

SUNDAY OCT 20, 2024

Sun-EK Egmont Key Boat Ride and Island

Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge, Pinellas County

Walk Address for boat is Ft DeSoto Bay Pier, 3500 Pinellas Bayway South, Tierra Verde, FL 33715

8:00 am – 12:00 pm **Boat leaves at 8 am. Please be early and ready to go then.**

Limited to 40 participants. Tolls \$2.50. Park parking fee \$5. Trip fee \$60

Leaders: Barb and Dave Howard, NWR, 727-512-4914, Mary Keith, Tampa Audubon, 813-767-5863

Be sure to bring sunscreen, plenty of water, snacks, hat and anything you will want on the boat or island walk. There are NO FACILITIES on the island! Use restrooms by parking area. Your shoes might get wet getting on or off the boat on Egmont Key.

Join the Fish and Wildlife Service staff and Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a special boat cruise to Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge/State Park in Pinellas County. Established in 1974 to protect migratory birds, the island is situated at the mouth of Tampa Bay and is also the site of historic Fort Dade. Three hundred soldiers served at the fort from 1898-1923 and the restored guardhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lighthouse, built in 1858, is still used for navigation. A key migratory bird fall-out site in fall migration, in most years, the island hosts a large seabird and pelican colony during the spring nesting season. We hope to see warblers, other songbirds, raptors, gulls, terns, and other seabirds. Unless you choose to walk on the beach, the inland paths of the island are paved or brick, so the walking is easy. Wear shoes that can get wet, because you'll probably have to step into water on leaving the boat.

The boat is scheduled to leave at 8 am. Please arrive early enough to use restrooms, etc. to be ready to board before 8.

From Brandon/Tampa: Take I-75 South to Exit 228, to I-275 North.

Take on I-275 North over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. TOLL \$1.50 per car, or SunPass.

Take Exit 17 to 54th St South, and go West. TOLL \$.50 per car, or SunPass.

At second light turn Left/South onto Rt. 679/Pinellas Bayway South. TOLL \$.50 per car. Cross bridge.

Continue across the small bridge to the T in front of the huge flag. Turn Right, go about 1 mile, turn Left into the Bay Pier parking lot. Find the parking meter, pay for parking. Go to the pier to board the boat.

OR, OTHER OPTION: (this is NOT recommended during rush hours!)

Use I-4 to I-275 south, exit 17 for 54th St South, and go West. TOLL \$.50 per car.

At light turn Left/South onto Rt. 679/Pinellas Bayway South. TOLL \$.50 per car. Cross bridge.

Then follow above directions to pier.

