

The Manatee Capital of the World

Florida's Fastest Growing Eco-Tourism Destination

The most manatees anywhere, period.

In March 2015, the State of Florida's Department of Fish and Game's aerial survey found 6,063 manatees in Florida waters. Of those, **1,000 manatees** were found in one place: the waters of Crystal River's Citrus County. Nowhere else in the world is there a greater number of manatees present in winter months.

The only place you can swim with manatees.

We're the only place in the world where you can legally experience **swimming with manatees** and our guides are certified to make sure we treat this beloved endangered species with the utmost respect.



Epic Swimmable Springs

- **Kings Bay:** With over 70 springs, a first magnitude springs complex.
- **Three Sisters Springs:** World renowned manatee spring in Crystal River. Simply breathtaking. Featured in *National Geographic Magazine*, April 2013.
- **Homosassa Spring:** First magnitude Homosassa Spring draws hundreds of manatees to *Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park*.
- **Chassahowitzka River:** First magnitude springs in the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge.
- **Withlacoochee River:** Spring-fed river ranging far inland into interior Florida.
- **Rainbow River:** Crystal clear feeder to the Withlacoochee with fantastic Rainbow Springs.

Endless Trails

- **Withlacoochee State Trail:** 46 mile-long paved recreation & bicycle trail. One of the greatest triumphs of the Rails-to-Trails movement in the USA.
- **Withlacoochee State Forest:** Voted one of *The Ten Coolest Places You've Never Been in North America* by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and home to the very rare *red-cockaded woodpecker*. You could hike for days here.
- **Withlacoochee Bay Trail:** Part of the Cross Florida Greenway with a terminus on spectacular Withlacoochee Bay on the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Crystal River Preserve State Park:** With the gritty Seven-Mile Loop and Eco-Walk, it's a hiker, mountain biker & birders paradise filled with all that is wild in Florida.

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Food

Every day our fishing boats ply the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. We have a rich tradition of American cooking distinct to the Gulf of Mexico and the American South and we're happy to share our bounty with you—fresh grouper, red-fish, mullet, snapper, bay scallops, blue crab, stone crab, even Gator tail--the list goes on like a scene from *Forrest Gump*.

Diving

Whether **scuba diving** in underwater caves or **diving for scallops** in the Gulf, Crystal River's Citrus County is a diver's bonanza. Our outfitters will take care of your every need.

Paddling

There are endless choices for kayaking, paddle-boarding, and canoeing with seven rivers, a chain of fresh water lakes, the Gulf of Mexico and an intricate world of islands, marsh and mangrove. We are teeming with outfitters to cater to your every adventure need.

Fishing

We are among the oldest Sport Fishing centers of Florida with the **Atlanta Homosassa Fishing Club** and **Homosassa Guides Association** dating back a hundred years or more. American Baseball legend Ted Williams retired here just to fish! Here, you *always* come back with your catch and many of our restaurants are happy to cook it up for you.

Welcoming Small Towns

- **Crystal River:** One of the top centers of Florida Eco-tourism with over 45 permitted guide operators and a world-class resort at **The Plantation on Crystal River**. There are plenty of hotel and food choices for a fraction of the cost of Tampa Bay, Miami and Orlando.
- **Homosassa:** Historic fishing village with ties to old Florida food and customs featuring the **Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park**, **Homosassa Riverside Resort**, and the rustic **MacRae's of Homosassa** resort.
- **Inverness:** A thriving turn-of-the-century downtown provides a walkable nightlife setting on the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes and **Withlacoochee State Trail**.
- **Floral City:** Quintessential Old Florida with streets lined by elegant oaks draped in Spanish moss. Fresh fruit from our orchards and farms can be had in abundance here. Also on the Withlacoochee State Trail.

Crystal River & Citrus County are **70 miles north of Tampa** International Airport and just **80 miles west of Orlando** International.

Stay here, save money, feel wonder again.

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