town (four miles) or call the only cab (\$6), but he is a little slow. The Gibson Inn is at the base of the bridge and is a real treat to spend the night. We go there for the weekend occasionally and you don't need a car to walk around town.

Arcadia, FL (Arcadia Muni—X06)

Wheeler's Cafe 🍔🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (863) 993-1555

Location: Cab ride to town

Open: Daily: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

PIREP Wheeler's Cafe opened for business in 1929 and is still darn good. It is a small Mom and Pop cafe serving Southern home cooking.

Try their homemade desserts. Worth the trip.

PIREP Arcadia is about 20 miles west of Sebring in the middle of the state. It is a \$3–4 cab ride into town. The older part of town includes numerous antique stores. One of the more popular spots is the old opera house. This upstairs facility is packed with antiques including many of the old projectors (silent and early sound) used in the theater. The deli up the street has excellent (large) sandwiches and delicious fresh pies (\$1.50 a slice). All the people were very friendly.

PIREP There was virtually no one at the airport to be friendly with. We had to hunt for a telephone book to look up the number of a local cab company for the ride into town. After a half-hour wait, the driver finally arrived but had no advice as to where we should head for breakfast. We had her drop us off in town amid the numerous antique shops, only two of which were open. We found no restaurants open and walked back toward the airport. Cute town. Friendly folks, possibly. We just didn't see it. Perhaps Sunday was not the best day to visit.

Bartow, FL (Bartow Muni—BOW)

Kathy's Too 🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (863) 519-5484

Location: 1/2 mile off field

Open: Daily: Breakfast and Lunch

PIREP Restaurant off field about 1/2 mile. Not open on Sunday. I left hungry and went to Lakeland to eat.

Bunnell, FL (Flagler County—X47)

High Jackers 🍔🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (386) 586-6078

Location: On the field

Open: Daily: Lunch and Dinner

PIREP My family and I have been there several times in the last year, most recently March 4. The food and service has been excellent each time. On weekends the airfield is lively.

PIREP A correction to an earlier piper. High Jackers is not open for breakfast but only lunch and dinner. We got there Sunday morning at 10 AM and were told they did not open for lunch till 11. However, the excellent staff rustled something up for us a bit early that was delicious! Lots of traffic from nearby Embry Riddle University, so keep your ears open when approaching this small field. Park 50 feet away, great atmosphere and food...a great choice!!

PIREP What a heaping amount of food! I almost had to redo my weight and balance.

This restaurant is only a few feet from the ramp with both outdoor and indoor seating. With a bunch of TVs, you can watch the game *and* watch the planes. What more can a guy ask for? I had the proverbial \$100 hamburger which I could not possibly finish. It was simply awesome! Cute waitress, too. I will definitely be returning to HighJackers.

PIREP I was looking for hangar space in the St. Augustine area and went to check out Flagler County (any excuse to fly works). We left St. Augustine headed south direct to X49. About 15 miles out tuned the unicom to 123.0; I heard no less than four aircraft in the pattern. For an uncontrolled airport, and not too clear a day, this was one busy place. At one time there was everything from a Beach Jet, a King Air, a C182, a couple Embry Riddle C172's and two Army OH-58's in the pattern. It was really worth getting in, though.

HighJackers was excellent. Great Cuban sandwich, great price, and more food than you should eat. (Earlier comment about weight and balance after eating is worth noting!) Unfortunately no hangar space and over 60 on a wait list with no plans for further expansion. High Jackers will definitely be on our list of places to frequent. Yes, the waitresses were cute and very friendly.

PIREP Stopped by Flagler County Airport (Bunnell, FL) today. Good food, good service, good-looking friendly cute waitresses—what more could one want!!!!

Well worth a stop when in the Daytona Beach area. Try it, you will like it!

PIREP Went to High Jackers at Flagler (Bunnell) Airport last week, was very impressed, huge improvement over the previous restaurant. They closed in the porch outside and the whole place was very busy for lunch. Great varied menu from hamburger to fish to chicken. Great staff, good service, and good food at reasonable prices.

Carrabelle, FL (Carrabelle-Thompson—X13)

Summers at the Bridge 🍔🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (850) 697-3663

Location: Close by; they will pick you up

Open:

PIREP Summers at the Bridge will pick you up if you call ahead ((850) 697-3663) and take you to their restaurant. The same cook who used to cook at Julie May's is now at Summers. As we all know, Julie May's is now closed.

I have not eaten there personally but was told by a friend that the food is good and reasonably priced.

