

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.



Safety

When hiking or bicycling along the Tamiami Trail, safety is of the utmost importance. The corridor between Naples to Miami can be challenging with many narrow bridges, but it is also very interesting for those who wish to experience the Everglades at a slow pace. The Friends of the River of Grass Greenway (FROGG) continues to communicate and work with the Florida Department of Transportation to find ways to improve conditions.

The 3.5-mile section beginning at the intersection of US41 / CR951 going east has bike lanes, a sidewalk, and a 10-foot shared-use pathway. Many area residents now use these lanes for commuting and shopping, in addition to enjoying the recreational benefits of walking, running, and bicycling along this section. Long-distance cyclists and day travelers are also taking advantage of the safety features along this corridor.

For the next 2 miles (from Greenway Road to 6L Farm Road) there is no separated pathway but is planned for the future when this section is widened to four lanes. Meanwhile, take caution while hiking or biking.

From 6L Farm Road to Collier Seminole State Park at CR92 a new 2.3-mile separated pedestrian/bicycling pathway has recently been completed, providing safety and a link to the Park's 3.5 mile off-road hiking/biking trail along marsh, hammock and pine flat wood.

Between CR92 and just west of Port of the Islands Resort, the shoulders have RPMs (Raised Pavement Markers). These markings were placed there by FDOT as a safety measure to notify motorists of the upcoming narrow bridges. However, they can be dangerous for cyclists so take caution in this area, especially at the narrow bridges.

The 11-mile section between Port of the Islands Resort and Everglades City (SR/CR29) was re-surfaced in 2016 with smooth shoulders. For safety the FDOT installed white striping with the audible/vibratory markings along the edge of the shoulder and painted with durable paint instead of the “slippery” thermoplastic.

The Everglades City to Shark Valley section is beautiful with many vistas, more birds and alligators. The road shoulder is in better condition and lacks the raised markings.

FDOT and the National Park Service are in the process of building two new bridges along the Tamiami Trail from east of Osceola Camp to west of the Airboat Association of Florida (approximately between 8 miles and 11 miles west of Krome Avenue). This project will provide additional freshwater flow within Everglades National Park and improve the ecological conditions. This project has an estimated completion date of December 2018.

Visit our website www.evergladesrogg.org for updates on road improvements along the Tamiami Trail.

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.

<https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/bicycling.htm>

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.

