

Turtles, Osprey, Otters & more!

Gulf Islands National Seashore at Fort Pickens is home to a variety of animals from opossums, armadillos and rabbits to red foxes, river otters (who live in the brackish canals) and an occasional snapping turtle. The area is also an excellent spot for birdwatchers with a large year-round population of Osprey, Great Blue Herons, woodpeckers, shorebirds and songbirds. In addition, because of our ideal location between the Mississippi Flyway and Atlantic Flyway, many migrant birds can be spotted during spring and fall migrations.

In addition, of the seven species of sea turtles, four nest along Pensacola Beach's gulf front from May through October: loggerhead, green, Kemp's Ridley and leatherback. Before laying eggs, females dig a pit with their powerful flippers. During the nesting season, volunteers make early morning patrols to document turtle nests before roping off the area to protect the nests.

