National Parks of South Florida
Biscayne, Dry Tortugas and Everglades National Parks
Big Cypress National Preserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Trip Planner

The official guide for planning your trip to National Park areas in South Florida.

Photo Courtesy of Don Richards

Big Cypress

Biscayne

Dry Tortugas

Photo Courtesy of Ralph Arwood

Everglades

Planning a Trip?

A visit to South Florida's national parks and preserves can be an experience you won't soon forget. Biscayne, Dry Tortugas, and Everglades National Parks, and Big Cypress National Preserve offer opportunities ranging from snorkeling to wildlife photography to camping on a backcountry chickee. Planning ahead is the best way to take advantage of these opportunities, and choosing what time of year to visit, based on your interests, can be the key to an enjoyable trip.

Rainy Season

During the rainy season warmer, clear ocean waters make snorkeling in Biscayne and Dry Tortugas the perfect way to explore these parks. Boating and canoeing in open waters helps to avoid mosquitoes. Boat tours out of Biscayne National Park and the Gulf Coast and Flamingo areas of Everglades National Park are another way to stay cool.

Seasonal rains bring higher water levels within Everglades and Big Cypress, causing wildlife such as alligators and wading birds to disperse and to be seen less frequently. Mosquito levels may become high, and exploring trails in some areas of the parks can become intolerable.

While visiting during this season you may find daily afternoon thunderstorms, high humidity, temperatures in the mid- to hi-80s and a multitude of mosquitoes. During this time of year you will also find an array of blooming plants, views of towering storm clouds and opportunities to experience the parks with fewer visitors. Remember, during the rainy season mosquitoes may be unbearable in some areas.

Dry Season

While some birds are drawn to the parks year round, the abundance of migrating and wintering birds makes South Florida's National Parks a birder's paradise during the dry season. Falling water levels within the Everglades and Big Cypress areas result in abundant wildlife concentrated in ponds and canals, providing excellent viewing opportunities.

The dry season is the busy season in South Florida's national parks. Most visitors to Big Cypress, Biscayne, and the Everglades come between December and March. March through May are busy months at Dry Tortugas National Park. During months of higher visitation lodging reservations are recommended and campgrounds may be busy.

Larger crowds, fewer mosquitoes, greater wildlife viewing opportunities and more enjoyable hiking, camping and canoeing adventures in all the parks characterize this time of year. Finally, the parks offer a greater variety and number of ranger-led activities that provide an in-depth look into the special natural and cultural resources protected within them.

Month	Average Minimum Temperature	Average Maximum Temperature	Humidity	Average Monthly Rainfall
November through April	66°F/19°C	76°F/24°C	Dry Season 57%	2.17"/5.5cm
May through October	76°F/24°C	85°F/29°C	Rainy Season 64%	5.39"/13.3cm
Annual	71°F/22°C	81°F/27°C		45.44"/115.4cm

What's Inside?

Planning Your Trip . . . 2
Park Activities . . . 2
Safety in the Parks . . . 3
Big Cypress National Preserve . . . 4
Biscayne National Park . . . 5
Everglades National Park . . . 6
Dry Tortugas National Park . . . 7
Mail Order Publications . . . 7
Parks Map . . . Back Cover

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Everglades National Park
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The National Park Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior, was established in 1916 to manage a growing system of national parks. Today, the National Park System consists of over 390 units. National Parks, National Preserves, Seashores, Monuments, Historic Sites, Lakeshores, Battlefields, and others make up a great repository of national treasures entrusted to the National Park Service. In South Florida, nearly 2.5 million acres of pineland, prairie, tropical hardwoods, mangrove forests, estuaries and coral reefs are preserved for this and future generations. Their scientific, recreational, aesthetic and educational values are limitless.

Experience Your America

National Parks of South Florida Trip Planner is published as a service to park visitors through a generous donation by the Everglades Association.

Planning your trip

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there entrance fees?
No entrance fees are charged at Big Cypress National Preserve or Biscayne National Park. For cars, vans, and motorhomes, Everglades National Park charges a $10.00 fee at the Homestead and Shark Valley Entrances. Fees vary for buses (call 305-242-7700 for details). Bicyclists and people on foot pay $5.00/person. Dry Tortugas charges $5.00 per person, fees may increase this year. Entrance fees are valid for 7 days. Yearly and lifetime interagency passes are honored at entrance stations. You may purchase passes at entrance stations, or those visitor centers that accept fees.

What are the hours of operation?
In Everglades National Park, the road from the Coe Visitor Center to Flamingo is open 24 hours; the Shark Valley entrance is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Big Cypress National Preserve is open 24 hours. Convoy Point at Biscayne National Park is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the rest of the park, accessible by boat only, is open 24 hours. For visitor center hours, see pages 4, 5 and 6.

What about mosquitoes?
Mosquitoes and a variety of biting flies are most severe during the hot, humid summer months, but can be present year-round. As an alternative to using insect repellents, you can take several actions to avoid insects:
- Cover up! Wear long-sleeved clothing. A good mosquito net jacket can go a long way towards making your visit more enjoyable. Look for one that keeps the netting off your skin.
- Avoid grassy areas where mosquitoes can hide.
- Close doors quickly.
- Where provided, stay on boardwalks and pavement.
- Seek open, breezy areas.
- Avoid shady places.

If you use repellent, apply it sparingly to exposed skin. An effective repellent will contain 20% to 35% DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). DEET in high concentrations (greater than 35%) may cause side effects, particularly in children. Repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth, so avoid applying repellent to the hands of children. Insect repellents should not be applied to very young children (< 3 years old).

Should I be aware of certain regulations?
- When observing animals or plants, pull completely off the road. Exercise caution when exiting your vehicle.
- Rangers monitor speed by radar. Obey speed limits.
- It is dangerous and illegal to feed or harass any wildlife.
- Loaded weapons are not permitted in Everglades, Biscayne, and Dry Tortugas National Parks. In Big Cypress National Preserve, special hunting regulations apply.
- Skateboards, roller skates, and personal watercraft, such as jet skis, Wave Runners, and Sea Doos are prohibited.
- Pets are allowed on a leash in some areas, but not on trails or boardwalks, and must be under physical control at all times.
- Spearfishing is not allowed in Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. It is allowed in Biscayne National Park with a Florida fishing license.
- Fishing regulations at Everglades National Park differ from state law, and some areas of the park are closed to fishing. Pick up your copy of Everglades fishing regulations at any visitor center or entrance station.
- Each park is unique, and regulations are tailored to fit the particular park area. Check at visitor centers, entrance stations, or ask a ranger for more information.

Local Visitor Information
Everglades City Chamber of Commerce
239-695-3941 or 800-914-6355
Homestead/Fla. City Chamber of Commerce
305-247-2332
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
305-350-7700
Key Largo Chamber of Commerce
800-822-1088
Naples Chamber of Commerce
239-262-6141
Key West Welcome Center
305-294-2587
Tropical Everglades Visitor's Association
800-388-9669

Roseate Spoonbills Feeding in Florida Bay.

Park Activities	Big Cypress		Biscayne		Dry Tortugas		Everglades		Ranger Tips
	Dry	Rainy	Dry	Rainy	Dry	Rainy	Dry	Rainy	
Alligator Viewing	●	●					●	●	Best in the Dry Season
Bicycling	●						●	●	
Birdwatching	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Best in the Dry Season
Boat / Canoe Rentals			●	●			●	●	
Boat Tours			●	●	●	●	●	●	For Dry Tortugas, from Key West
Camping	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Best in the Dry Season
Crocodile Viewing			●	●			●	●	
Fishing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	State License Required
Gift and Book Sales	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Hiking	●		●				●		
Lighthouses			●	●	●	●			Accessible By Boat Only
Manatees	●		●				●	●	
Paddling	●	●	●	●			●	●	
Picnicking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Buggy in the Wet Season
Ranger Programs	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	Visitor Centers have Details
Snorkeling/SCUBA			●	●	●	●			
Swimming					●	●			
Tram Tours							●	●	
Walking	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

Safety in the Parks...