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/biking.htm>

Hiking and Cycling the Everglades



Amenities along the Tamiami Trail

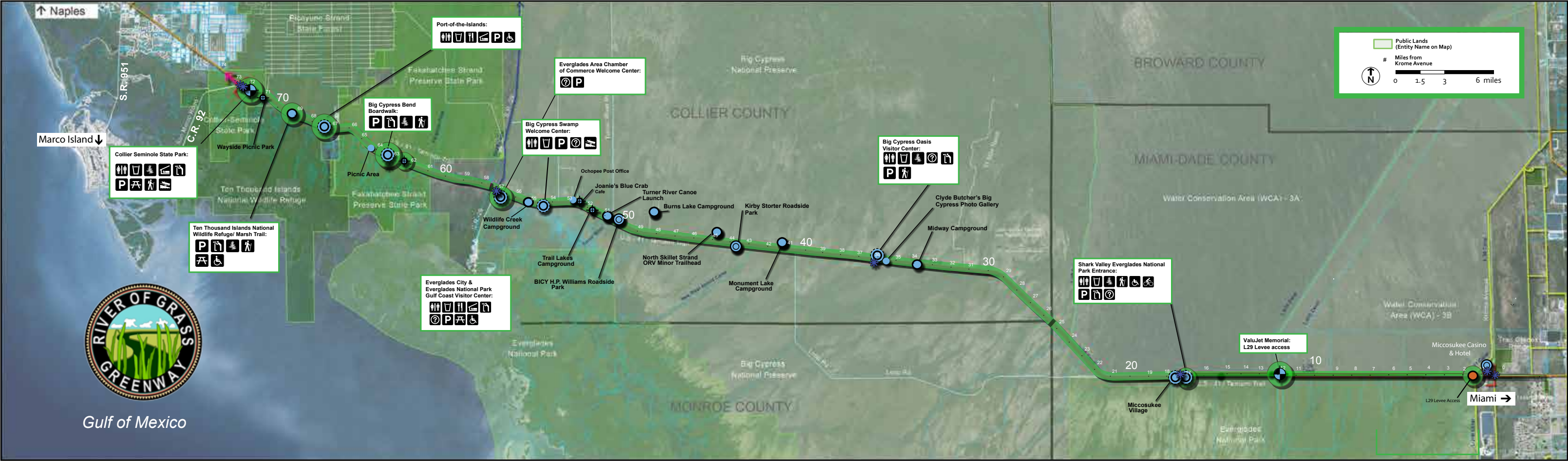
U.S. 41

between

Naples and Miami



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



| Miles from Collier Blvd (SR951) | public Toilet | drinking Water | Food | Nature viewing | Hiking | Overnight facility | Sight-seeing | Information | Parking | FACILITY | Miles from Krome Ave (SR997) | DOT Mile Marker (signs only between SR29 & Krome) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------|----------------|--------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------|--|------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | as of 4/1/17 | | |
| 0.0 | T | W | F | | | | | | P | Collier Blvd (SR951); Convenience Stores | 82.0 | 101 |
| 2.4 | | W | F | | | | | | | Grocery / Convenience Store | 79.6 | 98.6 |
| 4.2 | | | | | | | | | | Marketplace (Storage) | 77.8 | 96.8 |
| 5.0 | T | W | F | | | | S | | | Gas Station / Convenience Store | 77.0 | 96 |
| 6.5 | | | | | | | | | | Collier-Seminole State Park Boundary | 75.5 | 94.5 |
| 7.3 | | | | | H | S | | | P | Off-Road Trail Access (hiking/bicycling) | 74.7 | 93.7 |
| 7.9 | | W | F | | | | | | P | CR 92; Gas Station; Restaurant; access to Marco Island | 74.1 | 93 |
| 8.0 | T | W | | N | H | O | S | I | P | Collier-Seminole State Park (Entrance Fee) camp sites; canoe launch & rentals; hiking / biking trails; historic site | 74.0 | 93 |
| 8.9 | | | | | | | | | P | Picnic Tables | 73.1 | 92 |
| 9.3 | | | | | | | S | | | Corey Billie Airboat Rides | 72.7 | 91.7 |
| 11.0 | | | | N | H | | | | P | 10,000 Islands Nat'l Refuge / Marsh Trail (canoe launch) | 71.0 | 90 |
| 14.0 | T | W | F | | | O | | I | P | Port of the Islands Hotel, Restaurant, Resort, Marina | 68.0 | 87 |
| 17.0 | T | | | N | H | | S | | P | Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk; Seminole Gift Shop | 65.0 | 84 |
| 19.0 | | | | | | | | | P | Picnic Tables | 63.0 | 82 |
| 23.5 | | | | | | | S | | | Everglades Private Airboat Rides | 58.5 | 77.5 |
| 24.0 | | | | | | | S | | | Jungle Erv's airboat rides | 58.0 | 77 |
| 24.8 | T | W | F | | | | | I | P | SR 29; Gas Station; Welcome Center; access to Everglades City | 57.2 | 76 |
| 26.8 | | W | F | | | | | | | Wooten's Airboat Rides | 55.2 | 74 |
| 27.5 | T | W | | N | | | | I | P | Big Cypress Swamp Visitor Center (& canoe launch) Restrooms, drinking water, exhibits | 54.5 | 73.5 |
| 28.5 | | | | | | O | | | P | Wildlife Creek Campground | 53.5 | 72.5 |
| 29.0 | | | | | | | S | | P | Ochopee Post Office Historical Site | 53.0 | 72 |
| 29.2 | | W | F | | | | | | | Joanie's Blue Crab Café Restaurant | 52.8 | 72 |
| 29.5 | T | W | F | N | H | O | S | I | P | Trail Lakes Campground | 52.5 | 71.5 |
| 31.0 | T | | | N | | | | | P | Turner River Canoe Launch | 51.0 | 70 |
| 31.7 | T | W | | N | | | | | P | H.P. Williams Roadside Park (picnnic tables; boardwalk) | 50.3 | 69 |
| 33.5 | T | | | N | | O | | | P | Burns Lake Campground (seasonal; primitive camping) | 48.5 | 67.5 |

