

Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park

Eleven distinct natural communities provide habitats for threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. The most dominant natural community in the park is the wet prairie, an important foraging area for herons and egrets, as well as the Florida sandhill crane and wood stork. This park is being developed for recreation and will eventually offer visitors a variety of opportunities, including hiking, fishing, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. Currently, there are no facilities. Until the park officially opens to the public, special arrangements can be made for entry by calling (772) 546-2771. Located about six miles south of Stuart in southern Martin County.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: Jonathan Dickinson State Park, 16450 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, FL 33455 (772) 546-2771

Avalon State Park

One of the state's newest seaside parks, Avalon State Park has more than a mile of increasingly rare undeveloped beachfront. The park provides habitat for many species of wildlife. Threatened and endangered sea turtles, like the loggerhead,

Atlantic green and leatherback, nest on the beach during the spring and summer. Swimmers and snorkelers are advised to be cautious of underwater obstacles left behind by amphibious warfare exercises during World War II. Visitors can enjoy a meal at sheltered picnic tables overlooking the beach. Located along A1A on North Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County, four miles north of Fort Pierce Inlet State Park.

**State Road A1A North, Fort Pierce, FL 34949
(772) 468-3985**

Bahia Honda State Park

Bahia Honda is different from the other islands in the Keys with its extensive sandy beaches and deep waters close offshore that provide exceptional swimming and snorkeling. The channel between the old and new Bahia Honda bridges is one of the deepest natural channels in the Florida Keys. The old bridge offers visitors a panoramic view of the island and surrounding waters. Picnicking visitors enjoy the balmy sea breezes year-round. Anglers can fish from shore or launch their boat from one of two boat ramps. Saltwater fishing licenses are required in Florida. The park's concession rents kayaks and snorkeling gear and offers snorkeling trips to the reef. Snacks and souvenirs can be

purchased at the concession. The Sand and Sea Nature Center introduces visitors to the island's plants, animals and history. Full-facility campsites and vacation cabins are available for rent. Camping and cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Earth Day Celebration in April. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located 12 miles south of Marathon on the Atlantic side of U.S. 1.

**36850 Overseas Highway, Big Pine Key, FL
33043 (305) 872-2353**

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

Before 1825, the island served as a secret meeting place and port for runaway slaves and Black Seminoles waiting to rendezvous with sea captains or board dugout canoes for passage to safety in the British Bahamas. The park was designated a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site in 2004. Cape Florida is the home of a historic lighthouse built in 1825 and reconstructed in 1846. The lighthouse is the oldest standing structure in Miami-Dade County. Visitors come to the park to sunbathe, swim and picnic on more than a mile of sandy Atlantic beachfront.

Biking and kayaking are also popular activities. Anglers can throw in their lines from the seawall along Biscayne Bay for some of the best shoreline fishing in the region. Guided tours of the lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's cottage are given twice daily, Thursday through Monday. The Lighthouse Café and Boater's Grill offer casual waterfront dining or picnickers can reserve a pavilion and grill their own dinner. Bicycles, ocean kayaks, beach chairs and umbrellas are available for rent. Overnight boat camping is allowed in No Name Harbor and a primitive campsite is available for organized youth groups. Annual special events include Baynanza Celebration in April, Lighthouse Run in November and Winterfest Boat Parade in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located at the southern end of Key Biscayne off the Rickenbacker Causeway, south of downtown Miami.

1200 S. Crandon Boulevard, Key Biscayne, FL 33149 (305) 361-5811

Curry Hammock State Park

The hardwood hammocks found on this group of islands in the Florida Keys support one of the largest populations of thatch palms in the United States. Mangrove swamps, seagrass beds and wetlands provide vital habitats for tropical wildlife.

The park is an important stop for migrating birds. In the fall, the park hosts the Florida Keys Birding and Wildlife Festival. This park has a sandy beach, playground, picnic shelters, grills, outdoor shower, kayak rentals and launch. Ranger-guided programs are also offered. A 28-site campground overlooking the Atlantic Ocean off Little Crawl Key is open year-round. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Situated along both sides of U.S. 1 from Marathon eastward to Little Crawl Key, the park entrance is located at Mile Marker 56.2 on the Atlantic side.

