



# Explore the Swamp!



The freshwaters of the Big Cypress Swamp, essential to the health of the neighboring Everglades, support the rich marine estuaries along Florida's southwest coast. Protecting over 720,000 acres of vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a dynamic mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive, endangered Florida Panther. Culturally, the Big Cypress Swamp has served as home and refuge to many people throughout time including Native American cultures and early settlers.

Big Cypress National Preserve provides a variety of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. This protected area is the back yard for the millions of residents and visitors in South Florida. Whether visitors have only a few hours or the whole day there are many ways to explore Big Cypress.



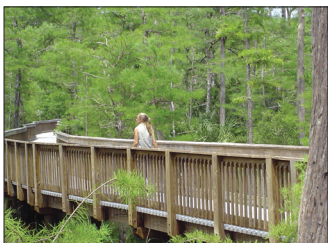
## Planning a Trip

Big Cypress National Preserve's Oasis Visitor Center offers a great way to plan your visit. The visitor center is open 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. seven days a week throughout the year, except for December 25<sup>th</sup>. Oasis is located midway between Naples and Miami along U.S 41/ Tamiami Trail (approximately 50 miles from either city). The visitor center contains exhibits, a book sales area, and an introductory film on the Big Cypress Swamp.

## What to Do

Driving along U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail visitors can stop at wildlife viewing platforms to observe alligators and a variety of other animals and plants in their natural habitats. Stroll along a boardwalk to become immersed in a cypress strand. Drive down scenic roads to view South Florida's distinctive flora and fauna. Stop by the Oasis visitor center to learn more about the Preserve.

Additional recreational activities such as: hiking, backpacking adventures, paddling along scenic waterways, bicycling, or camping in natural Florida can all be found within the Preserve. Big Cypress National Preserve's legislation also provides for unique opportunities such as: hunting, fishing, and off-road vehicle access – with permits.



**Experience Your  
Preserve!**



## Guided Activities

Join National Park Service Rangers on guided activities into the diverse communities of Big Cypress from December through April. See wildlife while discovering the swamp through a variety of activities, including, swamp walks and canoe trips. In addition, special request programs are available by advance arrangements.

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## For More Information

Big Cypress National Preserve  
33100 Tamiami Trail East  
Ochopee, Florida 34141

Oasis Visitor Center  
52105 Tamiami Trail East  
Ochopee, Florida 34141  
(239) 695-1201

Website [www.nps.gov/bicy](http://www.nps.gov/bicy)

Special request programs: (239) 695-1164