

ALONG THE PARK ROAD

Remember you're at the fringe of the tropics where you will see many tropical influences.

It is possible to make this 38-mile trip over the paved road in less than an hour; but don't do it. You should allow yourself at least one-half day to become acquainted with some of the attractions along the way. Take time to explore the ends of the short spur roads—Royal Palm, Pa-hay-okee, Mahogany Hammock, and others.

Just 2 miles from the main visitor center, a sign directs you to Royal Palm Hammock, on Paradise Key. This area, famed for its animal life and rich variety of tropical plants, was the site of Florida's first State Park. The Royal Palm interpretive station, manned by ranger-naturalists and housing exhibits and other informational material, is the starting point for the famous Anhinga and Gumbo Limbo nature trails. Nearby Taylor Slough is the home of many easily seen animals including alligators and birds.

From here to Flamingo you will pass three major self-guiding trails: the *Pineland Trail*, through the fire-maintained pine-palmetto community; *Pa-hay-okee Trail*, through dwarf cypress and bay to an overlook in the sawgrass zone; and the *Mahogany Hammock Trail*—a dense hammock of mahogany with palms, airplants, and orchids.

FLAMINGO

Here you will find a visitor center, restaurant, motel, large boat marina, campground, and picnic area.

Exhibits at Flamingo Visitor Center summarize the park story you saw at the stops and on the trails along the main park road. They tell the story of man's struggle to prevent the extinction of Everglades' rare and endangered bird species prior to the park's establishment.

Flamingo is your base of operations for exploratory trips into the vast wilderness of White-water Bay and the hundreds of miles of winding mangrove-lined rivers and lakes, the channels and keys of the bay, the gulf area, and the mangrove coast with its tropical beaches. Flamingo is an excellent base, too, for the sports fisherman, the wildlife enthusiast, and the photographer.

There's always something to do at Flamingo. Park rangers and naturalists give talks and walks; sightseeing boats move in and out of the marina landings; and a skilled skipper who knows the intricate waterways can usually find a berth for you on board his charter fishing boat. These boats are checked for safety and are well equipped with the kind of bait, tackle, and supplies needed to catch game fish.

The Everglades Park Co., 3660 Coral Way, Miami, Fla. 33145, whose standards and prices are approved by the National Park Service, operates the marina, store, restaurant and snackbar, and

the motor lodge. Make reservations well in advance. Rates are lower from May 1 to December 1.

THE TAMIAMI TRAIL AND THE WESTERN WATER GATEWAY

Two other centers of interest are the Western Water Gateway, at the town of Everglades, and the Shark Valley Trail, midway between Everglades and Miami on the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41).

The **Western Water Gateway** is the boater's entrance to the waters of the Ten Thousand Islands and the gulf coast—a mecca for sport fishermen. A park concessioner also operates sightseeing boats here—one fascinating journey leads to shell mounds built by the Calusa Indians some 2,000 years ago, another to a summer bird

rookery. Signs give point and times of departure for the boat trips, or you can get this and other information at the Gulf Coast Ranger Station.

Park facilities for visitors at the town of Everglades are not yet completed, but motels are available; for campers, the nearest sites are at Collier-Seminole State Park, 19 miles west of the town of Everglades on the Tamiami Trail.

In contrast to the waterways through the coastal mangrove jungles, the **Shark Valley Loop Road** provides an altogether different wilderness experience. The road is 14 miles long, cutting deeply into the sawgrass and hammock country of the true everglades. Leave your car at one of the several parking areas, visit the Otter Cave Trail and, of course, climb the ramp of the 40-foot tower at mid-station. The unimpaired view of

