

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

**South and East of Naples  
 Along the Tamiami Trail (US-41)**

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[www.paulvisits.com](http://www.paulvisits.com)

**Tamiami Trail (US-41) Naples to Dade  
 Line = 65 miles.**

**In 90 minutes, we'll cover the highlights of  
 what's there, including:**

- A National Park.
- National Preserve.
- National Wildlife Refuge.
- State Parks.
- Wildlife. History. The Everglades.



**Great day trips in the Naples area.**

**South and East of Naples  
 Along the Tamiami Trail (US-41)**



**Marco Island**



**Marco Island Historical Museum  
 One of Five Collier County Museums**

**Website:** [www.colliermuseums.com](http://www.colliermuseums.com)

**Where:** 180 South Heathwood Drive,  
 Marco Island.

**Get There:** Collier Blvd (I-75 Exit 101) to  
 Marco Is. South on Bald Eagle Dr.  
 Becomes Heathwood Dr. Museum is on  
 right across from Marco Library.

**When:** Tuesday-Sat 9am to 4pm.

**Admission:** Free.

**What:** Traces the settlement of Marco  
 from Calusa (500 AD), to Spanish, to  
 Seminoles (and Seminole Wars), to  
 permanent settlement in 1870.

From there, the museum covers Marco's  
 agricultural history (fishing, clamming,  
 and pineapple farming), growth of the  
 village (early 20th c), and major property  
 development (1920s and again beginning  
 in 1960s).

**Marco Island  
 Historical  
 Museum**



**Marco Island Historical Museum**



## Brief History of Marco Island

**500 AD:** Calusa Indians arrived. Possibly descendants of the Mayans (Yucatan).

**Mid-1500s:** Spanish explorers arrived. By mid-1700s Calusa were wiped out or fled.

**1700s:** Creek Indians arrived from Georgia and Alabama. (Later renamed Seminoles.)

**1816 to 1858:** 3 Seminole Wars vs US Army. Most Seminoles wiped out or fled.

**1845:** Florida statehood.

**1870:** First permanent settler William Collier arrived. Village of Marco founded. **Not related to Barron**

**1896:** Old Marco Inn opened by Colliers. Still stands.

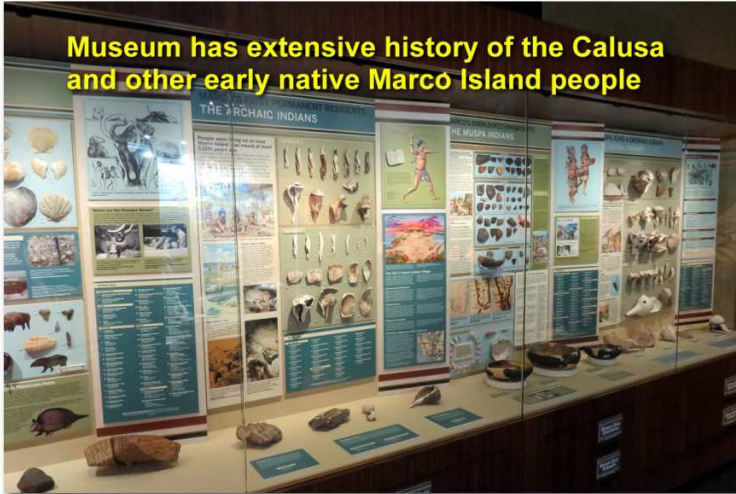
**1912:** Ferry service to Marco began.

**1920s:** Barron Collier bought large amount of land. Incorporated Marco as Collier City. Development rush began. But failed in Great Depression. 1957 name reverted to Marco.

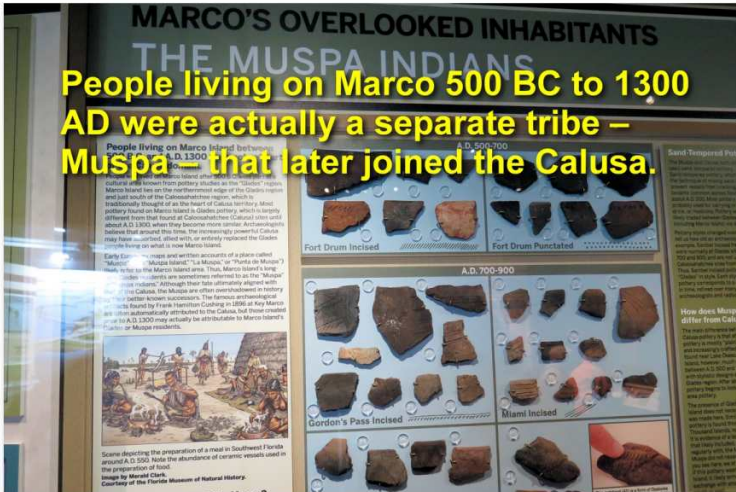
**1938:** First bridge to Marco (Goodland).

**1960s:** Mackell Bros. bought most of Barron Collier's land. Development took off.

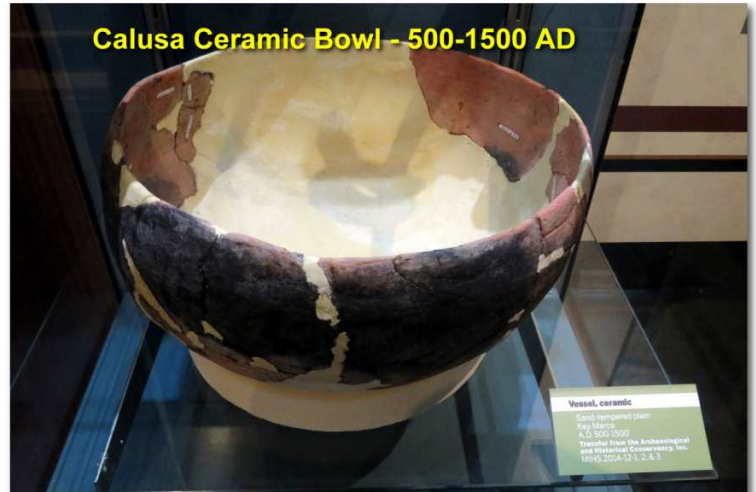
## Museum has extensive history of the Calusa and other early native Marco Island people



