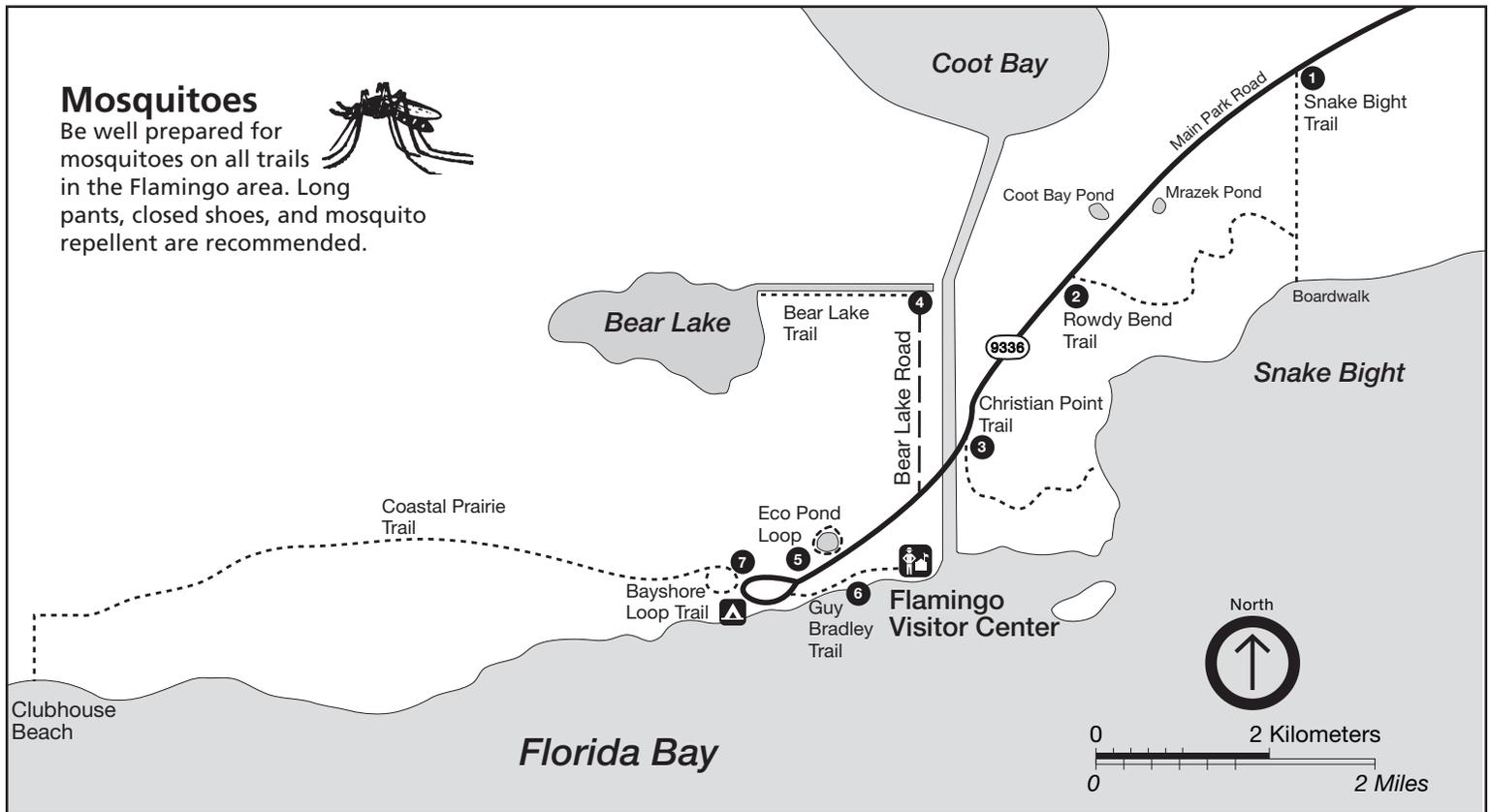




Flamingo Hiking Trails



Mosquitoes

Be well prepared for mosquitoes on all trails in the Flamingo area. Long pants, closed shoes, and mosquito repellent are recommended.



1 Snake Bight

1.8 miles one way

Don't let the name deter you! In this play on words, a "bight" is actually a bay (Snake Bight) within a larger bay (Florida Bay). Enter another world as you travel through a tropical hardwood hammock, with dozens of tropical tree species. There is excellent bird watching from the boardwalk at the end of trail if you plan your hike or bike ride to arrive near high tide (tide charts available at the visitor center).

