The background of the cover is a vibrant photograph of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a sandy beach curves along the right side, with gentle waves washing onto the shore. The water is a clear, bright turquoise. Two simple wooden boats are anchored in the shallow water. In the background, a steep, lush green hillside rises from the water's edge, covered in dense tropical forest. The sky is a clear, deep blue. In the top right corner, some dark green leaves and branches of a tree are visible, partially obscuring the sky.

Handbook of  
Marine National Park  
Tourism

**ANDAMAN**  
**S E A**

**T**he “**Handbook of Marine National Park Tourism : Andaman Sea**”, is prepared by the Marine National Park Division, the Royal Forest Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand. It is designed to give tourists visiting Thailand basic information for each marine national park and to then be able to choose an appropriate destination suitable to their own requirements.

The emphasis of the information is on ease of use and covers a priority of interesting resources and activities in the parks, including best time for visiting and expenses needed for the trip. It has been prepared by experienced professionals in marine national park tourism. However, since information might change, we recommend readers to contact the Royal Forest Department directly or search for more information from Internet websites such as [www.forest.go.th](http://www.forest.go.th), [www.tat.or.th](http://www.tat.or.th) and [www.TalayThai.com](http://www.TalayThai.com).

The Royal Forest Department would like to thank all those interested in marine nature tourism in Thailand. We hope the handbook will be useful in proving to you the beauty of Thailand's coasts.

### **Thank you**

*Marine National Park Division,  
The Royal Forest Department, Thailand*

**Glossary :** *The most suitable time to visit islands in the Andaman Sea should be during November - May.*

*Length of Stay - The recommended period of time for a visit, excluding travel time unless as a day trip.*

*Cost - Approximate. Could be more or less depending on length of stay and type of trip.*

*Central Telephone Number 66-7561-2918-21*

Compared with terrestrial parks, (Yellowstone National Park was declared in 1872), marine protected areas are a fairly recent phenomenon. In Thailand the first National Park was Khao Yai opened in 1961 and the first marine National Park, Khao Sam Roi Yot was created in 1966. But it was not until 1993 that Marine National Parks were managed separately from terrestrial parks. This recent interest in marine conservation has derived largely from the realization that human influences on marine resources particularly in the coastal region, are having devastating effects which threaten not only the resources but also the livelihood of many people who rely on them.

Tropical marine ecosystems are very diverse and are represented in Thailand by such important habitats as; Open water, Coral reefs, Seagrass beds, Mangrove forests, Soft sediment communities and Beaches. These habitats are all particularly important for many of the people of Thailand as they provide both subsistence and cash crop fisheries and other benefits, such as wood from mangrove forests. In addition, these ecosystems also contain a high biodiversity of animals and plants and form the basis for valuable tourism industries, with potential for ecotourism and education related activities.

With great concern of valuable resources, the Marine National Park Division (MNPD) was established in 1993 by a reorganization of the National Park Division. All the national parks with a significant marine or coastal ecosystem was included in the new MNPD. At present, the division is responsible for managing the 21 marine national parks, with a further 5 areas being in the process of establishing.

## Goals of Division

The Marine National Park Division was established to achieve the following objectives,

1. To manage the Marine protected areas in accordance with the National Park act 1961
2. To continually revise and update marine park management strategies for natural resource conservation and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems in the Marine National Parks.
3. To provide recreation, education and research opportunities within the parks in a sustainable fashion.
4. To undertake and utilise research to update management plans for each Marine National Park, independently.



Ko Ree  
(Ko Satok)

## Andaman Sea



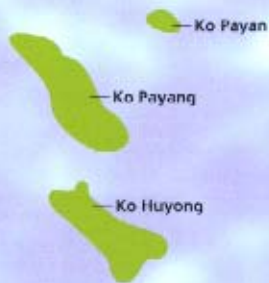
<b>Location</b>	Phang Nga Province
<b>Time to Visit</b>	December to May
<b>Place to Visit</b>	Ao Suthep, Had Mai Ngam, Sea gypsy village and Ko Torinla
<b>Travel Info.</b>	Take a boat from Kuraburi, Phang Nga. Daily service 3-4 hours to the island by boat.
<b>Length of Stay</b>	2 nights or a day trip by speedboat from Kuraburi.
<b>Cost</b>	4,000 Baht
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Coral reefs, sandy beaches, rocky beaches, and forests.
<b>Activities</b>	Snorkelling, SCUBA diving, trekking, swimming, bird watching, and cultural site visiting.
<b>Tel. No.</b>	(076) 491-378, (076) 419-028-9 (076) 491-1582

