

EXHIBIT TRIVIA & FACTS

Water Walk Trivia

1. Tampa Bay covers nearly 400 sq. miles and is Florida's largest open-water estuary. Estuaries are places where fresh water from rivers and uplands meets the salt water of the sea.
2. We can't survive without water. Water is the main ingredient of life on Earth.
3. Coastal uplands protect the coastline from flooding and erosion during storms. Sand dunes, shrubs and trees in the uplands act as a barrier that keeps salt water out of areas where fresh water plants and animals thrive.
4. The Florida scrub-jay is the only bird species that doesn't live in any other state.
5. The gopher tortoise lives in coastal uplands throughout the southeastern United States and may live more than 60 years.
6. Four species of mangroves grow in the Tampa Bay area. They are: red mangrove, black mangrove, white mangrove and buttonwood mangrove. The mangrove is one of the few plants that can thrive in salt water. Mangroves are protected by law.
7. There are more than 25,000 acres of sea grasses that sway beneath the surface of the waters of Tampa Bay. There are 52 different kinds of marine sea grasses in the world. Seven of them are found in Florida waters.
8. Florida has many plant and animal species that are invasive or not native to the environment. Among the invasive animal species: Asian green mussel, marine toad, Asian swamp eel.
9. Female manatees are often larger than the males. An adult manatee can weigh 3,000 pounds and be as big as 13 ft. long.
10. The Atlantic bottlenose dolphin is the only dolphin species that calls Tampa Bay home. More than 400 live here in small groups, or pods, of two to 15 dolphins.