

Visitor Services Project  
**Biscayne National Park**  
Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Biscayne National Park during March 3-11, 2001. A total of 605 questionnaires were distributed to visitors. Visitors returned 380 questionnaires for a 62.8% response rate.
- This report profiles Biscayne National Park visitors. A separate appendix contains visitors' comments about their visit. This report and the appendix include summaries of those comments.
- Thirty-three percent of visitor groups were groups of two. Thirty-eight percent of the visitor groups were family groups. Thirty-one percent of visitors were aged 36-45.
- United States visitors were from Florida (80%), Pennsylvania (2%), Michigan (2%), and 27 other states and Washington, D.C. Nine percent of all visitors were international, with 45% from Canada, 14% from Cuba, and 8% from Germany.
- Seventy-seven percent of the visitor groups spent less than a day at the park and 19% spent one or two days. Of those groups that spent less than a day at the park, 30% spent seven or more hours.
- On this visit, the most common activities were nature viewing (53%), walking/ hiking (48%) and fishing (31%).
- Previous visits (64%), friends or relatives (38%), and travel guides/ tour books (13%) were the most used sources of information about the park prior to visiting.
- Fifty-six percent of visitor groups reported that visiting Biscayne National Park was a primary reason for visiting the area, followed by boating (49%).
- The most commonly visited sites in the park were Elliot Key (34%), Boca Chita Key (33%), Dante Fascell Visitor Center (31%) and Black Point Marina (26%).
- In regard to the use, importance and quality of visitor services and facilities, it is important to note the number of visitor groups that responded to each question. The services that were most used by 335 respondents were the restrooms (76%) and parking (58%). According to visitors, the most important services were campgrounds (93% of 40 respondents) and docks (92% of 167 respondents). The highest quality services were the visitor center (93% of 112 respondents) and the visitor center video (92% of 50 respondents).
- Seventy-two percent of visitor groups indicated that recreational fishing is an appropriate activity in Biscayne NP, 13% indicated it was not, and 15% were not sure. Forty-five percent of visitor groups indicated that additional controls should be placed on fishing activities as the number of recreational fisherman and number of fish harvested increase with increasing numbers of visitors.
- Eighty percent of visitor groups rated the protection of water quality and flow as "extremely important." Seventy-nine percent of visitor groups rated coral reef protection as "extremely important."
- The average visitor group expenditure was \$275. The average per capita expenditure was \$85. The median visitor group expenditure (50% of group spent more, 50% spent less) was \$85. Sixteen percent of visitor groups spent no money and 41% spent between \$1 and \$100 in total expenditures in Biscayne NP. Of the total expenditures by groups, 22% was for gas and oil and 19% was for groceries and take-out food.
- Eighty-eight percent of visitor groups rated the overall quality of visitor services at Biscayne National Park as "very good" or "good." One percent of groups rated the overall quality of visitor services as "very poor."

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the  
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