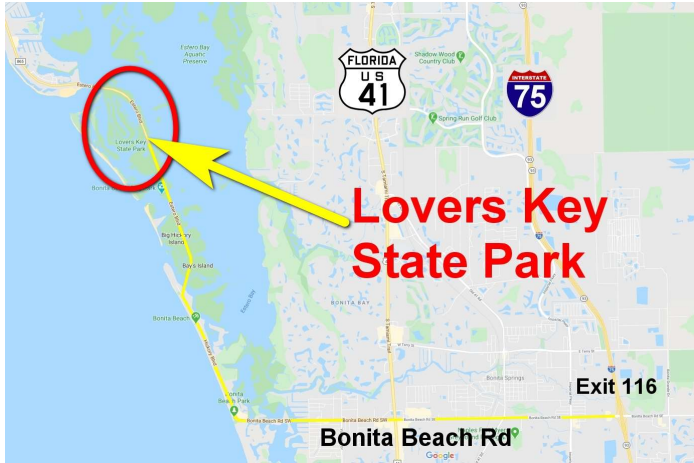


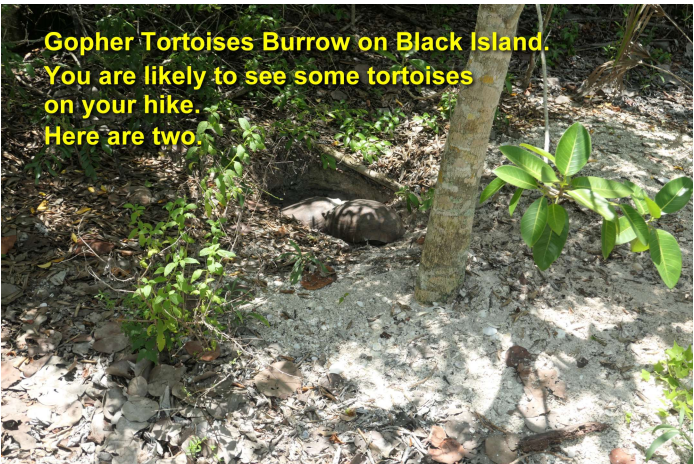


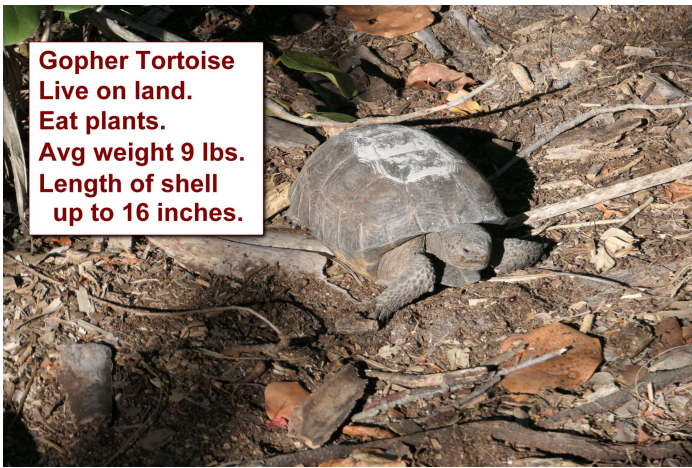
Lovers Key State Park – Trails and Beaches
Website: www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/lovers-key-state-park
Where: 8700 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.
Get There: West on Bonita Beach Rd to Gulf. Curve right onto Hickory Blvd. About 5 miles to Lovers Key.
Admission: \$8 per vehicle. *1 person \$4.*
When: 8am to sunset, daily.



What: Two miles of Gulf Beaches. Miles of hiking trails. Kayaking, canoeing, shells. Dolphins, manatees, birds, gopher tortoises, maybe an alligator.
Two trails at Lovers Key: **Black Island Trail and Eagle Trail.** Each about 2.5 miles long (with shortcuts). They follow estuaries originally dredged to make way for residential development. That was stopped by the State.

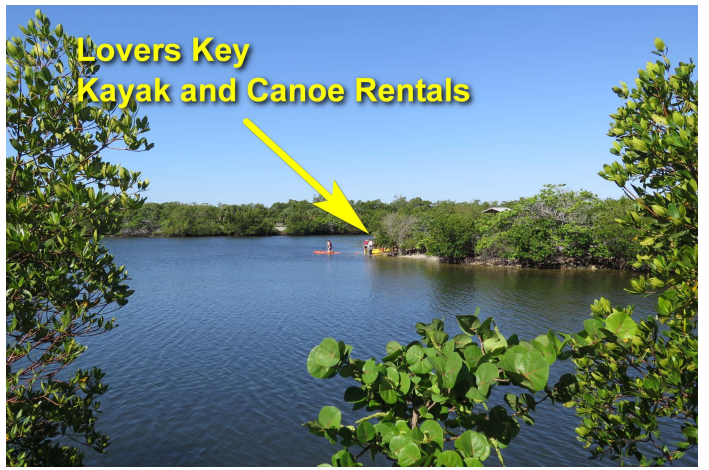
Black Island Trail offers a view into secluded estuaries full of wildlife. Home to manatees, dolphins, great variety of coastal birds, fish, insects, and reptiles.
Eagle Trail brings walkers through maritime hammock dominated by cabbage palms, Jamaica dogwoods, strangler figs, gumbo limbos, catclaws, buttonwoods, seagrapes, and black and red mangroves.







Lovers Key - Black Island Trails



Lovers Key
Kayak and Canoe Rentals

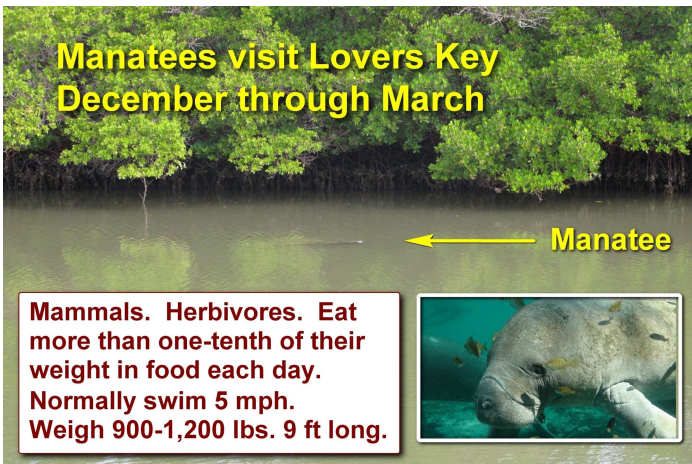


Kayakers at Black Island – Lovers Key.



Manatee - Lovers Key Black Island

Manatees live in water but come up for air every 5 to 20 minutes.



Manatees visit Lovers Key
December through March

Manatee

Mammals. Herbivores. Eat more than one-tenth of their weight in food each day. Normally swim 5 mph. Weigh 900-1,200 lbs. 9 ft long.



Kayak Rentals - 4 Hours
Singles \$41
Doubles \$63
Canoe \$52
Guided tours also offered.

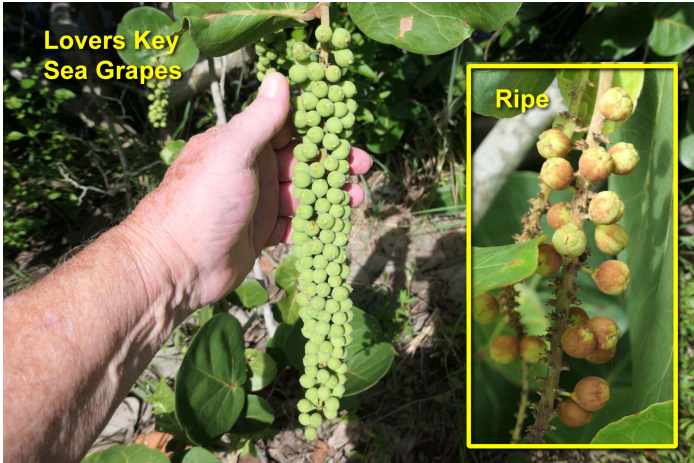
Near the new Education Center.



Lovers Key - Black Island Trails



Sabal Palm or Cabbage Palm
Florida's State Tree





Black Island Trail and Eagle Trail are each about 2½ miles long. But each has a few shortcuts. And a few resting shelters.



Kayak dog is wearing a life jacket.
Black Island – Lovers Key



Lovers Key
Green Heron



Castor Seeds on Black Island. Hull and seeds are poisonous to humans, animals, insects.
The main toxin is "ricin".



"The outer coating (hull) may cause nausea; vomiting; diaharrea; abdominal pain; dehydration; shock; blood cell destruction; severe fluid and chemical disturbances; liver, kidney, and pancreas damage; and death." Wikipedia



In addition to trails, Lovers Key Has a Two-Mile Long Beach!
Free tram to get you to the more remote end.



Even the walk to the beach is beautiful



Osprey at
Lovers Key



This nest is near beach parking lot

Lovers Key New Education Center Nearing Completion

