

Where...



COURTESY OF MORIKAMI MUSEUM & JAPANESE GARDENS



COURTESY OF MAPLE \$ ZOO AT CARIBBEAN GARDENS



COURTESY OF BOK TOWER GARDENS

to get in touch with NATURE

Eco Tourism comes in a variety of forms. From meditative and formal gardens to themed pathways and the wildest of zoos, it's time to get in touch with your natural side...

14 various gardens

[Gainesville] Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Regardless of your garden preference, this 62 acre park features than 14 various gardens to appease every visitor. From the scent-filled herb garden, the largest in the Southeast, to the hummingbird garden, travelers can take in some of Florida's most lush sights.

paved scenic walkways

[Orlando] Harry P. Leu Gardens

Within minutes of downtown Orlando, more than three-acres of paved scenic walkways take visitors through 50 acres of southern styled gardens. The garden, which is home to the largest formal rose garden in Florida and America's largest Camellia collection outside of California, features a butterfly garden and three-acre idea garden.

an informal woodland setting

[Lake Wales] Bok Tower Gardens

Formerly known as Historic Bok Sanctuary, the gardens boast one of the greatest works of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.

Designed to be contemplative and provide an informal woodland setting, the gardens offer a series of romantic recesses and tranquil resting spots, picturesque vistas and breathtaking views of the unique 60 Bell Carillon Tower, which is today one of only four in Florida.

periods of Japanese garden design

[Delray Beach] Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens

In 2001, The Morikami completed a major garden expansion and renovation. The new gardens reflect major periods of Japanese garden design, from the eighth to the 20th century, and serve as an outdoor extension of the museum. The Morikami Gardens consists of shinden islands, a paradise garden and contemporary garden. According to the garden designer, Hoichi Kurisu, each garden is intended to express the character and ideas of a unique counterpart in Japan without attempting to duplicate those gardens, and seamlessly flow together as one garden.

20,000 colorful plants

[Sarasota] Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Featuring an open-air and under-glass museum of more than 20,000 colorful plants, many collected in the wild on

Do The Zoo!



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over 150 scientific expeditions to tropical rain forests by Selby Gardens research staff, these gardens exemplify stunning. Throughout the grounds of the historic Selby estate are many distinct garden areas, including the Tropical Display House with its lush rain forest atmosphere, the towering Bamboo Pavilion, Banyan Grove, Cactus and Succulent Garden and Cycad Collection. Also on the grounds is the former Christy Payne Mansion, a unique example of eclectic Southern Colonial architecture. The Mansion, on the National Register of Historic Places, is the home to ever-changing botanical art and photography exhibits.

one-acre butterfly garden

[Key West] Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden The only "frost free" botanical garden in the continental United States features a lush canopy of tropical palms, trees and flora.

The courtyard features a waterfall wall of orchids and visitors are encouraged to meander through a one-acre butterfly garden.

exciting animals... natural habitats!

[Palm Beach] On the wild side of West Palm is the **Palm Beach Zoo** at Dreher Park, housing more than 1,500 animals throughout 23 lush acres. In addition to exciting animals from all over the world living in natural habitats, the zoo features a colorful carousel, an interactive water play fountain, a full service restaurant, daily performances of the "Wings over Water" bird show, and many other programs and events throughout each day. The zoo offers a dynamic Summer Zoo Camp Program, a "Night Owls" Overnight Program, Field Trips, Outreach Programs, and a variety of special events such as "Winter in July", "Boo at the Zoo" and "Festival por los Animales."

561-547-9453 | www.palmbeachzoo.org

close-up experience

[Melbourne] Along Florida's Space Coast, the **Brevard Zoo** specifically encourages some wild behavior. Whether it's walking through an imitation rainforest or investigating La Selva or "the jungle" exhibit, visitors will experience encounters with plants and animals unlike anywhere else. For a more close-up experience, specialty events are held including a night walk and camp out. www.brevardzoo.org

hands-on-Science

[South Florida] Encourage your kids to get in touch with nature at **Camp Live Oak!** An American Camping Association accredited

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day camp working in a cooperative effort with Florida's State Park System in Broward and Dade Counties. The camp meets and often exceeds over 300 ACA standards of health and safety, programming, staffing, and accountability. The camp proudly fosters sportsmanship, cooperation, self-discipline, respect for property and nature, and leadership.

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18 regional parks

Broward County Parks and Recreation Division provides year-round recreational opportunities for all ages. The system includes 18 regional parks, four nature centers, six neighborhood parks and 21 natural areas. Special attractions include batting cages, Butterfly World, campgrounds, a dog park, an educational farm, golf facilities, athletic fields, nature exhibit halls, racquet centers, riding stables, skate parks/tracks, cable water-skiing, a target range, a velodrome, and water playgrounds. Programming includes family events, classes, nature activities, pet programs, and special events such as the Renaissance Festival, Chili Cookoff, Holiday Fantasy of Lights, and Toys in the Sun Run. Hours and fees vary. The Special Populations Section provides programming for persons with physical and developmental disabilities. The Extension Education Section provides research-based information to residents and businesses for improved quality of life and business profitability. The Division is also home to SWIM Central, Broward County's primary resource and referral service for available swim lessons.

Call for location and upcoming events.

954-357-8117 | www.broward.org/parks

a full service travel agency

Nature Coast Tourism Development, Inc. (NCTD) in conjunction with Nature Coast Eco Tourism Alliance, Inc. (NCETA) [non-profit] is a special interest tourism development company that has a vision of a community working together for tourism and to market the experience of travel which is the major motivation for travel.

NCTD specializes in tourism development primarily Eco Heritage Tourism. The agency provides service in advertising, marketing, special events, trade shows and public relations. NCTD is registered in the State of Florida as a seller of travel (No. ST-33037) and is a full service travel agency. Visit them at 600 SE US 19, Suite C, Crystal River, FL 34428.

www.travelusafla.com *

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