

In and Around Naples  
 A Series of Presentations  
 for the Collier County Library  
 by Paul Pacter

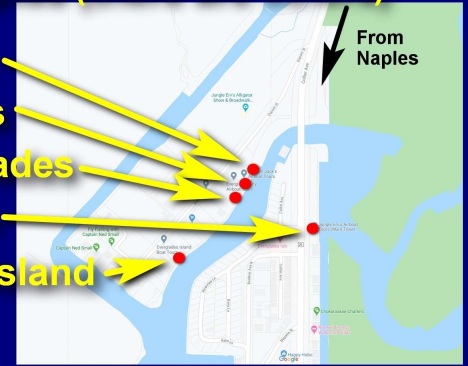
**Everglades City Airboat Tours**

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**Airboat Tours from Everglades City  
 Some Examples (there are others)**

Capt. Jack's  
 Capt. Doug's  
 Orig. Everglades  
 Jungle Erv's  
 Everglades Island



**Airboat Tours.**

There are several out of Everglades City.

- Basic tour one hour.
- Approx: Adult \$40. Kids 4-12 \$25.
- Show Up or (for some) book on-line.
- Boats hold around 6 people + captain.
- Ear protection is provided.
- Do not feed the alligators.
- Do not put your hands in the water.

Some airboat tours out of Everglades City go through grasslands.

Other airboat tours go through mangrove swamps.

Both are beautiful.

You can see wildlife (birds, alligators, etc.) on both.

Many Airboat Tour Operators in Everglades City

Original Everglades

Captain Doug's

Captain Jack's

Many others.

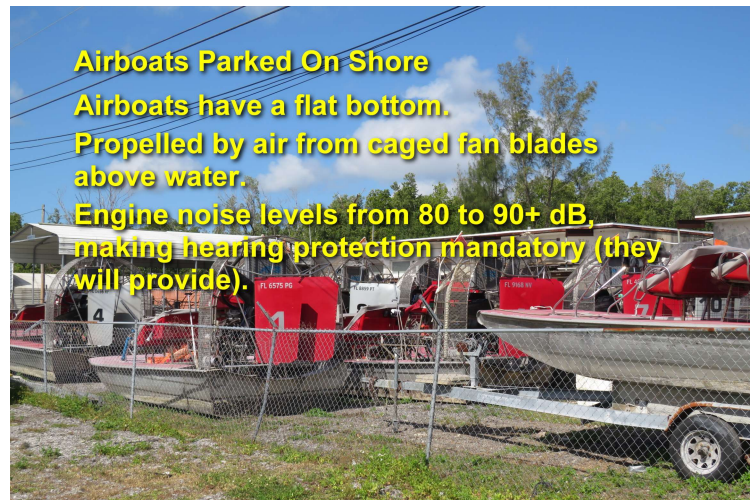


Airboats Parked On Shore

Airboats have a flat bottom.

Propelled by air from caged fan blades above water.

Engine noise levels from 80 to 90+ dB, making hearing protection mandatory (they will provide).



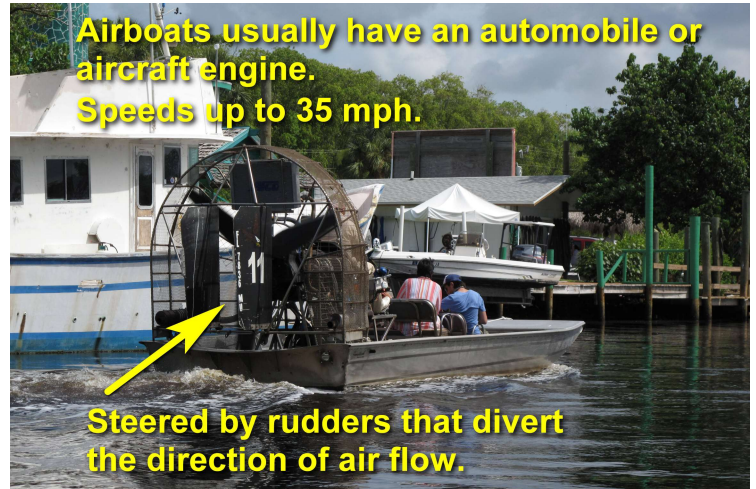
Airboat - Usually 6 Passengers Plus the Captain



Everglades water is too shallow for a standard submerged propeller engine.

