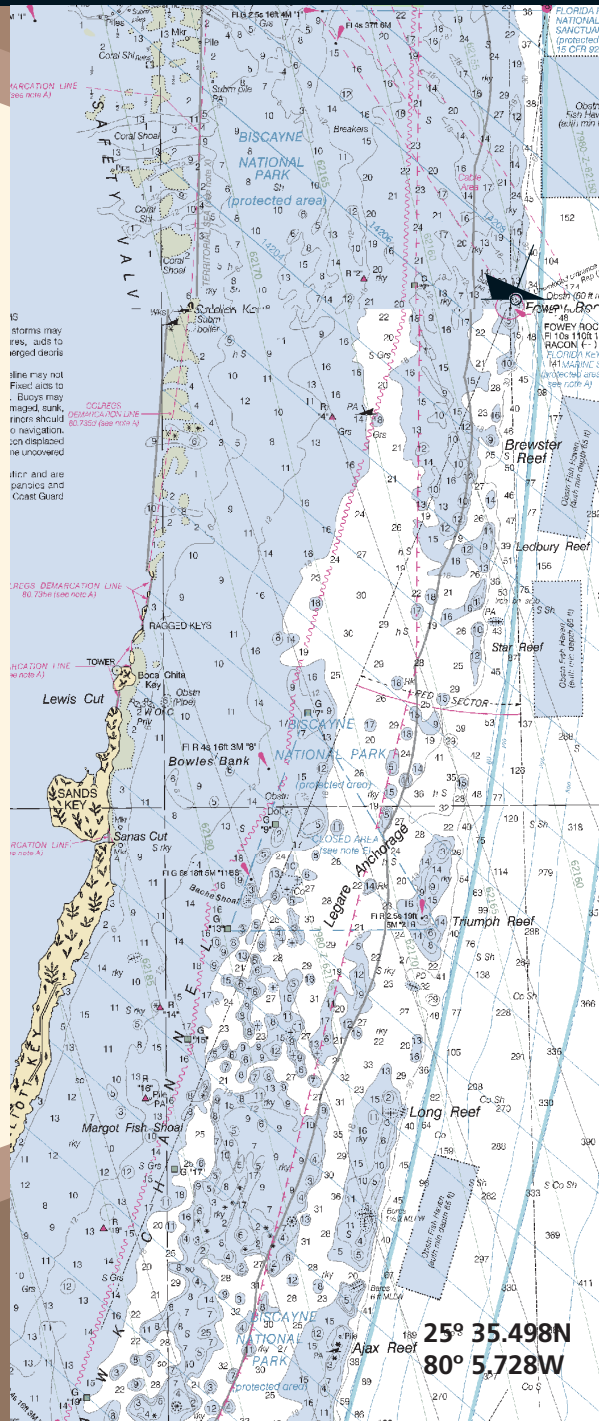


LOCATION



Biscayne

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Biscayne National Park was established as a national monument in 1968. In 1980 it was expanded to its current size of 173,000 acres and designated a national park to protect a rare combination of terrestrial and undersea life, to preserve a scenic subtropical setting, and to provide an outstanding spot for recreation and relaxation. The park is dedicated to the preservation and public enjoyment of natural and cultural resources.

Visit us online at: www.nps.gov/bisc



FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK

The Florida Public Archaeology Network is dedicated to the protection of cultural resources, both on land and underwater, and to involving the public in the study of their past. Regional centers around Florida serve as clearinghouses for information, institutions for learning and training, and headquarters for public participation in archaeology.

Find out more at: www.flpublicarchaeology.org

Biscayne

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Biscayne National Park



Biscayne National Park Maritime Heritage Trail

Arratoon Apar

1861 - 1878



The iron frames of *Arratoon Apar* resting silently on the sea floor of Biscayne National Park.



FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK

Arratoon Apcar (1861 - 1878)

SITE PLAN

History

Arratoon Apcar was built by James Henderson and Son of Renfrew, Scotland, in 1861. This iron-hulled steamer measured 262 feet long, had a 35 foot beam, displaced 1,480 tons, and was powered by a 250 horsepower engine. Flagged as an Armenian vessel, the ship was of riveted steel design and had a long and productive life for her owners.

The vessel was named after Arratoon Apcar, the founder of Apcar and Co., an Armenian who was heavily involved in coal, shipping, and furniture in Bombay, India. In 1872, the Apcar family acquired a much larger vessel, which they also christened *Arratoon Apcar*, while the original ship was sold to H.F. Swan and re-registered in London.

The original *Arratoon Apcar*, now operating for H.F. Swan and carrying a cargo of coal, met her demise steaming to Havana on the evening of February 17, 1878, when the captain miscalculated his position and ran aground at Fowey Rocks. At the time of the wreck, construction of the Fowey Rocks Lighthouse was underway. The new lighthouse was the last of six offshore reef lights built between Key West and Key Biscayne by the U.S. Lighthouse Board in the 19th century to warn passing mariners of the dangerous reefs bordering the islands. *Arratoon Apcar* narrowly missed the platform where construction workers were encamped and slammed onto the rocks in the middle of the night. The crew attempted to de-water the ship but heavy seas pushed her higher onto the reef and pounded her to pieces. After three days of effort the crew surrendered the ship to the sea, manned their lifeboats, and headed ashore. The nearby *Tappahannock* rescued the captain and all 24 of his crew. By March 12, 1878, foul winter weather had made the ship a total loss.

Today, the wreck of *Arratoon Apcar* lies in 10 to 23 feet of water a mere 100 yards from the Fowey Rocks Lighthouse. The coral-encrusted lower hull and iron beams of the vessel can still be seen, along with evidence of other structures, including remnants of the rudder and mast. The shallow depth of the wreck and the abundance of fish make it an attractive site for diving or snorkeling.

You are reminded that this site, like all our shared resources in Biscayne National Park, is protected by law. Please use moorings. Do not disturb or remove anything from the site. Theft or disturbance of archaeological resources in a national park is punishable by severe civil and criminal penalties.



Remember: Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Bubbles.

