

# HISTORY HITCH

History, Language & Culture Tours

*Tour:*

Tropical Studies

*Destination:*

Orlando & Anna Maria Island, Florida, USA

*Specialization:*

General Education & Culture

*Itinerary:*

7-days / 6-nights

Tropical Studies - Orlando & Anna Maria Island			
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Travel to Orlando, Florida; transfer to Hotel and check-in; Welcome, Safety & Orientation		Hotel Dinner Mini-Golf Tournament
2	Universal Studio's Theme Park & Islands of Adventure Theme Park with Hopper + Behind-the-Scenes Master Class		WonderWorks & Comedy Pizza Show
3	NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center		Local Dinner
4	Universal Studio's Theme Park & Islands of Adventure Theme Park with Hopper + 2 Educational Master Classes		Dinner on Own at Park
5	Wild Florida Airboat Tour, Everglades Master Class & Lunch	Transfer to Florida's Gulf Coast	Hotel Check-in Dinner + Evening Beach Walk
6	Ocean Kayak Adventure	Beach Time & Scavenger Hunt	Farewell Dinner at the Beach
7	Depart Florida for Home		



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.

## Day 1

Dinner (dependent upon arrival time)

Travel to Florida arriving at in the late afternoon or early evening. After boarding your coach you will be transferred to your hotel on International Drive. After check-in, we'll have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation meeting and get settled in. This evening we'll have dinner locally and then some fun with a Mini-Golf Challenge!

**Sample Hotel: *Springhill Suites, International Drive*** - Innovatively designed and ideally located for our groups, this hotel is a great place to relax, refuel and enjoy everything the area has to offer. Located minutes from great dining and attractions, groups will make themselves at home in spacious suites that include two queen beds, a pull-out sofa sleeper, mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, complimentary high-speed Internet and more. Hotel amenities include an on-site fitness center, an outdoor heated pool, a business center, and a guest market. Breakfast is served at the hotel each morning.



***Pirates Cove Mini-Golf Challenge*** - Plunge into the legendary world of 18th century buccaneers! Putt your way through mountain caves, across a full-scale pirate ship, over footbridges and under cascading waterfalls--all amid a fun-filled atmosphere of meticulously kept landscaping and enchanting pirate lore.

## Day 2

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Good morning Orlando! After breakfast, we'll transfer to Universal Studios Theme Parks. We'll have Park Hopper passes to explore both amazing parks – Universal Studios Theme Park and Universal's Islands of Adventure, and ride the Hogwarts Express to get back and forth! Wear your walking shoes!



***Universal Studios Theme Park*** - Fun So Hard. It's just like watching your favorite TV shows and movies except with the ultimate ride-y things like twists, turns and drops. Face villains more menacing than your kids pre-

churros. Save the earth daily or even hourly. Oh and dragons, have we got dragons! And one of them even breathes real fire so that's cool (err hot). This is way beyond the movies.

**Islands of Adventure Theme Park** - Free Yourself to be Yourself. This is where it goes down. And up. And down again. To those who say "Yay adventure" we're here for you. Superheroes. Magical creatures. A school of witchcraft and wizardry. Even dinosaurs (turns out, not so extinct). Take a ride, multiple rides. Some will drench you. Some will just mess up your hair. Some will make your head spin (figuratively speaking). All of them will say: Every island is a new reality.

While here's we'll participate in a Master Class with the Universal experts! Choose from Behind-the-Adventure or Special FX:

**Behind the Adventure at Universal's Islands of Adventure** – Students will have the opportunity to discover the science involved in creating the world's most technologically advanced theme park. Behind-the-Adventure showcases the physics, technology, horticulture and general sciences that went into designing and building this state-of-the-art theme park.

**Special FX at Universal Studios Florida** – A special effects program to discover the secrets of making movie magic at Universal Studios. Through this interactive tour of Universal Studios, students will learn, hands-on, about the arts and sciences used to create some of the most spectacular special effects in motion picture history and what it took to recreate those effects in some of Universal Studios' most popular attractions.

This evening, we'll have dinner and fun at WonderWorks:

**WonderWorks & The Outta Control Magic Comedy Dinner Show** – Wonderworks is an amusement park for the mind, combining education and entertainment in over 100 hands-on exhibits for students of all ages. Students will feel the 65-mph hurricane force winds, be shaken by a 5.3 earthquake, play virtual sports, land the space shuttle, fly a fighter jet, lay on a bed of nails, design and ride their own roller coaster and even compete in a Laser Tag game in the world's largest Laser Tag Arena & Arcade.



