

ONLY IN FLORIDA

MEET A MANATEE

The slow-moving shadow ahead is as long as your paddleboard or kayak — and twice as wide. You've just seen a local celebrity: the Florida manatee, one of the rarest marine mammals in the world. Look, but don't touch.



PRECIOUS TREASURE

"It is unlawful for any person, at any time, intentionally or negligently, to annoy, molest, harass, or disturb any manatee."

The endangered Florida or West Indian manatee is protected under federal law and Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978

BY THE NUMBERS

Manatees, aka sea cows,



An adult can be **10** ft. in length

Can weigh **800-1,200** lbs.

Can live **60+** yrs.

"MANATEE FOOTPRINTS"

A circular wave pattern on the surface of the water created by the manatee's tail as it surfaces from below



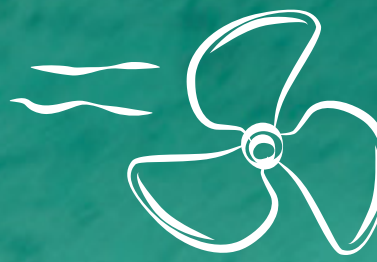
MANATEE MANNERS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission guidelines



LOOK BUT DON'T:

- touch or pet manatees
- feed or give manatees water
- chase or disturb a manatee
- crowd or restrict a manatee
- splash or make excessive noise
- separate a manatee from its group, especially a cow from her calf



WHEN BOATING:

- keep in mind manatees move slowly and may not detect approaching boats
- try not to pass directly over manatees to avoid injuring

FIVE VIEWING AREAS:

1. Three Sisters Springs, Crystal River
2. Blue Spring State Park, Orange City
3. TECO Manatee Viewing Center, Apollo Beach
4. Lee County Manatee Park, Fort Myers
5. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville

