

Gentle Manatees Love Marco



Greetings from Marco/Naples !

We found this entertaining piece about Island Manatees and thought you would enjoy it – we enjoy watching the Manatee families frolicking in our waterways frequently. Look forward to hearing from you.

*Your Marco Island/South Naples Realtors,
Alan, Linda, Cathy, Nancy,
Tom, Mari-Jo, Rachel & Robin*

There are live, legendary mermaids plying their favorite waterways – the canals of Marco Island. We know them as the gentle Manatees. Ancient sailors thought the sea cows were beautiful Mermaids luring them toward shore. (Ancient sailors were at sea a long, long time . . .)

Chances are, if you spend much time near the water, you'll see one of these harmless mammals munching on water plants.

“Manatees go out of their way to interact with humans,” says Brent Scheneman of the Manatee Alert Hotline in Ft. Myers. “They’re friendlier than porpoises. They’ll go out to the side of a boat and stick their head out. They have a mystical quality – like they’re trying to get OUR attention.”

The slow-moving animals can grow up to 14 feet and weigh well over 1,000 pounds. Their large, seal-like bodies taper to a spatula-shaped tail.

The number of Manatees increases dramatically around Marco during the winter months as they travel farther south in search of warmer waters. It’s not unusual for Sheneman to count 50 animals a day during season – “More per square mile than anywhere else in the world. They like deeper bodies of water,” he said. “There aren’t many deep-water spots in nature, so they’re attracted to man-made areas like Marco’s deep canals. And they are not a displaced water mammal; their environment is not encroached on. They have selectively adapted to Marco Island where they can hide among the mangroves.”

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Ron Green

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