

Sunshine Tour 2018

Communiqué #2

January, 2018

Happy New Year!

I hope you and yours had a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. Time is drawing close - we start the tour in a little over a month from now! There are a few details to wrap up and a final detailed schedule to give you. **The schedule is attached with this letter. Also you will find a final list of tour participants and your University hosts. These items will not be provided in hard copy as we try to go paperless. Please feel free to print and bring anything you want. You can find these items and more, with any and all real-time updates, at <http://pcuf.net/sunshine/>**

1. If you are flying, some flight times may have changed due to schedule changes. You should verify your flight times two days before you travel by logging on to the website of your airline and entering the confirmation number for your flights. Feel free to contact Gary Taylor at [1.801.706.1717](tel:18017061717) if you have any questions about your flights. You should also check-in online 24 hours before your flight on the airline's web site, and you should arrive at your airport with ample time before your flight. *International counselors please re-confirm your flight schedule and allow appropriate time to arrive at the airport. Also, please reconfirm with me if you will need a room for the night of January 31.
2. If you experience any major delays whatsoever, we need to hear about it. You can call any of the following numbers as soon as you have been informed of your new travel plans. *It might be wise to put our numbers in your phone now.* Call or text Gary Taylor's number first. The number is [1.801.706.1717](tel:18017061717). If you cannot reach Gary, please call or text me at [1.321.480.5315](tel:13214805315). If you can't call because they have you stuck on the plane, just keep heading towards Orlando as soon as you can, and contact one of us when possible. If you are an international counselor, both Gary and I can be reached through WhatsApp.
3. When you arrive at the Orlando airport, follow signs to Baggage Claim and claim your luggage. Once you have your luggage, simply call the Embassy Suites hotel at [1.407.888.9339](tel:14078889339). They will instruct you to meet their courtesy van to the hotel. If you do not have a cell phone that works in the U.S., you can message me via text or What's App, and I will send the van to get you, or you can ask any Sky Cap (luggage handler) to call the hotel for you; just make sure to have the number with you. When you arrive to the hotel, look for me – I'm usually sitting in the lobby waiting to greet you (those of you arriving on the 31st, I will be in them lobby around 11am on the 1st) I've attached a recent photo of me, so you know who to look for. ☺.
4. Check into the Orlando Embassy Suites and relax until dinner at 7pm. We all usually meet at the hotel's Manager's reception with free drinks and snacks from 5:30pm until dinner begins. Bring a free glass of wine to dinner with you. Our dinner room will be right near the Manager's reception area.

5. **Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any other special dietary needs. (Vegetarian? Don't eat seafood/pork? Allergic to nuts/dairy/gluten? Contact me!)** If you look at our itinerary, you'll see there are three meals you will have to buy on your own; one breakfast, one lunch, one dinner. The sponsoring colleges and universities and our hotels will provide all your other meals. If you have any other health issues you think I should be aware of, please let me know.
6. **PACK LIGHTLY and WISELY!!!** In most cases, you'll be taking your own baggage to your room. If you can't or don't want to, a bellman may be available at all hotels, but to deliver baggage to 30 people will take an hour or more. Most people want their bags quickly and choose to take them up themselves. Please leave some space for the little takeaways the colleges insist on providing. Do NOT feel bad asking them to send you the items by mail if you cannot pack what they give you.
7. This time of year weather is very unpredictable; I hope in a month, you'll be able to at least sit out in the sun if not swim in the ocean and/or pools and Jacuzzis. Please consult the weather service of your choice and make sure you bring an all-occasion sweater or jacket. My Caribbean guests will find the bus cold and will be colder than most. Long pants, light gloves and a scarf in addition to your jacket might be wise.
8. All of our hotels have free Internet access in your room *except the Embassy Suites*. If you go online and register as a Hilton Honors member, then internet is free at the Embassy Suites as well! You can enroll at <https://secure3.hilton.com/en/hh/customer/join/joinHHonors.htm> . If you do not enroll, Internet will be \$9.95 per day in the room and free in the lobby.
9. Attached you will find a detailed schedule, a list of your university hosts, and a final list of participants with contact information. **The person with the same number as you in the first column is your roommate.** Feel free to contact any and all of your fellow travelers.
10. Each hosting university is *supposed* to research and find the students you have attending their institutions. They are not always successful in this assignment. If there is a student you would specifically like to see, please email or call the director of the university and ask that the student be present. A list of your hosts and their contact information is enclosed.
11. You may want to go to your favorite guidebook/website and print out a write-up on each school we visit so you may become familiar with them prior to arriving on the campus. Some schools will provide a one-page fact sheet for you about their institution upon arrival.
12. Question or problems? Call/email me anytime. I will email you a day or two before the tour as a friendly reminder.

I will see you at the Embassy Suites in Orlando on February 1st! Safe travels!

Judi Marino
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International Admissions Specialist

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