



Welcome to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge!

Wildlife management here at St. Marks NWR involves protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat for all the animals that use the refuge during the year. Here you will find a generous variety of family and individual field trips/trails to explore. There are 75 miles of marked trails to enjoy, winding through diverse habitats of the refuge. This map highlights only the hiking opportunities on the St. Marks Unit (the Lighthouse/ Visitor Center area). For casual observation, the Lighthouse Road provides many excellent stopping points. A special drive guide for this road is for sale in the Visitor Center for 50 cents.

Trails on the St. Marks Unit

Florida National Scenic Trail

Crosses into the St. Marks Unit from the east and west. The entire segment of the Trail on the refuge is 49.5 miles. Camping permits for through hikers are available at the Visitor Center. Open to foot and bicycle traffic only.

St. Marks Unit

Primitive Walking Trails

Deep Creek is 12 miles; Stoney Bayou is 6.5. Both trails start 1.5 miles south of the Visitor Center on Lighthouse Road. Trails follow old logging roads and levees

around Refuge pools. Great for seeing shy wildlife and migratory birds. Map at trailhead also. Open to foot, bicycle and horseback riding traffic.

Headquarters Pond Trail

This ¼ mile trail is located across from the Mounds trailhead provides access to a small wooden observation deck at the edge of the pond. Named for old refuge headquarters' site, this pond is great for wading birds, ducks, wood storks and bald eagles. Open to foot and bicycle traffic only.

Levee Trail

Located at the end of Lighthouse Road at the right of the parking lot, this ½ mile trail has interpretive focuses on coastal plants. Leaflet at the trailhead. Open to foot, bicycle and horseback riding traffic.

Plum Orchard Pond Trail

1/3 mile long, with boardwalks, this trail is accessible behind the Visitor Center from the deck or from the parking lot. Easy walking, with interpretive signs. Open to foot traffic only.

Tower Pond Trail

(also known as Mounds Trail)

This trail is located five miles south of Visitor Center, with parking next to the restrooms. The trail has a leaflet at the trailhead and winds for one mile through slash pine forests, oak hammocks, and salt marsh. Tower Pond is now being managed as a saltwater lagoon for migratory songbirds, ducks, and wading birds. Open to foot and bicycle traffic only.

Cedar Point Trail

¼ mile trail to the west of the saltwater boat ramp, winds through cabbage palms and red cedars. Look for night herons roosting above and bottlenose dolphins feeding in the canal. Open to foot traffic only.

Create Your Own Trail

All levees and woodland roads are open to hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. Make up a trail that meets your needs! Remember, areas may be closed during the year to protect resting and nesting of wildlife – please observe these closures.

Visitor Information

Visitor Center

Located three miles south of U.S. Highway 98 at Newport on Lighthouse Road (County Road 59). Open Monday – Friday – 8 am – 4 pm; Saturdays and Sundays – 10 am – 5 pm. Closed on federal holidays. Restrooms, water, information, exhibits, gift shop.

Phone: 850/925 6121.

Website: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/

Entrance fees are charged on the St. Marks Unit. Check at toll booth or honor fee station for current prices. Annual and lifetime passes are available with some requirements.

Food and Lodging – there is no place on the refuge to buy food or stay overnight, but picnic tables, drinking water and restrooms are available. There is no public phone on the refuge. Nearby camping includes Newport Park, Ochlockonee River State Park, and Holiday Park. Lodging and/or restaurants can be found at Wakulla Springs State Park, and the towns of St. Marks, Shell Point, Spring Creek, Panacea and Sopchoppy.

Canoes and kayaks can be rented at TNT Hideaway (seven miles west on U.S. Highway 98 and the Wakulla River); and Wilderness Way (intersection of State Highway 365 and State Highway 267 – near Wakulla Station).

Hints for enjoying your visit

Bring your binoculars (or check a pair out from the Visitor Center). Start early and stay late. Mammals and birds are most active during the early morning and late afternoon, especially during the warm months. Bring your field guides. The gift shop has books to help identify birds, wildflowers, and wildlife, plus insect repellent. Observe carefully – look up in the trees for wildlife, in the sky, on power lines, as well as in roadside vegetation and pools. **WARNING** – bring bug repellent and drinking water to the refuge during the warm months!



Hiking Trail Map - St. Marks Unit

Disclaimer:

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