

# 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, wood stork, and bald eagle—are rare or unseen elsewhere in the United States. Among other plant and animal inhabitants are the alligator, snook, tarpon, pink shrimp, royal palm, mahogany, and mangroves. This great biological exhibit in an aquatic setting presents a living drama of nature in unspoiled surroundings and gives us the opportunity for an authentic wilderness experience.*

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## HOW TO ENJOY THE PARK

Each season has its own advantages for park visitors: the winter dry season is the best time to see abundant wildlife, while the summer wet season provides calmer waters and better fishing.

Your first stop should be the visitor center near the park entrance, 12 miles from Homestead on Fla. 27. From exhibits, films, publications, and talks by park personnel you will learn something of how the land was formed and how fire, rainfall, and changes in water level and salinity affect the plant-and-animal communities. You will then be better prepared to understand the landscape and the living things seen on your trip through the park to Flamingo.

## CAMPING

The park's campgrounds, at Long Pine Key and Flamingo, are furnished with drinking fountains, tables, charcoal burners, and restrooms. House-trailers are permitted in the campgrounds, but there are no water, electrical, or sewage "hook-ups" for trailer use. (A sewage disposal unit is located at Flamingo.) Camping fees are charged at established campgrounds, in addition to the park entrance fee. Stay is limited to 14 days from December 15 through April 15.

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 offers facilities for picnicking and camping. Limited staple groceries are available at the Flamingo Marina.

You may also camp, without charge, at designated sites on the beaches or in the back country; access is by boat or on foot. 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, FL 33030. Other visitors may receive mail at the Flamingo post office, also 33030.

## BOATING

Boats up to 60 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 and canoes can be rented at the marina. A park ranger or one of the concessioner employees can give you full information about the many services offered. Marina facilities are also available at the town of Everglades. Navigation charts can be purchased in Homestead, Miami, the town of Everglades, Flamingo Marina, and marinas along the Florida Keys.

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.

There is a marked 99-mile-long boat trail, the Wilderness Waterway, on the inland route from the town of Everglades to Flamingo. Four marked canoe trails are in the Flamingo area. Contact a park ranger for specific information.

## 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 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—but they are still wild. Do not feed or disturb them, or damage, remove, or disturb the plants in any way.

**Hunting** or the use of firearms or other hunting apparatus capable of inflicting injury to wildlife 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.

