

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
P.O. Box 1560
Key Largo, FL 33037



The first undersea park in the United States, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, and the adjacent Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, cover approximately 178 nautical square miles of coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove swamps. The park extends 3 miles into the Atlantic Ocean and is approximately 25 miles in length. These areas were established to protect and preserve a portion of the only living coral reef in the continental United States.

The park is named for the late John D. Pennekamp, a Miami newspaper editor, whose efforts contributed to the establishment of Everglades National Park and the preservation of what would become John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

The park contains a wide variety of tropical vegetation, shore birds and marine life. While the mangrove swamps and tropical hammocks offer visitors a unique and interesting experience, it is the coral formations and associated marine life that most park visitors come to enjoy. The coral reefs at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park are among the most beautiful and diverse of all living communities.

What is a coral reef?

Coral reefs are living underwater communities which provide food, shelter and breeding areas for many marine plants and animals. These reefs occur only in shallow oceans having clear, warm waters. It has been estimated that Florida's coral reefs have taken 5,000 to 7,000 years to develop. Corals are made up of tiny animals called polyps. Stony corals, such as star and brain coral, secrete a limestone skeleton around their bodies. These skeletons remain after death and provide the foundation for new polyp growth. The building process of stony corals makes up the massive framework of the reef. Octocorals, such as sea fans and sea plumes, don't form hard skeletons. Instead, they are flexible and sway gracefully in the ocean current feeding on plankton. Like the tropical rain forest, the coral reef community is extremely diverse. Living among the corals are sponges, shrimps, crabs, turtles, lobsters, eels, and nearly 600 species of fish. **Touching or standing on corals may kill them and is therefore prohibited.**

Park Programs

Throughout the year, programs are offered to park visitors on a wide range of natural and cultural history subjects. Guided nature walks along the park's Mangrove and Wild Tamarind trails are offered seasonally or upon request by individuals and organized groups. Nature videos may be viewed in the Visitor Center theater. Ask a Park Ranger for current program schedules or check at the Ranger Station.

Visitor Information



Glass Bottom Boat Tours: These 2-1/2 hour tours depart 3 times daily and allow you to view the beautiful coral reefs and its unique and colorful marine life in air-conditioned comfort!



Snorkel Tours: 1-1/2 hours water time allows snorkelers to view the colorful living coral reef. Tours depart 9, 12 and 3 each day. **It is unlawful to touch, stand on or collect coral. Beware of sunburn.**



SCUBA Diving: The Dive Shop, a PADI resort facility, offers 2-tank, 2-location tours to certified divers. We offer a full range of courses at our PADI Training Facility from Open Water certification through Divemaster. Specialty courses will introduce you to diving and our coral reefs in one day.



Boating: A boat ramp is available at the marina (\$10.00). 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 before departing for open water. Combustible engines are not permitted in nearshore areas of the park which are less than four feet deep.

Boat Slips and Moorings are available for overnight rental. Slips are located in the marina and include water and electric with bathroom and shower facilities nearby. Moorings are located in Largo Sound with dinghy dockage at the marina. Both include full use of the park facilities, trash disposal, and pump out. Reservations recommended. Call (305) 451-6325 or VHF Channel 16.



Camping: 47 full-facility camping sites for both tent and RV campers are available. Rest rooms and hot showers are easily accessible. Register at park entrance.



Canoeing/Kayaking: Explore the park's mangrove wilderness along 2-1/2 miles of marked trails. The mangroves, and crystal clear waters which surround them, provide habitat for a wide variety of birds and marine life. Rentals at Main Concession.



Concession: Lunch counter, gifts, and snorkeling equipment for beach area may be obtained at the concession.



Fishing: Fishing is permitted in designated areas in accordance with Florida Law. **Saltwater fishing licences are required.** Spearfishing, possession of spearfishing equipment and collection of tropical fish (by any method) is prohibited inside the park.



Picnicking: Designated areas for picnicking are located throughout the park. Barbeque grills are provided - no ground fires permitted. Whether on land or water, please **do not litter.**



Swimming: Swimming is popular at Cannon Beach and at two other designated swimming areas. Cannon Beach features remnants of an early Spanish shipwreck approximately 100 feet offshore. While swimming or snorkeling outside a designated swimming area, the Diver Down flag must be displayed.



Visitor Center and Aquariums: The Visitor Center features natural history exhibits interpreting the park's unique marine environment, a 30,000 gallon saltwater aquarium and a theater where visitors may view nature videos. Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., daily.

