

## Focus on the Everglades, Captain Judy Caseley- Everglades Area Boat Tours for Everglades area photography, Everglades area birdwatching, Everglades area sightseeing, Everglades area shelling, Everglades area educational tours, Everglades area historical t

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Captain Judy Caseley is an experienced licensed and insured guide in the Everglades Area who specializes in private boat tours consisting of sightseeing, ecotours, birdwatching, photography expeditions, camping, special events, historical tours, and fishing! Come aboard on an Everglades area boat tour in the Ten Thousand Islands with Captain Judy Caseley for an experience of a lifetime!

**Captain Judy Caseley** provides customized *luxury boat tours in the Everglades National Park* and Ten Thousand Islands. Photography, sightseeing, bird watching, eco tours, beach excursions, shelling on remote islands, sunset cruises, camping, fishing, or simply relaxing is what an Everglades Area Boat Tour with Captain Judy Caseley is all about.

Surround yourself with the beauty of this mysterious Everglades area wonderland which is a photographer's paradise. See the Everglades area with fascinating wildlife in its natural habitat and learn about the early pioneers and Native American folklore. Discover Indian mounds, remote islands once inhabited, and the largest mangrove forest in the world. With Captain Judy Caseley aboard an Everglades area boat tour experience Florida's last real frontier - half land, half water - observing plant, bird, animal, and marine life such as playful dolphins, elusive manatees, alligators and more.

Everglades National Park is designated a World Heritage Site with an unparalleled ecosystem inhabited by over two hundred species of birds, many seen on an Everglades birdwatching tour with Captain Judy Caseley. A full menu of essentials to accommodate your charter can be supplied upon your request. All you need is a smile!!!

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[link=Label][<http://www.focusontheeverglades.com>]



## Mockingbird Feeding Time

# Comments

Alla Gower The Everglades Florida July 30th 2010 Written by Alla Gower

Richard Googled the route but did not tell us where we were headed until we were approaching Everglades City. He just kept driving until signs advertising alligators began to appear along the roadway. It made sense now- the Gravol Anita suggested I take before we set out this morning. Nausea pill to sight see Marcos Island? Did she maybe think that seeing opulent mansions would make me sick? Little did we suspect the big surprise Richard had planned for our 50th wedding anniversary: a boat tour in the Everglades with Captain Judy Caseley.

He chartered the boat on line way back in Toronto and there it was in Chokoloskee Bay - a 25 footer with a huge motor and anchor equipped for shallow waters and the waves of the Gulf of Mexico and Ct. Judy at the wheel with a camera around her neck.

The Everglades is no Congo or the jungles in the heart of Africa or the Amazon forests as I once imagined. We did not head into the swampy interior where alligators are found; we sailed for the thousands of islands in the Everglades National Park and the open Gulf waters. Judy showed us a map to give us an idea of the infinite number of islands and shoals- all named, and accounted for.

It is difficult to say where the fresh and salt waters meet in that kind of geography she said when I asked her. Eventually I could taste the salt from the spray on my lips. Our destination was to the mangroves that were nesting and breeding grounds for the big birds: pelicans, great blue and white herons and osprey as well as the roseate spoon bills. Snap, snap, snap went our cameras as we sailed from one island to another. It did not take long for Richard to spot the first group of dolphins- one fin cutting after another through the waves. Ct. Judy shifted into higher gear and tapped the floor with a long wooden spear and the dolphins responded to the vibrations and played peek- a boo- with us. In and out, in and out, they are too quick for the camera so we took images of them to store in the eyes\_ memory. Endless islands, endless sandy beaches, endless green mangroves and Judy\_s interesting stories- too much for the mind to absorb.

What surprised me was that all this watery landscape and space were for our eyes only or so it seemed. We saw just one patrol boat and a cruiser or two later on. Tourism was way down because of the economy, plus the BP oil spill in the Gulf and perhaps also because of the season. Who goes to Florida in July to escape the oppressive heat in Toronto only to walk into a heat wave of 100 degrees plus humidity down there? But the Everglades were a shot of nature and cooler waters with a breeze, mangroves, blue sky, sandy shores of numerous uninhabited islands. Another fleeting peak experience indeed, among many we had this week. Images to feast our eyes on, images not found in my real world.

Matthew had his own peak experience when Cp. Judy sat him on her knee and allowed him to do the steering. She has had a lot of experience with young children having had been a school teacher before going into the tourism industry. She is no native to Florida however, by her accent we suspected and she confirmed that she was from the Boston area. As she piloted the boat she told us some of the Everglades history. All the islands now are uninhabited but during the prohibition the bootleggers found the islands a safe haven to hide from the cops. Other criminal activities took place here but nowadays only park rangers, tour guides and registered campers and fisherman are found in these waters and campgrounds.

Around noon we came to an island larger than most called Pavilion Key- a remote island of sandy white shores full of sea shells- ours for the taking. Judy put down the anchor and let down the ladder and we went exploring and collecting sea- shells to our heart's content. The shells that I kept at one time had live creatures in them but now are empty and cast out by the sea. I walked with my head down for fear of missing some treasure at my feet. Here I found an uninhabited horse shoe crab shell- mature adult size and a baby one too. Pre-historic in looks. Anita, Richard and Matthew were way ahead of us letting us walk at our own pace and collect various varieties of shells that we did not have at our own beach or on Sanibel Island. Walking on the sand in bare feet in relative solitude felt like having our own private \_ island in the sun\_. I thought of Harry Belafonte singing that song. \_Hum Brian\_, I said to my husband.

By mid afternoon it was time to head back. Richard pulled out another surprise-as if by magic a bottle of champagne appeared to toast our special day. Little did we imagine 50 years ago that this perfect day would be ours to enjoy especially here under the bright sun and waters of the Everglades. So what if we had no glasses. Richard emptied some plastic water bottles, used some tool to cut them in half and then poured the champagne for one and all and we raised our glasses and Matthew his can of pop. Anita made sandwiches which hit the spot. A picnic to remember on a boat under fluffy white clouds in a blue sky in the midst of the Everglades and no other people in sight. What more would anyone want. Another moment to treasure, as it too will not last.

Boat owners and tourist guides like Captain Judy are as reliant on tourism as the industry is reliant on oil. This is a huge dilemma at this time for the wildlife and for the people who make a living in this area. The environment and wild species suffer but the tourist experience brings us in contact with nature. Awareness counts and makes us think.

What a special getaway to remember. Fifty years ago neither Brian nor I could have in our wildest dreams imagined such a day or been able to appreciate it as much. on Aug. 22 2010 Sue Newman Over the past few years I have been blessed to have the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time in the remarkable Florida Everglades. Part of my experience has only been enhanced by having taken tours with Captain Judy, owner of Focus on the Everglades, Boat Tours Extordinaire!

Two trips have been to the spectacular Pelican Rookery in the Everglades National Park, 2 trips island hopping, shelling and touring some of the areas history, Judy makes the experience one of a lifetime! Her knowledge of the local lore and island history is second to none, and seeing her excitement and passion when she shows you where one of the local murders took place is awesome.

The Florida Everglades, the Everglades National Park, and Ten Thousand Islands are beautiful and ,unless you see it for yourself, you can only imagined what others like myself have gained by booking a personal and custom tour with Captain Judy.

Why wait, book a tour with Captain Judy now. With taking my own advise, Captain Judy, please contact me asap, I really would like to take my next trip next week! [sebringsue@gmail.com](mailto:sebringsue@gmail.com) email me please..Thanks Sue on Sep. 3 2010

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