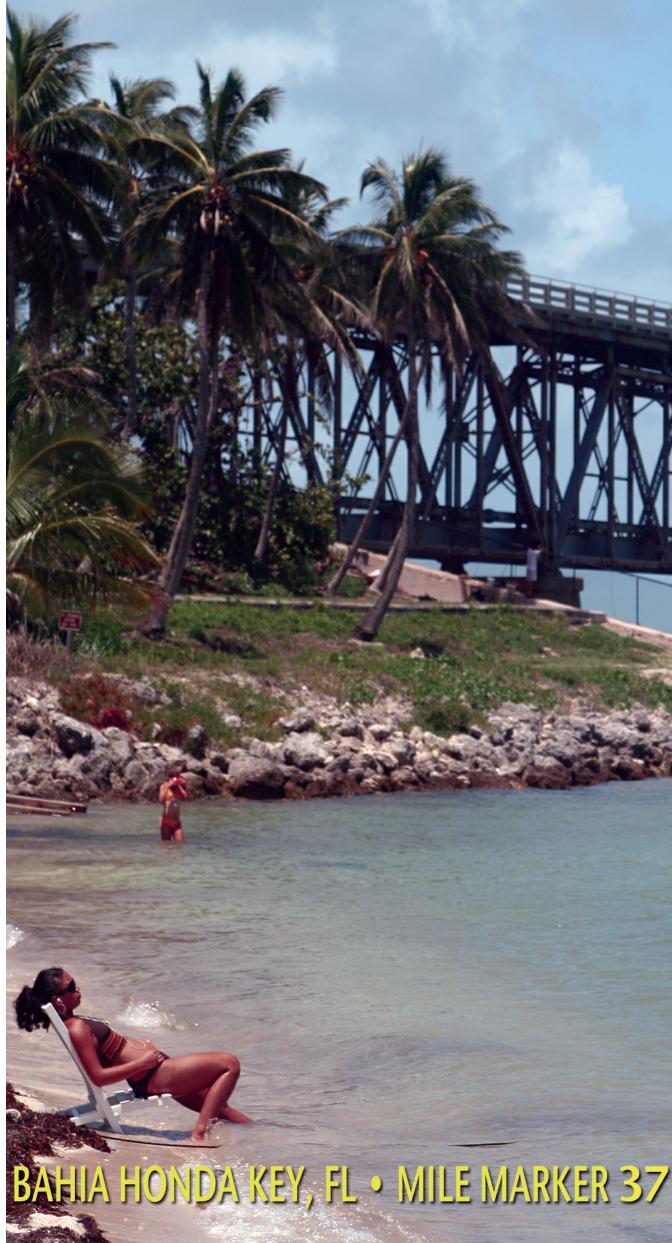


Bahia Honda State Park
36850 Overseas Highway
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK



BAHIA HONDA KEY, FL • MILE MARKER 37

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The channel between the old and new Bahia Honda bridges is one of the deepest natural channels in the Florida Keys.

Bahia Honda is unique among other islands in the Keys because it has extensive sandy beaches and deep waters close enough offshore to provide exceptional swimming and snorkeling.

The park, which encompasses 524 acres, includes one small island offshore on the southwest end of the park. The subtropical climate throughout the Florida Keys has created a natural environment found nowhere else in the continental U.S. Many plants and animals in the park are rare and unusual, including marine plant and animal species of Caribbean origin. Trees in the community include the yellow satinwood, gumbo limbo, and silver palm. The park has one of the largest remaining stands of the threatened silver palms in the United States. A specimen of the silver palm and yellow satinwood have been certified as national champion trees. Also found on the park grounds is the endangered small-flowered lily thorn. These, and other natural wonders, may be viewed along the nature trail that follows the shore of a tidal lagoon at the far end of Sandspur Beach.

The geological formation of Bahia Honda is Key Largo limestone. It is derived from a prehistoric coral reef similar to the present day living reefs of the Keys. Because of a drop in sea level several thousand years ago, portions of this ancient reef emerged from the sea, forming islands. Bahia Honda is the southernmost key where the formation is exposed.

In more modern times, the park was part of Henry Flagler's East Coast Railway holdings. The railroad to Key West was started in 1905 and was jokingly referred to as "Flagler's Folly". It was eventually completed in 1912 but later destroyed by a hurricane in 1935. The railroad remains were converted into what is known today as U.S. Highway 1. Presently, the Old Bahia Honda Bridge serves as a reminder of Flagler's dream. The bridge offers visitors a panoramic view of the island and surrounding waters.

Since the initial purchase of the first 13 acres of the park in 1961, Bahia Honda has become well-known as a recreational treasure in the Keys.

