

Directions

The park is located on the southern end of Key Biscayne, south of downtown Miami.

-  BICYCLING
-  FISHING
-  CONCESSION
-  HIKING
-  PARKING
-  PICNIC AREA
-  PLAYGROUND
-  RESTROOM
-  SUN BATHING
-  WILDLIFE VIEWING



History & Nature

Ponce de Leon named this area "Cape of Florida" when he led the first Spanish expedition to Florida in 1513.

The Cape Florida lighthouse, the park's best known feature, was completed in 1825 but was damaged during the Second Seminole War. The repaired tower, completed in 1846, remains the oldest standing structure in Miami-Dade County. Tours of the 95-foot lighthouse and the keeper's house museum are available.

The island served as a secret meeting place and port for runaway slaves and Black Seminoles waiting to rendezvous with sea captains or board dugouts for a passage to safety in the British Bahamas. Although the lighthouse was built to save lives and ships, its unflinching light brought an end to this avenue of escape. In September 2004, Cape Florida was designated a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew uprooted a forest of non-native Australian-pine trees that dominated the landscape and left the park nearly treeless. The storm provided land managers the opportunity to restore the park's native plant communities. Today, a variety of natural habitats, from mangrove forest to maritime hammock, can be seen at Cape Florida.

Depending upon the season, more than 50 butterfly species and 170 bird species may be seen at the park. The peregrine falcon, piping plover and American crocodile regularly take refuge here. Loggerhead sea turtles nest along the beach each summer. Green sea turtles and Florida manatees often graze in the seagrass beds offshore.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

1200 South Crandon Boulevard

Key Biscayne, FL 33149

(786) 582-2673

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- The collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited in all Florida state parks.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

Large
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Alternate format
available upon
request at any
Florida state park.



Southeast
Florida

Bill Baggs
Cape Florida
State Park

Fifteen minutes from downtown Miami,
but a world apart



...The Real FloridaSM

