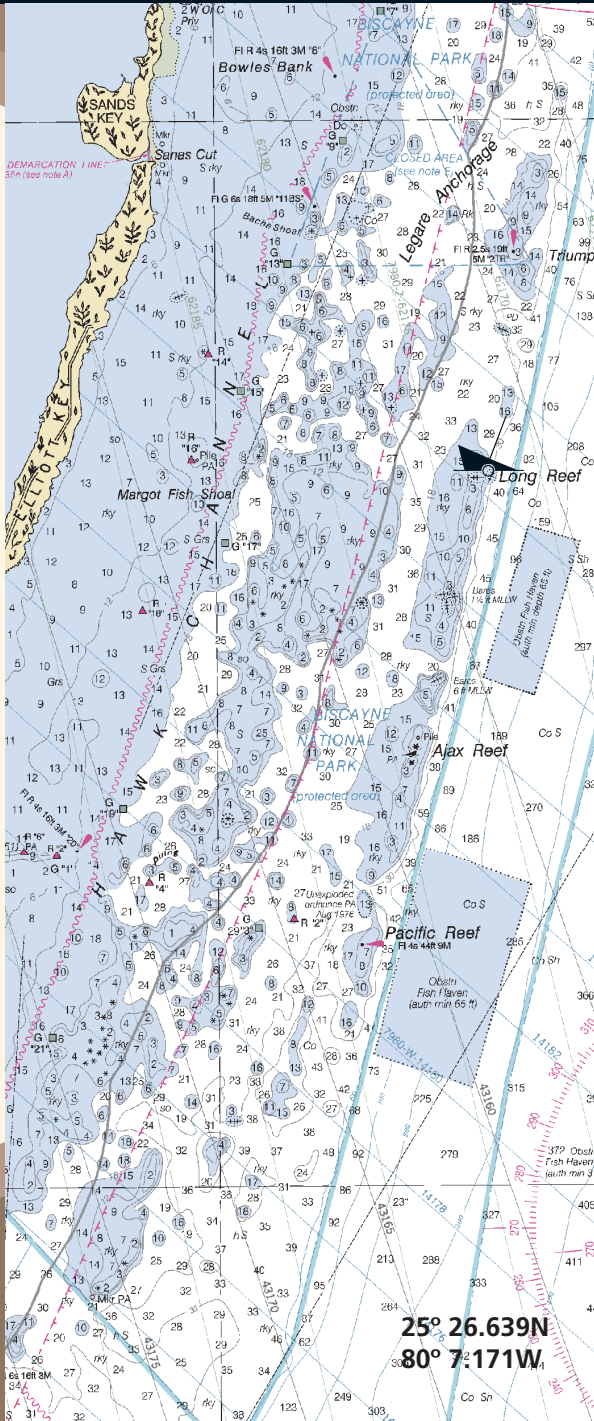


LOCATION



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

Lugano

1882 - 1913



Lugano aground on Long Reef. (Image courtesy of the Mariners' Museum)



FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK

Lugano (1882 - 1913)

SITE PLAN

History

In 1913, the British steamer *Lugano*, from Liverpool, was headed for Havana with general cargo that included fine silks, wines, rice, and other foods. She was also carrying 116 passengers, including twelve women and children. All but two of the registered passengers were Spanish immigrants en route to Cuba.

On March 9, in high winds and heavy seas and significantly off course, Captain P. Penwill grounded *Lugano* on Long Reef. The tug *Rescue* was radioed, and safely took the passengers of *Lugano* to Key West while the captain and crew remained aboard. Cargo was removed and the hold was intentionally flooded to prevent further pounding on the rocks. By March 20, seven large loads of cargo had been removed and taken to Key West. Wreckers were busily pumping water out of the ship so her boilers could be re-lit, allowing her own pumps to dewater the hull. By March 22 their efforts succeeded, but even with the ship's pumps working day and night, the ill-fated vessel was still lodged on the reef and listing heavily to port. On March 27, The Miami Herald reported over 75 wrecking boats were attempting to save the cargo. The ensuing confusion and foul weather made it easy for unscrupulous salvors to slip away and stash cargo on nearby reefs. Much of the cargo was reportedly stolen by the Key West wreckers of Dr. Lykes, including linens and 350 cases of brandy. Rumors of the thefts prompted U.S. Customs to dispatch officials to monitor the wreck.

By April 4, the crew had abandoned *Lugano*, which was again full of water. The Lee Brothers, wreckers from Miami, were later contracted to deliver the ship to Key West for \$17,000. In the end, all the legitimately salvaged

cargo from *Lugano* (which had been carrying goods valued at one million dollars), was estimated at a mere \$150,000.

All efforts to refloat *Lugano* were abandoned on April 15, after two days of high winds pounded the already battered vessel until it was considered a total loss. *Lugano* was three stories deep below the water line and was the largest boat to ever be lost on the rocks of the Florida reefs up to that time. *Lugano* now lies 25 feet under water on Long Reef in Biscayne National Park.

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.

Diver Level: Open Water
Maximum Depth: 30 feet
Moorings Approximate,
Anchoring Prohibited

Location: 25° 26.639N, 80° 7.171W

