

FRIDAY, OCT 18, 2024

Fri-OK Outback Key and Lower Terra Ceia Bay, by Boat

Address for boat is Tampa Bay Watch, 3000 Pinellas Bayway S., Tierra Verde, FL 33715

8:00 am – 11:30 am.

Limited to 20 participants, tolls \$2.00, trip fee \$60.

Leaders: Eric Plage, 720-771-7603 Tampa Bay Watch, Holley Short, Audubon Florida (352) 455-8993

Be sure to bring sunscreen, water, snacks, hat and anything you will want on the boat or island walk.

Wear shoes that can get wet so that you can walk part of the Key.

This boat trip will go out to a barrier island on the Gulf that is a prime birding spot. You will ride out, then walk parts of the island scanning for shore birds, including Marbled Godwits, Willets, Long-billed Curlews, and plenty of peeps. Depending on time, you will probably then boat back into the bay and circle some of the islands of Pinellas National Wildlife Refuge, especially Jackass Key, known to harbor the colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds! Your leaders are the experts on identifying shorebirds, so you'll get not only names but plenty of tips on how to distinguish one from another.

From Tampa/Brandon area: Enter I-75 South. Continue ~30 miles South to Exit 228, to I-275 North.

Continue on I-275 North over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. TOLL \$1.50 per car, cash or SunPass.

Take Exit 17 to 54th St South, and go West. TOLL \$.50 per car.

At second light turn Left/South onto Rt. 679/Pinellas Bayway South.

Continue south about 4.8 miles. Just before next toll booth, Tampa Bay Watch is on your Right.

OR, Other Option: (this is NOT recommended during rush hours!)

Take I-4 West. Continue on I-4, merge onto I-275 South when I-4 ends.

Continue ~26 miles from junction with I-4 on I-275 South to exit 17 for 54th St South, and go West.

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Continue south about 4.8 miles. Just before next toll booth, Tampa Bay Watch is on your Right.

