

EVERGLADES CITY CHOKOLOSKEE



Everglades City is only a half hour drive from East Naples and Marco Island; it is an old Florida coastal town with a wide range of accommodations and restaurants (check our local newspaper at www.mulletrapper.com).

Visitors to our area enjoy exploring the original Collier County Court House, the Museum of the Everglades, the famous Rod & Gun Club, the Smallwood Store & Museum in Chokoloskee as well as participating in the many outdoor recreational activities.

The cycle tour of Everglades City begins at McLeod Park named for Daniel McLeod who served as Mayor from 1925 until his retirement in 1959. The park is located on Copeland Avenue on the circle in the center of town and has adequate space for parking your vehicle.

Collier County was established in 1923 with Everglades as its county seat. Across from McLeod Park is the old county courthouse built in 1928. The county seat was moved to Naples in 1962. Opposite City Hall is the Community Church dedicated in 1940 and currently serves the community as a non-denomination church. The property was donated by the Collier Family. Another interesting historic building is the old railroad depot located a block east of the Community Church.

Leaving the park, cycle north on Copeland Avenue for ½ mile, turn left onto Camellia Street and continue along the Barron River for another ½ mile riding behind the Everglades City School gymnasium and then merge with Storter Avenue (named after the pioneer family that settled here in the late 1800s).

When you reach the stop sign (back at McLeod Park), you will be at the street entrance to the renowned Rod & Gun Club (the front entrance faces the river). In 1892 the Storter family established a trading post (dealing with the Seminole Tribe) and a post office at this site. Barron Collier purchased all of the Storters' holdings in 1923 and enlarged the Rod & Gun Club, attracting wealthy fishermen. Four presidents (Theodore Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower Nixon) and a number of celebrities were hosted here. The Club was sold in the 1960s and bought by the current owners in 1973.

Take a right on West Broadway and on the left is the old Bank of the Everglades building which received its charter in 1923; it was the only bank in Collier County for about 26 years and remained in continuous operation until 1962 when the charter was sold to the Bank of Immokalee. Since then the building was used to as a boarding house, offices and more recently as a Bed & Breakfast. It is currently for sale.

At the end of West Broadway, take a left onto Riverside Drive and cycle all along the Barron River for approximately one mile turning left onto Allen Avenue, then right onto Kumquat Street for two blocks. At the stop sign take a right onto the Chokoloskee Causeway (Copeland Ave) and cycle for ½ mile to the entrance of the Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitor Center. Stop here to visit the exhibit center and the gift shop.

The Everglades National Park was established in 1947 when President Harry Truman arrived for its dedication. This is the entrance to the Ten Thousands Islands. If you have the opportunity, take a boat ride to get out on the water. You will enjoy observing manatees, dolphins jumping, osprey nesting and many other shore birds.

Back on Copeland Avenue, take a right and continue over the Chokoloskee Bridge for 2½ miles on a separated pathway to the island. The causeway was building in 1956; before then the high school students would ride a boat to Everglades City for their classes.

At the first stop sign in Chokoloskee, take a right onto Demere, passing the historic Church of God, then left on Mamie Street, cycling up the hill and continuing past the next stop sign to reach the old trading post from the late 1800s, Smallwood Store & Museum. You'll enjoy seeing many items still on display from the 1940s and earlier.

Leaving and going back up the hill to the stop sign, take a right onto Chokoloskee Drive, then left on Smallwood Drive. The "Chokoloskee Mall" with its post office and a great Cuban restaurant will be on your left as you head back to Everglades City.

Cycling back to town you may continue straight to McLeod Park or take a side tour of Plantation Island which will be approximately one mile past the bridge. Take a right on Plantation Parkway and cycle around the cul-de-sacs to see more of island living.

For more information about hiking and cycling in the Everglades, detailed list of amenities along the Tamiami Trail and brochures about other cycling tours through the area, visit the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway at <https://evergladesrogg.org/tamiami-trail/>.

Trails along U.S. 41

There are many on and off-road options 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 world's largest mangrove swamps, distinguishes this park; it is also the site of the historic Tamiami Trail "Walking Dredge".

<http://alturl.com/s6nof>

Ten Thousand Islands NWR

Established in 1996, this refuge protects important mangrove and marsh habitats and is the ultimate interface where land gradually gives way to the sea.

<http://alturl.com/dncvm>

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>

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Swamps, prairies, tropical hardwood hammocks and pine rock lands with royal palms and bald cypress trees share the forest canopy with native orchids and bromeliad species. <http://alturl.com/j9cck>

Big Cypress National Preserve

Big Cypress contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that harbor many protected species, including the elusive Florida panther.

<http://alturl.com/ma366>

Everglades National Park

The Park is dominated by the world renowned "River of Grass" freshwater prairies, tree islands, and many rare and endangered species.

<http://alturl.com/n2q73>

Everglades City / Chokoloskee Cycle Tour

Distance: 10-15 miles

Bicycle Type: road or hybrid

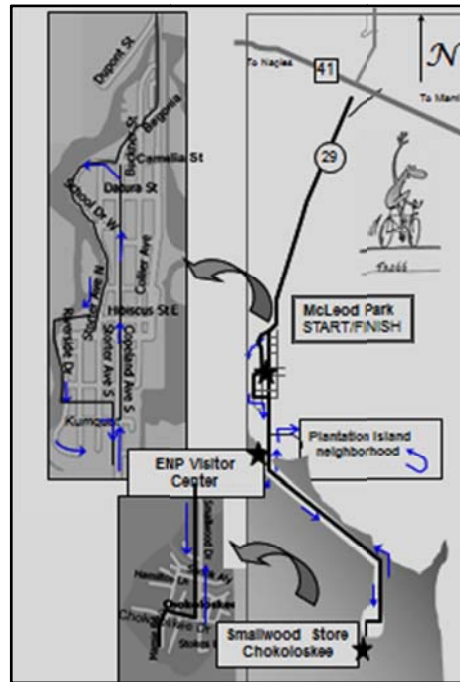
Road Conditions: paved road

with shoulders and

a separated bike path for

4 miles to Chokoloskee

Level: beginner to intermediate



This map illustrates a bike route through the Everglades area. While every effort is made to provide accurate and timely information, keep in mind the bike routes are intended for informational purposes only. No guarantee is made regarding the bike route safety because conditions change. In addition, we cannot guarantee anyone's safety by conforming to safety tips. Please use good judgment and be responsible for your own safety at all times.
6/1/2017

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Friends of the River of Grass Greenway

FROGG, a non-profit organization, is committed to establishing the safe use by the general public of US41 across the Everglades between Naples and Miami, focusing on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, and cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.

www.evergladesrogg.org

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