**56200 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL
33050 (305) 289-2690**

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park

Once slated for private development, this park contains the largest tract of West Indian tropical hardwood hammock in the United States. The park is home to 84 protected species of plants and animals, including wild cotton, mahogany, mistletoe, Schaus' swallowtail butterfly and the American crocodile. Exploring the park's trails gives visitors a chance to see some of these rare

species of plants and animals. In the main area of the park, the trail is paved and accessible to both bicycles and wheelchairs. Signs along a self-guided nature trail provide information about the park's ecosystem and wildlife; ranger-guided tours are also available. An additional six miles of nature trails can be explored by obtaining a backcountry permit at nearby John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. Annual special events include Delicate Balance of Nature lecture series from January through March. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on County Road 905, .25 mile north of its intersection with Overseas Highway (U.S. 1).

County Road 905, Key Largo, FL 33037 (305) 451-1202

Fort Pierce Inlet State Park

The shores and coastal waters at this park provide an abundance of recreational opportunities. The breathtakingly beautiful half-mile beach welcomes visitors for swimming, snorkeling, surfing and scuba diving. Beachcombing, picnicking or just relaxing on the sand are also popular activities. Dynamite Point was once the training site for WWII Navy Frogmen, but is now a haven for bird-watchers. Along the south end of the park, Fort

Pierce Inlet is a popular place for anglers to catch their dinner. Jack Island Preserve, located one mile north of the park, has trails for hiking, bicycling and nature study. At the west end of the Marsh Rabbit Run Trail, visitors can climb an observation tower to get a bird's-eye view of Indian River and the island. A primitive youth/group campground is available on a reservation basis; please call the park. Annual special events include Party in the Park in January and Kid's Fishing Clinic in March. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located four miles east of Fort Pierce, via North Causeway.

**905 Shorewinds Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34949
(772) 468-3985**

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973, Florida's southernmost state park is popular for recreation, as well as United States military history. The fort was one of a series built in the mid-1800s to defend the nation's southeastern coastline. Completed in 1866, the fort played important roles in the Civil War and Spanish-American War. A beautiful beach at the southern end of the park provides opportunities for picnicking, swimming, snorkeling and fishing.

Tropical fish and live coral may be seen in the swimming area and the park has the best view of the sunset in Key West. Canoes and kayaks can be launched in a designated area. Visitors can also enjoy a short nature trail and bicycling within the park. The park's concessionaire offers an expanded menu, beachfront dining, beach rentals, gift shop and event planning. Guided tours of the fort are available daily. Annual special events include Civil War Heritage Days in February, Haunted Fort in October and Fort Taylor Pirate Invasion in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located in Key West at the end of Southard Street through Truman Annex.

**601 Howard England Way, Key West, FL
33040 (305) 292-6713**

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

A short walk from beachside shops and condominiums, this park is an oasis of tropical hammocks - a gift from Hugh Taylor Birch to Florida's posterity. His former estate preserves four distinct natural communities nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. Visitors can rent a canoe and take a leisurely paddle in the park's freshwater lagoon or fish from the seawall. Nature lovers can hike along two short

trails and learn about local plants and wildlife while bicyclists and skaters glide along the paved park road. Visitors can access the beach via the pedestrian tunnel under A1A. Picnic areas overlook the Intracoastal Waterway; pavilions with water and electricity are available for rental. A primitive youth/group campground is available to organized groups. Annual special events include Winterfest Boat Parade in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on East Sunrise Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale, off A1A.

**3109 E. Sunrise Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale,
FL 33304 (954) 564-4521**

Indian Key Historic State Park

In 1836, Indian Key became the first county seat for Dade County. At that time, this tiny island was the site of a lucrative business—salvaging cargo from shipwrecks in the Florida Keys. Visitors come here to swim, sunbathe and hike. Canoeing, kayaking, boating and fishing from the shore are also popular activities. The perimeter of the island provides one of the few nearshore areas where snorkelers and scuba divers can see a coral reef. Access is by boat, canoe or kayak. Located on the Atlantic side of U.S. 1 at Mile Marker 78.5.

