

Southeast Florida

Curry Hammock State Park

The Florida Keys as they used to be!

Real Fun in the Real Florida

Curry Hammock State Park is the largest uninhabited parcel of land between Key Largo and Big Pine Key. The park protects large areas of mangrove swamp, rockland hammock and seagrass beds essential to the Florida Keys' ecosystem.

The shallow, protected waters of Curry Hammock State Park make an ideal place to **kayak** and **canoe**, with a beautiful mangrove creek and miles of pristine coastline on both Florida Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Bring your own equipment or inquire at the ranger station about kayak rentals. When the wind is blowing, the oceanfront is a popular place to launch **windsurfers** and **kiteboards**.

A 28-site, full-facility **campground** is located along the oceanfront. Reservations are made

through Reserve America at (866)-422-6735 or by visiting ReserveAmerica.com.

There are great opportunities for **birding** year-round within the park. Shallow-water **fishing** is available on both the ocean and bay sides of the park. **Hikers** enjoy a moderately difficult 1.5-mile trail through the hammock. The park offers a variety of ranger-led activities. Please call the ranger station at (305) 289-2690 for times and availability.

History & Nature

This land became a state park in 1991 and is named for Lamar Louise Curry, a revered Miami teacher, whose father, Thomas, purchased large tracts of land in the Middle and Upper Keys. Two miles of the Overseas Heritage Trail pass through the park. This is a multi-use trail which follows the route of the Overseas Railroad, providing foot and bicycle access to Marathon. The Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail also passes through the park.

Curry Hammock State Park is comprised of a group of islands in the Florida Keys, encompassing over 1,000 acres. The rockland hammock found in the

Keys is characterized by smaller tree sizes than seen in other tropical hardwood hammocks. But in Curry Hammock, it also contains one of the largest populations of thatch palms in the United States, and provides vital habitat for rare and endangered animals like the white-crowned pigeon.

The healthy marine grass beds and marine tidal swamps within the park serve an important role in cleaning near-shore water, and are essential for the health of the offshore coral reefs. They function as a crucial nursery for many important species of fish and crustaceans, and provide rich feeding grounds for many wading and diving birds.

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- The collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited.
- Be alert for Portuguese Man-of-War along the waterfront.

- Pets are not allowed along the shoreline, in the water or in the picnic area. Where allowed, pets must be well behaved and kept on a six-foot, handheld leash.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- 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.

Directions

Curry Hammock State Park is located two miles northeast of Marathon, at Mile Marker 56.2 on the Overseas Highway.

Contact Information

Florida State Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Curry Hammock State Park
56200 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 289-2690
FloridaStateParks.org