



The Great Calusa Blueway Pine Island Sound - Matlacha Pass



ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF INTEREST

Connections to paddling trails managed by the Calusa Land Trust are identified by the symbols below. For detailed information on each of them, visit www.calusablueway.com or www.calusalandtrust.org. The Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island Inc. acquires and preserves environmentally sensitive and historically important land.

- A SHELL CUT, CALUSA LAND PRESERVE**
- B FRITTS PARK**
- C KREIE & BIG JIM CREEK PRESERVES**
- D UNDERHILL CREEK CANOE TRAIL**
- E ST. JUDE TRAIL - ST. JAMES CREEK PRESERVE**
- F BACK BAY PRESERVE**
- G PINE ISLAND FLATWOODS PRESERVE**
- H PINE ISLAND COMMERCIAL MARINA**
Only open for recreational use on weekends and county recognized holidays.
- I BOWMAN'S BEACH**
- J GASPARILLA ISLAND STATE PARK**
- K 19TH STREET ACCESS (BAYSIDE)**

LEGEND

Boat Launch	Restrooms
Paddle Craft Launch	Lodging
Parking (not always free)	Hiking
Restaurant or Concession	Biking
Phone	Camping
Picnic Facilities	Historic Site

Highlights & Access Points

- 1 CAYO COSTA STATE PARK**
GPS: N26 41 08 W82 14 43 This island, accessible by watercraft only, has beach, paddle craft launch, nature trails, tent camping, primitive cabin rentals (sleeps 6 people), kayak rentals, bicycle rentals and overnight boat slips. Entrance fee. www.floridastateparks.org. 941-964-0375. Cabin and campsite reservations - 1-800-326-3521. Ferry service - 239-283-0015.
- 2 CABBAGE KEY**
GPS: N26 39 23 W82 13 20 At Intracoastal Waterway Marker 60. Paddle craft landing and fishing guide services. www.cabbagekey.com. 239-283-2278.
- 3 CAPT'N CON'S**
GPS: N26 42 21 W82 09 49 Private launch behind restaurant. Direct access to Back Bay. \$20 parking fee per vehicle. 239-283-0015.
- 4 BOKEELIA BOAT RAMP/LAVENDER'S LANDING**
GPS: N26 41 39 W82 08 45 The Lee County facility located on Barrancas Street offers powerboat and paddle craft launch, parking (fee). 239-533-7275.
- 5 CHARLOTTE HARBOR PRESERVE STATE PARK ANNIE'S CREEK**
GPS: N26 44 37 W82 03 17 The creek is part of the state preserve with parking along Old Burnt Store Road. Hike in to unimproved primitive launch. No facilities.
- 6 VILLAGE OF PINELAND**
GPS: N26 41 15 W81 47 36 A historic village on the western shore of Pine Island featuring:
RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER
GPS: N26 39 40 W82 09 11 Features the Calusa Heritage Trail, a 3,700-foot self-guided interpretive path. Call for guided tour schedule. Parking for Randell Research Center Guest Only. 239-283-2062 and 239-283-2157.
PINE ISLAND LAND MONUMENT
GPS: N26 39 33 W82 09 10 Small Lee County park on Waterfront Drive with paddle craft landing and limited parking. No facilities. No parking along street. 239-533-7275.
TARPON LODGE
GPS: N26 39 39 W82 09 13 This historic inn offers both lodging and a restaurant. Boat dock and guide services available for guests. www.tarponlodge.com. 239-283-3999.
- 7 SIRENIA VISTA PARK**
GPS: N26 38 30 W82 03 21 This City of Cape Coral Park, located at the end of Celtus Parkway, has an unimproved paddle craft launch area. 239-549-4606.
- 8 GULF COAST KAYAK**
GPS: N26 38 11 W82 03 53 Kayak rentals and free launch for party if there is at least one rental, kayak guide services, and full kayak shop on site. Concessions and restaurants nearby. www.gulfcoastkayak.com. 239-283-1125.
- 9 MATLACHA PARK AND BOAT RAMP**
GPS: N26 37 38 W82 04 11 This Lee County facility has a paddle craft launch separate from the boat ramp with other park amenities and a community center. www.leeparks.org. 239-533-7275.
- 10 TROPICAL POINT**
GPS: N26 32 48 W82 04 50 Small Lee County park at the end of Tropical Drive with paddle craft landing and limited parking. 239-533-7275.
- 11 PICNIC ISLAND**
GPS: N26 29 25 W82 02 59 Primitive camping on an island near the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River.
- 12 ADVENTURE SEA KAYAKS**
GPS: N26 30 36 W82 11 25 At Tween Waters Inn. Offers paddle craft rentals, guided tours. www.captivaadventures.com. 239-822-3337.
- 13 TURNER BEACH AT BLIND PASS**
GPS: N26 28 58 W82 11 00 Lee County park with great shelling and beach swimming. Parking on Gulf side (fee). www.leeparks.org. 239-533-7275.
- 14 J.N. "DING" DARLING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**
GPS: N26 26 42 W82 06 48 A 7,600+ acre refuge with visitor center, interpretive programs, hiking and biking trails, fishing and crabbing, tram tours, paddle craft launching. Launching permitted on right side of Wildlife Drive only. Refuge open daily, but tram tours and road closed Fridays. Entrance fee. www.fws.gov/dingdarling. 239-472-1100.
- 15 TARPON BAY EXPLORERS**
GPS: N26 26 31 W82 04 58 Located in the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Paddle craft rentals, bike and pontoon boat rentals, kayak and fishing guide services, bait and tackle, gift shop, boat tours, interpretive programs. www.tarponbayexplorers.com. 239-472-8900.
- 16 SANIBEL BOAT RAMP**
GPS: N26 27 12 W82 02 09 City of Sanibel facility on the east side of the causeway. www.sanibel.florida.com/boatramp.html. Parking (fee). 239-472-6397.
- 17 SANIBEL FISHING PIER AND LIGHTHOUSE**
GPS: N26 27 10 W82 00 51 City of Sanibel facility at tip of island stretching from fishing pier on San Carlos Bay to Gulf beach with historic lighthouse. Parking (fee). 239-472-6397.
- 18 SANIBEL CAUSEWAY ISLAND PARK**
GPS: N26 28 08 W82 01 43 Lee County site on Sanibel Causeway between bridges. www.leeparks.org. 239-533-7275.
- 19 PUNTA RASSA BOAT RAMP**
GPS: N26 29 04 W82 00 37 Lee County boat ramp and paddle craft launch site is off the north side of Summerlin Road just before the Sanibel Bridge toll booth. Parking (fee). www.leeparks.org. 239-533-7275.
- 20 PORT SANIBEL MARINA**
GPS: N26 29 27 W81 59 26 Marina with paddle craft launch for a fee. Paddle craft rentals available. Live bait and tackle, snacks and beverages. 239-437-1660.
- 21 SAN CARLOS BAY - BUNCHE BEACH PRESERVE**
GPS: N26 28 33 W81 58 02 Lee County site with varied ecosystems including sandy beaches and mangroves. Excellent opportunities for bird observation. 731 acres. Kayak/SUP rentals and guided trips available through concessionaire Kayak Excursions, 239-297-7011. www.leeparks.org. 239-533-7275.
- 22 ACE PERFORMER SUP/KAYAK/WINDSURF SHOP**
GPS: N26 29 50 W81 58 16 Paddle craft and wind powered rentals and sales. www.aceperformer.com. 239-565-4860.

