



The Emerald Coast: Gulf Coast Adventure



LEARN SERVE INSPIRE

3 DAYS

FLORIDA'S EMERALD COAST: Gulf Coast Adventure



INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FEE:

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

*Service component may change due to the community's needs at the time of the trip.

The Nature Conservancy stated that Northwest Florida is one of the nation's top ten "Hot Spots" for ecological diversity. It is home to a variety of unique ecosystems and contains more species of plants and animals than any other comparable region in the country. While in the area, your group will not only explore these ecosystems but also aid in their preservation.

Day 1 • Preservation of Camp Helen State Park

After arriving in Santa Rosa Beach your group will stop by Camp Helen State Park to spend the afternoon in volunteer service. Here students will help with trail enhancement projects, removing invasive species, and light construction. While in the area, you will conduct net pulls to learn about the many species found in these coastal dune lakes. Students will also learn about prehistoric mounds that indicate humans inhabited the area more than 4,000 years ago. You will then head to Panama City Beach to check into your accommodations. The group will then enjoy dinner and the shops of Seaside. In the evening you will participate in a night wade and explore the inter-tidal zone, using nets to catch a large variety of ocean life to examine and release.

Day 2 • National Marine Fisheries Service and Snorkeling

During the morning the group will go to the National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory in Panama City. Biologists will discuss current research projects taking place in the Gulf of Mexico. We will also tour the facilities to see what local biologists are doing to help preserve the local ecosystems. We then head out to sea in the afternoon to snorkel the seagrass beds of St. Andrew Bay. Students

will collect many different species in the area for discussion. You may also have the chance to interact with the wild porpoises that make their home off Shell Island. You will be able to see firsthand how these marine mammals play, feed, and interact. After enjoying dinner at Pier Park the group will head back to Seagrove for shark studies. Depending on the weather you might even try to catch a live shark to study and then release!

Day 3 • Coastal Dune Lakes

During the morning the group will go kayaking and/or paddleboarding and explore the unique coastal dune lake ecosystem found in this area. Many times we discover bat rays, blue crabs, and a variety of marine inhabitants. From here the group will get cleaned up and head home.



“Lifes most persistant and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” **Dr. Martin Luther King**

Marine Biology Adventure – Discover the fragile ecosystems of the Emerald Coast. Explore the coastal dune lakes and their extremely rare ecosystems. These types of lakes are only found in NW Florida and Madagascar, Africa. Students will have a chance to help preserve this ecosystem through beach cleanup projects.



Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
<p>1pm: Meet guides and begin service</p> <p>5pm: Check into accommodations</p> <p>5:45pm: Dinner</p> <p>7:15pm: Program introduction</p> <p>8:30pm: Night wade</p> <p>10pm: Lights out</p>	<p>7:30am: Breakfast</p> <p>9am: NMFS</p> <p>1pm: Dolphin and sea grass catamaran trip (Lunch on boat)</p> <p>6pm: Dinner at Pier Park</p> <p>8:15pm: Shark studies on the beach</p> <p>11pm: Lights out</p>	<p>7:30am: Breakfast will be done in two shifts</p> <p>8:50am: Kayaking in the Coastal Dune Lake</p> <p>11:30am: Clean-up and checkout</p> <p>12pm: Lunch</p> <p>1:30pm: Depart for home</p> <p> </p> <p>*All times are CST. Times and order itinerary occurs in may vary due to availability. Some activities are weather permitting.</p>

“Seeding a Revolution of Change Through Service”



**For more information contact us:
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