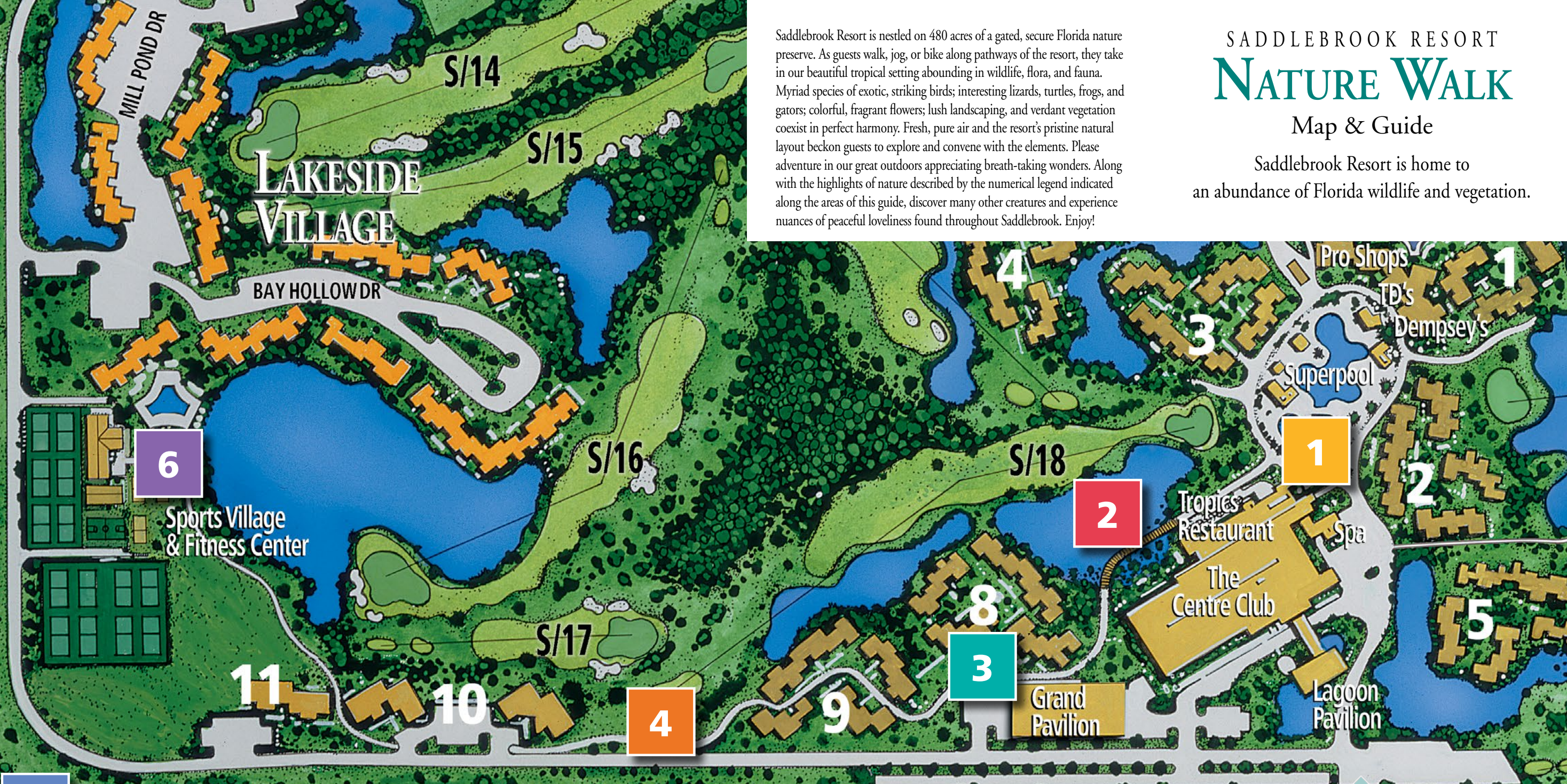


# SADDLEBROOK RESORT NATURE WALK

## Map & Guide

Saddlebrook Resort is home to an abundance of Florida wildlife and vegetation.

Saddlebrook Resort is nestled on 480 acres of a gated, secure Florida nature preserve. As guests walk, jog, or bike along pathways of the resort, they take in our beautiful tropical setting abounding in wildlife, flora, and fauna. Myriad species of exotic, striking birds; interesting lizards, turtles, frogs, and gators; colorful, fragrant flowers; lush landscaping, and verdant vegetation coexist in perfect harmony. Fresh, pure air and the resort's pristine natural layout beckon guests to explore and convene with the elements. Please adventure in our great outdoors appreciating breath-taking wonders. Along with the highlights of nature described by the numerical legend indicated along the areas of this guide, discover many other creatures and experience nuances of peaceful loveliness found throughout Saddlebrook. Enjoy!



5700 Saddlebrook Way ♦ Wesley Chapel, Florida 33543-4499  
813/973-1111 ♦ 800/729-8383 ♦ Fax 813/973-4504  
[www.saddlebrookresort.com](http://www.saddlebrookresort.com)







**1** **Sandhill Cranes:** These birds have a body length just over 3 ft. long and a wingspan of 6 ft. Sandhill Cranes are predominately grey. The Florida sub-species is a year-round resident in freshwater marshes, pastures, and open woodland.



**2** **Green Heron:** The smallest herons in North America, Green Herons are only about the size of crows. They are very common at Saddlebrook and can be spotted in virtually every pond and bayhead. Green Herons are expert hunters and are often seen crouched in bushes or on sticks just above the water ready to strike at small fish, frogs, or water insects with lightning speed.



**2** **Great Blue Heron:** These are the largest and best known herons in North America. They stand four feet tall and have wingspans of seven feet. Great Blue Herons are commonly seen wading in the ponds hunting for fish, frogs, dragonflies, small mammals, and even birds. There is a white version of the Great Blue Heron which is found only in southern Florida. The large white birds seen at Saddlebrook are Great Egrets.



**2** **Great Egrets:** The Great Egret is a large, all white, wading bird common in South Florida. Their body length is commonly around 39 inches, with a 55 inch wingspan. The Great Egret can be distinguished from other egrets by its yellow bill and black legs and feet. Males and females are identical in looks.



**2** **Snowy Egrets:** Snowy Egrets were hunted almost to extinction in the late 1800's and early 1900's for their breeding plumes, which were used to decorate ladies hats. They rebounded quickly after being protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. They have a 36 inch wingspan and stand about 2 feet tall. They feed on shrimp, fish, crabs, crayfish, insects, snakes, and small amphibians.



**2**  
**6** **American Alligator:** Once nearly extinct, Alligators have made a dramatic comeback in recent years due to protective laws. Nearly every pond at Saddlebrook hosts one. Alligators must be regarded with extreme caution. It is against Florida law to feed, taunt, or in any way provoke them. Such actions will reduce their natural fear of humans and increase the possibility of an accident. Alligators feed on fish, snakes, turtles, small mammals, and birds.



**2**  
**6** **Soft Shell Turtles:** The adults are brownish-green or tan with blotches on their skin. Their shells are covered with skin, and are soft around the edges. Their noses are long and round. When they swim, they stay underwater and stick their nose up to breathe, like a snorkel. The females are much bigger than the males. Females may reach up to 24 inches long and males usually grow to only 12 inches.



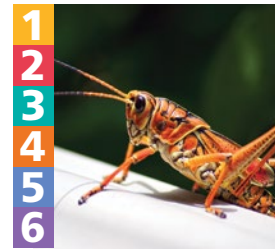
**4** **Magnolia Tree:** Magnolia Trees have reputations for attractive flowers and fine foliage, with some species being of an evergreen nature. Some of them grow up to 90 ft. Most bloom during the middle of spring and continue flowering sporadically for the rest of the growing season into autumn. Once flowers finish blooming, they begin a transition to ornamental seedpods, with brightly colored berries.



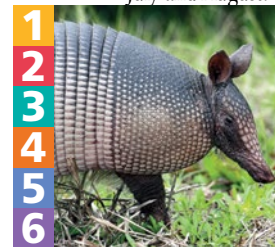
**2** **Bald and Pond Cypress:** Cypress Trees are large exotic trees with fern-like foliage, a buttressed trunk, and woody "knees". They can grow up to around 130 feet!



**2** **Spanish Moss:** Spanish Moss is a flowering moss that grows in large trees like the bald cypress tree. It rarely actually kills trees, but it does lower their growth rate.



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**6** **Locusts:** These Locusts are better known as Lubber Grasshoppers. In our area, they are mostly yellow but bear red and black markings and red on the wings. Adult males can reach two inches in length, while the larger female Lubbers can approach three inches at maturity. The eggs begin to hatch in March and the largest number of adults occurs in July and August.



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**6** **Armadillos:** Armadillos are not native to Florida, but are now common over most of the state. Armadillos like forested or semi-open habitats with loose textured soil that allows them to dig easily. They eat many insects, or other invertebrates, and some plants. They most often feed at night, and have very poor eyesight.



**5** **White-Tailed Deer,** the smallest members of the North American Deer family, are found from southern Canada to South America. In the heat of summer they typically inhabit fields and meadows using clumps of broad-leaved and coniferous forests for shade. During the winter they generally keep to forests, preferring coniferous stands that provide shelter from the harsh elements.



**5** **Wild Turkeys:** The Florida Wild Turkey is also known as the Osceola. It's similar to the Eastern Wild Turkey, but is smaller and darker in color with less white veining in the wing quills. When the wings are folded on the back, there are no whitish triangular patches as seen on the eastern one. Only 45-50 percent of Wild Turkey nests successfully hatch. Most are lost to predators.



**1** **Jasmine:** This easy-care viney shrub could take prizes for being the plant that grows anywhere. It takes the cold, the heat, the blazing South Florida sun or a shady bed, even wet conditions.



**1** **Love Bugs:** Usually, Love Bugs are seen in Florida in the late spring and then again in the late summer. They can also be seen in South Florida in smaller numbers in December. These "flights" can take place between 4 to 5 weeks. Adult females live between 3 and 4 days, while the males live a little longer. These bugs are known as a public nuisance. They have a slightly acidic body chemistry which can make it extremely difficult to remove off cars.



**1** **Black Racer:** Black Racer Snakes are not poisonous. They can range anywhere from 20-56 inches. These snakes do not tolerate handling and typically will strike when they are handled. They have also been known to charge at people in order to scare them. They are fast, giving them the name the "Racer".



**3** **Birds of Paradise:** The Bird of Paradise flower, also known as the crane flower, is a native of South Africa. The name evolved from the appearance of it's bloom, which resembles the vivid plumage and beak of the Bird of Paradise. The Bird of Paradise plant grows 3 to 5 feet tall and has leathery green leaves that average 18 inches long, although some varieties have leaves more than 70 inches long.



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**6** **Anoles (Lizards):** Green and Cuban Brown Anoles are generally about 5 to 8 inches long. Females are usually smaller and can be under 5 inches long. The long, slender tail of the Anole (which makes up about half of its length) may break off at the slightest pressure and continue to wiggle on the ground, distracting would-be predators. But, no fear, the Lizard's tail grows back over several weeks to once again serve as a quick get-a-way aid.

Colored numerical boxes refer to map areas.

For your own safety, and that of the animals, please do not attempt to engage with or feed any wildlife during your stay at Saddlebrook Resort.