



**Plantation on Crystal River
9301 West Fort Island Trail
Crystal River, FL 34429**



Welcome to the Plantation on Crystal River. This beautiful resort has made many wonderful changes since ECF's last visit here in 2014. It's easy to see the way all rooms reflect the best of Florida's southern hospitality. The resort offers well appointed guest rooms, villas and suites. The hub of activity at the Plantation is the main manor, nestled within 232 acres of lush, tropical landscape, panoramic bay-front lawns and rolling greens adorned with centuries-old majestic live oaks and palms.

Given its rustic location in Crystal River surrounded by the beauty of Florida's Nature Coast – it's no surprise the pace is set more by the ebb and flow of the tides than with the internet, your watch or cell phone. At the Plantation, you can set your own pace.

Conference Guests will receive the following complimentary guest services during their stay including:

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|---|-----------------|
| WiFi in all guestrooms and public areas | Sand Volleyball |
| Auto & Boat Parking | Tennis |
| Driving Range | Pickle Ball |
| Outdoor Resort Heated Pool | Outdoor Giant |
| Hot Tub | Chess |
| Fitness Center | & Checkers Pad |
| Card Tables and Billiards in the Club House | Horseshoes |





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*Things to do at Plantation on Crystal River Resort
while you enjoy a little break in your day to day routine.
Stop by the Registration Desk for all the details.*

On-Site Golf Rate for 18 holes with cart

On-Site Aveda Spa: A full service salon and spa offering a wide selection of products and services.
Closed Monday & Tuesday By Appointment Wednesday & Thursday, 10 AM – 5 PM
Friday & Saturday & Sunday 11 AM – 4 PM

Adventure Center (Please check with the Adventure Center to confirm current rates)

- **Manatee Snorkel Tour** – Includes the 2-2.5 hour guided tour, mask, snorkel and wetsuit.
- **One Hour River Tour.**
- **Sunset Cruise** – One hour and 30 minute cruise.
- **Stand Up Paddle Board, Pontoon, Kayak and Jon Boat Rentals**
- **Saltwater Fishing Charters** ½ day charters



6 Facts About Manatees

November is Manatee Awareness Month, and for many it might inspire a number of questions about these amazing mammals. What exactly do these gentle giants do for the environment and why are they so different from every other sea animal?

No matter what time of year it is, manatees deserve to be celebrated. These amazing creatures fulfill a unique niche by serving as indicator species for ecosystems across the United States. Because of their reliance on the health of their habitat, manatees often act as a signal of their environment's well-being.

Explore some of the most important (and amusing) facts about manatees

1. The cow-like creatures are thought to have inspired mermaid legends. During his first journey to the Americas, Christopher Columbus caught a glimpse of three mermaids, writing that “they are not so beautiful as they are said to be, for their faces had some masculine traits.”

2. Manatees never leave the water but typically come up for air every 5 minutes. However, it depends on a manatee's level of activity: when it is resting, the aquatic mammal can hold its breath for up to 20 minutes. When it is exerting great amounts of energy, a manatee may surface as often as every 30 seconds.

3. Manatees are more closely related to the elephant than they are to other marine creatures. Each species of manatee is a member of the sirenian family, which shares a common ancestor with the elephant, armadillo and small gopher-like hyrax.

4. Manatees eat more than a 10th of their weight in food every day. Manatees are herbivores, with a diet of more than 60 species of underwater, shoreline and floating plants, but primarily eat seagrass along the sea floor. Their diet is a large part of why manatees are such good indicators of an ecosystem's health; when manatees are thriving, it means that their immediate environment is flourishing with life.



5. Manatees usually mull around at about 5 miles an hour, but can motor up to 15 miles per hour in short bursts. Because they are such slow-moving animals most of the time, algae and barnacles can often be found on the backs of manatees.

6. Manatees can't turn their heads like we do. Manatees do not possess the neck vertebra that most other mammals have – meaning that they must turn their entire bodies if they want to look around.