



WINTER SEASON

Official 'Manatee Season' begins November 15th and runs through the end of March, but keep in mind that these are wild animals that do not have a calendar or smart phone to remind them when the time is coming!

STORM FRONT COMING TOMORROW?

Humans may go to the store planning to stay in, grab some food and water so that we can take shelter. Manatee do the same thing!. The day before severe weather can be challenging even in the cool weather seasons.



70 DEGREE BELOW

Oh...if it was only that easy! Yes, we must have a sense of humor about this as many visitors do not. When the temps in the Gulf of Mexico dip below 70degrees (around 68-69 degrees) the animals will begin to move into King's Bay quickly. Sometimes the difference of one night or even a few hours is dramatic! Ultimate time to shoot for a manatee encounter? After a period of consecutive cold nights with no strange weather phenomena in the forecast (storms, high winds, extra low tides).



MANATEE ALERT!!

Attention all manatee, it is almost november 15th! You must get a move on so you do not disappoint the many people coming to see you! High-tail it into king's bay this week or you will be late and miss out on opening day!

SCREAMING LOW TIDES??

Well, there are just less comfortable areas for manatee to congregate and regardless of season, this can make for difficult conditions. Extremely high tides can make finding them tough as well. When the water is very deep, they can travel anywhere they want and we can't always predict finding them where they typically gather.



LUCKILY WITH OUR STAFF OF EXPERIENCED MANATEE EXPERTS, CAPTAINS AND GUIDES WE CAN MAXIMIZE YOUR CHANCES OF FINDING THESE ENDANGERED BEASTS!



SPRING AND FALL

These transitional seasons can be hard to predict and we are really in the hands of Mother Nature. Conditions are variable and tomorrow almost certainly WILL NOT be like yesterday! Please be understanding and patient, have realistic expectations and we will have a great time!



MARCH AND APRIL

Crystal River manatee have been basically stuck here for weeks. They have gobbled up their food sources and in many cases, have been without sustenance for a very long time. Warming spring days can be our most challenging periods. Temperatures that raise and lower on a daily basis can confuse the animals and make their behavior unpredictable for even those of us that have been doing this for years.



SPRING

is also complicated by crowds of humans. This seems to be one of the busiest times and as we all know, Florida is a top Spring Break destination for people all over the world! Hundreds of humans descend upon these water ways daily hoping to find these elusive animals. More people, combined with less manatee makes for very challenging conditions. Aim for just after dawn and avoid weekends and Holidays whenever possible.



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

Conditions can really go either way! Our population will slowly start to climb but if it warms for a few days it can be particularly tough as manatee know that winter is coming and they must bulk up. The rich grass beds in The Gulf, near the mouth of the Crystal River, hold enough food sources for thousands of manatee; however, our Special Use Permits relate to the Wildlife Refuge and tours are not operated in the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico. Again, mornings when the air is cool and crisp will be your best chance at a good experience.



AUTUMN

does bring us one consistent blessing...it tends to be a slower time for tourism. You can bet that there will be less people visiting the area which means less people on your tour and in the water. A wonderful time to take advantage of lower travel fares and lodging in the area is also very affordable during this season. With realistic expectations and local businesses eagerly catering to your needs, this can be a wonderful season to travel to Crystal River!

SUMMER SEASON

Our small population of 'Resident Manatee' are a scientific anomaly that really set King's Bay apart from other manatee destinations. A combination of mothers with calves (they often times do not teach migratory patterns the first year of life), rehabilitated animals that enjoy the protection of the Bay, a few social, wacky manatee that never leave and orphaned animals denied the lesson of migration mean that we can consistently find at least a few manatee even on the warmest days. When visiting be fully informed and DO NOT expect to find the animals near the clear water of the springs. In warm weather, there is no reason for them to be near the springs and they tend to be on the move munching away where water is not always so clear.



JULY - AUGUST

This is a very busy time in Citrus County! This is the season when locals and Floridians frequent the waterways and children are off school meaning that families travel as well. Our weather patterns also make visiting more tricky with consistent afternoon thunderstorms and potential severe conditions. Once again realistic expectations combined with an open mind and heart deliver your best chance to have a great time. Decide to have fun...and you will!



THIS IS AN AWESOME TIME TO CONSIDER A SCALLOPING ADVENTURE, AN AIRBOAT RIDE AND OUR FAMILY FUN DAY TOUR! ALL OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE PRIME IN SUMMER, WHEN MANATEE ARE NOT!