J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Legend

- Refuge Lands
- Refuge Lands Closed Areas - *Access on designated trails only*
- Refuge Water Boundary
- Canoe Trail
- Foot/Bicycle Trails - *Walk bikes on all boardwalks*
- Wildlife Drive - *Closed to all access on Fridays One way for vehicles and bicycles*
- Fishing - *Florida State fishing regulations apply. Crabbing permitted, see specific crabbing regulations*
- SCCF Sanibel-Captiva Nature Center - *This private center offers exhibits, walking trails and guided tours. Operating hours are posted.*
- Visitor/Education Center and Administration Headquarters
- Canoe Launch Site
- Mangrove Overlook
- Cross-Dike Pavillion
- Observation Tower
- Picnic Areas
- Public Beach Access
- Tram Pick-up/drop-off at the Education Center
- TARPON BAY RECREATION AREA—Tarpon Bay Explorers RENTALS–Kayaks/Canoes, Bicycles and Boats. GUIDED TOURS– Pontoon, Kayak, and Fishing

ROOSEVELT CHANNEL
Buck Key
WULFERT CHANNEL
Captiva Island
Runyon Key
Wulfert Keys
Blind Pass
HARD WORKING BAYOU
WULFERT KEYS TRAIL
PINE ISLAND SOUND
MACINTYRE CREEK
SAN CARLOS BAY
Sanibel Causeway
Shell Mound Trail
Bowman's Beach Rd.
Bowman's Beach
Indigo Trail
Sanibel-Captiva Rd.
SHALLOW CUT OFF
TARPON BAY
COMMODORE CREEK TRAIL
Sanibel Island
Dixie Beach Road
Causeway Blvd.
Lighthouse Beach
Periwinkle Way
Palm Ridge Road
SCCF Nature Center
Sanibel-Captiva Road
Rabbit Road
SANIBEL RIVER
Casa Ybel Road
Perry Tract
Smith pond
Bailey Tract
Tarpon Bay Road
West Gulf Drive
Gulfside City Park
Tarpon Bay Road Beach
GULF OF MEXICO

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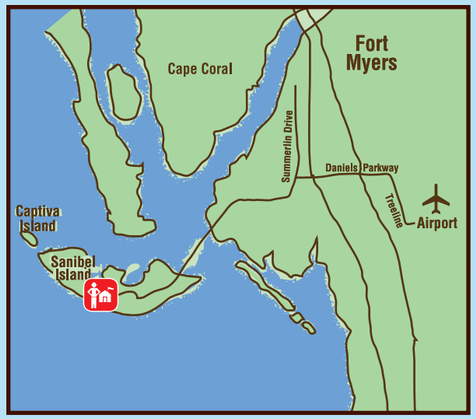


REFUGE HOURS/FEES

Visit fws.gov/dingdarling, or call (239)472-1100

Indigo Trail - Open Daily 7:30am-1/2 hour before sunset

Wildlife Drive - CLOSED FRIDAYS
7:30am to 1/2 hour before Sunset
Motorized Vehicles $5
Hiker/Biker $1
Children 15 and under free
Tram tours available (239) 472-1351

Education/Visitor Center - Free Entry
Hours vary, call for information: (239) 472-1100

Bailey Tract - Open Daily
Sunrise to Sunset - Free entry

Tarpon Bay Recreation Area Open Daily
Call for tour/rental prices (239)472-8900
www.tarponbayexplorers.com

Scale in Miles
0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1

PROHIBITED REFUGE ACTIVITIES

Collecting
Camping
Feeding or disturbing wildlife
Pets not on a leash
Skate Boarding
Possession of firearms
In-Line Skating/Roller Blading
Crabbing with baited line or trap
Entry into *Area Closed* Section
Biking against traffic flow
Entering from Wulfert Rd.

EMERGENCY CALL 911
Sanibel Police Dept. 472-3111

For more information visit the refuge at www.fws.gov/dingdarling

Observation Guidelines

The J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge provides a sanctuary for many species of wild animals, birds and native vegetations. Many people come to the refuge each year to observe and photograph the inhabitants of this unique ecosystem.

While the disturbance of a single visitor may be small, the cumulative impact by nearly a million people a year is large. To enhance the experience of each visitor and to reduce our impact on the wildlife, these guidelines should be followed:

Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but pictures. To all who take pictures, use courtesy to fellow visitors and wildlife.

Enjoy and appreciate our native vegetation, but please leave it untouched. It is the food and lodging of the wildlife.

Please place all trash and recyclables in receptacles. If you do not, wildlife could ingest or become entangled in plastic and other trash. They often become ill and die.

