



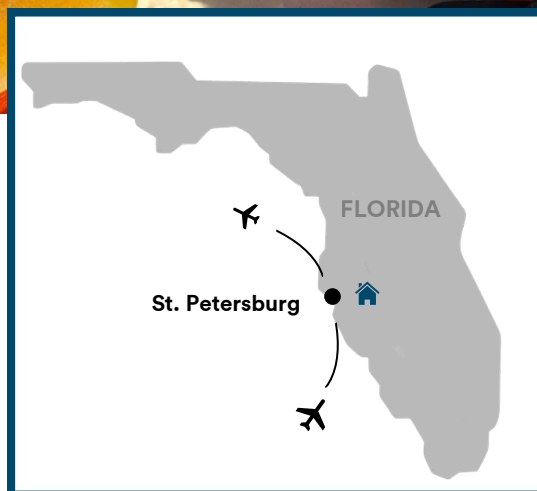
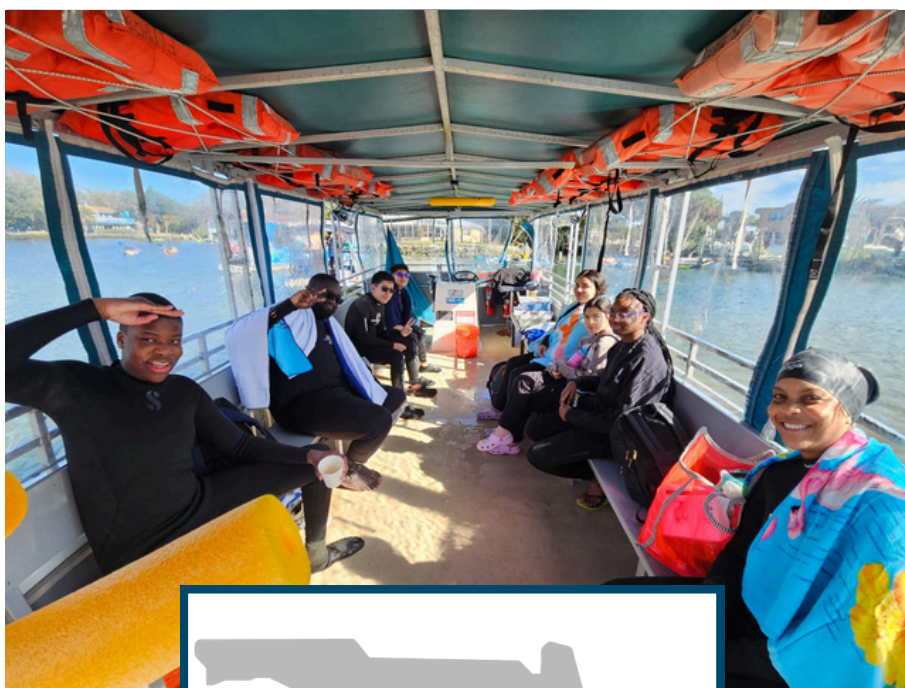
FLORIDA: MARINE WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

St. Petersburg, Florida,
USA

7-DAY PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Be immersed in Florida's many unique ecosystems
- Contribute to service projects supporting coastal areas and abundant wildlife
- Get up close with manatees on a snorkeling adventure
- Learn about sea turtle conservation and research



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

On this program, you'll work on projects along the Florida coast with organizations and individuals who have deep roots in the region. South and Central Florida, facing some of the most severe future impacts of sea level rise, offer unique opportunities to study climate change and its effects on oceans, wildlife, and plant life.

You'll explore challenges like invasive species, pollution, overfishing, and declining water quality while gaining a deeper understanding of the region's coastal ecosystems. Along the way, you'll also enjoy beautiful beaches, coastal landscapes, and palm-lined streets.





PROGRAM ITINERARY

Activities and the daily schedule may vary based on weather, local events, and group needs.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO FLORIDA!

Drive or fly to Tampa, where GLA Groups staff members will greet you and help you get settled. From there, make your way to our cozy accommodation in nearby St. Petersburg, where you'll have time to get comfortable and settle in. Enjoy a welcome dinner and participate in a program orientation to learn more about what awaits you over the next week!



