



## Florida Everglades 5-Day Educational Trip Curriculum

### Day 1: Introduction to the Everglades Ecosystem

- **Morning:**
    - Arrival and check-in at the hotel.
    - Orientation session with the mentor: Overview of the Everglades ecosystem, history, and conservation efforts.
    - Introduction to key species: Alligators, panthers, manatees, and diverse bird species.
  - **Afternoon:**
    - Guided airboat tour through the Everglades National Park.
    - Discussion on wetland ecology, hydrology, and the importance of preserving the unique habitat.
    - Wildlife observation and journaling activity.
  - **Evening:**
    - Group dinner and reflection session.
    - Documentary screening: "Everglades – River of Grass."
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### Day 2: Conservation and Indigenous Culture

- **Morning:**
  - Visit to an Everglades conservation center.
  - Hands-on workshop on invasive species management (e.g., Burmese pythons and invasive plants).
  - Presentation by park rangers on the impact of climate change.
- **Afternoon:**

- Visit to a local Native American village.
  - Cultural immersion experience: Learning about the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes, their history, and traditional crafts.
  - Canoe trip through the waterways guided by indigenous experts.
  - **Evening:**
    - Campfire storytelling session with tribal elders.
    - Discussion on sustainable practices and how students can contribute to conservation efforts.
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### **Day 3: Research and Reflection**

- **Morning:**
    - Guided nature walk focusing on plant identification and ecological relationships.
    - Citizen science project: Collecting and analyzing water samples for environmental monitoring.
    - Group discussions on findings and observations.
  - **Afternoon:**
    - Visit to an environmental research facility.
    - Interactive session with scientists studying the Everglades.
    - Final wrap-up and group presentations on key learnings.
  - **Evening:**
    - Reflection and leisure time.
    - Preparation for further exploration.
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### **Day 4: Advanced Environmental Studies**

- **Morning:**
  - Deep dive into Everglades' hydrology and water management strategies.

- Field study on the impact of human activities on the ecosystem.
  - **Afternoon:**
    - Birdwatching excursion with expert ornithologists.
    - Photography and art session capturing the beauty of the landscape.
  - **Evening:**
    - Group debate on conservation policies and sustainable tourism.
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### **Day 5: Community Engagement and Action Planning**

- **Morning:**
    - Volunteer activity with a local environmental organization.
    - Development of individual action plans for environmental stewardship.
  - **Afternoon:**
    - Closing ceremony and distribution of certificates.
    - Farewell lunch and departure.
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### **Educational Objectives:**

1. Understand the ecological significance of the Everglades and its biodiversity.
2. Learn about conservation challenges and efforts to protect the ecosystem.
3. Explore the cultural heritage of the Native American tribes in the region.
4. Participate in hands-on environmental research and citizen science initiatives.
5. Foster a sense of responsibility for environmental stewardship.
6. Gain deeper insight into water management and sustainable practices.
7. Engage with the local community and contribute to conservation efforts.

