

Athletic Orthopedics and Reconstructive Center



Dr. Kagan, Dr. Jugan,
Dr. Monserrate, Dr. Curcione

936-6778

Southwest Florida's Leading
Orthopedic Group



- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Olympics](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Viewer Poll](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Digital TV](#)
- [Video](#)
- [First Person](#)
- [Interactives](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [News Scripts](#)
- [Newslinks](#)
- [GasTracker](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Resources](#)

- [Food](#)
- [Home Design](#)
- [Outdoor Living](#)
- [Travel & Leisure](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Meet The Drs](#)
- [Sponsor Links](#)

- [Ace Electrical Services](#)
- [Athletic Orthopedics](#)
- [Avow Hospice](#)
- [Beef O Brady's](#)
- [Bill Smith Appliances](#)
- [Brothers Lighting Depot](#)
- [Busey Bank](#)
- [Diamond District](#)
- [Visit Jason & Todd](#)
- [Ellis Team Realtors](#)
- [Fort Myers Toyota](#)
- [Lee County Government](#)
- [New Voting Instructions](#)
- [Michelangelo Homes](#)
- [Mr Shower Door](#)
- [NaplesUsedCars.com](#)
- [Roger Dean Chevrolet](#)
- [SunStream Resorts](#)
- [SW Florida Hyundai Dealers](#)
- [The Back Store](#)

One tank trip: Big Cypress Seminole Reservation

Originally posted on: Thursday, August 14, 2008 by Chad Oliver
Last updated on: 8/14/2008 7:16:44 PM

LEE COUNTY: If you're up for an adventure, you don't have to go to Africa for a Safari. A one-tank trip to the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation will bring you face to face with some of the world's most dangerous animals.

Take exit 49 off Alligator Alley and head north about 20 miles to the Billie Swamp Safari.

Our personal tour guide for the day is Shea Hayley.

First we went on an airboat ride.

Shea's instructions are simple- sit back, relax, and keep your hands in the boat.

"If we do get close to an alligator just don't stick your hand in the water," said Hayley.

We expected to see alligators, but not "super swamp chickens."

"You guys might know them as the African Ostrich," said Hayley.

They're the most dangerous animal on the ground. They're large and can run 40-miles per hour.

"Oh yeah, they are big birds. The largest in the world and also the fastest flightless birds," said Hayley.

Under the cool canopy of cypress trees, it actually feels comfortable, but you can't get too comfortable.

"An alligator can hear a peanut drop in the water - 30 yards away," said Hayley.

A few minutes later we were surrounded by alligators. One thing you should never do is feed the alligators. That's how they lose their fear of humans.

Billie Swamp Safari shows visitors from all over the world how the Seminoles survived off the water and the land.

Next, we went on a swamp buggy for an eco tour.

The eco-tour takes you into the wild. It's one Florida attraction where you never know what you'll see. American bison blocked the road.

"We're going into the forest like area, it's called the Hardwood Hammock, which comes from Indian word - Hamico. It means sleeping place," said Hayley.

Seminoles slept a few feet off the ground to keep them safe from alligators, snakes and all the dampness of the rainy season.

There are hogs, horses and even eastern diamondback rattlesnakes. It's one of six poisonous snakes found in Big Cypress.

On your one tank trip, expect to see some dangerous animals - and be ready for adventure.

From Fort Myers, the drive time totals 90-minutes to the Billie Swamp Safari.

[Click here for the website for the Billie Swamp Safari](#)



RELATED NEWS

- One Tank Trip: Ruskin Drive-in Theatre
Thursday, August 07, 2008
- One Tank Trips: Florida Aquarium
Thursday, July 31, 2008
- One Tank Trip - Big Cypress Gallery
Thursday, July 24, 2008
- One Tank Trips: Weeki Wachee Springs
Thursday, July 17, 2008
- One Tank Trips: Bok Tower Gardens
Thursday, July 10, 2008
- One Tank Trips: Caladesi Island
Thursday, July 03, 2008

MOST CLICKED STORIES

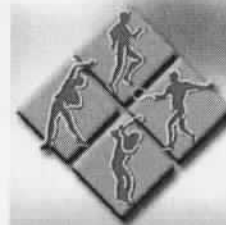
- Arrest made in South Fort Myers murder
- Deputies release new details in Foanio murder
- Bicyclist killed in Estero
- Body found in Cape Coral identified
- Man arrested after driving into river

LATEST NEWS

- Voluntary pre-kindergarten growing in popularity
- Police searching for suspects that fled
- More tropical activity
- New Sarasota proposal eyes historic Sox spring training site
- One tank trip: Big Cypress Seminole Reservation
- School bus rules of the road quiz
- Walking dogs nearly turns deadly
- Political attack ad gets personal
- Blades swap three veterans for all-star Tifu
- MLB wants instant replay by September 1



V/
Athletic Orthopedics and
Reconstructive Center



Dr. Kagan,
Dr. Jugan,
Dr. Monserrate,
Dr. Curcione

936-6778
Southwest Florida's Leading
Orthopedic Group



Athletics Orthopedic Specialists