## People living on Marco 500 BC to 1300 AD were actually a separate tribe – Muspa – that later joined the Calusa.



## Calusa Ceramic Bowl - 500-1500 AD



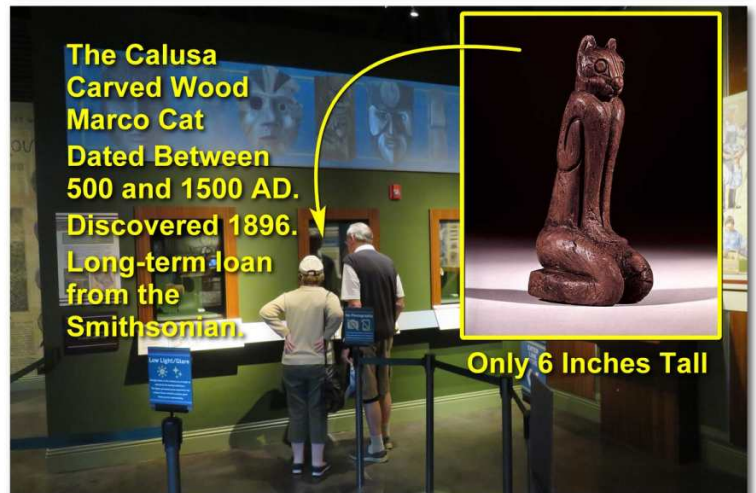
## Calusa Tools – 13th-16th centuries

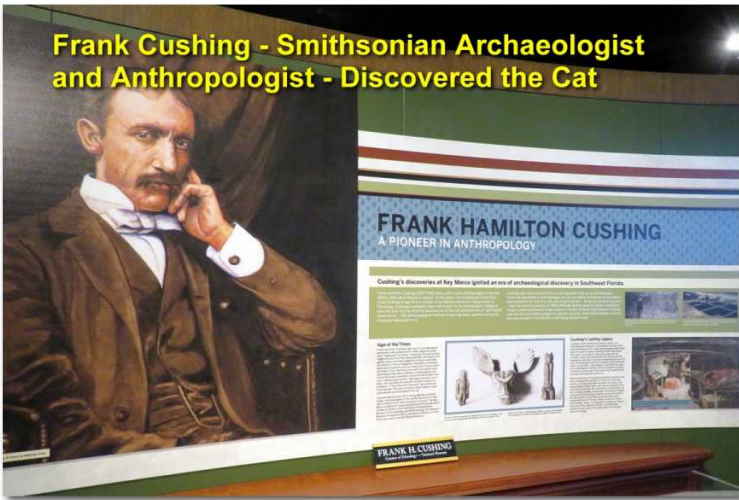


## The Calusa Carved Wood Marco Cat Dated Between 500 and 1500 AD. Discovered 1896. Long-term loan from the Smithsonian.



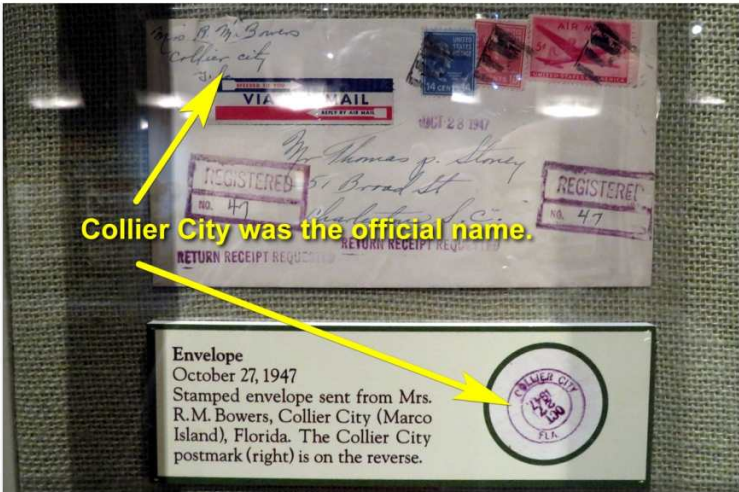
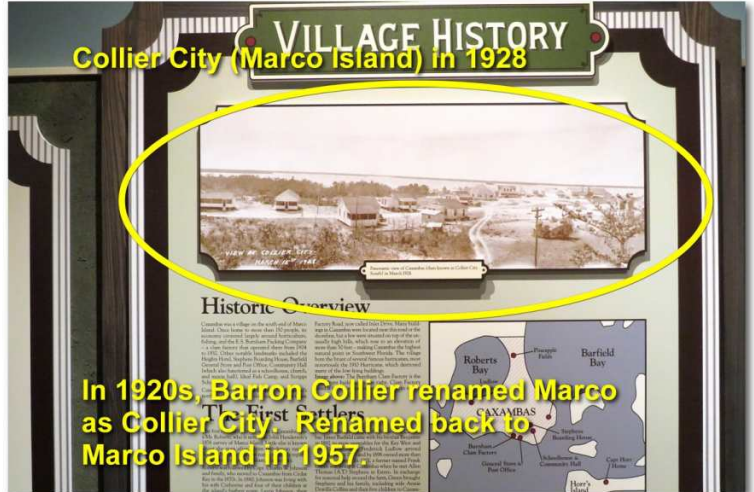
Only 6 Inches Tall





**What happened to the Calusa?**

- 1513 Spanish explorers (Ponce de Leon etc) arrived in SW Florida.
  - Weapons easily defeated the Calusa. Took land and took Calusas as slaves.
  - Brought diseases (smallpox, measles, typhus) that were fatal to Calusa.
- Early 1700s Creek and Yemasee Indians (now known as Seminole) invaded from Alabama and Georgia. Conquered Calusa. That was the end of the Calusa.





Where to have lunch at Marco? Ideas:

North tip of Marco:

- Snook Inn.

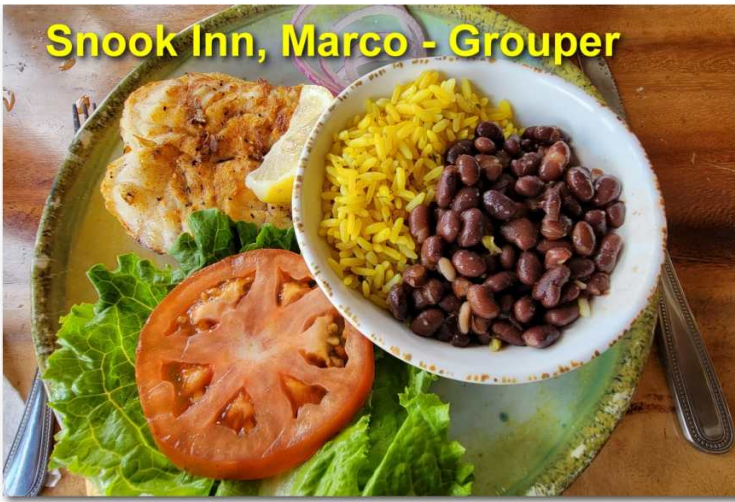
On Isles of Capri, west of Collier Blvd just before bridge to Marco Island:

- Capri Fish House.
- Pelican Bend.
- Island Gypsy.
- Osteria Capri.

Map on next slide...



## Snook Inn, Marco - Grouper



# Rookery Bay



1. Learning Center.
2. Shell Island.
3. Keewaydin.

## Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

**Website:** <https://rookerybay.org/>

**Comment:** Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve stretches across 110,000 acres from Gordon Pass in Naples to the western Everglades of pristine mangrove forest, uplands, and protected waters.

**Three main locations:** Next slide.

Rookery Bay has several locations of interest to day-trippers:

1. **Environmental Learning Center:** 300 Tower Rd, Naples. On Collier Blvd one mile south of US-41.
2. **Shell Island Road (boardwalk, hiking trails, nature boat cruises):** Collier Blvd 3 miles south of US-41. West on Shell Is. Rd.
3. **Keewaydin Island.** Also called Key Island. Can only get there by boat.

# Rookery Bay



1. Learning Center.
2. Shell Island.
3. Keewaydin.

## Environmental Learning Center:

**Admission:** Adults \$8. Boat tours \$109.

**When:** Mon-Fri 9am to 4pm. Closed Sat-Sun.

**Learning center:** 16,500-square-foot educational, research and training facility with research laboratories, classrooms, auditorium, aquariums, visitor center, art gallery, cultural exhibits.

**Observation bridge across Henderson Creek. Three half-mile walking trails.**

## Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

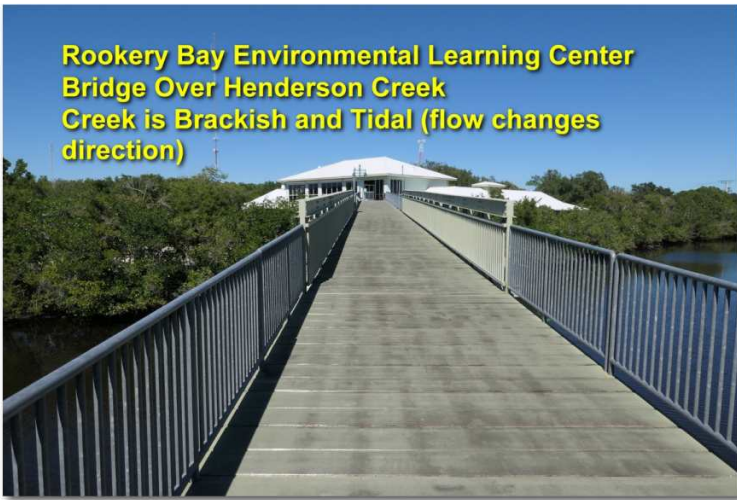
**Collier Blvd  
1 Mile South  
of US-41**

**Then right on Tower Rd.**

## Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center Cross Bridge Over Henderson Creek to Get to Walking Trails



Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center  
 Bridge Over Henderson Creek  
 Creek is Brackish and Tidal (flow changes direction)



Rookery Bay Reserve  
 View of Henderson Creek from the Bridge



Three trails, each 1/2 mile long  
 Snail Trail has viewing platform on the Creek



Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center  
 Snail Trail



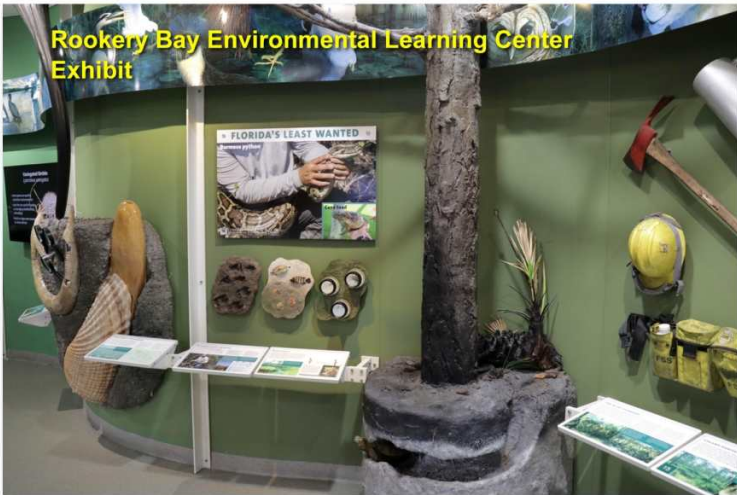
Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center  
 Viewing Platform on Henderson Creek



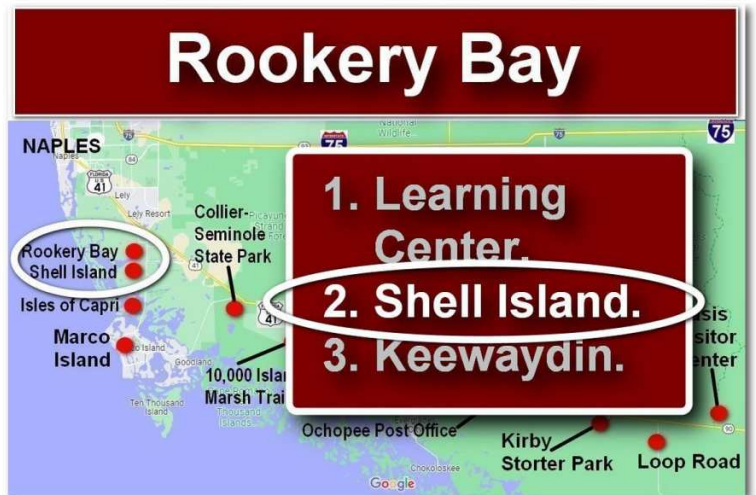
Rookery Bay Learning Center Exhibits  
 Calusa Axe



Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center  
 Exhibit



# Rookery Bay



## Shell Island Road

**Briggs Boardwalk:** Half-mile boardwalk. Small nature center. Self-guided tours dawn to dusk. Guided tours Jan-March

**Nature trails:** 4 trails each approximately ¼ mile long. Can be overgrown and muddy.

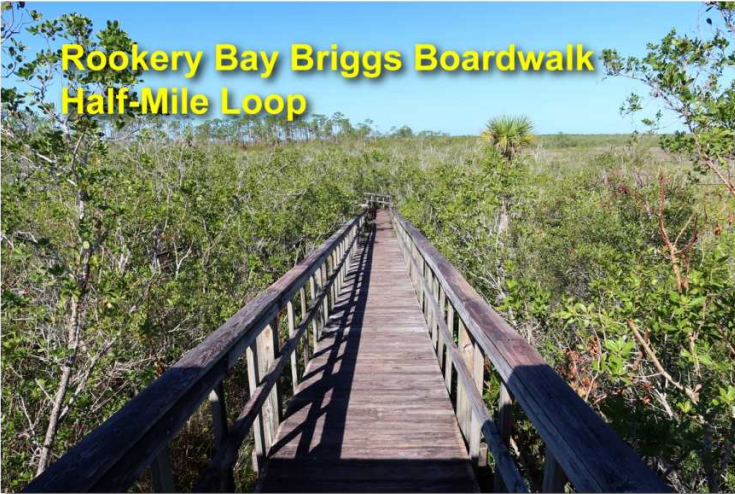
**Boat tours:** 3 hours. \$109.

**Guided kayak tours:** 2 hours. \$65 to \$75.

## Rookery Bay - Shell Island Hiking, Boardwalk, Nature Cruises



## Rookery Bay Briggs Boardwalk Half-Mile Loop



## Rookery Bay - Briggs Boardwalk



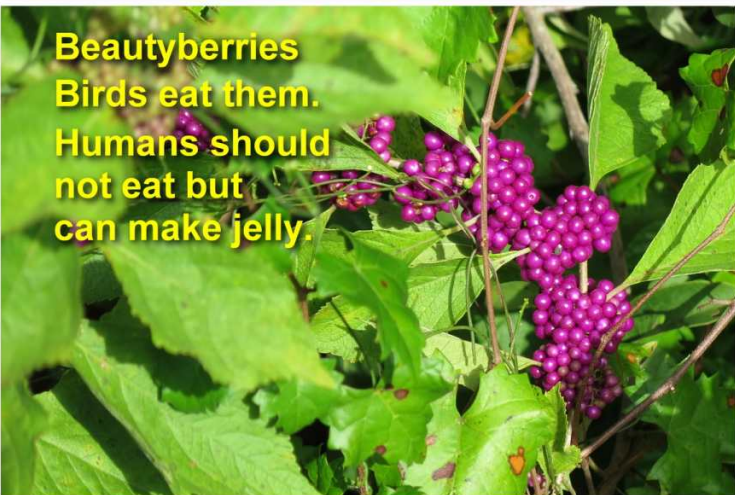
## Rookery Bay Pine Flatwood



## Rookery Bay Dahoon Holly



**Beautyberries**  
Birds eat them.  
Humans should not eat but can make jelly.



## Rookery Bay Boardwalk Wood Stork





**Sabal Palm – Florida State Tree**  
Can Grow to 65 Ft Height.  
aka Cabbage Palm,  
Swamp Cabbage.



**Gopher Tortoise - Rookery Bay**

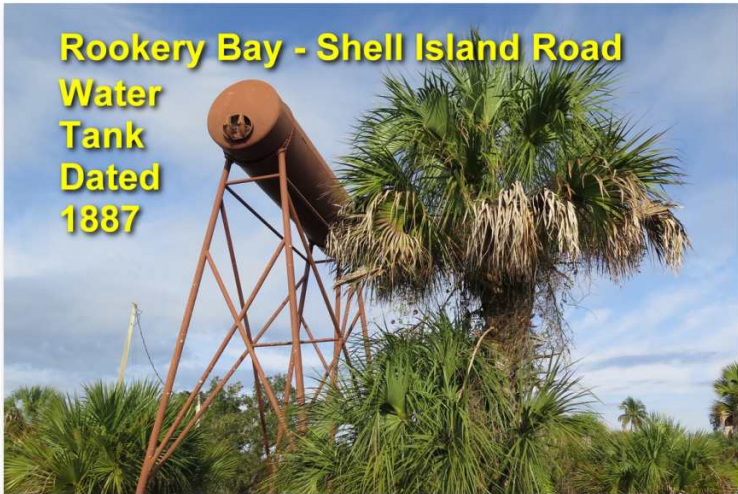
**Cannot Swim - Lives in Burrows**



**Calusa Shell Mound**  
1700s or earlier



**Calusa Axe (Illegal to remove)**



**Rookery Bay - Shell Island Road**  
Water Tank  
Dated  
1887



**Old Graves on Shell Island**  
(Public Access Now Closed)

George Washington Kirkland  
1832 to 1901



**Old Graves on Shell Island**  
(Public Access  
Now Closed)

Jesse James Jones  
1900-1908



**Rookery Bay Nature Cruises**



**National Geodetic Survey Marker  
On Shell Island** <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/>

**Entire US Has Been Mapped.**

**Used for:**

- Floodplain and shoreline mapping.
- Boundary determination.
- Construction engineering.
- Science: Hydrology, Plate tectonics.
- Shipping and transportation.

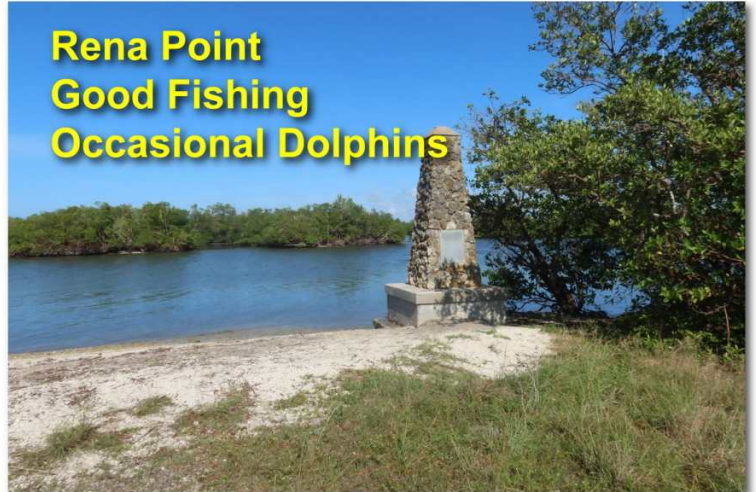


**Rookery Bay - Shell Island  
Trail to Rena Point**



**Trail to Rena Point  
Is NOT accessible at high tide!**

**Parking**



**Rena Point  
Good Fishing  
Occasional Dolphins**



**Rookery Bay  
Rena Point**

## Rookery Bay

1. Learning Center.
2. Shell Island.
3. Keewaydin.

**Keewaydin Island:**  
**Barrier island. 8 miles long.**  
**No roads or cars.**  
**Sanctuary for wildlife. Recreational destination for local residents and tourists (swimming, fishing, walking, shelling).**  
**15% privately owned (15 homes); 85% public.**  
**Commercial shuttle boat service to/from Marco Island to south tip of Keewaydin**  
[www.hemingwaywatershuttle.com/](http://www.hemingwaywatershuttle.com/).  
**\$22 each way (children \$12).**



## Keewaydin Island



Internet Photo

Several boats offer lunch food for sale.  
No bathroom facilities on the island.  
I have sailed around but never been there.

### Food Boat at Keewaydin Island



Internet Photo

## Keewaydin Island History: The Keewaydin Club (Privately Owned) Resort and Cottages on the Island

1934-1999 there was private Keewaydin Club with cottages and shuttle ferry from Port Royal, Naples, to north tip of Keewaydin.

Ferry (Kokomis) is now on exhibit at Collier County Museum.

## Keewaydin Ferry Boat - 1934



## Keewaydin Ferry Boat - 1934



## Keewaydin - 2022



## Collier-Seminole State Park



## Collier-Seminole State Park

**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/collier-seminole-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/collier-seminole-state-park)

**Where:** 20200 Tamiami Trail E., Naples  
Another entrance at Old Marco Road.

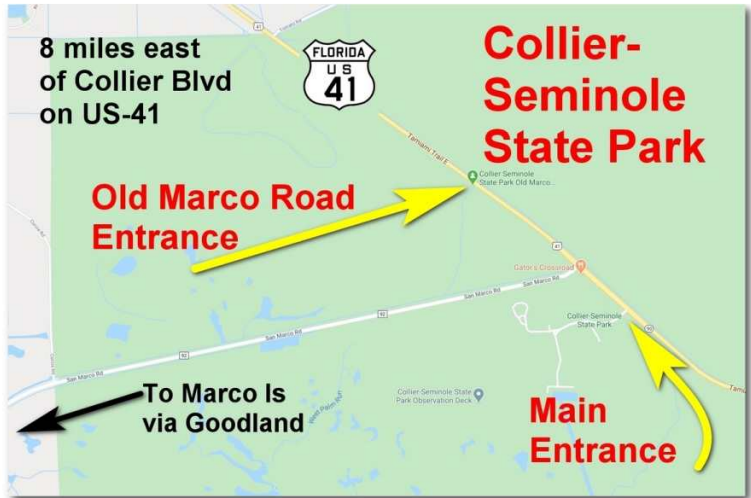
**Get There:** US-41 Tamiami Trail East, 8 miles east of Collier Blvd/SR-951.

