



*Tour:* Tropical STEM  
*Destination:* Orlando & Anna Maria Island, Florida, USA  
*Specialization:* Marine Biology, Ecology, & Space Sciences  
*Itinerary:* 7-days / 6-nights

Tropical STEM - Orlando & Anna Maria Island			
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Travel to Orlando, Florida; transfer to Hotel; check-in		Welcome, Safety & Orientation Hotel Dinner
2	Universal Studio's Theme Park Hopper + Behind-the-Scenes Master Class		Hotel Dinner Mini-Golf Tournament
3	NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center		WonderWorks & Comedy Pizza Show
4	Wild Florida Airboat Tour, Everglades Master Class & Lunch	Transfer to Florida's Gulf Coast	Hotel Check-in Dinner + Evening Beach Walk
5	Clearwater Marine - Biology Master Class Series		Local Dinner Island Exploration
6	Sea Kayak Marine Ecology Adventure	Beach Time & Scavenger Hunt	Farewell Dinner at the Beach
7	Depart Florida 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.



**STEM STUDY TOURS**  
 A Hammock Expeditions Company  
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## Day 1

Dinner; arrival time permitting

Travel to Florida arriving at in the late afternoon or early evening. After boarding your motorcoach your group will be transferred to your hotel located on International Drive.

**Sample Hotel: The Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando** – The Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando is ideally located on Orlando's famous International Drive. This hotel's superb central location provides easy access to major attractions, including Universal Studios Florida. The hotel features three attractive pool areas with beautifully landscaped gardens, and a Guest Services Desk offering day trips, transportation arrangements and attraction tickets, a gift shop, a video arcade, a full restaurant, a sports bar and a snack shop & deli. Rooms feature two queen beds, cable television, in-room coffee, hair dryers, in-room safes, microwaves and refrigerators.



After check-in, we'll get settled, have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting. Later, dinner will be at our hotel. There's plenty to do both at the hotel and in the nearby areas so if you arrive early enough and would like to plan an activity for this day, just let us know. We are happy to create a custom itinerary for you.

## Day 2

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Good morning Orlando! After breakfast, we'll transfer to Universal Studios for a Master Class and then have the day at the parks. Wear your walking shoes! Teachers will select one of the following options:

**Universal Studios' Theme Parks + 'Behind-the-Adventure'** - A science and technology Tour. Students will have the opportunity to discover the science involved in creating the world's most technologically advanced theme park. Behind-the-Adventure showcases the physics, technology, horticulture and general sciences that went into designing and building this state-of-the-art theme park. The sciences come to life as your Universal guide answers such questions as:

- How is 'The Incredible Hulk' coaster launched?
- How are the special effects in 'Poseidon's Fury' accomplished?
- How is the park foliage chosen?
- What technologies are utilized to make 'The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man' so amazing?
- How is physics used to create roller coasters?

**OR Universal Studios' Special FX** – a special effects program to discover the secrets of making movie magic at Universal Studios. Through this interactive tour of Universal Studios, students will learn, hands-on, about the arts and sciences used to create some of the most spectacular special effects in motion picture history and what it took to recreate those effects in some of Universal Studios' most popular attractions. Tour highlights include:

- Visit 'Revenge of the Mummy' to learn the secrets of set design and construction



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- Go behind the scenes at 'Men in Black: Alien Attack' to learn how such effects as animatronics, lasers, strobe lights and fog effects are utilized to set the atmosphere for this attraction
- Experience the 'Universal Horror Make-Up Show' for an up-close look at how make-up effects are created
- Stroll through soundstages and production facilities; walk through the street of New York, San Francisco and Hollywood to learn the importance of atmosphere through set design
- Visit 'Twister... Ride It Out' and learn what it takes to recreate an F-5 tornado



The 3-hour Master Class begins 1-hour before the theme park opens and allows for access to areas of the park unavailable to the general public. After our 3-hour guided lesson, the day is ours to have fun in two of the most incredible theme parks in America – Universal Studios and Universal's Islands of Adventure.

Upon our return to the hotel, we'll have dinner and then it's off to an evening mini-golf challenge!

### Day 3

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Rise and shine for a spectacular space day! Today we're heading to Cape Canaveral on Florida's eastern coast, home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

**NASA's Kennedy Space Center** - John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Sally Ride and Jim Lovell are just a few names of the brave men and women that have launched into space from Kennedy Space Center, and now it's your turn to become a part of the space program. 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. There is much to do at 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.

**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 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 walk to WonderWorks for pizza and an evening of fun!

**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 in the world's largest Laser Tag Arena & Arcade.



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.

