

Suggested Stops for Pinckney Island Tour

Stop One Kiosk Those able to walk over to the kiosk should do so. Here you have a map of the island, an image of Charles Coatsworth Pinckney and images of frequently encountered wildlife. The parking lot area is a Live Oak Sea Island Forest and species of live oak, sable palmetto, sweet gum and pine make up much of the canopy. Understory shrubs include yaupon holly. Good spot for song birds and woodpeckers.

Suggested topics for discussion

- About the Refuge
- Geology and Geography
- History of Beaufort County
- History of Pinckney Island
- Maritime Forest

Stop Two First Open Area High marsh predominates and the western side has a nice stand of black needle rush. Also to the west and east are portions of a salt panne, an area of extreme salinity. The succulent plant, glasswort is seen growing here. Closer to the road is seen Marsh Elder, *Pinus* sp, Saltgrass, and sea oxeye.

Suggested topics for discussion

- Topography and Causes of Tides
- Salt Marsh Zonation
- *Spartina's* Role in the Ecosystem
- Plants of the Salt marsh

Stop Three Second Open Area If desired and tides are cooperative it may be wise to stop where passengers can view the oysters growing in one of the small marsh creeks. At this stop an animal trail parallels the road. On the way here a wonderful yaupon holly grows on the east side. Southern Red Cedar can be seen growing on the land. Often a sizable wrack has accumulated in this area.

Suggested topic for discussion

- Animals of the Salt Marsh
- Salt Marsh Ecology
- Threats to the Salt Marsh
- Importance of the Salt Marsh

Stop Four Shell Midden Visible on the east side as you enter the section of the island just before Ibis Pond are the remnants of an Native American shell midden.

- Topic Early inhabitants.

Stop Five Ibis Pond Ibis Pond is one of the best opportunities for birding and viewing reptiles. Depending on the time of year, the pond may be serving as a rookery for colonial nesting wading birds. . Stands of wax myrtle surround the portions of the pond and the nearby woodland.

Suggested topics for discussion

- History of Ibis Pond
- Alligator/Nesting Birds Relationship
- Bird Identification
- Wetland Plant Identification
- Butterfly Garden

Stop Six Starr Pond Depending on the amount of rainfall and the season of the year, Starr Pond may offer some species not seen at Ibis Pond.

Return Ride A few announcements may be in order. They include, “We hope they have enjoyed the tour and we are pleased that everyone is returning safely”. You may to mention some of the highlights of the tour and quiz passengers about the things they liked. Then it may be time to talk about funding. Mention Friends and the fact that volunteers maintain the Refuge, since it is unstaffed. It is also time to mention again the Community Foundation of the Low Country and the grant that was so generously given to provide the golf cart. As a non-profit we still have expenses. Donations gratefully accepted.