

History of the Tamiami Trail

The vision of a cross-Florida road dates back to before 1914 when Captain J. F. Jaudon of Miami surveyed the route from Tampa to Miami with Native American Jack Tigertail. Sections of the unpaved road were constructed over the next 20 years; however, lack of funds stalled the effort until Barron Collier agreed to complete the building of the Tamiami Trail. With his financial backing the State assumed the responsibility and the road was opened in 1928. Barron Collier built six way stations along the highway to service the cars and established the Southwest Mounted Patrol to assist travelers. He also provided public bus service (Tamiami Trailways). Today the Tamiami Trail is the only accessible link for non-motorists in south Florida between Naples and Miami.

Culture

Both the Seminole and the Miccosukee Tribes have a rich cultural heritage in southern Florida and continue to maintain their ancient customs as demonstrated in their museums and villages along the Tamiami Trail. Tribal members, as well as individuals who maintain their independent status, continue to live along US41. Among the first white settlers were the “Gladesmen” who moved here from the Deep South after the Civil War; they would hunt and fish in the Everglades. Today these early pioneers continue to spend time in the woods and hold onto their traditions and values. The town of Everglade was established in the late 1800s, becoming the county seat in 1923 when Barron Collier created his company town.

Environment and Wildlife

Preservation and restoration of the ecosystem of this unique area are of primary concern. Water in south Florida once flowed freely from the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee and southward over low-lying lands to the estuaries of Biscayne Bay, the Ten Thousand Islands, and Florida Bay. By the early 1900s the drainage process to transform wetland to land for development was underway. The results would be severely damaging to the ecosystem and the species it supported. In 1947 the Everglades National Park was established to conserve the natural landscape and prevent further degradation of its land, plants, and animals. Big Cypress became a National Preserve in 1974 to protect the land and the wildlife from development.

Along U.S. 41

There are many interesting on and off-road opportunities for hiking and bicycling through the various state and national parks.

Collier-Seminole State Park



An original stand of native royal palm trees, coexisting with one of the largest mangrove swamps in the world, distinguishes this 7,271-acre park established by Barron Gift Collier. The park is also the site of the historic Bay City Walking Dredge used to build the Tamiami Trail.
<http://alturl.com/s6nof>

Ten Thousand Islands NWR



Established in 1996, this 35,000 acres refuge protects important mangrove and marsh habitats and is the ultimate interface where land gradually gives way to the sea ... where freshwater flows interchange with tidal saltwater.
<http://alturl.com/dncvm>

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park



Host of a wide array of habitats: swamps, prairies, tropical hardwood hammocks and pine rock lands with royal palms and bald cypress trees sharing the forest canopy. There are also 44 native orchids and 14 native bromeliad species.
<http://alturl.com/j9ckk>

Picayune Strand State Forest



Comprised of 78,000 acres, this is Florida’s 4th largest state forest and named after the largest of several cypress strands that once occupied its eastern portion.
<http://alturl.com/ezsm8>

Big Cypress National Preserve



Protecting over 729,000 acres of this truly vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that harbor many protected species, including the elusive Florida panther. “Big” Cypress refers to the abundance, not the size, of cypress trees.
<http://alturl.com/ma366>

Everglades National Park



This National Park is dominated by the world renowned and unparalleled “River of Grass” freshwater prairies, stippled with tree islands, and home to many rare and endangered species. This is a focus area for one of the largest environmental restoration projects on the planet.
<http://alturl.com/n2q73>



FRIENDS OF THE RIVER OF GRASS GREENWAY

Dedicated to providing a safe multi-use pathway across the Everglades with the focus on environmental education and stewardship.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Individual	\$25
Student	\$15
Family	\$35
Business	\$50
Donor	\$100
Sponsor	\$500
Life Member	\$1000

Please make check payable to “FROGG” and send to FROGG, P.O. Box 5031, Everglades City, FL, 34139 or join online at www.evergladesROGG.org

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

STREET / P.O.BOX: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

Membership Benefits:

- Quarterly Newsletter with updates on the Tamiami Trail and the pathway progress.
- Discount for Annual Everglades Bike Ride.
- Satisfaction in knowing that your support will provide safety and facility information for pedestrians and cyclists traveling across the Everglades with a focus on environmental education and stewardship of the Everglades.

