



Tropical Trails of South Florida

JOIN DIRECTIONS FOUNDER, TOD, ON THIS NEW TOUR OF SOUTH FLORIDA!
 JOURNEY THE LESS TRAVELED ROADS TO CULTURAL SITES AND
 UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS WHILE ENJOYING THE WARMTH OF THE FLORIDA SUN.



JANUARY 12 - 17, 2023 (6 DAYS)

TOUR VACATION INCLUSIONS:

- **ROUNDRIP AIR**
- **GRATUITIES:**
Tour Navigator and Coach Driver
Included Meals and Attraction Guides
- **MEALS: 9**
5 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 3 Dinners
- **ATTRACTIONS:**
As Listed
- **ALL TAXES**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **MIAMI AND BAY CRUISE**
 - ECHO FARM TOUR
 - TAMiami TRAIL AND EVERGLADES CITY
- **LITTLE HAVANA TOUR**
 - ANCIENT SPANISH MONASTERY
- **CALOOSAHATCHEE TRAIL AND AVA MARIA**
 - SWAMP BUGGY RIDE
 - EVERGLADES MUSEUM

\$1957.00 PER PERSON DBL
SINGLES \$391.00 ADDTL

DAY #1: Arrive in Sarasota, FL this afternoon. Welcome dinner and overnight in Ft. Myers, FL

DAY #2: After breakfast at the hotel our journey of South Florida exploration begins at the ECHO Global Farm. Our guided tour highlights the most creative working farm you will ever experience. We will enjoy unique farming demonstrations and techniques, animals from around the world and tastes of tropical fruits and leaves as we explore a rain-forest, a semi-arid desert, and rooftop gardens! The farm is home to one of the largest collections of tropical food plants in the country and it's mission is to help farmers and urban gardeners in developing countries. This afternoon we will enjoy traveling along Caloosahatchee Trail with a stop Ave Maria, Florida, founded in 2007, rises like an oasis from the scrublands. It sits on the fringe of the Everglades and was the vision of Tom Monaghan, the founder of Domino's Pizza. The catholic community includes the bustling Ave Maria University and the iconic and stunning cathedral built using Frank Lloyd Wright principles throughout. We will enjoy tours of the church and Mother Teresa Museum. Our overnight will be nearby in Naples.

DAY #3: This morning we will begin traversing the historic Tamiami Trail crossing through the Everglades. Completed in 1928, the Tamiami Trail would connect the cities of Naples and Miami through Florida's most lush swamplands and home to America's most tropical plants and animals. Our sightseeing will include a stop in Everglades City at the Museum of the Everglades and at the Ochopee Post Office, the smallest in the United States at just 8' X 7' feet wide and once was a shed to store tools and tomatoes. Our afternoon will include a Swamp Buggy Tour over dry land and muddy marshes featuring an open, elevated platform for seating with great views of the cypress forest and sights of live alligators, birds, deer and more! We will also enjoy the animal sanctuary, alligator show and a chance to hold a baby alligator! As we head east across the Everglades, we will also enjoy a stop at the Miccosukee Indian Village store to find crafts created by natives around the world, and special gifts made by the tribe members. Our hotel accommodations for the next three nights will be in Florida City and we will enjoy dinner out together this evening.

DAY #4: Today will begin our sightseeing in eastern South Florida to discover old Florida cultures and new world lifestyles. This morning we will be in the heart of Miami's immigrant Latino community, Little Havana! The district is Florida's most culturally rich neighborhoods and was a welcoming first stop for those seeking out the American dream! Today, the vibrant neighborhood is a "national treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and an enclave known for its authentic Cuban restaurants, popular ventanitas, warm Cuban bakeries and colorful artworks. Our guided tour will highlight the most famous establishments including stops at a Cuban coffee shop, cigar shop and included lunch at the world famous Versailles Restaurant. This afternoon we will board our sightseeing cruise along scenic Biscayne Bay in Miami. Sit back and enjoy the spectacular coastal sites including the beautiful downtown Miami skyline, the Port of Miami, Fisher Island, Miami Beach and "Millionaire's Row" - the Homes of the Rich and Famous!

DAY #5: After breakfast, we will explore the unique Coral Castle and Museum. Built by one man, from 1923 to 1951, who single-handedly carved over 1,100 tons of coral rock. His unknown process has created one of the world's most mysterious accomplishments. Our afternoon will lead us to the Ancient Spanish Monastery. Hidden in modern North Miami Beach, the Ancient Spanish Monastery is an enclave of European architecture and history. Originally built in Sacramenia, Spain and then moved to South Florida, it has endured a long and interesting history. Our tour will include the Monastery church with its stone walls and arches, mecca of medieval statues, carved ceilings and columns, stained glass windows and bell tower. Also a visit to the museum and walk through of the stunning grounds including the tropical garden and whimsical courtyard.

DAY #6: After our amazing South Florida journey, we will be returning home from Miami.