Schools will also experience the "Outta Control Comedy/Magic Dinner Show" combining high-energy comedy improvisation with spectacular magic to thoroughly entertain audiences of all ages. During the show, schools will enjoy unlimited hand-tossed pizza, popcorn and soft drinks.

### Day 3

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Rise and shine for a spectacular space day! Today we're heading to Cape Canaveral on Florida's eastern coast, home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

**NASA's Kennedy Space Center** - John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Sally Ride and Jim Lovell are just a few names of the brave men and women that have launched into space from Kennedy Space Center! Your day of exploration includes real space hardware, authentic attractions, inspiring exhibits and hands-on experiences. The incredible accomplishments of the Apollo moon program return to life in the amazing Apollo/Saturn V Center. In back-to-back IMAX® theatres, you'll feel the thrill of space exploration on five-story screens as you "float" right alongside NASA Astronauts. On guided tours into exclusive areas, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at Kennedy Space Center's working space flight facilities. Strap in and experience interactive space flight simulators at the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Touch a real piece of Mars, see gigantic rockets, board the Space Shuttle Explorer and much more.



Your exploration of Kennedy Space Center starts with one of their world-renowned tours, where you depart the Visitor Complex to see awesome NASA facilities, including the massive launch pads, gigantic Vehicle Assembly Building, and exploring the awe-inspiring Apollo/Saturn V Center. There is much to do at the Visitor Complex when you return, from live action theatrical shows like Mad Mission to Mars, to the inspiring Astronaut Encounter briefing with an actual NASA Astronaut - one of the few people on Earth who have been to space. View ten-story high rockets from all eras of space exploration in the Rocket Garden, walk through a full-size Space Shuttle mock-up, see IMAX space films on gigantic five-story screens, and see an actual Gemini program capsule on display in Early Space Exploration.

**IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION NOTE** – Please be aware that this day includes 10-hours of motorcoach time. As NASA is approximately a 1.5-hour drive from your hotel, the time reserved includes 3 hours of travel time plus 7-hours at NASA. If your school desires more time, we will be happy to book this for you but please be aware that motorcoach time is calculated hourly and you will be responsible for any additional fees incurred.

This evening, we'll have dinner locally.

#### Day 4

*Breakfast included; lunch & dinner on own*

Good morning Orlando! Today it's back to Universal to get a chance to ride the rides we didn't fit in earlier in the week, plus participate in further educational opportunities.



Groups will choose two of the following options for Master Classes:

***Our Weather: Planning for Nature*** - Meet with and learn from Orlando's own Amy Sweezy from television news. In this unique live presentation, you'll see what goes into understanding weather patterns and the impact they can have on theme park guests.

***Storytelling: It Starts with a Hero*** - Created in partnership with Full Sail University, this program gives students the opportunity to explore Joseph Campbell's outline of The Hero's Journey and discover the visual and language arts behind storytelling. The concept is one of the basic principles of storytelling, from the earliest myths and legends to today's modern moviemaking. In this program, students learn the key components of character framing and development, plot development, backstory, and more.

***Food for Thought: A Taste of Careers in the Culinary Arts*** - Based on ServSafe curriculum, students explore Universal's unique food operations. From the warehouse to the restaurants, students learn about food safety and storage, preparation and presentation and careers in the industry.

***Career Exploration & Preparation*** - Before students can really focus on a career, they must first discover their natural strengths. This module provides self-assessment tools to define several areas of interest for students, then covers the entire process from application to interview and personal brand to work values.

***Leadership Skills & Personal Development*** - Leaders have the ability to influence others within an organization. In this experience, students are asked to take a good look at their own spheres of influence and assess the impact they may potentially make on others. They are provided tools they can use to positively influence their school or work environment and improve their personal people skills.

This evening, dinner is on your own at the parks. If we can assist you with group reservations, please let us know!



## Day 5

*Breakfast, lunch & dinner included*

Good morning Florida! Today, we'll check out of our hotel and store our luggage. We'll be visiting the northern Florida Everglades this morning to learn about the creatures that populate this fantastic area! Then, it's off to the beach!

***Wild Florida Airboat Tours*** - Located 45-minutes outside of Orlando, a visit into the Florida Everglades will be the wildest adventure you'll find in Central Florida. Experience a part of Florida that hasn't changed much from when early pioneers arrived in covered wagons in the 1800s. Climb aboard a U.S. Coast Guard certified airboat and catch a glimpse of alligators, eagles, turkeys, wild boars, roseate spoonbills, and other native creatures. Stroll through the Wildlife Park where you can see lemurs, sloths, zebras, and other animals native to South America, Africa, and Australia. Want to take a trip back in time to one of the first cattle operations in Central

Florida? Hop aboard the Ranch Buggy Tour for a look at a working cattle operation that can trace its roots to the 1850s. Wild Florida is a feast for the eyes and the soul. A sandwich lunch will be included at the center.



