

BIRDING ITINERARY

| 2018 |



Best Birding on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast

28 GREAT COASTAL BIRDING TRAILS

Beaumont, Texas is along two migratory flyways which brings a wide variety of birds, thanks to its range of habitats. Because of our unique location, visiting Beaumont offers you an experience unlike anywhere else. Within a 40-mile radius, you will find the wild coastal shore of Sabine Pass and Sea Rim State Park, the meandering bayous of the Anahuac Wildlife Refuge, and the thick forests of the Big Thicket and Piney Woods.

Beaumont Birder Hotel Packages for 2018

Check out our new special birding packages available! Use the code below to access a special discounted rate PLUS our new Souvenir Beaumont Birding Book, Trail Maps, Itinerary, AND an exclusive Beaumont Birdie plush featuring its own story and authentic bird call. When booking, use code "BMT" online, or "BMT BIRDING 18" by phone. Birding Packages are available at the Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont Plaza, (409) 842-5995 and the Hampton Inn, (409) 840-9922.

VisitBeaumontTX.com/Birding

BOOK YOUR BIRDING HOTEL PACKAGE: VISITBEAUMONTTX.COM/BIRDER

Day 1 Suggested Itinerary

Morning



BEAUMONT BOTANICAL GARDENS & CATTAIL MARSH WETLANDS / TYRRELL PARK

UTC 019

Tyrrell Park is a multi-use city facility that retains sufficient habitat to support an interesting selection of eastern breeding birds. Perhaps it's the best spot along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trails to see Fish Crows and American Crows. Cattail Marsh is part of the City of Beaumont wastewater treatment facilities. With 900 acres of wetlands, Cattail Marsh is a natural address for some of Southeast Texas's most eye-catching waterfowl. In fact, some 320 species of birds call Cattail Marsh home each year.

Afternoon



SABINE PASS BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE & TEXAS POINT

UTC 023
UTC 024

Owned by the Texas Ornithological Society and managed by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society (goldentriangleaudubon.org), Sabine Woods is one of the premier birding spots in North America. Expect to spy everything from Golden-Winged Warblers to White-Tailed Kites, and Indigo Buntings.

TEXAS POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

UTC 025

Designated a globally important bird area, Texas Point encompasses nearly 9,000 acres—six miles. The refuge's wooded areas are particularly important for migratory birds from Central and South America that have made the strenuous 600-mile trek across the Gulf waters.



UTC 027 SEA RIM STATE PARK

Offering more than five miles of natural Gulf of Mexico shoreline, Sea Rim State Park is where the marsh meets the surf, making it prime binocular-hunting grounds for numerous species. Grab a spot on one of its many boardwalks, and see Long-Billed Curlews, Ruddy Turnstones, Clapper Rails, Painted Buntings, and Blue Grosbeaks.

Day 2 Suggested Itinerary

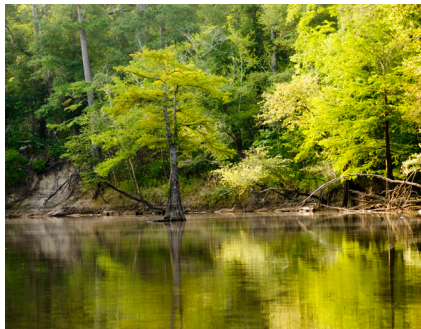
Morning



UTC 015 BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE

The Big Thicket National Preserve spans nine different ecosystems, including hardwood forest, coastal plain, swamp, desert and prairie. In 1981, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added this preserve to its international network of biosphere reserves. Visitors can enjoy hiking its 40 miles of trails, as well as backcountry camping, canoeing and fishing on the Neches River.

Afternoon



VILLAGE CREEK STATE PARK

UTC 018

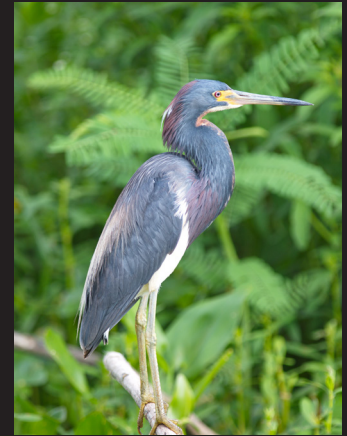
Village Creek State Park offers amazing diversity of both plants and wildlife, just 14 miles north of Beaumont. The park is part of the Big Thicket National Preserve and is home to a forest full of cypress swamps; water tupelo, river birch, mayhaw and yaupon trees; and baygalls and blackwater sloughs in the floodplain of the Neches River.