Visitor Information



Boating: Boaters should always exercise caution in shallow reef areas and when approaching any area where there are Diver Down flags, moored boats or swimmers. **Never anchor in coral.** Always obtain a navigation chart for open water. Two boat launching ramps are available at the marina. Overnight docking rental is available, with stays limited to two weeks.



Camping: For landlovers, there are three camping areas, with a total of 80 campsites. A dump station is provided.



Lodging: Three duplex cabins (6 units) are furnished with accommodations for 6 people per cabin. Linens and utensils are provided. Reservations can be made through the park office.



Kayaking: Safe and stable sit-on-top Ocean Kayaks are available for rent at the concession. They provide a quiet, relaxing way to explore the waters around the park.



Concession: Snacks, T-shirts, souvenirs and snorkeling equipment rentals may be obtained at the concession. Limited grocery and marine supplies are also available. Tickets for the snorkel boat tours may also be purchased at the concession.



Snorkeling: Daily snorkel trips to Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary are available through the concession. These tours provide an excellent means of observing and enjoying the beautiful coral reefs of the Florida Keys. Please remember - while snorkeling or diving outside a designated swimming area, the Diver Down flag must be displayed. **It is unlawful to touch, stand on or collect coral.** Never swim alone.



Bicycling: Cruise the park's more than 3 1/2 mile surface road that runs the length of Bahia Honda Key.



Fishing: Tarpon fishing in the area rates among the best in the state. **Saltwater fishing licenses are required in Florida.** All fishing within the park must conform to the regulations concerning size, number, method of capture and season. Spearfishing, possession of spearfishing equipment and collection of tropical fish (by any method) is prohibited inside the park.



Swimming: For water buffs, Bahia Honda has some of the best beaches in the Florida Keys, with swimming in the Atlantic Ocean and Florida Bay.



Picnicking: Shaded picnic tables beside the water are provided near the old bridge and at Sandspur Beach. Whether on land or water, please do not litter.

Concession Services

Concession services within the park are provided by the Bahia Honda Division of Coral Reef Park Company, Inc. The concession offers a variety of activities designed to make your visit to Bahia Honda State Park both enjoyable and memorable. Snorkeling tours allow young and old alike to experience the breathtaking beauty of Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary. The concession also offers self-guided kayak tours that make it easy for one or two paddlers to explore Bahia Honda shoreline. And of course, if you'd rather just take it easy, rent a beach chair and relax in the warm tropical breezes along one of the best beaches in the Florida Keys. Concession building is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

See our webpage for additional information:

<http://www.bahiahondapark.com>

<http://www.floridastateparks.org>

Marina

19 slips in protected basin - \$2.00/foot (minimum of \$30.00) - 3 1/2 foot controlling depth. Boat slips are available for overnight rental and include water, electricity, full use of park facilities (bath house, showers, trash disposal and pump-out).

Reservations recommended.

Call (305) 872-3210 or VHF Channel 16.

Snack Bar

Sandwiches - Cold Drinks - Subs
Ice Cream - Salads - Coffee
Snacks - Limited Grocery Items

Gift Shop

T-shirts - Jewelry - Gifts
Souvenirs - Books - Toys
Swimwear - Towels

Snorkeling Tours

9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.

Tour times are subject to seasonal change.

(1 1/2 hours water time)

\$28.95 - Adults \$23.95 - Under 18

\$2.00 - Mask \$2.00 - Fins \$2.00 - Souvenir Snorkel

(Safety vest is provided at no charge.)

Sunset cruises and back-country tours are also offered on a seasonal basis. Contact the concession for availability and reservations.

Deposit Required on All Rentals

All prices and schedules are subject to change without notice. Minimum passenger requirement on all tours. Reservations are recommended for all tours and must be confirmed **in person** no later than one hour prior to tour time. Boats leave the dock promptly at published time. Schedules subject to seasonal change.