**When:** 5am to sunset.

**Admission:** \$5 per vehicle, or annual pass.

**What: 7,271-acres in one of the largest mangrove swamps in the world.**

- Wide variety of wildlife and vegetation typical of Florida's Everglades.
- Park includes one of three original stands of royal palm in Florida, co-existing with large areas of mangrove swamp.
- Camping, boat rentals, bicycling, hiking.
- Observation Deck.



## Barron Collier's Impossible Dream Building the Tamiami Trail - 1920s

### The Dream

Barron Collier came to Florida in 1911 and fell in love with the beauty of the area. This region was Florida's last frontier and its potential for development awakened a dream of bringing people to this tropical paradise.



Collier was born in Memphis, Tennessee. At the age of 20, he began a career in streetcar advertisement that would make him a millionaire. By the early 1920s his wealth enabled him to purchase over 500,000 acres in South Florida that would become Collier County.

### The Challenges

In Collier's time, most people traveled to South Florida by rail. The coming of the automobile prompted schemes to connect cities and towns by highways. In 1915 a highway was planned from Tampa to Miami. Each county along the route was responsible for funding construction in its jurisdiction.



Lee county, which included Ft. Myers, Naples and land further south, soon ran out of money for the project. The difficulty and cost of building a road across the Everglades had been underestimated. Many said it was impossible. Barron Collier offered to fund the highway construction across the Everglades if a new county was created and named after him.

### The Achievement

The 50-mile section of road across the Everglades took four years to complete. Workers built over a mile a month. The Bay City Walking Dredge located here was one of the machines used to help build the road. In 1928, the 273-mile Tampa to Miami road (Tamiami Trail) officially opened.



The Tamiami Trail completed, Collier envisioned developing a national park here, but failed to rally support for his idea. The land first became a county park and then in 1947, a state park. Collier-Seminole State Park represents a part of the tropical paradise that Collier loved.

## Bay City Walking Dredge

The park is the site of a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, the last existing Bay City Walking Dredge.

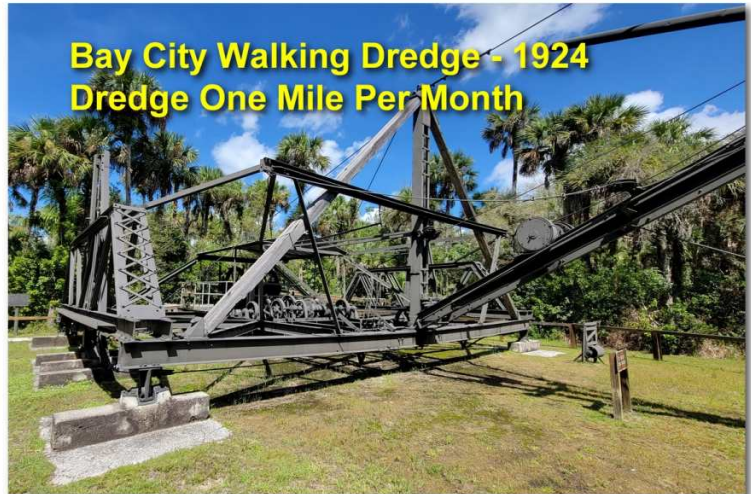
Built in 1924, it was used to build the Tamiami Trail Highway (US-41) through the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp, linking Tampa and Miami.

Opened southwest Florida to travelers.

## Bay City Walking Dredge - 1924



## Bay City Walking Dredge - 1924 Dredge One Mile Per Month

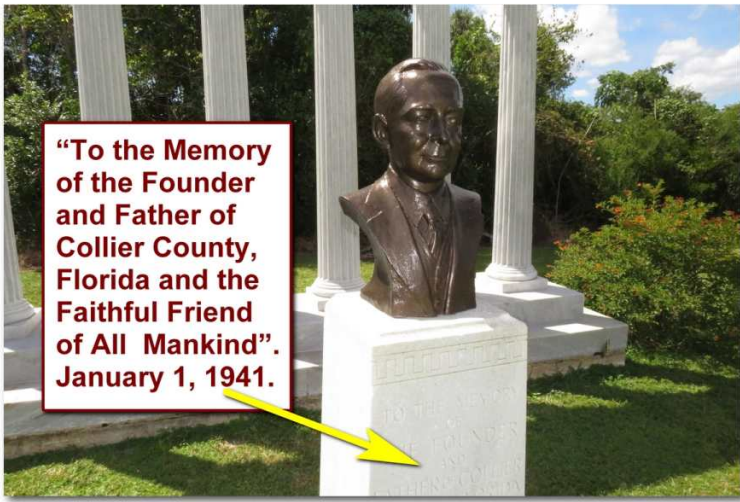


## BARRON COLLIER MEMORIAL

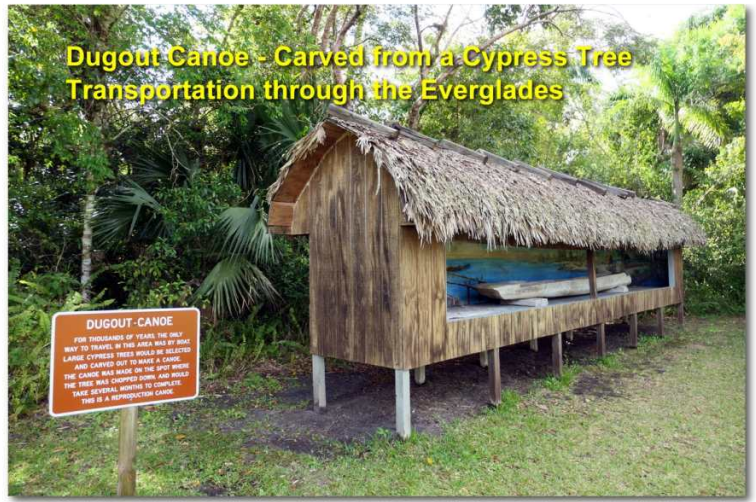
IN THE 1920'S BARRON COLLIER OWNED A MILLION ACRES. THIS SPOT WAS A SMALL HARDWOOD FOREST KNOWN AS ROYAL PALM HAMMOCK BECAUSE OF A MAGNIFICENT STRAND OF NATIVE ROYAL PALM TREES. COLLIER RESERVED 150 ACRES HERE FOR WHAT HE HOPED TO HAVE DESIGNATED "LINCOLN-LEE" NATIONAL PARK. THOUGH COLLIER ADDED ENOUGH ADDITIONAL LANDS FOR A NATIONAL PARK, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACCEPT. THE LAND BECAME A COUNTY PARK AND WAS TURNED OVER TO THE STATE IN 1944.

## Barron Collier Memorial Collier-Seminole State Park



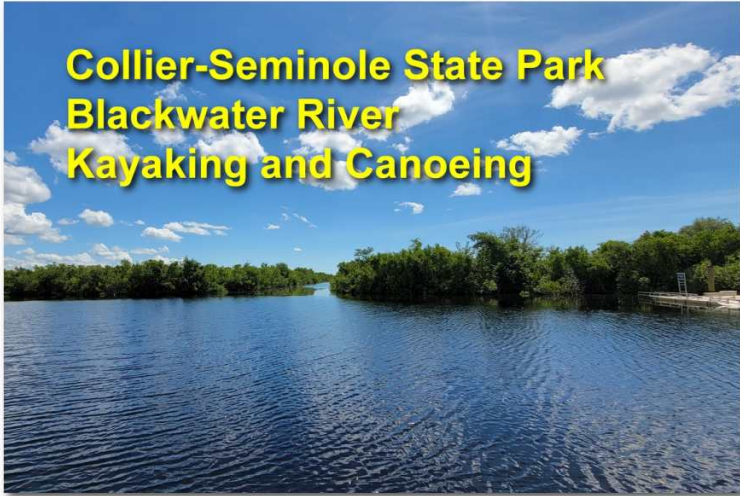


**"To the Memory of the Founder and Father of Collier County, Florida and the Faithful Friend of All Mankind". January 1, 1941.**



**Dugout Canoe - Carved from a Cypress Tree Transportation through the Everglades**

**DUGOUT-CANOE**  
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL IN THE SWAMP WAS BY BOAT. LARGE CYPRESS TREES WOULD BE SELECTED AND CARVED OUT TO MAKE A CANOE. THE CANOE WAS MADE ON THE SPOT WHERE THE TREE WAS CHOPPED DOWN, AND WOULD TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO COMPLETE. THIS IS A REPRESENTATIVE CANOE.



