

KEY WEST - FLORIDA CIRCLE



8 Days/7 Nights
October 29 - November 5, 2018
Tour includes 14 Meals



See for yourself what everyone raves about as we pack our bags and board our motorcoach for an eight-day adventure into the Sunshine State. The southernmost city in the continental United States, Key West once served as a base of operation against pirates; today it is the south terminus of the scenic Overseas Highway. Experience the "real Florida" as we circle through the state that is famous for much more than a Mouse!

Day 1: Our first day's travel carries us through South Carolina, Georgia, and into **Florida**. Our overnight stay is in the **St. Augustine** area. **Dinner will be included** tonight. (D)

Day 2: Following breakfast this morning we explore the **Old City of St. Augustine**, which still preserves strong evidence of its Spanish origin. We'll hop onboard an **open-air tram**, for a narrated tour that will include the **Oldest Wooden School House, the Spanish Quarter Village and the Fountain of Youth**. The Oldest Wooden School House is a cedar building that also served as a guardhouse during the Seminole Wars, because of its proximity to the City Gates. We'll want to check out its tabby floors (a mixture of crushed oyster shells and lime) and wooden peg construction. The Spanish Quarter Village has colonial workers that go about their work as if it's just another day in the mid-18th century. Clad in period dress, gardeners tend to their vegetables; woodworkers repair furniture under a thatched hut; and blacksmiths fashion nails. The Fountain of Youth is on the site claimed to be Ponce De Leon's landing place April 3, 1513. This park contains the spring reputed to be the "Fountain of Youth". Additional features include a planetarium, audiovisuals and a revolving world globe. Following lunch we're off to the **Kennedy Space Center**, in the Cape Canaveral area. We'll take a two-hour **guided bus tour** of the facility and take in the show at the incredible **IMAX Theater**. The theater's huge 5-1/2 story, 70-foot wide screen makes the film both spectacular and unforgettable. Our overnight accommodations will be in the Titusville, FL area, and **dinner will be included**. (B,D)



Day 3: Ahead of us this morning is a scenic drive southward through rolling citrus orchards and past some of Florida's many lakes. Following an **included lunch** in **Fort Lauderdale**, the riverboat **Jungle Queen** will take us on a cruise up the intercoastal waterway. We'll see why this city is aptly nicknamed the "Venice of America." Overnight accommodations await us in the **Cutler Bay** area. (B,L)



Day 4: Today's sightseeing is, in a word, "awesome" as we leave bright and early this morning and travel the **Florida Keys** to **Key West**. Linked to the mainland by the 113-mile Overseas Highway, the "Keys" are a series of low-lying subtropical islands composed largely of coral and mangroves. This highway that we will travel is one of the world's longest land-and-sea stretches. Our destination is Key West, which is only 90 miles from Cuba! Home at various times to Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams and Robert Frost, Key West remains a popular retreat for artists and writers. We'll include today a **Conch Tour Train** ride that will take us on a 10 mile tour through old and new Key West with informative narration. We'll also have free time for lunch and browsing in the world famous **Mallory Square**.



Continued on next page

You may want to sample some of the famous cuisine like conch chowder, conch fritters and Key lime pie. You're sure to enjoy this next event: a **glass bottom boat tour** over the coral reef. We'll spend the night in this beautiful area and **include a seafood dinner!** (B,D)

Day 5: Following breakfast this morning, we return to the mainland of Florida, where we follow highway 41 across a portion of the **Everglades**. We visit the **Miccosukee Indian Village** and let a guide take us on a tour through the past, present, and future of their history, culture and lifestyle. We'll see demonstrations and exhibits of woodcarving, patchwork, beadwork, basket weaving and doll making. Here we take a unique **airboat swamp tour** in what's often called "the eighth wonder of the world," spotting alligators as we travel. Then we turn north along the coast to **Fort Myers**, where we have accommodations for the night following our **included dinner**. (B,D)



Day 6: This morning, following breakfast, we will make a stop on beautiful McGregor Boulevard. Majestic royal palms line this street where the **Thomas Edison and Henry Ford Winter Estates** are located. We will tour "Seminole Lodge", where Thomas Edison spent his "working vacations" from 1866 until his death in 1931. The tour will include his home, laboratory, museum and gardens. We will also tour "Mangoes", the residence of the world's first billionaire, Henry Ford. Next, we will travel to **Sarasota**, where the circus is an integral part of this city's past. In 1927 John Ringling selected the town for his Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus and made it his home. We will take time to see the **John and Mable Ringling Museum**. Admission will include The Circus Museum and Ringling Residence. Overnight will be in the **Tampa** area, following our **included dinner**. (B,D)

Day 7: As we travel through Florida, we drive to **Micanopy**, "the town that time forgot." This is the second oldest settlement in Florida. It's so charming with the old buildings, majestic oaks, and magnolias. The town center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and contains a number of antique stores, as well as a large used book store and several restaurants, where we will enjoy lunch on our own. Later this afternoon, we arrive at beautiful **Amelia Island**, where we will enjoy an **included dinner** and spend the night. (B,D)



Day 8: This morning you may want to sleep late or take a walk on the beach. Before we depart we'll make a stop at the **Amelia Island Museum** where we learn about the island's history and how it was a haven for Scottish smugglers, Mexican pirates and Cuban freedom fighters. We return home arriving early in the evening. The fantastic scenery, the food and the fellowship, just couldn't be beat. (B)

**\$1565 PP Double / \$1420 PP Triple
\$1275 PP Quad / \$2150 Single**

**Deposit/Payment Requirements:
\$200.00 Deposit Per Person due with reservation**

*Plus cost of travel protection, if desired
(travel protection offers insurance benefits & non-insurance services)
cost per person is: \$115 Double - \$93 Triple or Quad, \$145 Single*

Final Payment Due by September 6, 2018

**IONOSPHERE TOURS - 307 N. MAIN ST. - ANDERSON, SC 29621
800-972-1741 OR 864-225-7783
www.ionospheretours.com**