You are also encouraged to visit our concession at Bahia Honda State Park, MM 37, operated by Coral Reef Park Company (305) 872-3210.

CONCESSION SERVICES

Concession services within the park are provided by Coral Reef Park Company, Inc. The concession offers a variety of activities designed to make your visit to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park both enjoyable and memorable. From glass bottom boat tours to snorkel and dive trips, young and old alike can marvel at the breathtaking beauty of nature's own "underwater garden." Of particular interest is the park's new glass bottom tour boat, *Spirit of Pennekamp*, placed into operation in the Spring of 1999. This high speed, stable, air-conditioned catamaran offers a reef viewing experience as never before possible. An adventure to remember and cherish. The concession also offers motor boat, canoe, and kayak rentals for exploring on your own. If you've ever thought about SCUBA diving, check out the Dive Shop, a PADI 5-Star facility, where you can receive instruction on becoming a fully certified diver. Concession buildings open 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., daily. See our web page for additional information: <http://www.pennekamp.com>.

Main Concession

GLASS BOTTOM BOAT TOURS

9:15 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
\$22.00 - Adults \$15.00 - Under 12
2-1/2 hours

SNORKELING TOURS

9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
\$28.95 - Adults \$23.95 - Under 18
\$2.00 - Mask \$2.00 - Fins \$2.00 - Souvenir Snorkel
2-1/2 hour tours 1-1/2 hours water time

SAILING & SNORKELING TOURS

38 ft. Catamaran
9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
\$28.95 - Adults \$23.95 - Under 18
\$2.00 - Mask \$2.00 - Fins \$2.00 - Souvenir Snorkel
4 hour tours 1-1/2 hours water time

SNORKELING EQUIPMENT FOR BEACH AREA

Mask - \$3.00 Fins - \$4.00
Half Suit - \$6.00
Souvenir Snorkel - \$3.00 Safety Vest - \$5.00
Corrective Mask - \$5.00 Dive Flags - \$4.00

Deposits required for all rentals
Please call for special group rates and payment information for 15 or more passengers

PADDLE EXPLORE TOURS

8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Canoes/Single Kayaks\$12.00/hr.
Double Kayaks.....\$17.00/hr.

Deposits required for 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.

PADI 5 Star Gold Palm IDC Facility

SCUBA TOURS:

Two Location Dives
9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.\$50.00/person
Certification required - Equipment additional
Full gear package with tour only\$29.00
Underwater Camera Rentals on Tour.....\$25.00
(includes 24 exposure film)
Tanks and Weights\$15.00

SCUBA INSTRUCTION:

RESORT COURSE: Begin at 9:00 a.m. ... be diving at 2:00 p.m.
Includes two instructor-escorted dives (non-certification course).....\$175.00
PADI OPENWATER CERTIFICATION: 3-4 day class. Includes:
Everything you need to become a PADI-certified diver\$475.00
OPENWATER CHECKOUT DIVES: Complete your openwater training
in the warm tropical waters of the Florida Keys. Includes 4 reef dives\$275.00
ADVANCED OPENWATER: Includes navigation and deep dive.....\$375.00
OPENWATER REFRESHER COURSE.....\$175.00

DOCKMASTER

MOORING BALLS (trash and pump-out included)\$18.00/day
OVERNIGHT DOCK RENTALS (water, electric, trash, pump-out only inc.)
.....25' slip - \$26.00 per night.....50' slip - \$52.00 per night

SCUBA EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Mask - \$3.00Fins - \$4.00
Tanks - \$8.50Air Fills - \$4.50
Half Suit - \$6.00Full Suit - \$11.00
Souvenir Snorkel\$3.00
Dive Flags\$4.00
Buoyancy Compensator\$12.00
Reg./Gauge/Octopus\$12.00
VIP & Fill\$25.00

