

Big Cypress

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress
National Preserve



Campgrounds

Enjoy the crackling of a campfire and sleep under the stars at Big Cypress National Preserve. With eight different campgrounds and approximately 200 sites to choose from, options are plentiful. And that's not even mentioning backcountry camping. Below is a list of useful things to know when camping at Big Cypress.

Reservations & Fees

Reservations are required for all designated campgrounds within Big Cypress National Preserve. Campgrounds fill up fast during the winter months, so plan ahead by making your reservation early and have a back-up plan, just in case.

Reservations for camping are made through www.recreation.gov. You may also call 877-444-6777 for assistance. Big Cypress charges a camping fee for all sites per night. Please view the table below for campground-specific fees.

Pets

Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet. For their safety, use caution when walking pets around ponds. Please keep Big Cypress clean by picking up after your pet. Pets are not permitted in the backcountry, on trails, or on boardwalks. Car temperatures rise quickly in the sun, even on cool days. Your pet can easily die of heat exhaustion. If you are leaving a pet in a car, crack the windows as much as possible and leave water to drink.

Do not leave pets in the car at all when temperatures are above 68 degrees, even with the windows cracked.

While at Your Campsite

Camp only in designated sites. All vehicles (including trailers and motorcycles) must remain on pavement or designated areas, do not put any vehicle on grass or behind parking barriers, rock or otherwise. Do not move parking barriers. No digging or trenching is allowed at campsites.

Campfires must be attended at all times. Small campfires are allowed at designated camping sites. All fires shall be completely extinguished prior to the user leaving the campsite. Only dead wood lying on the ground may be collected as fuel for campfires within the national preserve.

Be considerate of your fellow campers by observing quiet hours from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. Generator use is permitted in designated areas between the hours of 6:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Idling vehicle engines are considered generators.

Considering Backcountry Camping? Things to Know Before You Go

- A free permit is required and can be filled out online. They are also located at backcountry trailheads and at both visitor centers. Permits take only a few minutes to complete.
- Depending on when you camp water may not be available. Be prepared by bringing more than you need. Dehydration can occur quickly.
- Pack it in-pack it out. Keep YOUR national preserve cleaner than how you found it for others to enjoy.
- It is always a good idea to file an itinerary with family and friends. Let them know where you are traveling to, and when you will return. It is also a good idea to carry a Personal Locator Beacon, if possible. These can be activated in the event of an emergency.
- Visitors must be a minimum of 1/2 mile away from any roadway to camp in the backcountry.

Food Storage

Help protect them by not attracting wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite due to improperly stored food. Bears can visit any time of day.

All food, grills, coolers, and equipment used to cook food must be kept inside an enclosed vehicle (e.g., not in the bed of a pickup truck), or in a RV (e.g., not tents or popups), or shall be stored inside a bear resistant food locker provided at campgrounds. Never leave food items unsecured or unattended, day or night. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. "Food items" include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants.

Garbage, including empty cans and food wrappers, must be disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles.

Length of Stay

No person, party, or organization shall be permitted to camp in designated areas for more than the total maximum number of days as follows:

- January 1 to April 30 10 days maximum
- May 1 to December 31 14 days maximum

The maximum length of stay for any camping activity within the national preserve is 180 days in a 12-month period.

Once the daily limit has been reached for each time period, no person, party, or organization may use another designated area for the remainder of that season

Emergencies & Security

In case of emergency dial 9-1-1, or National Park Service Dispatch at: 800-788-0511.

The nearest hospitals are:

NCH North Naples Hospital 11190 Health Park Boulevard
Naples, FL 34110
239-552-7000

Metropolitan Hospital 5959 NW 7th Street
Miami, FL 33126
305-264-1000

For more information, please visit us online at www.nps.gov/bicy.

Campground	# of sites	Availability	Drinking water	Dump Station*	Electrical Hookups	Restroom	Fee (per night)
Bear Island	40 Tent/RV	Varies**	No	No*	No	Vault Toilets	\$10
Burns Lake	5 Tent/10 RV	Aug 15 - Jan 26***	No	No*	No	Vault Toilets	\$24
Gator Head	9 Tent	Aug 15 - Apr 15	No	No*	No	Vault Toilets	\$10, ORV Permit Required
Midway	26 RV 10 Tent	Open Year-round	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	RV site \$30; Tent site \$24
Mitchell Landing	11 Tent/RV	Aug 15 - Apr 15	No	No*	No	Vault Toilets	\$24
Monument Lake	26 RV 10 Tent	Aug 15 - Apr 15	Yes	No*	No	Yes	RV site \$28; Tent site \$24
Pinecrest Group Camping only	4 Group sites (8 tents, 15 people each)	Open Year-round	No	No*	No	No	\$30
Pink Jeep	9 Tent	Aug 15 - Apr 15	No	No*	No	Vault Toilets	\$10, ORV Permit Required

* Dump stations are located at Midway Campground and at Dona Drive (2.5 miles east of SR 29 on US 41). Dump stations may be used free of charge by campers paying for National Park Service campgrounds within the national preserve. There is a \$10 fee for those campers not paying for national preserve campgrounds.

** Bear Island campsites 1-12 are open year-round. Sites 13-40 are open August 15 through April 15.

*** The Burns Lake area is open year round for day use and backcountry access parking.