

The Manatee Capital of the World

Florida's Premier Eco-Tourism Destination

The most manatees anywhere, period.

In February 2018, the State of Florida's Department of Fish and Game's aerial survey found 6,131 manatees in Florida waters. Of those, **one-sixth** 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.

Crystal River's Citrus County is the only place in the world where you can legally experience **swimming with manatees**. Our guides are certified to make sure we treat this beloved endangered species with the utmost respect by using responsible passive observation techniques approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Epic Swimmable Springs

- **Kings Bay:** With over 70 springs, a first magnitude springs complex.
- **Three Sisters Springs:** This world renowned manatee spring in Crystal River is part of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge and Kings Bay Manatee Refuge.
- **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, surrounded by lush Florida greenery.

Endless Trails

- **Withlacochee State Trail:** 46 mile-long paved recreation & bicycle trail. One of the greatest triumphs of the Rails-to-Trails movement in the USA.
- **Withlacochee 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*.
- **Crystal River Preserve State Park:** With the gritty Seven-Mile Loop and Eco-Walk trails, it's a hiker, mountain biker & birder's paradise filled with all that is wild in Florida.

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Diving for Scallops in Summer

In the warm summer months, manatees head out to the Gulf of Mexico and the Big Bend and Saint Martins Marsh Seagrass Preserve, one of the largest seagrass beds in North America. Swimmers head there too, drawn by the delectable Florida Bay Scallop. Diving for scallops—July through September—is an unforgettable fun family adventure in one of the most incredible ocean environments on earth.

Paddling Paradise

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, marshes, and mangroves. Local rental establishments can help you start your adventure.

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 historical 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 is **one hour and fifteen minutes north of Tampa** International Airport and just **one hour and forty-five minutes west of Orlando** International by car.

Stay here, save money, feel wonder again.

Discover Crystal River Florida

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