



To help protect Florida's wildlife, FWC encourages you to watch wildlife from a distance and use binoculars or zoom lenses to extend your view. Florida's manatee population needs the wildlife sanctuaries, springs and warm water sites to survive during the winter months. If you visit any of the wild manatee viewing areas, please give the manatees the space they need and do not disturb them if they are resting. Remember to "Watch" Florida's wildlife today so that future generations can "SEE" them in their natural environment. Please review the Manatee Viewing Guidelines.

Where can I see manatees?



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Imperiled Species Management Section
MyFWC.com



Manatees at rehabilitation/educational facilities:

1. [Walt Disney World's Epcot Center](#)

Orlando 407-824-4321 *Parking and entrance fees.*
Manatees are found in "The Seas with Nemo and Friends" exhibit.

2. [Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park \(FPS\) \(Manatee Rehabilitation Center\)](#)

Homosassa 352-628-5343 *Entrance fee.*
(Headwater, spring run and Homosassa River)
Park staff or volunteers present daily educational programs. Wild manatees now have access to the headwaters of Homosassa Spring during winter. Enclosed underwater viewing area allows visitors to see manatees near spring basin. Resident manatees year-round.

3. [Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo](#) (Florida manatee and aquatic center/hospital)

Tampa 813-935-8552 *Entrance fee.*
Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo has manatee exhibit observation area and on-site hospital used for manatee rehabilitation.

4. [Miami Seaquarium](#) (USFWS manatee critical care facility)

Miami 305-361-5705 *Entrance fee.*
Miami Seaquarium has outside and underwater manatee viewing areas. Facility's highly trained rescue and rehabilitation teams recognized as national leaders in marine mammal care.

5. [Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium](#)

Sarasota 941-388-4441 *Entrance fee.*
Mote Marine Lab exhibits manatees and other aquatic wildlife at its research facility. Research includes manatee biology, health, behavior and conservation efforts.

6. [SeaWorld of Florida](#) (Animal rescue & rehab program)

Orlando *Parking, entrance and program fees.*
SeaWorld has a theme park manatee program and viewing area. Marine Mammal Keeper Experience program offered to individuals. Staff assists with manatee rescue and rehabilitation.

7. [Parker Manatee Aquarium](#) (2nd stage rehab facility)

Bradenton 941-746-4131 *Entrance fee.*
(Aquarium located in the South Florida Museum)
The aquarium provides a temporary home for up to three manatees designated for release back into the wild after being treated in an acute care hospital. The site provides education exhibits, above and below water manatee viewing and presentations about manatees.

Manatees in the Wild:

What is the best way to observe a wild Florida manatee?

To help protect Florida's wildlife, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encourages you to watch wildlife from a distance and to use binoculars or zoom lenses to extend your view. Enjoy viewing wild Florida manatees at these locations (call ahead for current manatee viewing information):

8. [Blue Spring State Park \(FPS\)](#)

Orange City 386-775-3663 *Entrance fee.*
(Spring headwater and spring run on St. Johns River)
Seasonal manatee programs held during winter months when manatees are in warm waters of spring run.

9. [Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge \(USFWS\)](#)

Crystal River 352-563-2088
(Sanctuaries located in Kings Bay and surrounding waterways)
During winter, view manatees near warm water sanctuaries via boat or from boardwalk near Three Sisters Spring (with boardwalk

viewing on a limited schedule). Vendors offer in-water tours for a fee. Follow USFWS viewing guidelines in this area. During warm weather manatees disperse from the sanctuaries and spread out along the coast—sighting manatees may involve some travel and luck.

10. [Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park \(FPS\)](#)

Wakulla Springs 850-561-7276 *Park entry & boat tour fees.*
(Headwaters and river)
Look for manatees from the park's diving platform or various areas of the river via park's tour boats.

11. [Fanning Springs State Park \(FPS\)](#)

Fanning Springs 352-463-3420 *Entrance fee.*
(Spring and spring run on the Suwannee River)
Manatees are occasionally present in Fanning Springs.

12. [Lee County Manatee Park](#)

Fort Myers 239-690-5030 *Parking fee.*
(Orange River and FPL Discharge Canal)
Hundreds of manatees visit Orange River and canal during winter. Gates close at sunset.

13. [Manatee Springs State Park \(FPS\)](#)

Chiefland 352-493-6072 *Entrance fee.*
(Headwaters and spring run on the Suwannee River)
During winter, look for manatees in spring and spring run.

14. [Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge \(USFWS\)](#)

Merritt Island 321-861-0667 *Entrance fee.*
(Canal connects Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon)
View manatees from platform overlooking Haulover Canal.

15. [Manatee Observation and Education Center](#)

Fort Pierce 772-429-6266 *Entrance fee.*
(Moore's Creek and Indian River Lagoon)
Open year-round with many programs. Occasional manatee sightings in winter.

16. [Spring Bayou near Craig and Coburn Parks](#)

Tarpon Springs 727-937-6109
(Sheltered waterway near Florida's Gulf Coast)
November through May, manatees visit freshwater spring bayou near small community parks. Parking limited available.

17. [Tampa Electric Company \(TECO\) Manatee Viewing Center](#)

Apollo Beach 813-228-4289
(TECO discharge canal off of Tampa Bay)
Visitor center, gift shop, overlook and boardwalk where visitors learn about and see hundreds of manatees in TECO's warm water discharge canal.

18. [Wakulla and the St. Marks Rivers Panhandle of Florida](#)

Manatees may be seen on these scenic rivers during the summer months. Canoe rentals are available on both rivers via SR 98 between Newport and Crawfordville and in St. Marks, FL.

19. [Manatee Lagoon – An FPL Eco-Discovery Center](#)

Riviera Beach/West Palm Beach, FL (561)626-2833
Opened in February 2016, this new FREE Palm Beach County educational attraction has an observation deck for viewing manatees up close in the warm waters near the Riviera Beach Next Generation Clean Energy Center. Winter viewing. Education center features hands-on exhibits about manatees and the surrounding Lake Worth Lagoon. Picnic area, gift store, café, webcam, free admission and parking.