**T**he best shallow water coral reef in Thailand. There are more than 800 species of fish recorded with specialities such as Whale Shark, Manta Ray, and Napoleonfish. It is a "should-not-miss" destination for snorkellers who would like to open the door to the underwater world of the Indian Ocean. Ko Surin also has tropical rain forest where many species of rare birds are found such as Large Green Pigeon and Beach Thick-knee. The well-organized nature trail of about 2 km. long allows you to take 2 hours adventure in the most diverse ecosystems on land (moist ever-green forest) and sea (coral reef).





## Andaman Sea



<b>Location</b>	Phang Nga Province
<b>Time to Visit</b>	December to May. In other months, the park is closed.
<b>Place to Visit</b>	Ko Miang, Ko Similan, SCUBA diving sites such as Christmas point, Shark reef and Fantasy reef.
<b>Travel Info.</b>	Take a boat from Tab Lamu, Phang Nga. Daily service, 2-5 hours to the island by boat.
<b>Length of Stay</b>	2 nights or a day trip by speedboat from Phuket or Khao Lak.
<b>Cost</b>	4,000 Baht
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Coral reefs, sandy beaches, rocky beaches, and forests.
<b>Activities</b>	Snorkelling, SCUBA diving, trekking, swimming, and bird watching.
<b>Tel. No.</b>	(076) 595-045, (076) 421-365

**T**he ultimate SCUBA diving site in Thailand. The meadows of soft corals and sea fans combine to make this one of the most famous dive sites in the world. Clear water, with visibility of 40 meters. Many strange-looking fish are to be found in the coral reefs, such as the Ribbon Eel and Silvertip Shark. Those interested in SCUBA diving should arrange visits with diving tours from Phuket or nearby provinces. For those staying on the islands, a snorkeling service is available. There is also a SCUBA diving service, though irregular in operation. On the main island, there is a nature trail about 385 meters long where you have the chance to see Nicobar Pigeon and Hairy Leg Mountain Crab living in the moist evergreen forest. The Similan Islands also have many beautiful and peaceful white sandy beaches.



Ko Kho Khao

Had Bang Sak

  
Nam Tok  
Ton Chang Fah

  
Nam Tok Lam Ru

  
Khao Lak-Lam Ru  
National Park Headquarters

← To Mu Ko Similan

Tablamu Ferry



Phang Nga

  
Khao Lampee-Had Thaimuang  
National Park Headquarters

Andaman  
Sea



**Location**  
**Time to Visit**  
**Place to Visit**

Phang Nga Province  
All year.  
Khao Lak,  
Nam Tok Ton Chong Fah  
and Nam Tok Lam Ru.

**Travel Info.**

From Phuket, drive  
approximately 1 1/2 hours  
north to Takua Pa, the park  
is located next to the road.

**Length of Stay**

Day trip or 1 night

**Cost**

500-1,000 Baht

**Ecosystem**

Sandy beaches, rocky  
beaches, and forests.

