Everglades National Park





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Tour Summary

Visitors come from around the world to experience Everglades National Park, the world's only Everglades; a dynamic ecosystem fed by a sheet flow of rainfall creeping slowly southward across expansive sawgrass prairies. Most tourists are here to see wildlife - and that's virtually guaranteed if they get at least 3 miles into the park, to Royal Palm Hammock. But a drive down the 38-mile Main Park Road, which dead-ends near the southernmost point of Florida's peninsula, provides an overview of the best the Everglades has to offer - even if you never get out of your car.

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Introduction





Everglades National Park is Florida's most famous wilderness, just a short drive from Miami.



It is a dynamic ecosystem fed by a sheet flow of rainfall creeping slowly southward across expansive sawgrass prairies.



It is the world's *only* Everglades, immortalized by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas as the "River of Grass."



It is Florida's big sky country. Within its 2,358 square miles, Everglades National Park protects the largest sawgrass prairie in North America.



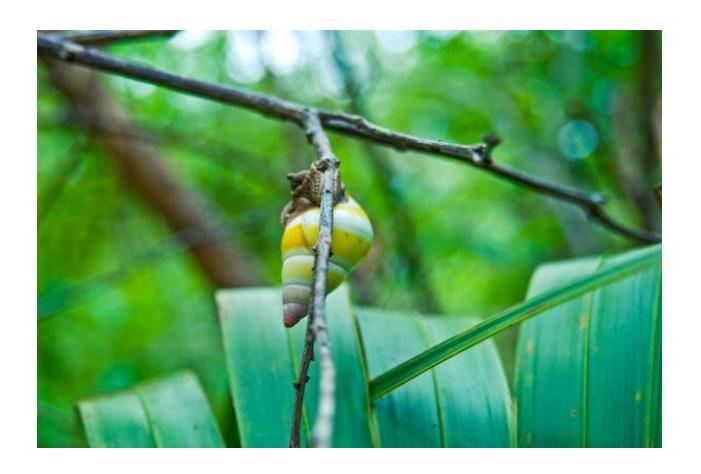
Along its shores, this national park encompasses the largest mangrove forest in the western hemisphere.



Mangroves flourish along the shores of Florida Bay.



Landscapes on a massive scale compete for attention with tiny details, like the delicate, sweet-scented blossoms of cabbage palms...



...the orange swirls of a tree snail's shell...



...and the barnacle-like crust of salt clinging to mangrove roots.



Most visitors come to see the Everglades' bountiful wildlife.



You're virtually guaranteed to encounter alligators at Royal Palm Hammock, just three miles inside the park gates.



But a road trip down the 38-mile Main Park Road, which dead-ends near the southernmost point of Florida's peninsula, provides the full banquet of the best the Everglades has to offer - even if you never get out of your car.

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