

## Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge

Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1996, is located in Terrebonne Parish in southeast Louisiana. The 4,416 acre refuge is composed of freshwater marsh and cypress-tupelo swamp. The refuge provides excellent habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and neotropical songbirds. The refuge is open year round to the public from legal sunrise to legal sunset. No night time use of the refuge is allowed. Most of the refuge access is by boat only and foot travel is extremely difficult due to the soft marsh environment. The Mandalay Refuge Nature Trail provides a glimpse into three different habitat types within a 45-minute hike. Hunting is only permitted on the refuge in specific areas, under date and time restrictions. All open hunting seasons are listed in this brochure. Fishing is allowed on the refuge year round except in areas closed to public access.

### General Regulations

Hunting, fishing, and public use regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of The Code of Federal Regulations. An adult age 21 or older must supervise youth hunters at all times. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Louisiana regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting on the refuge.

### Permits

All refuge hunters are required to possess a signed Hunt Permit while on the refuge. Hunt permits are free and are found on the front of this brochure. A signed hunt permit acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Other refuge visitors including anglers, birders, and photographers do not need a refuge Hunt Permit. Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

### Archery Hunting

#### Deer and Hog

Deer and hog (archery only) hunting will be conducted in accordance to the State of Louisiana season dates. Bow hunters may enter the hunting area no earlier than 4 am and may remain no later than one hour after sunset.

Activity	Season Dates	Hunting Hours	Bag Limits	Hunt Areas	Refuge Permit
Deer Archery Bucks Only	Oct. 1 - 15	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am and must exit 2 hours after sunset	1 per day	Entire refuge	Hunt Permit, Complete Daily Check card
Deer Archery	Oct.16 - Feb. 15	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am and must exit 2 hours after sunset.	1 per day (either 1 buck or 1 doe per day)	Entire refuge except Hanson Unit closed (north of GIWW) until 12 noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays during State Waterfowl Season	Hunt Permit, Complete Daily Check card
Hog Archery	Oct.1 - Feb. 15	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am and must exit 2 hours after sunset	No limit	Entire refuge except Hanson Unit closed (north of GIWW) until 12 noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays during State Waterfowl Season	Hunt Permit, Complete Daily Check card
Waterfowl 8 - 15 years old	State Youth Waterfowl Days	1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon. All equipment, boats, decoys, etc. must be removed by 1 pm. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am.	State of Louisiana Waterfowl Bag Limit applies	Hanson Unit Assigned waterfowl blind	Hunt Permit, All must possess Lottery Permit.
Waterfowl (see Waterfowl Hunting section)	Wednesdays and Saturdays of State Waterfowl Season. Teal season closed.	1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon. All equipment, boats, decoys, etc. must be removed by 1 pm. Allowed to enter refuge after 4 am.	State of Louisiana Waterfowl Bag Limit applies	Hanson Unit Assigned waterfowl blind	Hunt Permit, All must possess Lottery Permit.

Youth hunter age, adult supervision age, and hunter education requirements are defined by state regulation. Youths under the age of 16 must have an adult supervising them. An adult may supervise only one youth during big game hunts. Supervising adults shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. Parents or adult guardians are responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.

All archery hunters must complete a Daily Check Card available at designated check stations. The Check card includes a "Check-in" portion that is completed then deposited in the metal box at the check station before hunting. The "Check-out" portion is completed and deposited in the metal box after hunting is completed for the day. All game taken (including deer and hogs) on the refuge must be reported daily. Feral hogs may only be taken during the archery hunt. State of Louisiana bag limits apply.

Bow hunters may enter the hunting area no earlier than 4 am and may remain no later than one hour after sunset.

Youth hunter age, adult supervision age, and hunter education requirements are defined by state regulation. Youths age 15 and under must have an adult supervising them. Supervising adults shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations.

All State of Louisiana boating regulations apply including, but not limited to running lights, registration, and personal flotation devices. Boating regulations are strictly enforced.