2 Rowdy Bend (mountain bike)

2.6 miles one way

Explore an overgrown old road bed through shady buttonwoods and open coastal prairie. This is an opportunity for good woodland bird watching. Combine this trail with the Main Park Road (use caution!) and the Snake Bight Trail for a 12.6 mile round-trip bike ride from the Flamingo Visitor Center.

3 Christian Point

1.8 miles one way

Wander a rustic path through a wide diversity of habitats. The trail begins in dense mangroves and buttonwoods full of bromeliads, or airplants. Next, investigate the unusual, salt-loving vegetation of open coastal prairie.

Dead buttonwood snags interrupt these expanses that were shaped by hurricanes. Finally, you'll end-up along the shore of Snake Bight, best viewed near high tide.

4 Bear Lake

Trail: 1.6 miles one way

Road: 2 miles one way (road only)

Journey through a dense hardwood hammock mixed with mangroves. The trail follows the old Homestead Canal, built in 1922, and is an excellent area for woodland birds. There are more than 50 different tree species. Bike, drive, or walk to the end of Bear Lake Road to begin this trail, which ends at Bear Lake.

5 Eco Pond

½ mile loop

Due to the salt intrusion from storm surges during the hurricane season off 2005, Eco Pond is in a state of change. Wading birds, shorebirds and occasional crocodiles can be seen.

6 Guy Bradley

1 mile to campground amphitheater

Mingle with a variety of birds and butterflies, as you amble along the shore of Florida Bay. Old pier pilings are a reminder that Flamingo was once a small fishing village. The trail was

named for Audubon warden Guy Bradley, murdered in 1905 by plume hunters while trying to protect a bird rookery in Florida Bay. This is a scenic shortcut between the campground day-use area and the visitor center.

7 Bayshore Loop (Temporarily Closed)

2 mile loop

Meander along the shore of Florida Bay, watching for remnants of an outpost fishing village. Begin at the Coastal Prairie trailhead at the back of Loop "C" in the campground. Veer left at the trail junction to the bay.

