

Jose Gaspar's Real Gold Coin Treasure Cache

Instruction Sheet

Congratulations! Now that you have found all 8 Jose Gaspar caches, you are entitled to these final clues and instructions.

First, here is the most important clue.

The GPS coordinates to the site of the caches is:

N28° 01.915'

W82° 49.172'

Where is this? We'll let you find out yourself. But we'll tell you this much – where would a real pirate bury his treasure? On an island, of course! The coordinates are for a marina on an island in the Tampa Bay area. The marina is important because this is where you will enter the island. There are no cars or roads on the island. You have to get to the marina via your own boat or via a ferry that runs to the island daily. If you choose the ferry, be sure to have \$7.00 per person for the ticket.

When you get to the island, to the left and behind the ranger station, look for a nature trail. Start your hunt here. Get a trail map at the ranger station, or in the box on the trail. Sometimes the maps are gone. Don't worry, a map will help you, but it is not mandatory for you to succeed.

There are five caches deposited in various locations on the island. Each cache is a 35mm file canister (black with a gray top). In each canister are twenty US golden Sacagawea dollars coins. Find all of the canisters that you can.

You'll be on the island for most of the day, and you'll be busy. Time is of the essence because your ferry departs the island in the early afternoon, so take the first ferry of the day.

Once you start on the trail, the numbers on the cache map you've put together will make more sense.

Here are some other things you'll need to know.

- On the map, the compass rose is upside down (we did that to confuse people who tried to guess the location before they had all eight pieces).
- Bring plenty of water! This is an uninhabited island (except for the ranger). You'll be in areas for long periods of time where you won't see another person. In addition, except at the marina, there is no water or bathroom facilities anywhere.

- On the island is a beach that is consistently rated as one of the top five beaches in the entire US. Bring your bathing suit, plus watersocks or sandals. Your feet will be getting wet.

Rattlesnake Alert!

Soon after starting down the trail, you will see a sign warning you about rattlesnakes. The rattlers are here. We saw a three-footer crossing the trail ahead of us. When we spoke to the ranger later, she said that that was a small one and that they really come out in the fall. Evidently, they like to sleep on the boardwalks in the afternoon autumn sun. With Caches 1, 3 and 4 you probably won't encounter any snakes (but keep your eyes open anyway). At Cache 2 you'll be walking off of the trail, but will have good visibility all the way to the cache. You'll see any snakes in plenty of time if they are around. When you get to the cache, don't stick your hand inside anything until you look in the hole first for any critter, snake or otherwise. At Cache 5, you'll be off trail again. Keep a sharp eye out and listen for rattles. Make plenty of noise and the snakes will move away long before you get close.

Do not attempt to retrieve these caches if you are concerned about the rattlesnakes, mosquitoes, ticks or any other wildlife that inhabits the Florida environment.
