

The Plantation on Crystal River



Manatees, Mermaids & Marine life Adventure!

January through March - Florida Tour - 2019/2020

Crystal River, Florida North of Tampa on the west coast is “The Gem of Florida's Beautiful Nature Coast”. It is also known as the “Manatee Capital of the World”, as nowhere else will you find more manatees in winter months than in *Crystal River*, neighboring *Homosassa*, and the waters of Citrus County. **It's the only place in the United States where you can legally swim with manatees and where this beloved threatened species is treated with the utmost care and respect.** Did you know that the manatee is Florida's state marine animal? ... That it's a large aquatic relative of the elephant? ... And that its **common nickname is a “sea cow”**, and they are incredibly graceful creatures which play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. On this unique maritime tour, you'll learn many more fascinating things about this appealing, slow-moving marine mammal. Why do so many manatees come here? **Crystal River's epic springs are the natural choice for manatees to seek warm water shelter when temperatures start to fall**, since the springs have a constant temperature of 72 to 74 degrees.

Lodging at The Plantation on Crystal River on the Inlets of the *Gulf of Mexico* sits our home for up to 5 relaxing nights! *The Plantation on Crystal River's* motto is “Southern Hospitality with Florida Charm” as its serene land is surrounded by the natural springs of *King's Bay*. **Unpack once, and enjoy an included breakfast each morning of your stay, plus all the amenities and comfort you would expect from a Floridian waterfront resort.**



Activities & Attractions



✚ **THREE SISTERS SPRINGS**

MANATEE EXPERIENCE - At the 57-acre refuge around *Three Sisters Springs* we have a 1/4 mile boardwalk with viewing platforms to observe the springs and native wildlife. There are also at least 1.5 miles of nature trails that you can explore to see views of *Kings Bay*, *Magnolia Springs*, *Lake Crystal* and wetlands.

Three Sisters Springs is a world-renowned sanctuary for the West Indian Manatee during the winter; however, at the refuge you can see many native and migratory species year-round. **Crystal River is the winter home to the largest, fastest**

growing herd of manatee in North America. Each winter, hundreds of manatees migrate from the Gulf up to Florida's Crystal River to the warmth of its hot, fresh water springs. The massing of the manatees is a world class wildlife spectacle.

The *Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge* (CRNWR) is mostly accessible to visitors by water; only the *Three Sisters Springs* property provides land access to see the springs. CRNWR does not provide water access to visitors at this site, but there are many boat ramp/launches in *Crystal River*. There is a narrated tour as you walk a horseshoe boardwalk where you can see the gentle giants up close in their natural habitat.

✚ **3-HOUR CRYSTAL RIVER CRUISE & SCAVENGER HUNT** - Enjoy a relaxing, scenic river cruise while seeing how many native “sights” on your list you can find- fun!



✚ **HOMOSSASSA SPRINGS WILDLIFE PARK** - Visitors can see West Indian manatees every day of the year from the park's underwater observatory in the main spring. The park showcases native Florida wildlife, including manatees, black bears, bobcats, white-tailed deer, American alligators, American crocodiles, and river otters. Manatee programs are offered three times daily. Park Ranger wildlife shows are offered as well as boat rides.



✚ **WEEKI WACHEE & THE FAMOUS MERMAIDS** - A Blast from the Past! The Mermaids of *Weeki Wachee* perform underwater feats from the past six decades, including eating and drinking underwater. The show also includes several musical numbers. The Mermaids also give the audience historical information (via video), and technical aspect of the show. Mermaids of *Weeki Wachee Springs State Park* perform their version of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* live in our submerged 400-seat auditorium.

✚ **THRILLING & AMAZING AIRBOAT EXCURSION** - Ride down the *Withlacoochee River swamps* thru vast unspoiled wilderness for sights you'll never see again!



✚ **WHISPERING OAKS BLUEBERRY WINERY** - Enjoy lunch & wine-tasting at this sprawling, unique blueberry vineyard - you'll love this! Each bottle of wine is made from a whopping 2.2 pounds of blueberries, no water added. Take a 20 minute tour of the winery before or after lunch and don't miss the wine shop before you leave.

✚ **TARPON SPRINGS & DOLPHIN ISLAND ADVENTURE CRUISE** - Sponge docks, cruise to look for dolphins, manatee, turtles - island for shell-hunting, lighthouse



✚ **The Sunset Tour** is our 1.75 hour tour of Kings Bay. We'll kayak through the bay looking for wildlife while our licensed Captains will point out the highlights of the area. During the tour there's always the chance of seeing manatees, but we can never guarantee. These are wild animals in their natural habitat that come and go as they desire. Besides manatees there is always a chance of seeing dolphins, otters, turtles, a variety of birds and fish. Every tour is unique! You can bring drinks and/or snack aboard!

✚ **FREE DAY TO ENJOY AS YOU WISH** – Choices may include!

Golf 27 holes of "Florida Style fairways

Spa treatments

Kayaking or boating to explore miles of pristine shoreline

Relaxing

Swimming with the manatees!

Dive the springs & underwater caverns

Chill poolside with your favorite beverage

S snorkel for scallops our chef will prepare for you

Fish for Reds, Trout, Tarpon and dozens of species

*Get a true waterfront experience with delicious meals throughout this tour!
Also some other fun shopping & surprise stops may be added in as time permits!*

QUAINT & LOCAL MARITIME RESTAURANTS

*Meal Totals Included: 5 Breakfasts
1 Lunch,
4 Dinners*



**FOR RESERVATIONS
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This tour package is going to be in demand!