

Miami & the Keys

April 21st – 27th, 2023

South Beach... has been called the American Riviera and an Art Deco Playground. Everglades National Park... The largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. The Key's... The word Key comes from the Spanish word cayo, which means little island. The Florida Keys, therefore, means "little islands of Florida". These little islands had been home to Caloosa Indians who lived here until the arrival of the history-making Spanish Ponce de Leon expedition. When the expedition first arrived here these explorers were looking for the Fountain of Youth but instead found money.

Included:

- ✪ Motor coach transportation to/from PDX
- ✪ Personal services from your OregonWest Tour Director
- ✪ Deluxe motor coach on tour
- ✪ Roundtrip air including 1 checked bag
- ✪ 6 nights deluxe lodging
- ✪ 6 breakfasts, 3 lunch, 3 dinners
- ✪ All gratuities & attractions as described below!

Welcome to Miami and our home for the next two nights **The Hampton Inn South Beach...** one block from Miami Beach and the boardwalk. Enjoy the best of Miami, with Faena District and South Beach's shopping, dining and more.

Today we'll tour **Everglades National Park by airboat...** Skip across the shallow waters and sawgrass prairie to Miccosukee Island and Cypress islands... full of Seminole and Miccosukee history. Hear how the Miccosukee families learned to live in harmony for generations in what many considered an unlivable landscape. Enjoy some **free time on Ocean Drive...** it is the quintessential Miami. Next, we'll tour the **Coral Castle Museum...** a stone sculpture garden, built by one man, Edward Leedskalnin. Ed single-handedly and secretly carved 1,100 tons of coral rock... his unknown process has created one of the world's most mysterious events. Tonight, enjoy European cuisine at a local favorite.

It was not long ago that Miami was a rather large but quiet Southern City. The 1959 Castro Revolution in Cuba changed Miami forever. Wave after wave of Cuban refugees have transformed Miami into the Capital of the Americas. We'll **journey through the story of Miami's Cuban community.** Take in the smells, sights, sounds and colors of a street that launched the dramatic transformation of Miami over five decades ago. Enjoy some great Cuban cuisine. We'll make our way to **Key Largo** our home for the night, it is the first of the fabulous Florida Keys. Your evening is free to explore the many restaurants, shops and more!

We will be traveling on the historic "**Over the Sea Highway**" it officially opening for traffic on January 25, 1928. First stop, **History of Diving Museum...** Drs. Joe and Sally Bauer acquired one of the world's largest collections of diving helmets, hand-operated air pumps, armored suits, lights and more! Next, **lunch at Wahoo's Bar & Grill,** they offer spectacular views and some of the Key's best seafood. **Welcome to Key West** our home for the next 3 nights the **Historic Crowne Plaza La Concha Hotel.** Located in the heart of Key West... Dinner tonight is at a famous landmark, Sloppy Joes... Ernest Hemingway, a favorite patron of Russell's, encouraged its name change to Sloppy Joe's.

Today we visit Dry Tortugas National Park. Accessible only by boat or seaplane, the park is known the world over as the home of **magnificent Fort Jefferson,** built to protect one of the most strategic deep-water anchorages in North America. By fortifying this spacious harbor, the United States maintained an important "advance post" for ships patrolling the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida. The location along one of the world's busiest shipping lanes was its greatest military asset.

This morning we'll tour in the **Ernest Hemingway house & museum...** It was on the advice of John Dos Passos, a fellow member of the "Lost Generation" of ex-patriate artists and writers populating Paris during the 1920s, that Hemingway was first prompted to visit Key West. Hemingway did not go directly to South Florida from Paris, but rather arrived through Havana, Cuba a city and country that would prove to be critically important in Hemingway's later personal and professional life.

Your **afternoon is free to explore...** get on the "**Hop On, Hop Off**" trolley it offers a narrated tour. Visit more than 100 points of interest among Key West's top attractions. Early evening we'll meet up to take in the **Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory.** Dinner tonight will be one to remember. All aboard for **Key West's legendary sunset dinner cruise** celebration!

We'll head home with fantastic tropical memories!



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Excluded: Items of personal nature such as telephone calls, movie rentals, etc.

The Fine Print: A 24 person minimum is required for this tour to operate. Tour deposits and payments are subject to penalties unless the minimum is not met and the tour is canceled. Cancellation insurance is available by calling our office. OregonWest Excursions is not liable for damage, delay, or inconvenience which may occur through acts or defaults of any other company or person engaged in providing services, accommodations, transportation or facilities in connection with this tour, nor are we liable for any acts of war, whether declared or not, damage, loss, or acts of God connected with this tour.

A \$100 per person deposit will hold space; balance is due by January 19th, 2023.

