

SUNDAY OCT 15, 2023

T-Sun EK Egmont Key Boat Ride and Island Walk

Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge, Pinellas County

Address for boat is Ft DeSoto Boat Ramp, Ft DeSoto Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway S., 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.

Leaders: Barb and Dave Howard, 727-512-4914, Stan Garner

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.

Join the 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, which held 300 soldiers from 1898 to 1923. The restored guardhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the 1858 lighthouse is still used for navigation. Part of the island is now protected as a bird sanctuary. A key migratory bird fall-out site in fall migration, we expect to see warblers, other songbirds, raptors, gulls, terns, and other seabirds. Unless you choose to walk on the beach, most 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.

As soon as you cross the bridge, take first Right/West into **Boat Ramp** area. Park in area marked for 'Ferry for Shell Key' and meet leaders by the ticket booth. (Get ferry ticket to put on dashboard of vehicle.)

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 boat ramp.