ROY E. LARSEN SANDYLAND SANCTUARY

UTC 017

The 5,654-acre Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary harbors a variety of plant communities, including one of the last remaining longleaf pine communities in Texas. A rare combination of swamp, forest and southern pinelands create a preserve with remarkable diversity, sustaining 582 plant species and 234 animal species.



UTC 016

GORE STORE RD. & TURKEY CREEK

The birding along Gore Store Road is renowned and for many years birders have visited this area to see the Pineywoods. Species that prefer early succession growth and dense yaupon thickets, such as Prairie and Swainson's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Indigo and Painted Buntings, have become quite common here (listen for Prairie Warblers in young pine plantations).

Note: After reaching Firetower Road, travel south. Camp Waluta Road (0.2 mile) is often worth a try (Eastern Towhees apparently nest here). Continue south to FM 418, then east on FM 418 to FM 92. In late spring through early summer, listen for Eastern Screech-Owls, Barred Owls, and Chuck-will's-widows just after dark or immediately before sunrise.

Day 3 Suggested Itinerary

Morning



UTC 001A

SHANGRI LA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center is a 262-acre site that includes upland forests, cypress/tupelo swamps, and Adams Bayou, a lush riparian area. More than 300 species of birds have been seen in Shangri La. The site's heronry includes 15 species of birds with nests starting in late February and going through June. An observation blind is provided and is handicapped accessible located near restrooms. Alligators are commonly observed in Ruby Lake at Shangri La. During the spring, the garden area is an excellent place to observe migrating songbirds. An Outpost Tour allows visitors to travel to a Beaver Pond where Prothonotary Warblers nest.

Afternoon



UTC 001

BLUE ELBOW SWAMP - TONY HOUSEMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

This site features a 600-foot-long interpretive boardwalk into the palustrine wetland dominated by bald cypress, tupelo, cattail, and various brush species. Visitors may encounter Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Mississippi and American Swallow-tailed Kites, Herons, Egrets, Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, and various neotropical migrants including the Prothonotary Warbler.

UTC 020

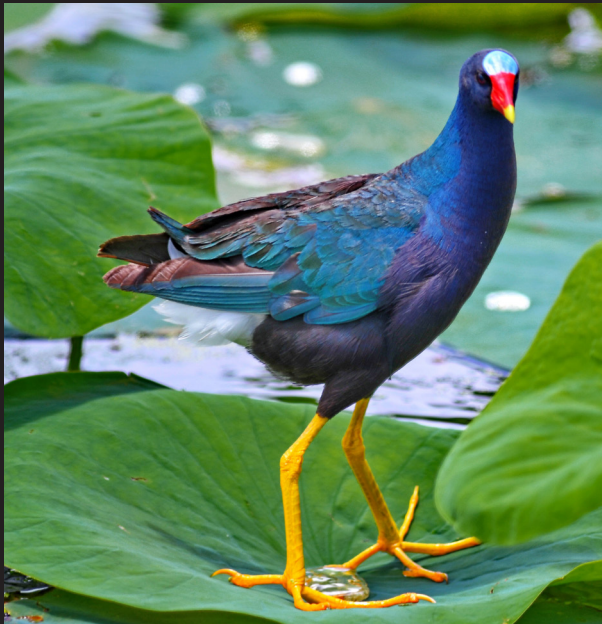
CLAIBORNE WEST PARK

Claiborne West Park is a wooded recreation area comprising 453 acres of land. Visitors can walk the five miles of trails in the nature preserve and watch the birds and animals native to Southeast Texas. A pedestrian bridge crosses Cow Bayou, and separates the recreational areas on the west side of the Park from the Nature Preserve on the east.



Day 4 Suggested Itinerary

Morning



UTC 049

ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Anahuac NWR is one of the premier waterfowl refuges on the Texas coast. Greater White-fronted and Snow Geese flocks crowd the marshes and wet fields throughout the winter. Least Bitterns (in summer), American Bitterns (in winter and migration), and Marsh Wrens (in summer) are common in these cattail marshes. Check the open waters of Shoveler Pond for Canvasbacks and Redheads (Masked Ducks have bred here in the past). Common and Purple Gallinules are abundant breeders in the marshes that border the tour loop. The endless marshes in Anahuac are home to all of the regular rails in the United States Clappers, Kings, Virginias, and Soras are all regularly seen here in spring.

