

Communiqué #1
November 2017

Welcome to the Florida Sunshine Tour! This is your official notification that you have been chosen as a tour participant.

The private colleges and universities of Florida are looking forward to your upcoming visit. My objective today is to provide you with some preliminary Sunshine Tour information. Attached you will find a preliminary tour schedule and route, host hotels, and tour participants. ***Hard copies of this letter will not be sent.***

Email is the preferred method of communication. It's sometimes difficult to track you down in your schools/offices. Questions about the tour can be directed to me; contact information for me and my tour planner, Gary Taylor, is conveniently located at the bottom of this page.

The tour begins and ends in Orlando, FL, beginning on Feb. 1 and ending on Feb. 10. You must participate in the tour in its entirety.

Your flights may require a connection. If you are a counselor here in the United States, we will pursue the best rates on reasonable flight schedules to have you arrive before the orientation dinner on Thursday and fly home the following Saturday. Since our first school visit is the very next morning after arrival, I cannot allow any of you to fly in on the last flight in on February 1. I need all of you in Orlando for the orientation dinner. I will ask Gary to ensure your arrival time to Orlando be in time for the opening dinner. If you are an international counselor and booking your own flights, please be sure to book your flight arrival times in for arrival into Orlando before 4pm on Feb. 1.

If you are a counselor here in the U.S., Gary Taylor, of World Travelers Inc. will contact you within the next few weeks with preliminary travel plans for you through a website called "My Trip and More". After you receive your flight itinerary from Gary, you need to reply to him within 24 hours, giving him permission to issue the ticket. This reply will serve as his confirmation that you agree to the flight times, name spelling, connections, and airline. If you'd like to fly into Florida early or stay a few days after the tour concludes, we are happy to accommodate you as long as the ticket price remains the same. Please be aware that Gary's office is in the *Mountain Time Zone*, so if you need to discuss the flight arrangements with Gary, please time your calls to him accordingly; or better yet, use email so we have an electronic record. If you are an international tour participant Gary can help with your flight plans or you can book your tickets on your own. If you choose to book your tickets yourself, please provide Gary with your flight information on or before December 1, 2017. You must arrive before 4pm on February 1 and you can leave any time on February 10. If you are crossing many time zones that will ensure jet lag, let me know so we can reserve a room for you to arrive a day early.

We are planning for the tour to be an enjoyable experience, however, keep in mind that this is a working tour. You will visit two colleges/universities per day on most days. There are two half days when you can completely count on just enjoying Florida. Comfortable shoes are a must – this is a walking tour with LOTS of walking. If you are not able to walk two campuses a day, you may want to reconsider attending. Also, in most cases, we do not use bellmen; you will carry your own luggage to your rooms.

There will be both long and short bus rides on a very large comfortable passenger coach. Bring books, kindles, Ipods, and your favorite movie. I will escort the tour and hopefully (!) the bus driver and I will get you to each stop on time.

At no time are dresses, jackets or ties necessary. Warning: many campuses (and the bus) could be very cool; so long pants may be wiser than shorts. Bring a sweater, sweatshirt or jacket...a lightweight windbreaker is best. Whatever you are most comfortable wearing, please feel free to wear. Average temperatures in February vary, but are usually in the 70's in the day, 50-60 at night.

Most lunches and dinners are provided by our host schools. Most mornings our hotels will offer complimentary breakfast. Some meals may be on your own – I anticipate one breakfast, one brunch and one dinner on your own. Past experience indicates you will be well fed! No past tour member has ever spent more than \$100 on meals we don't provide, but you can if you are so inclined.

Roommate assignments are made with age range being the predominant deciding factor; then I take into consideration if you are a high school or independent counselor, and then lesser factors. I will inform you of your roommate's name and contact information as we get closer to the tour departure date. A preliminary list of attendees is attached in case you know someone with whom you might want to share a room. If you see someone's name on the list with whom you are willing to share a room, please let me know!

Almost all of our hotels are suite-style, affording the maximum amount of privacy we can when sharing a room. All our hotels have fitness rooms and pools, and there may be a little time in the sun, so workout clothes and a swimsuit should be on your packing list.

Each university is *supposed to* send admission materials to you in your offices, so you will not have to carry home mountains of material. Beware—schools do tend to give you great giveaways, sweatshirts, t-shirts, mugs, etc. I have not been able to convince every school to mail these things ahead - they are *compelled* to have you leave with something in your hands! So please leave some suitcase space for this "stuff".

Checking your email on the tour can be a huge challenge unless you have a roaming/data plan. There are a few opportunities to check email. Although most hotels will have free internet in the lobby and lobby computers with Internet access, most times we arrive late at night or leave early in the morning. Most hotels charge for Internet access in your room which you are free to purchase; not all hotels provide us with free internet access in your rooms.

What to bring:

Sunglasses

Umbrella/Waterproof jacket

Windbreaker and/or sweatshirts and/or sweater

Comfortable shoes and clothes

Swimsuit

Sunscreen

Earplugs (everyone's roommate snores!)

Small flashlight or flashlight app on your phone (so as not to disturb your roommate at night)

Items for bus amusement

Stamps for regular mail and postcards

Spare batteries for electronic devices

Half as many clothes as you are planning to pack

Further information will be coming from me and Gary Taylor at World Travelers. Until the next time,

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