



# Florida Keys: Exploring Florida's Living Reef



LEARN SERVE INSPIRE

**3 DAYS**

**FLORIDA KEYS:  
EXPLORING FLORIDA'S LIVING REEF**



**INCLUDED IN  
PROGRAM FEE:**

- Full Time Tour Guide
- Accommodations
- All Taxes
- Fees For All Activities Not Listed As Optional
- 5 Meals
- T-shirts
- 1 Free Chaperone For Every 8 Paid Students

\*Order itinerary occurs in may vary. All times given are approximate and may vary.

Students will explore and study the third largest barrier reef in the world. While snorkeling over this incredible reef students may see barracuda, grouper, hawksbill sea turtles, and a variety of other marine wildlife. The group will also explore mangrove habitat by kayaking in the back country. Night wades and dissections complete the educational experience. The students will also have the chance to mentor impoverished migrant worker children in Homestead, FL through reading, computer assistance, soccer games, music, and more. This not only touches a community in need, but allows the students to understand how they can use their education to impact communities around them.

**Day 1 • Arrive in Homestead, FL**

After your arrival in Homestead, FL, the group will begin with mentoring programs through game activities with migrant children at the RCMA. The group will then head to Islamorada. After dinner, you will begin your hands on study of nocturnal marine life with a night wade in the coastal bay area of Islamorada.

**Day 2 • Shallow Bay Studies and Snorkeling the Reef**

Following breakfast, the group will spend the morning studying the shallow bay ecosystem and collecting sponges for dissection from the sea grass lagoon. Here we will analyze this coral inhabitant nursery system. In the afternoon you will snorkel along the coral reef and learn about marine biodiversity that live on the barrier reef. Dinner will be followed by a squid dissection.

### **Day 3 • Kayaking the Mangrove Ecosystem**

During the morning the group will go kayaking and explore the unique mangrove ecosystem. We may find stingrays, small nurse sharks, and a variety of other shallow bay inhabitants. The group will then play a game of “predator/ prey” in the mangrove mud. After cleaning up, the group will check out of the hotel and begin the trip home.



**Florida’s “Ghost Children” - Come use your education, gifts, and talents to aid the children of south Florida’s migrant workers through Appleseed Expeditions’ mentoring and tutoring programs.**

**“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”** **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Marine Biology Adventure - Discover the fragile ecosystems of Florida’s barrier reef. This reef is the third largest barrier reef in the world and provides habitat to an abundance of tropical marine organisms.**



DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
<p><b>1pm:</b> Arrive in Homestead, FL and begin mentoring the children at the RCMA center</p> <p><b>4pm:</b> Head to Islamorada</p> <p><b>5:30pm:</b> Have dinner</p> <p><b>7pm:</b> Time of reflection</p> <p><b>8pm:</b> Night wade in the coastal bay</p> <p><b>9:30pm:</b> Lights out</p>	<p><b>7:30am:</b> Breakfast</p> <p><b>9am:</b> Shallow bay and sea grass lagoon studies</p> <p><b>12pm:</b> Lunch</p> <p><b>1:30pm:</b> Snorkel the barrier reef</p> <p><b>5:30pm:</b> Dinner</p> <p><b>7pm:</b> Time of reflection</p> <p><b>8pm:</b> Squid Dissection</p> <p><b>9:30pm:</b> Lights out</p>	<p><b>7:30am:</b> Breakfast</p> <p><b>9am:</b> Kayaking and mangrove studies. Play a game of “predator/prey”</p> <p><b>11am:</b> Get cleaned up and check out</p> <p><b>12pm:</b> Feed the Tarpon @ Robbie’s and souvenir shopping</p> <p><b>12:30pm:</b> Head home</p>

***“Seeding a Revolution of Change Through Service”***



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