



*Tricolored heron/
USFWS/Atlee
Hargis*



*River otter/
USFWS/Atlee
Hargis*



*Gopher tortoise/
Blair Witherington*



*Blue land crab/
Blair Witherington*

Wildlife Observation

Foot Trails

The Centennial Trail

¾-mile round trip; self-guided trail telling the history of the National Wildlife Refuge System and ends at an 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.

Wildlife Trail

One-mile round trip; wildlife viewing opportunities in multiple habitats.

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).

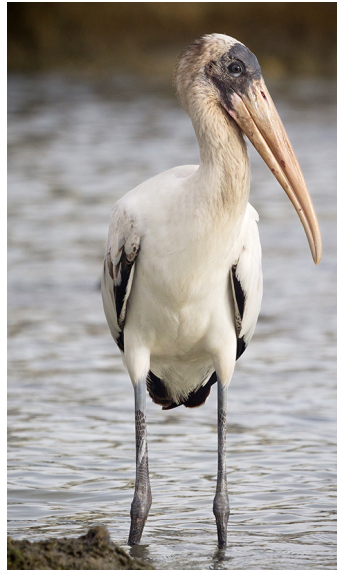
Fishing

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 Bird's Impoundment. 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.

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge

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



*Wood stork/USFWS/Atlee
Hargis*



White pelican/Vince Lamb

Help Us Protect the Refuge

Regulation Reminders

Entry into areas posted as closed is not allowed. Stay on designated trails only.

Feeding, capturing, or harassing wildlife is strictly prohibited.

Artifact hunting/collecting is not allowed.

Do not pick or cut vegetation.

Dogs, cats, and other pets are not permitted on the refuge.

Bicycles, off-road vehicles, and horses are not allowed on the Refuge. Bicycle racks are available at the beginning of the trails.

The use of drones is not allowed.

Management

Pelican Island NWR is managed as part of the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which also administers Archie Carr, Lake Wales Ridge, and Everglades Headwaters 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

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

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge



Pelican Island Boardwalk, USFWS/Ian Shive

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 sunrise to sunset. There are no visitor centers or day use fees.

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 3.5 miles south of Sebastian Inlet.

