



*Piping plover/
USFWS/Gene
Nieminen*

Wildlife Observation

Foot Trails

The Centennial Trail

¾-mile round trip; observation tower to view the Pelican Island rookery from a distance; ADA accessible.

Joe Michael Memorial Trail

Three-mile loop; salt marsh habitat; observation platform into the marsh.

Bird's Impoundment Trail

Three-mile loop; salt marsh habitat.

The Pelican Island rookery is also viewable from a closer distance by boat or kayak, but from outside the *Closed Area* signs posted around the island (410 feet away).



*Southeastern
beach mouse/
USFWS*

Fishing

Fishing by boat and recreational shellfish harvesting is permitted within the open waters of the Indian River Lagoon, but not within any of the designated commercial shellfish leases. The use of rakes for shellfishing is not permitted. There are several boat launch facilities in the area but not within the Refuge.

Bank fishing within the Refuge is permitted on the Indian River Lagoon side of both Bird's Impoundment and Joe Michael Memorial Trails. Fishing is not permitted in the interior of the salt marsh impoundments, lakes, or ponds. State fishing regulations apply: www.myfwc.com or call 888/347 4356.



*Gopher tortoise/
Blair Witherington*



*Blue land crab/
Blair Witherington*



*Wood stork/
Wendell Metzen*

Help Us Protect the Refuge

Prohibited

- Going on Pelican Island proper or drifting inside the *Closed Area* signs posted around the island.
- Feeding or disturbing wildlife and their nests.
- Releasing any wild or domestic animal.
- Searching for and collecting artifacts, plants and animals.
- Dogs, horses, ATV's, bicycles or vehicles on foot trails.
- Camping and fires.
- Use of firearms and hunting.



White pelican/Vince Lamb

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex also administers Archie Carr and Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuges. National Wildlife Refuges are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal agency under the Department of Interior.

Wildlife Emergencies

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888/404 3922

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge

4055 Wildlife Way
Vero Beach, FL 32963
Phone: 772/581 5557
Fax: 772/581 5510
Email: [PelicanIsland@fws.gov](mailto: PelicanIsland@fws.gov)
www.fws.gov/PelicanIsland

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pelican Island

National Wildlife Refuge



Brown pelican/ Andrea Westmoreland



Pelican Island 2002/USFWS

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was established as the first Refuge of the National Wildlife Refuge System on March 14, 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt. The Refuge was established out of necessity to save the last brown pelican rookery on the east coast of Florida and provide a safe haven for other water birds that were being killed for their feathers and eggs. Now Pelican Island provides habitat for over 30 different species of birds. Typically, several thousand birds roost on Pelican Island nightly during the migratory season, November through March.

Visiting the Refuge

The Refuge has expanded to include over 5,400 acres and has partnered with Indian River County to provide land-based visitor access every day of the year from dawn to dusk. There is no Visitor Center or day use fees and all opportunities are either self-guided or by commercial tour operators.

The entrance to the Refuge is located at U.S. Highway A1A and north Historic Jungle Trail, 3.7 miles north of the Wabasso Beach Road (CR 510) or 3.3 miles south of Sebastian Inlet.

