

7-DAY PROGRAM



FLORIDA: MARINE WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

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



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, including challenges like invasive species, pollution, overfishing, and declining water quality. Along the way, you'll also enjoy beautiful beaches and palm-lined streets.



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



ITINERARY

The actual schedule of activities may vary. The information provided here reflects the typical experiences planned; however, activities and excursions are subject to change due to factors such as weather conditions, community partner availability, and other unforeseen circumstances. Adjustments may also be made to best meet the needs and interests of the student group.

<p>DAY 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive or fly to Tampa, where TEPA staff members will greet you. • Settle into our cozy accommodation in nearby St. Petersburg. • Enjoy a welcome dinner and engage in a program orientation to learn what awaits you in over the next week!
<p>DAY 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend the day at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, where you will learn about Florida's conservation efforts and research while viewing over 100 marine species. • Gain insight into marine wildlife and the projects you will support during your program.
<p>DAY 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend the day at the beach documenting loggerhead sea turtle activity, habitat conditions, predator damage, and pollution across miles of coastline, contributing real research to Mote Marine. • In the evening, connect your fieldwork to discussions on climate change, species extinction, and water quality to understand the real-world complexity of marine conservation.
<p>DAY 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy a relaxed nature hike in a nearby state park, followed by swimming, beach volleyball, and team-building activities along the coast. • End the day by watching the sunset and taking part in reflection sessions.

<p>DAY 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
<p>DAY 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depart early for a safari-boat expedition into a National Wildlife Refuge, gear up in wetsuits, and observe manatees in their natural habitat while practicing responsible, low-impact wildlife viewing.• After a three-hour swim and photo session, enjoy lunch and ice cream in the park before returning to Home Base, where we'll reflect on our experience together and celebrate the successful finish of the program with a farewell dinner.
<p>DAY 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head home today with new memories and learnings from your time in Tampa! Safe travels!



TEPA 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.

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.

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.



ABOUT TERRA EDUCATION PROGRAMS ABROAD

Terra Education Programs Abroad (TEPA) partners with schools and private groups to offer pre-designed and fully custom international experiences that align with academic goals while fostering global citizenship. Building on over 20 years of youth development expertise from its parent organization, Terra Education, TEPA delivers transformative experiences for young leaders worldwide.



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TERRA EDUCATION'S PORTFOLIO OF TRAVEL PROGRAMS

