

# Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary Trail Map



# Doc Ehrhardt Sanctuary Trail Map

## Description:

Doc Ehrhardt Sanctuary is a unique place where the temperate climate of the north meets the sub-tropical climate of the south. It is set within the heart of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, the nesting site of tens of thousands of sea turtles each year. The Barrier Island Visitor Center showcases the beauty and diversity of the barrier island, from ocean to lagoon and serves as the primary visitor and education center for the Refuge. The Center is open to the public and features interactive exhibits, an auditorium, gift shop, classroom, and observation deck and overlook. This aerial view of Doc Ehrhardt Sanctuary displays the locations of the site boundaries, hiking trail, kiosks, Barrier Island Visitor Center and parking area, and adjacent features. This property is part of the Brevard County Florida Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. The Sanctuary is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Indian River Lagoon to the west, National Wildlife Refuge lands to the south, and private property to the north.

## Parking:

The Barrier Island Visitor Center, beach access, and parking areas are located on the east side of A1A, at 8385 S Hwy A1A., Melbourne Beach, FL 32951. The 350-foot ADA boardwalk connects the Barrier Island Visitor Center to the beach access at Bonsteel Park to the south, where there is additional parking nearest to the kayak launch.

## Trail Instructions:

The 3/4-mile hiking trail traverses from the beach (east) to the lagoon (west) crossing State Road A1A. Informational trail kiosks are located at the north and south trail entrances to the West of Highway A1A. The trail loops visitors from the center to the lagoon and back. Visitors can begin the trail by taking the boardwalk south from the Barrier Island Visitor Center and then heading west to A1A. If visitor continue south, they will connect to another boardwalk bringing them to the beach at Bonsteel Park.

Visitors continuing on the hiking trail must cross A1A and head west toward the lagoon. Once across Highway A1A, hikers will come upon an informational kiosk. Continuing on the trail, you will reach the river where the trail turns north running parallel to the lagoon for .2 miles. Take the bridge and trail west through the hammock for .2 miles until you reach A1A and the northern trailhead. Visitors must cross A1A again to head back to the parking area and visitor center.

A kayak launch is located .1 miles south of the southern trailhead for those wanting to paddle the lagoon. Kayaks must be carried .1 mile to the water. An 350-foot accessible boardwalk connects the Center to the beach access at Bonsteel Park to the south, where there is additional parking.