THE GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY

2

Estimated mile marks

Advanced paddlers
No trail markers

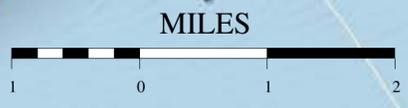
Trail marker
GPS coordinates

Channels
Major boating channels

Trail markers
Selected markers shown

NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL USE
For local navigation charts, see those listed below:
NOAA Charts
#11426 Charlotte Harbor - Estero Bay
#11427 ICW from Estero to Boca Grande
Waterproof Charts
#15F Fish Dive Sites - Marco to Tampa
#20 ICW Fort Myers to Stewart
#21 ICW Fort Myers to Tampa
#25 Cape Romano to Boca Grande
#121F Sanibel To Venice

- County sites
- Calusa Land Trust sites
- State sites
- Federal sites



Florida Greenways & Trails
www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/guide/





Lee County Paddling Trail
Pine Island Sound - Matlacha Pass

Observing Wildlife

Along the Great Calusa Blueway, you'll have the opportunity to observe many remarkable species in their natural habitats. You'll have the chance to spy dolphins racing across the horizon and manatees lumbering through the backwaters. Bird watching is big here, and best of all, birds can be spotted just about anytime and anywhere. Bald eagles, herons, egrets, ospreys, pelicans, roseate spoonbills and wood storks are just a few of the more than 300 species you'll find here.



Unspoiled, Undisturbed, Uninterrupted

During your visit, we hope you will find time to enjoy many of the wonderful experiences there are to be found in our diverse ecosystem. It is an environment that is as beautiful as it is fragile. It is up to all of us - residents and guests alike - to protect it, and leave the same wonders we enjoy today preserved for generations to come.

