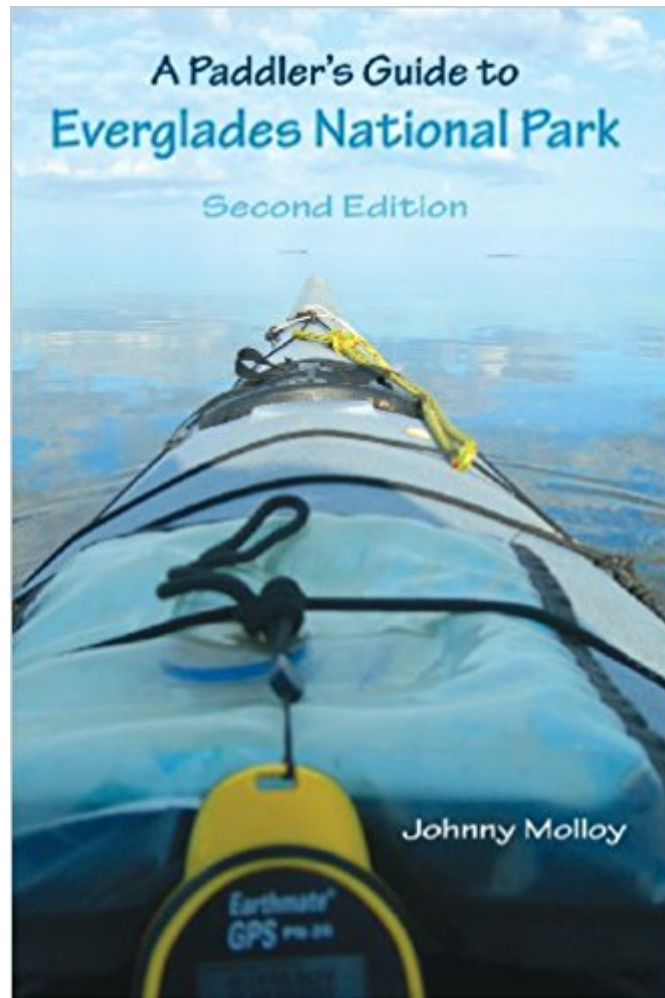




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# A Paddler's Guide To Everglades National Park



## Synopsis

"After hundreds of hours of actual experience in the field, which can't be beat, Molloy has written a much-needed guide to paddling the waterways of Everglades National Park--good, practical knowledge and common sense in a folksy, down-home style that is easy to read and follow."--Jeff Ripple, author of *Southwest Florida's Wetland Wilderness: Big Cypress Swamp and the Ten Thousand Islands*

For the ultimate adventure by canoe or sea kayak, this guide to paddling the Everglades offers detailed information about every significant paddling route in Everglades National Park. These routes cover more than 400 miles of ocean, river, bay, and creek waters, plus the Gulf of Mexico. The 53 designated paddling routes--including the renowned Wilderness Waterway, the spine of the paddlers' pathways--provide access to Florida's endangered natural paradise, the wide sheet of water that includes pristine beaches, sun-drenched keys, and the world's largest mangrove forest. The routes include day trips, week-long excursions, and many not-so-frequented passages. A Paddler's Guide presents a rating system for each route that includes possible hazards, navigational challenges, potential wind and tidal influences, overall mileage and paddling time, and a running description of both physical and cultural landmarks along the way. It presents descriptions of every backcountry campsite in the park, from unusual chickees to old Calusa Indian mounds, to beachfront islands in the Gulf of Mexico. The book includes 22 trail maps, adapted from nautical charts and U.S. Geological Survey topography maps of the park. Johnny Molloy, an experienced outdoorsman, also tells you how to execute a paddling trip--what supplies and equipment to take, where to get them, and how to obtain permits. Once on the water, you'll get tips on navigation, coping with insects, and other situations paddlers face in the park. It's realistic and instructive information for serious paddlers, casual vacationers, bird watchers, and fishermen. Molloy has years of paddling experience in the Everglades, logging trips of two hours and up to two weeks. In the course of writing this book, he paddled over 500 miles in one season. Johnny Molloy is an outdoor writer and adventurer based in Knoxville, Tennessee. His camping and hiking guides include *Beach and Coastal Camping in Florida* (UPF, 1999); *Trial by Trail: Backpacking in the Smoky Mountains*; *The Best in Tent Camping: West Virginia*; *Day and Overnight Hikes in Shenandoah National Park*; and *The Best in Tent Camping: Colorado*.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: University Press of Florida; 1st edition (June 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813017874

ISBN-13: 978-0813017877

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,505,878 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Kayaking > Whitewater Kayaking #85 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature Travel > Adventure > Kayaking #1272 in Books > Travel > Food, Lodging & Transportation > Parks & Campgrounds

## Customer Reviews

Why anyone with an ounce of brains would want to paddle a canoe or kayak through the Everglades escapes this reviewer. Molloy makes it very clear that alligators slither around, weird things come flying out of the trees, tides strand you on mud flats, and geographic names such as Shark Point and Graveyard Creek make you wonder about their origins. But Molloy's relaxed prose makes all doubts vanish. Molloy has floated his boats around most of the United States and has written a number of books about his experiences. Here, his writing style is both authoritative and enticing; he can almost make you want to drift about in clouds of mosquitoes and no-see-ums. He offers important information for boaters (tidal activity, campsites, routes to avoid, what to pack, wind challenges, approximate paddling time, and much more) and includes detailed maps that will be of immense value to anyone venturing out into this intimidating environment. Definitely of importance to all Southeastern public libraries, this guide should also be considered by all for its comprehensiveness, attention to detail, and clarity.