Afternoon



UTC 042
UTC 043
UTC 043A
UTC 043B

WALLISVILLE LAKE PROJECT WHITE MEMORIAL PARK TRINITY RIVER ISLAND RECREATION AREA JJ MAYES WILDLIFE TRACE MOUTH OF THE TRINITY RIVER WATERBIRD ROOKERY

The 23,000-acre wilderness property, which stretches along both the east and west banks of the lower Trinity River, is one of the best-kept secrets on the Texas coast. Still called the Wallisville Lake Project—despite the missing

reservoir—the preserve offers five recreation areas with public access. The Trinity River Island Recreation Area, the J.J. Mayes Wildlife Trace, and the Trinity River Waterbird Rookery are off Interstate 10 near the Trinity River Bridge.

UTC 044

ANAHUAC PUMPING STATION

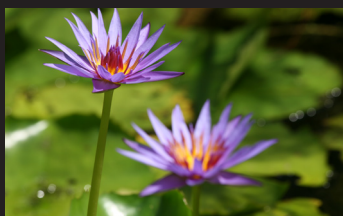
The Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District has developed a nature trail along the levee that impounds Lake Anahuac. Public parking is available at the beginning of the levee, and foot traffic is allowed during daylight hours. The trail is bordered by woodlands, fresh and brackish marshes, and the open waters of Trinity Bay and Lake Anahuac.





BUU MON BUDDHIST TEMPLE AND LOTUS GARDEN

This tranquil Zen escape in Port Arthur is renowned for its tropical lotuses and water lilies. The garden also includes towering bamboo, banana, citrus trees, and Buddhist sculptures and art. In June, the Lotus Festival offers guided tours of the temple's four gardens. 409.982.9319 | buumon.org



More Outdoor Nature Options



NECHES RIVER ADVENTURES

Tour the Neches River and take in its wild beauty aboard the Ivory Bill, an open pontoon boat that navigates the shallows of cypress-lined backwater channels. Reservations are required and are available March through November. 409.651.5326
nechesriveradventures.org



SWAMP & BAYOU TOURS

Experience the incredible scenery of Southeast Texas' moss-draped swamps with flowers, birds and wild creatures on a swamp tour. A number of tour guides and providers are available at visitbeaumont.com/things-to-do/outdoor-recreation/swamps-gators/



GATOR COUNTRY ADVENTURE PARK

Gator Country's newest resident, Big Tex, weighs around 900 pounds and is more than 13.5 feet long. The largest alligator in captivity in Texas, he shares his address with more than 400 alligators, crocodiles, Caiman lizards and snakes. 409.794.9453 | gatorrescue.com



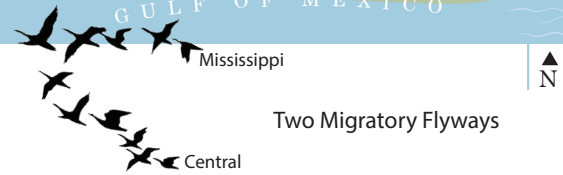
PADDLING TRAILS

Southeast Texas has two locations of paddling trails for kayakers to explore: the 4.8-mile Cook's Lake to Scatterman Paddling Trail and multiple trails in Village Creek State Park and Big Thicket National Preserve. visitbeaumont.com/things-to-do/outdoor-recreation/water-recreation/

28 GREAT TEXAS COASTAL BIRDING TRAILS



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- Anahuac**
Wallisville Lake Project
White Memorial Park UTC 042
Trinity River Recreation/Visitor Center UTC 043
JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace UTC 043A
Trinity River Waterbird Rookery UTC 043B
Hugo Point Park UTC 043C
Anahuac Pumping Station UTC 044
Fort Anahuac Park UTC 045
Double Bayou Park UTC 046
Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge UTC 049
- Beaumont**
Tyrrell Park and Cattail Marsh UTC 019

- Lumberton/Kountze**
Big Thicket National Preserve UTC 015
Gore Store Rd. and Turkey Creek UTC 016
Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary UTC 017
Village Creek State Park UTC 018
- Port Arthur:**
Texas Point Wildlife Refugee UTC 025
Sabine Pass UTC 023
Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site and Texas Point UTC 024
Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge UTC 025
Sabine Woods UTC 026
Sea Rim State Park UTC 027
McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge UTC 028

- Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area and Bailey's Fish Camp UTC 021
Pleasure Island UTC 022
Taylor Bayou UTC 030
Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site and Texas Point UTC 024
J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area UTC 029
- Vidor/Orange:**
Claiborne West Park UTC 020
Blue Elbow Swamp-Tony Houseman Wildlife Management Area UTC 001
Shangri La Botanical Gardens UTC 001A

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