**Collier-Seminole State Park Blackwater River Kayaking and Canoeing**



**Collier-Seminole State Park Canoe and Kayak Rentals Bicycles Too**



**Collier-Seminole State Park Campsites October 2021**

**All the campers seem to be in trailers, not tents**



**Collier-Seminole State Park Handicap Canoe and Kayak Launching**

**"Not for the inexperienced hiker."**  
**"Wilderness savvy is in order, as you'll be wading the better part of 6 miles to experience a watery forest like none other – the Big Cypress Swamp."**  
**"A real workout!"**  
<https://floridahikes.com/collier-seminole-hiking-trail>

**Collier Seminole Hiking Trails**  
 Collier-Seminole Hiking Trail  
 Collier-Seminole State Park  
 25-9897, -81-5786

**Hiking Trail 6.5 mile Loop**  
**Biking/Hiking Trail 3.4 miles**

**Ten Thousand Islands**

**NAPLES**  
 Rookery Bay  
 Shell Island  
 Isles of Capri  
 Marco Island  
 Collier-Seminole State Park  
 Big Cypress Bend  
 Copeland  
 Turner River, HP Williams  
 Oasis Visitor Center  
 Kirby Storter Park  
 Loop Road  
 Ochopee Post Office  
 10,000 Islands Marsh Trail

## Ten Thousand Islands Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

### Website:

[www.fws.gov/refuge/ten\\_thousand\\_islands/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/ten_thousand_islands/)

**Get there by boat (best):** Ramps at Goodland and Port-of-the-Islands. Guided boat tours from Marco Island and Everglades City.

**Get to Marsh Trail by car:** US-41 11 miles east of Collier Blvd.

**Managed by:** US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, Department of the Interior.

**What:** Established 1996. Covers 35,000 acres.

A maze of mangrove islands and narrow waterways that serve as nursery grounds for countless plants, animals, and fish.

One of 545 national wildlife refuges.

Approximately two thirds of the refuge is mangrove forest.

**Mile-long hiking trail, canoe and kayak trails, and an observation tower overlooking the marsh.**



## Boat Tours from Everglades City:

### Everglades National Park Boat Tours

<https://evergladesfloridaadventures.com/>

Quiet boats. Narrated by naturalists. Tours every 30 minutes, 9am to 5pm, Dec. to mid-April. Less frequent April to Dec.

Tours depart from the Tower Docks on Chokoloskee Causeway on Rt. 29, 1/2-mile south of Traffic Circle in Everglades City.

\$40 adults, \$36 seniors, \$20 children.

## Boat Tours from Marco Island

### Eco Endeavors

<https://ecoendeavors.org/>

2.5 hours. 25 miles round-trip.

Through the mangrove forests and barrier islands.

Stop at a quiet barrier island only accessible by boat. Shelling. Swimming.

\$420 whole boat charter up to 6 people. May be some shared-boat options too.

## Wikipedia:

"Some of the Ten Thousand Islands are suitable for overnight visits, as dictated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Since this is a wilderness area where wind, weather and lack of fresh water can become threatening, the Wildlife Service recommends only seasoned canoeists and sea kayakers attempt the trip."

The refuge is home to a wide variety of plants and animals

**Fish:** Nearly 200 species, including tarpon, snook, red drum, spotted sea trout, goliath grouper, smalltooth sawfish.

**Birds:** More than 200 species, including least tern, black skimmer, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, wood stork, brown pelican, mangrove cuckoo, red knot.

**Reptiles:** Including anoles, loggerhead sea turtles, green turtles, Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, alligators.

**Animals:** Including raccoon, river otter, bottlenose dolphin, Florida manatee.

**Plants:** Innumerable species, including mangroves, sea oats, cordgrass.

**Invasive plants:** Including latherleaf and Brazilian pepper.

**Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Start of Marsh Trail 1.2 miles.**  
**First 1,000' paved. Then gravel.**



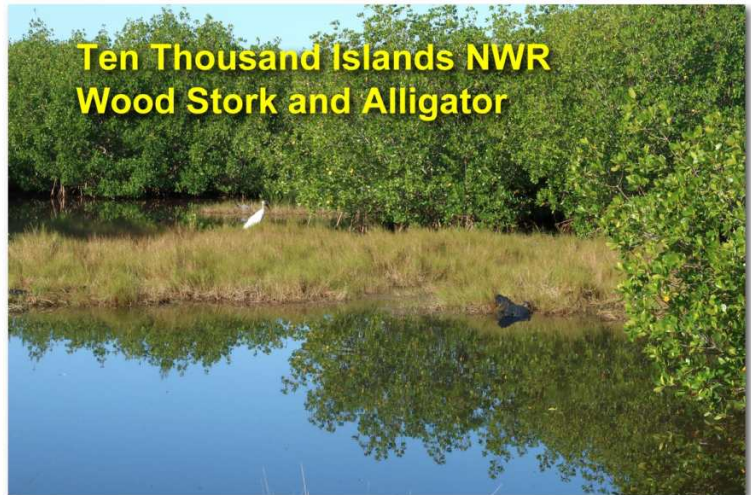
**Do Not Forget!**



**Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Great Everglades Views**  
**Great Bird Watching Year Round**



**Ten Thousand Islands NWR**  
**Wood Stork and Alligator**



**Ten Thousand Islands NWR**  
**Alligator**



**Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Observation Tower**



**Spectacular View from Observation Tower**  
**Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge**  
**This is between rainy and dry seasons.**  
**Rainy: Cannot see mangrove roots at all.**  
**Dry: Mangrove islands have land around them.**



**Same place at**  
**10,000 Islands**  
**March 2020 to**  
**May 2021.**

**Great Egret**  
A large heron  
with all-white  
plumage



**Ten Thousand Islands  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Marsh Trail**



**In addition to the tower, there are several  
benches where you can sit and watch.**



**10,000 Islands NWR  
Brown Pelicans**



**Today's Lunch Menu: Tilapia**



**True Story: On April 6, 2022 I was  
sitting on this bench when...**



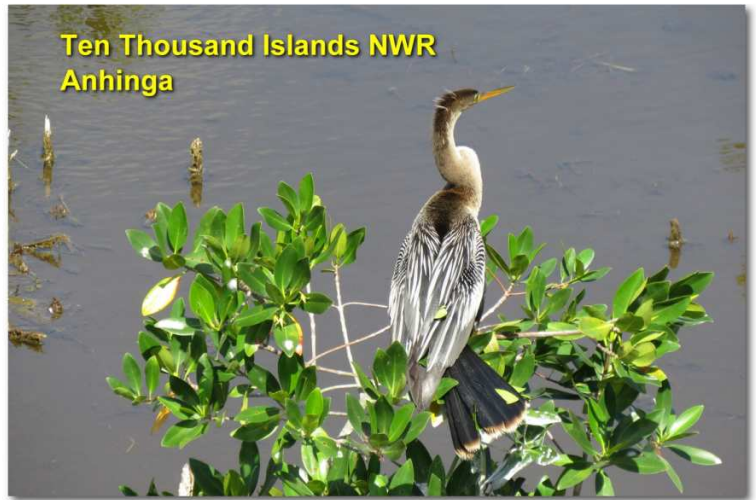
**Notice the tilapia or  
turtle in its mouth**

**Ten Thousand Islands  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Marsh Trail**



**Cormorant Eating  
A Fish**





**Big Cypress Bend  
Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve**  
**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park)  
**Where:** US-41, Copeland FL 34137.  
**Get There:** US-41 East 17 miles from Collier Blvd intersection.  
**When:** 8am to sunset.  
**Admission:** \$3 donation.



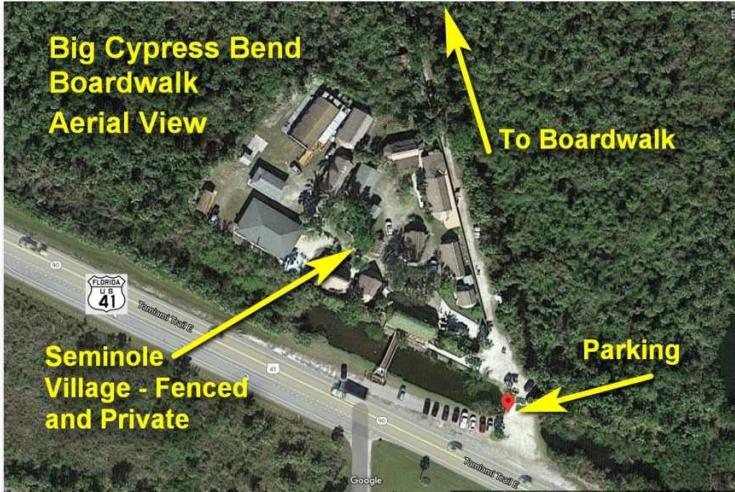
**What:** Fakahatchee Strand Preserve is the largest State Park in Florida (out of 175 parks).

Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk is one feature of the Preserve.

2,500 feet long.

Winds through a beautiful, pristine section of Fakahatchee Strand swamp.

Ends at an alligator pond and observation deck.



**Alligators!**

**Beware: Wild and Dangerous!**

- 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 predators except man.

Alligators have been around since the age of the dinosaurs. Found only in the southeastern United States, American alligators inhabit freshwater swamps, marshes, mangroves, bayous, and bayoues. Oftentimes you may only see their eyes, heads, or snouts protruding from the water's surface.

Be Careful!

Do not feed or harass alligators. Feeding alligators is illegal and can result in a fine. Do not approach or touch alligators. Do not attempt to ride on an alligator. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's mouth. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's tail. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's head. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's body. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's skin. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's scales. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's teeth. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's tongue. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's eyes. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's ears. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's nose. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's mouth. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's throat. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's chest. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's stomach. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's back. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's tail. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's legs. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's feet. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's claws. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's scales. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's teeth. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's tongue. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's eyes. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's ears. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's nose. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's mouth. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's throat. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's chest. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's stomach. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's back. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's tail. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's legs. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's feet. Do not attempt to touch an alligator's claws.

