

Go exploring on your own!

People will be travelling from all directions to attend the Florida Audubon Assembly in October. If you would like to stop along the way or spend a little extra time in the area checking out that place you have heard so much about, below is a list of even more places you might enjoy in the Tampa Bay region.

1. Bahia Beach Conservation Park – Ruskin. Winter ducks and shorebirds. Flat but sunny. <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/locations/bahia-beach-preserve>.
2. Gibbons Preserve – River View. Owned by the Tampa Bay Conservancy. Old growth hike to Alafia River and Back. Gorgeous though not particularly birdy. <https://www.tampabayconservancy.org/lands-protected>.
3. Cockroach Bay - Ruskin. A short hike up Cockroach Hill give a good view of the Bay and perhaps some migrants! <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/cockroach-bay-preserve-state-park>.
4. Blackwater Creek – Plant City. Longleaf pine, hardwood hammock, cypress domes, wetands and more. The walk is fairly long, about 5 miles. <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/locations/blackwater-creek-preserve>
5. Fort De Soto – Tierra Verde. Plan an all-day trip with beaches, birds and plenty of area to explore. <https://pinellas.gov/parks/fort-de-soto-park/>.
6. Celery Fields – Sarasota. Sarasota Audubon's crown jewel. <https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/the-celery-fields/>.