**For more information or to visit this park,
contact: Windley Key Fossil Reef
Geological State Park, U.S. 1 Mile Marker
85.5, Islamorada, FL 33036
(305) 664-2540**

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

In the 1970s, businessman John D. MacArthur donated the land for this park to preserve a subtropical coastal habitat, much of which had already been lost to urban sprawl. A mixture of coastal and tropical hammock and mangrove forest, this barrier island provides a haven for several rare or endangered native tropical and coastal plant species. The park's nature center shows visitors why the park is a biological treasure. Visitors can swim, picnic and surf at the beach; scuba diving and snorkeling are also popular activities. Birdwatchers can see herons, brown pelicans, terns, sandpipers and gulls. Anglers can fish in the lagoon by wading, kayaking or canoeing or they can fish from the non-swimming areas of the beach. Boaters can access Munyon Island by tying up to the protected docks available on the island's west shore, adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway. While at the island, visitors can enjoy picnicking at one of several picnic pavilions, hiking the trails, fishing, bird

watching, or simply relaxing on the beach. Annual special events include Great American Cleanup and NatureScaping in April and International Coastal Cleanup in September. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located in northern Palm Beach County, 2.8 miles south of the intersection of U.S. 1 and PGA Boulevard on A1A.

10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive, North Palm Beach, FL 33408 (561) 624-6950

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

The first undersea park in the United States, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park encompasses approximately 70 nautical square miles. While the mangrove swamps and tropical hammocks in the park's upland areas offer visitors a unique experience, it is the coral reefs and their associated marine life that bring most visitors to the park. Many enjoy the view from a glass-bottom boat tour, but visitors can get a closer look by scuba diving or snorkeling through the reefs. Canoeing and kayaking are popular activities. Watercraft have accessibility accommodations and fishing is permitted in designated areas. Visitors can enjoy hiking three short trails, picnicking and swimming at the beach. The visitors center has a 30,000-gallon saltwater aquarium and nature

videos can be viewed in the theatre. Full-facility and youth/group campgrounds are available. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. For boat tour information and reservations call (305) 451-6300. Annual special events include Delicate Balance of Nature lecture series from January through March and Multiple Sclerosis Society "Break Away" Bike Tour in April. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on U.S. 1 at Mile Marker 102.5 in Key Largo.

**U.S. 1 Mile Marker 102.5, Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-1202**

John U. Lloyd Beach State Park

Perfect for a day at the beach or a family picnic, this park provides an abundance of recreational activities. Fishing, surf casting, canoeing, swimming, nature study, boating and picnicking will keep the whole family busy. For those interested in South Florida's underwater beauty, Lloyd Beach has one of the easiest and most interesting shore dives in the area. The park has two boat ramps with easy access to the ocean through the Port Everglades Inlet, which will please those who prefer to fish in open water. The

mangrove-lined waterway is a scenic place to canoe, observe birds and take photographs. At the Loggerhead Café, visitors can enjoy a leisurely lunch or grab a quick snack. A variety of items are available to rent, including canoes and kayaks. Annual special events include Sea Turtle Awareness in June and July. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located off A1A in the city of Hollywood.

**6503 N. Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, FL 33004
(954) 923-2833**

Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Located just south of Stuart, this park teems with wildlife in 13 natural communities, including sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, mangroves and river swamps. The Loxahatchee River, Florida's first federally designated Wild and Scenic River, runs through the park. Ranger-guided tours of the 1930s pioneer homestead of Trapper Nelson are available year-round. Visitors can enjoy paved and off-road biking, equestrian and hiking trails. Boating, canoeing and kayaking along the river are also great ways to see the park. Anglers can catch freshwater and saltwater fish along the riverbank or from a boat. The park offers two full-facility campgrounds, a youth/group primitive

campground, an equestrian campground and primitive backpacking campsites. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Visitors can arrange boat tours of the river and rent canoes, kayaks, bicycles and motorboats by calling (561) 746-1466. Located 12 miles south of Stuart on U.S. 1.

16450 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, FL 33455 (772) 546-2771

Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park

The West Indian hardwood hammock that thrives on this island was once common on most of Florida's upper keys. Most of these forests on other islands have been lost to development. In 1919, William J. Matheson, a wealthy Miami chemist, bought this tiny island and built a caretaker's home with a windmill for electricity and a cistern for rainwater. Today, his hideaway is the visitor center for this island forest. Ranger-guided tours are given twice daily, Friday through Sunday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There are no self-guided tours of the island forest. The park is accessible by boat, canoe or kayak. Tour boat services, and boat and kayak rentals are available from Robbie's Marina in

Islamorada. The tour boat departs one-half hour before park tour times. For tour reservations call (305) 664-9814. Annual special events include Lignumvitae Key Christmas in December. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located one mile west of U.S. 1 at Mile Marker 78.5.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park, U.S. 1 Mile Marker 85.5, Islamorada, FL 33036 (305) 664-2540

