

Ready, Set, Go... Wild Tampa

Unique Half-day and Full-day Birding & Wildlife Viewing Opportunities for Tampa Visitors

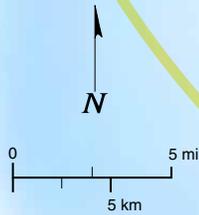
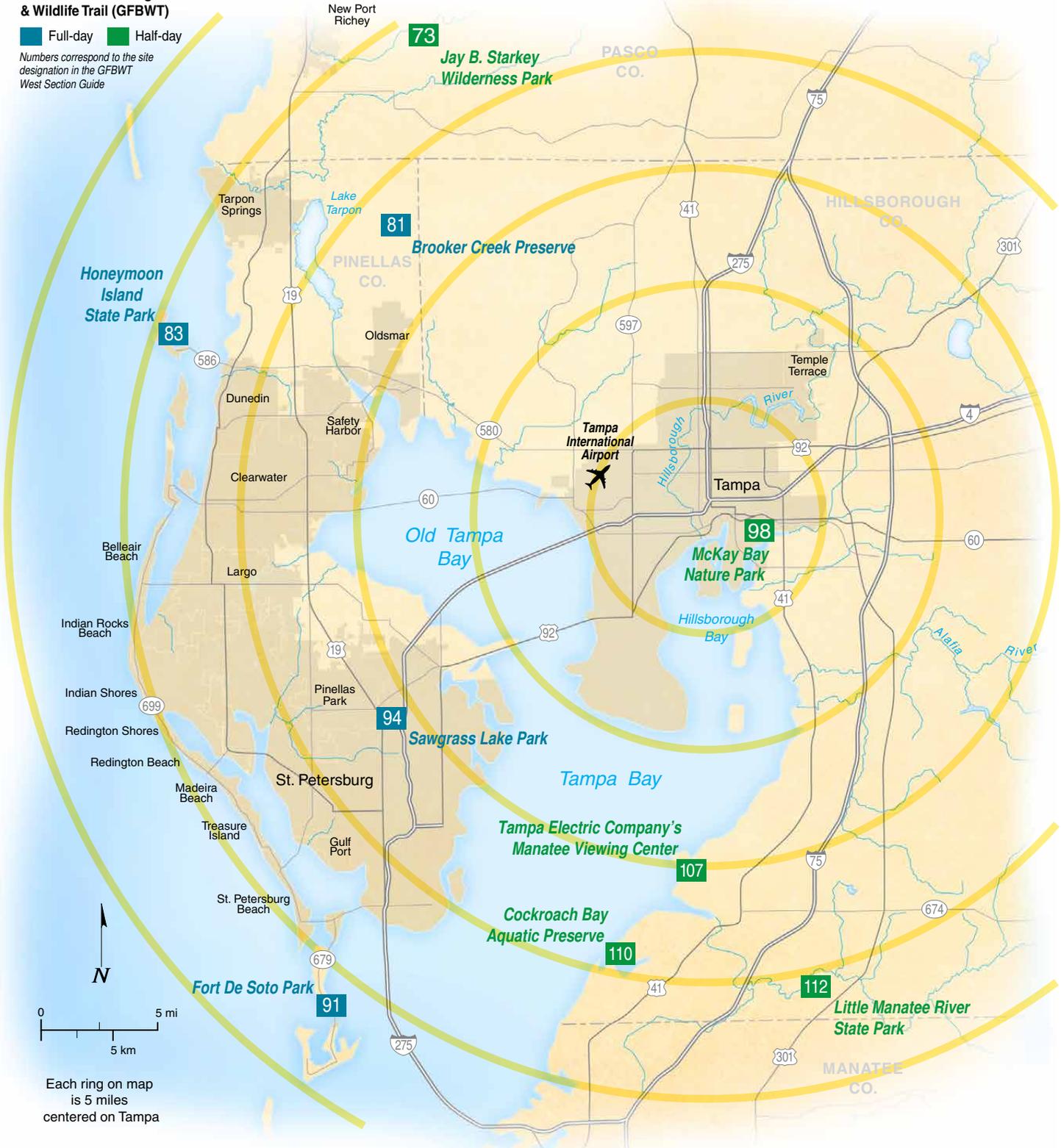


For more information visit floridabirdingtrail.com

Featured Sites from the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail (GFBWT)

■ Full-day ■ Half-day

Numbers correspond to the site designation in the GFBWT West Section Guide



Each ring on map is 5 miles centered on Tampa



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com





Day 1

Just an hour away from Tampa, northern Pinellas County offers outstanding birding and wildlife viewing experiences. Expect to find sought-after species such as Limpkin, Short-tailed Hawk, Least Tern and Snowy Plover as well as Gopher Tortoise and Bottlenose Dolphin.

81 *Brooker Creek Preserve*

Brooker Creek Preserve's 8,700 acres of forested wetlands and pine flatwoods form the largest natural area in Pinellas County. Bordered by dense urban development, the preserve provides both a unique refuge for native flora and fauna as well as an opportunity for birders to explore the natural beauty of wild Florida. Both Short-tailed Hawk and Limpkin occur here and over 25 species of wood-warblers and 11 species of sparrows have been recorded.

