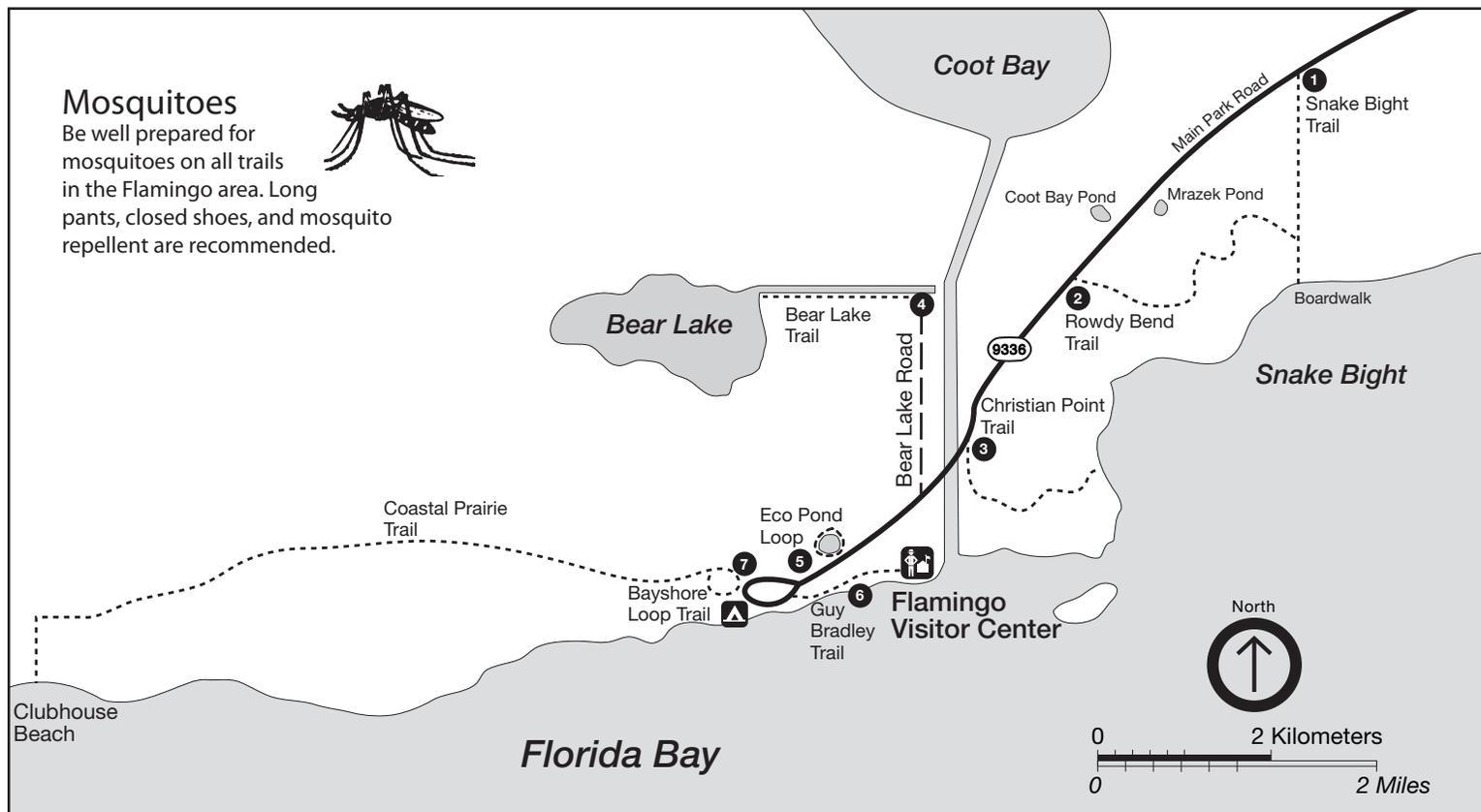




Flamingo Hiking Trails



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. Bird watching may be good from the boardwalk at the end of trail.

2 Rowdy Bend

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

1.6 miles one way

Wander a rustic path through a wide diversity of habitats. The trail begins in dense mangroves and buttonwoods full of bromeliads. 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 low tide for birds.