Cedar Key, FL (George T Lewis—CDK)

Sea Breeze 🍔🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (352) 543-5738

Location: 2 miles to town, cab meets you as you land

Open:

PIREP FBO Comments: No fuel, so plan accordingly. 2300' runway 75' wide I think. No problems, no obstructions, and well lit at night. Road parallel looks like a taxiway but isn't. Surprised there aren't any noise abatement procedures for this airport.

PIREP Parking area and ramp are rough, as is the old Checker Cab that will pick you up. Held together with a few bumper stickers and a couple rolls of aluminum tape, but still runs good! The lady listens to the CTAF—she tried to respond with her handheld when she heard us but we never heard her. She operates the taxi during daylight hours for the most part (the headlights are a little finicky), \$5 per head per way into town. Quite an interesting ride if you're not used to old cars and small-town FL waterfront homes. The food at Anne's was delicious, mostly seafood of your choosing, but there is a burger on the menu. Highly recommended are the two-way or three-way platters where you can combo shrimp or grouper or whatever you like. Meals come with a good-sized salad or side-sized serving of coleslaw. They have seating inside or out with views of the Gulf. There was a pack/herd/pod of manatee that swam near the dock as we were eating—pretty neat. About \$16–20 a person for food at Anne's.

Beautiful scenery in the afternoon and evening. Kind of a touristy area so the downtown shops look like it. Two or three blocks to walk the whole downtown strip once at Anne's or Frogs (the other restaurant).

No reports on lodging as we were only there for the afternoon. Looks expensive though.

Leaving Cedar Key on a moonless night, be good on your basic instrument skills as taking off in either direction there are few lights for horizon or ground reference.

Had a great afternoon and evening at Cedar Key. I'm really glad the days are getting longer!

PIREP We flew VFR to CDK for the first time. There's a windsock at the end of each runway (05/23). Judy the local cabby monitors the CTAF and will pick you up in her white Checker Cab. She's pleasant and a wealth of local info. Cab fare is \$5 p/p each way. We wanted seafood. Judy recommended Anne's Restaurant. We waited about five minutes to be seated though the entire restaurant, including the outdoor deck, was no more than three-quarters full. All the servers appeared a bit overwhelmed, perhaps short-staffed? Our young, pleasant, preoccupied server finally got our drink order straight after repeating it three times. We both ordered fries with our meal; we got the worse tasting coleslaw either of us ever had. When our oyster sandwiches (delicious and hot) arrived,

I received barely warm fries. My wife received none—her fries arrived after she had finished her sandwich, and she's a slow eater, but at least they were hot. The tab was \$30 plus tip. I also had oyster stew, which was delicious at \$6.95 a bowl. The fish chowder is a pricy \$9.95 per bowl though the water views are priceless, and remember: Cedar Key is a tourist trap.

Enough said.

PIREP Don't worry about how you'll get into town. Judy the cab driver has her radio on and when she hears you call, she'll radio back with the runway in use and also ask if you need a ride into town. The ride is \$10 per person, round trip and is well worth it. It's way too far to walk (maybe three miles) in the heat. Besides, Judy is an interesting person and she needs to make a living. Her service is one that is rarely seen anymore, so let's keep her working. Judy is a great source of local trivia and current restaurant recommendations. Almost any place along the waterfront will be good. For a special treat, have Judy drop you off on Main Street and visit the Island Hotel for lunch. This place is on the National Register of Historical Places (or whatever it is called) and the new owners (within a year) are taking it back to what it used to be like. Great food and service. A bit more expensive than run of the mill places but not bad at lunch.

PIREP Flew into Cedar Key on a Saturday. Even with the strong crosswind it was an easy landing. Plenty of tie-downs. When we called on the radio, the cab lady gave us a wind report. Very nice service. She also picked us up and took us to town. \$5 each one way. She recommended Sea Breeze or Anne's. We chose Anne's and the food was great. Excellent fried oyster sandwich! Nice little town. Lots of tourist trap shops. Great place to check out!

PIREP Everything that the pilots have written above is correct. Don't let the smaller runway keep you from enjoying this wonderful place. The most important thing to remember is to save this airport for clear days. MVFR is not recommended because of the intense likeliness to lose the horizon. However, when it is VFR it is a great place to fly. Try the Island Hotel & Restaurant. It is right next to all the shops and action and it serves the best food on the island (or key). It is also a great place to stay the night. While not the cheapest place in town, it is the best for dining and staying overnight. The owner will come out and pick you up for free at the airport if you let him know you are coming.

