

## Chapter 1 : Airboat rides, Everglades national park, Eco Tour, Everglades theme park

*Welcome to the Everglades National Park Information Page. Here you will find all you need to know about the natural history of the park. Learn about the geology, trees, mammals, birds, or other plants and wildlife of the area.*

Geography and ecology of the Everglades At the turn of the 20th century common concepts of what should be protected in national parks invariably included formidable geologic features like mountains, geysers, or canyons. Freshwater sloughs and marl prairies[ edit ] Alligators thrive in freshwater sloughs and marl prairies. Freshwater sloughs are perhaps the most common ecosystem associated with Everglades National Park. Sawgrass growing to a height of 6 feet 1. Excellent feeding locations for birds, sloughs in the Everglades attract a great variety of waders such as herons , egrets , roseate spoonbills *Platalea ajaja* , ibises and brown pelicans *Pelecanus occidentalis* , as well as limpkins *Aramus guarauna* and snail kites that eat apple snails , which in turn feed on the sawgrass. Algae and other microscopic organisms form periphyton , which attaches to limestone. When it dries it turns into a gray mud. Marl prairies are usually under water from three to seven months of the year, whereas sloughs may remain submerged for longer than nine months and sometimes remain under water from one year to the next. Sawgrass may dominate sloughs, creating a monoculture. Other grasses, such as muhly grass *Muhlenbergia filipes* and broad-leafed water plants can be found in marl prairies. Marl prairies may go dry in some parts of the year; alligators play a vital role in maintaining life in remote parts of the Everglades by burrowing in the mud during the dry season, creating pools of water where fish and amphibians survive from one year to the next. Alligator holes also attract other animals who congregate to feed on smaller prey. When the region floods again during the wet season, the fish and amphibians which were sustained in the alligator holes then repopulate freshwater marl prairies. Tropical hardwood hammock Hammocks are often the only dry land within the park. They rise several inches above the grass-covered river and are dominated by diverse plant life consisting of subtropical and tropical trees, such as large southern live oaks *Quercus virginiana*. Trees often form canopies under which animals thrive amongst scrub bushes of wild coffee *Psychotria* , white indigoberry *Randia aculeata* , poisonwood *Metopium toxiferum* and saw palmetto *Serenoa repens*. The park features thousands of these tree islands amid sloughs which often form the shape of a teardrop when seen from above see park map because of the slowly moving water around them but they can also be found in pineland and mangroves. The plant growth around the hammock base is nearly impenetrable; beneath the canopy hammocks is an ideal habitat for animals. Reptiles such as various species of snake and anole and amphibians such as the American green tree frog , *Hyla cinerea* , live in the hardwood hammocks. Birds such as barred owls *Strix varia* , woodpeckers , northern cardinals *Cardinalis cardinalis* , and southern bald eagles *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* nest in hammock trees. Mammal species living in hardwood hammocks include black bears *Ursus americanus floridanus* , red foxes *Vulpes vulpes* , minks *Neovison vison* , marsh rabbits *Sylvilagus palustris* , gray foxes *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* , white-tailed deer *Odocoileus virginianus* , and the rare, critically endangered Florida panther *Puma con color corgi*. Trees in this ecosystem grow in solution holes , where the soft limestone has worn away and filled with soil, allowing plants to take hold. South Florida slash pines are uniquely adapted to promote fire by dropping a large amount of dried pine needles and shedding dry bark. Pine cones require heat from fires to open, allowing seeds to disperse and take hold. The trunks and roots of slash pines are resistant to fire. Prescribed burns in these areas take place every three to seven years; without regular fires, hardwood trees begin to grow in this region, and pinelands become recategorized as mixed swamp forests. Woodpeckers, eastern meadowlarks *Sturnella magna* , loggerhead shrikes *Lanius ludovicianus* , grackles , and northern mockingbirds *Mimus polyglottos* are commonly found in pinelands. Black bears and Florida panthers also live in this habitat. They grow in compact structures called cypress domes and in long strands over limestone. Water levels may fluctuate dramatically around cypress domes and strands, so cypresses develop "knees" that protrude from the water at high levels to provide oxygen for the root systems. Dwarf cypress trees grow in drier areas with poorer soil. Epiphytes , such as bromeliads , Spanish moss *Tillandsia usneoides* , orchids and ferns grow on the branches and trunks of cypress trees. Everglades National Park features twenty-five species of orchids. Mammals in cypress regions include

white-tailed deer, squirrels, raccoons , opossums , skunks, swamp rabbits, river otters *Lontra canadensis* , and bobcats , as well as small rodents. During drier years when less fresh water flows to the coast, mangroves will appear among fresh water plants. When rain is abundant, sawgrass and other fresh water plants may be found closer to the coast. Three species of mangrove treesâ€”red *Rhizophora mangle* , black *Avicennia germinans* , and white *Laguncularia racemosa* â€”can be found in the Everglades. With a high tolerance of salt water, winds, extreme tides, high temperatures, and muddy soils, mangrove trees are uniquely adapted to extreme conditions. They act as nurseries for many marine and bird species. Floods occur during hurricane and tropical storm surges when ocean water can rise several feet over the land. Few trees can survive in the conditions of this region, but plantsâ€”succulents like saltwort and glasswort â€”tolerate salt, brackish water, and desert conditions. Animal life in this zone is dependent upon the amount of water present, but commonly found animals include Cape Sable seaside sparrow *Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis* , Everglades snail kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis* , wood stork *Mycteria americana* , eastern indigo snake *Drymarchon couperi* , and small mammals such as rats, mice, and rabbits. Coral , sponges , and seagrasses serve as shelter and food for crustaceans and mollusks , which in turn are the primary food source for larger marine animals. Sharks, stingrays , and barracudas also live in this ecosystem. Pelicans, shorebirds , terns, and black skimmers *Rynchops niger* are among the birds frequenting park shorelines. Mammals along the shoreline include raccoons , opossums , bobcats , and fox squirrels.

