



Tour: **ECO-EXPEDITION FLORIDA**
Middle School Edition

Destination: Orlando, Florida
Itinerary: 6-days / 5-nights
Specialization: Biology, Ecology & General Sciences

ECO-EXPEDITION FLORIDA - MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION					
Orlando, Cape Canaveral & Gulf Coast, Florida					
Day		Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Sun	Travel to Orlando, Florida and transfer to hotel		Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing Local Dinner & Mini-Golf Challenge	
2	Mon	NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center			Hotel Dinner
3	Tues	Orlando Science Center & Lab Workshop	Wild Florida - Northern Everglades with Airboat Ride, Alligator Master Class & Lunch	WonderWorks & Comedy Pizza Party	
4	Wed	Clearwater Marine Aquarium & Marine Biology Master Class Series + Lunch			Hotel Dinner
5	Thur	Manatee Master Class + Swim with the Manatees in Crystal River	Dolphin Safari - Gulf of Mexico Boat Tour	Dinner & Bowling at the Main Event	
6	Fri	Free time; transfer to airport; depart for home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.

A Message From Our Team

At STEM Study Tours, we believe students learn best when they're immersed, engaged, and inspired. Every program is built with intention - blending hands-on discovery, academic depth, and meaningful experiences that help students see the world (and themselves) in new ways. Our goal is for each itinerary to spark curiosity, build confidence, and create moments students carry long after the trip ends. We're honored to partner with schools who share that vision and to help bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

— Michele & The Hammock Expeditions Team

Why Travel With Hammock Expeditions & STEM Study Tours

Schools choose us because we design programs that are organized, intentional, and built around real learning. Our itineraries combine strong academics with smooth logistics, giving teachers confidence and giving students opportunities to explore, ask questions, and grow. We partner with trusted local experts, communicate clearly, and support groups every step of the way so educators can focus on their students - not the logistics.

What Sets Us Apart

- **Purpose-Driven Itineraries** - Students actively participate in meaningful, real-world learning.
- **Safety, Structure & Professionalism** - From 24-hour support to vetted partners and clear communication, we ensure teachers can focus on their students while we handle the logistics.
- **Hands-On, High-Impact Learning** - Our programs emphasize field science, conservation, and experiential learning - the kind that sticks with students long after the trip ends.
- **Student-Centered Design** - We balance learning with fun, reflection with adventure, and structure with flexibility. Every day is crafted to keep students engaged, energized, and supported.
- **A Team That Travels With Purpose** - We're educators, planners, naturalists, and travel professionals who care deeply about student growth. Your goals become our goals.

Our Commitment to You

When you travel with us, you gain a partner who understands your vision, anticipates your needs, and delivers an experience your students will remember for years to come. We're here to support your school, empower your students, and make every moment meaningful.

We want to be your educational partner. Let us know how we may serve you.

Michele, Christina, Izzy, Dana, Taylor, and the Team



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Day 1

Dinner included

Travel to Orlando, Florida, generally arriving at in the late afternoon. After retrieving luggage, we'll board our transportation and travel to the hotel. After check-in, we'll have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation meeting and get settled in. Later, we'll have time to rest and relax or if you arrive early enough and would like to plan an afternoon activity, we're happy to make the arrangements. There's plenty to do both at the hotel and in the nearby areas. Dinner will be at the hotel or in a nearby restaurant.

Pirates Cove Mini-Golf Challenge - Plunge into the legendary world of 18th century buccaneers! Putt your way through mountain caves, across a full-scale pirate ship, over footbridges and under cascading waterfalls--all amid a fun-filled atmosphere of beautiful landscaping and enchanting pirate lore.



Day 2

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



NASA's Kennedy Space Center - Students step into the heart of America's space program at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, where towering rockets, real spacecraft, and immersive exhibits bring the story of exploration to life. They'll stand beneath the massive Saturn V moon rocket, come face-to-face with *Space Shuttle Atlantis*, and experience interactive simulations that reveal how astronauts train, launch, and live in space. Behind-the-scenes touring shows them active launch pads and the iconic Vehicle Assembly Building, connecting classroom STEM concepts to real engineering and mission operations. It's an inspiring, high-energy visit that helps students imagine their own future in science, technology, and discovery.

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION NOTE – Please be aware that this day includes 10-hours of motorcoach time. As NASA is approximately a 1.5-hour drive from your hotel, the time reserved includes 3 hours of travel time plus 7-hours at NASA. If your group desires more time, we will be happy to book this for you but please be aware that motorcoach time is calculated hourly and you will be responsible for any additional fees incurred.

Day 3

Breakfast, sandwich lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:

Orlando Science Center & Lab Workshop - At the Orlando Science Center, students jump into a world of hands-on STEM where curiosity drives every moment. They'll explore interactive exhibits on engineering, ecosystems, physics, and space science, all designed to make big concepts feel accessible and fun. Their visit includes a guided lab workshop, where an OSC educator leads them through a focused, age-appropriate investigation — anything from testing



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forces and motion to experimenting with chemical reactions or exploring the science of light. Students work in small groups, use real lab tools, and follow the scientific process to make predictions, gather data, and draw conclusions. It's an engaging, confidence-building experience that helps middle schoolers see themselves as scientists in action.

Please understand that Lab experiences are dependent upon what Orlando Science Center programming is available based on your dates of travel.

Wild Florida - Students get an unforgettable taste of Florida's wild side at Wild Florida, where airboats, wildlife, and hands-on encounters come together in one high-energy adventure. They'll skim across the headwaters of the Northern Everglades on an airboat ride, spotting alligators, wading birds, and hidden marsh ecosystems while learning how these wetlands support Florida's biodiversity. Back on land, the Wildlife Park immerses them in conservation stories through up-close views of native and exotic species, from alligators and crocodiles to sloths, lemurs, and big cats. Interactive animal exhibits and keeper talks help students understand habitats, adaptations, and the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems. It's a fun, educational experience that connects real wildlife encounters with meaningful STEM learning.