Kayaks

Single\$10.00/hr\$30.00/1/2 DAY

Double.....\$18.00/hr\$54.00/1/2 DAY

Deposit Required on All Rentals

Dive Shop Rentals

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mask.....\$3.00

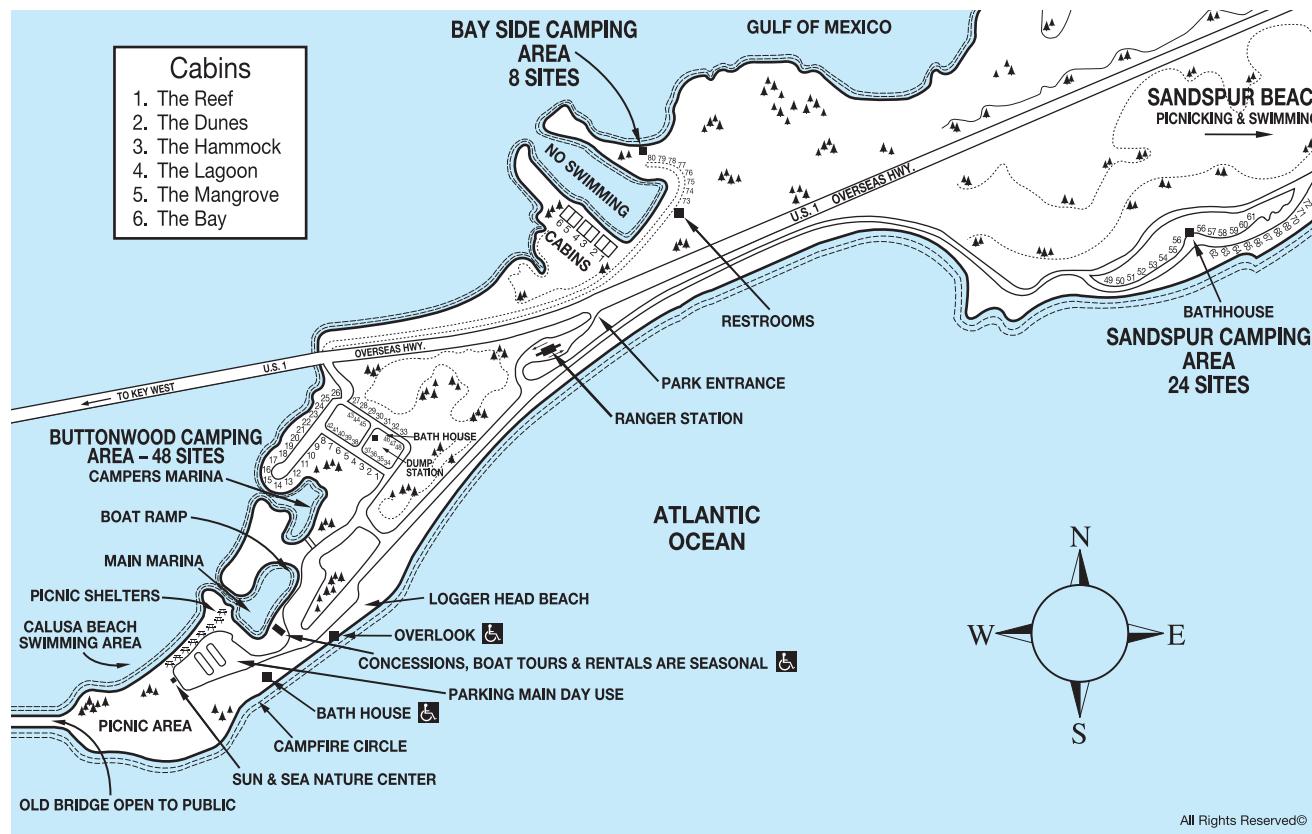
Snorkel.....\$3.00

Fins.....\$4.00

Dive Flags\$5.00

Wet Suits.....\$6.00

Beach Chairs/Umbrellas.....\$5.00



Reservation Information

Concession, tours and rentals(305) 872-3210
Camping, cabin, and park info(305) 872 2353

Bahia Honda State Park

...More of the **Real Florida**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks.

■ **Bahia Honda State Park** is located on Bahia Honda Key between Mile Markers 36 and 37. For Camping and Cabin Reservations 1-800-326-3521 or 1-866-ICampFL or www.ReserveAmerica.com For general park information call or write the park at (305) 872-2353; 36850 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key, FL 33043.

■ **Florida State Parks are managed to appear (as closely as possible) as they did when the first Europeans arrived.** All plant and animal life is protected in State Parks. Do not remove, deface, mutilate or molest any natural or cultural resources or park facilities. Please sort your trash. Place recyclables in marked containers; other trash in trash cans. For your safety, do not feed any animals. Intoxicants and firearms are prohibited. Florida State Parks are open from 8 a.m. until sundown 365 days a year.

■ **Pets** are allowed in camping areas, but not on bathing beaches, in concession areas or any buildings and may be restricted in other designated areas or Florida State Parks. Where pets are allowed, they must be kept on a six-foot, hand-held leash and be well-behaved at all times. Guide dogs for the deaf and blind are welcome in all areas of the park.

■ **Florida State Parks are in various stages of accessibility**, and are working to improve access to services and facilities. Should you need assistance to enable your full participation, please contact the individual park office as soon as possible. Sometimes as many as ten business days may be needed to schedule a particular accommodation.

■ **To discover and experience all of the Real Florida** at Florida's 155 State Parks, ask a Park Ranger where you can pick up a copy of the Florida State Parks Guide or visit our website at: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/bahiahonda>