

Key West & Sunny Florida Circle

St. Augustine - Miami - Key West - Ft. Myers - Sarasota - Orlando
February 28th- March 11th, 2021

Day 1. Today we begin our vacation to sunny Florida. Relax and get acquainted as we travel south through Tennessee and Georgia. **Day 2. St. Augustine.** This morning we continue our journey to tour St. Augustine, the oldest permanent settlement in the United States. At the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, we see the fort that serves as a grim but venerable symbol of the Spanish presence in Florida. **Day 3.** Today we're off to the Kennedy Space Center, where we take a two-hour guided bus tour of the facility and take in the show at the incredible IMAX Theater. Maybe some free time to explore the beach. **Day 4. Ft. Lauderdale.** This morning is a scenic drive southward through rolling citrus orchards and past some of Florida's many lakes. In Fort Lauderdale, the riverboat *Jungle Queen* will take us on a cruise up the intercostal waterway. See why this city is nicknamed the "Venice of America." Overnight in Miami. **Day 5. Vizcaya / Florida Keys.** We begin the day with a visit to Vizcaya Museum and Garden. This is an elaborate 72-room Italian Renaissance-style villa with an extraordinary collection of European furnishings and art. After lunch, we enjoy a spectacular drive across the Florida Keys. We spend two nights in Key West. **Day 6. Key West.** Today we begin our exploration of the island with a guided tour of Key West, noted for its 19th Century gingerbread houses and its Cuban foods and dialects that became a part of the culture when cigar-making was the island's chief industry. Next, enjoy a glass bottom boat tour over the coral reef. **Day 7. Everglades / Miccosukee Indian Village.** Today we return to the mainland of Florida, where we follow highway 41 across a portion of the Everglades. We visit the Miccosukee Indian Village and let a guide take us on a tour through the past, present, and future of their history, culture and lifestyle. See demonstrations and exhibits of woodcarving, patchwork, beadwork, basket weaving and doll making. Here we take a unique airboat swamp tour in what's often called "the eighth wonder of the world," spotting alligators as we travel. Then we turn north along the coast to Fort Myers. **Day 8. Thomas Edison's Winter Home / Sarasota.** This morning we tour the winter home of inventor Thomas Edison. This house, built in Maine, was brought by ship to Florida in 1885. The museum, also located here, contains a rare and beautiful collection of antique phonographs as well as an exhibit depicting the history of electric light. Today in Sarasota we visit the Ringling residence, a million-dollar Venetian Gothic mansion patterned after the Doge's Palace in Venice, Italy. The Art Museum is an Italian-style villa created by local craftsmen from shiploads of columns, doorways, roof sculptures and marble collected in Italy by John Ringling. It has one of the best collections of Baroque art in the western hemisphere. The Museum of the Circus has a collection of circus wagons, calliopes, costumes, handbills and posters covering the history of the circus from Roman times to the present. **Day 9. Orlando.** Today we travel to Orlando. Orlando, in the center of the Sunshine State, offers experiences like nowhere else. It's true: Orlando is a magical place. And it's not just because it's home to Cinderella's castle at Walt Disney World. There's an incredible mix of fun things to explore and do in Orlando. We spend 2 nights in Orlando. **Day 10.** Today will be an open day to enjoy the Orlando area. What will it be? Disney World, **Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, Sea World or Epcot.** Be amazed, inspired, and entertained! World Showcase features Pavilions with shops, attractions and restaurants that represent the culture and cuisine of 11 countries. **Day 11.** Enjoy some free time in Orlando before we begin traveling north towards KY. Overnight en route. **Day 12.** Travel home with memories of a fantastic tour. Tour Cost: \$2350 per person, double occupancy. Includes: Motor-Coach Transportation, 11 nights lodging, admissions, 8 group meals.

