

Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest

Find Florida's Gentle Giants on a
Cultural Art Treasure Quest
in North Florida



This Treasure Quest belongs to:



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

With support from the
Save the Manatee Trust Fund





Treasure Quest Information

The Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest is designed for families, class groups, Florida visitors and residents. The challenge with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Quest is to discover the Manatee Cultural Art items found in or near other quaint, historic, popular, educational or random locations in the Big Bend counties of north Florida – Leon, Wakulla and Franklin Counties. These discoveries include local folk art manatees, manatee sculptures and artwork created by professional artists or students, manatee skulls and bones displayed in coastal education centers and even a replica skeleton of a Miocene sea cow (15 million years old!). Most of these sites are free to visit, a few charge an entrance fee and a few may only be available during the work week or during specific times.

Who is up for a Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest?

Do you want to earn FREE manatee decals?

You do? Great!

Bring along your camera or cell phone, and take your family, friends or students to document north Florida's Manatee Cultural Art Treasures! All you have to do is locate designated Manatee Cultural Art sites and follow the directions to earn manatee decal credits. As you embark on your quest, go to MyFWC.com/Manatee to learn more about Florida's gentle giants and Florida's official marine mammal.

Let's get started!

Directions: Use the GPS address listed for each site and visit at least FIVE locations. Document that you or your group discovered the Manatee Cultural Art Treasure based on the site directions. It's that easy! Send your images and information through the www.MyFWC.com **Ask FWC service** (located on the top bar of the agency's web page) with a subject line "Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest" and tell us what you learned. List the date(s) of your Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest and include your address and we will mail you a manatee decal from our collection <http://www.myfwc.com/manatee> for each documented site or extra manatee decal credit noted in the site directions.

NOTE:

- 1. Staff from the FWC Imperiled Species Management Section will choose the manatee decals to send you, as some decals may not be available for free distribution yet.*
- 2. Please let us know if we may use any images you send for future education or promotion purposes. We will send you an FWC permission form to sign if we are interested in any of your images.*
- 3. It will take longer than a day if you want to visit ALL of these locations. Visiting five sites is the minimum goal for this quest. You can visit as many sites listed in any order to receive more decals. Please submit your quest documentation after five site visits.*
- 4. Attention public and private school groups:** *Send in the documentation of the five sites you visited and include the number of students who participated on the Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest. Each student will receive five decals for their quest participation.*
- 5. Manatee decals will be distributed as long as decals are available.*

**Have FUN on your
Treasure QUEST!**



Leon County Tourist Development Visit Tallahassee Information Center (GPS: 30.4396, -84.2815)

Facility hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 1

List the brochures you collected at this site: _____

If you don't know Florida's Big Bend area or the state capital very well, the GPS address above will show you this site's location and help you select a place to park in downtown Tallahassee. You can find the Visitor Center on East Jefferson Street near its intersection with Adams Street Commons (City Hall area). Pick up some local publications to help you on your Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest. **Take a selfie picture with any manatee item you see in the center to earn your manatee decal credit at this site.**

You are on your way!

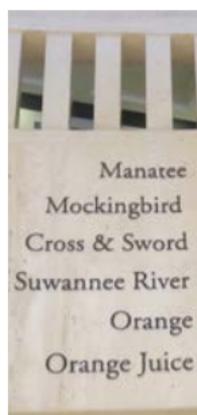
Florida State Capitol - Tallahassee/Leon County (GPS: 30.438, -84.2817)

Facility hours: M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 2

Reference note – “Manatees are _____.”



Your next visit is the Florida State Capitol. Inside the Capitol building (tall white building), locate the House of Representatives chamber (4th floor) where several historic murals and two underwater murals of fresh and coastal waterbodies are found.

Christopher Still, an artist from Tarpon Springs, was commissioned to paint the murals showcased in the chamber. Besides depicting a manatee in its habitat in the “Spring of Life” freshwater panel, the murals include Florida’s history in a unique fashion that draws the viewer into each piece. **Remember to take your picture near the “Spring of Life” (manatee) mural before leaving the chamber in order to receive one of your decal credits.**

Please note that tour/school groups may be in the chamber when you visit and that access to the chamber is limited when legislators are in session.

Extra credit: A reference to manatees is also found in the lobby area. Another decal credit is available for identifying and documenting this reference in the space above.

A visitor center is located on the main lobby level of the Capitol and a vista of Tallahassee is seen from the top floor. Outside the Capitol in Waller Park is the dolphin sculpture “Stormsong” within the Florida Heritage Fountain. The Old Capitol building also offers tours during the week.