DAY 2: MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM

Spend the day at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, where you will learn about Florida's conservation efforts and ongoing research while viewing over 100 marine species. As you explore the aquarium and learn more about the region's marine life, you'll gain insight into marine wildlife and the importance of protecting coastal ecosystems. You'll also learn more about the projects and conservation efforts you will support throughout your program, helping you better understand the work ahead.



DAY 3: LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE FIELDWORK

Spend the day at the beach documenting loggerhead sea turtle activity, habitat conditions, predator damage, and pollution across miles of coastline, contributing valuable real-world research to Mote Marine. Through this hands-on fieldwork, you'll gain a closer look at the challenges facing sea turtles and the coastal habitats they depend on. In the evening, connect your fieldwork to discussions on climate change, species extinction, and water quality, helping you better understand the real-world complexity of marine conservation and the importance of protecting these ecosystems.



DAY 4: NATURE HIKE & COASTAL ACTIVITIES

Enjoy a relaxed nature hike in a nearby state park, taking in the surrounding scenery and natural environment, followed by swimming, beach volleyball, and team-building activities along the coast. Spend time enjoying the outdoors, connecting with your group, and making the most of the coastal setting. End the day by watching the sunset and taking part in reflection sessions, giving you time to unwind, connect with your group, and reflect on the day's experiences.



DAY 5: MANGROVE KAYAKING ADVENTURE

Learn basic kayaking skills before setting out on a day-long mangrove adventure, exploring coastal waters while staying active and immersed in the sights and sounds of this unique ecosystem. As you paddle through the mangroves, you'll experience the natural environment up close, observe the surrounding coastal landscape, and develop your kayaking skills along the way. This hands-on adventure offers a fun and active way to connect with Florida's unique coastal ecosystems while enjoying a day on the water.



DAY 6: WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPEDITION & FAREWELL DINNER

Depart early for a safari-boat expedition into a National Wildlife Refuge, where you'll gear up in wetsuits and observe manatees in their natural habitat while practicing responsible, low-impact wildlife viewing. Spend the morning getting an up-close look at these incredible animals while learning more about the importance of protecting their natural environment. After a three-hour swim and photo session, enjoy lunch and ice cream in the park before returning to Home Base. There, we'll reflect on our experiences together, share highlights from the program, and celebrate the successful finish of the program with a farewell dinner.



DAY 7: DEPARTURES

Depart Tampa and travel home, taking time to reflect on the new memories, skills you developed, friendships you strengthened, and experiences you gained throughout the program. Consider how your learnings from your time in Tampa can connect to your daily life and how you might share those lessons and experiences with others.





PROGRAM SAFETY



**SAFE
TRANSPORTATION**



**CARING SUPERVISION
& EXPERT LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE**



**24/7 SUPPORT &
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**



**GLA HOME BASE:
SAFE & SECURE
LODGING**



**HEALTHY MEALS &
PURE WATER**

**GLA'S
5 POINT
SAFETY
SYSTEM**



GLA HOME BASE

Students are housed in a local hotel with gender-segregated rooms, ensuite bathrooms, and AC. Shared common areas provide a comfortable space for the group to gather, debrief, and connect throughout the program.



CLIMATE

Florida's warm climate makes it a welcoming destination year-round. Winters are mild and sunny, with comfortable temperatures perfect for outdoor exploration. Spring brings warm days and low humidity before summer arrives with its signature heat, afternoon thunderstorms, and lush greenery. Fall offers a gradual cooldown with fewer crowds and plenty of sunshine.



FOOD

Students enjoy three balanced meals a day, plus snacks and water throughout the program. Most meals are served at Home Base, offering a comfortable and consistent space to refuel and regroup. With advance notice, we can accommodate most dietary restrictions and preferences.



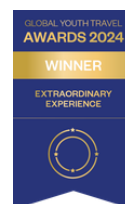
PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

Inclusions:

- Healthy Meals and Drinking Water
- Accommodations in a trusted GLA Home Base
- Safe Transportation - private and public
- Activities and entry fees
- Expert Staff to guide the group
- Secondary medical insurance & emergency evacuation insurance for every traveler

Exclusions:

- Airfare to and from the program
- Additional snacks or drinks outside of mealtimes
- Travel Insurance (lost luggage, etc)



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