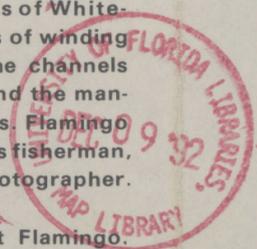
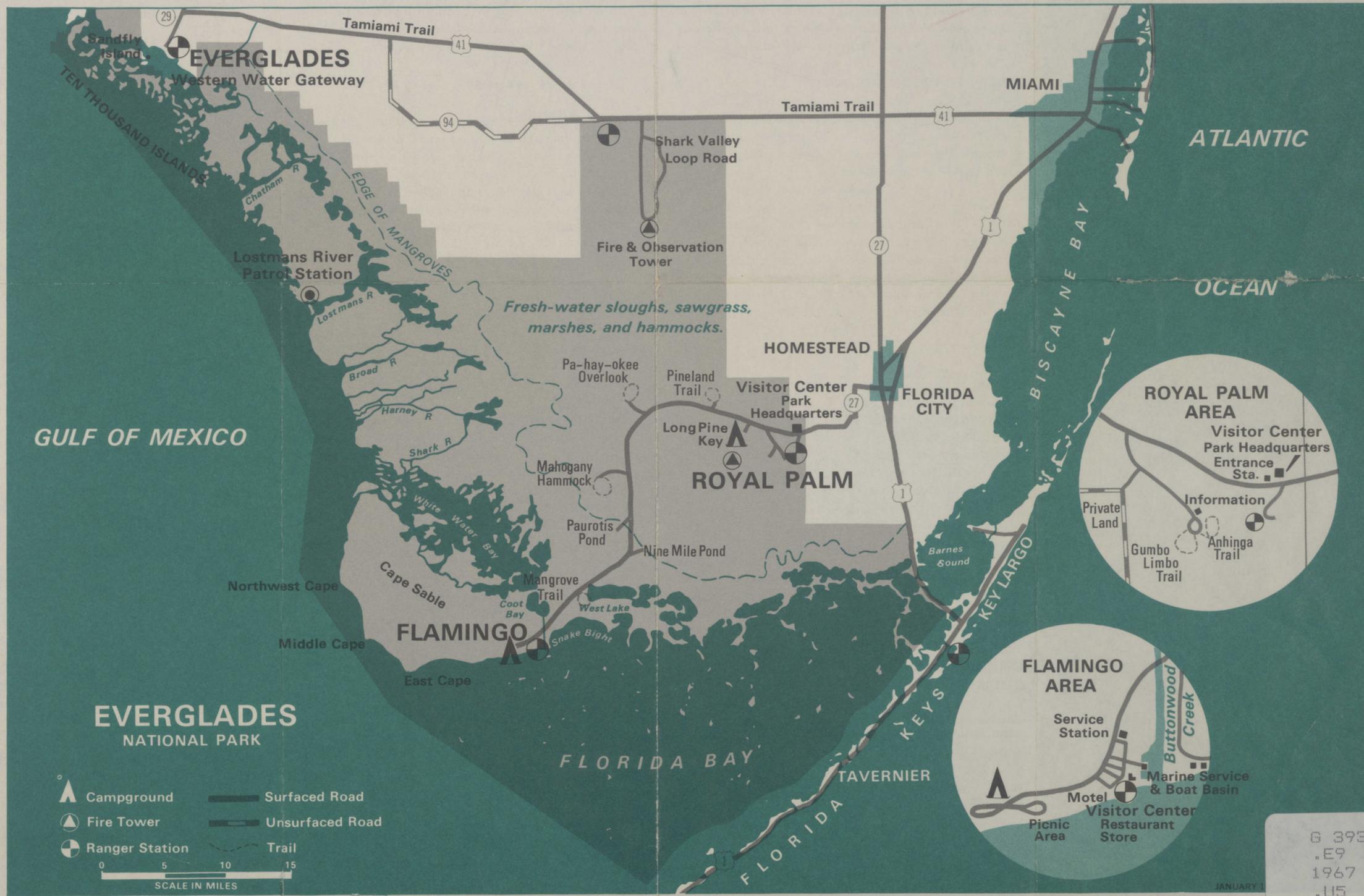
that seemingly endless "River of Grass" is without equal, and the tower is often a good place from which to observe alligators, birds, and other wildlife. *Note: This road may be closed to public traffic during periods of high water. Contact a park ranger for information.*

ON THE FLAMINGO ROAD

- Miles
- 2 *Royal Palm Area: Royal Palm Visitor Center*—naturalist programs, restrooms; *Anhinga Trail*—a wildlife trail; *Gumbo Limbo Trail*—a jungle trail through tropical hardwood hammock.
 - 4 *Long Pine Key area: Campground; picnic area.*
 - 6.5 *Pineland Trail*—a pinewoods community trail.

- 12.5 *Pa-hay-okee*—boardwalk and tower for panoramic view.
- 19.5 *Mahogany Hammock*—elevated boardwalk into mahogany forest.
- 24.5 *Paurotis Pond*—parking for view of rare palms.
- 26.5 *Nine Mile Pond*—limited picnicking facilities.
- 30.5 *West Lake area: Mangrove Trail*—an elevated boardwalk into tropical mangrove swamp; *West Lake Pond*—Cuthbert rookery boat trip (from February to May); waterfowl. Excellent example of hurricane-damaged tropical vegetation.
- 38 *Flamingo area: Exhibits, naturalist programs, marina, sightseeing boats, restaurant, motel, service station, picnic area, campground.*

GPO : 1967 O - 249-201



G 3932
.E9
1967
.U5

JANUARY 1