Governor's mansion

Florida Governor's Mansion - Tallahassee/Leon County

(GPS: 30.449145, -84.281553)

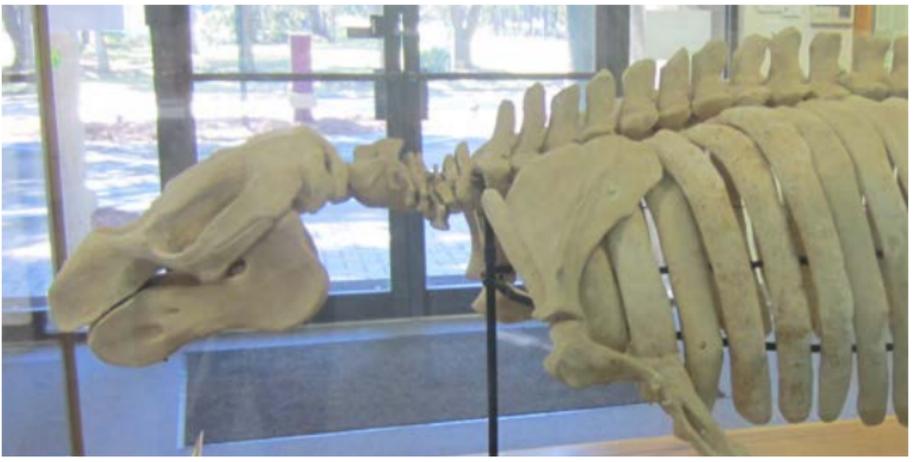
Facility hours: M-F 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., by appointment only (850) 717-9345

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 1

How many manatees are in the sculpture? _____

The public has access to the Governor's mansion only during the week and an appointment is necessary. Call ahead to get on their tour schedule. Here, along with a tour of the mansion, you'll find a bronze sculpture called "Manatee Dance" that local artist Hugh Nicholson created for the Mansion Courtyard in 1990 when Governor and Mrs. Bob Martinez were in residence. The sculpture was the first major piece of artwork commissioned exclusively for the mansion grounds. [Check out the details on the sculpture and remember to take a picture of these beautiful bronze manatees to earn your manatee decal credit at this site.](#)



**Florida Department of
Environmental Protection,
Florida Geological Survey -
Tallahassee/Leon County**
(GPS: 30.474625, -84.351740)

Facility hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Ring bell for entrance or go to main entrance)

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 1

How are manatees and dugongs related? _____

A little known Tallahassee museum is located in the DEP Florida Geological Survey building. In the museum lobby is a replica of a 15-million year old (Middle) Miocene Sea Cow (dugong) skeleton on display in a glass case. The original skeletal bones were unearthed during mining operations in the Floridin Company quarry (Quincy, FL) in 1929 and are now on display in the American Museum of Natural History in the Manhattan Borough of New York City, NY (near the T-Rex). Among many other geological items, state geologists collect fossilized dugong bone pieces from numerous waterways and dig sites and most are stored in this local facility (not necessarily in the museum). Call ahead if you are bringing a tour group (850) 617-0300 or if you have questions about the site. **Remember to take a picture of the dugong skeleton or related items to document your manatee decal credit at this site.**



Woodville Highway and Ace High Stable Road – Woodville/Leon County (GPS: 30.278286, -84.239883)

Hours: Daylight hours only

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 1

You will need to hit the road and head out of Tallahassee for this next Manatee Cultural Art treasure. Head south on SR 363 South Monroe Street/Woodville Highway and pass through Woodville. Look for Ace High Stable Road on your right. (If you reach the Leon/Wakulla County Line and see the Package Store, you've gone too far—turn around). Next, **look for a large manatee carved out of an old tree that is easily seen from the road**. The carving was completed in April 2016. Park on the side of the road (Ace High or Woodville) and **take a few quick pictures for your manatee decal credit**. Please refrain from climbing the sculpture as the carving is on private property. Pay attention to the traffic in this area as well. This rustic tribute to manatees is a welcome cultural folk art addition to the community.

Sign near
Wakulla River





TnT Hideaway – Crawfordville/Wakulla County (GPS: 30.17709, -84.2445)

(Boat rentals on site)

Facility hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 2

Did you see any wild manatees? _____

Continue south on SR 363 until you reach the flashing red light at Coastal Highway 98 and turn right (west). A few miles down the road and off to the left before a bridge is an entry road to TnT Hideaway – a canoe and kayak rental business where you can paddle up or down the Wakulla River. (If you have the time, take a short trip on the river with the chance of actually seeing manatees. The animals are wild and the river runs free, so any sightings you see are definitely not planned at this stop.) Staff on-site provide guidelines for viewing manatees and it is possible to see manatees from the upper open-air deck of the rental building as the animals must pass by this site when they go up river or head back down to the Gulf.

