

# Egmont Key

## National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1974.
- Acres: 350.
- Located in Hillsborough County.
- Location: the refuge is located off shore from the town of St. Petersburg, FL and is accessible only by boat.
- Administered by Chassahowitzka NWR.

### Natural History

The refuge had a colorful military and historical past. Ft. Dade was built in 1882 with temporary gun batteries to protect Tampa at the outbreak of the Spanish/American War. The Spanish fleet never came, but over 70 buildings were built between 1899 - 1916, and a small town with 300 residents existed.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Unstaffed.
- 81,000 visitors annually.
- Managed as part of Chassahowitzka NWR Complex.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide nesting, feeding, and resting habitat for brown pelicans, terns, and other colonial nesting water birds.
- Preserve and protect barrier island habitat and historical structures of national significance.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered species such as manatees, sea turtles and others.
- Provide wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education for the public.

### Management Tools

- Law enforcement.
- Prescribed fire.
- Wildlife population surveys.

- 97-acre wildlife sanctuary (year round closure).

- Education/interpretation.
- Exotic plant removal.
- Partnerships.

### Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation.
- Sport fishing.
- Walking trails.
- Nature photography.
- Beach use.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities exist for visitor center operations, manatee watch activities, and refuge maintenance projects.

### Calendar of Events

**May:** Marine Quest.

**October:** Discover the Island Days.

### Questions and Answers

*Where is Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge?*

Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge and State Park is located off shore from the town of St. Petersburg, Florida.

*How do I visit Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge?*

Access to the refuge is by boat only. In the town of St. Petersburg there are commercial guide boats that provide tours of the refuge. The refuge/state park is open daily from 8 am-sunset. For additional information, contact Egmont Key State Park, 4905 34th Street S, Box 5000, St. Petersburg, FL 33711. Phone: 727/893 2627.

## Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge

*What is there to do on Egmont Key?*

The beach is open year round to wildlife-dependent public uses such as wildlife observation, bird watching, fishing, and photography. The interior of the island has several walking trails where visitors can walk through the maritime forest and also get a glimpse of the past cultural history of the island.

*Why are some areas on the island closed to public use?*

Certain areas are designated Wildlife Sanctuaries and are set aside to provide nesting habitat for endangered brown pelicans and other wading birds.

*What is the military history on Egmont?*

Ft. Dade was built in 1882 on Egmont Key with temporary gun batteries to protect Tampa at the outbreak of the Spanish/American War. Over 70 buildings were built between 1899 and 1916 and a small town with 300 residents existed.