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Indispensable guide for the ultimate adventure by sea kayak or canoe "Offers details on the park's 53 designated paddling routes, which cover more than 400 miles of creeks, bays, marshes and the Gulf of Mexico."--Orlando Sentinel Â "[Molloy's] writing style is both authoritative and enticing; he can almost make you want to drift about in clouds of mosquitoes and no-see-ums. He offers important information for boaters (tidal activity, campsites, routes to avoid, what to pack, wind challenges, approximate paddling time, and much more."--Library Journal Â "In this well-organized, clearly written guide, Molloy . . . covers all the conceivable necessities. . . . Kayakers and canoers will find Molloy's work guide invaluable."--Tampa Tribune Â A decade ago, Johnny Molloy spent

months canoeing, kayaking, and camping in Everglades National Park, paddling more than 500 miles in one season to research the first edition of *A Paddler's Guide to Everglades National Park*. Last year he returned and did it all again in order to comprehensively update this ultimate authority to the park's designated paddling routes. A highlight of the book is Molloy's guided tour of the renowned Wilderness Waterway, the spine of the paddler's pathways through Everglades National Park. It provides access to Florida's endangered natural paradise, the wide sheet of water that includes pristine beaches, sun-drenched keys, and the world's largest mangrove forest. The book includes day trips, week-long excursions, and many routes off the beaten path. The 22 trail maps are adapted from nautical charts and U.S. Geological Survey topography maps of the park, and the descriptions include a running commentary of physical and cultural landmarks along each route. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is getting great reviews because it does indeed have a lot of useful route information. Unfortunately it is incredibly hard to use because there is no index. Not only that, the text portion of the book does not reference the maps, so you have to search to find the routes. Also, the maps are not numbered. That is especially odd as each map refers to other maps by numbers, yet none of them are numbered. It's not that hard to guess which one is which, but it would have been nice if this author had included these most basic of book features. Update -- the maps are in fact numbered, however the numbers are on the very inner portion of the page, at the top. My mistake for not seeing these but they are easy to miss!

My boyfriend and I went and paddled the Wilderness Waterway through the Everglades National Park in February 2008 using this guidebook, a compass and the appropriate nautical charts. We had never been to Florida before, nor had we ever undertaken such a long canoe trip. The experience was exhilarating. Route finding through the mangrove forest was very challenging, but by stopping, rereading Johnny Malloy's route descriptions as we progressed, and trusting the compass, we never did make a wrong turn. Without this guide, I'm not sure that would have been true. I was disappointed to be advised by people we met along the paddle that the "Nightmare Route" would not be passable after the most recent hurricanes of 2005 because of fallen trees and the fact that the ranger service does not maintain the route. After reading this guide, which was published in 2000, I had been totally sold on the idea of paddling the "Quintessential Everglades Route." I don't know if it is actually not passable, but we decided not to take the chance. Anyone interested should pursue more updated information. The North Harney River Route, however, was

passable and satisfied some of that desire to paddle the route less taken. If you don't know what no-see-ums are, investigate protecting yourself from them before you go. Yikes!

Very helpful and informative!

I purchased two copies of this book several years ago when planning our first kayaking and camping trip into the Everglades National Park. My father and I have now made this trek an annual tradition. We relied on the details, suggestions and maps to plan the trips we've made over the past three years. We've managed to follow some of the trails and other we've probably criss-crossed while making our own. While we still have some work to do on our navigation skills, we have never had a bad trip. We have been thankful for this guide which not only helped prepare us for the trip, but also served as encouragement for us to get out there and explore.

I just finished a twelve day solo canoe trip from Everglades City to Flamingo. This book is a must for planning a canoe or kayak trip into the Everglades National Park.

A great guide. We used this quite extensively on our four day paddle excursion through the mangroves and out onto the gulf. The maps and guidance for planning are helpful, though no replacement for talking to the rangers.

Thoroughly covers routes, different areas, and anecdotal experience of the author. I read almost the entire book, and enjoyed it thoroughly. It helped me plan the best kayaking trip to accommodate everyone in our party, because i knew more than just campsite names and dots on a map.

Excellent book. Anyone who is planning a backcountry trip in the Everglades NP should review this book. It just may keep you from learning the hard way about how challenging this area is.

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