In the area's national parks and preserves it is easy to enjoy viewing wildlife, yet the animals are untamed. It is important that we respect animals by not crowding them. If an animal changes its behavior because of your approach, then you are too close.

... While Watching Wildlife

Respecting Animal Homes

Alligators, birds, turtles, bobcats. . . the South Florida parks are spectacular places to experience wildlife. In these natural environments, animals are protected and free to move and live as they wish. They remain wild, untamed, and relatively unafraid of humans. It is your responsibility to keep a safe distance from all wild animals; they can be dangerous if approached too closely.

Do not feed alligators or any other wild animal; it is bad for the animal, risky for you, and illegal in a national park. If you see someone feeding or harassing wildlife, please report this to a ranger or call 305-242-7740 or #NPS on cell phones.

Viewing Alligators Safely

An adult alligator has powerful jaws, strong teeth, and a brain the size of a walnut. This reptile acts primarily on instinct, assessing other creatures as potential threat or prey. Avoid approaching an alligator closer than 10 feet; they can easily outrun you.

Wading or swimming is prohibited in most freshwater bodies of water in the parks. Take special care with your small children and dogs; they are closer in size to an alligator's natural foods.

Elevated boardwalks like the Anhinga Trail, the Shark Valley Tram Road and Observation Tower in Everglades, and the HP Williams area in Big Cypress offer good opportunities to safely view these remarkable creatures.

Keeping Raccoons Healthy

Raccoons can be aggressive if confronted, and may carry rabies. These animals are abundant in many areas of the South Florida parks, and are attracted to our food, water, and garbage. Unnatural food sources have led to artificially high populations of raccoons. This means that in times of low visitation (less food and garbage), there are more raccoons turning to the eggs of endangered crocodiles and sea turtles as a food source than in the past. Store food in your vehicle or a hard-sided container when camping.

Identifying Snakes

Twenty-six species of snakes may be found in the South Florida parks. Four of these species are venomous—the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, dusky pygmy rattlesnake, cottonmouth, and coral snake. Venomous snakes are not known to exist at the Dry Tortugas. Snakes usually shy away from people. If you see a snake, give it a wide berth.

This place is for the birds!

Feeding gulls and crows human food can make them overly aggressive and annoying. When pelicans are fed fish they learn to associate humans with food. Many habituated pelicans are then caught on fish hooks while trying to steal from anglers. Discarded monofilament line entangles and kills many birds and other animals, so please dispose of it in designated fishing line recycle containers.

... On The Trails

Heat

Summer heat and humidity can be oppressive, but heat-related injuries can occur during any time of the year in South Florida. Be sure to drink plenty of water. Most doctors recommend drinking at least one gallon of water or electrolyte beverages per day while involved in outdoor activities. Don't wait to drink until you feel thirsty as at that point you may already be dehydrated. Drinking sugary, alcoholic or caffeinated drinks is not recommended, water is the best bet

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms occur almost daily during much of the summer, and sporadically during the rest of the year. If you hear thunder, seek cover immediately, especially if you are on the water. The safest places to be are inside a building or a vehicle. Check the local weather forecast before heading out for the day.

Avoiding Poisonous Plants

Poison ivy, poisonwood and manchineel are three poisonous plants that can be found in the parks and preserves of South Florida. All are poisonous to the touch. Manchineel is primarily found in the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park, and is rarely contacted. Poison ivy and poisonwood can be found in any wooded area of the parks. Avoid contact with these plants by staying on trails and not touching plants you cannot identify. Park staff can assist in recognizing these plants.

... On The Water

Boating Safely

Boating in Biscayne Bay, Florida Bay, and the Everglades backcountry can be a challenge. Much of the water is quite shallow, and you can ground your boat quickly. In addition to damaging your boat, groundings destroy precious seagrasses that provide food and shelter to creatures inhabiting these waters. Always refer to nautical charts as well as tide charts for a safe boating excursion. Additional boating safety considerations include:

- Be aware of the weather and water conditions. Get up-to-date information from the National Weather Service or at area park visitor centers.

- File a float plan. Be sure that a family member or friend knows where you are going and when you are planning to return. Provide them with a written description of your vessel and whom they should contact if you do not return as scheduled.

- Be sure that your vessel has all safety equipment, including: Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFD), fire extinguisher, flares, noise making device and a working VHF radio. Do not depend on cellular phones.

- Be sure that all passengers 6 years of age and younger wear a PFD at all times.

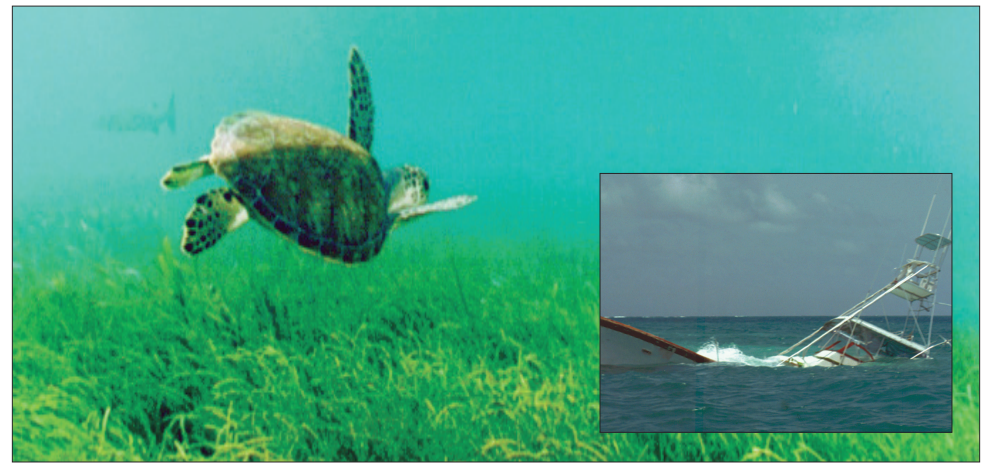
- Alcohol is a major contributor to boating fatalities. Don't drink and boat. Impaired boaters become impaired drivers.

Manatees

Manatees frequent many of the waterways in Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. Because they are slow–moving and feed in shallow water, many manatees are killed each year by boat propellers. Be especially careful in areas posted with manatee signs. If you see an injured or dead manatee, please report it to the park rangers by calling 305-242-7740 or #NPS on cell phones.

What's back there?

Remember to secure items in your boat. Valuable items including fishing poles, life vests, seat cushions, coolers, and clothing often blow out of boats and are found along the park shorelines and roadways. Garbage left in boats can become flying debris. Please help keep South Florida national parks litter–free!



Safe boating protects natural habitats such as seagrass beds and coral reefs, both of which are valuable to a variety of wildlife, and us. Safe boating also saves money and lives. (Sea turtle photo by Bill Keogh.)

Navigating

Important nautical charts for South Florida National Parks can be purchased at stores in the parks and within local communities. Charts that relate to specific parks are:

Biscayne National Park
NOAA Nautical Chart
11451 — Miami to Marathon and Florida Bay

Dry Tortugas National Park
NOAA Nautical Chart
11013 — Florida Straits
11434 — Florida Keys Sombrero Key to Dry Tortugas
11438 — Dry Tortugas

Everglades National Park
NOAA Nautical Chart
11430 — Lostman's River to Wiggins Pass
11432 — Shark River to Lostman's River
11433 — Whitewater Bay
11451 — Miami to Marathon and Florida Bay

Big Cypress National Preserve

Photo Courtesy of Don Richards

Established in 1974
729,000 acres

Important Information

Mailing Address
33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, FL 34141

Phone
Toll-free 24 Hour Emergency
800-788-0511 or #NPS on cell
Big Cypress Visitor Center
239-695-1201
Big Cypress ORV Information
239-695-1205
Big Cypress Hunting Information
239-695-2040
Report hunting violations immediately to
800-788-0511

Website
www.nps.gov/bicy/

Seasonal sheet flows of water from northeast to southwest across the Big Cypress Swamp carve narrow, linear valleys just inches deep into the limestone. Cypress trees grow tall in the slightly deeper water of these eroded strands. In some areas the water has eroded deep circular depressions in the limestone substrate, creating suitable soil depths for tall cypress. The shallower soil along the edge, or higher sides, of these depressions results in smaller trees. As a result, dome-shaped humps dot the horizon — cypress domes. Between the strands, clay-like marl soils form prairies lush with grasses and wildflowers. These strands, domes, and prairies, together with pinelands, hardwood islands or "hammocks," and a fringe of mangrove forest, produce the rich diversity of habitats within Big Cypress National Preserve.

