

Everglades

NATIONAL PARK • FLORIDA

Everglades National Park was established in 1947 to protect for this and future generations a sprawling subtropical wilderness—a complex of unique plant-and-animal communities threatened with destruction. Some of the habitats, such as the everglades themselves, and some of the animals — crocodile, manatee, roseate spoonbill, reddish egret, white ibis (really a stork), and bald eagle—are rare or unseen elsewhere in the United States. Among other inhabitants are the alligator, snook, tarpon, pink shrimp, royal palm, mahogany, and the mangrove. This great biological exhibit in an aquatic setting provides a dramatic display of nature in unspoiled surroundings and gives us the opportunity to experience authentic wilderness. Here man will forever be able to find a precious solitude in the peaceful magic of nature.

HOW TO ENJOY THE PARK

Your first stop should be the visitor center near the park entrance, on Fla. 27 not far from Homestead. The landscapes of Everglades National Park will be more meaningful to you after you have learned how the land was formed, why plants grow where they do, and something of the wild creatures that make their homes here. You can learn these things and more from park personnel, exhibits, informational publications, and the film programs. After your stop at the visitor center, you will be prepared for a leisurely drive through the park to Flamingo.

CAMPING

Campsites are available at Long Pine Key or Flamingo Campgrounds on a first-come, first-served basis. Stay is limited to 14 days per year. Drinking fountains, tables, charcoal burners, and restrooms are available at both campgrounds. House trailers are permitted in the campgrounds; however, there are no water, electrical, or sewage "hook-ups" for trailer use (deposit sewage at Flamingo).

The Long Pine Key Picnic Area and Campground is 6 miles from the park entrance, and you will have to bring all supplies except water. (Supplies can be purchased in Homestead and Florida City or other nearby towns.) Flamingo Campground, in the Flamingo developed area, offers picnic and campground facilities. Limited staple groceries are available at the Flamingo Marina.

You may also camp on the beaches or in the back country at designated locations, but you must first obtain a campfire permit at park headquarters or a ranger station.

Long Pine Key campers should have their mail addressed to General Delivery at either Homestead or Florida City, Fla. 33030. Other visitors may receive mail at the Flamingo post office.

BOATING

Boats up to 100 feet long can be accommodated at Flamingo marina. Parking for boat trailers is ample, and a free launching ramp is nearby. Slip fees for boat storage are based on the length of the boat. Small powered skiffs can be rented at the service store. A park ranger or one of the concessioner employees can give you full information about the many other services offered. Please register on the sign-out sheet near the boat ramp or with the park ranger on duty before you leave, and check in again when you return.

Marine facilities are also available at the town of Everglades. Navigational charts can be purchased in Homestead, Miami, the town of Everglades, and the Flamingo marina store.

GOOD PARK MANNERS

Please help protect the park's natural values by leaving the plants and animals undisturbed so that others who come after you may enjoy them. Practicing good outdoor manners, such as putting litter in trash receptacles and observing the rules of safety and courtesy, will make your visit much more enjoyable—for you and for others.

Plants and Animals. Years of protection have made many animals lose their fear of man; thus you can view them at close range. They are still wild, however. Do not disturb the animals, or damage, remove, or disturb the plants in any way.

Hunting or the use of firearms is prohibited.

Fishing is permitted in most areas of the park in accordance with Florida laws. Fresh-water fishing with rod and reel requires a Florida fishing license, but no license is required for fishing in salt water. Ask a park ranger or watch for signs about the few areas that are closed to fishing.

Fire sweeping across the 'glades can be a terrifying and destructive force. Smoking is not permitted on nature trails, and campfires may be built only in designated camping areas.

Maximum speed on the park road is 45 miles per hour. Reduced speed limits are posted. Drive slowly; the road is designed for enjoying the scenery leisurely.

Pets must be on a leash or under other restrictive control.

Boating. Visitors who explore the park by boat must know and practice water-safety rules and must have a keen awareness of potential dangers. Every boat must be equipped with a U.S. Coast Guard-approved lifejacket for each passenger. Remember: You are safest with an experienced

guide, and navigational charts of the area are indispensable. Before starting out in your private boat, file a "float plan" of your proposed trip—then you can be assured that a park ranger will be looking for you if you get into difficulty.

Privately operated airboats and 'glades buggies are not permitted in the park.

You can help protect the park by reporting to park rangers any fires, accidents, violations, or other unusual happening. The rangers are here to help you enjoy the area. Do not hesitate to ask their assistance.

ADMINISTRATION

Everglades National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the natural, historical, and recreational places of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of all the people.

A superintendent, with offices adjacent to the main visitor center, is in immediate charge of the park. For further information, contact the Superintendent, Everglades National Park, Box 279, Homestead, Fla. 33030.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.