WonderWorks & The Outta Control Magic Comedy Dinner Show – Students dive into a world of imagination and hands-on science at WonderWorks, where more than 100 interactive exhibits let them experiment with physics, weather, light, sound, and engineering in playful, memorable ways. They can lie on a bed of nails, feel hurricane-force winds, design and test their own structures, and explore the upside-down “laboratory” that sparks curiosity at every turn. The evening wraps up with the high-energy WonderWorks Comedy Pizza Show, where students enjoy an all-you-can-eat pizza dinner while a fast-paced, family-friendly performer mixes magic, comedy, and audience participation. It's a fun, laughter-filled finale that keeps the energy high and the group engaged.

Day 4

Breakfast, sandwich lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium – Students spend a full, immersive day exploring marine science and rescue work at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, home to real-world conservation efforts and rescued marine animals. Their school program blends behind-the-scenes learning with hands-on discovery as educators guide them through rescue, rehabilitation, and release practices used for dolphins, sea turtles, otters, and other coastal species. Students rotate through interactive labs, animal care demonstrations, and exhibit explorations that highlight anatomy, adaptations, ocean health, and the challenges facing marine wildlife. Throughout the day, they meet animal ambassadors, observe veterinary spaces, and connect classroom STEM concepts to real conservation careers. It's a meaningful, science-rich experience that shows students how humans can protect and restore our oceans.



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We always suggest our groups watch the film – **A Dolphin’s Tale** (2011) – to learn more about the Clearwater Marine Hospital. There’s also a follow-up!

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION NOTE – Please be aware that this day includes 12-hours of motorcoach time. As Clearwater is approximately a 2-hour drive from your hotel, the time reserved includes 4 hours for travel time plus 8-hours in Clearwater. If your school desires more time, we will be happy to book this for you but please be aware that motorcoach time is calculated hourly and you will be responsible for any additional fees incurred.

Day 5

Breakfast, sandwich lunch & dinner included

Today’s activities include:

Snorkel with the Manatees – Students embark on a gentle, unforgettable wildlife encounter as they snorkel with Florida’s iconic manatees in the clear, spring-fed waters of Crystal River. Under Captain Tracy’s guidance, they learn how to observe these slow-moving “sea cows” respectfully while floating quietly in their natural habitat. Before entering the water, she provides a marine education briefing on manatee biology, behavior, and conservation challenges, helping students understand why these animals depend on healthy springs and protected ecosystems. The experience blends adventure with stewardship, giving students a rare, up-close look at one of Florida’s most beloved species. Wetsuits and snorkel gear included.



Dolphin Safari – Captain Tracy leads students on an exciting Dolphin Safari into the Gulf of Mexico, where they search for wild bottlenose dolphins in their coastal environment. As the boat cruises through open water, she shares engaging lessons on dolphin communication, feeding behaviors, and the interconnected marine ecosystems that support life along Florida’s Gulf Coast. Students observe natural dolphin activity from the deck, learn how researchers identify individuals, and gain insight into the importance of protecting marine habitats. It’s a fun, science-rich outing that connects real wildlife observation with meaningful marine education.

IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION NOTE – Please be aware that this day includes 10-hours of motorcoach time. As Homosassa is approximately a 2-hour drive from your hotel, the time reserved includes 4 hours for travel time plus 6-hours in Homosassa. If your school desires more time, we will be happy to book this for you but please be aware that motorcoach time is calculated hourly and you will be responsible for any additional fees incurred.

The Main Event: Dinner, Bowling & Arcade - Students wrap up their day with a high-energy evening at Main Event Orlando, where dinner, bowling, and arcade fun create the perfect mix of movement and laughter. After a casual, kid-friendly meal, they hit the lanes for a friendly bowling challenge that keeps everyone cheering and engaged. The excitement continues in the expansive arcade, where students team up or compete in everything



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from classic games to modern interactive attractions. It's an upbeat, social night that gives the group time to unwind, celebrate, and enjoy a shared experience together.

Reflection Circle - Before heading to the airport, students gather for a final reflection on their week in Florida — a chance to celebrate everything they've learned, experienced, and accomplished together. From hands-on STEM labs to behind-the-scenes discoveries, they look back on the moments that challenged them, inspired them, and brought the group closer. It's a warm, meaningful pause in the day where students share highlights, thank their leaders, and recognize how much they've grown. With new confidence, new friendships, and a deeper understanding of the world around them, the group begins their journey home — carrying memories that will stay with them long after the trip ends.

Day 6

Breakfast included (dependent upon travel time)

Rise and shine Florida! Following breakfast and depending on travel times, we'll have the morning free then will start to say goodbye, taking memories with us that will last forever!



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Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers
5-nights' accommodation in Orlando
Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure
Boxed lunches on Days 3, 4 & 5
Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers
NASA Kennedy Space Center Excursion & Visitor's Center
Orlando Science Center with Lab Program (not available in summer)
Airboat Eco-Tour in the Northern Everglades plus Wildlife Park
Clearwater Marine Aquarium & Marine Biology Series
Snorkel with the Manatees
Dolphin Safari Cruise
Mini-Golf Challenge
Bowling at the Main Event
Personal Tour Director
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required
Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
Transfers to/from home airport
Lunches on days not specified, nor snacks or beverages other than at designated mealtimes
Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions, vegetarians, halal and in some cases vegan)
Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment / Transport not shown in Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.
Gratuities – drivers, hotel services, local guides, tour director
Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH
Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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