



The Sunshine State

By DaLynn Jacobs

Everywhere you look, all you see is sunshine. This is how many visitors to Florida explain their reaction to this sunshine state. Florida is a place where many people live. However, to many visitors it appears quite tropical.

Florida is a state that has a lot of beaches. The sand is white and soft; the water is a clear blue, so clear you can see the bottom of the beach. The sky is bluer than blue itself. The highest point elevation is in Lake Wood Park; Florida's highest point elevation is 345 feet above sea level. Florida is 2,750 square miles; there are more than 30,000 lakes in Florida.

Florida's warm climate and sunny skies draw people to the state year round. Although the temperature is hot, breezes from the ocean cool things down. The weather can be classified as tropical or sub-tropical. It's usually sunny, but it can also be wet. Rain usually comes in the summer. When heavy thunderstorms, floods, and hurricanes strike, they can wreck everything in their path.

Some of the more common animals in Florida are the manatees and the dolphins. Manatees sleep on the bottom of the ocean and float up every 20 minutes to breathe. Manatees usually come to the surface every 3-4 minutes to breathe fresh air. Instead of

fur, manatees have whiskers on their skin and a thick layer of fat to keep them warm.



The dolphin is a marine mammal. This means that it is warm blooded; it has some fur but mostly whiskers, and it gives live birth, makes milk for its babies, and lives in salt water. Some other kinds of dolphins live in fresh water. Dolphins like to live in warm, shallow waters along the coast. Sometimes they come into larger rivers like St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida.



Just like the birds that migrate south every year, many older people, called snowbirds, migrate to Florida's warmer climate in the winter. These "snowbirds" aren't the only ones moving to Florida. Many people who have visited and decided to stay have made Florida one of the fastest growing states in the country. Right now, it is the fourth most popular state. Most of these people, 85 percent, live in cities, especially along the coast. The total population in Florida is 15,982,378 people. There are 78% White, 16.8%

Hispanic, 14.6% African American, 3% other, 2.4% two or more races, 1.7% Asian, 0.3% American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, 0.1% Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander.

Tourists do visit Florida. However, it can cost a lot of money so do some research about air fares and you can get some good deals to get all the way to Florida. If you have the money and the desire to make the trip, you can visit this unique sunshine state.



Florida beach