

# FLORIDA FUN– 2023

## MANATEE MADNESS AND ALLIGATOR ANGUISH

What a nice surprise to find so many things to do on this trip in Florida.

We started with our flight going into Fort Lauderdale, only to have the airport flooded with three feet of water. Diverted to Miami, we were starting off with some concern. But....all turned out to be perfect weather the whole trip. The first half of our trip was about kayaking with the manatees. What fun we had going into the mangroves and finding manatees in the clear waters coming right up to our boats. Such beautiful and docile creatures....really took me to a world in the past. It was relaxing to just watch them glide peacefully in the safety of

protected areas. Lovely. Not the same feeling when we kayaked another day in the swamps of the Everglades– just the entrance of the launch area gave me questions as to exactly why I was doing this. Once feeling more relaxed, we certainly did see alligators—some right by our boat! THEY got the right of way! Gulp. We kayaked through mangrove tunnels, zig zagging to open waters and finding secret white sand beaches and then crystal clear waters where we saw turtles, birds, more alligators and even a few more manatees. This part of our trip was the highlight of our trip. It was three days of physical exercise coupled with a great adventurous experience. FUN.



## MAGIC KINGDOM, EPCOT AND THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Well I guess everyone should do all this at least once in their lives. Take a credit card, it's expensive to say the least. Expensive and demands a lot of walking. Poor feet, no way around it– these theme parks are big and could take days and days to see and do everything they have to offer. At Magic Kingdom, we took most of the thrill rides – that was the best part even if we waited up to an hour to get on some. Yarg. Onward to Epcot, I was a bit disappointed. The main area alone sprawls across three acres and takes a lot of planning and energy to get to all the sites or things you may want to see. There was a lot more stores for shopping and tourist traps than I remembered from years ago– maybe I forgot or enjoyed shopping more then. Anyway, it offered more gifts to buy in each countries pavilion, then it did any cultural information. Boring.

Then for our last day, we went to the Space Center. Now that impressed me more than I expected. facts, the mission, mock-on exhibits. for both a visual and a learning experience.

It was filled with outer space history of American's space mis-ups, movies, tours and hands- Everything was well thought out



Very nice indeed.