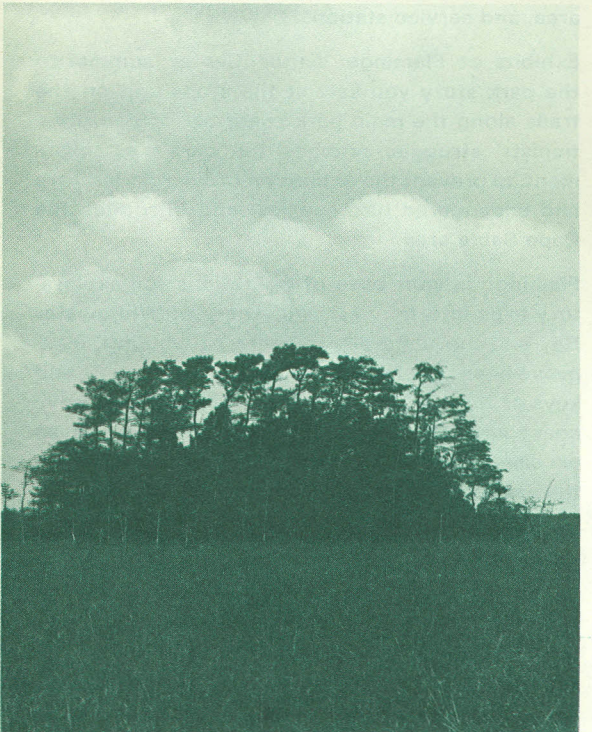
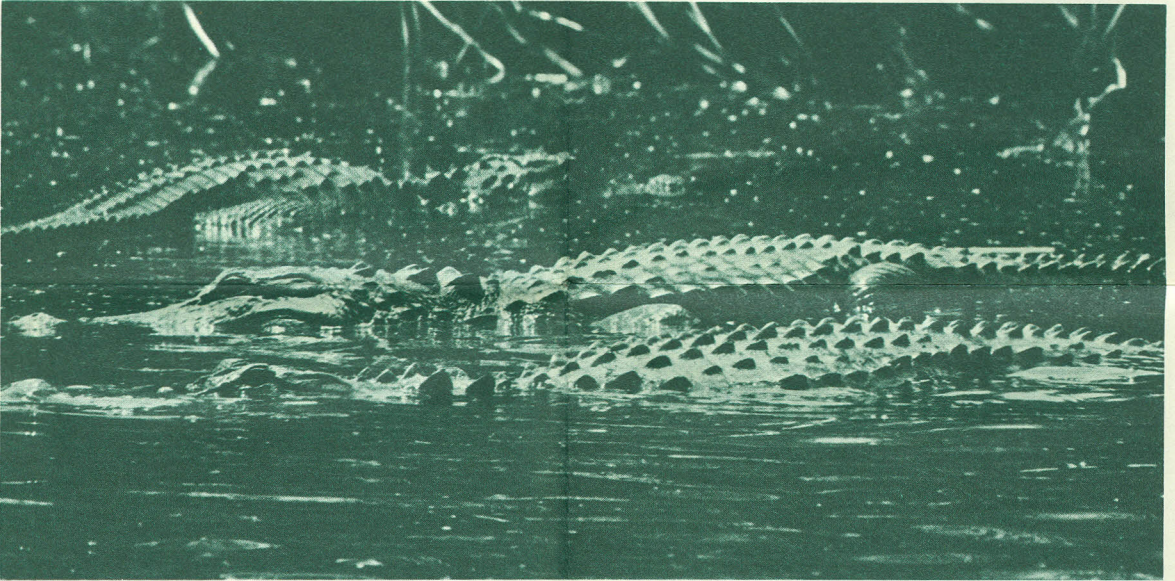
**Fire** sweeping across the 'glades can be a terrifying and destructive force. Smoking is not permitted on nature trails, and campfires may be built only in designated camping areas.

**Maximum speed** on the park road is 55 miles per hour. Reduced speed limits are posted. Drive slowly; the road is designed for enjoyment of the scenery.

**Pets** must be under restrictive control and are not allowed on the trails.

**Airboats and 'glades buggies** are not permitted in the park.

Help protect the park by reporting to park rangers any fire, accident, violation, or other unusual happening. They are here to help you enjoy the



area, so do not hesitate to ask their assistance.

## **ALONG THE ROAD TO FLAMINGO**

- 0 Entrance station.**
- 2 Royal Palm Area: Royal Palm Interpretive Station**—displays, refreshments, restrooms; **Anhinga Trail**—alligators, birds, and other wildlife; **Gumbo Limbo Trail**—a jungle trail through tropical hardwood hammock.
- 4 Long Pine Key area**—campgrounds; picnic area; and auto trails.
- 6.5 Pineland Trail**—trail through the pinewoods community.
- 12.5 Pa-hay-okee**—boardwalk and tower to help you see a panorama of the Everglades.
- 19.5 Mahogany Hammock**—elevated boardwalk into mahogany forest.
- 24.5 Paurotis Pond**—parking for view of rare palms. Limited picnicking facilities.
- 26.5 Nine Mile Pond**—good wildlife area in spring. Limited picnicking facilities.
- 30.5 West Lake**—exhibits. *West Lake Trail*—an elevated boardwalk into tropical mangrove swamp. Excellent example of a hurricane's effects on a natural community.
- 38 Flamingo**—exhibits, naturalist programs, hiking trails, marina, sightseeing boats, restaurant, motel, service station, picnic area, campground.

All trails along the park road listed above are less than one-half mile long and require approximately 30 minutes walking time.

It is possible to make this 38-mile trip over the paved road in less than 1 hour—but you would miss much! Allow yourself at least one-half day to become acquainted with the plant and animal life along the way. Take time to explore the trails at the ends of short spur roads—Royal Palm, Pa-hay-okee, Mahogany Hammock, and others.