**Activities**

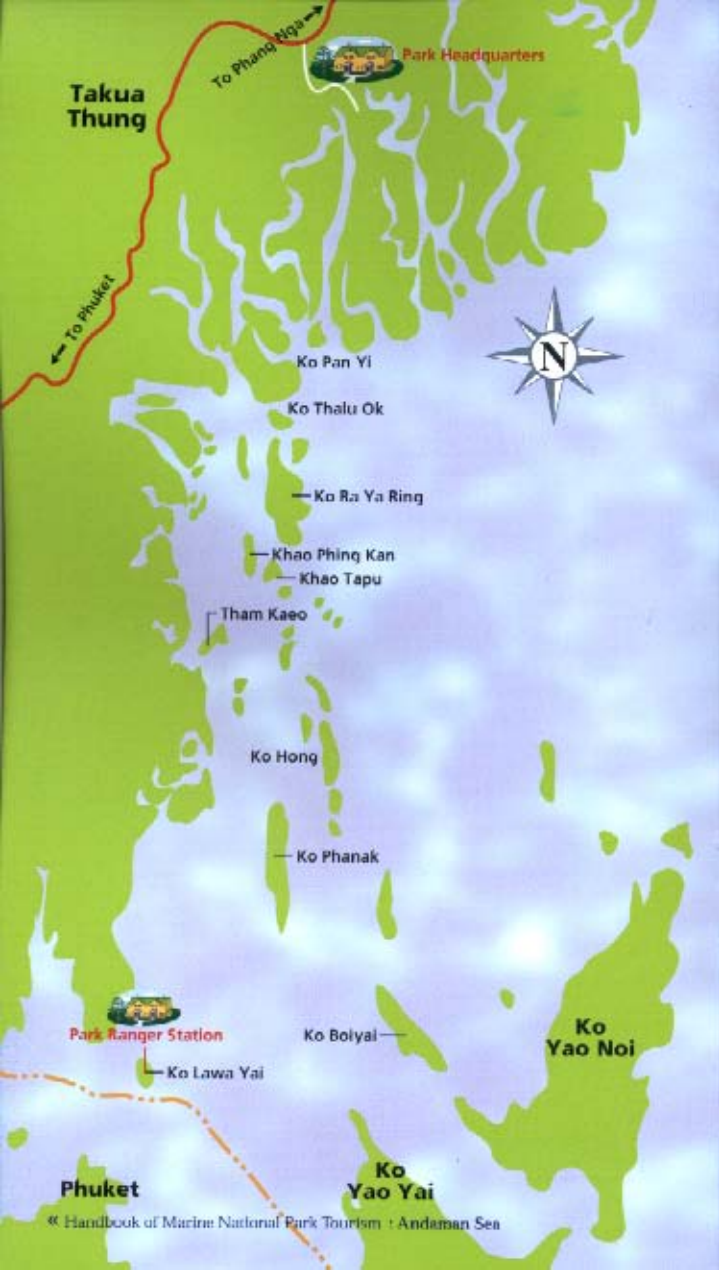
Trekking, bird watching,  
and swimming.

**Tel. No.**

(076) 420 243

**T**he park is very easy to visit and suitable for visitors from Phuket, who have limited time but wish to see Thailand's forests. Khao Lak is different from other marine national parks because the highlights are the interesting forests, mountains, and waterfalls. There are many activities whilst trekking in the forests; even elephant rides are an option. There are also nature trails next to the sea and cliffs. Visitors can choose from numerous package tours available in Phuket before taking a day trip. You may choose to stay at any of the many resorts located on a peaceful beach area near the park. These are cheaper than beach resorts in Phuket.





Takua Thung

To Phang Nga



Park Headquarters

To Phuket



Ko Pan Yi

Ko Thalu Ok

Ko Ra Ya Ring

Khao Phing Kan

Khao Tapu

Tham Kaeo

Ko Hong

Ko Phanak

Ko Bolyai

Ko Yao Noi

Park Ranger Station



Ko Lawa Yai

Ko Yao Yai

Phuket

**Location**  
**Time to Visit**  
**Place to Visit**

Phang Nga Province  
All year.  
Mangrove Nature trail at  
Park Headquarters,  
Ko Lawa Yai, Ko Panyi,  
Khao Phing Kari, Tham Lot,  
Ko Hong and Ko Phanak.  
Take a boat from Phuket  
or one of the piers in  
Ao Phang Nga. Daily service.  
Day trip.

**Travel Info.**

**Length of Stay**  
**Cost**  
**Ecosystem**

1,000 - 3,000 Baht  
Coral reefs, mangrove  
forests, karst, sandy beaches,  
and muddy beaches.

**Activities**

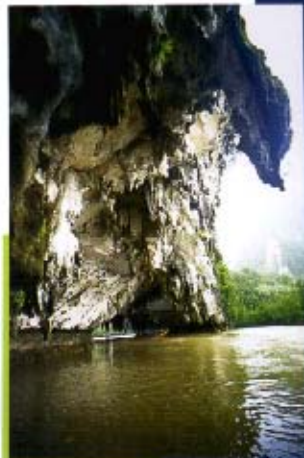
Sight seeing, cave  
exploration, canoeing,  
and historical site visits.

