



**Wheel Fun Rentals**  
Kayak Launch & Beach Area

**Fred Howard Park**

**Howard Park**

**Causeway**

**Sunset Beach**

# 3 Kayak Tours



Starting Point

**3 Hours**

Explore Fred Howard Park area, with optional stops at Sunset Beach and tidal area.

**2 Hours**

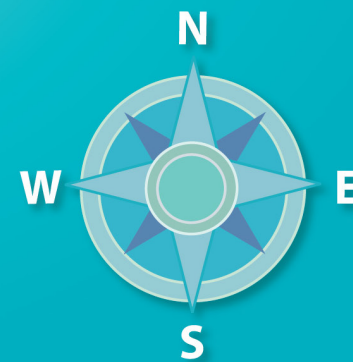
Explore the area and Fred Howard Park shoreline, south of Causeway.

**1 Hour**

This loop includes a trip around the island, passing under Causeway.

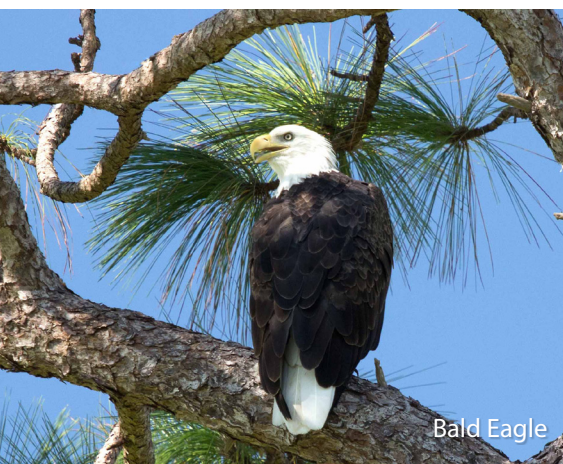
**Optional**

Extended route options (3 hour tour only).



## Safe Kayaking

- Wear a life jacket.
- Make sure you understand kayak rules and training.
- Don't forget comfortable clothing, sunscreen and water.
- Check the tides: some areas may not be accessible at low tide.
- It's best to start kayaking in the middle of an incoming tide.



Bald Eagle



Horseshoe Crab



Manatee



Great Blue Heron



Sea Grass Habitat



Tarpon

## Points of Interest: Fred Howard Park-Tarpon Springs Kayak Tour

**Fred Howard Park** This Gulf of Mexico retreat welcomes two million visitors a year and spans 155 acres. The Park is home to a colorful world of wildlife on land, sea and in the air.

**Fred Howard Causeway** A mile long causeway is the only road to this popular pristine beach. Beachgoers flock here to view stunning sunsets and to play in the soft white sand, while kayakers enjoy crossing under the causeway. Look for Cormorants sunning themselves at these kayak access points.

**Osprey** These large distinctive light grey and brown predatory birds are specialized fish hunters. Ospreys have evolved sharply curved bills, large talons, and non-skid foot pads; all perfect for catching and consuming slippery fish.

**Bald Eagle** Our nation's national bird, these supreme hunters excel at catching fish. Despite their name, Bald Eagles aren't actually bald; their name is derived from the word "piebald," meaning "white patch." These birds were critically endangered in the contiguous U.S., due to DDT, but made a comeback once the pesticide was banned.

**Bottlenose Dolphins** Curious and with a complex social hierarchy, bottlenose dolphins are commonly found in the waters of Fred Howard Park, due to the rich marine ecosystem. They live and travel in groups called pods.

**Manatee** Also known as "sea cows," these large gentle grazing giants inhabit warm shallow waters throughout Florida and the Caribbean. Adults can grow to over 11 feet while the record for heaviest weight was 3,649 lbs. Manatees require a specialized environment – plentiful marine grasses and small invertebrates to maintain their layer of blubber and require water temperatures higher than 68 degrees to survive.

**Atlantic Horseshoe Crab** Bona fide living fossils, these animals first appeared over 450 million years ago. Relatively unchanged over millions of years, their looks (and name) can be deceiving. Although Horseshoe Crabs look like they're crustaceans, they aren't! These primitive creatures are more closely related to spiders and scorpions than crabs. Did you know because they lack hemoglobin in their blood, Horseshoe Crabs have blue blood!

**Sunset Beach** A hidden gem, Sunset Beach is a favorite with locals to watch Florida's brilliant color-saturated sunsets. Paddle to Sunset Beach's shore and take in gorgeous views of the Gulf of Mexico while you relax underneath swaying palm trees in the famous soft white sand. This unique Beach is the perfect spot to pause and experience the park's thriving coastal habitat. Beach amenities include: restrooms, volleyball nets, picnic areas, and more.

**Tarpon** The local namesake, Tarpon can grow to eight feet and sometimes weigh up to 280 pounds. These striking silver fish are often seen in these waters, and favor habitats where freshwater flows into the ocean. With Pinellas County's bayous emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, Tarpon are often sighted airborne, springing out of the water. Settlers first saw these leaping fish in 1876 and named the newly founded city Tarpon Springs.

**Seagrass Habitat** An amazing array of creatures depend on seagrass in their day to day lives. This special ecosystem provides food for animals like Manatees and sea turtles, serves as a nursery, stabilizes the ocean floor, helps conserve coastal areas in Florida and other Gulf Coast states and improves the water quality! Did you know a single acre of seagrass can support more than 35,000 fish and 50 million small invertebrates?

**Natural Sponges** Growing in waters throughout the world, these primitive organisms thrive in Tarpon Springs' lush seagrass habitats. The sponge harvesting industry and sponge tourism make up a substantial part of Tarpon Springs' local economy. Once these sponges are on dry land, their protective covering is removed and the sponge cut to size.



Fred Howard Park Kayaking



Osprey



Bottlenose Dolphins



Golfer Tortoise Hatchling



Cabbage Palms on Sunset Beach