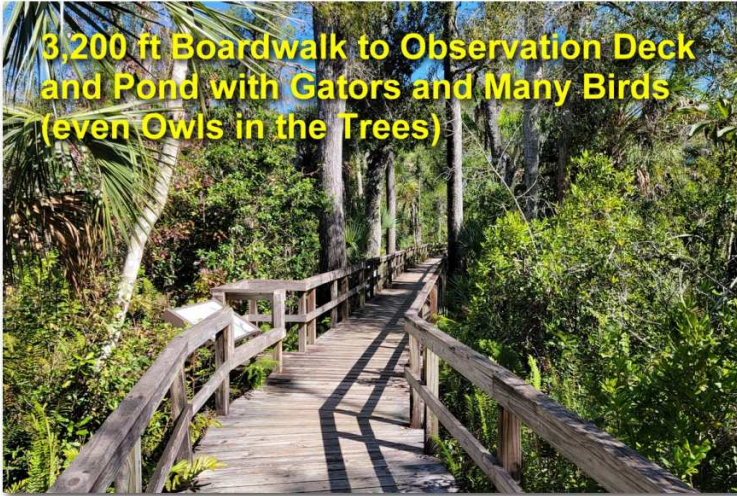




...or just sunning



Blue Heron Wading in the Stream



3,200 ft Boardwalk to Observation Deck and Pond with Gators and Many Birds (even Owls in the Trees)



Tricolored Heron Wing Span Over 3 Feet

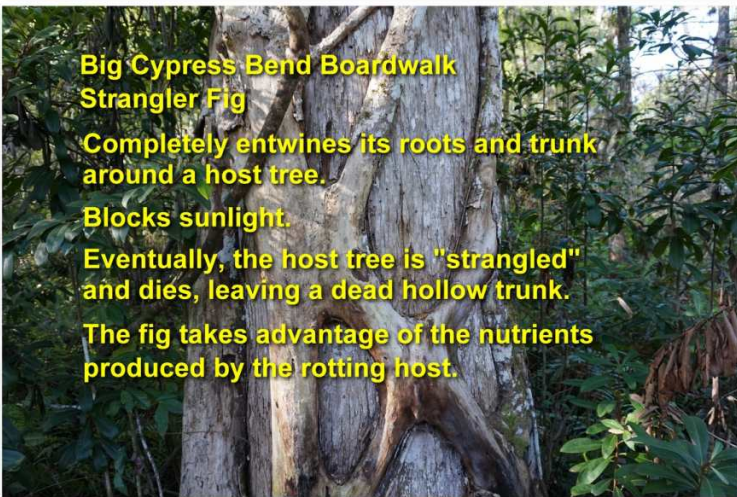


Green Heron "Typically stand still on shore or in shallow water and await prey"



Cottonmouth aka Black Moccasin

Painful and potentially fatal bite



Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk Strangler Fig

Completely entwines its roots and trunk around a host tree.

Blocks sunlight.

Eventually, the host tree is "strangled" and dies, leaving a dead hollow trunk.

The fig takes advantage of the nutrients produced by the rotting host.



Bald Cypress Tree Deciduous Conifer Sheds all of its needles in winter ("bald"). Grows to 120 ft. Trunk diameter 3 to 6 ft.



Two Very Large Bald Cypress Trees  
6 foot diameter at the base  
Can be 500 years old (or more)\*

\*One in North Carolina is "at least 2,624 years old"  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxodium\\_distichum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxodium_distichum)



Recently Clawed by a Florida Panther  
Sharpening  
its Claws



Lake at the End of the Boardwalk  
One of the most beautiful spots in or near  
Naples!



Lake at the End of Big Cypress Boardwalk  
There's a large observation deck with benches.



Alligator Swimming



Barred Owl Looking  
Down on the Pond



Sometimes Two Barred Owls



Big Cypress Bend Observation Deck  
Benches to Sit and Watch



Coming Soon...

**Friends of Fakahatchee Boardwalk Vision**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS**  
 Dept. of Environmental Protection \$2,991,929  
 Florida Legislature  
 Championed by: \$1,331,500  
 Senator Kathleen Passidomo  
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 Commissioner Donna Fiala  
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**BOARDWALK VISION**  
 Design: David Carhart, James  
 Interpretation: The Aiken Group

**Progress at April 2022**

# Copeland - Fakahatchee Strand



## Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

**Website:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park)

**Where:** Off SR-29 in Copeland, FL.

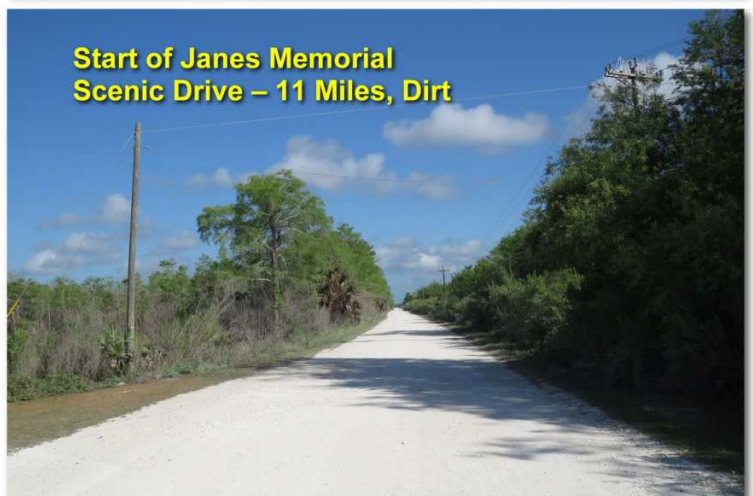
**Get There:** (1) I-75 to Exit 80 SR-29. South 14 miles on SR-29. Right on Janes Memorial Scenic Dr (paved part). (2) US-41 East of Collier Blvd 24 miles to SR-29. Turn left and go 3 miles on SR-29. Turn left on Janes Memorial Scenic Dr (paved part).

**When:** 8am to sunset.

**Admission:** \$3 per car.

**What:** Largest state park in Florida. "Florida's Amazon." Wild orchid capital of the US.

- **Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk.** Separately described.
- **Janes Memorial Scenic Drive.** 11-mile dirt road extending from the park visitor center in Copeland to Fakahatchee's border with Picayune Strand State Forest.



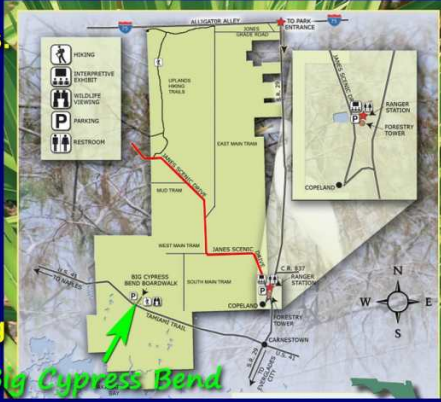
**Janes Scenic Drive**  
11 mile dirt road.  
Ruts and potholes.

Goes through  
subtropical  
wilderness,  
swamp, prairie.

Along the road,  
basking alligators  
and snakes.

Hiking trails. Bring  
bug repellent.

*Not for your pampered  
BMW or Mercedes!*



**White Ibis**



**Turkey Vultures**



**Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park**



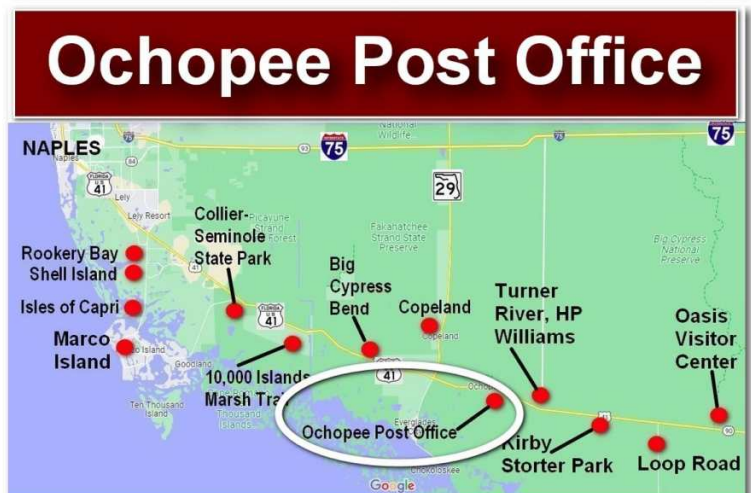
**Eastern Lubber Grasshopper**  
Up to 3" in Size.  
Harmless.  
Cannot fly.



