

HISTORY AND NATURE

Early Spanish charts show Long Key as Cayo Vivora, or Viper Key. The name of Long Key was established when Henry Flagler's railroad reached the area in the early 1900s. The bridge that reaches southwest to Conch Key was the longest yet constructed along the railroad right-of-way.

By 1912, the Keys were traversed by rail, allowing passengers to travel to Key West. The upscale Long Key Fishing Camp became a mecca for the rich and famous, as well as the world's great saltwater anglers, including famed author Zane Grey. This glamorous era came to an end when the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 struck the middle Keys with devastating force. Winds were estimated at over 200 miles per hour, and barometer readings were lower than any other hurricane to make landfall in the United States.

Long Key State Park officially opened in 1969, and has grown to encompass over 1,000 acres of uplands and submerged lands. Long before the park was established, the subtropical climate, clear waters and abundance of marine life attracted explorers. Native Americans came to the Florida Keys long before the arrival of the first Spanish settlers.

Several native groups have inhabited the Florida Keys, including the Tequesta, Calusa and, more recently, Seminoles. Archaeologists have found artifacts such as tools made from conch shells plus pottery and discarded oyster shells from these people. Native Americans likely first used the islands for ritual sites and seasonal foraging grounds. Later they may have formed more permanent settlements.



LONG KEY STATE PARK

67400 Overseas Highway
Long Key, FL 33001
305-664-4815

PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are not permitted on the shoreline, in the water or in park facilities. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and be well-behaved at all times.
- A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is allowed in designated areas only.
- Get involved at the park! Apply to become a volunteer at Floridastateparks.org. Ask at the ranger station about joining the Friends of the Islamorada Area State Parks.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at 800-326-3521, or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing all visitors equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

FloridaStateParks.org

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LONG KEY STATE PARK

*A favorite of campers
and nature lovers*



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EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Long Key State Park offers a glimpse of what the Florida Keys used to be. Visitors find fun and relaxation along the beautiful Atlantic coastline away from the distractions of the modern world. The main attraction of Long Key State Park are the oceanfront **campsites**. All sites have water and electric hookups, restrooms with hot **showers** are provided, and a dump station is available.

Educational and recreational opportunities such as guided walks, illustrated talks, campfire programs, **kayaking, birding, snorkeling, picnicking**, shoreline garden and flats **fishing** are enjoyed by visitors year-round.

Two **trails** are located within the park. The Golden Orb Trail, named after a native spider, is a leisurely one-hour walk. Be sure to pick up a trail map for a short self-guided tour along the trail. The Layton Trail is a quick 15-minute walk on the bayside of the park. It offers great opportunities for watching the sunset.

Birding is a popular activity year-round. During the winter and spring, migratory birds are plentiful. Roseate spoonbills, snowy egrets, reddish egrets, yellow-crowned night herons, raptors and many other species are seen in the area. Long Key is listed in the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail (South Florida) for the white-crowned pigeon.

Flats **fishing** for bonefish, permit and tarpon is a major attraction to the area. A **bicycle ride** down the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, or drive down U.S. 1, will take you to two fishing bridges. To the south is the Long Key Bridge and to the north is the Channel 2 Bridge. Bridge fishing for snapper, sharks and barracuda is popular at these locations.