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Hiking and Cycling the Everglades



Amenities along the Tamiami Trail

U.S. 41

between

Naples and Miami



For more information, visit website Friends of the River of Grass Greenway
<https://www.evergladesROGG.org>



Miles from Krome Ave (SR997)	public Toilet	drinking Water	Food	Nature viewing	Hiking	Overnight facility	Sight-seeing	Information	Parking	FACILITY	Miles from San Marco Blvd (CR92)
as of 9/1/2016											
0.0	T		F			O	S		P	Krome Avenue (SR 997) / Four Corners Gas Station / Miccosukee Casino (restaurant, hotel)	74.3
1.3					H				P	Levee "L-29" access bridge (levee trail)	73.0
5.0							S			Coopertown air boat rides	69.3
6.3			F				S			Gator Park air boat rides	68.0
9.1			F				S			Everglades Safari Park air boat rides	65.2
12.1									P	Levee "L-29" access bridge; ValuJet Memorial; levee trails	62.2
12.5							S			Buffalo Tiger Airboat rides	61.8
15.4		W	F							Osceola Gift Shop (Snacks/Drinks)	58.9
16.8							S			Tigertail Airboat rides	57.5
18.0	T	W		N	H		S	I	P	Shark Valley Visitor Center (Entrance Fee) 15-mile tram tours, bicycle rental, snacks/drinks	56.3
18.1			F							Miccosukee Restaurant	56.2
18.2			F					I		Miccosukee General Store / Gas Station	56.1
18.5	T	W		N			S	I	P	Miccosukee Indian Village; Museum; Airboat rides	55.8
19.0			F				S			Tippy's Outpost Convenience Store / Big Cypress Grill	55.3
21.3							S			Eco-Tour Airboat Rides	53.0
21.4					H				P	Levee "L-28" access bridge (levee trail)	52.9
21.8				N						Loop Road, east terminus	52.5
25.9										Collier/Dade County Line	48.4
34.4	T	W				O			P	Midway Campground	39.9
36.3		W					S			Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Photography Gallery	38.0
37.2	T	W		N	H		S	I	P	Big Cypress Oasis Visitor Center Restrooms, drinking water, Florida Trail access, exhibits	37.1
41.5									P	Site of Historic Monroe Station	32.8
42.3	T	W				O				Monument Lake Campground (open Aug 28–Apr 15)	32.0
44.9	T			N	H				P	Kirby Storter Roadside Park (Boardwalk)	29.4
49.7	T					O			P	Burns Lake campground (open Aug 29–Jan 6; primitive)	24.6
51.9	T			N					P	H.P. Williams Roadside Park (Picnic Tables, Deck)	22.4

Miles from Krome Ave (SR997)	public Toilet	drinking Water	Food	Nature viewing	Hiking	Overnight facility	Sight-seeing	Information	Parking	FACILITY	Miles from San Marco Blvd (CR92)
as of 9/1/2016											
52.5	T								P	Turner River Canoe Launch	21.8
53.0			F	N	H	O	S	I	P	Trail Lakes Campground	21.3
54.2			F							Joanie's Blue Crab Café Restaurant	20.1
54.3							S			Ochopee Post Office Historical Site	20.0
55.1						O				Wildlife Creek Campground	19.2
56.1	T	W						I	P	Big Cypress Swamp Visitor Center (& canoe launch) Restrooms, drinking water, exhibits	18.2
56.7		W					S			Wooten's Airboat Rides	17.6
58.6	T	W	F					I	P	SR 29; Gas Station; Welcome Center; access to Everglades City	15.7
59.0							S			Jungle Erv's airboat rides	15.3
59.4							S			Everglades Private Airboat Rides	14.9
64.0									P	Picnic Tables	10.3
65.5	T			N	H				P	Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk ; Seminole Gift Shop	8.8
68.6			F			O				Port of the Islands Hotel, Restaurant, Resort, Marina	5.7
71.6				N	H				P	Marsh Trail (& canoe launch)	2.7
72.9							S			Corey Billie Airboat Rides	1.4
73.3									P	Picnic Tables	1.0
74.2	T	W		N	H	O	S		P	Collier-Seminole State Park Campground (Entrance Fee) canoe launch & rentals; hiking trails; biking trails; historic site	0.1
74.4			F							CR 92; Gas Station; Restaurant; Access to Marco Island	-0.1
74.9					H					Off-Road Trail Access (hiking, bicycling)	0.6
75.8										Collier-Seminole State Park boundary	1.5
77.4	T		F							Gas Station / Convenience Store	3.1
78.1										Marketplace CLOSED	3.8
79.9			F							Grocery/Convenience Store	5.6
82.3									P	Picnic tables	8.0
82.7		W	F							SR 951 (Collier Blvd); Convenience store	8.4

Legend:

- Restrooms
- Drinking Water
- Food
- Accessible
- Nature Viewing
- Hiking
- Overnight Facility
- Sight-seeing
- Information
- Parking
- Picnic Table
- Boat/ Kayak/ Canoe Launch
- Bike Rental

For more information,
visit website
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