



**2008 Guided Tours and Programs at the  
J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge**  
(Tours and programs are offered Jan 1 - March 31)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00 AM			Birding the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole		Birding the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole		
8:30 AM			Birding the Bailey Tract *Meet at Bailey Tract Parking Lot		Bailey Tract Tour *Meet at Bailey Tract Parking Lot		
9:30 AM	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole		
10:00 AM		Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at Flagpole	Plants of the Bailey Tract Tour *Meet at Bailey Tract Parking Lot	Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at Flagpole	Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at Flagpole	Indigo Trail Hike *Meet at Flagpole	Native Plants and Trees Walk *Meet at Flagpole
1100 AM	Florida Manatees *Meet at Crossdike	Birds of the Refuge *Meet at Crossdike	Family Craft and Story-time *Meet at Ed Center  ----- Basic Birding Skills *Meet at Crossdike	Birds: Bills and Beaks *Meet at Crossdike	Gators and Crocs *Meet at Crossdike	Florida Manatees *Meet at Ed Center	Birds of the Refuge *Meet at Crossdike
12:00 PM				Calusa/Shell Mound Trail Tour *Meet at Shell Mound Trail	Native Plants and Trees walk *Meet at Flagpole		
1:00 PM	Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening *Meet at Crossdike	Fishing the Refuge *Meet at Crossdike	Gators and Crocs *Meet at Crossdike	Endangered Species *Meet at Crossdike	Florida Manatees *Meet at Crossdike	Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening *Meet at Ed Center	Gators and Crocs *Meet at Crossdike
2:00 PM	Endangered Species *Meet at Crossdike			Florida Manatees *Meet at Crossdike	Birds of the Refuge *Meet at Ed Center		Family Craft and Story - time *Meet at Ed Center

All programs are free of charge. Entrance fees of \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per adult hiker or biker apply to programs held on Wildlife Drive, the Indigo Trail and Crossdike pavilion.



**Tours Daily: Jan- March 2008****Entrance Fees Apply for Tours on Wildlife Drive.**

**Birding the Bailey Tract** Join a volunteer naturalist to discover the bird life of this unique freshwater ecosystem. The habitat and other wildlife that use this resource will also be explored. Bring water and bug spray. Meet in the Bailey Tract Parking Lot. **Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours**

**Birding the Refuge** Meet a volunteer naturalist for a birding tour along Wildlife Drive. This car caravan tour takes you through some of the most popular birding locations in the refuge, specializing in bird identification. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. **1 ½ hours**

**Birds and Wildlife Tour** Come along on a tour of the refuge. This tour highlights the many fascinating natural wonders of this unique mangrove ecosystem, and the wildlife that live here. The naturalists will give you an overview of all facets of the refuge. Meet at the flagpole. **1 ½ hours**

**Bailey Tract Tour** Join volunteer naturalists as they lead you through this freshwater spartina ecosystem to learn about the birds, wildlife, and wild flowers. Bring water and bug spray. Meet in the Bailey Tract Parking Lot. **Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours**

**Refuge Bike Tour** Bike enthusiasts, bring your bicycle and join a volunteer naturalist on the Wildlife Drive/Indigo Trail loop to learn about the refuge's bird life and ecology. The Drive is paved while the Indigo Trail is hard-packed shell, so the tour is suitable for people of all abilities. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. **4 miles, 1 ½ hours**

**Calusa Shell Mound Trail Tour** Meet volunteer naturalists who will enthrall you with tales of Calusa Indian history and teach you about native Florida plant life on this enchanting boardwalk trail. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the Shell Mound Trail Parking Lot. **¼ mile, 1 hour**

**Indigo Trail Hike** Volunteer naturalists lead a tour identifying and discussing the ecosystem's plants, animals, birds and reptiles. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. **Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours**

**Native Plants and Trees Walk** Walk the parking area and the boardwalk of the Indigo Trail with a naturalist to learn about the plants and trees of South West Florida. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. **Approximately ¼ mile, 1 hour**

**Plants of the Bailey Tract** Walk the trails of the Bailey Tract with a naturalist to learn about the plants and trees of the freshwater ecosystem of South West Florida. Meet at the Bailey Tract Parking Lot. **Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours**

**Programs Daily: Jan- March 2008****Entrance Fees Apply for Programs at Crossdike Pavilion**

**Basic Birding Skills** Want to become a better birder? Come learn skills to help you locate, identify, and wonder about the birds of the "Ding" Darling Refuge. All birding levels welcome, binoculars recommended. **30 minutes**

**Endangered Species** The habitats of animals throughout the world are disappearing, affecting species everywhere. Come discover endangered species of Southwest Florida and what you can do to help them. **30 minutes**

**Gators and Crocs** Is it an alligator or crocodile? Learn about the order *Crocodylia*, including crocodiles, gharials, alligators, and caimans. Learn how to identify families and which species live in the refuge. Fun for adults and children alike. **30 minutes**

**Birds, Bills, and Beaks . . . How do they eat?** What is on the menu for the birds in the estuary? Learn how to identify the birds found in the refuge, their adaptations, and interesting facts about them. Watch a Refuge Ranger demonstrate how these birds use their specialized bills to find food in this diverse mangrove ecosystem. **30 minutes**

**Fishing the Refuge** Is angling your sport? Come learn what types of fish frequent refuge waters. See where to look for them and what baits and lures to use to catch them. This program is a must for both novice and experienced anglers. **30 minutes**

**Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening** Want to find out how to attract the natural beauty of butterflies to your yard? Join a naturalist for pointers on this wonderful family project. We will also help you to identify the butterflies you'll see fluttering around the refuge. **45 minutes**

**Birds of the Refuge** Not sure which feathery friends you are seeing through your binoculars? Learn interesting facts about birds and how to identify them in the estuary. **30 minutes**

**Manatees** Explore the world of one of America's most endangered species, the Florida manatee, as it faces a challenging future. Find out what you can do to help save this species. **30 minutes**

**Family Craft and Story-time** Join a naturalist for story-time at our refuge. Bring your family to hear an exciting book followed by a program/craft highlighting an animal in our estuarine ecosystem. Story-time is appropriate for pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup>, but everyone is welcome to attend. A new, exciting topic each week. **45 minutes**