**2-Pound Largemouth Bass – Lake Gloria**

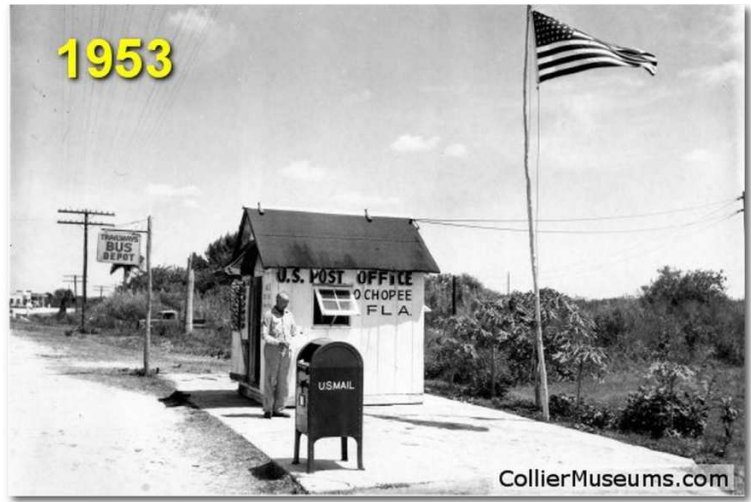


**Copeland Baptist Church**  
1947



**Ochopee Post Office**

**Smallest Post Office in USA**  
**Ochopee, FL 34141**  
**Mon-Sat**



CollierMuseums.com

**Turner River, HP Williams Park**

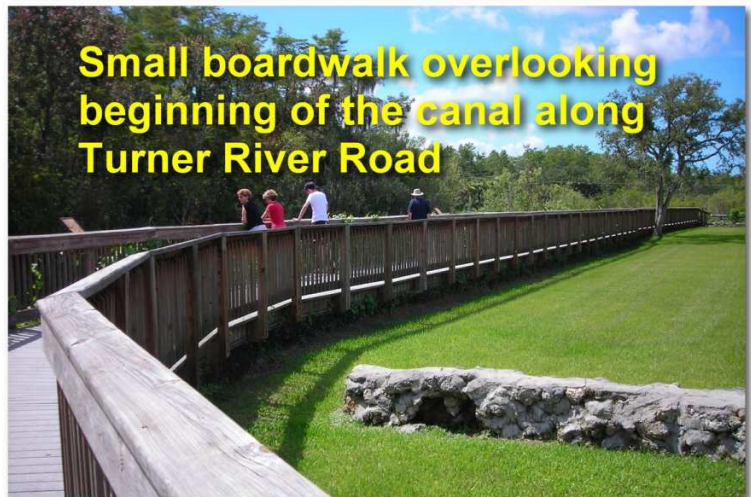


**Turner River Road**  
**Website:** None.  
**Where:** Ochopee, Florida.  
**Get There:** US-41 Tamiami Trail 30 miles east of Collier Blvd (6 miles past SR-29). Turn north on Turner River Road (CR-839). Turner River Rd then runs 21 miles due North under and just past I-75. Then you turn around and drive back to US-41.  
**Admission:** Free.

**What:** 21-mile rural wildlife drive. But you only need to do a mile or two. Road is mostly sand and crushed rock. Runs alongside a canal. Canal and its banks often have alligators, birds, other wildlife. Also kayaking or canoeing. Some hiking.  
**No not feed gators. Be very cautious getting out of your car.**  
 At US-41 intersection is a small boardwalk and picnic area.



You can choose to park next to the boardwalk and view wildlife from there. Or, you can venture out on Turner River Road. The road is dirt and gravel and goes over 20 miles due north, with the river (canal) on the right as you drive north. Where the State has posed "do not feed alligators" signs are usually good viewing places. Be careful if you leave your car! **Let's start with some boardwalk photos.**





Turner River Canal



Turner River  
Near Boardwalk  
and Picnic Area



Turner River  
Behind bathrooms next to boardwalk.  
(Photo taken through chain-link fence.)



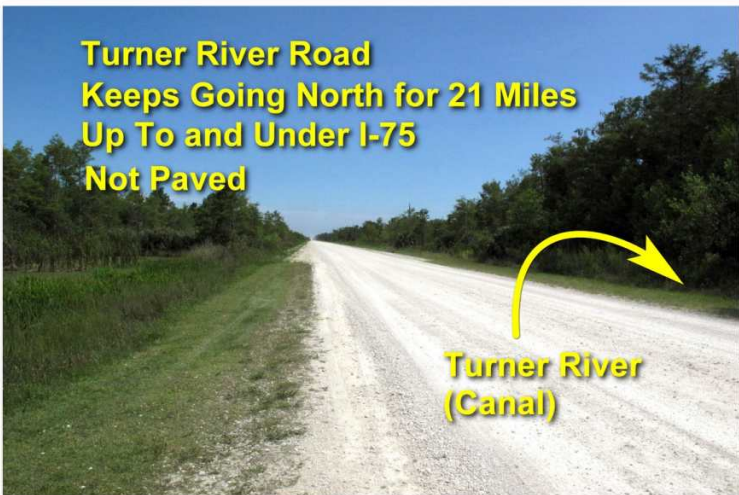
Swimming Near the Boardwalk



Behind the bathrooms  
next to the boardwalk



Cypresses Have Shed Their Needles  
(View from the Boardwalk)



Turner River Road  
Keeps Going North for 21 Miles  
Up To and Under I-75  
Not Paved

Turner River  
(Canal)

If you do decide to drive up Turner River Road to see wildlife, some tips:

- It's a dirt and gravel road. Dusty.
- River & wildlife on the right driving north.
- 2 or 3 miles is usually all you need.
- Be very careful if you get out of your car.
- Best to take photos from the car window.
- Good photo ops where you see these signs →
- Obey the sign!





**Often plenty of these to see**



**Often more than one**



**Turner River**



**Some parts of the canal are grassy**



**Sometimes lounging on the side of the road**



**Taken from the Window of My Car**

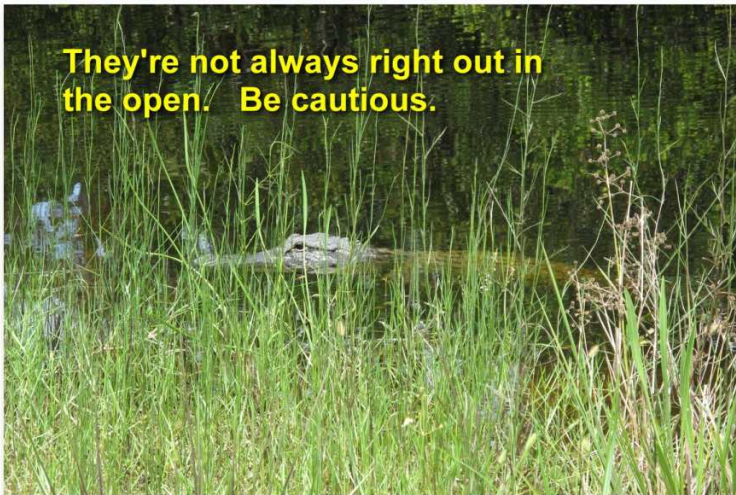




Along Turner River Road



Along Turner River Road



They're not always right out in the open. Be cautious.



Tricolored Heron



Side road off Turner River Road

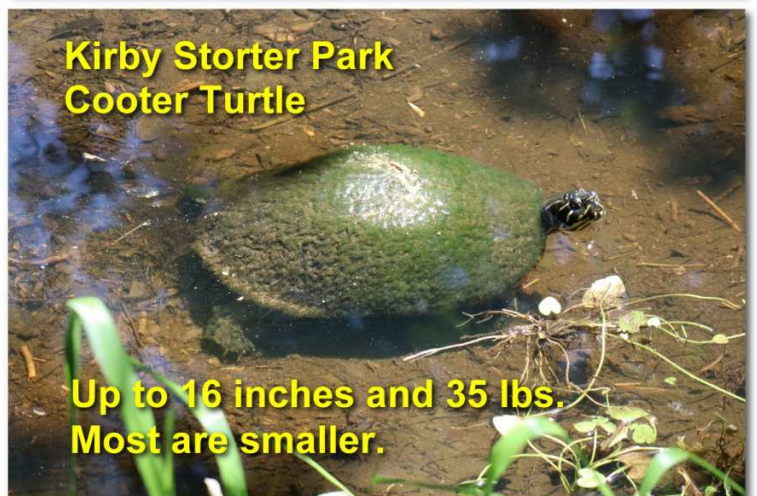
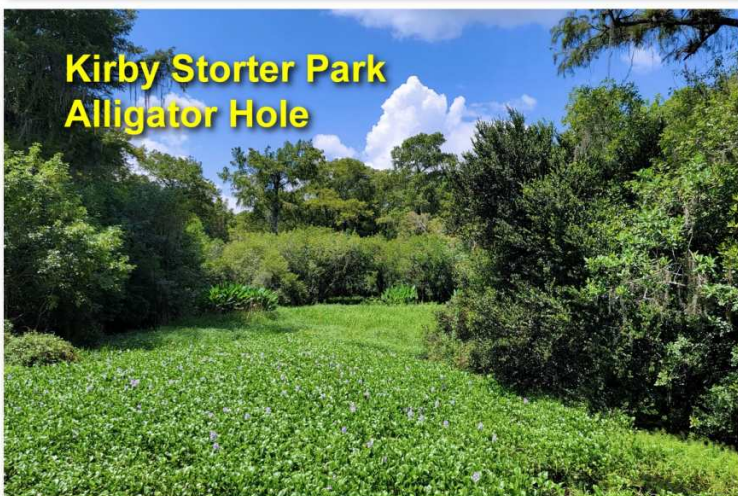


## Kirby Storter Park

**Kirby Storter Park**  
 Part of Big Cypress National Preserve  
**Website:**  
[www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/kirby-storter-roadside-park.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/kirby-storter-roadside-park.htm)  
**Where:** 48900 Tamiami Trail E, Ochopee, FL 34141.  
**Get There:** On US-41 (Tamiami Trail) 37 miles east of Collier Blvd. Or take I-75 to State Rd 29 exit then down to US-41.  
**Admission: Free. Open dawn to dusk.**

**What:**

- Half-mile boardwalk. Non-strenuous.
- Starts on a sawgrass prairie.
  - **Chickee hut for birding.**
- Continues through a cypress swamp.
- Ends at an overlook at a gator hole.
  - **Gator hole is a pond dug out by alligators to assure deep water even during dry season.**
- Wildlife include birds, snakes, fish, turtles, and alligators.



