

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE, FLORIDA

LOCATION: The Big Cypress National Preserve is located in southern Florida. It adjoins Everglades National Park along the Preserve's southern border. Administered by the National Park Service (Headquarters at the Visitor Center on the Tamiami Trail), it differs from a national park in that hunting, ORV use, and oil drilling are allowed (but closely regulated). Two highways cross the Preserve on an east-west bearing: Alligator Alley (I-75) and the Tamiami Trail (US-41). A loop road off the Tamiami Trail provides views of the Preserve, and a branch road goes down to Chokoloskee on the Gulf of Mexico. Most of the Preserve is part of Big Cypress Swamp, and the landscape is generally level and marshy or swampy. Elevations are everywhere less than a hundred feet above sea level—generally only a few feet above sea level. Facilities include a Visitor Center and several primitive campgrounds.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:43	11:16	12:00	12:46	13:25	13:45	13:36	13:04	12:20	11:35	10:55	10:33
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:28	8:07	9:05	9:57	9:58	9:21	9:28	9:10	8:20	7:48	7:17	7:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	50%	51%	51%	53%	48%	38%	38%	39%	37%	46%	50%	50%
LOW FOR MONTH	44°	44°	49°	53°	57°	65°	68°	70°	72°	60°	52°	45°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	56°	57°	59°	62°	65°	70°	73°	74°	74°	71°	64°	59°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	78°	79°	82°	85°	89°	91°	91°	92°	90°	86°	83°	79°
HIGH FOR MONTH	83°	85°	86°	90°	93°	94°	95°	96°	93°	91°	88°	84°
FROSTY MORNINGS	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	3%	10%	45%	70%	81%	94%	73%	29%	10%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	57%	56%	54%	58%	65%	65%	65%	66%	63%	61%	60%
DRY DAYS	79%	80%	80%	82%	70%	54%	51%	49%	47%	64%	78%	80%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	89%	89%	88%	87%	78%	64%	62%	65%	59%	73%	87%	90%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.26	0.31	0.36	0.58	0.94	1.40	1.33	1.18	1.55	1.09	0.37	0.26
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	3%	4%	6%	9%	21%	42%	54%	54%	39%	13%	4%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	21%	17%	14%	10%	8%	4%	1%	1%	4%	9%	15%	15%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 71% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 67% in October and November, to a high of 78% in sunny April. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 42° at some chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 97° on some sultry summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be substantially higher than actual ones from June through September. The area has a subtropical four-season year, with vegetative growth continuing unabated throughout the year. Bald cypress, however, do drop their leaves during the dry season (November through March). Humidities are quite high throughout the year, both day and night. Below-freezing temperatures do occur, but are spotty and may not occur in any given year. Winter afternoons are warm to hot, while nights are cool. Summer afternoons are very hot and humid, while nights are warm and sultry. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition.