



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.

Please note that program activities may change in order to adhere to COVID-19 regulations.



FLORIDA: Marine Wildlife Initiative™

Marine wildlife – including whales, sharks, seals, turtles, manatees and sea lions – face threats to their habitats. It is up to us to protect them.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will work on projects on and near the Florida coast with organizations and individuals that have been in the region for decades. Expected to face some of the most severe impacts of sea level rise in the coming decades, South and Central Florida provide unique opportunities for students to study the effects of climate change on the oceans, as well as the animals and plant life that depend on it. Consider how challenges such as invasive species, agricultural pollution, overfishing and water quality lead to threatened species and even possible extinction. And don't forget to have some fun too while you're in the Sunshine State. Beautiful beaches and palm-tree lined streets await you at every turn.

10-DAY PROGRAM

June 18 – June 27

Tuition: \$4,499
Service Hours: 24
Language Hours: 0
Max Group Size: 25
Age Range: 14-19
Student-to-Staff Ratio: 8-to-1
Airport: TPA

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
- ★ Enjoy a camping excursion to the island of Cayo Costa

***No passport required for U.S. citizens.**

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

This program supports two service projects that are closely connected. Our first project will support conservation efforts for loggerhead sea turtles along the Florida Gulf Coast through the collection of fundamental biological data about their nesting, hatching, foraging and migration patterns in the Venice and Sarasota areas. Our second project will focus on seagrass restoration, an instrumental project in the rehabilitation and expansion of marine life habitats. Gain valuable insight and conservation experience as you contribute to the long-term effort of stabilizing marine habitats to ensure survivability of marine species.

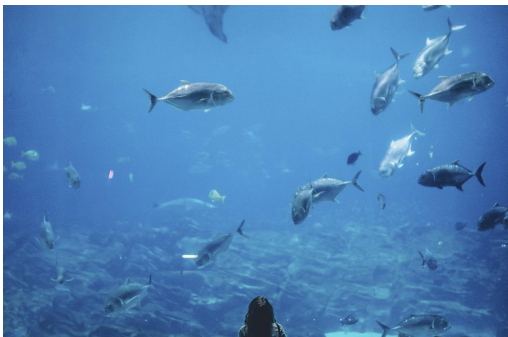
SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule and order of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO FLORIDA!

Touch down in Tampa, the largest city on the gulf coast of Florida. GLA staff will greet you upon your arrival, and our group will drive together to our Home Base in Venice, approximately one hour away. The Home Base Hotel has a pool, internet and other amenities to make our stay a comfortable one. We will get started right away with an orientation and short lecture on Planetary Health and Human Security. A basic understanding of these topics are important to understanding the impact of our service projects and our roles as global citizens.



DAY 2: MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM

What better place to learn about Marine Wildlife than the Gulf Coast of Florida? You will spend the day at the world-famous Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium where you will learn about Florida's conservation measures and research programs. You will view more than 100 species of marine animals while focusing on manatees, sea turtles, coral reef and other fish habitats. The day at Mote Marine will give you the valuable information you will need to better understand the importance of marine wildlife and the projects you will support while on your GLA program.

In the evening, we will be introduced to our upcoming service project that will assist with sea turtle research, monitoring and tracking, as well as working with a local non-profit organization supporting seagrass restoration. With 90% of the global fish habitats in collapse, this project is paramount for preserving a healthy number of fish and other marine wildlife along Florida's coastline.



DAY 3: SEA TURTLE DETECTION, TRACKING & PROTECTION

Today is a big day! We will wake up early and after a hearty breakfast, go to at least one of more than 30 loggerhead sea turtle conservation and research sites. The day will be spent on the beach documenting sea turtle nesting activity and the status of shoreline habitat. We will look for nest destruction by predators as well as document levels of trash and pollution that impede sea turtles and their young. There are more than 35 miles of nesting coastline, so



we can expect to spend a lot of time on the beach, covering a large area of turtle activity. The research and documentation we accumulate will be provided to Mote Marine for a better understanding of statewide nesting trends. The evening lecture will include climate change, species extinction and water quality. Start to tie in the concepts that you are seeing during the day to the information you are learning at night, to understand the complexities and importance of marine conservation in our world today.

DAY 4: SEA TURTLE DETECTION, TRACKING & PROTECTION

Today will be a continuation of the sea turtle project started yesterday. We will travel to another site in the southern part of the gulf coast region. The afternoon will be spent with a group meeting discussing ways to educate the public on conservation efforts. Key topics will be managing tourist and local resident observation of nesting areas, reducing lights, fireworks and pets in vulnerable areas, pollution and boater activity that may hinder sea turtles and their young. The evening lecture will include development, urbanization and sustainability. We will also meet a representative of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program in the evening to prepare for the following day's service project.



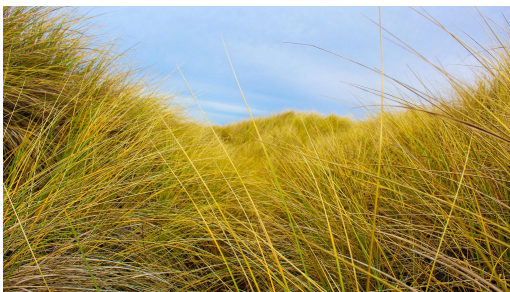
DAY 5: SEAGRASS RESTORATION PROJECT

We will travel to the northern part of Sarasota Bay and work with the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program on an extremely important conservation project that strives to increase marine life habitat and improve water quality throughout the bay area. The project will include removing exotic vegetation and replanting with native trees, grasses and other appropriate vegetation. We may also be tasked with removing debris and other pollution from the bay area. The evening lecture will include coral reef, marine life and the impact of tourism. Our work is vital not only to this area, but to our world.



DAY 6: SEAGRASS RESTORATION PROJECT

Continue making a difference today as we wrap up the seagrass restoration and conservation project in the morning. During this two-day project, the group will document the area with what has been removed and what was used to replace the vegetation. The documentation will be given to the Sarasota Bay Estuary Group to be included in Florida's long-term Conservation and Management Plan. After lunch, the group will pack their bags and embark on the journey to Cayo Costa. We will drive 45 minutes then hop on a ferry before we settle in for the evening and enjoy a campfire under the stars. Reflect on air and water pollution and how different agencies are working to manage this issue, as you compare and contrast high-traffic areas with remote locations such as Cayo Costa.



DAY 7: CAYO COSTA ISLAND ADVENTURE

Island life moves slower and this experience is no exception. With no roads and no cars allowed, Cayo Costa Island is perhaps the last majestic piece of untouched Florida. The island was the former fishing area of the Calusa Indians and has 9 miles of undeveloped and pristine coastline. The group will likely encounter hundreds of island birds, sea turtles, porpoises and manatees as they walk the miles of sandy trails. The group will document flora and fauna encountered on the island. We will also have a chance to display our cooking skills as we make our own meal and enjoy it under the beautiful starry sky as we sit around a campfire on the beach.





DAY 8: SNORKEL WITH MANATEES

The group will break down camp early and head back to the mainland and travel to Crystal River for a day of snorkeling with the manatees. We will get geared up in wetsuits and jump on the safari boat for our adventure into the National Wildlife Refuge. The manatee's closest relatives are the elephant and the hyrax (a small, gopher-sized mammal) and are believed to have evolved from a wading, plant-eating animal. Seeing them in their natural habitat is both a unique and peaceful experience, so we will be sure to keep our distance and enjoy them from afar, to lessen our impact. After a 3-hour swim observing manatees, complete with photos and exciting memories, we will head to the Crystal River Hotel where we will enjoy one of our last evenings together. We will have our last leadership activity and reflect on our experience so far.



DAY 9: RELAX AT THE BEACH

The group will rise early and after a nice breakfast, journey back to the Home Base hotel in Venice. On our way back, we will travel through Sarasota and spend a few hours on the world famous Siesta Key Beach. Siesta is the number one ranked beach in the U.S., and you will quickly understand why. We will have our lunch here, enjoy the sand and waves, then make a late-afternoon drive back to our Home Base in Venice. The evening will be spent reflecting on our experience together, what we have learned, and how we have grown as we contemplate how we can include conservation into our daily lives.



DAY 10: GOOD-BYE, FLORIDA

After breakfast we'll begin to say our goodbyes as we depart for the Tampa airport together, and GLA staff will make sure that everyone is checked in for their flight and ready to embark on their journey home.



TRAVELING TO FLORIDA

GLA HOME BASE | The accommodation for this program is split in between two different styles. We will spend the bulk of our time at a small hotel in Venice, with a quick weekend getaway to camp in tents on Cayo Costa Island. Students will be paired and share a tent. All camping gear and bedding will be provided. Students will bring their own headlamp for the camping experience.

FOOD | We will have typical American fare for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Many lunches will be picnic style or box lunches to make the most of the day.

CLIMATE | Florida is known for its comfortable climate year-round with average high temperatures during the summer months ranging from 80°F (26°C) to 90°F (32°C) and nights between 65°F (18°C) and 75°F (23°C).

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe

seventeen

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2021, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 outbreaks around the world, please note that program activities may change in order to accommodate COVID-19 regulations. In particular, service projects and other activities that typically involve close contact or engagement with members of the local community may be curbed, altered or skipped depending on staff evaluations on the ground and/or at the discretion of our Executive Director and Director of Program Operations & Risk Management. Every effort will be made to provide an exceptional experience on-location, at whatever level of community interaction is deemed safe at the time.

Our Expectations

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

We're Here to Help

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.