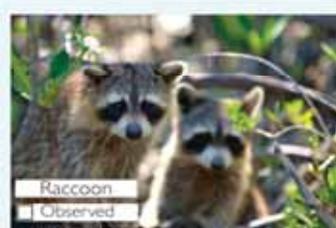


# CLAM BAY

## Canoe Trail

### Field Identification Guide

Use the photographs below to identify what you see on your excursion. All of these flora & fauna can be observed in Clam Bay or around Clam Pass.



Notes:

## Use Information

Welcome to the Clam Bay canoe trail. Trail markers begin at the Foundation public canoe ramp, adjacent to the Naples Grande Resort and finish at #32 in Upper Clam Bay. The Foundation makes canoes available to Pelican Bay residents / guests along the north boardwalk at marker #26. Obtain life jackets and paddles from the security guard at Tram Station #6 at the start of the north boardwalk. Equipment is available from 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All equipment must be returned by 6:00 pm.

This brochure has been designed as a trail map and brief field guide for the mangrove estuary. We hope you enjoy your trip and come back again!

## Safety Information



Please take note of the safety information below before you set out...

- Do not stand up in the canoe! On entering, steady the canoe with hands on either side and place your weight in the middle.
- Everyone should have a life jacket on board and children must wear them at all times.
- Don't forget water, sunscreen and bug spray. Take a cell phone if you have one.
- Almost the entire bay system is shallow enough to stand in the canoe tips. Be aware that the substrate is often soft mud.
- It can be difficult paddling against the wind across the bays, plan your trip with this in mind. Tidal flows can be strong, especially close to Clam Pass.
- Feeding or harassing any wildlife is prohibited.
- Please be aware that alligators are present in Clam Bay waters.
- Watch out for spiders overhead in the creeks. The crab-like spiny orb weaver has a bite but is not dangerous.
- Follow the trail markers and check the map to determine where you are. It's hard to get lost in Clam Bay but please remember - don't leave the pass into the Gulf of Mexico; even a light chop can flip a canoe quickly.
- Have Fun!



For more information contact:

Pelican Bay Services Division  
801 Laurel Oak Drive, Suite 302  
Naples, FL 34109  
Phone: (239) 597-1749

Pelican Bay Foundation  
(for canoe information)  
(239) 597-8877

# CLAM BAY

# Canoe Trail

## INFORMATIVE GUIDE



# Canoe Trail

INFORMATIVE GUIDE

## Clam Bay

This 570 acre estuary system was deeded to Collier County by the developer in the late 80's, and together with the County, the Pelican Bay Services Division oversees its health. Every year reports are prepared assessing the health of the system including : a bathymetric monitoring report, water quality report, and a biological/ecological report.



## Mangroves

Three species of these salt tolerant trees are found in coastal Florida. Mangroves protect the coast from storms and erosion, provide rich feeding ground and nursery areas for marine animals and are the starting point in highly productive estuarine ecosystems. Because of their importance they are a legally protected species.



The red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) grows closest to the waterways and has a tangle of supporting prop roots, shiny dark green leaves and distinctive propagules (seeds).



Black mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*) have leaves with silvery undersides, straight trunks and pneumatophores, which are like underground snorkels sucking in air to cope with the low oxygen soil.



White mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) possess slightly rounded, pale green leaves with characteristic nodules on the stem that excrete salt. Also associated with mangrove systems is the buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*) in dryer areas.

## Mudflats

Submerged open areas of mud and sand are common in estuaries and are often marked at low tide by wading birds picking through the rich invertebrate inhabitants. Shellfish crawl on the surface or lie buried within the mud, poking out their siphons to filter seawater for food and oxygen. Worms build protective tubes and filter small food particles or crawl through the sediment hunting for even smaller creatures to eat. Look out for:

- Florida fighting conch
- Mudsnails on the surface
- Shells of the tellin or angel wing, buried in the mud
- Parchment tube (a white papery tube)
- Sand mason worms (tiny pieces of cemented sand) peeking out of the surface



## Sea Grasses

In the channel south of Clam Pass, sea grasses bind the substrate and provide a rich, productive and safe nursery area for young marine animals. Three important species are



found in the Clam Bay system: Shoal Grass (*Halodule wrightii*) with small, flat strap-like leaves; Turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*) with large strap-like leaves, found in deeper water; and Paddle Grass (*Halophila decipiens*) with paired oval leaves. These fragile and light-dependent true grasses are sensitive to water quality and physical disturbance. All boat traffic must stay close to the marked trail. Florida's once abundant grass meadows have been badly impacted by prop scarring and degraded water quality. Please also try not to wade in the grass areas.

## Distance Information

There are 32 total canoe trail makers.

The distance from Marker #1 to Clam Pass is approximately 1 mile (one way).

The distance from Marker #1 to Marker #32 is approximately 3 miles (one way).