Youth ages 8 to 15 (with adult age 21 and older supervising) are eligible to apply for the State Youth Waterfowl Days.

Youth ages 8 to 15 and their adult co-applicant supervisors are given preference during the refuge waterfowl hunt lottery. Once selected for a Lottery Youth Waterfowl Hunt the youth co-applicant must be present on the day of the hunt for the permit to be valid. In the event that no youth applications are received for a given hunting date, blinds will be filled with adult applicants for that date.

We allow hunting of migratory game birds on Wednesdays and Saturdays until 12 noon. Permitted hunters may only enter the refuge after 4 am.

Only one adult may occupy a blind with up to two youth (a youth-co-applicant and a youth guest) during a designated Lottery Youth Waterfowl Hunt. We allow no more than three hunters to hunt from a blind at one time during any waterfowl hunt.

Waterfowl hunters must submit applications for lottery permits by October 15th. Lottery Waterfowl Hunt applications can be accessed via the internet at:

<http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-2355.pdf> and will be accepted through October 15. Please send to the refuge address on the cover of this brochure. Please visit the refuge webpage for Waterfowl Lottery Application directions at <http://www.fws.gov/mandalay/>.

All waterfowl taken on the refuge must be checked daily at one of the self-clearing check stations indicated on the map within this brochure.

**Fishing**  
Fishing is permitted year round daily from legal sunrise to legal sunset. State of Louisiana creel limits apply. Lines must be attended at all times. Recreational crabbing is allowed. Commercial fishing is not allowed. The use of nets, traps, or unattended lines (trot, jog, bush, etc) is not allowed.

**Waterfowl Hunting**  
Youth and adult lottery waterfowl hunts are conducted during State of Louisiana waterfowl season, but only on specifically designated days. Teal season is closed on the refuge.

### Access to Refuge

Most access to the refuge is by boat only. All boating access is limited to existing canals, ditches, and treasses. No airboats or marsh buggies are allowed on the refuge.

All State of Louisiana boating regulations apply including, but not limited to running lights, registration, and personal flotation devices. Boating regulations are strictly enforced.

Access to the Mandalay Nature Trail parking area is by vehicle. All visitors to the Nature Trail must remain in their vehicles until arriving at the designated parking area.

Beyond the parking area, the Nature Trail is foot access only. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the Nature Trail.

### Signs and Boundaries



Entry permitted in accordance with refuge regulations.



Area closed to all public entry. Exceptions are stated on sign.



You are within the boundary of a National Wildlife Refuge.

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- The possession or distribution of bait or hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or other feed or any non-naturally occurring attractant
- Taking, collecting, or disturbing any plant or wildlife other than those specified by refuge rules
- Target shooting
- Feeding wildlife, including alligators
- Night time use
- Frogging or the taking of turtles
- Horses or ATV's
- Climbing trees by driving nails, spikes or other objects: using a tree that has existing nails, spikes or permanent steps; or using climbing spikes
- Using areas designated "Area Closed"
- Use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except reflective tape.
- Camping, building fires or overnight anchoring
- Cutting firewood or trimming vegetation
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads and pottery shards
- Littering
- Unrestrained pets, except that when hunting migratory game birds, we allow the use of dogs to locate, point and retrieve
- Spot-lighting wildlife or using man-drives for deer or hogs
- Fishing with unattended jug, bush lines or trot lines
- Use of trail cameras
- Use of deer decoys
- Hunting or the discharge of firearms within 150 feet from the centerline of roads and maintained trails
- Use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except bright eyes
- Any person or group (acting) as a hunting or fishing guide, outfitter or in any other capacity that any other individual(s) pays or promises to pay directly or indirectly for services rendered to any other person or persons hunting on the refuge, regardless of whether such payment is for guiding, outfitting, lodging, or club membership
- Commercial fishing
- Organized deer drives

