



Environmentally Friendly Hotels in Florida

by Cicely A. Richard, Demand Media

Florida collects a large portion of its revenue from ecotourism. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission estimates that \$7.8 billion annually comes from visitors seeking outdoor adventures. Florida has more than 200 "green" hotels or environmentally friendly hotels targeting these visitors. Several hotels are on or near nature preserves or one of Florida's 161 state parks, and offer guests such outdoor activities as hiking, boating and fishing.

- **Vero Beach Hotel and Spa**

Vero Beach Hotel and Spa is a AAA Four-Diamond, 113-room beachfront resort on Central Florida's Treasure Coast. Environmentally friendly amenities include recycling bins in guest rooms, bathroom amenities made of natural ingredients, energy-efficient lighting, low-flow toilets and faucets, and organic/fair trade coffees, teas and snacks. Housekeeping uses eco-friendly cleaning products. The hotel has an oceanfront heated pool and a fitness center, and it donates unused or gently used amenities to community programs. Vero Beach Hotel and Spa 3500 Ocean Drive Vero Beach, FL 32963 772-231-5666 verobeachhotelandspa.com

- **Clifton Miami Beach Hotel**

Clifton Miami Beach Hotel, in South Beach, uses environmentally friendly products. It offers bamboo flooring and furniture, carpets made from recycled products and energy-efficient air conditioning and water heating systems. The hotel collects and stores recycled products. All 35 guest rooms feature energy-efficient windows, water-conserving toilets and faucets, bed linens that require less water to wash and Natural Bath products in biodegradable packages. Hotel amenities include 24-hour concierge, hybrid car rentals and deluxe continental breakfast buffet. Clifton Miami Beach Hotel 1343 Collins Ave. Miami Beach, FL 33139 305-455-1630 cliftonsouthbeach.com

- **Plantation Golf Resort and Spa**

Plantation Golf Resort and Spa in Crystal River, a member of the "Green" Hotels Association, is 75 miles north of Tampa. In 2008, it received the World Travel Award as North America's Leading Green Hotel. This resort hotel is on Florida's Nature Coast, an area with protected lands for animal preserves and habitats with endangered species like manatees and native Florida trees. Plantation conducts a water and solid waste conservation project. Hotel activities include eco-tours, consisting of Do Not Disturb kayaking adventures and guided tours of the Columbian Indian mounds. All 202 rooms have televisions with cable and video game consoles. Plantation Golf Resort and Spa 9301 W. Fort Island Trail Crystal River, FL 34429 plantationgolfandspa.com

- **Wildwood Resort**

Wildwood Resort, a nature-based hotel and golf resort in Wakulla County, is 30 miles south of Tallahassee. The Florida Department of Environment Protection has approved this hotel as a Certified Green Lodge. Located near Apalachicola National Forest and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Wildwood Resort hires Green Guides certified by the Tallahassee Community College Eco-Tourism Institute. Nature lovers may fish, canoe, hike or boat on preserved property. The 18-hole golf course boasts rolling hills, ancient oak trees and native wildlife. Rooms feature cable television and free Internet access. Hotel amenities include a solar heated pool and tennis courts. Wildwood Resort 3896 Coastal Hwy 98 Crawfordville, FL 32327 850-926-4455 innatwildwood.com