

ISLAND RETREAT FLORIDA

INFORMATION PACKAGE



GETTING HERE: We are located approx. 20 minutes south of Tampa on HWY.41. There is no physical address since the property is an island. The address to the parking lot is **9425 US Hwy 41 S, Riverview, FL 33578**. This will be the meeting location for rentals.



PARKING INFO:

The parking is located Williams Park Boat Ramp. (**9425 US Hwy 41 S, Riverview, FL 33578**). If you are launching a boat, there is a fee of \$5/day and can be bought in 1-3 day increments. If you not launching a boat and just parking it is free. Please do not park where there are trailers or blocking trailers, as drivers get upset. This parking lot is mostly lit and has 24 hour traffic. There are restrooms, fresh water spigot and a dumpster for trash at this parking lot. If you are renting a kayak and canoe this will be the meeting location.



GEAR: The Island is primitive there are no amenities other than fire pits and raised tent structures. We recommend the following items:

1. Boat/Kayak/Canoe - Rentals available
2. Bug Spray with DEET minimum 20%. The No-See-um's can get bad if the breeze stops. Boutique sprays will not work.
3. **Old pair of Water/Tennis Shoes or Boots. There are stumps on land and oysters shells around the entire perimeter in water.** The boat landings have been cleared but some shell may remain.
4. Tent - The raised structures are made to keep the tents off the ground.
5. Foam Pad for tents
6. Small axe or machete for kindling and branch cutting.
7. Lighters
8. Trash Bags
9. Hammock
10. Drinking water
11. Toilet Paper
12. Flashlights/ Headlamps with extra batteries
13. **Battery pack for Cell phone charging to maintain communication.**



RESTAURANTS: There are great riverside bar and grills directly across from the Island and on the river. They are:

1. **River's Edge Bar and Grill** - 6226 Ohio Ave. Gibsonton, Florida (813) 671-9196
2. **Jerry's Dockside Bar & Grill**-9808 Vaughn St, Gibsonton, FL (813) 605-4621



CELL PHONE/WIFI: Your cell phone will work on the island but there no Wifi, currently.



TIDES AND OYSTERS: The water around the island fluctuates about 2-3 feet on average with the tides. If you are coming by boat the island is extremely shallow at low tide. Boats can get stuck at low tide. The currents in the river can be extremely strong depending on the tide. At low tide oyster beds surrounding the island appear. Please bring all kayaks and canoes onto the island as they may float away or get sunk. **It is recommended that all guests wear shoes or boots when you are close to the shore line. The oysters shell can be extremely sharp and have cut guests that have not taken this advice.** We are working to keep the landing points clear and free of oyster cutters but with tides they still float up. Below is a link to check the tide times. <https://tides.willyweather.com/fl/hillsborough-county/hillsborough-bay--alafia-river-entrance.html>



FIRES AND BURNING: There are currently (2) 8' wide concrete fire pit on the island that are to be used for a bonfires. Fire wood is scattered of the trails thru out the island and a wheelbarrow is on the island to assist with the collection of wood. Please do not burn the building materials left over from projects. There are multiple buckets onsite to extinguish bonfires. Please be responsible and make sure your fires are completely out prior to leaving. **The wind can reignite fires easily.**



TRASH AND DEBRIS: There is no maid service on the island. There is a charge of \$100/hr to remove camper trash from the island. Please pack-out all of trash/debris from all your activities on the island. Mother Nature deposits enough trash/debris with tidal surges we do not need any help with more debris. **NO GLASS ITEMS ALLOWED ON THE ISLAND.**



OUTHOUSE: The Outhouse building serves (3) purposes Dry Storage and Restroom. Although primitive it is function. Please use the bucket liners (Plastic Bags provided) and saw dust in the blue cooler, if needed to bind liquids. Please bag all waste with other trash for removal from the island. A lock code will be provided for access to this amenity. There are restrooms at Williams Park Boat Ramp and River's Edge Bar and Grill across from the island if additional services are needed. Please be respectful to nature and the next guest.

There is a Non-potable Water Shower and Wash Down Spigot attached to the Outhouse. This can also be used a changing room, as there is a bench and hooks for gear and towels. To utilize the spigot flip the switch to the pump is labeled on the back wall of the shower. Turn the spigot valve on and water will flow. To utilize the shower, there is a red valve in the upper structure (back wall of shower) that needs to be turned

vertically. This will divert water to the shower head. This water is brought in by boat for your enjoyment and convenience, please conserve water so that we can continue to provide service for free.



SOLAR LIGHTS - There are solar lights on some of the structures that come on at night. There are switches on the solar panel to turn on and off. Please turn off switch prior to check-out and departure.



WILDLIFE: The island is located at the salinity line for fresh and salt water. The Island is mostly salty and dolphins school fish in the river off the island. There are stingrays in shallow sand around the island. There are no Alligators. On the island, I have not encountered any snakes or other dangerous critters have not been spotted. There have been reports of mice so please handle and store you food accordingly.



WEATHER: Please monitor the weather accordingly. Florida is known for its severe weather. Zip Code for weather tracking 33578



NOISE: Sound travels better over water. There is background noise that can be expected from nature, boat traffic and a train tracks parallel to the HWY 41 bridge. If you are a light sleeper, I recommend ear plugs for unexpected noises at night.



EMERGENCIES = In case of an emergency, **Please call 911.**
(LOCAL HOSPITALS BELOW)

St. Joseph's Hospital- South Emergency Center -

6901 Simmons Loop Riverview, FL 33578

Phone: (813) 605-4142

Hours: **24 hours a day, seven days a week**

TGH Urgent Care - 11406 U.S. 301 S Riverview FL 33578 -

Phone : (813) 925-1903

Hours **8am to 8pm 7 days**



CONTACT US: if you need any information please call (813) 523-6834



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