Long Key State Park

The Spanish named this island “Cayo Vivora” or Rattlesnake Key because its shape resembles a snake with its jaws open. In the early 20th century, Long Key was the site of a luxurious fishing resort that was destroyed during the Labor Day hurricane of 1935. Today, visitors can explore this island by canoeing through a chain of lagoons or hiking two trails. The Golden Orb Trail leads visitors through five natural communities to an observation tower that provides a panoramic view of the island and its profusion of plant and animal life. Some of the best bonefishing in the Keys is found here. Full-facility campsites overlook the Atlantic Ocean. Camping reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling

ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Located on U.S. 1 at Mile Marker 67.5.

**67400 Overseas Highway, Long Key, FL
33001 (305) 664-4815**

Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park

Acquired in April 2006, Okeechobee Battlefield is the site of an important and historic confrontation of the Second Seminole War, the longest and bloodiest of all the crusades against Native Americans. The site protects this important place in Florida's history and preserves valuable wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species. Okeechobee Battlefield is listed as a National Historic Landmark and was recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the top endangered historical sites in the United States.

**For more information or to visit this park,
contact: Jonathan Dickinson State Park,
16450 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, FL
33455 (772) 546-2771**

Oleta River State Park

Florida's largest urban park, Oleta River is located on Biscayne Bay in the busy Miami metropolitan area. Although it offers a variety of recreational opportunities, the park is best known for miles of off-road bicycling trails, ranging from novice trails to challenging for experienced bicyclists. Along the Oleta River at the north end of the park, a large stand of beautiful mangrove forest preserves the native South Florida plants and wildlife. Canoeists and kayakers can paddle the river to explore this amazing natural area. Swimming along the 1,200-foot sandy beach and saltwater fishing are also popular activities. Picnic tables and grills are available; nine pavilions can be rented for a fee. The largest pavilion has electricity. Water is available at nearby restrooms. Visitors can rent kayaks, canoes and bicycles and the park has a loaner system for bicycle helmets. For overnight visits, the park has rustic, air-conditioned cabins and a youth campground for organized groups. Cabin reservations may be made by visiting ReserveAmerica.com or by calling ReserveAmerica at (800) 326-3521, TDD (888) 433-0287. Annual special events include Earth Day/Baynanza Celebration in April. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located at 3400 N.E. 163rd Street, off I-95 in North Miami.

**3400 N.E. 163rd Street, North Miami, FL
33160 (305) 919-1846**

St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park

This classic Florida barrier island is accessible only by boat, but it is worth the ride. A boardwalk takes visitors across mangrove forests and hammocks of live oaks, cabbage palms, paradise trees and wild limes to a neatly preserved Atlantic beach. During the summer months, the island is an important nesting area for loggerhead, leatherback and green turtles. They come ashore at night to dig holes in the beach sand where they lay their eggs. The preserve is a favorite for nature students interested in learning about the native flora and fauna of Florida's barrier islands. Visitors come to swim, sunbathe or picnic at the pavilion on the quiet beach; others make the trip for the great surf fishing. Snorkeling and scuba diving are also popular activities. Canoes and kayaks may launch at the eastern end of Cove Road. Located at Port Salerno, on the Intracoastal Waterway, .75 miles south of the inlet.

**4810 S.E. Cove Road, Stuart, FL 34997 (772)
219-1880**

San Pedro Underwater Archaeological Preserve State Park

This underwater archaeological preserve features a submerged shipwreck that is available for diving and snorkeling. Part of a Spanish flotilla, the San Pedro was a 287-ton, Dutch-built ship which sank in a hurricane on July 13, 1733. Its remains were discovered in 1960 in Hawk Channel near Indian Key. After major salvage efforts in the 1960s, all that remains of the San Pedro is a large pile of ballast stones covering an area 90 feet long and 30 feet wide. The underwater site has been enhanced with seven replica cannons, an anchor and an information plaque. Visitors can also appreciate the marine life that occupies the site which is located in 18 feet of water, approximately 1.25 nautical miles south from Indian Key at GPS coordinates 24 degrees 51.802'N, 80 degrees 40.795'W. To prevent anchor damage, visitors are asked to tie up to mooring buoys located at the site.

