

Florida, US

It's just after dawn and a symphony of buzzing insects and chirping birds rises in a deafening crescendo.

A breeze rustles the reeds in Everglades National Park, a Unesco world heritage site that stretches over 1.5 million acres of Florida.

A great blue heron is perched primly on a branch as though it's an exam invigilator observing waterfowl in the shallows below.

An ominous growl disturbs the tranquil scene. The murky, khaki water vibrates as an agitated alligator bellows like a hungry dinosaur.

Startled, a flock of roseate spoonbills take flight, their pink plumage flapping like matadors' capes.

Your heart skips a beat. Blood pumps in your ears, your face flushes with fear and you start to pant. As the alligator snakes towards you, your airboat driver hits the ignition and you fly off through the wetlands to safety, thrilled by your brush with danger.

Get on board

Carnival's four-night The Bahamas from Miami itinerary aboard *Carnival Sunrise*, return from Miami via Half Moon Cay, Nassau and Celebration Key, departs on 10 January 2026, from £379. carnival.com

Roseate spoonbill - Jo Crebbin/Shutterstock

