

HISTORY

For nearly four miles *the beach dune community* proliferates with sea oats, dune sunflower and beach morning glory. This beach is on the Great Florida Birding Trail. Visitors are likely to see shorebirds such as American oystercatchers, black skimmers, royal and least terns and snowy, Wilson's and piping plovers. Loggerhead and green sea turtles also use the beach for nesting. On the bayside of the island, great blue herons, snowy egrets and roseate spoonbills concentrate their feeding activities around the shallow water in the tidal flats.

In the *coastal strand*, sabal palms dominate and shade areas where Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes and gopher tortoises forage for food. In the *maritime hammock*, the canopy created by the branches of live oaks and cabbage palms shades the benches found along the nature trail. Visitors may watch for ospreys flying overhead and their nests located atop barren pine snags.

Undisturbed *pine flatwoods*, such as the one on Caladesi, are rare on Florida's barrier islands. On the eastern shore of the island, red, black and white mangroves, along with buttonwood, comprise the *mangrove forest*. These important trees provide shoreline protection and nursery habitat for many fish and invertebrates. In the 1880s homesteader Henry Scharrer and his daughter Myrtle lived on this island. Later in life, at the age of 87, Myrtle Scharrer Betz penned the book *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise*, telling her story of life on a barrier island.

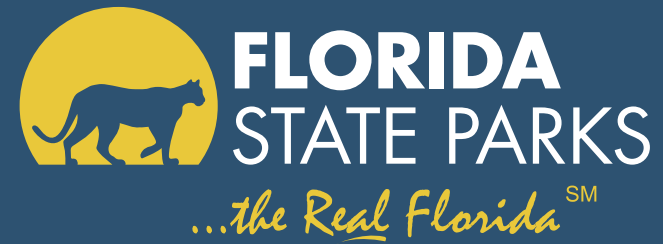
CALADESI ISLAND STATE PARK

#1 Causeway Boulevard
Dunedin, FL 34698
727-469-5918

PARK GUIDELINES

Please remember these tips and guidelines, and enjoy your visit:

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are not allowed on the beach. Where allowed, pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designate areas only.
- A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- Become a volunteer, visit FloridaStateParks.org to learn more.
- For information about joining Friends of Island Parks, visit IslandParks.org.
- Please keep you distance in areas of the beach that are closed for vital shorebird nesting/resting.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs.
- Please contact staff at any ranger station or call 850-245-3076 (Voice) or 711 (Florida Relay Service).



CALADESI ISLAND STATE PARK



FloridaStateParks.org

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*A truly untouched island offering
natural delights*



Caladesi Island State Park

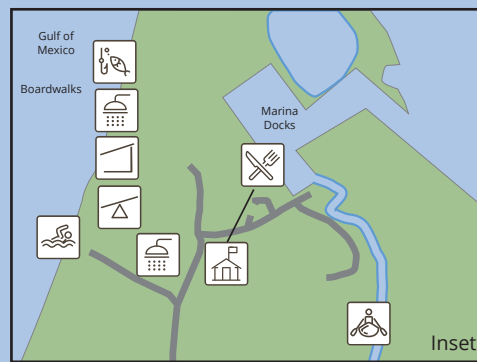
EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Welcome to Caladesi Island State Park, where pristine beaches and warm gulf breezes have earned this stunning island its ranking of America's Best Beach. Whether you are kayaking through the three-mile mangrove trail or staying overnight in the 108-slip marina, recreational opportunities abound at this timeless island in the Gulf.

More than 200,000 people visit Caladesi Island State Park every year for the experience of exploring this beautiful isolated island. Visitors can relax on the **beach**, take a **swim** or watch dolphins gliding through the glistening surf. A day's **fishing** can yield catches of flounder, snook, trout, redfish, snapper, whiting and sheepshead. Enjoy a **stroll** along the four miles of **beach** and **view** American oystercatchers running from the water's edge to the dunes.

Caladesi Island was named the #1 Beach in America by Dr. Stephen Leatherman, a.k.a. Dr. Beach, and in just one day, visitors can see why. The marina is equipped with water and electric for **overnight boat stays**. Rent a **kayak** and enjoy the three-mile, mangrove-shaded kayak trail. Rangers present a variety of programs, some of which are given on the deck at Café Caladesi. Check out our website for **park program** dates. The concession offers food, beverages, beach supplies, souvenirs and umbrella, chair and kayak rentals.

The **playground**, located in the park's **picnic area**, is a fun place for children. Just to the south visitors can find the entrance to the **nature trail**. Come enjoy the seclusion and serenity this island brings.



Directions

By Boat: From channel marker #14, just west of the Dunedin Causeway, take an approximate 212 degree heading for approximately 1 mile. Follow the channel markers into the Caladesi Island State Park marina. The ferry service to Caladesi leaves from Honeymoon Island State Park hourly beginning at 10 a.m. Ferry service information: 727-734-1501.