## **FLAMINGO**

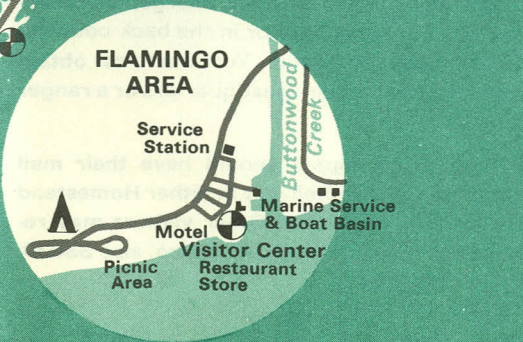
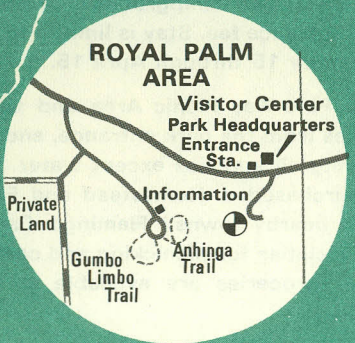
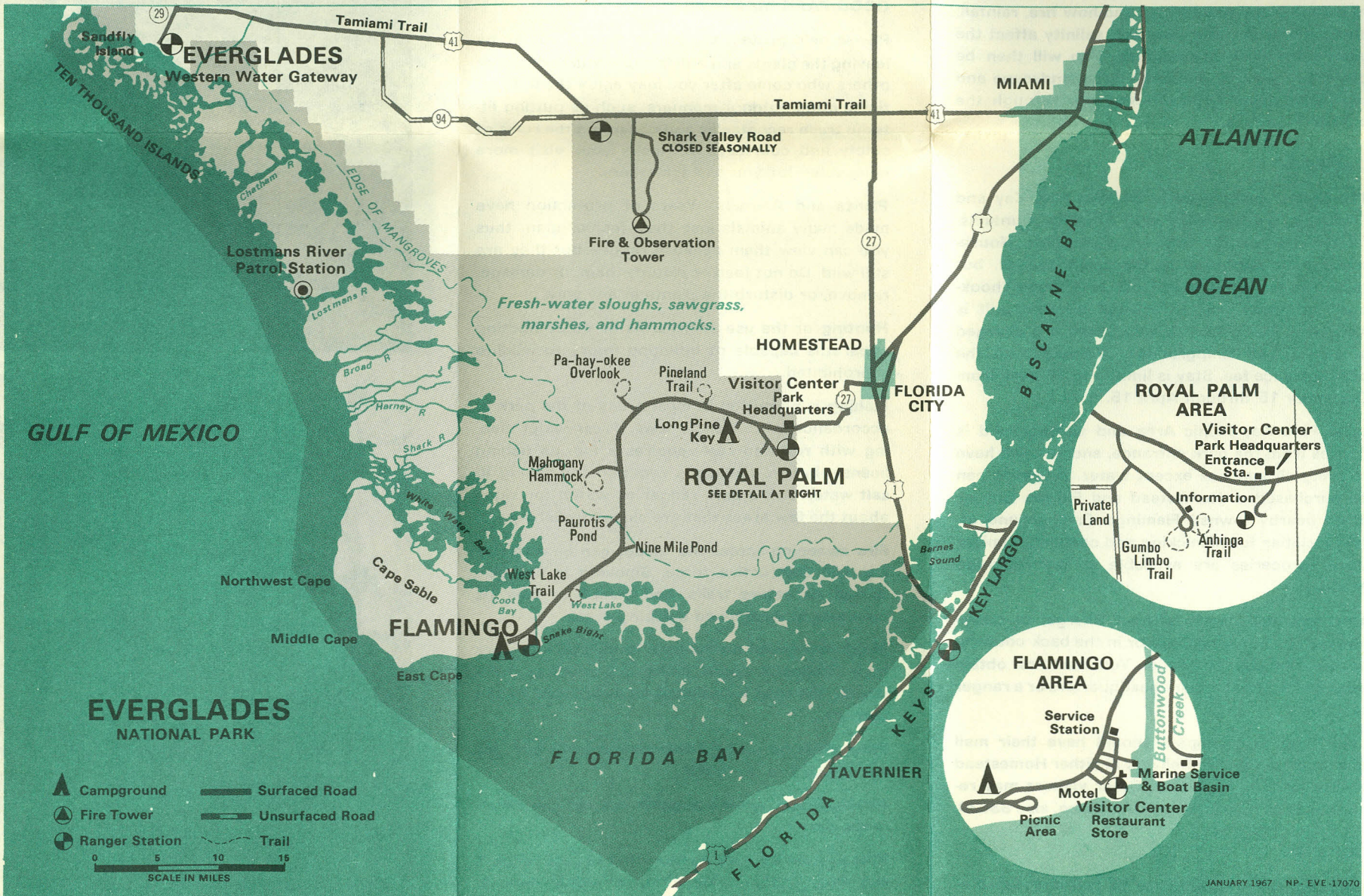
Here you will find a visitor center, restaurant, motel, large boat marina, campground, picnic area, and service station.

