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Welcome to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge!

Wildlife management at St. Marks

NWR protects and enhances

habitat for all the animals and

plants found on the refuge. Here

you will find a variety of 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, Lighthouse Road

provides many excellent stopping

points.

Trails on the St. Marks Unit

Florida National Scenic Trail

The FNST crosses the St. Marks Unit. The entire segment of the east/west trail 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

Trails start 1.5 miles south of the Visitor Center on Lighthouse Road and follow old logging roads and levees around refuge pools. Deep Creek Trail is 12 miles and Stoney Bayou Trail is 6.5. Look for shy wildlife and migratory birds. Map at trailhead. Open to foot, bicycle and horseback riding traffic.

Headquarters Pond Trail

This ¼ mile accessible trail located across from the Tower Pond trailhead ends at an observation deck overlooking the pond. Named for old refuge headquarters' site, this pond is great for wading birds, ducks, wood storks and bald eagles. Open to foot traffic only.

Lighthouse Levee Trail

Located at the end of Lighthouse Road at the right of the parking lot. This ½ mile trail has an interpretive brochure on coastal native plants at the trailhead. Open to foot and bicycle traffic.

Plum Orchard Pond Trail

Enter this easy walking 1/3 mile interpretive-signed trail from the deck behind the Visitor Center. Open to foot traffic only.

Tower Pond Trail

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

Cedar Point Trail

A short ¼ mile trail just west of the saltwater boat ramp that 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

Make up a trail that meets your needs! Remember, areas may be closed during the year to protect roosting and nesting 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) with restrooms, water, information, exhibits, Nature Store.

Open Monday – Friday: 8 am – 4 pm
Saturdays and Sundays: 10 am – 5 pm
Closed on some federal holidays.

Phone: 850/925 6121

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

Electronic Gates

The refuge is open for daylight use. Electronic gates open at 6 am; close at 7 pm Eastern Standard Time (fall/winter) and 9 pm Daylight Savings Time (spring/summer) to protect wildlife at night.

Entrance fees are charged on the St. Marks Unit. Refuge and federal annual and lifetime passes are available at the toll booth or Visitor Center.

Food and Lodging

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

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). Mammals and birds are most active during the early morning and late afternoon, especially during the warm months. Bring your field guides. The Nature Store has books to help identify birds, wildflowers, and wildlife, plus insect repellent. Observe carefully – look up in the trees for wildlife, in the sky, as well as in roadside vegetation and pools.

WARNING!

Bring bug repellent, snacks, and drinking water!