

Extend Your Trip...

Make it a Photography Weekend!

If you are attending the BPG Reelfoot Lake Outing and would like to stay longer on Saturday or make an entire weekend adventure out of it, then please feel free to join Vince & Sheila for the following itinerary. Kindly let us know at vince@peschio.net or **615-613-2289** if you are planning on extending your trip so we can make the appropriate meal reservations.

Saturday, 02/22/20

After Lunch: Explore on Your Own

Use this time to explore on your own or with fellow photographers. Revisit locations from the tour this morning or check out something new. You can stop by the Reelfoot Lake State Park Visitor Center for suggestions on the best places to go based on your interests and maps. You could also head back to the Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (open until 4:00) and then check out the Grassy Island Auto Tour.

The information below was found on the Reelfoot Lake State Park website.

<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/activity-detail/reelfoot-lake-birding>

To the east on State Highway 21 at the new spillway is a pull-off on the south side from where **an eagle nest is readily visible**.

Birding Locations In and Around Reelfoot Lake State Park

(A hiking trail map and a checklist to the Birds of Reelfoot Lake State Park are available at the park.)

Visitor Center and Boardwalk: 0.5 Miles - Paved trail and boardwalk - Easy

The visitor's center has a variety of animals on display including bald eagles. Search for songbirds in the trees surrounding the visitor's center. The short boardwalk runs through a swamp to the edge of the lake. From the boardwalk search the lake for waterfowl and gulls during the winter. Featured Birds: waterfowl, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, osprey, bald eagle, gulls, eastern kingbird, tree swallow, prothonotary warbler, Orchard and Baltimore orioles, and other songbirds.

Airpark Area and Trail: 1.5 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy

Ducks are often seen here in winter. Bird the open areas around the parking lot before taking the trail through bottomland forest and swamp. Shrub thickets along the trail and roads are excellent for sparrows. Featured Birds: barred owl, eastern kingbird, eastern bluebird, prothonotary warbler, common yellowthroat, and sparrows.

Keystone Trail: 1.5 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy

Before you head out on the trail, be sure to bird from the fishing pier. The pier is a good place to see American white pelicans and waterfowl in winter. The one-way, forested trail runs along the lake but

there are no convenient views of the lake from the trail. Search for woodland birds along the trail. Featured Birds: from the fishing pier in winter: waterfowl, pied-billed grebe, Bonaparte's and ring-billed gulls, double-crested cormorant, and American white pelican; watch for songbirds along the trail any time of year.

Reelfoot Lake Campground Trail: 0.5 Miles - Natural Surface - Easy

The area provides views of the lake and birding in open lawns and woodlands. Featured Birds: waterfowl, wading birds, gulls, double-crested cormorant, osprey, bald eagle, woodpeckers, prothonotary warbler, northern cardinal, eastern bluebird, and red-winged blackbird.

Grassy Island Auto/Hiking Tour

From an assortment of waterfowl species to the majestic bald eagle, there is much to see during the winter months. Concentrations of up to 150,000 ducks and 50,000 geese have been observed at the refuge. Deer and turkey can be easily viewed down the Grassy Island Wildlife Viewing Road. The Grassy Island Hiking trail is a 1 mile hiking trail. This trail is wheelchair accessible and is half gravel, half boardwalk. Interpretive signs are placed throughout the trail for you to read about local plants and wildlife. The Grassy Island Hiking Trail is open year round. The trail, as well as the Grassy Island Wildlife Viewing Road, are wonderful places for birders!

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Reelfoot/visit/visitor_activities.html

4:45 pm Meet @ The Boat House Restaurant to Place Dinner Order

600 East Lakeview Dr., Samburg, TN (731-907-1052)

The restaurant is located adjacent to Spicer Park. Their menu will be provided in advance via picture text. Please have your order ready upon arrival. They will get our table and meals ready while we are taking sunset pictures so that we can make it to the 7:00 pm program.