PIREP My wife and I have been flying to CDK for several years. Besides the Captain's Table, there are many other restaurants on the island that have great food too. There is a little Mom and Pop place on Second Street that is open for breakfast and lunch that is inexpensive and where locals eat. If you want to really impress your sweetie, the Island Room is the only place for dinner. It is located at the Cedar Cove Resort and Yacht Club. You will be impressed! Pilots, don't let the short runway scare you away. I have flown in and out with a Cherokee Six with all seats full without a problem.

A couple of weeks ago there was a Pilatus in and out with eight aboard. Just remember that nighttime operations, unless instrument rated, should not be attempted. You can buzz the town with your gear down to alert the taxi or give a call on unicom five minutes out to get the cab there. The cab used to have an aircraft radio in it, I don't know if it still does or not. The brochures and chamber tell you to go to the airport to see a great sunset. Unfortunately, there is a county maintenance worker there that thinks the airport belongs to him and will try to chase you away. Don't park where you can't just to appease the yahoo. There is a public road on the northwest side of the airport that should provide excellent photo opportunities. If you are staying overnight, the L&M bar is a good place to wet your whistle.

PIREP Cedar Key is a small town on the west coast of Florida about 80 miles north of Tampa. The scenery flying into Cedar Key is great, with miles of empty shore and palm trees. The area is dotted with small islands with pure white sand. The runway is 2400' and both ends of the runway end in the ocean. Landing on runway 5 brings you in over the gulf.

Note: you have to back taxi on the runway if you land on 5—this is a change from when you could taxi off the end of 23 onto the road. Now they have a stop sign at the end of the turnoff from 23 and it is difficult to taxi past.

The town is an old fishing village with many quaint shops and restaurants. It would be worth spending the night here at one of the bed and breakfast—type places. You can take a boat out to the islands about one mile offshore

and explore for an afternoon. Locals in town were very friendly and accommodating—a couple of nice bars with pool tables, but this town does not get rowdy.

I give this destination 7 clams out of 10 clams and most of that is for the cool runway. You can also camp out on the side of the runway if you want!

PIREP The wife and I did an overnight trip to Cedar Key and enjoyed it. “The” cab driver (Lester Ridgeway) monitors CTAF in his cab and at home and will suggest a runway. His fee for the five-minute trip to town in the Checker Cab is “whatever you think is right.” If he is busy, his wife may come get you. The short field over some low trees onto a displaced threshold with a Gulf of Mexico overrun is fun. Three cars came out from town to watch me land and drove off while I taxied in. There is no fuel or any services available.

There are four or five seafood restaurants in town with similar pricing, and some serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. After a tedious process to get a seat, we ate at the Captain’s Table for about \$50 including a drink each, tax and tip. The seafood was excellent. I would suggest calling ahead for a reservation and attempting to get a window seat for sunset (the restaurant is located on the second floor above a lounge). There is another restaurant (Brown Pelican), which offers a second floor screened porch view of the Gulf.

There are also several hotels on the island. The hotels, restaurants, and gift shops are all within a very short walk. Most are on the dock. If you want to, you can rent a golf cart to ride around, rent a boat to go out to the outer islands, or go on an airboat tour of the area. The big events are an art festival and a seafood festival that occur in April and October, respectively. There is no real beach on this island, although it looked like there were some nice ones on the outer islands, which you may be able to get to by boat.

The taxi man has an attitude with pedestrian tourists who walk in the middle of the road, but he’s very entertaining!! Ate at the Sea Breeze. The food and service were excellent. I had an outstanding broiled seafood platter. If you ever are in the CDK area, don’t miss the chance to stop in.

Clearwater, FL (Clearwater Air Park—CLW)

The Expo Restaurant 🍔🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (727) 461-4140

Location: 5-minute walk

Open:

PIREP The Expo is less than a five-minute walk from the FBO at CLW. Go out to the street, and walk a block north.

The Expo serves home-style food at good prices. There are daily lunch specials. The breakfasts can’t be beat. My personal favorite is the gyro and feta cheese omelet. Portions are large and everything is delicious. It is open seven days a week, although Sundays they serve only breakfast and close at 2 PM.

Clearwater Airpark is a good airport. Runway 34 has right traffic. The city has made it illegal to fly after 9 PM.

Crystal River, FL (Crystal River—CGC)

Plantation Inn 🍔🍔🍔

Rest. Phone #: (352) 795-4211

Location: You could walk, or they will pick you up

Open: Daily

PIREP Call the Plantation Inn from inside the terminal for a pickup; the phone number is next to the wall phone. Lunch menu includes both sandwiches and excellent entrees at very reasonable prices. Walking would not be fun as it is almost a mile to the north along a very busy highway.