



National
Estuarine
Research
Reserve



Explore!

Environmental Learning Center



The Environmental Learning Center **facilities are available** for your conference, meeting, or other event. Please ask for details!

Hours of Operation:

Nov. 1 - May 31: Monday - Saturday • 9 am - 4 pm
Summer Hours: Monday - Friday • 9 am - 4 pm

Admission:

Adults • \$5.00
Children ages 6-12 • \$3.00
Children under 6 • FREE
Group rates and memberships are available

Questions? Please call (239) 417-6310 or visit www.rookerybay.org



Rookery Bay
FLORIDA

The Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For additional information on the NERRS, please contact:

Office of Ocean and Coastal
Resources Management
Estuarine Reserves Division
NOS/NOAA

1305 East West Highway N/ORM5
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-3155

There are three National Estuarine Research Reserves in Florida: Rookery Bay, Apalachicola Bay and Guana Tolomato Matanzas. Portions of the Rookery Bay Reserve are also designated as a National Audubon Sanctuary and State Aquatic Preserve.

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center
300 Tower Road
Naples, FL 34113-8059
(239) 417-6310, fax (239) 417-6315
www.rookerybay.org

*Yours to explore...
yours to enjoy...
yours to protect!*

Our **two-story exhibit hall** highlights southwest Florida's coastal habitats, unique plant and animal species, colorful history, and more:

- **2,300-gallon aquarium with immersion bubble** and other aquaria get you up-close and personal with numerous living estuarine residents
- Glimpse into a **working lab** to see real researchers working to contribute to our knowledge of the coastal zone
- Enjoy a **short film** about the Rookery Bay Reserve in our auditorium
- Peruse the **Palmetto Patch Nature Store**, packed with books, souvenirs and environmental gifts
- Behold the beauty of nature within our **art gallery**, featuring works by local artists
- Relax among the **Florida-friendly landscaping**, patio and butterfly garden

Be sure to check out our **calendar of events** for a variety of weekly educational programs, family fun activity days, lecture series, movies and more! Annual events include:

- January - SW Florida Birding Festival
- March - SW Florida History & Archaeology Festival
- September - National Estuary Day

Enjoy!

Estuaries like Rookery Bay provide opportunities for recreation and outdoor enjoyment, such as:

- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Birdwatching
- Nature photography
- Fishing
- Boating



Protect!