Water is the key here. The Preserve receives nearly 55 inches of rainfall each year, flooding the cypress strands and prairies with a shallow sheet of life-giving water. Plants and animals in Big Cypress and Everglades depend on this water for survival. It flows through the Preserve into the 10,000 Islands area along the Gulf of Mexico, delivering valuable nutrients to estuarine species like snook, shark and crab.

The Preserve provides refuge for species threatened by development of this popular state. Endangered species such as Florida panthers, wood storks and red-cockaded woodpeckers can be found in the Preserve. Rare orchids, ferns and bromeliads (air plants) are found in more inaccessible areas. Humans, too, find refuge here. Clear, bright skies unlit by city lights invite stargazing. Hiking, canoeing and camping opportunities abound. With care, future generations will find refuge and a new vocabulary in Big Cypress National Preserve.

What is a Preserve?
Big Cypress National Preserve was authorized in 1974 and comprises 729,000 acres. It was the first national preserve established by the National Park Service. A preserve allows a broader range of pre-existing activities. Hunting, off-road vehicle use and oil drilling are allowed here and not in nearby Everglades National Park.

Visitor Center
Midway between Miami and Naples on the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41). Information, wildlife exhibits, and a 15-minute film. Educational sales items. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except December 25.

Ranger-conducted Activities
Programs offered on a regular basis in several areas of the park. A greater number and variety of programs – including swamp walks, canoe trips, bike tours, and campfire programs – are conducted during the dry season. Consult park website or visitor center for details on dates, times and availability. Park rangers at the Preserve are available to conduct programs within local communities and on-site. Call 239-695-1164 for details and arrangements.

Kirby Storter Boardwalk
Located west of the Oasis Visitor Center along US 41. This elevated boardwalk takes you through prairie, dwarf cypress and into the heart of a cypress strand. Look for alligators, wading birds and a variety of migrating songbirds.

Photo Courtesy of NPS Volunteer Jan Shirey

Visitors can join NPS staff and volunteers during canoe trips, swamp walks and other programs at Big Cypress National Preserve, and the other national park units in South Florida. Check at park visitor centers, or on park websites for details.

Fishing/Canoeing/Kayaking
Anglers can pursue freshwater fish in the canals along the Tamiami Trail, the Turner River Road and throughout the Preserve. Licenses and regulations are available in Everglades City. Turner River and Halfway Creek, as well as the Barron River Drainage, can be canoed or kayaked southward to the Everglades City area. Check at the visitor center for details about this and other canoe/kayak trips.

Camping
There are four small, primitive, free campgrounds within the Preserve. Campgrounds on the Loop Road are not suitable for large R.V.s. Monument Lake and Midway Campgrounds, located along U. S. Highway 41 have water and modern restroom facilities; fees are charged for use of these campgrounds. Prepare for mosquitoes and take water if using the primitive campgrounds. There is a privately owned campground in Ochopee and several nearby in Everglades City.

Bicycling
Trails suitable for mountain bicycles can be found in the northern portion of the Preserve. Check at the visitor center for details.

Hiking
The Florida National Scenic Trail begins in the Preserve and provides miles of hiking for the adventurer. Short trails include the Fire Prairie Trail and Tree Snail Hammock. With a GPS unit and good preparation, off-trail hiking is superb in the dry season. Check with the visitor center staff, or website, for trail information.

Lodging and Dining
There are local restaurants in Ochopee, Everglades City and Chokoloskee. Lodging is located in Everglades City and Chokoloskee.

Scenic Drives
The Loop Road (county road 94), Turner River Road (county road 839), Wagonwheel Road (county road 837) and Birdon Road (county road 841) all provide excellent opportunities to get off the main highways and experience a wilder Florida. Inquire at the visitor center about current conditions of these gravel/dirt roads.

Wildlife Viewing and Bird Watching
Alligators, wading birds, and wild flowers are the main attractions here, seen easily from wildlife viewing platforms at Oasis and HP Williams wayside. A drive along the Turner River Road will provide ample opportunities to see these local residents, especially during the dry season. Ask the visitor center staff for the current birding hot spots. Do not feed wild animals and keep a safe distance of at least 10 feet from them. Alligators can be particularly dangerous when fed and can move much more quickly than most people think. Pets and children are particularly vulnerable; keep them out of harm's way! Remember, no collecting is allowed and all plants and animals within the Preserve are protected.

Hunting and Off-Road Vehicle Use
Although permitted in the Preserve, these uses are regulated. Permits are required. Inquire at the visitor center.

Biscayne National Park

Known locally as a fantastic place for outdoor and water-based recreation, the park protects and preserves a nationally significant marine ecosystem with mangrove shorelines, a shallow bay, undeveloped islands, and living coral reefs. Biscayne National Park has protected this unique underwater world for over 35 years.

The shoreline of Biscayne Bay is lined with a deep green forest of mangroves. These trees, with their complex system of prop roots, help stabilize the shoreline and provide shelter for animals, birds, and marine life. Their leaves become a vital part of the food chain when they fall into the waters.

Lush seagrass beds found throughout Biscayne Bay help maintain the water's clarity. The Florida spiny lobster depends on this rich habitat and the bay has been designated a sanctuary where lobsters are protected year-round. Shrimp, fish, sea turtles, and manatees also utilize these productive underwater pastures.

On the eastern edge of Biscayne Bay are the northernmost Florida Keys. These protected islands, with their tropical hardwood forests, remain undeveloped and serve as reminders of the area's past.

On the Atlantic side of the islands lie the most diverse and beautiful of the underwater communities — the coral reefs. The reefs support a kaleidoscope of life. Plants, fish, and other animals abound in the full spectrum of the rainbow.

The resources protected within Biscayne National Park are beautiful, diverse, and productive; they are also fragile. Fish and animals can be injured and killed by trash in the water. Seagrasses can be torn up by boats. Touching coral may open the way for disease. Some of our actions can cause great damage—forethought and care can preserve and protect.

Dante Fascell Visitor Center
Tour the park's visitor center with exhibits, videos, information and educational sales items. Open daily, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. From Florida's Turnpike, take exit 6 (Speedway Boulevard) and follow signs.

Ranger-conducted Activities
Programs are offered on a regular basis in several areas of the park. A greater number and variety of programs are conducted during the dry season. Consult park website, www.nps.gov/bisc, or visitor center staff for details on dates, times, and availability.

Fishing/Boating
Anglers and boaters can launch their own boats from county-operated marinas adjacent to the park to venture into Biscayne Bay and to explore offshore coral reefs. Stop at the visitor center for regulations and to purchase nautical charts. For any boats docked after 5:00 p.m., a $20 overnight docking fee is charged at Boca Chita and Elliott Key harbors.

Canoeing/Kayaking
Paddlers can explore the mangrove shoreline along the mainland. Canoes and kayaks are rented from the park concessioner. Stop by the visitor center for weather conditions and suggested routes.

Boat Tours
The park concessioner provides snorkeling, SCUBA and glass bottom boat tours of the park's waters. Island tours are available winter through spring. Call (305) 230-1100 for schedule and required reservations.

Camping
Primitive campgrounds, accessible only by boat, are located on Boca Chita and Elliott Keys. Individual campsites are $15 ($20 with marina use) per night first-come, first-served. Group sites are $30 per night. To reserve a group site call 305-230-7275. All supplies must be brought in and all trash must be packed out. Prepare for insects! The park's concessioner provides transportation to Elliott Key for campers November to May — call 305-230-1100.

