

# Janes Scenic Drive

**Janes Scenic Drive**, now a white filled road, was developed as a tram to log out old growth Bald Cypress trees in the 1940s. Side trams which are now trails were used to transfer the cut trees to the main tram, Janes Scenic Drive.

Please bring water and insect repellent with you, and do not leave the road or tram without a compass and an understanding of where you are in relation to the nearest road or cleared tram. It is safest not to hike alone.

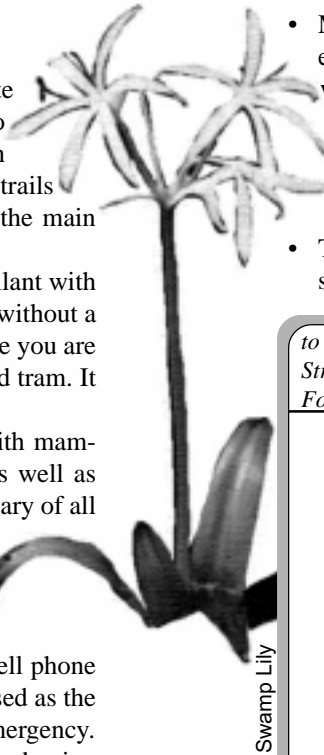
Fakahatchee is a wild preserve with mammals ranging from squirrels to bear as well as alligators and a variety of snakes. Be wary of all basking reptiles, and try to avoid Poison Ivy.

A GPS is invaluable if you plan to travel any distance into the swamp although trees may affect reception. Cell phone coverage is spotty and should not be used as the only means of communication in an emergency.

Please be careful and respectful, and enjoy your visit.

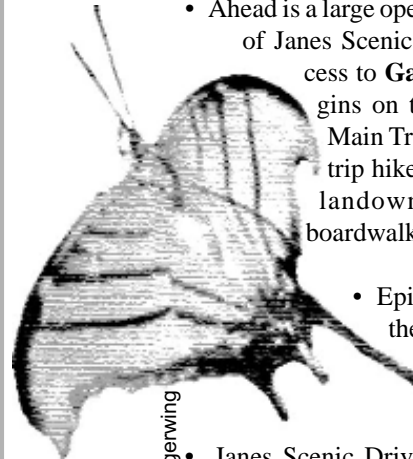
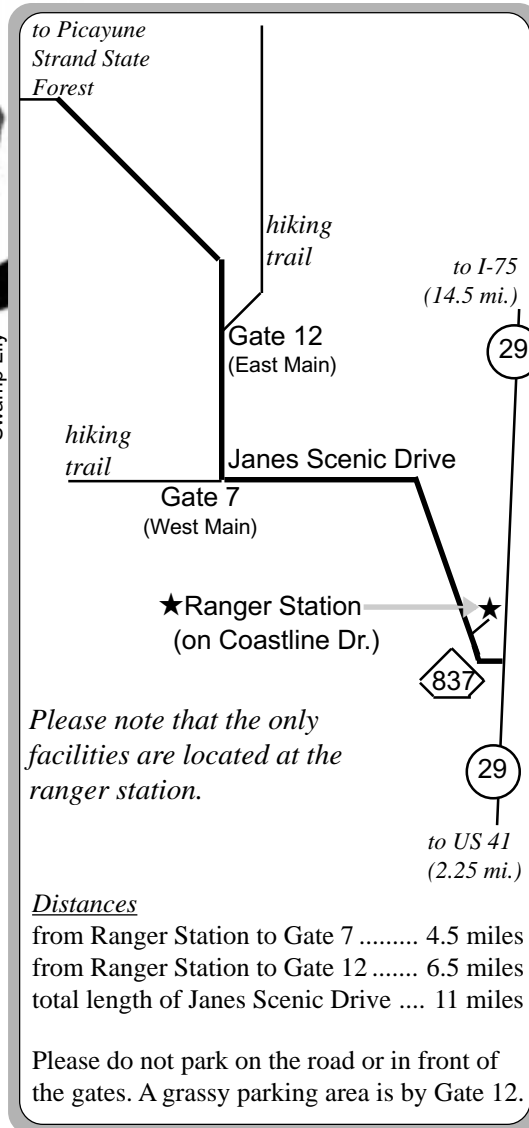
Upon leaving the ranger station from Coastline Drive, turn right on to Janes Scenic Drive.

- At the start on the left is a rock quarry, the result of limestone mining. Watch for water birds on the water and at the edges.
- A water treatment plant is on the right. On the left is an example of an ecotone, where different habitats meet. Here it is a stand of cypress trees and a Marl Prairie.
- The Marl Prairie includes hammocks of oaks, Cabbage Palms, and Ficus. Note the blackened trunks. Prescribed burns are conducted periodically to preserve this ecosystem. Watch for Red-shouldered Hawks in the trees and other raptors flying overhead.