## Chapter 2 : Florida National Parks Association

*Welcome to Everglades National Park! The Everglades is an expansive area of land in south Florida, which consists of million acres of wetland. Since the park covers such a large area of south Florida, planning is a must.*

Everglades National Park Florida Panther 7. The Wood Stork “ Everglades Wood Stork Everglades National Park Florida The abundant presence of rare birds at this park was noted many years ago when early visitors started coming to the area. Audubon was amazed at the presence of so many birds thriving in the various ecosystems of the Everglades that he formed The Audubon Society to spearhead efforts of protecting the birds from indiscriminate hunting. Yet attacks by human continued to endanger this giant ecological carnival, prompting Congress to establish the Everglades as a National Park in In , it was formally dedicated as a park by President Harry S. Truman in a ceremony held at Everglades City. It became the first park to be established on the basis of its rich biological resources. It is also the biggest tropical wilderness in the US, and it receives more than a million visitors every year. The Everglades are a network of many wetlands and large forests that are fed by a river that flows from Lake Okeechobee. It is a very unique river that was formed from overflowing water from the lake. Consequently, it flows very slowly “ one foot or so a minute “ cutting across the gently inclined floor of southern Florida. The river is a vital part of the ecosystem here. Crocodiles, alligators and hundreds of other animals here are dependent on its water. The park is a surprisingly wonderful place that encompasses the shallow, blue waters and islands of Florida Bay, thick mangrove forests, towering palms, unending marshes and savanna-like river of grass. Everglades National Park is the only place on earth where alligators and crocs exist side by side. From Miami, the main park gate Ernest F. From here, there is a park road which heads south to Flamingo, close to the edge of Florida Bay. Along the way, you will come across beautiful overlooks and boardwalk-style trails that penetrate the swamps and marshes. Once you reach Flamingo, you can take a boat ride for a better look at the marine and bird life. There are two other entrances that provide additional views of the park: In the last entrance, you can catch a boat that will take you through the parks Thousand Islands region. You will come across many great blue herons, 5-foot tall white pelicans, cormorants, terns and other birds and animals. Multiple Ecosystems A tour of the Everglades is incomplete without appreciating the various distinct interdependent ecosystems which exist within the park. At the heart of the park are the immense sawgrass marshes, the largest in the world. Striking images of the African savanna, these marshes are the hallmark of the park. The Pineland is the highest area in the park. It encompasses forests of slash pine and other plants such as the saw palmetto which thrive in the mulch of pine needles which have fallen to the ground. Other pines found here include southern Florida slash pine and the pond pine. They are usually the only dry area in the park, so trees are able to grow as their roots are not under water. Hardwoods such as mahogany, gumbo limbo and cocoa palm grow here. The hammock creates its own unique ecosystem that is cooler than the surrounding glades. Next is the Mangrove Swamp near the coast where the salt waters of the gulf mix with the fresh water coming from Lake Okeechobee. Mangroves prefer such brackish waters, and they end up creating much new land when their roots and trunks trap organic matter found in the water. The swamps cover more than sq. The last ecosystem is the Coastal Prairie, a landform located in the southernmost section of the park. These areas are covered by yucca, grasses, buttonwood, gumbo limbo and other types of hardwoods. A tour of the Everglades National Park presents one with countless opportunities to enjoy the beauty of nature. You can enjoy a multitude of activities such as canoe trips, hiking, biking, tram and boat tours as well as camping. You are guaranteed to have a truly enjoyable time.

## Chapter 3 : Reasons to Visit Everglades National Park in Florida

*Everglades National Park protects an unparalleled landscape that provides important habitat for numerous rare and endangered species like the manatee, American crocodile, and the elusive Florida panther. Our Park has restored over 5, acres of wetlands! Learn more here.*

## Chapter 4 : Plan Your Visit - Everglades National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

*Everglades National Park. Everglades National Park is only a one-hour drive from the hustle and bustle of Miami, but a world away. The park encompasses million acres of tropical and subtropical habitat with one of the world's most diverse ecosystems.*

## Chapter 5 : Everglades National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

*Welcome to Everglades National Park and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.*

## Chapter 6 : Everglades Airboat Tours, Everglades Airboat Rides & Gator Shows

*Explore Everglades National Park holidays and discover the best time and places to visit. | This vast wilderness, encompassing million acres, is one of America's great natural treasures.*

## Chapter 7 : THE 15 BEST Things to Do in Everglades National Park - (with Photos) - TripAdvisor

*Welcome to Everglades National Park, the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States and the first national park in the country established to protect an ecosystem and the abundance of life it nourishes.*

## Chapter 8 : Everglades National Park (www.nxgvision.com) - Welcome to Everglades National Park

*Everglades National Park is the only place on earth where alligators and crocs exist side by side. From Miami, the main park gate (Ernest F. Coe Visitor Centre and Park Headquarters) is 40 miles to the south, near Florida City.*

## Chapter 9 : Everglades Â· National Parks Conservation Association

*welcome to everglades area tours "Dedicated to fun and the experiential education of students, families and travelers from Florida, the Americas and the World" The splendid natural world of Everglades National Park and the 10, Islands opens to our guests with a variety of Guided Eco Adventures.*