**Educational Components:** 1) Airboat Eco-Tour. Students will see a variety of animal and plant wildlife identified by airboat captains. Topics covered will include the Florida Ecosystem, native and invasive species, and interdependence attributes. 2) Alligator Presentation. Students will get an up-close look at alligators with an in-depth presentation of topics including lifecycle, diet, anatomy/physiology and behavioral aspects. 3) Wildlife Park. Students will be taken on a guided tour of the wildlife park with over 100 species of native and exotic animals including a walk through 'Hawk Swamp' to see what Florida looked like 1,000 years ago. Topics include the swamp ecosystem, endangered and threatened species, adaptations and characteristics of animals. Your package will include a 1-hour airboat tour, an alligator demonstration with photo, a BBQ lunch, a souvenir plus admission to the Wildlife Park; all with the master class educational elements as above.

Afterwards, we're off to beautiful Anna Maria Island!



Group staying on Anna Maria Island lodge at the **Silver Surf Gulf Beach Resort** – The Silver Surf features 50 “laid back” Florida-style units. Each unit includes one queen or king bed with a pull-out queen sofa sleeper to sleep up to 4 pupils. Units are equipped with mini-kitchens and have a microwave a small refrigerator and coffee pot. The hotel is located directly across the street from a beautiful beach on Anna Maria Island where scooter, bicycles, wave runners and boat rentals are available. The hotel has a heated pool and offers complimentary use of beach chairs and umbrellas. For life-guarded beaches, students may hop on the free public trolley to access the island’s great recreational areas. Meals are taken at a local restaurant, on the beach, within easy walking distance.



After checking in, we'll have an early dinner and then walk the beach for fantastic finds!

## Day 6

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Rise and shine Anna Maria Island! It's time to get wet!

**Sea Kayak Ecology Tour** - Experience one of the most abundant ecosystems on the planet. Only coral reefs and tropical rainforests boast a higher density and diversity of life than here in the mangrove estuary of Sarasota and Tampa Bay. After a full safety briefing, climb in and paddle the Florida waterways in one or two-person kayaks. Guided by an ecologist, we'll explore the shallow waters finding amazing sea creatures to stunning mangroves. In addition to the birds, fish, manatees, and dolphins we hope to find, we will also look for enormous live conchs, colorful sea sponges, delicate sea stars, even wild critters like sea cucumbers and sea hares! You'll be amazed at just how much is out there.



This afternoon, we'll have a relaxing afternoon at the beach, complete with a **Beach Scavenger Hunt!** Our final dinner will be served at the beach.

## Day 7

*Breakfast included*

After our fabulous week, we'll start to head home, taking memories with us that will last forever!

Note: If international groups want to stop for an **Outlet Shopping** excursion while in route to the airport, this is available for an extra fee. Simply let us know you wish to add this. The outlet mall will be [Ellenton Premium Outlets](#), located approximately a 30-minute drive inland.

# TROPICAL STUDIES

**Minimum Booking Numbers:**

20 students

**What's Included:**

Round-trip flights OR motorcoach transfers  
6-nights' hotel: 4 nights Orlando + 2 nights Anna Maria Island  
Breakfasts and dinners daily (except Day 4)  
Lunch at Wild Florida  
Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers  
Universal Studios Theme Park + Islands of Adventure Theme Park with Hopper Pass  
Universal's Science-Behind-the-Scenes or FX Master Class  
Universal Education Master Class (choose 2 of 5 options)  
WonderWorks + Comedy Pizza Dinner Show  
Mini-Golf Challenge  
NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center  
Wild Florida Airboat Tour & Alligator Master Class, Lunch  
Anna Maris Island Beach Walk & Island Exploration  
Ecology Tour by Sea Kayak  
Beach Time + Scavenger Hunt  
Personal Tour Ambassador  
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest  
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest  
24-hour emergency cover

**What's Not Included:**

Dinner on Day 4  
Lunches with the exception of Day 5  
Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)  
Transfers to/from home airport  
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary  
Cost of visas, full or collective passports  
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel  
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary  
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.  
Any gratuities – drivers, maid service, bellman service, ambassador

**As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.**