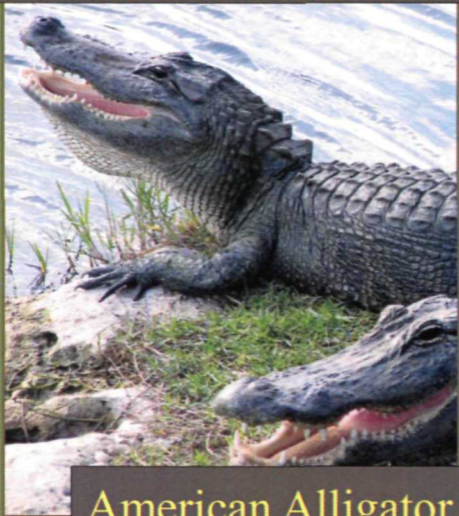




Big Cypress National Preserve



American Alligator

Red Mangrove

(Rhizophora mangle)

As you paddle the Turner River, you will find yourself surrounded by Red Mangrove trees. The branches and prop roots form a tunnel that can be so tight you have to pull your canoe through using the branches like monkey bars. This tangled web of roots and branches helps to stabilize the tree in the soft muddy soil and traps sediments, protecting the shoreline from erosion. The Red Mangrove estuary is teeming with fish, shellfish, mammals and birds that make their homes among these unique trees!

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