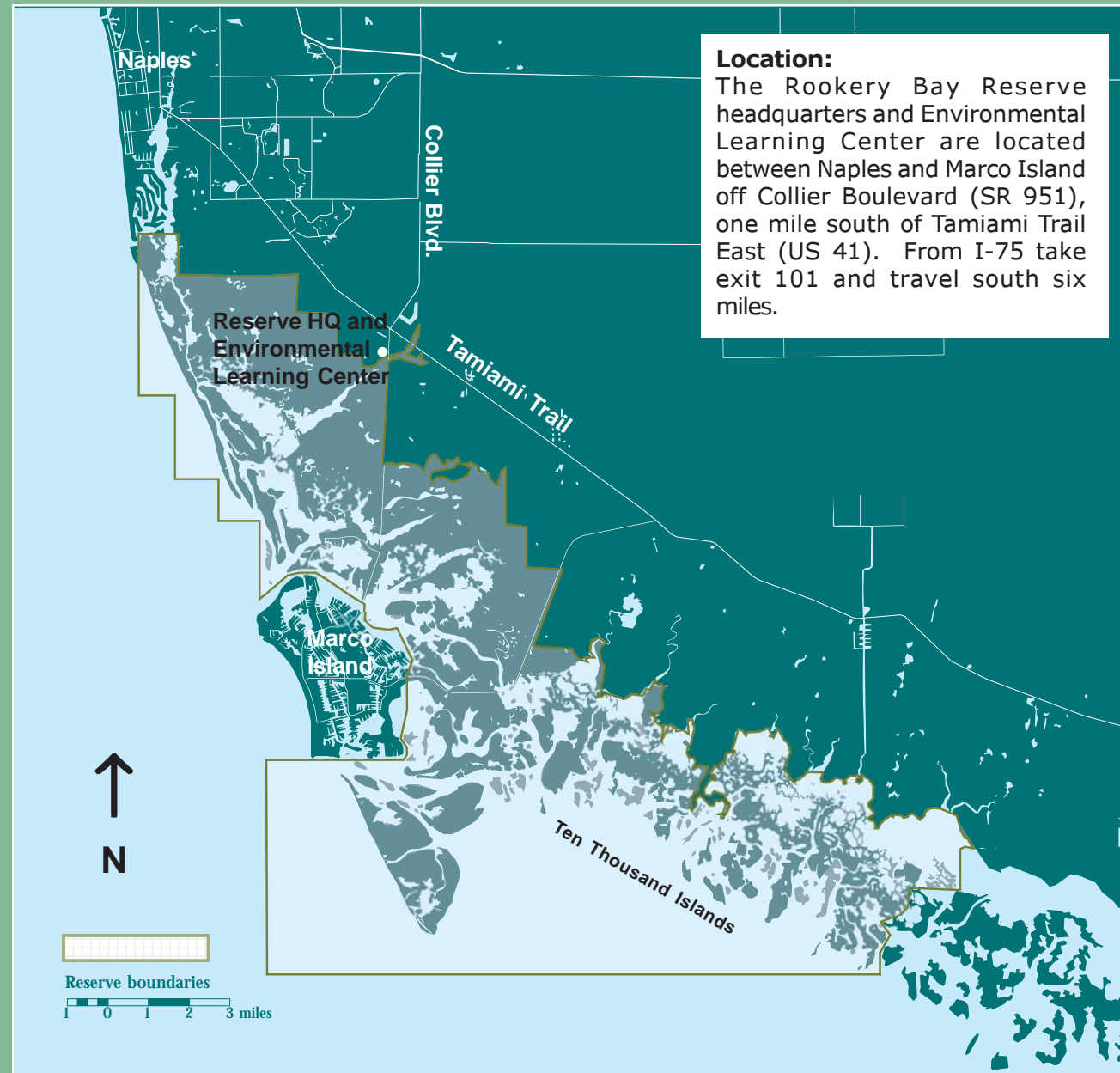
Due to rapid population growth in southwest Florida, the need for improved outdoor etiquette by boaters, birders, beachgoers and fishing enthusiasts has increased. The Reserve encourages you to follow some simple guidelines to ensure your visit to this pristine estuary will *leave no trace*:

- Properly dispose of trash and fishing line
- Abide by state fishing regulations
- Take no live shells or artifacts
- Never feed, follow or disturb wildlife
- Keep pets on your boat, on a leash or at home

Friends of Rookery Bay

Established in 1987, the Friends of Rookery Bay is a nonprofit community organization that provides financial assistance and support to the Reserve. The volunteer program provides many unique learning experiences and opportunities to work closely with Reserve staff. Volunteers of all ages contribute over 11,000 hours per year while helping the Reserve achieve its mission.

For more information about being a volunteer or joining the Friends, call 239-417-6310 or visit www.rookerybay.org.



Located at the western edge of the Everglades on the Gulf coast of Florida, the **Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve** encompasses 110,000 acres of native habitats including pristine mangrove forest, uplands and protected waters. The Reserve

represents one of the few relatively undisturbed mangrove estuaries in North America, and serves as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for students and scientists from around the world.



Training Coastal Decision-Makers

The Coastal Training Program provides science-based information, tools, and techniques to local officials, land-use planners, and other professionals.



Restoring Native Habitats

Stewardship activities implement science-based management strategies to enhance native biodiversity and sustain natural resources.



Monitoring Environmental Conditions

Reserve scientists and visiting investigators conduct numerous research activities to help improve our understanding of estuaries.

Raising Awareness of Estuaries

The Reserve provides unique opportunities for education and interpretation of the estuary through hands-on marine study programs, trail walks, and the Environmental Learning Center.