Established in 1968 as Biscayne National Monument; rededicated and enlarged as Biscayne National Park in 1980.
173,000 acres

Important Information

Mailing Address
9700 SW 328th St.
Homestead, FL 33033–5634

Phone
Toll-free 24 Hour Emergency
800-788-0511 or #NPS on cell
Park Information
305-230–PARK

Concession Services
Biscayne National Underwater Park, Inc
305-230-1100

Website
www.nps.gov/bisc/

County Marina Information
www.miamidade.gov/parks/fun-marinas.asp

Attention Boaters

To prevent damage to your property and to the fragile resources of the park, come prepared.

- Learn how to read and use nautical charts.
- Refer to your chart prior to leaving the dock.
- Know the tides. Stop by any local marina or the park visitor center for the latest tide information.
- Learn how to use your electronic navigation equipment and always keep a visual watch on your soundings.
- Be sure that your VHF radio, and any other communication equipment is in good working order. Do not depend on cellular phone service in remote areas.
- Check the marine forecast prior to leaving the dock and watch for any changes in weather. Always file a float plan.

Remember these rhymes, which have aided mariners for years:
Brown, brown, run aground. Avoid brown areas! This water color indicates that reef formations or seagrass beds are close to the surface.
White, white, you just might. Use caution! Sand bars and rubble areas may be much shallower than they appear.
Green, green, nice and clean. Green waters are generally safe for shallow draft boats, larger, deeper draft vessels should exercise caution.
Blue, blue, cruise on through. Clear sailing in deep water areas.

Oh No! You ran aground, now what?
Stop! Attempting to power off can cause significant damage to your vessel and to the living bottom communities. If you do run aground or if you venture into shallow water and start stirring up mud in your wake, **Stop!**

- Turn your motor off. Do not attempt to power off.
- Trim your motor up.
- Try to push or pole your boat off, following the route in.
- Wait for high tide in order to drift off.
- Call for commercial assistance on VHF channel 16.

On Boca Chita visitors can camp, picnic and glimpse the area's history. Boaters also have the opportunity to enjoy the bay and the upper keys, Elliott and Adams Keys, within Biscayne National Park.

Everglades National Park

Photo Courtesy of Ralph Arwood

Established in 1947
1,508,570 acres

Important Information

Mailing Address
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034–6733

Phone
Toll-free 24 Hour Emergency
800-788-0511 or #NPS on cell
Park Information
305-242–7700
Flamingo Visitor Center
239-695-2945
Gulf Coast Visitor Center
239-695-3311
Shark Valley Visitor Center
305-221-8776
Key Largo Ranger Station
305-852-0304
Campground Reservations
800-365-CAMP

Concession Services
Everglades National Park Boat Tours and Canoe Rentals *in Everglades City*
239-695-2591
Flamingo Lodge, *including the marina, boat tours, and rentals*
239-695-3101 ext. 100
800-600-3813
Shark Valley Tram Tours
305-221-8455

Website
www.nps.gov/ever/

Everglades National Park is defined by water. Historically, a freshwater river a few feet deep and 50 miles wide crept seaward through this area on a gradually sloping riverbed. Along its 80-mile course, the river dropped only 15 feet, finally emptying into Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. There, fresh and salt water mix in coastal areas, and mangrove forest dominates.

In General

Ranger-conducted Activities
Programs offered on a regular basis in several areas of the park. Consult park website or visitor centers for details on dates, times and availability.

Exploring Trails
In many areas of the park trails allow you to explore the diversity of habitats within South Florida. While exploring the park be sure to bring plenty of water, be aware of changing weather conditions, and be prepared for mosquitoes and a variety of biting flies. Though most severe during the hot, humid summer months, they can be present year-round.

Fishing/Boating
The mangrove estuary, Gulf of Mexico, and Florida Bay provide opportunities to explore by boat and to fish. Obtain regulations at the Flamingo Visitor Center, Flamingo Marina, or Gulf Coast Visitor Center. Boat ramps are located at Flamingo, the Florida Keys, and Everglades City area. A boat launch fee (good for 7 days from date of purchase) is charged when entering the park: $5 for motorboats, $3 for non-motorized craft. An annual pass is also available.

Camping
National Park Service campsites (fees charged.) Long Pine Key Campground sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Flamingo Campground sites can be reserved Dec - March by calling 800-365-CAMP, otherwise, first-come, first-served. For information about private campgrounds in Everglades City, call their Welcome Center at 239-695-3941.

Wilderness Camping
Most sites in the park's Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness are accessible by boat or canoe only. Permits are required for overnight camping. From November to April a permit must be obtained at the Flamingo or Gulf Coast Visitor Centers, fees apply. In summer, permits are obtained at no charge by self-registration at the Flamingo and Gulf Coast Visitor Centers and the Florida Bay Ranger Station. Ask for a copy of the *Wilderness Trip Planner* for information on backcountry camping.

Accessibility
All major trails in the park are accessible, and assistance is provided for access to boat and tram tours.

Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center

From Miami, take the Florida Turnpike south to the last exit. Follow the signs to Everglades National Park. Open daily, December - April 8:00 - 5:00, May - November 9:00 - 5:00. Information, exhibits and educational sales items.

Royal Palm

4 miles past the Coe Visitor Center
Royal Palm Visitor Center
Open daily. Information and educational sales items. Ranger-led activities are offered daily.

Anhinga Trail
A must–see! This .8-mile loop trail offers one of the best opportunities to view wildlife, including alligators and birds, up close. Accessible.

Gumbo Limbo Trail
.4-mile loop. The trail winds through a once-dense tropical hardwood hammock reshaped by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Accessible.

The Main Park Road

A scenic 38 mile drive from the Coe Visitor Center to Flamingo
Walking Trails
Experience a diversity of Everglades habitats on several short, wheelchair-accessible trails leaving from parking areas along the Main Park Road.

Pinelands Trail—.4-mile loop through subtropical pine forest maintained by fire. Pine rocklands are the most diverse habitat in South Florida.
Pa-hay-okee Overlook—.2-mile boardwalk leads to an observation deck offering a view of the vast Everglades from horizon to horizon.
Mahogany Hammock Trail — .4-mile boardwalk that meanders through a dense, jungle-like hardwood hammock. Glimpse a variety of tropical plants.
West Lake—.4-mile boardwalk through the mysterious mangrove forest. Clinging airplants, mangroves and a view of the lake await you.

Flamingo

38 miles past the Coe Visitor Center
Flamingo Visitor Center
Exhibits, information, and wilderness permits. Staffed daily from late November until May 1. Call 239-695-2945 for hours.

Concession Services
The Flamingo Marina store/gas station is open. Boat tour and boat/canoe rentals are available. Due to hurricane impacts from 2005, the lodge and restaurant remain closed.

Wildlife Viewing
At low tide, birds congregate on the Florida Bay mudflats visible from the visitor center breezeway. Alligators and endangered American Crocodiles bask around the Flamingo Marina boat basins. Eco pond is a good place to view birds and other wildlife.

Canoeing/Kayaking
Information and maps of local canoe trails are available in the Flamingo Visitor Center lobby. The Nine Mile Pond Trail (5.5-mile loop) and trips into Florida Bay (variable distances) are suggested routes. Rentals are available at the Flamingo Marina. Be prepared for mosquitoes.

Boat Tours
Narrated boat excursions into Florida Bay (Dec. - Apr.) and the mangrove estuary (year-round) depart daily from the Flamingo Marina. Information is available at the Flamingo Marina or by calling 239-695-3101

Shark Valley

On Hwy. 41 (Tamiami Trail) 30 miles west of the Florida Turnpike exit for S.W. 8th Street
Shark Valley Visitor Center
The visitor center is open daily 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. December through April. Hours for May through November are 9:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Information and educational sales items.

Walking Trails
Bobcat Boardwalk—a .4-mile round trip walk starting at the visitor center passes through sawgrass marsh and a bayhead.
Otter Cave—1-mile round trip from the visitor center. Enters a tropical hardwood hammock.
Tram Trail—The 15-mile tram trail is excellent for strolling and wildlife viewing.

Photo Courtesy of NPS Volunteer Jan Shirey

Egrets and Herons During an Everglades Dry Season

Shark Valley, cont.

Bicycling
The 15-mile tram trail is great for bicycling. A variety of marsh animals may be seen. Bicycle rentals are available at Shark Valley. Permits are required for groups of 10 or more. Helmets are required for children under 17.

