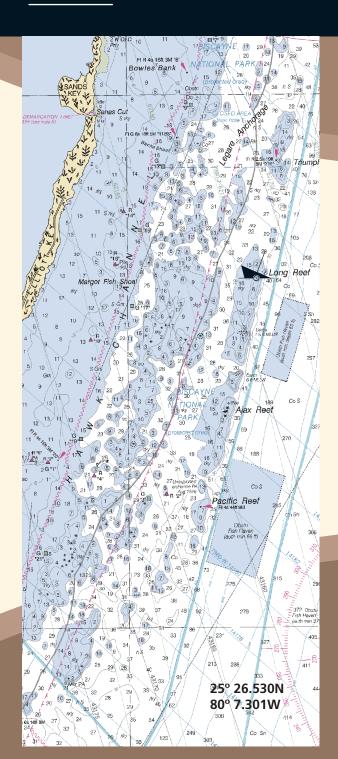
#### LOCATION





## **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



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

# *Mandalay* 1928 - 1966



Mandalay aground on Long Reef, New Years day, 1966. (Image courtesy of the Miami Herald)



### History

John G. Alden Naval Architects, Inc. designed the ship *Hardi Biou*, for Dr. Henry D. Lloyd of Brookline, Mass. The 110 foot long, steel-hulled schooner was built by George Lawley & Son, Corp. in 1928, at a cost of \$177,000. The schooner was sold in 1931 and renamed *Valor*, and subsequently had five other owners under that name. Michael Burke, owner of Windjammer Cruises, Inc., purchased, refitted, and renamed the vessel *Mandalay* in 1965, for use as a luxury cruise ship.

Mandalay was beautifully outfitted in mahogany, brass, and ivory, and had a teak deck. Aft quarters were a suite of two rooms with an adjoining bath, three single staterooms, each with a bath, and a large guest room with an individual bath. Forward of the main mast were a large saloon and living room, three officer's staterooms with baths, and ample forecastle space for six men with a washroom and shower.

In late 1965, Mandalay was headed toward Miami with 23 vacationers and 12 crew, returning from a 10-day Bahamian cruise. Passengers had retired to their rooms after celebrating the arrival of the New Year, 1966, and Mandalay's 26-year-old Captain, Jim Gjevick, went to sleep about 1:00 AM, leaving a novice seaman at the helm. Early on New Year's Day all the passengers were awakened when the schooner ran aground on Long Reef. Later, Captain Gjevick admitted he had miscalculated the distance from Fowey Rocks, causing *Mandalay* to be 20 miles off course. At the captain's request, an SOS was sent at 3:45 AM, which brought Coast Guard helicopters and patrol boats to the scene. Flares were dropped by the helicopters, and fired by the *Mandalay* crew to illuminate the rescue operation that took place in windy conditions with 10-foot waves. Three helicopters lifted all 24 people, one by one, and flew them to Homestead Air Force Base.

Almost immediately, scavengers stripped the vessel, taking the ship's compass, sextant, chronometers, passenger cameras, watches, and purses, and the owner's personal gear. On the Sunday after *Mandalay* grounded she had been "picked to her skin and bones" by average work-a-day boat owners before salvage tugs could arrive. The tugs failed to pull the ship off the reef, and scavenging and salvage continued. Today the skeleton of *Mandalay*, "red carpet ship of the Windjammer fleet," can be found embedded on Long Reef in Biscayne National Park and is one of the best shallow dive sites in the 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.