Help Our Wildlife

- Please dispose of trash and food items properly.
- Observe all wildlife from a safe distance. When on board a vessel, stay at a distance of at least 50 yards (150 feet or 45 meters) and use binoculars or a telephoto lens to improve your view.
- Feeding wildlife is illegal, causes animals to lose their natural fear of humans and increases their vulnerability to injuries and death.
- Seagrasses are a valuable part of Florida's marine environment. Please use caution at low tide, so as not to impact the fragile sea grass beds and marine life nurseries.
- Pick up fishing line and debris - leave the scene cleaner than you found it.

Recommended Safety Gear

- Flotation gear - Florida law requires a Coast Guard approved, readily accessible and wearable personal flotation device (PFD) for each occupant. PFDs must be worn by all occupants under age 6.
- Potable water - Be careful of dehydration
- Extra paddle
- Bow and stern line
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and whistle
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, covering and hats
- Binoculars, GPS unit or compass
- Cell phone
- Water shoes, dry bag
- Map or chart

Play It Safe

- Use caution at passes; strong currents exist.
- Watch for powerboats; stay to the right and turn your bow into the wake.
- Secure your car and take keys with you.
- Paddle in a group or with a buddy.
- Let someone know your plans - where you are going and when you plan to be back.
- Be careful with campfires; use cook stoves whenever possible.
- Access to private land should be by invitation only.
- Make mental notes as you pass trail markers - knowing the number of the closest marker will help emergency personnel should you need assistance.

Navigation

The enlarged map of Pine Island Sound shows suggested routes for canoes and kayaks as well as random Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates along the trail. For a complete list of marker numbers with GPS coordinates, visit www.CalusaBlueway.com.

Markers are intermittent and sometimes not always within your line of sight. Markers end at Captiva, beyond which point advanced paddlers can use GPS coordinates to navigate to Cayo Costa. No markers exist in Boca Grande and it's not recommended to paddle across Boca Grande pass; access the town from Gasparilla Island only. Marker numbers do not necessarily run in consecutive order because of forks in the trail. Portions of the trail may be inaccessible during periods of extreme low tide.

Tick marks on the map indicate an approximate mile wherever possible. Note that the trail crosses busy boating channels used by recreational and commercial powerboats - please paddle safely.

As you explore the Great Calusa Blueway, we remind you to preserve this paddling paradise by leaving nothing behind and taking only photos.



Lee County invites paddlers from around the world to explore the fabled bays, rivers, backwaters and shorelines of Southwest Florida. The Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail has been developed by Lee County Parks & Recreation and funded with tourist development tax dollars specifically dedicated to beach and shoreline enhancement projects.

Inspired by the indigenous Calusas, the Great Calusa Blueway encompasses three distinct regions of the Gulf of Mexico coast. The first portion of the trail meanders through Estero Bay, while the second segment centers on Pine Island Sound and Matlacha (pronounced Mat-lashay) Pass. A third leg of the trail takes paddlers inland to the Caloosahatchee and its tributaries.

This map shows all three regions, but covers only Pine Island Sound and Matlacha Pass in detail. We hope it will serve as your guide to the natural and historic highlights of these protected waterways, while also helping you locate amenities along the trail.



3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916
239-533-7275
 For More Information:
 Paddling Trail - www.CalusaBlueway.com
 Area Information - www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com
 Lee County Parks & Recreation - www.LeeParks.org
 Volunteer Opportunities - Call 239-533-7422

THE GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY

Lee County Paddling Trails

Estero Bay - Pine Island Sound - Matlacha Pass



For paddling opportunities in Charlotte County visit:
<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/parks/blueway-trails.html>

For paddling opportunities in Collier County visit:
www.paradisecoastblueway.com

Eco Parks Guide

Parks with an emphasis on the ecology of Southwest Florida are identified by the numbers below. For detailed information on each of them, and a complete list of parks, visit www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com.

- 1 Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
- 2 Bowditch Point Regional Park
- 3 Caloosahatchee Regional Park
- 4 Cayo Costa State Park
- 5 Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve
- 6 Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park
- 7 J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge
- 8 Koreshan State Historic Site
- 9 Lakes Regional Park
- 10 Lovers Key State Park
- 11 Manatee Park
- 12 Matanzas Pass Preserve
- 13 Rotary Park
- 14 Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve & Interpretive Center
- 15 Mound House
- 16 Randell Research Center
- 17 Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

The Great Calusa Blueway

Phases 1 & 2:

Miles of marked trail..... 97

Phase 3:

Miles of tributaries..... 52

Miles of river..... 38

For more information, visit www.CalusaBlueway.com
 Volunteer opportunities available; 239-432-2159.



Funding for printing provided by:

