

240309 BRA Biking Everglades National Park

If you have time, you can also rent bikes to go around the national park. It's not really well laid out for bikes, but traffic is slow and people are cautious so it's safe enough for even families to participate. Before we started, we went to the only café and restaurant on the campground for a quick coffee.



Bikes are pretty inexpensive and for two hours the cost was \$18 each. Well worth it and it's a good way to get to know the campground and Marina area. It also gave us an ability to visit the visitor center which I talked about in a different posting.



It's good for father and daughter to spend some time together anyway that you can. You gotta take these opportunities when they come because they will certainly not always be there.



You can take the bikes off road onto some of the walking trails. We found one such trail, which went along the top of a dike. This dike was formed to contain water to form a pond. And it was a good quarter-mile circuit with the bikes, and took us through the backcountry on a little side trip.



We stopped along the way at the Dyke, where there was the culvert structure that water out of the pond. This was a pleasant break from riding along the asphalt Road, which is quite boring really. You would expect that they would have a lot more of these bike trails but they don't.



It was a beautiful day for a ride, and once you get off of the asphalt roads quite pleasant. If you can find these paths I would recommend taking them and exploring a little bit. You really can't go wrong in this part of the Everglades because there are no hills. Everything is flat.



Along the way, we would stop at different turnouts that looked over the water. There are informative placards, and even some benches to sit on. It was a really nice way to break up the trip.



We really found only one bike path. This one connects, the. Glamping luxury tent area with the park condominium style rental accommodations. Both of these facilities are upscale, and unfortunately devote the best property with the finest views to those that could pay the most. Not much egalitarian about how they decided to lay this out. The campground is stuck off somewhere where it's got absolutely no view and those that have the best view have to pay anywhere from \$153 a night end up to get it. I found this to be unsettling for national park. They could've at least had one nice tent campground that overlooked the water and they did not.



My daughter likes this path so much that we doubled back around and did it twice. There isn't much choice because they have devoted much of anything to bicycle paths. Just renting the bikes. Other than the two small areas that we rode you just right up and down the asphalt highway. Pretty pathetic for national park



But you know what at the end of the day I had one happy daughter. She told me she had a great time and that's what counts. I just try to tell it like it is because my expectation for a national park are high. I think they could've done a lot more to be more friendly to visitors but they chose otherwise. I don't believe the facilities for the normal camper were that good. I think the bike paths were pathetic and basically non existing. The only thing we did not experience was hiking the backcountry, but I wasn't about to do this with my daughter with no cell coverage. I've another horror story I can tell someday about that. But I don't ever recommend going into the backcountry unless you have communication. Don't do it.

Otherwise...



Ba happy!