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# Useless Facts You Should Know

Compiled by Rachel R. Peine

- Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park on Rt. 905 contains one of the largest tracts of West Indian tropical hardwood hammock in the United States. The park is home to 84 protected species of plants and animals, including wild cotton, mahogany mistletoe, and the American crocodile.
- Windley Key Fossil Reef State park, located at 849000 Overseas Highway (U.S. 1 - bayside) in Islamorada, is an island formed of Key Largo limestone, which is fossilized coral.
- You can tell the difference between a Great White Heron and an Egret by the color of the legs. Herons have yellow legs, while Egrets have black legs.
- Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park in Islamorada is accessible only by boat. The park is located one mile west of U.S. 1 at Mile Marker 78.5. Ranger-guided tours are given twice daily, Thursday through Monday.
- Flamingos are not native to Florida. They may come up from the Caribbean (snowbirds in reverse?) to fish, but they don't live here.
- Speaking of birds, the Eagles are destined for Superbowl 2010. I'll put 10 bucks on them.
- The "wrecking industry" that provided an income for many Keys residents began when a fleet of Spanish treasure ships was wrecked on the reefs of Islamorada during a hurricane in 1733.
- Tarpon can grow up to more than 6 feet in length and be 350 pounds.
- John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, located at Mile Marker 102.5 in Key Largo, has a 30,000-gallon saltwater aquarium and a theater that shows nature videos.




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