

# The Everglades

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Robert is Here (p149)
- ➔ Joannie's Blue Crab Café (p145)
- ➔ JT's Island Grill & Gallery (p146)
- ➔ Rosita's (p149)
- ➔ Oyster House (p146)

## Best Places to Stay

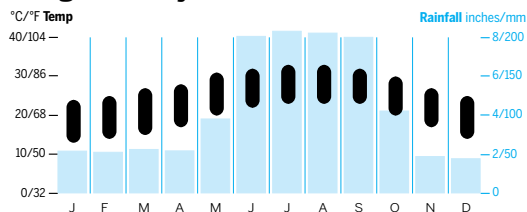
- ➔ Everglades International Hostel (p149)
- ➔ Everglades City Motel (p146)
- ➔ Ivey House Bed & Breakfast (p146)
- ➔ Wilderness Camping (p151)
- ➔ Swamp Cottage (p145)

## Why Go?

There is no wilderness in America quite like the Everglades. Called the 'River of Grass' by its initial Native American inhabitants, this is not just a wetland, or a swamp, or a lake, or a river, or a prairie, or a grassland – it is all of the above, twisted together into a series of soft horizons, long vistas, sunsets that stretch across your entire field of vision and the creeping grin of a large population of dinosaur-era reptiles.

When you watch anhinga flexing their wings before breaking into a corkscrew dive, or the slow, Jurassic flap of a great blue heron gliding over its domain, or the sun kissing miles of unbroken saw grass as it sets behind humps of skeletal cypress domes, you'll have an idea of what we're speaking of. In a nation where natural beauty is measured by its capacity for drama, the Everglades subtly, contentedly flows on.

## When to Go Everglades City



**Dec–Mar** Dry season: top wildlife viewing along watercourses, but some kayaking will be difficult.

**Apr–Jun** Although the weather gets pretty hot, there's a good mix of water and wildlife.

**Jul–Nov** Lots of heat, lots of bugs and (except in October and November) chances of hurricanes.



## Everglades Highlights

1 Watching the sun set over the ingress road to **Pa-hay-okee Overlook** (p151) from the roof of your car.

2 Canoeing or kayaking into **Hell's Bay Paddling Trail** (p151), a tangled morass of red creeks, slow blackwater and the heavy vegetative curtain of a preserved marsh.

3 Checking out some of the best photography of the surrounding swamps, forests, beaches and sea at **Big Cypress Gallery** (p141).