

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

Shark Valley

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www.paulvisits.com

Shark Valley

Technically Miami, but just 8 miles past the Dade County Line on US-41. A day trip from Naples.

Website:

www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/svdirections.htm

Where: 36000 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33194.

Get There: US-41 (Tamiami Trail) 70 miles east of Naples.



When: 8:30am to 5pm (visitor center opens 9am).

Admission:

Car \$30 – good for 7 days.

Narrated tram tour is additional \$27 per adult, \$21 per senior, \$14 per child.

What? Alligators and other wildlife, guaranteed!

Continued next slide...

Shark Valley Tram Tours: Guided two-hour narrated tram tours on a 15-mile loop trail into the "River of Grass". Half way, a 45-foot high observation deck provides panoramic views of the Everglades.

Reservations strongly recommended.

– 8 daily tours Dec. 20 through April.

– 4 daily tours May through Dec. 20.

Alligators, turtles, egrets, cormorants, blackbirds, herons, anhinga.

Two short walking trails. But though it's pricey, tram tours are the way to go.

**Everglades National Park
Walk to Shark Valley Visitor Center**



**Everglades National Park
Shark Valley**



**Boardwalk at Shark Valley
Visitor Center**





Sometimes you have to look closely



Shark Valley Tram Tours Start Here



There's a small exhibit area



Two-hour, 15-mile Tram Tour



Tram Tours Are Well Narrated Lots of Photo Stops



You'll See Lots of These!

- Found only in southeastern USA.
- Estimated 5 million total.
- Of that, 1.25 million in Florida.
- No longer endangered.
- Live in fresh water.
- Eat fish, turtles, snakes, birds, small mammals.
- Female lays 30-50 hard-shell eggs.
- Hatch 65 days.
- Young are prey to mammals.
- Adult alligators have no prey except man.



Great Egret – Heron Family Conservation Status: LC

- Conservation Classifications**
- EX** Extinct – No known living individuals.
 - EW** Extinct in the wild – Known only to survive in captivity.
 - CR** Critically endangered – Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
 - EN** Endangered – High risk of extinction in the wild.
 - VU** Vulnerable – High risk of endangerment in the wild.
 - NT** Near threatened – Likely to become endangered soon.
 - LC** Least concern – Lowest risk.

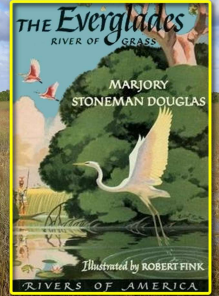
Wood Stork
The only stork that breeds in
North America



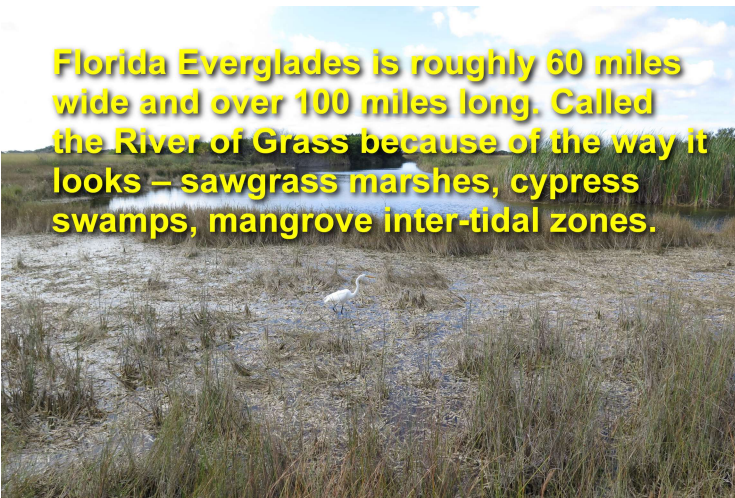
River of Grass
Nickname for the Everglades

1947 book by Marjory Stoneman Douglas
that called public attention
to the destruction of the
Everglades by developers.

Resulted in President Harry
Truman's controversial 1947
order to protect more than
2 million acres as Everglades
National Park.



Florida Everglades is roughly 60 miles
wide and over 100 miles long. Called
the River of Grass because of the way it
looks – sawgrass marshes, cypress
swamps, mangrove inter-tidal zones.



Great close-up photos,
right next to our tram!



Everglades National Park
There are no sharks in Shark
Valley.



But there are lots of these!

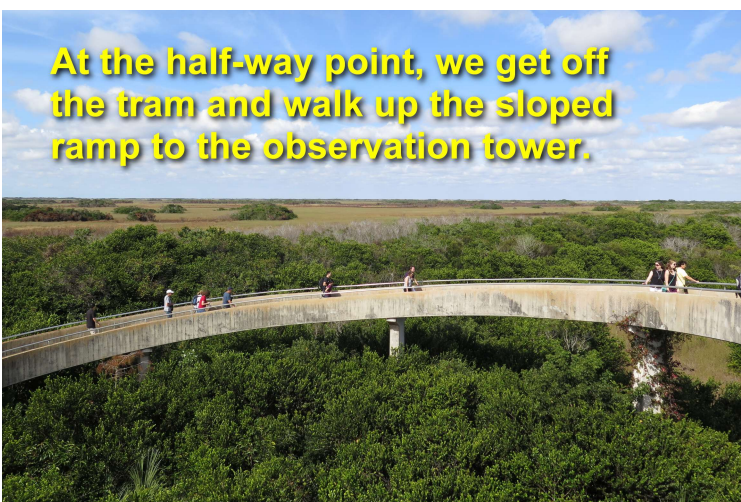




Shark Valley



**Tram Tour
Shark Valley**



**At the half-way point, we get off
the tram and walk up the sloped
ramp to the observation tower.**



360 degree views for 20 miles



**Everglades National Park
Shark Valley**



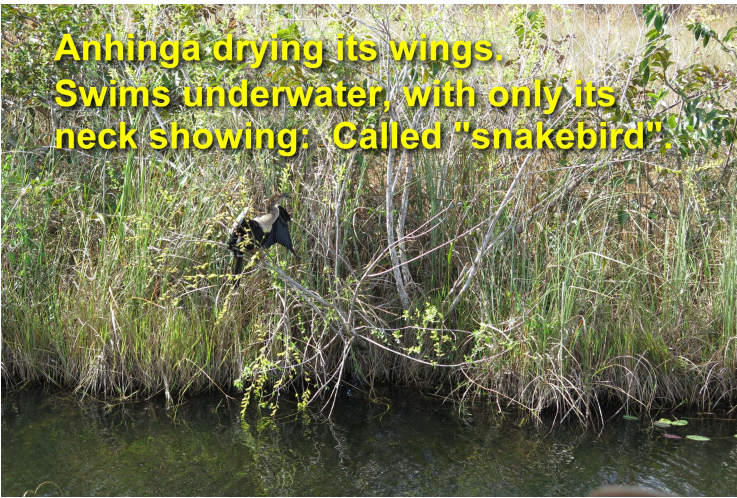
**Great views from the
safety of the ramp.**



**View from the tram.
Everglades National Park.**



**Anhinga drying its wings.
Swims underwater, with only its
neck showing: Called "snakebird".**



Anhinga nesting



**We finish with one last Shark Valley
Alligator photo**