Tram Tour
The Shark Valley Tram Tour provides an introduction to the freshwater Everglades and provides opportunities to view wildlife. Reservations can be made by calling 305-221-8455.

Gulf Coast

3 miles south of Hwy. 41 (Tamiami Trail) on Highway 29, in Everglades City.

Gulf Coast Visitor Center
The visitor center is open daily, December - April from 8:00 - 4:30, May - November from 9:00 - 4:30. Information, exhibits, wilderness permits, educational sales items, and picnicking available. A variety of marinas and boat launch facilities are available near the visitor center.

Boat Tours
Daily boat tours into the mangrove estuary and Ten Thousand Islands offer views of a unique environment and its wildlife. Information and tickets available in the lower level of the visitor center, general information is available by calling 239-695-2591.

Canoeing/Kayaking
From the visitor center, paddlers can venture into the beautiful Ten Thousand Islands and view birds, dolphins, manatees, and other wildlife. Canoes can be rented in the lower level of the visitor center building. Check with rangers for weather conditions and other safety information.

Chekika

Located off State Road 997 (Krome Avenue) approximately 15 miles south of U. S. 41.

Chekika will be open for day use from mid-December through March, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Walking trails, wildlife viewing and picnicking available. No potable water.

Dry Tortugas National Park

Lying at the far western end of the Florida Keys, 68 miles west of Key West, are seven coral rubble isles called the Dry Tortugas, dominated by the massive brick fortress of Fort Jefferson.

The Tortugas were first discovered by the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon in 1513. Abundant sea turtles, "tortugas", provisioned his ships with fresh meat, but there was no fresh water—the Tortugas were dry.

U.S. military attention was drawn to the keys in the early 1800's due to their strategic location. Plans were made for a massive fortress and construction began in 1846, but the fort was never completed. The invention of the rifled cannon made it obsolete.

As the military value of Fort Jefferson waned, its pristine reefs, abundant sea life, and impressive numbers of birds grew in value. Recognizing its significance, President Franklin Roosevelt set aside Fort Jefferson and the surrounding waters as a national monument in 1935.

Dry Tortugas National Park is accessible only by boat or seaplane. Check the park's webpage or local chambers of commerce (see page 2) for a list of private carriers. No water, food, fuel, supplies, or accommodations are available at the park. There is an entrance fee of $5.00 per person.

Visitor Center
Information, exhibits, an orientation video, and educational sales items are available. The visitor center is open daily.

Touring Fort Jefferson
Take a self-guided walking tour of one of America's largest 19th century coastal forts. Follow the signs with a Civil War soldier on them.

Ranger–conducted Activities
Check the dock's announcement board or the visitor center for dates and times of ranger-guided programs.

Camping
Camping is available on a first come, first served basis for $3 per person, per day; all supplies, including fresh water, must be brought in. Parties of more than ten must make reservations by writing the park or by emailing shari_quinn@nps.gov.

Fishing
Sports fishing is permitted outside the Resource Natural Area. Lobstering and spear fishing are prohibited in the park. Florida state fishing laws and regulations apply. Florida fishing license required. Fishing licenses are available in Key West.

Boating
Private boaters can visit the park. Nautical charts are sold at the park's visitor center and in Key West. Information is obtainable from the Key West U.S. Coast Guard Station, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Charter Boat Association. Boaters should be aware of the possibility of extremely rough seas. Check with a ranger for rules on docking, mooring and anchoring.

Snorkeling
Patches of healthy coral reef, some easily accessible from shore and in shallow water, are snorkeling havens. Do not disturb coral or shells; all coral, living and dead, is protected from collection. Shipwrecks and all historic artifacts in the park are protected by law.

Bird Watching
The Dry Tortugas are renowned for spring bird migrations and tropical bird species. Contact the park for a bird checklist and information.

Bush Key
Bush Key, adjacent to Fort Jefferson, is closed January through September to protect sensitive bird nesting habitat. Please obey all signage.

Research Natural Area
In late 2006 Dry Tortugas National Park introduced a Research Natural Area (RNA), which will cover about 45% of the park's total area. The zone's purpose is to provide a "baseline" for measuring long-term ecological changes, such as to sports fish populations. To maintain the RNA in its most natural state, fishing and anchoring are now prohibited within its boundaries. Boating, snorkeling, and diving are still allowed, but mooring buoys will be provided for snorkelers and divers. Contact a park ranger, or check the park's website, for more information and a map of the RNA.

Key West Eco-Discovery Center Opens Keys World to All

Prior to visiting the remote Dry Tortugas National Park, visit the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center, in Key West, and take a journey into the native plants and animals of the Keys, both those that live on land and underwater.

The Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center inspires students, local residents and visitors to become good stewards of the unique Florida Keys ecosystem.

The Center's goal is to help all visitors develop an appreciation and personal responsibility for protecting the Florida Keys and South Florida ecosystem.

The Eco-Discovery Center features 6,000 square feet of interactive and dynamic exhibits depicting the terrestrial and underwater habitats of the Florida Keys.

The Center will feature all aspects of the biodiversity of the Florida Keys, and will also focus on human interaction with the environment, the management of marine protected areas, and the maritime culture and history of the area.

The Eco-Discovery Center is made possible through a joint venture by the National Park Service; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and, the South Florida Water Management District.

The Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and located at the Truman Annex – 35 East Quay Road, Key West, FL 33040. Call for more information at 305-809-4750.

Get a copy of the Dry Tortugas National Park paper at the Eco-Discovery Center

Dry Tortugas National Park

Established in 1935 as Fort Jefferson National Monument; rededicated as Dry Tortugas National Park in 1992.
64,700 acres

Information Inquiries
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034–6733
305-242-7700

Group Camping Reservations
P.O. Box 6208
Key West, FL 33041
or email shari_quinn@nps.gov

Website
www.nps.gov/drto/

Who Cares. . .

…About South Florida's National Parks?

"The world-class fishing in Everglades National Park is much more than just casting and catching. Fishing in the Everglades is an experience, both above and below the water line. From soaring bald eagles to schools of 200-pound tarpon, there's no telling what you might see."
— Captain Lain Goodwin, Backcountry Fishing Guide, Key Largo

"South Florida's parks are microcosms…with endangered animals, invasive exotic plants, encroaching human development, coastal erosion, and a fight over a limited resource (water). By studying and understanding these regional dilemmas, we are better able to tackle similar problems everywhere on the planet."
— Erik Hutchins, Producer of the South Florida Educational TV program Waterways

"Like Flamingo's early settlers, I first viewed the place from the deck of a sailboat. For more than twenty years I shared that magical experience with visitors from all over the world, sailing Florida Bay on a gaff-rigged schooner similar to those used over a hundred years ago. Ghosting silently through the Bay is a magnificent sensation."
— Rob Temple, Captain of the Schooner Windfall and long-time Flamingo resident

"The Short-tailed Hawk…is a rare species encountered only after hours or days of travel in remote places. Somehow, one gets the feeling of finally arriving in the very depths of the tropical wilderness. To [99.9%] of park visitors the bird will go unnoticed, but to one in a thousand it will have been worth the entire trip to Florida."
— The Late Daniel Beard, First Superintendent of Everglades National Park, written in 1938

"Growing up, perhaps I took South Florida's resources for granted, always looking to travel somewhere else. I'll never tire of traveling, but I'll also never forget what my partner Roger said as we surfaced from our first dive on Australia's Great Barrier Reef: 'nice dive, but still not as many fish as we saw on that last dive in Biscayne.' And he was right."
— Gary Bremen, South Florida Native and Biscayne National Park Ranger for 12 years

"This environment is an antidote to the high stress, high tech world of finance I inhabit. In the parks, I feel connected to a higher power, a governing and elemental force. And I bring home lessons for living I apply to my clients."
— Ellen Siegel, Miami Businesswoman and Board Member of the South Florida National Parks Trust

"The Everglades is a wild place to explore, canoe, and see amazing wildlife. Most importantly, in working with kids, I have a chance to make a difference. If I can create even a spark of appreciation in the decision-makers of tomorrow, then we have a chance to save this place!"
— Allyson Gantt, Environmental Education Coordinator, Everglades National Park