5:15 pm: Sunset Photography @ Spicer Park (sunset is at 5:45 pm)

"There's a front row seat to Reelfoot Lake's spectacular sunsets waiting for you in Samburg, Tennessee... The views of Reelfoot Lake are unmatched from along Lakeview Drive." This information was provided from <https://visitreelfootlake.com/>.

6:00 pm: Dinner @ The Boat House Restaurant

7:00 pm: Archaeology of Reelfoot Lake (1 Hour Presentation)

Reelfoot Lake State Park

2595 Hwy. 21 E Tiptonville, TN (731-253-9652 or 731-538-3356)

Join West Tennessee Archaeologist Bill Lawrence for a slide show presentation on artifacts at Reelfoot Lake. For thousands of years before the lake was created by the earthquakes of 1811 and 12 Native Americans lived in the region and left their mark on the landscape by constructing hundreds of mounds near what is now the shoreline of Reelfoot Lake. Mr. Lawrence has been involved in archaeological research at Reelfoot for more than 20 years and will share his extensive knowledge of the prehistoric residents of the region.

Hotel: Reserve a 2nd night at either the same hotel where you stayed on Friday night or at a different lodging option in the area.

Sunday, 02/23/20

Depart: At Your Convenience

(Depends on which stops you want to make, keeping in mind that lunch is planned for 12:00 pm)

Below are some stops to consider on your way to lunch today. Schedule your morning based on the number of stops you are interested in making. Eiffel Tower Park and the Patsy Cline Memorial are listed because they are located along/near the route and if you haven't seen them, they might be worth a few minutes. You could also stop in Dyersburg, Martin, or Paris if you like pictures of old historic downtown areas. Restroom facilities will probably not be available at any of the stops below so take that into consideration as you're driving along this route. Listed is the mileage and time (google maps) from each location to the next to help you plan and allocate your time.

1 h 4 min (49.0 mi): Quality Inn Union City to Eiffel Tower Park

Eiffel Tower Park

1020 Maurice Fields Drive, Paris, TN

This park showcases a 60 foot steel Eiffel tower landmark at the front entrance.

21 min (12.2 mi): Eiffel Tower Park to TNNWR Visitor Center

Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (Big Sandy Unit)

1371 Wildlife Drive, Springville, TN (731-642-2091)

The visitor center will be closed but there is a patio behind it with viewing opportunities. Near the center is a 4 mile u-shaped drive on which you will find an observation deck. The park ranger said that we will possibly see Sandhill Cranes in this part of the refuge.

41 min (27.0 mi): TNNWR Visitor Center to Memorial

Patsy Cline Plane Crash Memorial

2082 Mt Carmel Rd, Camden, TN

The somber Patsy Cline Memorial marks the location of the March 5, 1963 plane crash that killed one of the best loved stars in country music, singer Patsy Cline. Also killed that night were fellow Grand Ole Opry performers Hawkshaw Hawkins and Cowboy Copas, along with pilot Randy Hughes. The musicians were returning to Nashville after performing a benefit concert in Kansas City, Missouri.

9 min (4.4 mi): *Memorial to Restaurant*

12:00 pm Lunch @ Country & Western Steakhouse

189 Extension St., Camden, TN (731-584-3026)

This restaurant offers a buffet (\$9.45) as well as menu items. You can find their menu on their facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Country-and-Western-Steakhouse-120384834644516/?utm_source=tripadvisor&utm_medium=referral

18 min (12.5 mi): *Restaurant to TNNWR*

After Lunch: Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (Duck River Bottoms Unit)

550 Refuge Lane, New Johnsonville, TN

This area is considered the heart of the refuge. This address will take you to the front gate. Drive straight through. There is about 4-5 miles of road surface to follow. This is the only section open for viewing. There is a bird blind that will be accessible along this road. The park ranger said that we might see golden eagles and that this is a fantastic place.

FYI: It's 1 h 44 min (89.5 mi) back to Otter Creek Church from the Refuge.