Address: 3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
Coordinates: 28.144107°N, -82.660999°W



83 *Honeymoon Island State Park*

While this is one of the most popular beach destinations in Florida, it is also an excellent birding and wildlife viewing site. The Osprey Trail is well-known for songbird migrants, such as Indigo and Painted Buntings, in its slash pine forest as well as the many nesting Ospreys for which the trail is named. Pelican Trail, which skirts Pelican Cove, and the park's beaches, offer great views of resident wading birds and migratory shorebirds. Look for Piping, Snowy and Wilson's Plovers; the latter two species nest on the beach during the summer.

Address: 1 Causeway Boulevard, Dunedin, FL 34698
Coordinates: 28.060636°N, -82.819186°W



Day 2

Southern Pinellas County offers some of the best birding in the southeastern United States. During spring and fall migration, wood-warblers, tanagers, cuckoos and grosbeaks stop to rest and feed as they journey to and from their nesting grounds. In winter, expect to see large numbers of bay ducks, shorebirds and gulls along the coast and a variety of songbirds in inland oak hammocks. Butterfly watching is excellent in this area.

91 *Fort De Soto Park*

This trail site has a well-deserved reputation as one of the best birding destinations in the southeastern United States and is popular with birders from all over the world. Sheltered mudflats attract Roseate Spoonbill and Reddish Egret, while shorebirds such as White-rumped Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew and Snowy Plover frequent the shoreline. During spring and fall migration, large numbers of Neotropical songbirds pause here, particularly in the Mulberry and Arrowhead picnic areas. More than 20 species of wood-warbler may be present, and they are often joined by species such as Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Pick up a checklist and scan the visitor center bird log for recent sightings. Loaner binoculars are available.

Address: 3500 Pinellas Bayway S, Tierra Verde, FL 33715
Coordinates: 27.647514°N, -82.715103°W



94 *Sawgrass Lake Park*

Sawgrass Lake Park trails take visitors through one of the largest maple swamps in Florida's Gulf Coast region. The park's mile long boardwalk and half-mile dirt trail provide opportunities to see diverse native plants and wildlife, including Short-tailed Hawk and a variety of butterflies. Watch for herons, egrets, ibises, Wood Stork, alligators and turtles along the canals and lakes. Thousands of birds migrate through the park during the spring and fall. Thirty species of wood-warbler have been recorded here, including Canada, Cerulean and Nashville. Look for the Black-throated Green Warbler in the winter.

Address: 7400 25th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Coordinates: 27.835152°N, -82.667336°W



David Moynahan

Limpkin



73 Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

Walk slowly along the boardwalk behind the visitor center and out across the floodplain forest to the Pithlachascotee River, searching for songbirds and Barred Owl. The paved bike trail offers the best birding and a chance to look and listen for Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bachman's Sparrow. The park regularly offers bird hikes and nature hikes on the first Saturday of each month. Loaner binoculars are available at the visitor center.

Address: 10500 Wilderness Park Blvd. New Port Richey, FL 34655
Coordinates: 28.252215°N, -82.649721°W



98 McKay Bay Nature Park

From the parking area, walk east to the boardwalk that leads to the mudflats of McKay Bay. Shorebird diversity is excellent at this park and more than 20 species have been recorded, including American Oystercatcher and Red Knot. Expect to see Roseate Spoonbill year-round and both Least and Gull-billed Tern during migration. A spotting scope is helpful, but not required.

Address: 134 North 34th Street, Tampa, FL 33605
Coordinates: 27.953071°N, -82.422144°W



107 Tampa Electric Company's Manatee Viewing Center

This state and federally designated manatee sanctuary is open from November 1 through April 15 and features educational displays, interactive exhibits and more. When the temperature of Tampa Bay falls below 68 degrees Fahrenheit, manatees gather in the clean, warm water discharge canal, located between the power station and the viewing center. Observers have spotted more than 300 manatees in the canal at one time and Spotted Eagle Rays are often seen. Mangroves and mudflats attract waders and shorebirds.

Address: 6990 Dickman Road, Apollo Beach, FL 33572
Coordinates: 27.792444°N, -82.400870°W



Roseate Spoonbill

110 Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve

This beautiful trail site offers great birding opportunities and extensive paddling trails for canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Access the Horseshoe and Snook canoe trails from the boat ramp at the end of Cockroach Bay Road. Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret and American Avocet frequent the flats in winter and spring. Twenty species of duck and 27 species of shorebird have been recorded in the winter and during migration, including American Black Duck and Upland Sandpiper. Look for Mangrove Cuckoo and Gray Kingbird in the summer. Rarities such as Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and White-faced Ibis have been observed here.

Address: 130 77th Street East, Terra Ceia, FL 34250
Coordinates: 27.687050°N, -82.520380°W



112 Little Manatee River State Park

Take a hike along the 6.5-mile loop trail winding along the banks of the Little Manatee River through beautiful sandhills and shaded hammocks. There is a family of Florida Scrub-jays in the park, so check with a ranger about the best place to view them. Look for Short-tailed Hawks and Swallow-tailed Kites soaring over the trees. Both Fox Squirrels and Gopher Tortoises are commonly seen here.

Address: 215 Lightfoot Rd. Wimauma, FL 33598
Coordinates: 27.657641°N, -82.374090°W

