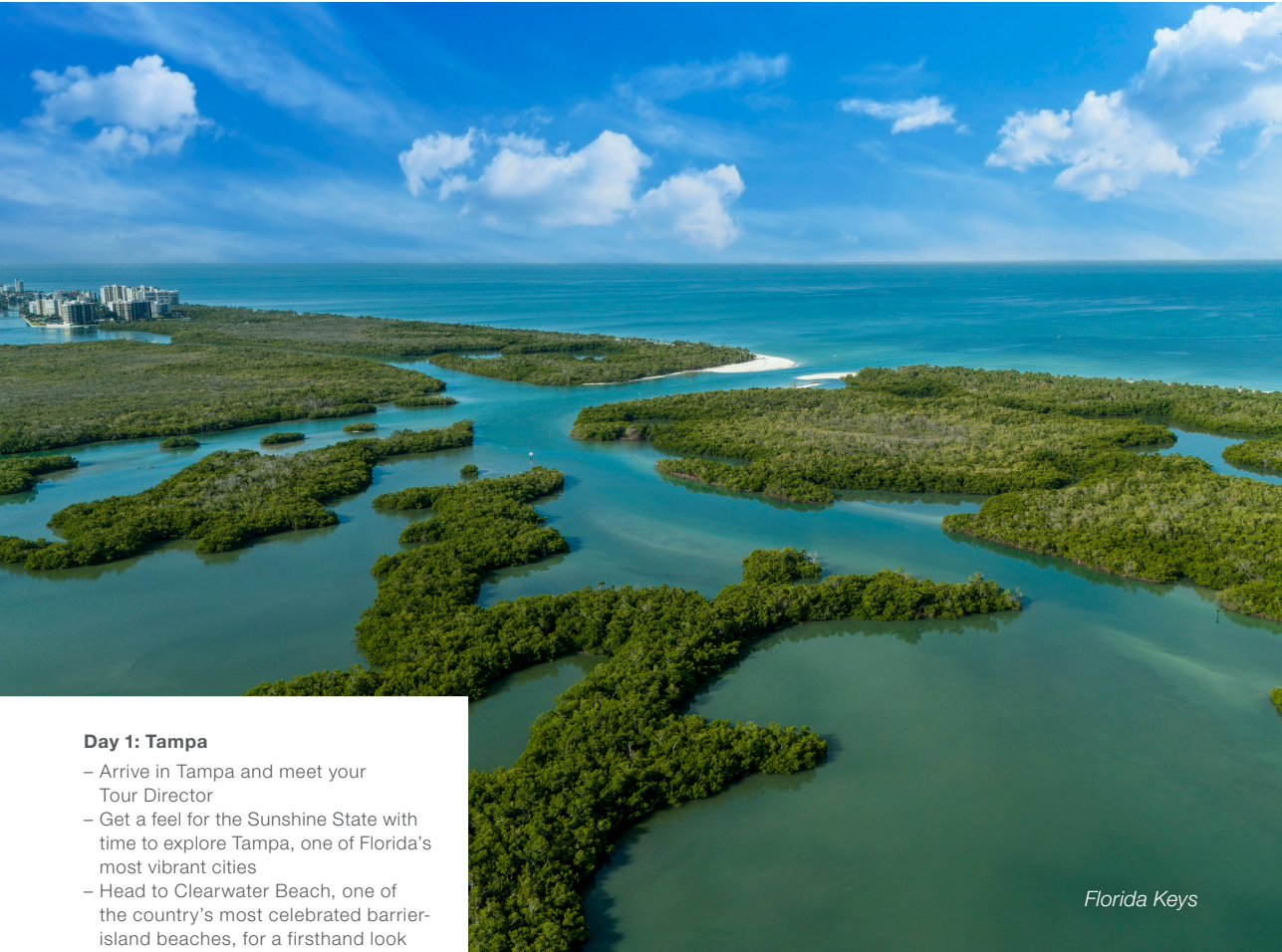


ECOSYSTEMS OF FLORIDA: LAND, WATER & REEF

5 days | Tampa | Fort Lauderdale | Florida Keys



Florida Keys

Day 1: Tampa

- Arrive in Tampa and meet your Tour Director
- Get a feel for the Sunshine State with time to explore Tampa, one of Florida's most vibrant cities
- Head to Clearwater Beach, one of the country's most celebrated barrier-island beaches, for a firsthand look at the coastal environments that define Florida's Gulf Coast

Day 2: Tampa

- Participate in a STEM activity. Previous experiences have included:
 - Barrier Island Habitat & Geology Workshop with the University of South Florida
 - River Biodiversity Workshop at Crystal Springs Preserve
 - Save the Sea Turtles simulation
- ✦ Take part in a coastal cleanup at a beach near Fort De Soto, then submit your findings directly to the Ocean Conservancy's worldwide database, contributing real data to a global conservation effort
- Kayak through the mangrove tunnels and seagrass meadows of Weedon Island Preserve, one of Tampa Bay's most pristine and biodiverse ecosystems that's best experienced from the water
- Board a wildlife sightseeing cruise on Tampa Bay, Florida's largest open-water estuary, and scan for dolphins, manatees, shorebirds, and other marine life that depend on this critical habitat

FLORIDA KEYS

Hemingway. Key lime pie. Six-toed cats. The Florida Keys have many claims to fame, but the greatest among them? The 1,800 miles of mangrove tree shoreline that shelters and protects over 6,000 species. And the Keys don't stop there—with the third largest living coral barrier reef system in the world, the Florida Keys harbor an ecosystem like no other. Explore everything the islands have to offer, including John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, an underwater park and the first of its kind in the U.S., to fully appreciate this region's diverse ecosystem.



Explore via airboat

✦ **Customize this tour** by adding optional activities or extending your experience.

Day 3: Southwest Florida

- Travel south into Southwest Florida, where the landscape shifts dramatically from coastline to ancient swampland
- Take an airboat ride through the heart of Florida's wilderness, scanning for alligators, turtles, and wading birds in one of the most ecologically significant habitats in North America
- Visit the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation, one of the six reservations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Watch a short orientation film before a guided boardwalk tour through the Everglades ecosystem, led by a Seminole guide
- Continue to Fort Lauderdale for dinner

Day 4: Fort Lauderdale | Florida Keys

- Visit John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo, the first undersea park in the United States and home to one of the world's most important coral reef ecosystems
- Snorkel in the Florida Reef, the third-largest coral barrier reef system in the world, and explore the remarkable biodiversity of this fragile marine habitat

Day 5: Miami

- Visit the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science in Miami and explore exhibits that connect aquatic science, space, technology, and Florida's natural ecosystems
- Depart for home

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

SNORKELING

Snorkel in the Florida Reef, the third-largest coral barrier reef system in the world, and discover one of the most important marine ecosystems in the United States. As you explore the clear waters near Key Largo, you'll observe the reef's remarkable biodiversity and see how fish, coral, and other marine life depend on this fragile habitat to survive. Along the way, you'll gain a better understanding of the environmental challenges facing coral reefs today and why protecting them is so important. This experience offers a firsthand look at the beauty and complexity of life beneath the surface.



Your experience includes

- Round-trip and on-tour transportation
- Visits to special attractions
- Overnight security at your hotel
- Full-time Tour Director
- Illness and Accident Coverage
- Travel ID badges and backpacks
- Breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on Days 2 and 4
- All gratuities
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours

Options

- Lunches
- Earned credit for Group Leaders and students