

Florida Everglades Airboat Tours

Written by Wayne Gilbert Jr

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In between the scorching beaches of Miami and Key West's white sands, the southern portion of Florida stands in stark disparity with 1.5 million acres of tropical wetlands, known as the Everglades National Park. Its grassy swamplands, popularized by the term "River of Grass", attracts millions of tourists every year.

As the area covered by the park is so expansive, there are three entrances to the park that are not linked and are accessed through different areas of south Florida. Through Miami or Everglades City, you can access the northern part of the park and the southern section can be accessed through Homestead.

All these sections of the park offer different activities. The Anhinga Trail is perfect for spotting wildlife, such as alligators, herons and turtles, while hiking. The Shark Valley's 65 ft. long observation tower and open-air vehicles allow you to observe the everglades from the sky. Kayak over Florida Bay to spot American crocodiles, white pelicans and dolphins, paddle amongst the mangroves in the 10,000 Islands National Wildlife Refuge or visit the historic Nike Hercules missile base.

The adventures at Everglades are affected by two distinct weather patterns: a dry season and a wet season. The wet season is accompanied with regular flooding while there is a drought in the dry season. It's important to plan your trip ahead of time, as the wet season, which lasts from April to November, is extremely busy and ranger programs are not obtainable. November to March marks the dry season, and it also attracts a considerable amount of people, as it offers an opportunity to spot a huge variety of wading birds that come to the area due to the warm winters.

An Everglades tour allows you to experience different activities and the extensive area allows

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you to explore a huge variety of vegetation and wildlife in various eco-systems that include, freshwater sloughs, mangroves, coastal lowlands, tropical hammocks, marl prairies, pinelands, marine, cypress, and estuarine.