

Everglades

National Park, Florida



Everglades

NATIONAL PARK

OPEN ALL YEAR

This southernmost tip of the Florida mainland was established as Everglades National Park on June 20, 1947, thus assuring the preservation of its unique biological features in their natural state for all time. Many people had contributed their time and efforts to accomplish this goal.

The park boundaries encompass more than 2,100 square miles of land and water. This vast wilderness, blending sea and sky in the distance, dips imperceptibly to the shallow waters of Florida Bay on the south and to the Gulf of Mexico on the west.

Threshold to the Tropics

In effect, Everglades is a mosaic of many interesting things, each strongly influenced by the tropical climate. Plants of the Temperate Zone meet plants of the Torrid Zone; fresh water meets salt water; and land meets sea. The grasslands of the true Everglades stretch across the horizon. Clusters of trees, called hammocks, resemble islands in the open Everglades and among the pines. Following the shorelines and growing upon keys (islands) in open water, mangrove forests form almost impenetrable thickets.

Warmed by the sun and nourished by the waters, the area is biologically fertile, supporting many interrelated forms of plant and animal life under natural conditions. Outstanding among the features of the park are the rookeries of birds.

Park rangers will assist you and give you information on what to see and do during your visit. The park naturalist staff conducts programs and walks designed to give you a better understanding of the wildlife, geology, plants, and history of the Everglades country. Schedules of these interpretive services are available at all ranger stations.

The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

The Winter Season

Weather is normally pleasant and clear, with very little rainfall. Temperatures are often described as "about like June up north," and people dress accordingly. However, brief cold snaps do occur occasionally, sometimes bringing strong northerly winds and possibly frost.

This dry season is the best time to see the abundant wildlife, which tends to concentrate in sloughs, lakes, and other water areas. Many of the large, spectacular wading birds—egrets, ibis, herons, and roseate spoonbills—nest in their rookeries during midwinter and early spring. Waterfowl and other bird migrants from the north are in the park area.

Practically all trees, shrubs, and other plants stay green all winter, although the grasses and sedges of the Everglades take on brownish hues. Fishing is good, as a rule, but it is variable. Boating is generally good, but waters may become rough during this season.

The Summer Season

The majestic clouds of summer, though they may produce brief torrential showers, give a beauty to the landscape that you would miss in the winter. Wildlife is distributed over wide areas and is not so easily seen. Fishing is at its best, and the

waters of the park are usually calmer than in winter. In the summer, you should bring insect repellent with you, for the pests can become bothersome.

Overnight Accommodations, Picnicking, and Camping

Overnight accommodations in the park are limited; therefore, you should make reservations well ahead of your visit in order to insure having a place to stay. You may reserve your accommodations by writing to Everglades Park Co., Inc., either at Flamingo, Fla., or at 3660 Coral Way, Miami 45, Fla. Also, you may telephone this company at either Miami or Everglades, Fla.

You may picnic at Flamingo, where drinking fountains, tables, charcoal burners, and restrooms are available; in the Long Pine Key area, where there are tables and toilets; and at Nine Mile Pond, where only picnic tables are provided.

You may enjoy camping at an improved campground at Flamingo; or you may prefer the less developed surroundings at Long Pine Key. Camping space is obtained on a first-come first-served basis and cannot be reserved. You may camp in the back country, but you must first get a campfire permit at park headquarters or at any ranger station.

Housetrailer permits are permitted in the campgrounds; however, electric, water, and sewer hookups are not available.

The labyrinth at the mouth of Shark River.



Roseate spoonbills. Courtesy, F.S.N.B.

If you plan an extended boat trip into park waters, you should obtain the necessary charts before starting. It is well to consult a park ranger and indicate your proposed route. You may purchase U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey charts from authorized dealers in Homestead, Miami, and Everglades.

Boats for sightseeing and charter boats for fishing go out from Flamingo and Everglades. These are carefully inspected for safety by both Coast Guard personnel and park rangers. Reservations are usually necessary during the peak of the winter season. Names and addresses of authorized operators of charter boats may be obtained at park headquarters.

Food Service, Gasoline, and Miscellaneous Items

At Flamingo, you will find modern dining facilities and service stations for boats and cars. Also available at this newly developed area are boat rentals, bait, store supplies, and souvenirs.

A general-delivery post office is operated at Flamingo.

Help Us Protect the Park

To accomplish our objectives of protecting and preserving the wilderness, and to leave Everglades undisturbed for the enjoyment of our own and future generations, we must have park rules and regulations.

Everglades National Park is a sanctuary for all wildlife. Recent years of protection have made the wild creatures lose much of their fear of man. Therefore, we ask that you please not throw rocks or in any way attempt to disturb the birds, alligators, or any form of wildlife. Hunting or the use of firearms is strictly prohibited. Fishing is permitted in accordance with State laws.

Trees, shrubs, airplants, orchids, and other plants must not be removed or disturbed—other visitors wish to see them, too.

Speed Limit

For your safety and for the safety of the wild creatures, the speed limit in the park is 45 miles per hour. You'll find that the more leisurely you drive, the more you will enjoy the Everglades scene.

Mission 66

MISSION 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Tangible evidences of the progress being made under the program here at Everglades include the new road, camping facilities, and the development at Flamingo.