**Kirby Storter Park  
Cooter Turtle**

**Ectotherms (cold blooded).  
Need to bask in the sun to warm up.**

**Juvenile Alligator  
By age 5, they lose their  
camouflage stripes.**

**Building the Tamiami Trail**



**Building the Tamiami Trail – 1923-1928**

**Tampa to  
MIAMI 275 miles.**

**AKA  
US-41**



**Tampa to Naples  
is North-South  
163 miles.**

**Naples to Miami  
East-West  
112 miles.**

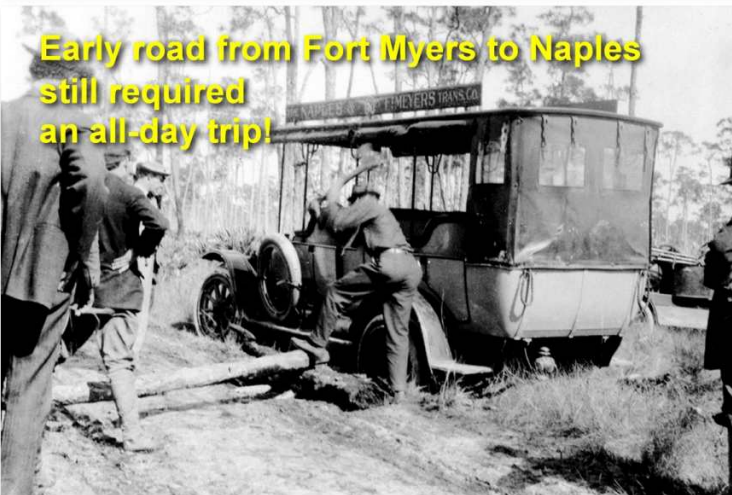


**Tamiami Trail**

- Initially proposed and agreed to by the various counties on the route in 1915. **Aim: economic development.**
- Much of the road from Tampa to Fort Myers was already in place, but needed improvement.
- Ft Myers to Miami would be new.

- Dade County started work on their end immediately. Made good progress.
- Lee County (which included what's now Collier) did some work on road from Ft Myers to Naples. **But ran out of money. State had no funds to help.**

**Early road from Fort Myers to Naples  
still required  
an all-day trip!**



**1923: Land developer Barron Collier offered to fund completion of the Tamiami Trail Naples to Dade line. In return, the State legislature would establish a new county and name it after him.**

- State agreed.
- Population of Collier County in 1925: just 1,258.



Construction started 1923. Completed 1928. Opened April 26, 1928.

**Basic process:** Use dynamite to create an east-west canal. Use the resulting dirt to build the roadbed in the swamp above flood level. Called a "borrow canal" because the soil was borrowed to build the road.



2.6 million sticks of dynamite were used.

Brought in by log tram or by oxen. →

This machine bored the dynamite holes. →



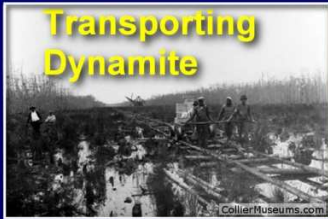
**Blasting Crew**



2.6 million sticks of 60% nitroglycerin dynamite



**Transporting Dynamite**



After dynamiting, digging was done by a:

Walking Dredge →

or a:

Floating Dredge. →  
*Dredges were built in Bay City, Michigan*



Mobile worker bunks, kitchens, toilets moved in the canal as the road progressed. Workers paid \$60/month. Worked all day standing in swamps, bitten by mosquitos.



**Mobile Bunks**

**Bay City Walking Dredge - 1924**  
Dredge One Mile Per Month

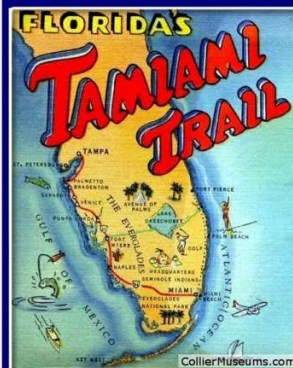


See it at Collier-Seminole State Park.

Collier built 6 stations along the Trail. Each staffed by a husband and wife. He got a motorcycle and patrolled the road. She ran the gas station and store. All 6 stations are now gone. Last one, Monroe Station in Ochopee (above) burned in 2016. Vandalism.



**Tamiami Trail**  
Opened Apr 25, 1928



**Festivities in Everglades**

N-S was US41

E-W was US94



# Loop Road



## Side story about Collier's Tamiami Trail:

- State decided to build Tamiami Trail in 1915.
- Miami developer James Jaudon agreed to build section from Miami to 24 miles west of Dade County line.
- Along this road, Jaudon planned to build "the Next Miami" called "Pinecrest".



James Jaudon

## Map of Jaudon's Loop Road. Now a gravel wilderness road.



- Jaudon's company built a few rustic homes.
- But Jaudon ran out of money. And could not attract outside investors.
- Then the state awarded the Tamiami Trail contract to Barron Collier.
- Including Jaudon's 24-mile section.

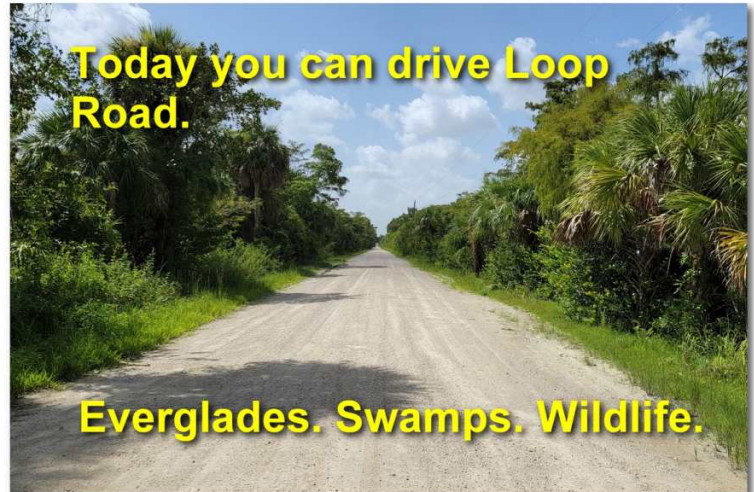


Barron Collier

## Collier did not agree with Jaudon's loop.

- He build a straight road to the Dade line.
- Loop Road gravel road survived.
  - **But not as part of Tamiami Trail.**
- By early 1930s, 200 people lived along Loop Road. Pinecrest had a saw mill, school, store, gas station, bunk house.
- In 1937 Jaudon's company filed for bankruptcy. Land sold to Government.
- Today a few pioneer types live in "Pinecrest".

## Today you can drive Loop Road.



Everglades. Swamps. Wildlife.

And you can see the ruins of (supposedly) Al Capone's home in the ruins of Pinecrest.



## Oasis Visitor Center



**Big Cypress National Preserve  
Oasis Visitor Center  
33100 Tamiami Trail East  
Ochopee, FL 34141**

*Info and exhibits, plus...*

**Great boardwalk to see  
lots of alligators  
swimming in a canal.**

**On US-41**

**45 mi East of Collier Blvd.**



**Big Cypress National Preserve  
Visitor Center - Info and Exhibits**



**Exhibit Hall Tues-Sat  
Bathrooms & Boardwalk Open Daily**

**Big Cypress  
National Preserve  
Boardwalk  
Open Daily**



# Everglades National Park



## Everglades National Park

- 1 Everglades City Visitor Center
- 2 Reed Welcome Center US41 \*
- 3 Oasis Visitor Center \*
- 4 Shark Valley Visitor Center
- 5 Coe Visitor Center, Homestead
- 6 Flamingo Visitor Center



\* Technically in Big Cypress National Preserve, not Everglades Park.

## Everglades National Park

- Legislation passed 1934.
- 1.5 million acres of land acquired 1934-1947.
- Dade, Monroe, Collier Counties.
- Largest subtropical wilderness in US.
- Elevation 0 to 8 feet.



## Everglades National Park opened in 1947.

- Dedication ceremony in Everglades City.
- Attended by President Harry Truman.



## UNESCO World Heritage Site 1979

1947

## Everglades National Park Dedication Dec 6, 1947 Everglades City



## Most national parks preserve stunning geographic scenery. Everglades National Park was the first created to protect a fragile wetland ecosystem.

- 36 threatened or protected species inhabit the park, including Florida panther, crocodile, and manatee.
- Also 350 species of birds, 300 species of fresh and saltwater fish, 40 species of mammals, 50 reptiles.

## Big Cypress National Preserve Abuts Everglades National Park.

- Established 1974. Adds 729,000 acres. Very similar topography.
- Classification as Preserve is political.
- Preserve allows more commercial and recreational activity than Park.



The section of US-41 we're looking at today goes through Big Cypress National Preserve. After the Dade line, you're in Everglades National Park.





To recap, we've looked at all this along US-41:

Marco Island and Isles of Capri.

Rookery Bay.

Marsh Trail – Ten Thousand Islands.

Ochopee. Collier-Seminole State Park.

Big Cypress Boardwalk.

Fakahatchee Strand State Park.

H P Williams Park and Turner River Road.

Kirby Storter Park.

Oasis Visitor Center.

Building the Tamiami Trail and Loop Drive.

Everglades National Park.

Big Cypress National Preserve.



THE END

Along the Tamiami Trail  
South and East of Naples

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