**Tel. No.**

(076) 412-188,  
(076) 411-136

**E**verybody who comes to Phuket wants to visit this area, famous as the location for a James Bond movie. The national park is full of limestone islands and mangrove forests.

The amazing grottos and lagoons promote the popularity of sea canoeing. Visitors who don't want physical adventure may take time admiring the scenic beauty by boat, and may stop at some of the islands to visit cultural sites. Ao Phang Nga National Park is a convenient tourist attraction and costs little in time or expense. Visitors can choose to travel around Ao Phang Nga from several boat services, which offer a range of prices and itineraries.



 Park Ranger Station



Ko Yung — Ko Mai Phai

Laem Tong

Chao Lay Village

Ao Lolana

Ao Lobakaw

### Ko Phi Phi Don

Ko Nai

Ao Yong Ga Seng

Ao Lodalum



View Point

Ko Nok

Ao Tonsai

Had Rinkaew

Had Yao

Laem Pur

Ao Wanglong

To Krabi →

← To Phuket

Tham Viking

Ao Mayha

### Ko Phi Phi Le

Ao Losama

<b>Location</b>	Krabi Province
<b>Time to Visit</b>	Best from December to May. Rest of the year has unpredictable wind and rain.
<b>Place to Visit</b>	Had Nopparat thara, Ko Phi Phi, Ao Mayha, Ban Laempho Gastropod Fossil, Ao Pranang, and Ko Mai Phai.
<b>Travel Info.</b>	Had Nopparat Thara is 18 km. from Krabi. To Mu Ko Phi Phi, take a boat from Phuket or Krabi. Daily service.
<b>Length of Stay</b>	A day trip or 1-2 nights.
<b>Cost</b>	1,500 Baht
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Coral reefs, sandy beaches, rocky beaches and karst.
<b>Activities</b>	Snorkelling, SCUBA diving, trekking, rock climbing, canoeing, and historical site visits.
<b>Tel. No.</b>	(075) 637-436, (075) 637-200

The scenic limestone islands are world famous, and are the location of the movie "The Beach". One of the most beautiful beaches in Thailand is found at Ao Pranang. A suitable destination for a honeymoon couple. For those interested in visiting Mu Ko Phi Phi, there are large ranges of boat services, which are convenient and fast. Various priced accommodation can be found on the island. The park is also suitable for those who love adventurous activities like rock climbing and canoeing. You can also stay in Phuket and take a day trip to the islands. There are SCUBA diving services on the island.





**Ko Lanta Noi**

— Ko  
Tala Beng

— Ko  
Klang

— Ko  
Kam Yai

— Ko  
Bubu (Ko Nui Nok)

— Ko  
Po

**Ko Lanta Yai**

Had Khlong Hin

— Ko  
Lek

Ao Nui

**Park Headquarters**

— Laem  
Tanud

— Ko  
Mo

**Ko  
Ngai**

**Ko  
Rok Nok**

**Park Ranger Station**

**Ko  
Rok Nai**

<b>Location</b>	Krabi Province
<b>Time to Visit</b>	All year. Best from November to May.
<b>Place to Visit</b>	Laem Tanod, Ko Rok, Ko Ngai, Hiri Muang and Hin Daeng.
<b>Travel Info.</b>	Take a boat from Ban Bo Muang or take a ferry at Ban Hua Hin
<b>Length of Stay</b>	2 nights.
<b>Cost</b>	3,000 Baht
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Coral reefs, sandy beaches, rocky beaches, and mangrove forests.
<b>Activities</b>	Snorkelling, SCUBA diving, trekking, swimming, and cultural site visits.
<b>Tel. No.</b>	(075) 629-018-9

**A**n eco-tourism destination of increasing popularity, Ko Lanta is a large island with roads and good facilities, such as banking. There are several private resorts offering a range of prices. In the park are caves and waterfalls, including nature trails through the rich forest. A panoramic view of the Andaman Sea can be observed from the island. Those interested in a visit to Ko Rok can hire a speedboat from Ko Lanta (daily service). Ko Rok consists of beautiful sandy beaches and shallow water coral reefs. SCUBA divers should visit Hiri Daeng, a site full of soft corals and a "Wall Dive" site where many large marine animals can be found. Visitors to Hin Daeng should organize a tour here from Phuket.



