



Circle B Bar Reserve

is named after a cattle ranch that once existed on the 1,267-acres. Purchased to protect the floodplain of Lake Hancock and to restore the Banana Creek marsh system, it also offers large natural communities of oak hammocks and various forested wetlands in the northeast corner of the property. Lake Hancock, Polk County's 4th largest lake, sits at the headwaters of the Peace River.

TRAIL ENTRANCE:

4399 Winter Lake Road,
Lakeland, FL 33812

PARKING COORDINATES:

N 27° 59.367 W 081° 51.513



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27° 59.557 W 081° 51.568



DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From I-4 east or west, take the Polk Parkway (Toll Road 570) and exit at US Hwy 98 south, exit 10. Turn left at Winter Lake Road (SR 540). The entrance to the Reserve is two miles east of US 98.

THINGS TO SEE

While hiking the trails you may see a variety of birds, including sandhill cranes, bald eagles, wood storks, great blue herons and many other wading birds, as well as vistas across Lake Hancock and Banana Creek Marsh. Take a walk along the banks of Lake Hancock and you will see many alligators.



FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

After entering the Circle B Bar Reserve entrance, follow Discovery Drive to the main parking area. Find a parking space in the southern end of the parking area. Walk south from the parking area past the porta-potties until you reach the Shady Oak trail. Continue west (right) along the Shady Oak trail until you reach a trail intersection. Turn right onto the Lost Bridge trail and follow it until you reach the paved road. Cross the paved road and continue following the Lost Bridge trail. The cache is at the base of the second oak tree on the west side (left) of the trail. This is approximately 100 feet from the NW corner of the cow pen. **(HIKE: 0.75 mile round trip)**

POLK'S NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER:

Provides Information and many discovery opportunities about the unique water, wildlife and wilderness resources, as well as the associated cultural heritage and nature-based recreation opportunities on environmental lands in Polk County. The Nature Discovery Center includes picnic pavilions, wildlife observation viewing platforms, boardwalks and several multi-use trails. The Reserve is open daily, year-round, from 5:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Standard Time and until 8:30 P.M. during Daylight Savings Time. This area may become wet during the rainy season. Don't forget the insect repellent and water. Be careful and enjoy the area. Be advised that there are always risks associated with visiting nature preserves. Horses are also allowed on this trail.



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