Self-guiding Trails, Exhibits, and Facilities Along the Park Road

[Trails do not exceed 20 minutes walking time]

Miles from entrance to turnoff

- 2 Royal Palm area:
Royal Palm Visitor Center—exhibits, naturalist programs, restrooms.
Anhinga Trail—a wildlife trail.
Gumbo Limbo Trail—a jungle trail through tropical hardwood hammock.
- 4 Long Pine Key area:
Campground—limited facilities.
Picnic area—limited facilities, picnic tables, toilets.
- 6.5 Pinelands Trail—a pinewoods community trail.
- 12.5 Pa-Hay-Okee—boardwalk and tower for panoramic view.
- 19.5 Mahogany Hammock—elevated boardwalk into mahogany forest.
- 24.5 Paurotis Pond—parking for view of rare palms.
- 26.5 Nine Mile Pond—limited picnicking facilities.
- 30.5 West Lake area:
Mangrove Trail—an elevated boardwalk into dense, tropical, mangrove swamp.
West Lake Pond—Cuthbert rookery boat trip (Feb.-May), waterfowl.
- 38 Flamingo area:
Exhibits, naturalist programs, marina, sightseeing boats, restaurant, motel, service station, picnic area, campground.

Administration

Everglades National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, with headquarters at 203 North Krome Avenue in the business district of Homestead, Fla. For further information, call in person or telephone or write the Superintendent, Box 275, Homestead, Fla.

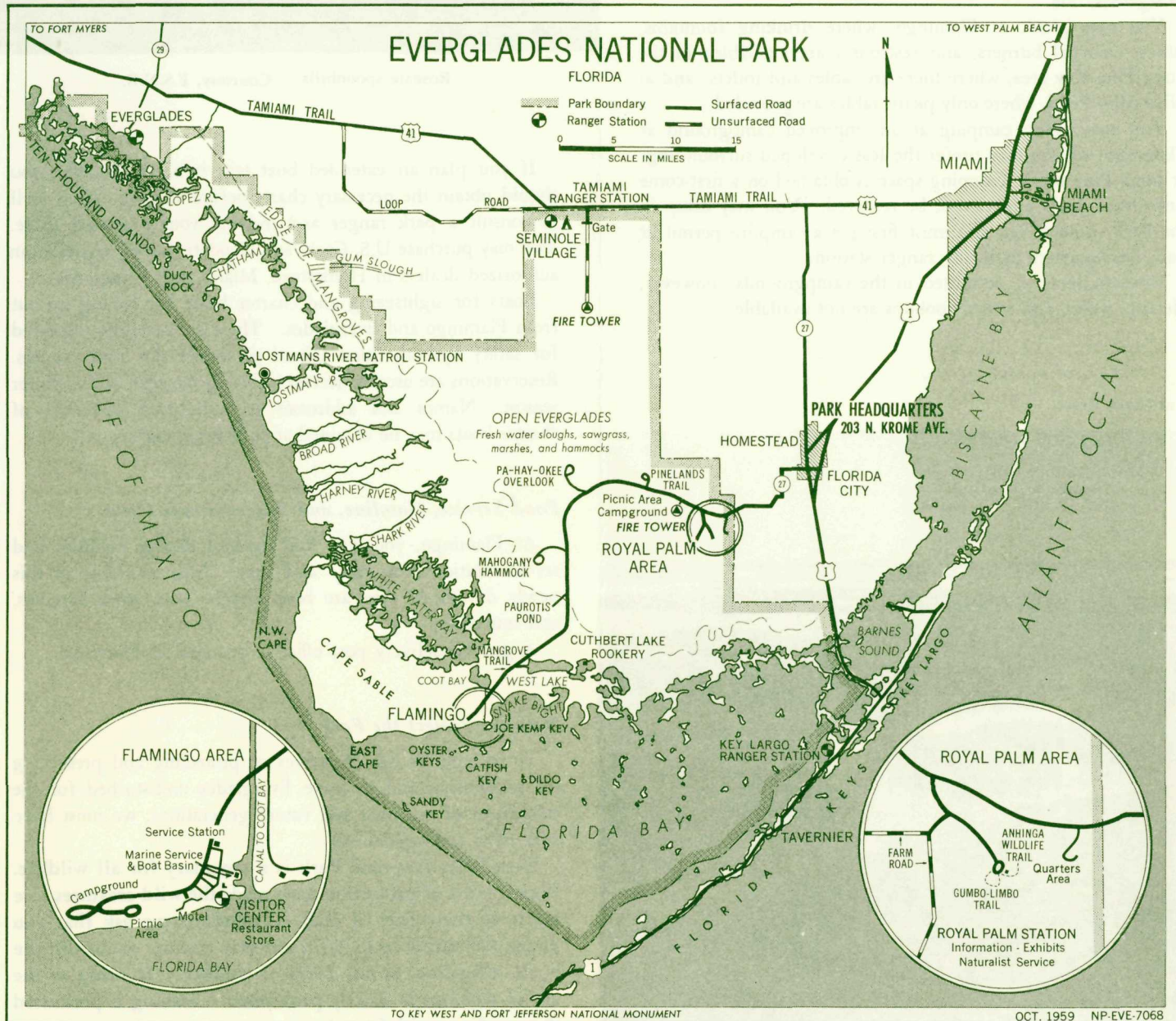


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fred A. Seaton, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Conrad L. Wirth, Director



TO KEY WEST AND FORT JEFFERSON NATIONAL MONUMENT

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