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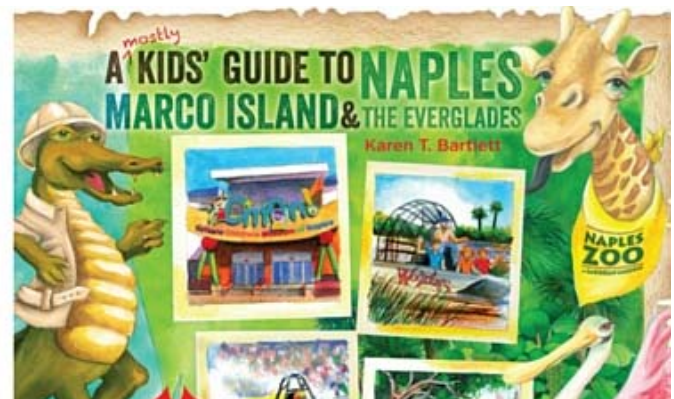
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7 Awesome Family Adventures in Naples, Marco Island & The Everglades

October 28, 2015 — [Leave a Comment](#)





Hi, I'm Karen T. Bartlett, Adventurer-in-Chief of **Mostly Kids Guides**. My job is to reveal super-fun (and often weird) stuff about our region to kids, moms, dads, grandparents and teachers, and adventures for families of all ages.

I met Jaime (and Harper, one of the cutest five-year-olds ever!) while I was researching my newest book, "A (mostly) Kids' Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands and the Fort Myers Coast." If I can stop having fun long enough to write it, the new book will be in the stores in January. Eeek! That's less than three months from now!

Meanwhile, Jaime invited me to share some awesome adventures I discovered while producing my first book, "**A (mostly) Kids' Guide to Naples, Marco Island & The Everglades.**"

Rule #1: Never stop having fun!





1. BE A DOLPHIN RESEARCHER

Your family can join a research boat in the Ten Thousand Islands aboard the **Dolphin Explorer**. If you're the first to discover a dolphin that hasn't been identified, you get to name it. Kids receive a souvenir photo and a researcher patch. It launches from Rose Marina on Marco Island.

2. VISIT THE RESERVATION

At **Billie Swamp Safari**, real Seminole Indians take you on swamp buggy and airboat rides, and cook up native dishes like fry bread, Indian Tacos and fried gator tail. It's open every day, and be sure to mark your March calendar for the reptile shows, Native American dances, encampments and exciting battles at the annual **Big Cypress Shootout**, an awesome Seminole war re-enactment!

3. EVERGLADES ADVENTURE ALL IN ONE

Check out the ultimate combo package at **Wooten's Everglades Airboat Tours**. Real Gladesmen

(natives of the Everglades) take you on a swamp buggy ride, an airboat ride, a live alligator show, visit snakes and other exotic creatures, and even hug a baby gator!

4. **BEST NEW BIKE PATH**

Take a ride on the **Gordon River Greenway**. Most people haven't yet discovered this brand new nature trail, which follows the Gordon River and runs beside the Zoo and the Conservancy. Watch for horned owls, bald eagles, raccoons, and maybe even a fox.

5. **WOLF'S BIRTHDAY TOUR**

There's not a single Big Bad Wolf at the **Shy Wolf Sanctuary**. It's a private haven for exotic animals that have been abused or abandoned, especially wolf dogs and wolves. You can't just drop in, but we discovered a secret: every animal is celebrated on its birthday, and families are welcome by appointment to come for a Birthday Celebration guided visit. That info is tucked deep into the website and not easy to find, so call 855-SHY-WOLF for info. It's free but donations help care for the animals.

6. **A TOILET CLOGGED WITH FLOWERS?**

It's true! **Naples Botanical Garden** is definitely not just for grownups! Besides the awesome giant banyan treehouse, with its rope bridges and platforms, there's a super-cool playhouse, a sand beach and fountain for cooling off, a butterfly house, and the most insane garden ever, with plants growing among bizarre objects, including my fave – a toilet "clogged" with flowers. Families of all ages love the W.O.N.D.E.R In the Garden weekend programs. Even dogs have their days at the Garden!

7. **THOMAS THE TANK LIVES HERE!**

Who knew that downtown Naples had a **Train Museum**? It's in the historic Naples Depot building that used to be a railroad station. Watch Thomas the Tank and other miniature Lionel trains chug around the model city. Outside, hop aboard the mini-train pulled by a real diesel locomotive. Afterward, check out the free exhibits in the Depot Museum at the other end of the building. There's a mule wagon, a cool 1955 Chevy Bel-Air, and even the nose of an Army Air Force plane.

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MEET JAIME

I'm a Marketing Director & Lifestyle Blogger living in Naples, Florida. This blog is your online guide to finding action & adventure across the Sunshine State.



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