Swamp Lily

- Many butterflies may be seen from the road, especially near the prairies. Drive slowly and watch for these small gems.
- A trail on the right is for fire control and data collection. It is not a public access road.
- The deeper, sometimes flowing water on each side of the road in the summer, fall, and winter is called a slough. Culverts under the road allow water to flow freely. These areas can be used as scenic overlooks. The water is clean although tannins and cypress cone oil can make the water appear dark and oily.



Ruddy Daggertwing

- Many plants along the drive have red berries during the fall and winter. These include the non-native, invasive Brazilian Pepper and the native Dahoon Holly and Wild Coffee.
- At the sharp right turn is **Gate 7 (G7)**, or West Main. This is a good place to hike or bike. Please do not park in front of the gate.
- North of Gate 7, look for wild flowers and ferns at the sides of the road. If hiking, watch out for vines and shrubs with thorns.
- Plant communities will begin to change with more Florida Royal Palms appearing. Fakahatchee has 5,000-7,000 native Royal Palms.
- Ahead is a large open grassy area on both sides of Janes Scenic Drive for parking for access to **Gate 12**. The hiking trail begins on the right at Gate 12 (East Main Tram). This is a 4-mile round trip hike from the gate to a private landowner's cabin and private boardwalk and then back.
- Epiphytic air plants grow on the trees, sometimes looking like bird nests, but they do not harm the host plant.
- Janes Scenic Drive continues for five more miles, ending at a line dividing Fakahatchee and Picayune Strand State Forest. **We recommend that you turn around there** unless you have a very good Collier County map. There are no street signs in Picayune and the roads can be impassable.

## Glossary

**Cypress Dome** is an almost circular grouping of Bald Cypress in a depressed area where the tops of the trees appear dome-shaped.

**Cypress Knee** is a vertical upgrowth from a lateral cypress root system. It will never be anything other than a cypress knee.

**Cypress Strand** is a cluster of Bald Cypress trees. Bald Cypress get their name because they lose their needles in the late fall and do not get new growth until late winter. They are not dead during this time.

**Ecotone** is an area where two different plant habitats meet. Ecotones are frequently rich with wildlife where groups from both habitats mingle.

**Epiphyte** is a plant that grows on another but does not harm it (unlike a parasite). These include air plants and some orchids.

**Hammock** is a cluster of hardwood trees in a habitat composed of different species of plants.

**Marl Prairie** is an area of re-hardened limestone that has very little peat/muck on its surface due to a short hydroperiod (the amount of time that water sits on the surface) and an increased frequency of fires.

**Pine Flatwood** is an area of slightly higher elevation with a shorter hydroperiod, dominated by Slash Pines, Cabbage Palms, and wild flowers.

**Slough** (*pronounced "slew"*) is an area of lower elevation with a long hydroperiod. The water is typically too deep for most plants to grow successfully.

**Strand** is a long, narrow, and heavily vegetated swamp forest dominated by Bald Cypress.

## Who is Jane of Janes Scenic Drive?

Jane isn't a single who.

Janes Scenic Drive is named after three Janes brothers who developed tomato farming in Copeland in the 1930s. The Janes also owned and ran a general store and post office on the east side of S.R. 29 just north of the entrance to Janes Scenic Drive. That building was demolished in the 1990s but the site is identifiable by a row of Florida Royal Palms.

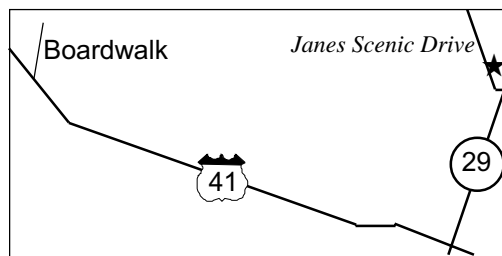
Plants and animals are protected by law in all units of the Florida Park Service.

Park Rules in 62D-2 F.A.C. are enforced ([www.dep.state.fl.us/legal/Rules/parks/62d-2.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/legal/Rules/parks/62d-2.pdf))

Guided swamp walks are offered from November through February.

To make reservations, please call (239) 695-1026.

Please visit our 1.2-mile (round trip) boardwalk located on U.S. 41 seven miles west of S.R. 29.



Open 8 AM  
to sundown

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park  
137 Coastline Drive  
Copeland, Florida 34137  
(239) 695-4593

[www.floridastateparks.org/fakahatcheestrand/](http://www.floridastateparks.org/fakahatcheestrand/)  
[www.friendsoffakahatchee.org](http://www.friendsoffakahatchee.org)