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

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

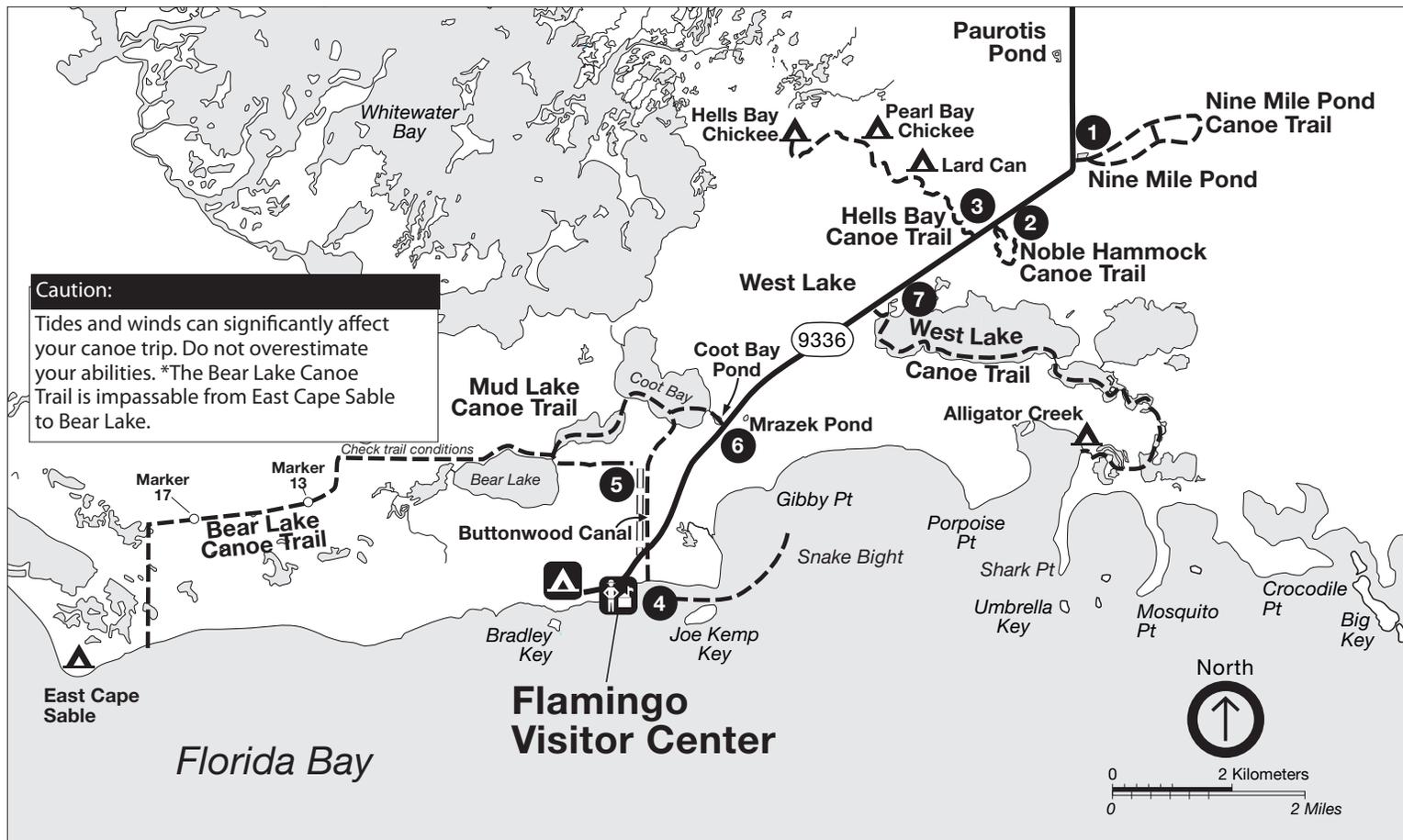
6.0 miles one way

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 toward 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 mile loop; 3.5 mile shortcut
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. Trail may be impassable due to low water levels near the end of the dry season. Motors prohibited.

2 Noble Hammock

1.9 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," or 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), 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; Route to Snake Bight may be impassable during extremely low tides.

5 Bear Lake Canoe Trail - Impassable

11.5 miles one way to/from Cape Sable
Impassable from Bear Lake to Cape Sable as of September 2010. Check any Everglades Visitor Center for current status.

6 Mud Lake Loop

7.5 miles round trip from Coot Bay Pond
Route may start at Coot Bay Pond or Bear Lake Trailhead. Venture inland through the mangroves on this trail connecting the Buttonwood Canal, Coot Bay, Mud Lake, and the Bear Lake Canal. Birding is often good at Mud Lake. There is a 250 yard portage between the Bear Lake and Buttonwood Canals. Motors are prohibited on Mud Lake, Bear Lake, and Bear Lake Canal. Check trail conditions first as Bear Lake Canal is too shallow during parts of the year.

7 West Lake

8.1 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.