

# 9-Day Circle Florida Key West

2010

Tour #109

Mar. 20-28



2011

Tour #209

Mar. 19-27



MOTORCOACH

## 1 SUNSHINE STATE / LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

Our tour will begin with a day of getting acquainted with our fellow travelers and learning of our plans for the next few days. We have lunch near Atlanta and travel south toward Sun and Fun. By early evening we arrive in Lake City, Florida for overnight.

## 2 & 3 BUSCH GARDENS AT TAMPA / ST. PETERSBURG

This morning we will visit world famous Busch Gardens at Tampa. Busch Gardens is a thrilling African safari and a sun-soaked Florida vacation all rolled into one. Experience up-close encounters with wild animals, and explore fascinating attractions based on cultures and legends of far away lands. A unique blend of thrilling rides, one of the country's premier zoos featuring nearly 3,000 animals, live shows, restaurants, shops and games, Busch Gardens provides unrivaled excitement for guests of every age. We continue to the St. Petersburg, Florida area for a two night stay. This evening enjoy a delightful stroll on the beach. We will see the sights in St. Petersburg and have free time on the beach tomorrow.

## 4 FT. MYERS / THOMAS EDISON HOME / MARCO ISLAND

We continue south to Fort Myers where we tour the winter home of Thomas A. Edison, beautifully situated along the Caloosahatchee River. It is one of the greatest historic treasures within Lee County. In 1885, Thomas Edison first visited Florida. He purchased property along the Caloosahatchee River and built a vacation home. The vernacular structure, completed in 1886 and dubbed "Seminole Lodge" by the Edisons, served as a winter retreat and work place for the prolific inventor until his death in 1931. Edison's good friend Henry Ford followed close behind and purchased the neighboring property in 1915. "The Mangoes" was the winter getaway for the Fords. Edison and Ford spent many winters working, talking and even relaxing together in tropical southwest Florida. We continue to Marco Island for overnight. Dinner included this evening. **D**

## 5 CATAMARAN TO KEY WEST AND SIGHTSEEING

This morning we board a jet powered catamaran ferry for an exciting 3 hour cruise to Key West. Delightful Key West is filled with sub-tropical palms and flowers, huge, shady banyan trees, Victorian gingerbread houses and tiny "shotgun" homes where Cuban cigar-makers' descendants still live. You will enjoy the many sights of Key West—the southernmost city in the Continental United States—with its rocky shore, sandy beaches and weathered homes. A 14-mile Conch Train ride will show and explain to you the many sights of Key West including Truman's Little White House. There will be free time for shopping and browsing in the boutiques at Mallory Square in this quaint and historic port city. Sunsets are among the most popular natural attractions of Key West. Everyone stops what they are doing to come to Mallory Square to Watch the Sunset. We will spend the night in Key West. Dinner included this evening. **D**

## 6 MIAMI SIGHTSEEING

Today we head back to mainland Florida traveling the 100 mile stretch through the Florida Keys—with names like Big Pine Key,

No Name Key, Duck Key, Long Key and Plantation Key just to name a few. We reach Key Largo, the first of the Florida Keys and the longest at 30 miles connected to the mainland by the first of 42 bridges that connect the Keys across the Overseas Highway. After lunch in the Miami area, get ready to experience Miami's most popular neighborhoods, including South Beach, Downtown Miami, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, and Little Havana. See Miami's spectacular coastal sites including the beautiful Miami Skyline, Fisher Island and Millionaire's Row. Overnight in the Fort Lauderdale area.

## 7 KENNEDY SPACE CENTER / PALM COAST, FLORIDA

It's a short drive this morning to Cape Canaveral for a tour of the Kennedy Space Center. This up-close tour takes you right to the launch pads, and provides a two-hour fully guided bus tour within the Kennedy complex. You will visit the Saturn V Exhibition and the Observation Gantry where you can also take pictures of the shuttle launch pads. With a little luck, you might even see a space shuttle there! After the bus tour, there will be time to visit the US Astronaut Hall of Fame with interactive spaceflight simulators. We will enjoy unlimited access in the visitors complex and stroll through a real-size space shuttle, look at a moon rock and have "space" ice cream. We continue to Palm Coast, Florida for the night.

## 8 ST. AUGUSTINE / SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

It is a short drive to St. Augustine, Florida for a tour of the first permanent European settlement in America. In this "Oldest City", you can see historic sights from every era from Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth to The Oldest Wooden School House in the USA to the opulent hotels of the 1880's. After our trolley tour of St. Augustine, we continue through Jacksonville to Savannah, Georgia for our last night. Dinner included at Paula Deen's restaurant. **D**

## 9 HOMEWARD BOUND

We depart Savannah this morning for our return trip to Knoxville ending our delightful Circle Florida tour with Knoxville Tours.

### 3 MEALS INCLUDED

B - Breakfast • L - Lunch • D - Dinner

### Price Per Person:

Single \$2195      Twin \$1595      Triple \$1525

10-day tour from these cities departing one day earlier: Decatur and Huntsville, AL; Lexington, KY and Nashville, TN. **Add \$100 to the above prices for twin and triple and \$120 for single.**