Locals remember TnT Hideaway's original owner, Gretchen Evans, as the area's first "manatee lady." Her family still runs this business and continues to support manatee conservation efforts. **For your manatee decal credit, take a picture of any wild manatees you see or take a picture with any of the manatee signs or items found near the ramp or posted on the building.**

Extra credit: A selfie with Gretchen's daughter will earn you one extra manatee decal credit.

Wakulla Welcome Center (and Brooks Concrete) – Panacea/Wakulla County (GPS: 30.0347, -84.3892)

Facility hours: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 1

Write down a favorite part of this site visit:

Turn left (west) on Coastal Highway 98 when you leave TnT Hideaway. Several miles down the road you'll come to a small town called Panacea. Since you are already driving slowly towards town, look for the Wakulla Welcome Center on your left and park. This stop gives you the opportunity to enjoy the view of the marsh from the center's deck and learn about the area's history, habitats, resources, animals, people and community.

Across the road from the visitor center (use the designated crosswalk), you'll find the old mineral springs that once drew people to Panacea, a local restaurant (Posey's), a concrete business (Brooks Concrete) and your next Manatee Cultural Art Treasure!



Manatees are showcased in the large water-themed tile mural that is on the exterior of the Brooks Concrete business wall—how cool is that?!? Cassie Tucker's art students from Wakulla High School (during 2004 and 2005) created the murals, with support from a Florida Learn & Serve Grant, expertise from Seatile Distributors, Inc. and coordination through Keep Wakulla Beautiful. **Remember to take a picture for your manatee decal credit before moving on to the next site.** Get up close to the murals to appreciate the details.

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab – Panacea/Wakulla County (GPS: 30.0233, -84.3874)

(Entrance fee)

Facility hours:

M-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

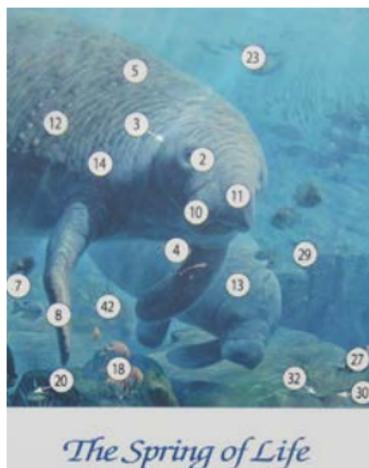
Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun 12 Noon to 4 p.m.

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 1

What is a “musical crustacean”? _____



After leaving the Wakulla County Visitor Center, turn left (west) on Coastal Highway 98 and start looking for the signs for the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab and follow them to the site. An entrance fee will get you into the facility where you can see a detailed underwater mural with manatees on it near the “musical crustaceans” display. Use your imagination until you figure out this location. If you visited the House of Representatives Chamber in the Capitol, you may notice similarities in the mural artwork displayed in various locations around the complex. Reproductions of the artwork displayed in the chamber and additional sea life mural scenes at this site were made possible through musician Jimmy Buffett’s generous support. A panel about the artist, Christopher Still, explains his connection to the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab. Enjoy your visit as you will be rewarded with many opportunities to learn about, see and touch marine animals that live in the nearby Gulf waters. **Remember to take a picture of the manatee mural and the musical crustaceans for your manatee decal credit!**

Note: You can backtrack east to the last site now (Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park) or continue west on Coastal Highway 98 toward Eastpoint if you have enough time in the day or plan to spend the night in the area.

Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory – St. Teresa/Franklin County

(GPS: 29.917520, -84.510788)



Facility hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 1

Name two of the school groups that painted the murals: _____

Several years ago, one of Lanark Village’s residents discovered bones along the Lanark Village coastline that he could not identify. He collected the bones and kept them as part of his seaside collection display. At one of the FSU Coastal and Marine Lab Open House events, he saw similar bones in an FWC display and was then able to identify the bones as manatee bones. It turns out this manatee had not been documented in the FWC manatee mortality database. FWC Imperiled Species Management outreach staff collected the bones—almost a full skeleton of a very large manatee—and after documenting them with research staff, ISM outreach staff was allowed to keep the bones for educational purposes.

