

Houston Audubon Sanctuary at High Island

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to identify points of interest for photographers. The document does not attempt to create an itinerary nor address logistical issues.

Trip Profile

Topic	Details
Trip Name	<i>The Audubon's Sanctuary at High Island</i>
Short Description	This is good for birding and fantastic in April (Smith Oaks Sanctuary)
Website	https://houstonaudubon.org/sanctuaries/high-island/visitor.html https://houstonaudubon.org/sanctuaries/high-island/rookery.html
Contributor/email	Sam Lucas SamHoustonLucas@aol.com
Travel Time	From Dallas, plan on 5.5 hours of drive time From Houston, plan on 2.0 hours
Date trip taken	2021
Points of Interest	Birds – Many waterfowl type birds and migrating birds
Address for Mapping Software	2205 Old Mexico Rd, High Island, TX 77623
Restrictions / Safety Issues	No hunting. This is a remote rural area.
Entry Fee	Day patch is \$8.00. Patch for full year of access is \$30.00.
Lodging Notes	There is one motel in High Island. Winnie and Galveston are nearby.
Dining Notes	Very limited.
Best shooting time of day	Early morning and sunset.
Primary GPS Coordinate	This is optional

Special notes

ID	Note
1	Mosquitoes are always a problem. You definitely need repellent.
2	This site is owned by the Houston Audubon Society. Explore their web site for a full description of the site. Some rules and policies are in Appendix A (below)
3	There are hundreds of alligators. Be very careful.
4	There are multiple areas to explore.

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Overview

The four sanctuaries at High Island (Boy Scout Woods, Smith Oaks, Eubanks Woods, and Gast Red Bay) are open 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. At Smith Oaks the gate at Old Mexico Rd is open dawn to dusk March 15-May 15 and on weekends in the fall: September 15-October 15. The Winnie Street entrance at Smith Oaks is open 365 days a year, dawn to dusk.

Stop 1 – Smith Oaks

Normally, this island is barren and of little interest. However, in April it ‘blossoms’ as a rookery for many water fowl.



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Appendix A – Policies and rules

	The following were copies from the web site.
	<p><i>POLICIES</i></p> <p>Because this is a wildlife sanctuary, we ask you to observe the following rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect all wildlife. You are the visitor. This is their home.• Respect the peace and be considerate of other sanctuary visitors.• No harming or collecting or introduction of plants or animals.• Leave no waste.• Stay on marked trails. Walking only. No bicycles.• Do not obstruct trails.

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Please be considerate of other visitors. Do not block trails with tripods, chairs, ladders, baggage, etc.

- **No drone photography.**
- **Use of laser pointers is prohibited at all Houston Audubon sanctuaries.**

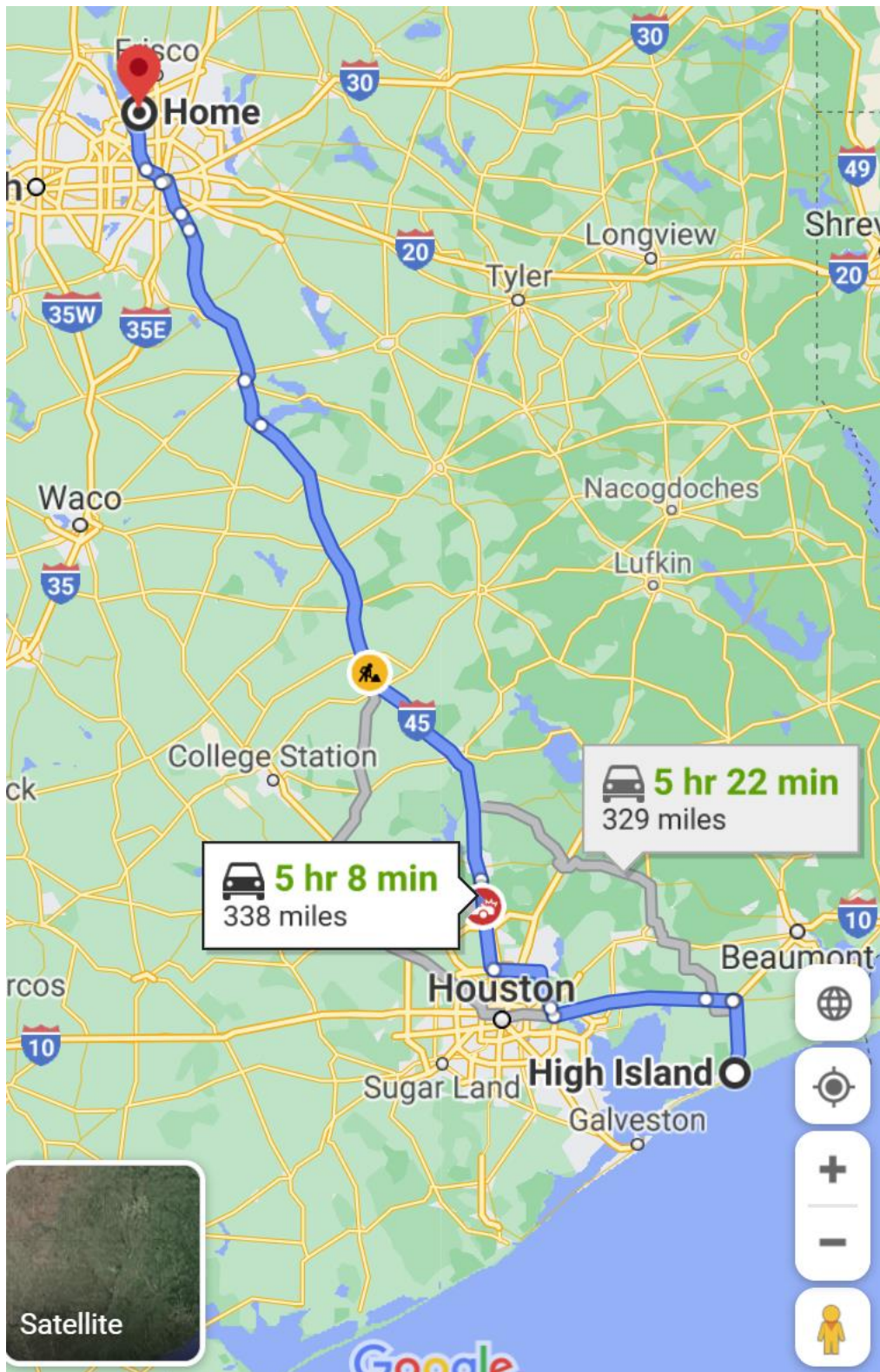
No pishing or use of playback devices unless special permission is obtained.