Airboats usually have an automobile or aircraft engine.

Speeds up to 35 mph.



Steered by rudders that divert the direction of air flow.

# Guess who invented the first airboat?

Dr. Alexander Graham Bell with his aircraft engine test boat/airboat, the Ugly Duckling, 1905.



12,164 Airboats Registered in Florida, 1,025 of them commercial (2017).



Leaving E.C. pelicans will sometimes jump onto the front of your boat.

## Airboat Tour from Everglades City



## Airboat Tour from Everglades City



## Airboat Tour - Mangrove Jungle



## Going Through a Mangrove "Tunnel"

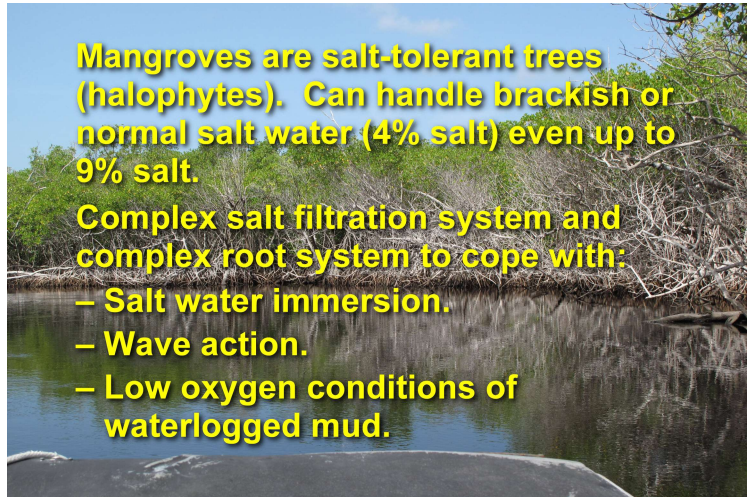


## Airboat Tour - Mangrove Jungle





**Alligator in a Mangrove Jungle**



**Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees (halophytes). Can handle brackish or normal salt water (4% salt) even up to 9% salt.**  
**Complex salt filtration system and complex root system to cope with:**

- Salt water immersion.
- Wave action.
- Low oxygen conditions of waterlogged mud.



**Estimated 1.25 million alligators in Florida. 5 million in USA overall.**



**Boat captain pulled up his own personal crab trap to show us Blue Crabs.**



**Wild Hogs. Invasive. Brought by Spaniards 1500s. Several million remain in Florida.**

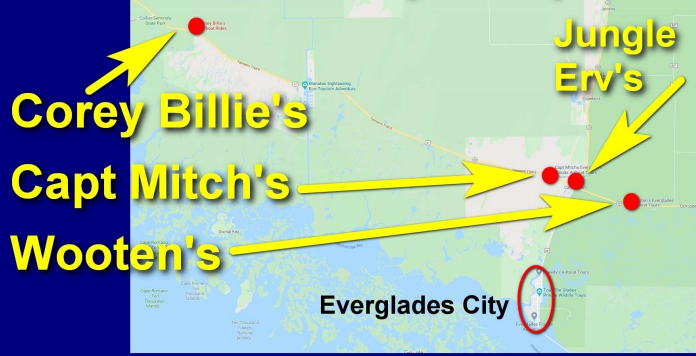


**On this tour, wild raccoons come out to meet the airboat for a snack.**

**There Are Also Airboat Tour Operators Based Along the Tamiami Trail (US-41). These will likely be more grasslands, and less mangrove swamp, tours.**  
**Some examples (map next slide):**

- Corey Billie's (closest to Naples).
- Capt Mitch's.
- Jungle Erv's.
- Wooten's.

# Examples of Airboat Tours on Tamiami Trail (US-41)



Corey Billie's Airboat Arriving at the Dock



Some airboat tours offer a small show or allow you to hold a baby gator.