ALONG THE PARK ROAD

Remember you're at the fringe of the tropics where you will see many tropical influences.

It is possible to make this 38-mile trip over the paved road in less than an hour; but don't do it. You should allow yourself at least one-half day to become acquainted with some of the attractions along the way. Take time to explore the ends of the short spur roads—Royal Palm, Pa-hay-o-kee, Mahogany Hammock, and others.

Just 2 miles from the main visitor center, a sign directs you to Royal Palm Hammock, on Paradise Key. This area, famed for its animal life and rich variety of tropical plants, was the site of Florida's first State Park. The Royal Palm interpretive station, manned by ranger-naturalists and housing exhibits and other informational material, is the starting point for the famous Anhinga and Gumbo Limbo nature trails. Nearby Taylor Slough is the home of many easily seen animals including alligators and birds.

From here to Flamingo you will pass three major self-guiding trails: the *Pineland Trail*, through the fire-maintained pine-palmetto community; *Pa-hay-o-kee Trail*, through dwarf cypress and bay to an overlook in the sawgrass zone; and the *Mahogany Hammock Trail*—a dense hammock of mahogany with palms, airplants, and orchids.

FLAMINGO

Here you will find a visitor center, restaurant, motel, large boat marina, campground, and picnic area.

Exhibits at Flamingo Visitor Center summarize the park story you saw at the stops and on the trails along the main park road. They tell the story of man's struggle to prevent the extinction of Everglades' rare and endangered bird species prior to the park's establishment.

Flamingo is your base of operations for exploratory trips into the vast wilderness of White-water Bay and the hundreds of miles of winding mangrove-lined rivers and lakes, the channels and keys of the bay, the gulf area, and the mangrove coast with its tropical beaches. Flamingo is an excellent base, too, for the sports fisherman, the wildlife enthusiast, and the photographer.

There's always something to do at Flamingo. Park rangers and naturalists give talks and walks; sightseeing boats move in and out of the marina landings; and a skilled skipper who knows the intricate waterways can usually find a berth for you on board his charter fishing boat. These boats are checked for safety and are well equipped with the kind of bait, tackle, and supplies needed to catch game fish.

The Everglades Park Co., 3660 Coral Way, Miami, Fla. 33145, whose standards and prices are approved by the National Park Service, operates the marina, store, restaurant and snackbar, and

the motor lodge. Make reservations well in advance. Rates are lower from May 1 to December 1.

THE TAMIAMI TRAIL AND THE WESTERN WATER GATEWAY

Two other centers of interest are the Western Water Gateway, at the town of Everglades, and the Shark Valley Trail, midway between Everglades and Miami on the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41).

The **Western Water Gateway** is the boater's entrance to the waters of the Ten Thousand Islands and the gulf coast—a mecca for sport fishermen. A park concessioner also operates sightseeing boats here—one fascinating journey leads to shell mounds built by the Calusa Indians some 2,000 years ago, another to a summer bird

rookery. Signs give point and times of departure for the boat trips, or you can get this and other information at the Gulf Coast Ranger Station.

Park facilities for visitors at the town of Everglades are not yet completed, but motels are available; for campers, the nearest sites are at Collier-Seminole State Park, 19 miles west of the town of Everglades on the Tamiami Trail.

In contrast to the waterways through the coastal mangrove jungles, the **Shark Valley Loop Road** provides an altogether different wilderness experience. The road is 14 miles long, cutting deeply into the sawgrass and hammock country of the true everglades. Leave your car at one of the several parking areas, visit the Otter Cave Trail and, of course, climb the ramp of the 40-foot tower at mid-station. The unimpaired view of

that seemingly endless "River of Grass" is without equal, and the tower is often a good place from which to observe alligators, birds, and other wildlife. *Note: This road may be closed to public traffic during periods of high water. Contact a park ranger for information.*

ON THE FLAMINGO ROAD

- Miles
- 2 *Royal Palm Area: Royal Palm Visitor Center*—naturalist programs, restrooms; *Anhinga Trail*—a wildlife trail; *Gumbo Limbo Trail*—a jungle trail through tropical hardwood hammock.
 - 4 *Long Pine Key area: Campground; picnic area.*
 - 6.5 *Pineland Trail*—a pinewoods community trail.

- 12.5 *Pa-hay-o-kee*—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 tropical mangrove swamp; *West Lake Pond*—Cuthbert rookery boat trip (from February to May); waterfowl. Excellent example of hurricane-damaged tropical vegetation.
- 38 *Flamingo area: Exhibits, naturalist programs, marina, sightseeing boats, restaurant, motel, service station, picnic area, campground.*

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