Do not feed or approach the wildlife. Animals that are fed lose their fear of us. They become dangerous and may have to be destroyed.

Cars make good observation blinds because the wildlife have become accustomed to them. For better observation of feeding, resting, and preening birds, minimize noise by turning down radios, closing doors quietly, and speaking softly. Park at the edge of the road but not where birds are close to the road.

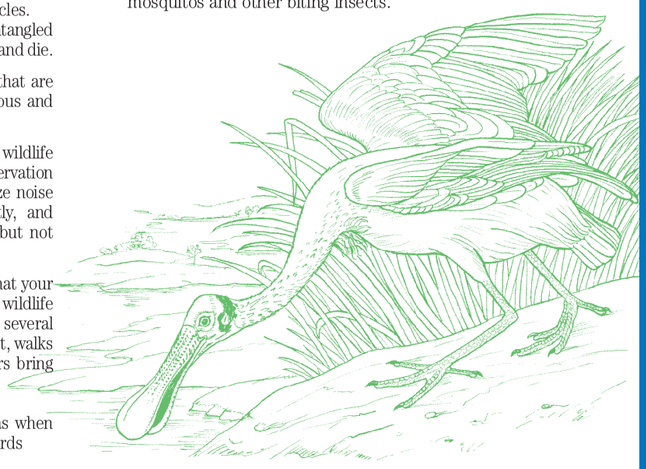
Maintain a "comfort distance" from wildlife so that your presence does not alter their behavior. While wildlife may accept one observer, it will be disturbed by several people. Tell-tale signs: the bird "freezes", lifts feet, walks or flies away. Let a telephoto lens or binoculars bring you a closer image.

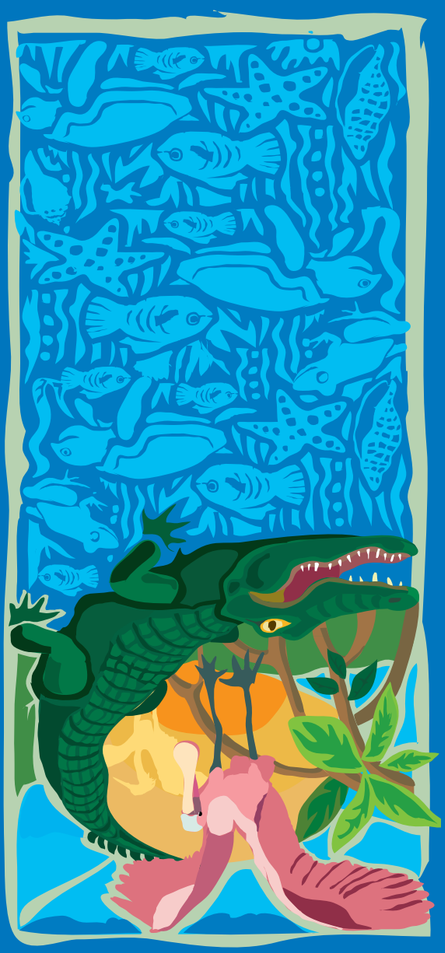
Please observe all speed zones and closed areas when boating. Manatees can be injured by props and birds can be disturbed when approached too closely.

For An Enjoyable Visit...

Start your tour of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge at the Education/Visitor Center. The staff and volunteers will orient you to the refuge. Take your binoculars, cameras and water. Drive slowly, walk a trail and look closely. This will help you see animals that blend in with their surroundings. Visit the refuge during periods of low tide for the best wildlife observation opportunities. Tide changes occur on the refuge one to two hours later than times stated on island tide charts.

Sanibel was once known for its immense mosquito population. Current mosquito control practices help keep insect populations under control. You should still be prepared for mosquitos and other biting insects.





J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Map

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

J.N. "Ding" Darling
National Wildlife Refuge
1 Wildlife Drive
Sanibel, Florida 33957
239-472-1100
www.fws.gov/dingdarling

The 2-mile long **Indigo Trail** enables visitors to see alligators, wading birds and other wildlife. The Trail starts at the Education/Visitor Center and ends at Cross-Dike.

The 1/3 mile **Wulfert Keys Trail** takes visitors to an open view of Pine Island Sound.

The 1/3 mile **Shell Mound Trail** has interpretive signs to inform visitors of their surroundings.

Over 1 3/4 miles of trails are located at the **Bailey Tract** where alligators, herons, egrets and other wildlife are found.

The National Wildlife Refuge System...

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 540 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The System, encompassing over 95 million acres, is the nation's largest network of lands and waters managed specifically for wildlife. The refuge system is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior.

This blue goose, designed by "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the Refuge System.

Printing made possible by "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society April 2007