



Park Regulations



Welcome to the Park

The following is a summary of selected regulations important to most park visitors. Its incomplete form does not relieve persons from abiding by all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. When in doubt, ask park staff for additional information. Have a safe and enjoyable visit!

Fishing

Prohibited Activities

- Commercial fishing
- Spear fishing
- Taking conch, lobster, or ornamental tropical fish
- Collecting artifacts from land or water

Garden Key Areas Closed to Fishing

- Moat, moat wall, or within 300 feet of moat wall
- Vessels moored at the Garden Key Dock
- Helicopter pad area
- North and south beaches
- Staghorn patch—Garden Key Harbor
- Finger piers south of main dock

Important Reminders

- Fishing for fin fish is permitted with hook and line gear only
- All State of Florida saltwater fishing laws and regulations concerning licenses, sizes, possessions, and species restrictions apply (except as modified by park regulations)

- Persons from vessels that have brought lobster or speared fish into park waters may not enter the water except to swim from the designated swim beach on Garden Key
- Bait fish may be taken by cast net only; the limit is five gallons per vessel
- In almost all cases it is illegal to possess more than one bag limit of any fish species
- Fishing is prohibited at the Windjammer Wreck site; you must be at least 100 yards away from the wreckage to fish

Rules for Commercial Fishermen

- Persons in possession of commercially taken fish or commercial gear, or who are otherwise engaged in commercial fishing, may not fish within the park.
- The disposal of fish remains from commercial activities is prohibited within the park.

Boating

Anchoring, Docking, and Reminders

- Anchoring is restricted to sand or rubble bottom
- Overnight anchoring must be within one nautical mile of the Garden Key Harbor Light
- The Garden Key dock is limited to two hours per day per vessel (if conditions permit); under certain conditions the dock may not be available for prolonged (two hour) use
- The Garden Key dock is closed after sunset
- The Garden Key dock is reserved for commercial ferries from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- The Loggerhead Key dock is closed to public use at all times
- Use of motorized vessels within 300 hundred feet of moat wall is prohibited
- It is illegal to discharge sewage into park waters.
- All heads must be fitted with Coast Guard approved marine sanitation devices. Discharge overboard

valves must be secured while your boat is within park waters

- Personal watercraft (jetskis) cannot be used anywhere in Dry Tortugas National Park waters
- All visits are limited to 14 consecutive days and a total of 30 days per calendar year
- Garden Key and Bird Key anchorages are no wake zones—5 mph limit applies
- Vessels in the Garden Key Harbor may not be anchored west of a line extending from the SW Channel marker #12 to the white post located near the west end of Bush Key
- No loud generators after 10:00 pm

Pets

- Pets must be on a leash and under physical control at all times
 - Leaving a pet unattended or tied to an object is prohibited
 - Owners must remove pet waste from park
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Closures and Public Use Areas**Fort Jefferson and Garden Key**

- The fort interior is CLOSED after sunset
- Pets, food, and drinks are not permitted inside the fort
- Service and residential areas are closed to all public use
- The moat is closed to swimming, fishing, and boats

Loggerhead Key

- Open year round during daylight hours only
- All structures are closed to public use

Hospital & Long Key

- CLOSED year round

Bush Key

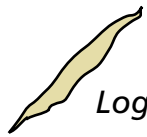
- Open during daylight hours only
- Closed February through September

East Key

- Open year round during daylight hours only
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Islands in Dry Tortugas National Park

North



Loggerhead Key

Garden Key



Bush Key

Long Key

Hospital Key

Middle Key

East Key

Business Operations

Persons conducting any commercial enterprise within the park must possess a Business Use Permit issued by the park.

Activities that require a permit

- Transportation
 - Guided activities (snorkeling, sailing, sportfishing, scuba diving, bird watching, or sight seeing)
 - Any other for-fee service
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Camping

- Camping is limited to the Garden Key campground only
- Groups of ten or more require reservations in advance
- All visits are limited to 14 consecutive days and a total of 30 days per calendar year

- The fee is \$3 per person, per night
 - Fires are limited to the Garden Key campground BBQs (charcoal only—no ground fires are allowed anywhere in the park)
 - TRASH—pack it out, pack it in!
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For Additional Information**Please Write:**

Superintendent
Everglades National Park
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034

OR

Site Supervisor
Dry Tortugas National Park
P.O. Box 6208
Key West, FL 33041