7 Coastal Prairie (Temporarily Closed)

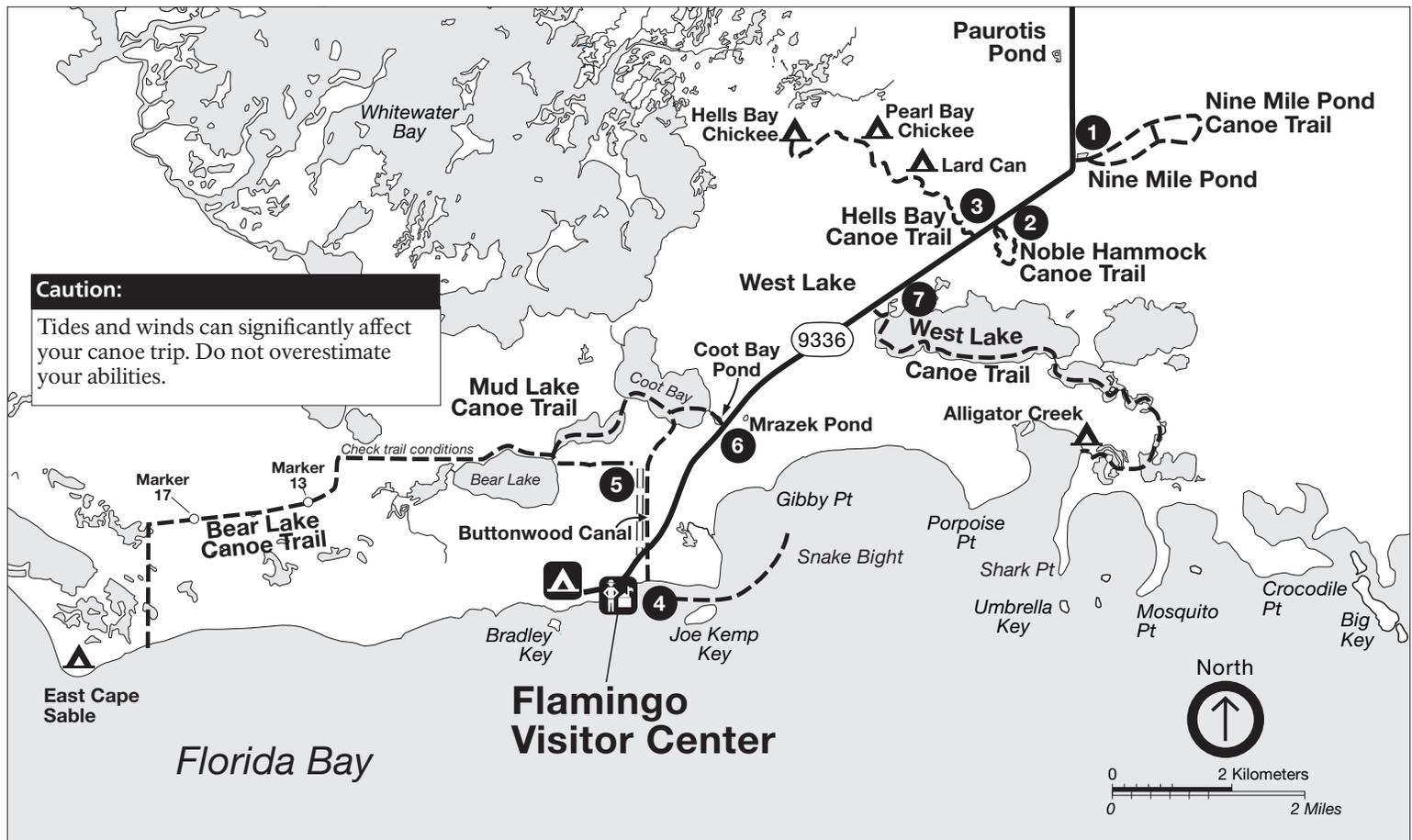
7.5 miles one way

Step back in time as you walk this old road once used by cotton pickers and fishermen. Open prairies of succulent coastal plants dotted with shady buttonwoods surround you as you journey towards the shore of Florida Bay. Begin at the rear of Loop "C" in the campground. A backcountry permit is required for camping at Clubhouse Beach.

Bicycles permitted, but always be cautious for hikers on these sometimes winding trails.



Flamingo Canoe Trails



1 Nine Mile Pond

5.2 mile loop

This scenic trail passes through shallow grassy marsh with scattered mangrove islands. Watch for alligators, wading birds, and an occasional endangered snail kite. The trail is marked with numbered white poles. A more detailed trail map is also available. Motors prohibited.

2 Noble Hammock

2 mile loop

Winding through a maze of shady mangrove-lined creeks and small ponds, the sharp turns and narrow passageways require good maneuvering skills. Enjoy a “crash” course. Check for low water levels during the dry season. A calm trail on a windy day. Motors prohibited.

3 Hell’s Bay

3.0 miles to Lard Can Campsite

3.5 miles to Pearl Bay Chickee

5.5 miles to Hells Bay Chickee

“Hell to get into and Hell to get out of,” so the old timers claimed. This sheltered route weaves through mangrove creeks and ponds to a series of small bays beyond Lard Can.

The trail is marked with more than 160 poles. A more detailed trail map is also available. Motors are prohibited from the trailhead to Lard Can. A wilderness permit is required for overnight camping.

4 Florida Bay

Distance varies

Opportunities for fun abound! Watch mullet jump and birds feed (particularly in Snake Bight during medium to high tide), do some fishing, or just enjoy the scenic bay. Explore Bradley Key (during daylight hours only), the only nearby key open to landing. The open waters of Florida Bay are relatively mosquito-free, even in the summer. Not recommended on windy days due to open, rough waters.

5 Bear Lake Canal

1.6 miles to Bear Lake

11.5 miles one way to Cape Sable

Impassable as of October 2005 due to the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. Check any Everglades Visitor Center for current status.

6 Mud Lake

7 miles round trip from Coot Bay Pond

Venture inland through the mangroves on this trail connecting the Buttonwood Canal, Coot Bay, Mud Lake, and Bear Lake. Birding is often good at Mud Lake. Accessible from the Bear Lake Trailhead (note Bear Lake Canoe Trail is Impassable) or Coot Bay Pond. Motors are prohibited on Mud lake and Bear Lake.

7 West Lake

7.7 miles one way to Alligator Creek

Paddle through a series of large open lakes connected by narrow creeks lined with mangroves. Look for alligators and crocodiles. West Lake is closed to vessels with motors greater than 6 h.p. Motors are prohibited from the east end of West Lake through Alligator Creek. Not recommended on windy days due to open, rough waters. A wilderness permit is required for overnight camping.