| Miles from Collier Blvd (SR951) | public Toilet | drinking Water | Food | Nature viewing | Hiking | Overnight facility | Sight-seeing | Information | Parking | FACILITY | Miles from Krome Ave (SR997) | DOT Mile Marker (signs only between SR29 & Krome) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------|----------------|--------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 37.0 | | | | N | H | | | | P | Skillet Strand North | 45.0 | 64 |
| 38.6 | T | W | | N | H | | | | P | Kirby Storter Roadside Park (boardwalk) | 43.4 | 62.5 |
| 41.0 | T | W | | | | O | | | P | Monument Lake Campground (seasonal) | 41.0 | 60 |
| 42.0 | T | W | | N | H | | | | P | Site of Historic Monroe Station (Loop Rd west terminus) | 40.0 | 59 |
| 46.0 | T | W | | N | H | | S | I | P | Big Cypress Oasis Visitor Center (Florida Trail access) restrooms; drinking water; exhibits | 36.0 | 55 |
| 46.8 | | W | | N | H | | S | I | | Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Photography Gallery | 35.2 | 54 |
| 48.9 | T | W | | | | O | | | P | Midway Campground | 33.1 | 52 |
| 56.0 | | | | | | | | | P | Collier / Dade County Line | 26.0 | 45 |
| 60.6 | | | | N | H | | | | | Loop Road (east terminus) | 21.4 | 40.4 |
| 61.0 | T | | | N | H | | | | P | Levee "L-28" access bridge (levee trail) | 21.0 | 40 |
| 62.0 | | | | | | | S | | | Eco-Tour Airboat Rides | 20.0 | 39 |
| 62.0 | | W | F | | | | S | | P | Tippy's Outpost Convenience Store / Big Cypress Grill | 20.0 | 39 |
| 63.5 | T | W | F | N | | | S | I | P | Miccosukee Indian Village; Museum; Airboat Rides | 18.5 | 37.4 |
| 63.8 | | | F | | | | | I | | Miccosukee General Store / Gas Station | 18.2 | 37.2 |
| 63.9 | | W | F | | | | | I | P | Miccosukee Restaurant / Visitor Center | 18.1 | 37.1 |
| 64.0 | T | W | F | N | H | | S | I | P | Shark Valley Visitor Center (Entrance Fee) (tram tours; bicycle rental) | 18.0 | 37 |
| 65.4 | | | | | | | S | | | Tigertail Airboat Rides | 16.6 | 35.6 |
| 67.5 | | W | F | N | | | | | | Osceola Gift Shop | 14.5 | 33.5 |
| 70.2 | | | | | | | S | | | Buffalo Tiger Airboat Rides | 11.5 | 30.5 |
| 71.0 | | | | | H | | | | P | Levee "L-29" access bridge; Valujet Memorial; levee trail | 11.0 | 30 |
| 73.0 | | W | F | | | | S | | | Everglades Safari Park Airboat Rides | 9.0 | 28 |
| 75.8 | | W | F | | | | S | | | Gator Park Airboat Rides | 6.2 | 25.2 |
| 77.0 | | | | | | | S | | | Coopertown Airboat Rides | 5.0 | 24 |
| 80.7 | | | | | H | | | | P | Levee "L-29" access bridge; levee trail | 1.3 | 20.3 |
| 82.0 | T | W | F | | | O | S | I | P | Krome Avenue (SR997) Four Corners Gas Station | 0 | 19* |
| | | | | | | | | | | Miccosukee Resort & Casino | | |

*Mile 0 starts at US1 in Miami-Dade County

CAUTION: Narrow Bridges throughout corridor

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
Friends of the
River of Grass Greenway
<https://www.evergladesROGG.org>