Ko Lo Lo

Nam Tok Angtong

Had Pak Meng

Trang

Had Chang Lang

Park Headquarters

Ko Ngai

Them Morakot

Ko Muk

Park Ranger  
Station

Had San

Had Yong Inq

Had Yao

Ko Kradan

Park Ranger  
Station

Ko Libong

Ko Lan Liang





<b>Location</b>	Trang Province
<b>Time to Visit</b>	All year, but islands should be visited from December to May.
<b>Place to Visit</b>	Had Chang Lang, Ko Kradan, Tham Morakot, Ko Chueak and Ko Wan.
<b>Travel Info.</b>	40 km. from Trang on a very good road. Take a boat from Pak Meng to visit the several islands (1-3 hours).
<b>Length of Stay</b>	1 night or a day trip.
<b>Cost</b>	2,000 Baht
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrasses, and sandy beaches.
<b>Activities</b>	Snorkelling, swimming, canoeing, trekking, bird watching, and Dugong watching.
<b>Tel. No.</b>	(075) 213-260

The largest beds of seagrasses in Thailand, and the habitat of more than 80 Dugongs. Visitors may try flying overhead with ultra light aircraft to aerially observe the Dugongs. Those with limited budget may drive along the coast, visit quiet beaches, and walk the nature trails. For a change of atmosphere, try canoeing into the mangrove forest. Those interested can cross over to Ko Libong to go bird watching. This park also has beautiful sandy beaches and coral reefs. There is private accommodation on the islands. Another option is to stay in a hotel in Trang, and take a day trip with any of the several package tours in town.





<b>Location</b>	Satun Province
<b>Time to Visit</b>	December to May. In other months, the park is closed.
<b>Place to Visit</b>	Tham Chorakhe, Ao Son, Ao Talo Wow, Ao Talo Udang, Ko Khai, Ko Hiri Ngam, Ko Adang, and Ko Rawi.
<b>Travel Info.</b>	Take a boat from Pak Bara, Satun. Daily service. 2 hours to Tarutao Island, and 4 hours to Adang-Rawi Islands by boat.
<b>Length of Stay</b>	3 nights.
<b>Cost</b>	4,500 Baht
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Coral reefs, mangrove forests, sandy beaches, rocky beaches, muddy beaches, and forests.
<b>Activities</b>	Snorkelling, SCUBA diving, trekking, swimming, bird watching, and historical site visits.
<b>Tel. No.</b>	(074) 783-485, (076) 729 002-3

**T**he largest marine national park of Thailand Mu Ko Tarutao is separated into 2 parts. Tarutao Island is suitable for those who like mangrove forests and moist evergreen forests, and includes the history of the "Tarutao Pirate". There are several nature trails passing through the forests and taking in the waterfalls. Boating into the creeks to see the abundant mangrove forest is another option. Adang-Rawi Islands are suitable for those who like beautiful white sandy beaches. There are many islets and shallow water coral reefs. Those interested in SCUBA diving should arrange visits with tour boats from Phuket.



# TABLE OF FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES MARINE NATIONAL PARK : ANDAMAN SEA

Parks	Bungalow	Tent	Campsite	Restaurant	Visitor Center	Boat Hire	Canoeing	Snorkelling	SCUBA diving	Bird Watching	Historical & Cultural Site	Cave & Geography	Waterfall	Remarks
Lam Nam Kraburi	X		X			X					X		X	F/M
Mu Ko Payam			X			X		C		X		X		F/M
Laemson	X	X	X	X	X	X		B	B					M/C
Mu Ko Ra-Ko Prafong	X	X	X	X	X	X		C						M
Mu Ko Surin	X	X	X	X	X	X		A	A	X	X			C/E
Mu Ko Similan	X	X	X	X	X	X		A	A	X		X		C/E
Khao Lak-Lam Ru	X	X	X	X									X	F
Khao Lampee - Had Thai Muang	X	X	X	X	X					X			X	B/F
Ao Phang Nga	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	C		X	X	X		M/L
Sirinath	X	X	X	X	X			C		X				B
Thianboke Khoranee			X	X	X	X	X	C			X	X	X	F
Had Hopperat Thara-Mu Ko Phi Phi	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	B	A		X	X		C/L
Mu Ko Lanta	X	X	X	X	X	X		A	A		X	X	X	F/C
Had Chao Mai	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	B	C/A	X	X	X		S/C
Mu Ko Phetra	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	C	C					L
Taruao	X	X	X	X	X	X		A	A	X	X	X	X	F/M
Thaleban	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	F/M

