



# STEM STUDY TOURS

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

*Tour:* Florida Bio-Blast  
*Destination:* Orlando, Florida  
*Itinerary:* 6-days / 5-nights in Florida  
*Specialization:* Biology, Ecology, Space Science

Florida Bio-Blast				
Day		Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Sun	Travel to Orlando, Florida and transfer to hotel		Local Dinner & Mini-Golf Challenge
2	Mon	NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center		Local Dinner
3	Tues	Advanced Bio Lab at Orlando Science Center	Wild Florida - Northern Everglades Airboat Ride, Alligator Master Class, Wildlife Park & Lunch	WonderWorks & Pizza Party
4	Wed	Clearwater Marine Aquarium (Winter's Dolphin Tale), Marine Biology Master Class Series & Lunch		Local Dinner
5	Thur	Swim with the Manatees in Crystal River & Manatee Master Class	Dolphin Safari - Gulf of Mexico Boat Tour	Farewell Dinner & The Wheel at ICON Park
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.



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## Day 1

Dinner included

Travel to Florida arriving at in the late afternoon or early evening. Upon arriving, you'll board your motorcoach and transfer to your 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 a nearby restaurant this evening followed by a Mini-golf challenge!

**Sample Hotel: Springhill Suites, International Drive** - Innovatively designed and ideally located for our groups, this suite hotel is a great place to relax, refuel and enjoy everything the area has to offer. Located minutes from great dining and attractions, groups will make themselves at home in spacious suites that include two queen beds, a pull-out sofa sleeper, mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, complimentary high-speed Internet and more. Hotel amenities include an on-site fitness center, an outdoor heated pool, a business center, and a guest market. Breakfast is served at our hotel each morning.



**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 meticulously kept landscaping and enchanting pirate lore.

## Day 2

Breakfast & dinner included

Rise and shine Florida! After a great breakfast, we'll start off our tour with a fantastic day! We'll board our motorcoach and head to Cape Canaveral, home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

**NASA's Kennedy Space Center** - Your full day of exploration includes real space hardware, authentic attractions, inspiring exhibits and hands-on experiences. The incredible accomplishments of the Apollo moon program return to life in the amazing Apollo/Saturn V Center. In back-to-back IMAX® theatres, you'll feel the thrill of space exploration on five-story screens as you "float" right alongside NASA Astronauts. On guided tours into exclusive areas, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at Kennedy Space Center's working space flight facilities. Strap in and experience interactive space flight simulators at the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Touch a real piece of Mars, see gigantic rockets, board the Space Shuttle Explorer and much more.

Your exploration of Kennedy Space Center starts with one of their world-renowned tours, where you depart the Visitor Complex to see awesome NASA facilities,



including the massive launch pads, gigantic Vehicle Assembly Building, and exploring the awe-inspiring Apollo/Saturn V Center. Check out the Visitor Complex when you return, from live action theatrical shows like Mad Mission to Mars, to the inspiring Astronaut Encounter briefing with an actual NASA Astronaut - one of the few people on Earth who have been to space. View ten-story high rockets from all eras of space exploration in the Rocket Garden, walk through a full-size Space Shuttle mock-up, see IMAX space films on gigantic five-story screens, and see an actual Gemini program capsule on display in Early Space Exploration.



After our full day at Kennedy Space Center, we'll have dinner locally. It might be a great night for a walk, or even pool time!

**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

Good morning Orlando! After breakfast, we'll transfer to the Orlando Science Center for a hands-on Biology experience in the lab!



**Orlando Science Center: Advanced BioLab** - a place that inspires curiosity and exploration and truly one of the great activities in Orlando. With four floors of exciting exhibits, amazing giant screen movies and engaging live programming, the Science Center is committed to learning by offering programs that help students discover the magic of science; bringing science to life with interactive learning, live presentations and experienced instructors.