- **Firearms are not permitted on the grounds.**
- **No smoking or alcohol consumption.**
- **No dogs or other domestic animals.**

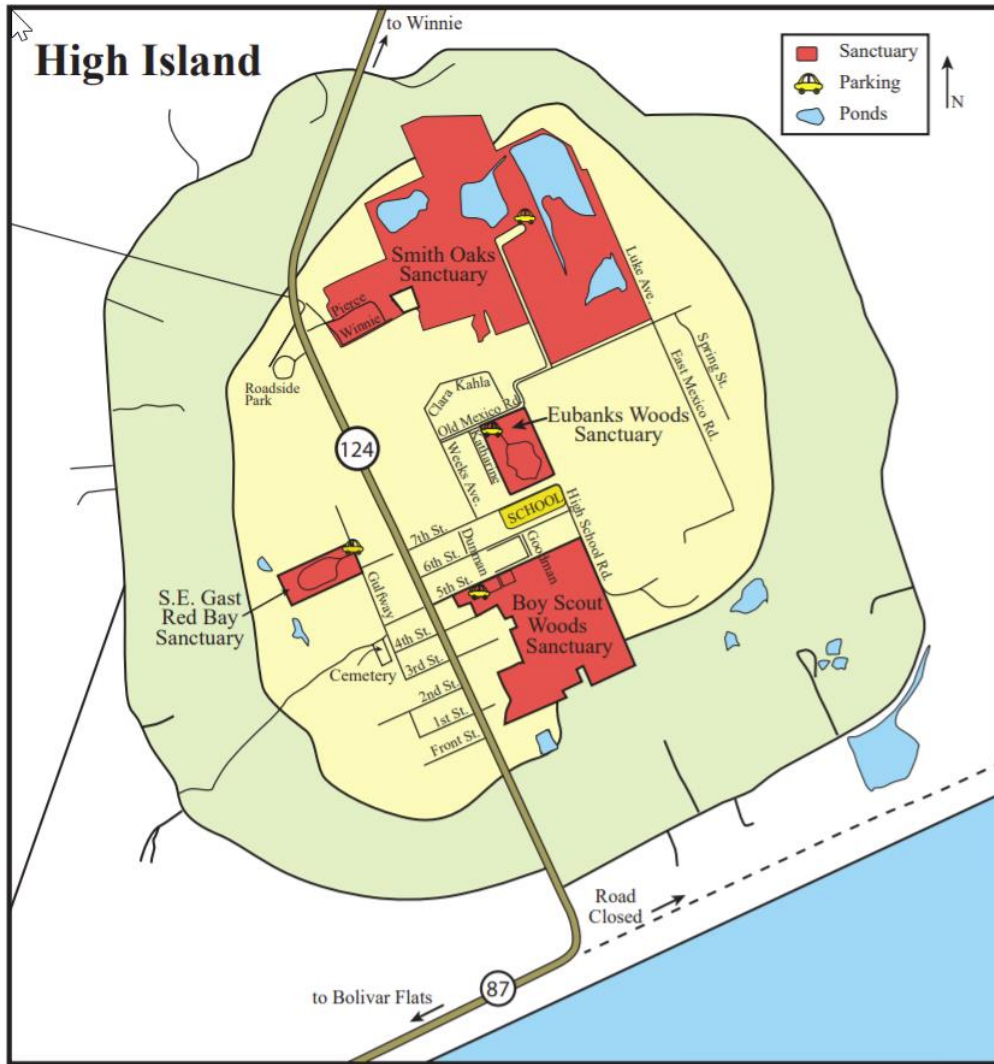
Contact Pete Deichmann, Sanctuaries Manager, at pdeichmann@houstonaudubon.org with any questions.

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Appendix A – Maps



Houston Audubon Sanctuary at High Island



High Island is on the coast just off Hwy. 87. It can be reached by taking I-10 east from Houston, taking the Winnie exit, then going south on Hwy. 124 to the town of High Island.

Another option is to use the free Galveston - Bolivar ferry and proceed up the coast on Hwy. 87. Turn left onto Hwy. 124 after approximately 30 miles. Turn right onto 5th St. to visit Boy Scout Woods. Follow the map to the other 3 High Island sanctuaries.

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