Exhibits at Flamingo Visitor Center summarize the park story you saw at the stops and on the trails along the main park road; tell of conservationists' struggle, prior to the park's establishment, to prevent the extinction of Everglades' rare and endangered bird species; and introduce the Cape Sable area.

Flamingo is your base of operations for exploratory trips into the vast wilderness of Whitewater 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 for sports fishermen, wildlife enthusiasts, and photographers.

There's always something to do at Flamingo. Park naturalists give talks and walks; foot trails of various lengths offer wilderness hiking opportunities; 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 his charter fishing boat. These boats





are checked for safety and are well equipped with bait, tackle, and supplies needed to catch fish.

The Everglades Park Company (28494 South Federal Highway, Miami, FL 33157) operates the marina, store, restaurant and snack bar, sightseeing boats, service station, and motor lodge. Make reservations well in advance. Rates are lower from May 1 to December 1.

### **THE WESTERN WATER GATEWAY**

**The Western Water Gateway** is the boater's entrance to salt waters of the Ten Thousand Islands and the gulf coast—a mecca for sport fishermen.

**Sammy Hamilton Boat Tours**, Everglades, FL 33929, operates sightseeing boats in the Ten Thousand Islands in inland areas. Trips originate at the Gulf Coast Ranger Station in the town of Everglades on Fla. 29.

**Sandfly Island Nature Trail**, reached by boat only, from the town of Everglades, offers history and natural history of the Ten Thousand Islands.

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.

### **FLORIDA KEYS AND KEY LARGO**

The Florida Keys lie between the Straits of Florida and Florida Bay. The geographic location gives the boating public access to various types of boating waters. The waters on each side of the keys provide opportunities to angle for bonefish, marlin, sailfish, tarpon, and other prized gamefish.

Information on this area is available at the National Park Service ranger station on Key Largo. A free boat-launch ramp is located at Little Blackwater Sound on U.S. 1. Other access points to the bay are found along the entire chain of keys.

Most of Florida Bay is within the boundary of Everglades National Park. Most of the islands are closed to boat landings because many species of birds nest on the islands at various times of the year. Please check at the Key Largo or Flamingo Ranger Station for information on islands open to the public.

Available to persons interested in big game fishing are oceanside marinas, located at numerous points along the keys, where one can hire a charter boat or join a group of fellow fishermen on a party boat.

Florida Bay, with its many mangrove-covered islands, shoals, and finger channels, offers excellent fishing for smaller salt-water game fish, including sea trout, snapper, redfish, snook, bonefish, and tarpon. Because of shallow and fluctuating water levels, boaters should use navigation charts.

A wide range of lodging accommodations and restaurants is available to the vacationer. Prices vary, depending on the season of the year.

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## **ADMINISTRATION**

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

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, FL 33030.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

**U. S. Department of the Interior**

**National Park Service**