



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**Biscayne National Park**  
9700 Southwest 328<sup>th</sup> Street  
Homestead, FL 33033



Biscayne National Park is proposing to increase the daily fee for overnight stays at Boca Chita and Elliott Key campgrounds. The proposed increase is commensurate with customer demand and use. The fee increase will allow the park to enhance the visitor's experience through improved facilities and a greater presence of park personnel on the islands. This stronger presence will allow the park to better address common campground issues such as noise complaints, resource damage, and trash disposal. The increase will also cover administrative fees associated with changing campsite payments from a cash-based honor system to Recreation.gov's Scan and Pay. Biscayne National Park has no other fees for entrance or amenities and has not increased camping fees since 2015.

Boca Chita and Elliott Key offer unique national park camping experiences in that the campgrounds are only accessible by boat. Both locations feature beautiful waterfront views, a grassy camping area, docks, restrooms, picnic tables and grills. Recreation opportunities like these at Biscayne National Park contributed to boosting the local economy with visitors spending \$46.2 million on hotels, gas, restaurants, and other services resulting in 606 jobs in the local communities in 2019.

Eighty percent of campground fee revenue stays at the park to fund projects related to visitor experience including the repair, maintenance, and enhancement of campground facilities. As authorized by FLREA (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814; P.L. 108-447, Division J, Title VIII), expanded amenity fees, formerly known as use fees, are assessed when the visitor uses a specific or specialized facility, equipment, or service.

The proposed overnight camping fee increase for Boca Chita and Elliott Keys for visitors arriving on their personal vessels is from \$25 per night to \$35. Visitors who are staying on the islands but not leaving a vessel in the harbor will pay \$25 per night. Holders of the America the Beautiful Access and Senior Lifetime passes would continue to receive fifty percent off the per night campground fee. If enacted the proposed fee increases would take effect in January 2022 and would appear on [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) as the published rates.

Keeping our campgrounds affordable and providing a great experience is our priority. The park uses the revenue from camping fees to fund projects which benefit the visitor's experience. We have utilized the funding for campsite signage, picnic tables, grills, and updates to comfort stations.

We will be conducting National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance, which will include additional public outreach through various outlets and a 30-day public comment period in the National Park Service's Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC)



system. Comments regarding these fee-increase proposals may be submitted electronically on the PEPC website at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/BiscayneNPCamping>

Written comments may be sent to:

National Park Service  
Biscayne National Park  
Attn: Superintendent  
9700 SW 328 Street  
Homestead, FL 33033

Feedback from these comments will determine how, or if, fee changes will be implemented. Should you have any questions or request additional information please contact Astrid Santini, Environmental Protection Specialist, by email at [astrid\\_santini@nps.gov](mailto:astrid_santini@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penelope Del Bene".

Penelope "Penny" Del Bene  
Superintendent, Biscayne National Park