

TRAIL MAP

HUGH S. BRANYON

BACKCOUNTRY



TRAIL

ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA

The Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail is a transportation alternative and collaborative partnership between the Cities of Orange Beach and Gulf Shores and the Gulf State Park. It is named for long-time Gulf State Park Superintendent Hugh Branyon, who managed the park from 1970 until his retirement in 2009. The Backcountry Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2010 and is a part of the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail and the Coastal Connection National Scenic Byway.



PITCHER PLANT

FLORA & FAUNA

The Backcountry Trail complex consists of seven trails, totaling nearly 14 miles of paved, multi-use paths and is home to six distinct ecosystems. Each ecosystem contains its own diversity of plants which makes for a fun day of plant identification. Amid the many native plants common in the trail's habitats are several rare species. Among them are white-topped pitcher plants, needle palms, sundews, Florida rosemary and conradina. There are several rare and threatened plant communities found along the trail and in Gulf State Park as well.

OUR RESIDENT ALLIGATOR, LEFTY



The Backcountry Trail can be a birdwatcher's paradise with four locations listed as stops on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. In addition to birds, you may



EGRET

be lucky enough to catch a gopher tortoise foraging along Rosemary Dunes, a bobcat on Twin Bridges, or a dandy white-tailed deer on Gulf Oak Ridge. The trail is home to many reptile species and has two excellent viewing locations for American alligators. Mammals commonly seen on the trail also include armadillos, raccoons, otters, coyotes, fox and even wild boar.



TRAIL MAP



Catman Road (2.2 miles)	
Rosemary Dunes (1.75 miles)	
Twin Bridges (1 mile)	
Gulf Oak Ridge (2.75 miles)	
Rattlesnake Ridge (1.75 miles)	
Cotton Bayou (1.1 miles)	
Coyote Crossing (2.3 miles)	

Distances
 Trail distances are measured from the beginning of each trail to its "end," or intersection with another trail. Distance markers are placed along each individual trail in increments of 1/4 mile, beginning with "0.0 mi." at each trailhead.

	Trailhead		Photo Spot
	Restroom		Restaurant

GULF of MEXICO