For more information or to visit this park, contact: Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park, U.S. 1 Mile Marker 85.5, Islamorada, FL 33036 (305) 664-2540

Savannas Preserve State Park

Freshwater marshes or “savannas” once extended all along Florida’s southeast coast. Stretching more than 10 miles from Fort Pierce to Jensen Beach, this preserve is the largest and most intact remnant of Florida’s east coast savannas. A good place for visitors to start is the Environmental Education Center where they can learn about the importance of this endangered natural system.

Picnic tables are available near the center.

Canoeing, kayaking and fishing in the freshwater wetlands or the brackish waters of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River are popular activities while wildlife enthusiasts and photographers can enjoy the diversity of habitats this endangered landscape offers. More than 15 miles of multi-use trails provide opportunities for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. Guided walks and canoe trips are available by reservation. Annual special events include Pioneer Days in January, Sweetheart Fest in February, Fire Fest/Smokey Bear’s Birthday in August and Creatures of the Night & Haunted Trail in October. Other events and ranger programs are available. The Education Center is located in Port St. Lucie, two miles east of U.S. 1 on Walton Road.

Education Center, 2541 Walton Road, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952 or park office: 9551 Gumbo Limbo Lane, Jensen Beach, FL 34957 (772) 398-2779 or (772) 340-7530

Seabranh Preserve State Park

Ancient oceans shaped the physical landscape of this park, which allowed a variety of habitats to develop over time. Today, this preserve provides an opportunity to experience several different natural communities in a relatively short distance. In less than one mile, visitors can see rare sand pine scrub, scrubby flatwoods, a baygall community and a mangrove swamp. Hikers can explore these natural communities along four miles of trails. A small picnic shelter is also available. Future recreational development is planned for this preserve, including interpretive displays and a paved bicycle trail. Located between Hobe Sound and south Stuart in eastern Martin County. Access to the park is from State Road A1A near the VFW parking lot.

**State Road A1A, Stuart, FL 34997. For more information, contact: St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park
(772) 219-1880**

The Barnacle Historic State Park

This beautiful house with a whimsical name dates to a quieter time. The Barnacle, built in 1891,

offers a glimpse of Old Florida during “The Era of the Bay.” Situated on the shore of Biscayne Bay, this was the home of Ralph Middleton Munroe, one of Coconut Grove’s most charming and influential pioneers. Munroe’s principal passion was designing yachts. In his lifetime, he drew plans for 56 different sailboats. As a seaman, naturalist and photographer, Commodore Munroe was a man who cherished the natural world around him. A walk into the park passes through a tropical hardwood hammock which in the 1920s was representative of the original landscape within the city of Miami. Today, it is one of the last remnants of the once vast “Miami Hammock.” Visitors enjoy sitting in rocking chairs on the spacious porch used as a gathering place or on a bench under a tree for solitude. The Barnacle is open Friday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with tours at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The park is available on Wednesdays and Thursdays for group tours by advance reservation. The park is closed Tuesdays, New Years, Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

**3485 Main Highway, Coconut Grove, FL 33133
(305) 442-6866**

Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park

Formed of Key Largo limestone fossilized coral, this land was sold to the Florida East Coast Railroad which used the stone to build Henry Flagler's Overseas Railroad in the early 1900s. After the railroad was built, the quarry was used until the 1960s to produce exquisite pieces of decorative stone called Keystone. Today, visitors can walk along eight-foot quarry walls to see cross sections of the ancient coral and learn about the quarry and its operation – an important part of Florida's 20th century history. Samples of the quarry machinery have been preserved at the park. The visitor center, open Friday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., features educational exhibits about the history of this site. Visitors can enjoy the natural attributes of the island while strolling five short, self-guided trails. Ranger-guided tours of the trails are offered at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Friday through Sunday. Self-guided trails and guided tours require a fee. Picnic tables are available. Annual special events include Windley Key Day in March. Other events and ranger programs are available. Located on U.S. 1 at Mile Marker 85.5 on Windley Key near Islamorada.

**U.S. 1 Mile Marker 85.5, Islamorada, FL
33036 (305) 664-2540**

The Florida State Parks Passport

is designed as a travel aid to help you discover Florida's state parks. As a collector's journal, the Passport will help you plan park visits, record your experiences and collect each park's unique stamp. Inside the book, each state park is highlighted, sharing information about recreation and driving directions. There is space to collect a stamp at each park you visit. Passports may be purchased at a ranger station, by mail or by calling Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park at (352) 628-7002.