#### Day 4

*Breakfast, lunch & dinner included*

Good morning Florida! Today, we'll check out of our hotel and store our luggage. We'll be visiting the northern Florida Everglades this morning to learn about the creatures that populate this fantastic area! Then, it's off to the beach!

**Wild Florida Airboat Tours** - Located 45-minutes outside of Orlando, a visit into the 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. A sandwich lunch will be included at the center.



**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 a 1-hour airboat tour, an alligator demonstration with photo, a BBQ lunch, a souvenir plus admission to the Wildlife Park; all with the master class educational elements as above.

Afterwards, we're off to beautiful Anna Maria Island!



Group staying on Anna Maria Island lodge at the **Silver Surf Gulf Beach Resort** – The Silver Surf features 50 “laid back” Florida-style units. Each unit includes one queen or king bed with a pull-out queen sofa sleeper to sleep up to 4 pupils. Units are equipped with mini-kitchens and have a microwave a small refrigerator and coffee pot. The hotel is located directly across the street from a beautiful beach on Anna Maria Island where scooter, bicycles, wave runners and boat rentals are available. The hotel has a heated pool and offers complimentary use of beach chairs and umbrellas. For life-guarded beaches, students may hop on the free public trolley to access the island’s great recreational areas. Meals are taken at a local restaurant, on the beach, within easy walking distance.



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After checking in, we'll have an early dinner and then walk the beach for fantastic finds!

## Day 5

*Breakfast, lunch & dinner included*

Rise and shine Anna Maria Island! Are you ready to learn about dolphins and sea life? Get ready early because we're off to the famous Clearwater Marine Aquarium, home to "Winter" from a Dolphin's Tale!

**Clearwater Marine Aquarium + Master Classes Series with Boat Tour & Packed Lunch** - Come explore this unique hospital dedicated to rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine animals. See their mission in action as you discover the rehab and surgical areas and get up-close inspiration from the stories of the resident animals, including **Winter the dolphin**, who swims with a prosthetic tail. Feed the sting rays, sharks and pelicans, or cruise on an interactive boat safari. Hop aboard a complimentary boat or trolley shuttle to nearby **Winter's Dolphin Tale Adventure**, where you'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 possibilities such as a Behind-the-Scenes and Hospital Tour, a Stranding Master Class, a boxed lunch, a lab project, a Dolphin Adventure Boat Tour plus time to view the aquarium and see the stages of the Dolphin Tale.



This evening, we'll have dinner locally and then take the Island Trolley to explore the land. Maybe a walk on one of three fishing piers to see what they're catching!

## Day 6

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Good morning Florida! It's time to get wet!

**Sea Kayak Ecology Tour** - Experience one of the most abundant ecosystems on the planet. Only coral reefs and tropical rainforests boast a higher density and diversity of life than here in the mangrove estuary of Sarasota and Tampa Bay. After a full safety briefing, climb in and paddle the Florida waterways in one or two-person kayaks. Guided by an ecologist, we'll explore the shallow waters finding amazing sea creatures to stunning mangroves.



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In addition to the birds, fish, manatees, and dolphins we hope to find, we will also look for enormous live conchs, colorful sea sponges, delicate sea stars, even wild critters like sea cucumbers and sea hares! You'll be amazed at just how much is out there.



This afternoon, we'll have a relaxing afternoon at the beach, complete with a **Beach Scavenger Hunt!** Our final dinner will be served at the beach.

### Day 7

*Breakfast included*

After our fabulous week, we'll start to head home, taking memories with us that will last forever!

Note: If international groups want to stop for an **Outlet Shopping** excursion while en route to the airport, this is available for an extra fee. Simply let us know you wish to add this. The outlet mall will be [Ellenton Premium Outlets](#), located approximately a 30-minute drive inland.



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# TROPICAL STEM

**Minimum Booking Numbers:**

20 students

**What's Included:**

Round-trip flights OR motorcoach transfers  
6-nights' hotel: 3 nights Orlando + 3 nights Anna Maria Island  
Breakfasts and dinners daily  
2 Lunches (Wild Florida & Clearwater Marine)  
Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers  
Universal Studios Theme Park + Islands of Adventure Theme Park with Hopper Pass  
Universal's Science-Behind-the-Scenes Master Class  
Mini-Golf Challenge  
NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center  
WonderWorks + Comedy Pizza Dinner Show  
Wild Florida Airboat Ride & Alligator Master Class, Tour & Lunch  
Anna Maris Island Beach Walk & Island Exploration  
Clearwater Aquarium - Marine Biology Master Class Series  
Ecology Tour by Sea Kayak  
Beach Time + Scavenger Hunt  
Personal Tour Ambassador  
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest  
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$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 and meals not shown in Itinerary  
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, 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.**



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