

BALLPARK OVERVIEW

Baseball has been played on the grounds of McKechnie Field since 1923, making it the granddaddy of spring training ballparks. Completely remodeled in 1993, the classically styled ballpark exudes charm, starting with its Spanish Mission-style exterior. The ballpark maintains its distinct look on the inside, where the main grandstand is split into three covered sections. Prior to 2008 there were no lights, but thanks to a \$15 million grant from the state of Florida they were finally installed and McKechnie Field hosted its first ever night game on March 19, 2008. All games are played on the lushest coat of green grass that you'll ever see while the zany and green garmented Pirate Parrot mascot is seemingly omnipresent in the stands. Real birds are often frequent visitors too, as seagulls flock from the nearby coastal waterway to the grandstand in search of scraps near the end of games. During them breezes rustle the Pirates pennants and palm trees beyond the outfield fence. The stadium had numerous names until 1962, when it was named after Bradenton's Bill McKechnie in honor of his induction that year into the Baseball Hall of Fame as a manager.

Outside the Park

Fans enter the ballpark at street level. Most use the main entrance near home plate. A much lesser used gate is down the left field line.

Ticket windows are in the building next to the main entrance gate. The ticket office building is also where Will Call pick ups are done.

Inside the Park

The concourse is behind the stadium and is covered by the grandstands but not the bleachers.