

Blackbeard Island

National Wildlife Refuge



Credit: Sharon Lindsay

Blackbeard Island NWR is one of seven refuges administered as part of the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex. It has been under federal ownership since 1800 and formally a national wildlife refuge since 1940. Today, the refuge's 5,618 acres include maritime forest, salt marsh, freshwater marsh, and beach habitat. In 1975, 3,000 acres of the refuge were set aside as National Wilderness. As one of Georgia's barrier islands, the refuge provides protection to the coastline and habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including summertime nesting sea turtles, and year-round shorebird activity.

Blackbeard Island was named for Edward Teach, alias Blackbeard the Pirate. Rumors of Blackbeard's buried treasure still flourish, but no evidence of his fortune has been discovered.

Visitor Opportunities

- Hiking and biking trails
- Wildlife observation
- Wildlife photography
- Daytime beach use
- Saltwater kayaking
- Saltwater fishing
- Scheduled hunts

**Restrooms, drinking water,
and shelter not available**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Hours of Operation

7 days a week,
sunrise to sunset
(no overnight use)

Fees

None

Location

GPS Coordinates:
N 31° 29.350'
W 81° 12.571'

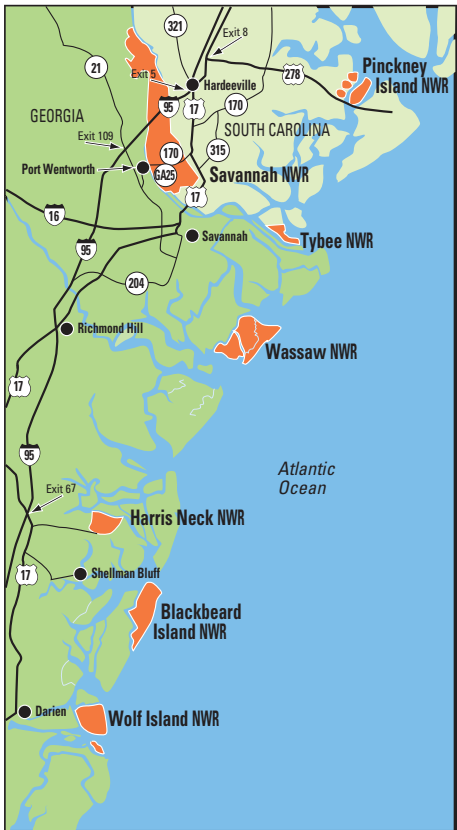
The only access to the refuge is by boat. Boat transportation is not provided, however, several commercial charter services provide day trips to the island. Visitors may also access the island by personal watercraft.

Refuge trail maps and public use information can be obtained online or by calling the Harris Neck NWR or Complex offices.

May 2020



The blue goose is the symbol for the National Wildlife Refuge System.



*Loggerhead sea turtle,
credit: Mary Ellen Urbanski*

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