

## Other Special Places in the Naples Area



### Corkscrew Sanctuary

Located about 20 minutes from the hotel, the Corkscrew Swamp is a great place to see local wildlife – nesting wood storks, white ibis and anhingas and lots of alligators. It is the place to see flora and fauna from several different ecosystems. The facility is open from 7 AM to

4:30 PM and admission is \$10.

A 2.25-mile raised boardwalk takes visitors through four distinct environments: a pine upland, a wet prairie, a cypress forest, and a marsh. Interpretive signs along the boardwalk and a field guide allow each visitor to take the self-guided tour. Allow about 2-3 hours. Wildlife sightings vary depending on the time of year, the weather, and even the time of day. Birds, reptiles, mammals, insects, and a variety of native plants including wild orchids may be seen from the boardwalk. Additional information is at <http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org>.

### Everglades National Park

Everglades National Park is the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. The area boasts rare and endangered species, such as the American crocodile, Florida panther, and West Indian manatee. It has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance, in recognition of its significance to all the people of the world. Two park facilities are located fairly close to the Naples area:

Shark Valley Visitor Center is located on Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail). From the Naples area, take U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail) east to Shark Valley – its about a 45 minute trip. The Visitor Center is open daily from 8:45 am to 5:15 pm in winter. In the winter you will see a variety of birds and lots of alligators at Shark Valley.

The Gulf Coast Visitor Center is located 5 miles south of Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) on State Road 29, in Everglades City. From Interstate 75 (Alligator Alley), take exit 80 (State Road 29) south and proceed 20 miles to Everglades City. Once in Everglades City, follow the signs to the park. The visitor center is on the right.

### Other Wildlife Preserves

In addition to the Everglades (see below) there are two other good places to visit to enjoy the birds, orchids and other interesting plants -- Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve. Both are close to Naples. More information and directions are available at <http://www.floridastateparks.org/fakahatcheestrand/> and <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/>.



## **Third Street South Naples**

Next to the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico, the 19th century Naples Pier, and the colorful original beach cottages, the sophisticated and delightful shopping and dining on historic Third Street South awaits – amidst courtyards, antique European fountains, and lush colorful cascading flowers. Additional information on Third Street stores can be found at

<http://www.thirdstreetsouth.com/>



## **Fifth Avenue South Naples**

Old Downtown Naples, with its beautiful banyan and Poinciana trees, exudes “old town charm” for all who stroll its streets. Fifth Avenue South, Naples’ original “Main Street” combines the charm of a beautiful historic district with the cosmopolitan sophistication of a world-class destination.

Additional information on Fifth Avenue stores can be found at

[http://www.fifthavenuesouth.com/about\\_downtown.php](http://www.fifthavenuesouth.com/about_downtown.php).

## **Waterside Shops Naples**

Waterside Shops is the Gulf Coast's most sumptuous shopping and dining destination where the finest names in luxury retail and fashionable lifestyle stores are set amid a lush landscape of 30,000 tropical plants and flowering shrubs, a 550-foot-long, hand-laid rock wall punctuated by cascading water, and dramatic lighting features.

More information on Waterside Shops can be found at <http://www.watersideshops.com>.

