

What to Do If You Encounter **an Alligator in Okeechobee**

Stay Back



You should try to keep more than 30 feet between you and the animal. If you can hear the alligator hissing at you, you are too close.

Stick to the Sun



Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn. Stay out of murky waters during these times to reduce your chance of being attacked.

Don't Think They're Slow



You should know that despite the way they look, alligators can move quite fast. If it begins to move toward you, back away slowly. If it speeds up, turn and run.

Know Their Habitat



Alligators love to sun themselves, and they tend to sun along the banks of water. Avoid these areas if you can, especially if there are tall grasses.

Don't Fight for Fish



If you fish in any of Florida's waterways, don't play a game of "I was here first!" with an alligator. If you see a gator moving toward your spot, pack up and move.

Don't Feed the Gators



If you are having a picnic, make sure everything you brought with you goes home with you or is placed in a proper trash receptacle to avoid being hurt by an alligator.

Avoid Piles of Grass



If you are walking near the water's edge, avoid piles of twigs, sticks and grass. You could be looking at an alligator nest, which are fiercely defended by females.

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