

THE BEST OF NATURAL FLORIDA & UNFORGETTABLE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES AWAIT. #LAUNCHFROMHERE $oxed{1}$ **Turnbull Creek** \mid At times a narrow creek with winding turns, 6 Eddy Creek | Eddy Creek is the remains of an ancient inlet, where tidal 12 Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

it transforms as it moves toward the Indian River Lagoon estuary, from swamp to hammocks with cypress and palms to willows to cattails to seagrass. Located just north of the Brevard/Volusia county line, you can launch from the U.S. Hwy 1 bridge over Turnbull Creek (NE side) for a great water and wildlife show.

2 Scottsmoor Landing | This surprising riverside park is all the more beautiful in winter months when the mud flats are wide and inviting to migrating birds. Wildlife species include dolphin, white-tailed deer, bobcat, wood storks, various wading and shore birds and gopher tortoises. Access is from Huntington Road off of U.S. Hwy 1 and the park includes ample parking and a boat ramp for boats up to 18 ft.

3 Haulover Canal & Manatee Observation Deck Part of the Intracoastal Waterway, this mile-long canal connects Mosquito Lagoon with the Indian River and was the place at which native peoples found the shortest point to portage between the two. To find it, continue past the entrance to Black Point Wildlife Drive to end of road, go left 4.5 miles to drawbridge. There are various access points on both sides and its designation as a slow motor zone makes it a favorite for kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing and shrimping. You can launch day or night from Bair's Cove Boat Ramp on the southwest side. Daytime shoreline access is available on both sides of the canal near the bridge. The northwest side offers some great soft launch sites for kayak and paddleboards during daytime hours (commercial permitted activity after dark). Don't forget the Manatee Observation Deck, on the northeast side of the bridge. During warmer

4 Klondike Beach | A true wilderne Beach on the north to Playalinda Beach on the south, and is only accessible by foot. It is designated backcountry and requires a permit to explore, which is available at both entrance stations of the national seashore. Questions in advance? 386.428.3384

water months, this is a favorite spot for manatees to linger.

5 Playalinda Beach | Playalinda is called one of the most beautiful beaches in the U.S. and its pristine natural condition is very much like what native peoples saw when they lived here hundreds of years ago. It is part of Canaveral National Seashore, which stretches for 24 miles and is the longest stretch of undeveloped beach on Florida's East Coast. Sea turtle nesting season begins officially on March 15 and extends into October. The southern access, from Titusville, is SR 406/SR 402 (Beach Road) (small entrance fee). At Parking Lots 2 or 3, the dune crossovers are at the highest. (The extra dune height is good for sea bird watching). Playalinda has limited restroom facilities at each of the 13 beach accesses, but no concessions or other amenities. ADA accessible beach ramps are located at dune crossovers #8, #10, #11 and #12.

currents brought sand to the lagoon eventually forming these mangrove wetlands. It is accessible from Playalinda Beach at Canaveral National Seashore, with ample parking, a small fishing pier and a sand boat ramp. Across the street is the dune crossover #8, which includes a small pavilion area where you can achieve an elevated view of the pristine Atlantic shoreline.

7 Bio Lab Road | It's wild, it's away from civilization, it borders the west shore of the Mosquito Lagoon for beautiful views, and the birds love it. Birders love it too; find out who spotted what and when on the Bird Checklist at ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L582682. Bio Lab Road runs from SR 406 to SR 402 past hardwood hammocks, open wetlands, palm and hydric habitats. Along the way you may see wood storks, osprey, egrets, herons, grebes, kingfishers, ducks, gulls, terms, spoonbills, sandpipers and maybe an alligator sunning on the bank

8 Scrub Ridge Trail | A one-mile loop trail through freshwater impoundment and scrub habitat. Scrub is home for more endangered and threatened wildlife than any other Florida habitat. The endangered Florida scrub jay can often be found on the trail, a friendly blue-gray bird that lives in family groups on large territories. Also watch for the endangered gopher tortoise and the endangered but harmless indigo snake. Turn right out of the MINWR Visitor Center, to the traffic light, turn left onto SR 3. Scrub Ridge trail is 3.8 miles on the right. Follow the dirt road 0.4 miles to the trail head

9 Black Point Wildlife Drive | A 7-mile, one-way, self-guided tour, the drive offers numbered stops which are described in a brochure that can be picked up at the entrance to the drive (small fee). See wading birds, shorebirds, aterfowl, alligators, otters and other species. The 10' Cruicksh located at Stop 8 offers a view of the surrounding marshes; continue on in your vehicle or pause to walk the 4.8 mile Cruickshank Trail, usually dry after a rain. There is no fishing, crabbing or boat launching activity permitted. This is a one-of-a-kind drive, with beautiful changing old Florida landscape guite visible from your vehicle.

10 Oak Hammock & Palm Hammock Trails | This is a great place to start. Oak Hammock Trail (1/2 mile) and Palm Hammock Trail (3-miles), are very near the MINWR Visitor Center, so stop by.

11 Gator Creek & Peacocks Pocket Roads | On the south side of SR 406 not long after you cross into the refuge, you will find E. Gator Creek Road. This connects to a series of narrow driving and cycling paths along the impoundment dikes that wind through beautiful natural habitat where you can expect to see large gators and a diverse selection of wildlife. You may encounter locals along the way, fishing and launching kayaks from their favorite "secret" spots.

Visitor Center | River otters, manatees, armadillo, bobcats, white-tailed deer, alligators, lizards, turtles and more, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge covers 140,000 acres, from coastal dunes, saltwater marshes, scrub, pine flatwoods, hardwood hammocks and freshwater impounds, habitat for more than 500 species and one of the highest numbers of endangered and threatened species found anywhere in the National Wildlife Refuge system. Discover birds of prey, shore birds, migratory songbirds, herons, egrets, ibis, ducks, geese and other water fowl. First stop is the Refuge Headquarters on SR 402. Get maps here. www.fws.gov/merrittisland

13 Fox Lake Sanctuary & Park | From wild wetlands and wildlife hiding places to tame park with pavilions and a playground, this area provides more than 7 miles of hiking, off-road biking and equestrian trails. There's a 4-mile marked kayak/canoe paddling trail extending from Fox Lake to South Lake, as well as accessible parking, restrooms and a boat ramp

(14) Blue Heron Water Reclamation Facility & Wetlands Area | One of the first facilities of its kind, an engineered wetlands with seven cells (pond, deep marsh and shallow marsh) separated by earthen berms, Blue Heron is often referred to as a 'great magnet for wildlife,' an outstanding birding spot but also home to alligators, otters and frogs (bring your digiscope). Excellent viewing opportunities via car, bicycle or on foot. M-F 7a-3:30p. 4800 Deep Marsh Road, on Hwy 50 west of Titusville.

15 Enchanted Forest | The 471-acre Enchanted Forest Sanctuary encompasses one of the last remaining large tracts of coastal hardwood forest peast central Florida. A network of interpr variety of habitats along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, including ancient oaks and magnolias and open coastal scrub. An on-site education center provides accessibility for all people, regardless of age or ability. Free. Located on the north side of SR 405, 1/2 mile west of U.S. Hwv 1, in south Titusville, Address is 444 Columbia Blvd.

- SHARE YOUR ADVENTURE WITH US on @LaunchFromHere & use hashtag #LAUNCHFROMHERE in your social posts
- MORE VISITOR INFORMATION: www.Titusville.org or call 321-267-3036
- In advance of rocket launches, restrictions apply
- In case of emergency on the Refuge, call 321.867.7911
- Many of these adventure points are on Florida's Great Birding and Wildlife Trail. www.floridabirdingtrail.com