During the Advanced BioLab students will explore how the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in a plant terrarium will change during photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Discover the different ways stimulants and depressants will affect the physiological activity in the body. Find which organelles an animal cell and a plant cell have in common with wet-mount and methylene blue stained cheek and onion cells. Determine the probability of possible combinations of alleles that can result in a generation when creating an Orlando Science Center family tree.

Following our morning in the lab, we'll head outdoors for a little adventure in the Northern Everglades region with Wild Florida.



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**Wild Florida** - Located 45-minutes outside of Orlando, a visit into the northern Florida Everglades will be the wildest adventure you'll find in Central Florida. Experience a part of Florida that hasn't changed much from when early pioneers arrived in covered wagons in the 1800s. Climb aboard a U.S. Coast Guard certified airboat and catch a glimpse of alligators, eagles, turkeys, wild boars, roseate spoonbills, and other native creatures. Stroll through the Wildlife Park where you can see lemurs, sloths, zebras, and other animals native to South America, Africa, and Australia. Want to take a trip back in time to one of the first cattle operations in Central Florida? Hop aboard the Ranch Buggy Tour for a look at a working cattle operation that can trace its roots to the 1850s. Wild Florida is a feast for the eyes and the soul.



**Educational Components:** 1) Airboat Eco-Tour: Students will see a variety of animal and plant wildlife identified by airboat captains. Topics covered will include the Florida Ecosystem, native and invasive species, and interdependence attributes. 2) Alligator Presentation: Students will get an up-close look at alligators with an in-depth presentation of topics including lifecycle, diet, anatomy/physiology and behavioral aspects. 3) Wildlife Park: Students will be taken on a guided tour of the wildlife park with over 100 species of native and exotic animals including a walk through 'Hawk Swamp' to see what Florida looked like 1,000 years ago. Topics include the swamp ecosystem, endangered and threatened species, adaptations and characteristics of animals. Your package will include an airboat tour, an alligator demonstration with photo, sandwich lunch, a souvenir plus admission to the Wildlife Park, all with the master class educational elements as above.

In the late afternoon, we'll return to the hotel to get ready for an evening dinner of pizza and loads of fun at WonderWorks!

**WonderWorks & The Outta Control Magic Comedy Dinner Show** – Wonderworks is an amusement park for the mind, combining education and entertainment in over 100 hands-on exhibits for students of all ages. Students will feel the 65-mph hurricane force winds, be shaken by a 5.3 earthquake, play virtual sports, land the space shuttle, fly a fighter jet, lay on a bed of nails, design and ride their own roller coaster and even compete in a Laser Tag game.



Schools will also experience the "Outta Control Comedy Magic Dinner Show" combining high-energy comedy improvisation with spectacular magic to thoroughly entertain audiences of all ages. During the show, schools will enjoy unlimited hand-tossed pizza, popcorn and soft drinks.



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#### **Day 4**

Breakfast, sandwich lunch & dinner included

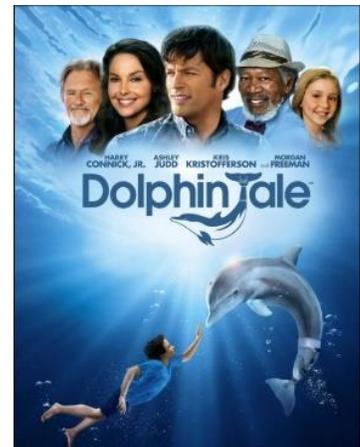
Good morning, Orlando! Today we'll venture to the coast to meet some new friends spending the day at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.



**Clearwater Marine Aquarium** – Clearwater Marine Aquarium is fundamentally a hospital for sick and injured marine life, however, what they really do is so much more. They inspire the human spirit through the animals and their stories of survival, which touch all of us. They educate young people on the preservation and conservation of our animals and environment. They collaborate on scientific research to better understand animal behavior, illness, treatment and the prevention of animal decline. They protect the growth of the

endangered sea turtle population by guarding a 26-mile stretch of beach within Pinellas County. They rescue and rehabilitate injured and ill animals with the aim of releasing them back into their natural habitat. When this isn't possible, the aquarium provides long term residential care.