**A** = Very Good, **B** = Good, **C** = OK.

**Remarks** : **F** = Forest, **M** = Mangrove, **C** = Coral Reef, **S** = Sea Grass, **B** = Beach, **L** = Landscape

**Lam Nam Kraburi National Park**Ban Hin Chang, Tumbon Pak Natti,  
Amphoe Muang, Ranong 85000**Mu Ko Payam National Park**

(01) 229-0817

**Laemson National Park**

(077) 824-224

**Mu Ko Ra - Ko Pratong National Park**Tumbon Ko Pratong, Amphoe Kuraburi,  
Phang Nga 87150**Mu Ko Surin National Park**Mainland (076) 491-378, (076) 491-582  
Island (076) 419-028-9**Mu Ko Similan National Park**Mainland (076) 595-045,  
Island (076) 421-365**Khao Lak - Lam Ru National Park**

(076) 420-240

**Khao Lupee - Had Thai Muang National Park**Tumbon Thai Muang, Amphoe Thai Muang,  
Phang Nga 82120**Ao Phang Nga National Park**

(076) 411-136, (076) 412-188

**Sirinath National Park**

(076) 327-152, (076) 328-226

**Thanboke Khoranee National Park**

(075) 681-071, (075) 682-058

**Had Nopparat Thara - Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park**

(075) 637-436, (075) 637-200

**Mu Ko Lanta National Park**

(075) 624-018-9

**Had Chao Mai National Park**

(075) 213-260

**Mu Ko Phetra National Park**

(074) 783-008

**Tarutao National Park**

Mainland (074) 783-485

Ko Tarutao (074) 729-002-3

Ko Adang (074) 724-012


**Thaleban National Park**


(074) 729-202-3, (074) 728-700

The sea is a resource of the world. If everybody helps protect the sea, it will be with us forever. The seas of the Indo-Pacific area are especially important as they contain the highest diversity of marine life in the world. All of the marine national parks in Thailand are located in this area.


Do not buy any shells, animal remains, or animal products from rare species such as sea turtles, Giant Clams, and Giant Tritons. These animals are protected species under Thai Law.

 Avoid eating rare sea animals such as sharks, Bowmouth Guitarfish, and Shovelnose Ray.

 Do not catch, touch, or collect sea animals and shells. It disturbs animal behavior and is against national park regulations under Thai Law.

 Do not fish or catch any sea animals by any means within the marine national parks.

 Strictly follow marine national park regulations

 Inform the park officers if you observe any illegal action in the park.

We thank all park visitors who help take care of Thailand's natural resource and thus the world's. We hope that everybody will be enthralled by the nature of Thailand and look forward to welcoming you again.

**Remark :** Local words meaning

Ao	= Gulf
Had	= Beach
Hin	= Pinnacle
Khao	= Mountain
Khlong	= Canal
Ko	= Island
Laem	= Cape
Mu Ko	= Archipelago
Nam Tok	= Waterfall
Na Pha	= Cliff
Tham	= Cave



**U**nder Thai Law, it is illegal to conduct the following activities in marine national parks.

-  Occupy, build, or clear the land.
-  Collect or take out any plants and animals, or harm anything.
-  Change the watercourse or stream, block the watercourse, etc.
-  Collect or harm any orchids, honey, charcoal, bat guano, flowers, leaves, fruits, etc.
-  Take any vehicles into undesignated areas.
-  Take off or land any aircraft in undesignated areas.
-  Take any pets or domestic animals into the parks.
-  Do anything for profit, unless granted special permission.
-  Post unauthorized signs or posters, or write graffiti.
-  Carry any hunting equipment or weapons into the parks.
-  Use firearms, explosives, or light fireworks.
-  Make any loud noises that may disturb other visitors or animals.
-  Drop litter or leave any ignitable matter.





Designed by: Graphic Science, P.O. Box 1000, Nashville, TN 37203-1000



**Marine National Park Division**  
**The Royal Forest Department**

April, 2002