"The Wilderness Waterway is a get-away from the day-to-day lifestyle we have created. It's a place where friendships are formed with other canoeists and where wildlife—manatees, ospreys, bobcats, and wading birds—can be observed, living free in the mangrove estuary. Canoeing the Waterway is an adventure you will always remember."
— Steve Newland, who has paddled over 6,000 miles in the Everglades backcountry during the past 20 years

"I can't recall all the times I've left South Florida. Sometimes I've left because work has called me elsewhere…to Texas, Maine, Utah, Alaska… Other times I've left to liberate myself from the incessant, intense struggle to save the parks. But I always return -- for the profusion of tropical life -- parrotfish, crocodiles, white-crowned pigeons, and gumbo limbo trees. I always return!"
— Bob Showler, South Florida National Parks Naturalist since 1979

"To some people, the Florida Everglades is only a big swamp… To me, however, the Everglades is the most beautiful and unique place on earth… When you understand the Everglades … you cannot help but see the thousands of naturally beautiful things that are there."
— The Late Calvin "Cal" Stone, one of the founding members of the Everglades Conservation and Sportsman's Club, from his book Forty Years in the Everglades

"The opportunity to volunteer has been most rewarding. Being involved with all the staff and visitors gives a great feeling of satisfaction. Volunteering isn't work: it's fulfillment."
— Steve Dukovich, 5-year Volunteer at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center, Everglades National Park

"That Cape Sable area is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen anywhere. It is a strange land, full of strange plants. There is an atmosphere of mystery and strangeness about the whole thing. . ."
— The Late Horace Albright, former Director of the National Park Service, quoted in 1930

"Birders come to South Florida's national parks from all over the world to see spectacular assemblages of wading birds, plus White-crowned Pigeons, Mangrove Cuckoos, Black-whiskered Vireos, and other birds found nowhere else in the U.S. Over 350 species of birds have been recorded from the parks. South Florida is a birdwatcher's paradise!"
— Brian Rapoza, Birding Guide, Tropical Audubon Society

"Though best known for their unique ecology, the south Florida National Parks are also incredible repositories of human cultural history. The more we learn about how people interacted with this landscape in the past, the more wisely we can interact with it in the future."
— Larry Perez, Everglades Park Ranger

"Big Cypress National Preserve is our country's largest naturally functioning ecosystem east of the Mississippi River. Here, even a Florida panther can live out its life without ever having to cross a

road. Once away from the two roads that traverse Big Cypress, I see a land that man has changed little, I hear only the natural sounds of the swamp, and I feel the stress of our urban lifestyle melting away."
— Deborah Jansen, Wildlife Biologist in Big Cypress National Preserve for 20 years

"South Florida's National Parks are a blessing. Amidst the concrete jungle South Florida has become, we have an incredible wilderness, offering habitat for wildlife…and pleasure for those who experience it. There aren't many places left that are less populated now than they were 100 years ago."
— Peter Frezza, Scientist, Audubon of Florida

"Nowhere else than in South Florida can you find temperate zone fauna living in habitats dominated by tropical flora. For more than 100 years botanists have explored the region and marveled at plants that also grow naturally in the Bahamas, Cuba, and the Yucatan. And where else can your footprints mingle with those of panthers, bears, and mink?"
— Roger Hammer, Botanist, Naturalist and Author

"The Everglades provides me with a place to recreate, to seriously study science, and to earn a living. Most of all, the Park provides a refuge from and a tonic for whatever is ailing me."
— Leon Howell, Everglades National Park Interpreter

"Sharing the importance and beauty of our National Parks through painting has been a necessary and rewarding process. Through my art and my students' reaction to it, we've connected to the future of our environment."
— Pat Cummins, Miami-Dade art teacher and exhibitor for Biscayne National Park's Community Artists' Program.

Photo Courtesy of Ralph Arwood

"The Everglades is special to me because it's a watery wilderness, full of cool plants and animals found nowhere else in the country. While many western national parks can be quite busy, the Everglades is an expansive, uncrowded place of natural beauty; I enjoy hiking its miles of trails in solitude."
— Tim Taylor, Indio, California

"Let us hope that the park continues relatively unscathed through the next several decades of testing confrontations and final adjustments. Then, when someone else sits down to write a better Park Story, he can speak of wood storks and panthers, and everything else that makes south Florida's wild lands such a glory to behold."
— The Late Dr. Bill Robertson, Park Senior Biologist and author of Everglades: The Park Story*, originally written in 1958 and revised in 1988*

Volunteers In Parks are VIPs

One of the most successful partnerships of the National Parks involves our talented cadre of volunteers. In South Florida alone, these dedicated individuals contribute tens of thousands of hours each year to ensure the parks are safe, clean and enjoyable places to visit. Meet a few of these Very Important People who Volunteer In our Parks — our VIPs. Volunteers in America's National Parks are, without a doubt, Very Important People! In 2005, 137,000 volunteers donated 5.2 million hours in over 380 parks across the country.

Our volunteers come from all over to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Young and old alike give of their time and expertise to assist in achieving the National Park Service mission.

For information on volunteering in any National Park Service area across the country visit — **www.nps.gov/volunteer** — on the web.

Volunteers in the National Park Service are an important element in preserving and protecting our National treasures. Volunteers assist visitors at campgrounds and visitor centers, help in various resource management programs, aid with a variety of maintenance tasks and serve as harbor hosts.

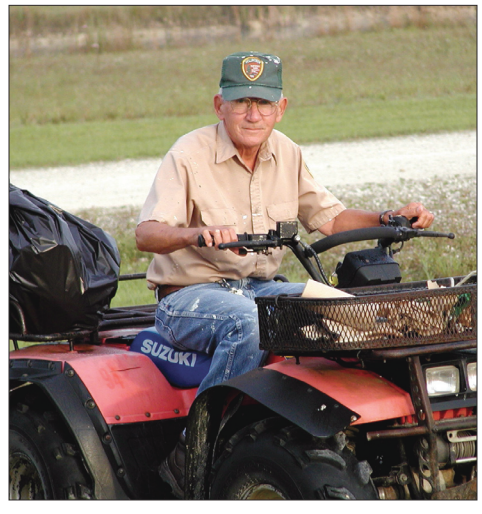


Photo Courtesy of NPS Volunteer Jan Shirey

Get Out There
Get Involved and Volunteer

To volunteer in a National Park in South Florida, contact:

Big Cypress National Preserve
Phone
239-695-1201
email
isobel_kalafarski@nps.gov

Biscayne National Park
Phone
305-230-1144 x3033
email
michelle_oehmichen@nps.gov

Dry Tortugas National Park
Phone
305-242-7700
email
kimberly_ropp@nps.gov
note — Dry Tortugas National Park currently has an extensive waiting list for volunteer positions.

Everglades National Park
Phone
305-242-7752
email
jackie_dostourian@nps.gov

South Florida National Park Partners

Expanding possibilities through joint ventures

Support the Everglades Association as it Supports the Parks

Mailing Address
10 Parachute Key #51
Homestead, FL 33034–6735
305-247–1216
305-247–1225 FAX

Website
Visit the Association's Natural History Mail Order Bookshelf website at:
www.evergladesassociation.org

Phone and Fax orders accepted with Mastercard, Visa, or Discover.

The Everglades Association operates under Congressional authorities as the official private, non-profit partner supporting educational, interpretive, historical and scientific research responsibilities of Biscayne, Dry Tortugas and Everglades National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve.

These areas comprise more than 2.5 million acres and form a vital network in preserving the South Florida ecosystem. By supporting increased public understanding of these world renowned natural and cultural areas, the Everglades Association also tangibly assists in raising public support for their long term preservation and care.

Our mission is to assist visitors and support the parks in their efforts to increase public understanding of the outstanding natural and cultural values of the parks. We are an important link in connecting people with their parks.

The Everglades Association operates sales outlets located throughout south Florida and offers high quality publications and educational sales items. These materials directly relate to the various stories surrounding the parks and to ways of planning for, and enhancing, the visitor's experience.