Your manatee decal credit at this site is to take a picture of any of the large murals onsite that has a manatee painted in its design. The murals are located near the entrance/exit road. Students from various schools painted the murals and each school is recognized. Please check in with onsite administrative staff if you would like to tour the facilities.



Crooked River Lighthouse – Carrabelle Beach/Franklin County

(GPS: 29.826044, -84.700027)

(Fee only if you climb the lighthouse)

Facility hours: 12 Noon to 5 p.m.
Wednesday through Sunday

Date visited:

Decal credits available: Up to 1 credit

What is the connection between manatees, mermaids and sirens?

(Search the Internet for this information.) _____



Continue on 98 west and travel over the Carrabelle River on your way to Carrabelle Beach where you can visit the Crooked River Lighthouse for your next Manatee Cultural Art Treasure. Turn right after you pass the Carrabelle Beach picnic area access road (beach on your left). **Part of your cultural art treasure at this site is the lighthouse. To get a full manatee decal credit, look for any manatee or mermaid items in the gift shop and take a picture of the item** (one-half credit for a picture of the lighthouse and one-half credit for a picture of a manatee/mermaid item).

Franklin County Visitor Center – Eastpoint/Franklin County

(GPS: 29.7486,
-84.8538)

Facility hours:

M-F 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Date visited:

Decal credits available: Up to 1 credit



Can manatees live in the same habitat as oysters? _____ Why or why not? _____

Right before the town of Eastpoint look for the Franklin County Visitor Center on your right. **Part of your cultural art treasure at this site is Pearlie, an oyster themed mascot that represents the Apalachicola Bay oyster popular in this area and around the world.** To get a full manatee decal credit, look for any manatee or mermaid items in the center to get your decal credit (one-half credit for picture of/with Pearlie, one-half credit for a picture of a manatee/mermaid).

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve – Eastpoint/ Franklin County (GPS: 29.7288, -84.8878)

Facility hours:
Tues-Sat 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Date visited:

Decal credits available: 2

Skulls and bones from various sizes of manatees are found in the Nature Center and in one of the classrooms. In addition to the bone displays, look for books, sculptures, gift items and posters about manatees. **A picture of you with any of these items and a short paragraph (8-10 sentences) about what you learned about manatees from your Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest tour will earn you TWO credits for manatee decals after visiting this site.** (Enter this information in the comment section when you submit your documentation through the AskFWC service.)

Notes: _____



Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park – Wakulla Springs/ Wakulla County

(GPS: 30.2434,
-84.3106)

(Entrance and boat tour
fees)

Park hours: 8 a.m. to 4
p.m. (for tours)/sunset

Date visited:

Decal credits available: up to 1 credit

Did you see any wild manatees? _____

Where were they seen on the river? _____

From Panacea or Eastpoint, set your GPS and head your vehicle east on Coastal Highway 98 and retrace your drive back toward Tallahassee. The Wakulla Springs State Park is located off of SR 267 (Bloxham Cutoff Road) near its intersection with SR 61 (Wakulla Springs Road). Wild manatees are often seen in the Wakulla River and sometimes in the Wakulla Spring headwaters. The animals are starting to stay year round unless it is a really cold winter. Viewing areas include the dive tower and from the river tour boats. During your visit, the park does not guarantee that you will see manatees. The wild manatees in this area can travel to any location in the 14-mile river and may not be where they are easily seen. [Your one decal credit at this site is a picture of any manatees seen within the park.](#) If manatees are not seen during your visit, then your decal credit may consist of a picture of a park ranger and a picture of any manatee/mermaid item you find in the boat tour building/vicinity or the gift shop in the Lodge. Enjoy your visit to the park as there is a lot to see and do once you arrive.



Congratulations for participating in the Manatee Cultural Art Treasure Quest!

The FWC's Imperiled Species Management Manatee Program hopes you enjoyed your Quest.

Remember to review the directions and notes for this quest prior to sending in your information. ISM staff will select and send you a manatee decal from the manatee decal collection for each site and visitor center where you took a picture of the Manatee Cultural Art Treasure featured at that site and followed the directions to obtain the manatee decal credit(s)—a minimum of five sites must be visited before any decals are sent. You do not have a time limit for participation and can visit the sites in any order you choose.

For more information about manatees, the manatee decal collection or to find other places where you can see wild or captive manatees in Florida, please visit www.MyFWC.com/manatee.



Thank you for your interest in and support of Florida's manatees—one of Florida's unique native species.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Imperiled Species Management Section

[Education and Outreach](#)

620 South Meridian Street, 6-A
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
(850) 922-4330

06/17