Today we'll explore this unique non-profit hospital dedicated to rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine animals. We'll see their mission in action as we discover the rehab and surgical areas and get up-close inspiration from the stories of the resident animals, feed the stingrays, sharks and pelicans, or cruise on an interactive boat safari. Hop aboard a trolley to nearby Winter's Dolphin Tale Adventure, where we'll discover a museum of rebuilt sets and props from the Dolphin Tale movies and walk through the Hurricane Experience exhibit. All this and much more await you for a day of fun and a lifetime of inspiration. Your day will include a Behind-the-Scenes and Hospital Tour, a Stranding Master Class, a boxed lunch, a Dolphin Adventure Boat Tour and then time to view the aquarium and see the stages of the Dolphin Tale.



We always suggest our groups watch the film – **A Dolphin's Tale** (2011) – to learn more about the Clearwater Marine Hospital.

**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.

After our exciting day in Clearwater, we'll return to the hotel, have a local dinner and an evening to do as we please!

#### **Day 5**

Breakfast, sandwich lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine, Florida! Today we'll dive head-first into Crystal River, home to some of nature's most gentle giants on a snorkel adventure!



**Snorkel with the Manatees** – Captain Tracy and her crew provide quality manatee experiences in this incredible adventure. This “Snorkel with the Manatees” experience is designed to educate our groups about the wildlife and their habitat within this unique area of Florida. We’ll swim alongside these gentle giants and get to experience them in their natural habitat where they feel comfortable interacting with visitors. Our captain will equip us with wetsuits, masks, snorkels, noodles for floating, sunscreen and anti-fogging solution for our masks. We’ll jump in the water and set off for a first-hand look at these magnificent creatures. In addition to the swim, our groups will also have a Marine Mammal Workshop to make this a truly immersive marine life experience.



After our snorkel, we’ll have a sandwich lunch and then go on a Dolphin Safari!

**Dolphin Safari** – Ride out into the water to see the dolphins frolic, jump, splash, feed, play and swim in their natural environment in the Gulf of Mexico. We never know what we’ll see in Nature's Theme Park. We truly never know what may come into view! We will often see Bald Eagles, Osprey, Tarpon, Otters, several birds, and of course, the eternally happy, Bottlenose Dolphin. That's the beauty of a wildlife tour! You get to experience something new every time.



**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.

This evening we’ll have dinner locally and then take a spin from the tree-top level for last looks of Orlando.



**The Wheel at ICON Park** - Not your average Ferris wheel, this stunning 400 foot tall observation wheel offers a view of Orlando like no other. From the top of the wheel, you can take in the sights throughout Orlando, all while beholding the stunning skyline. With air-conditioning and stability control in every capsule, the wheel is safe and comfortable, and because it is equipped with 64,000 color-changing LEDs, you’ll experience a brilliant light show. The Wheel has been deemed the brightest beacon in the Orlando sky!

**Day 6**

Breakfast included

Good morning, Orlando! It’s time to pack up and head home! Following breakfast and depending on flight and/or 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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# Florida Bio-Blast

**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 Advanced BioLab Master Class  
Wild Florida Wildlife Park & Airboat Eco-Tour Master Class in the Northern Everglades  
Clearwater Marine Aquarium Admission & Marine Biology Series  
Snorkel with the Manatees & Marine Mammal Workshop  
Dolphin Safari Cruise  
Mini-Golf Challenge  
The Wheel at ICON Orlando  
Personal Tour Ambassador  
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest  
SYTA Youth Foundation: \$2 donation in the name of each guest  
24-hour emergency cover

**What's Not Included:**

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)  
Transfers to/from home airport  
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary  
Lunches on travel days and Day 2  
Cost of visas, full or collective passports  
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel  
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary  
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.  
Any gratuities – drivers, maid service, bellman service, area guides, tour ambassador

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.