Sales profits are returned to the parks to support educational, scientific, historical and visitor service programs that would not otherwise be available through federally funded sources. We also use a portion of our proceeds to produce additional new educational materials about the parks; often based on new information that becomes available about the wonders of the South Florida ecosystem.

By becoming a member of the Everglades Association, you can be directly involved in helping preserve these parks as irreplaceable parts of South Florida's heritage. You can join others who care and are motivated to do their part for South Florida; and the nation. Membership also entitles you to discounts on purchases locally and at participating sales outlets nation-wide.

Visit www.evergladesassociation.org for information on the Association, how to become a member, and to review our sales catalogue.

Discover more about South Florida's National Parks and help foster the continuation of the parks' educational efforts by supporting FNPMA. Become an association member and you will receive a 15% discount on all purchases.

Suggested Items to Plan Your Trip or Remember Your Visit

BOOKS

Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida by Alden, Cech, and Nelson. Complete field guide to Florida's natural world. Includes birds, insects, reptiles, marine life, plants, geology, weather, ecology, sky maps and a section on the best natural parks and preserves. $19.95

Charlotte's Story by C. A. Niedhauk...Recounts the hair-raising adventures of Charlotte and her husband Russell when they lived on Elliott Key during the Depression years (1934 and 1935). Their island story culminates with their struggles to survive the terrible Labor Day Hurricane of 1935. 342 pp., paper. $17.99

The Swamp by M. Grunwald. A wonderful book that combines the Everglades' history, its future and investigative journalism. A must read for everyone. $15.00

Everglades - The Park Story by W. B. Robertson. Let an Everglades wildlife biologist introduce you to the flora, fauna, and history of the park in this fascinating, reader-friendly narrative. Full Color. $6.95

Everglades - The Story Behind the Scenery by J. de Golia.. An interesting review of the Everglades with over 100 photographs of wildlife and habitats. $9.95

Everglades National Park and the Surrounding Area by R. Hammer. A Guide to Exploring Everglades, Big Cypress and surrounding state park areas. Includes detailed map and trail descriptions, hiking, biking, kayak and canoe trails, as well as facts about the area's history, flora, fauna, and weather. Excellent for trip preparation! $12.95

Everglades Wildguide by J. C. George. Official National Park Service handbook detailing the plants and animals of the Everglades region. Includes checklists. $7.99

Florida's Unsung Wilderness - The Swamps by Bransilver and Richardson. Journey to Southwest Florida's unique natural treasure - the swamplands. 120 photographs and text provide a rare glimpse into this fragile wilderness. $24.95

Pages From the Past - Pictorial History of Fort Jefferson by A. C. Manucy. Historical Fort Jefferson comes alive in this wonderful comprehensive portfolio full of historic photos, color illustrations and fascinating text. $7.95

Paddler's Guide to Everglades National Park by J. Molloy. Guide to 53 paddling routes in Everglades National Park, including the Wilderness Waterway. Includes maps, a rating system, and descriptions of every wilderness campsite. $16.95

Priceless Florida - Natural Ecosystems and Native Species by Whitney, Means, and Rudloe. An excellent, comprehensive look at the incomparable ecological riches of Florida presented in a way that will appeal to young and old, laypersons and scientists. Full color illustrations and photos. $25.95

VIDEOS

Fort Jefferson - Gibraltar of the Gulf 11 min., NTSC. $11.95
Everglades 60 min., NTSC $22.95

DVDs

Alligators and Birds of the Everglades Two award-winning wildlife programs. 60 min, $23.95
Everglades & National Parks of South Florida includes Biscayne, Big Cypress & Dry Tortugas. 90 min. $19.95
Everglades A comprehensive look at the Everglades. Also includes - The Wonders of Biscayne/Keys. 90 min. $19.95

CD-Rom

360 Degrees of Dry Tortugas National Park. Four Chambers Studio. Interactive tour. $17.95. Discover this unique national park located at the "Gateway of the Gulf" by using your personal computer.

Liguus Tree Snail

Photo Courtesy of NPS Volunteer Jan Slatey

South Florida Trust Builds Support for National Parks in South Florida

Your national parks have a partner in South Florida.

The South Florida National Parks Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to winning friends and raising funds for South Florida's national parks – Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve.

The Trust is raising money to support education programs, volunteer activities and visitor services within South Florida's national parks so that more people can visit and enjoy these remarkable places.

Contributions to the Trust have made the following projects possible:

• Environmental Education: Thousands of school children visit the Everglades, Biscayne Bay, the Dry Tortugas and Big Cypress each year for overnight camping trips and day programs. The Trust has provided critical support for these programs.

The Trust donated a 21-foot boat to Biscayne National Park to support the park's volunteer program. The boat will help the park train volunteers and put them to work throughout the park. Pictured are Biscayne Superintendent Mark Lewis (L) and Jack Curlett (R), South Florida National Parks Trust Board Member.

• Visitor Exhibits: Everglades National Park installed nine new wayside exhibits along the main park road to Flamingo with support from the Trust. The roadside exhibits tell the story of the Everglades in English and Spanish.

• Saving the Civil War era cannons at Fort Jefferson: Efforts are underway to restore the massive cannons that defended Fort Jefferson from attack in the 19th century. The Trust is underwriting this effort.

• Wildlife Viewing Scopes at Flamingo: Everglades National Park installed two wildlife viewing scopes on the Visitor Center breezeway in Flamingo overlooking Florida Bay with funding provided by the Trust.

• Underwater Camera at Shark Valley: Visitors to Shark Valley – one of the premiere places to see wildlife in the Everglades – can look for wildlife under water with the help of a submerged camera installed behind the visitor center.

By supporting these and other projects, the Trust seeks to foster a greater appreciation for Florida's natural wonders and establish a firm foundation for the ongoing stewardship of our national parks.

If you are interested in helping the Trust support our national parks and improve the quality of life in South Florida, get involved by contacting them.

SOUTH FLORIDA
NATIONAL PARKS TRUST

Mailing Address
South Florida National Parks Trust
1390 South Dixie Highway, Suite 2203
Coral Gables, Fla. 33146
305-665-4769
305-665-4171 FAX

Website
www.southfloridaparks.org

Kids' Corner

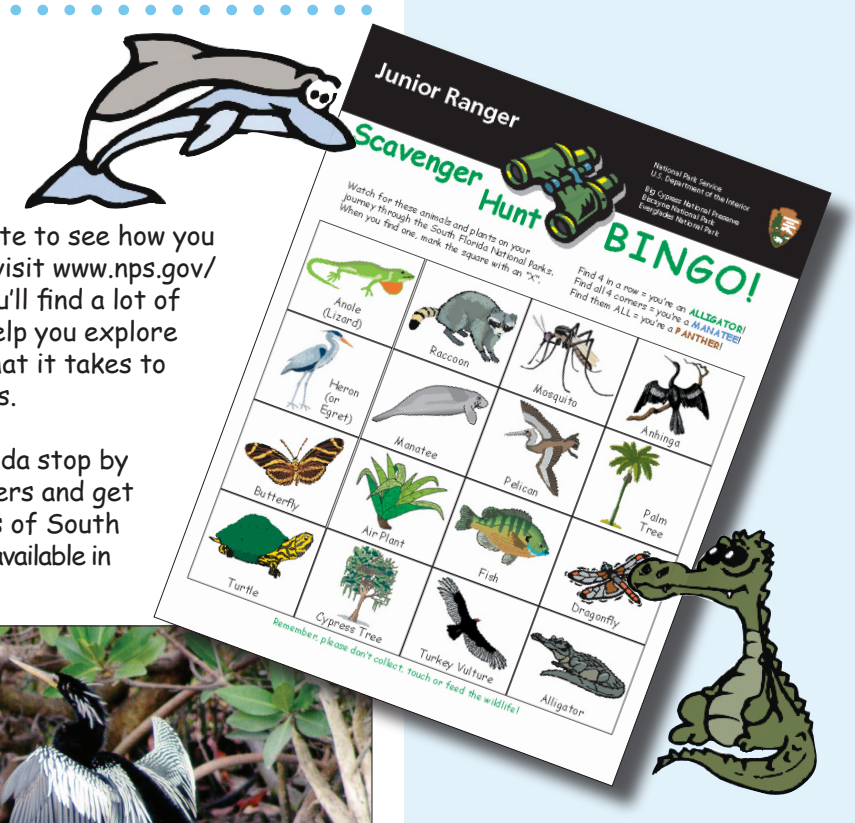
Wildlife Watch

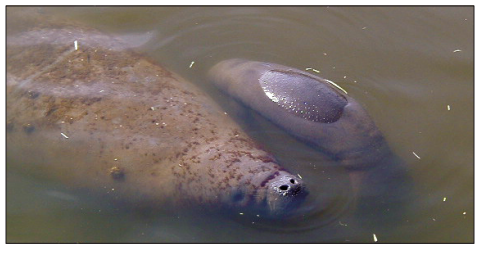
The wetlands of South Florida were once considered worthless and many wanted them drained and destroyed. Today we know that the water flowing through the wetlands is important to all life in the area, including us.