Deposits required

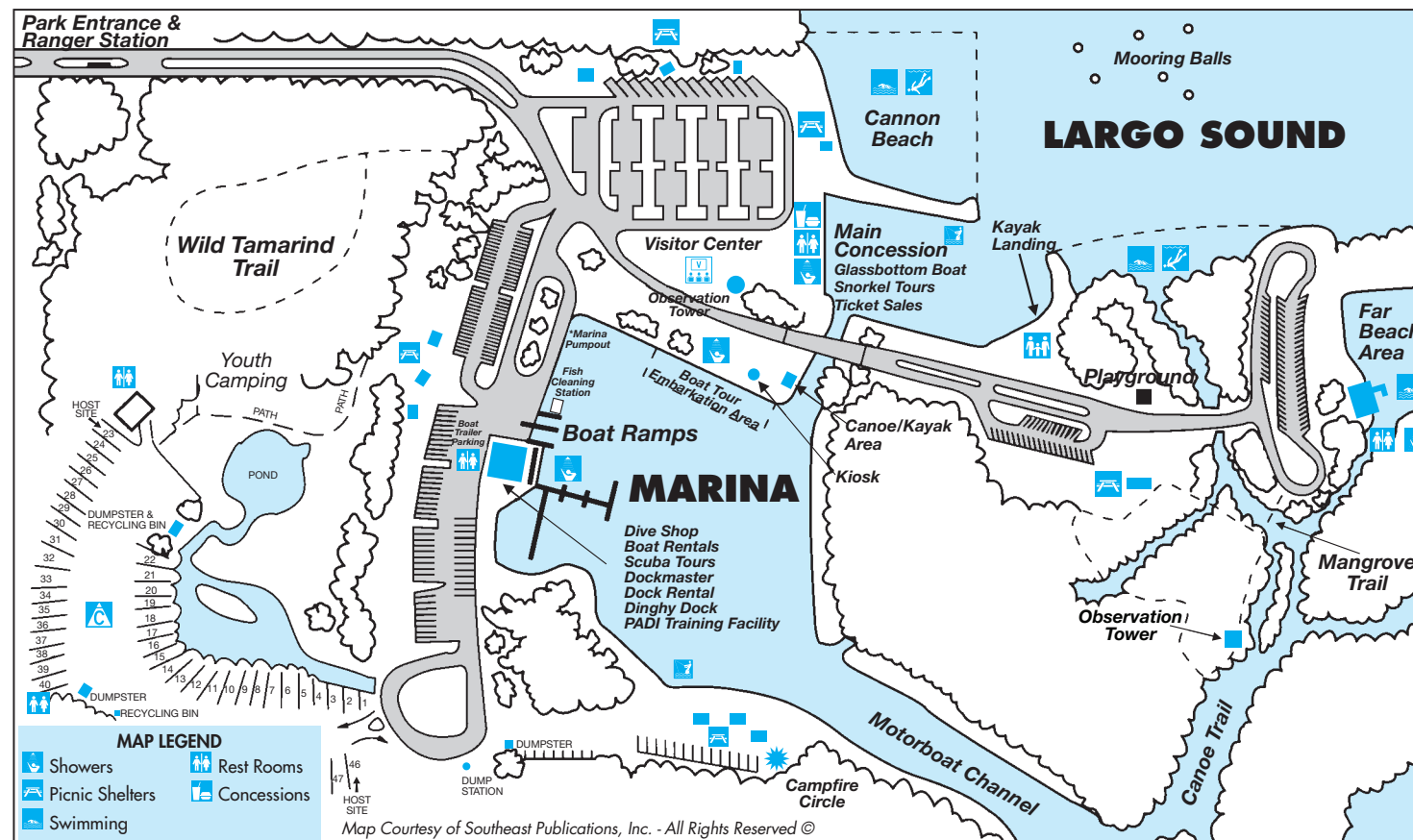
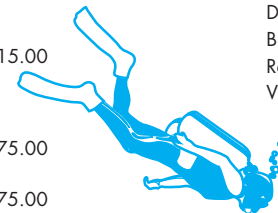
POWER BOAT RENTALS

Center Console Open Fisherman

18'Full day \$2104 hours \$135
20'Full day \$2594 hours \$160
22'Full day \$3104 hours \$185
23'Full day \$3594 hours \$210

Deposits required • Minimum charges apply

Boats are equipped with bimini top, dive platform and all U.S. Coast Guard equipment.



Reservation Information

Glass Bottom Boat, Snorkeling, Sailing/Snorkeling Tours:
(305) 451-6300

SCUBA Tours & Instruction: (305) 451-6322
Boat Rentals, Boat Slips & Moorings: (305) 451-6325

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

...More of the *Real Florida*

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park is located in Key Largo at Mile Marker 102.5. For general park information call or write the park at (305) 451-1202; P.O. Box 487, Key Largo, FL 33037.

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 are prohibited. Florida State Parks are open from 8 am until sundown 365 days a year.

Camping Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 1-800-326-3521. Reservations will not be accepted more than 11 months in advance of the check-in-date. Reservations must be confirmed with a credit card, cashier's check, money order or personal check and a driver's license number. Pets are allowed in camping areas.

Pets are not allowed on bathing beaches, in concession areas or any buildings and may be restricted in other designated areas of 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 online Homepage at: <http://www.myflorida.com>