As you explore the national parks you are sure to discover much of the wildlife that depends on this flow of water. Look carefully and have a keen eye! As you see the animals in the pictures below, check them off. How many did you find? In what habitat did you find them?

When you get home, don't forget to check out the National Park Service website to see how you can become a Web Ranger, visit www.nps.gov/webrangers. On the site you'll find a lot of cool things to do that will help you explore other national parks, and what it takes to care for these special places.

While you are in South Florida stop by any of the park visitor centers and get a copy of the National Parks of South Florida **Junior Ranger Book** (available in English, Spanish and French.)




Manatee

Alligator

Anhinga

White-tailed Deer

Purple Gallinule

Florida Gar

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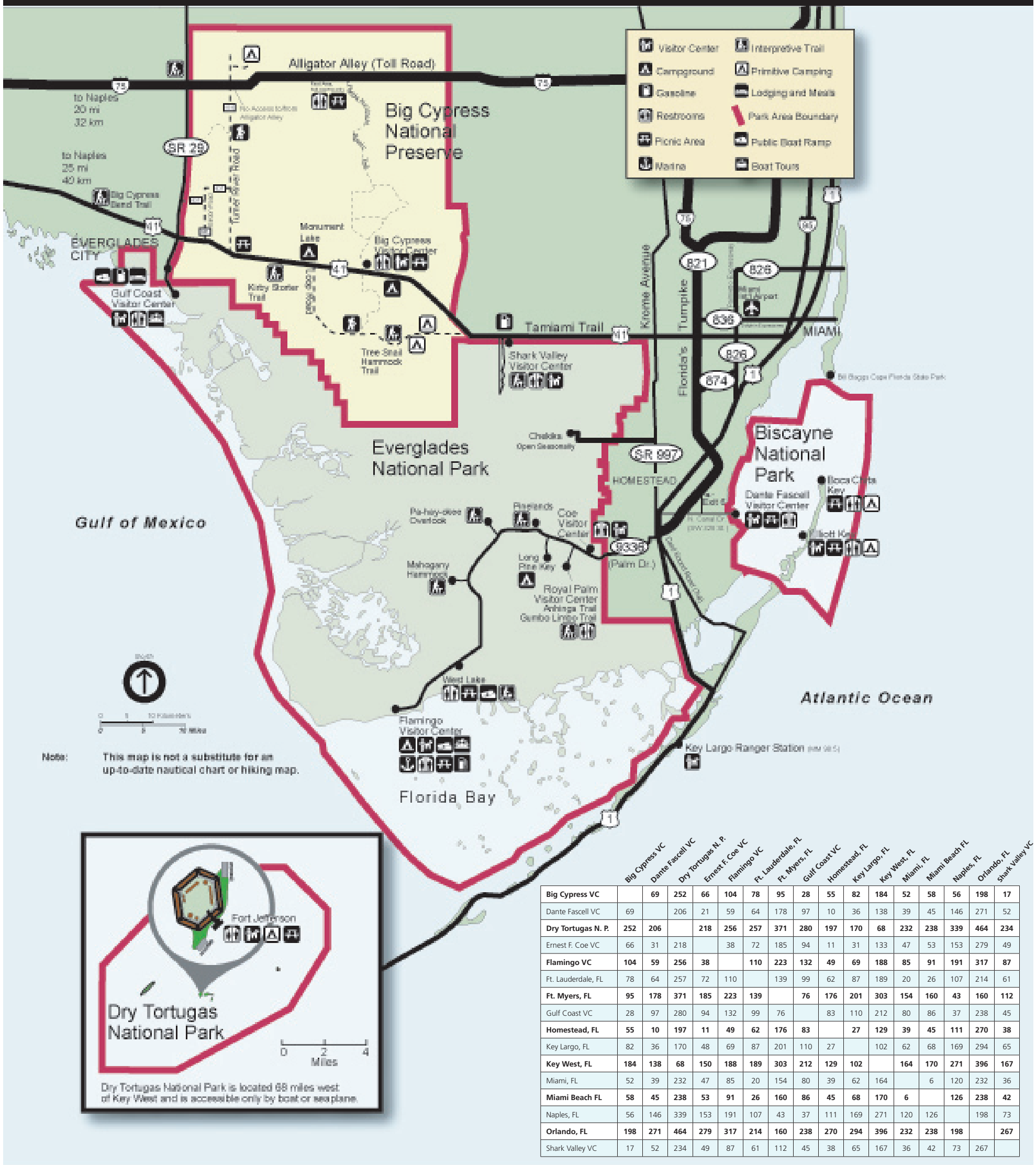
South Florida National Parks and Preserves Map

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



	Big Cypress VC	Dante Fascell VC	Dry Tortugas N. P.	Ernest F. Coe VC	Flamingo VC	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Ft. Myers, FL	Gulf Coast VC	Homestead, FL	Key Largo, FL	Key West, FL	Miami, FL	Miami Beach FL	Naples, FL	Orlando, FL	Shark Valley VC
Big Cypress VC		**69**	**252**	**66**	**104**	**78**	**95**	**28**	**55**	**82**	**184**	**52**	**58**	**56**	**198**	**17**
Dante Fascell VC	69		206	21	59	64	178	97	10	36	138	39	45	146	271	52
Dry Tortugas N. P.	**252**	**206**		**218**	**256**	**257**	**371**	**280**	**197**	**170**	**68**	**232**	**238**	**339**	**464**	**234**
Ernest F. Coe VC	66	31	218		38	72	185	94	11	31	133	47	53	153	279	49
Flamingo VC	**104**	**59**	**256**	**38**		**110**	**223**	**132**	**49**	**69**	**188**	**85**	**91**	**191**	**317**	**87**
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	78	64	257	72	110		139	99	62	87	189	20	26	107	214	61
Ft. Myers, FL	**95**	**178**	**371**	**185**	**223**	**139**		**76**	**176**	**201**	**303**	**154**	**160**	**43**	**160**	**112**
Gulf Coast VC	28	97	280	94	132	99	76		83	110	212	80	86	37	238	45
Homestead, FL	**55**	**10**	**197**	**11**	**49**	**62**	**176**	**83**		**27**	**129**	**39**	**45**	**111**	**270**	**38**
Key Largo, FL	82	36	170	48	69	87	201	110	27		102	62	68	169	294	65
Key West, FL	**184**	**138**	**68**	**150**	**188**	**189**	**303**	**212**	**129**	**102**		**164**	**170**	**271**	**396**	**167**
Miami, FL	52	39	232	47	85	20	154	80	39	62	164		6	120	232	36
Miami Beach FL	**58**	**45**	**238**	**53**	**91**	**26**	**160**	**86**	**45**	**68**	**170**	**6**		**126**	**238**	**42**
Naples, FL	56	146	339	153	191	107	43	37	111	169	271	120	126		198	73
Orlando, FL	**198**	**271**	**464**	**279**	**317**	**214**	**160**	**238**	**270**	**294**	**396**	**232**	**238**	**198**		**267**
Shark Valley VC	17	52	234	49	87	61	112	45	38	65	167	36	42	73	267	