

Tentative Itinerary Florida Keys and San Salvador, Bahamas

29 April **Meet at Louisville Airport 600AM EDT**
Delta 5659 Depart Louisville 735AM Arrive Cincinnati 815AM
Delta 535 Depart Cincinnati 927AM Arrive Ft. Lauderdale 1154AM
Leave for Everglades, lunch in Homestead

Everglades, visit Visitor Center for background on Everglades; Review Field notebook techniques; Hike Anhiga and Gumbo Limbo trails, collect observations on plants and animals; Grasslands overlook, collect observations on plants and animals; Do comparison of two localities, in particular drier higher area compared to lower wetter grasslands

Drive to Marathon Key, night at **Coral Lagoon Resort, Marathon, FL**
Emergency Number 305-289-0121
Pool check out on snorkeling

30 April Biology and Geology of living and ancient reefs of the Keys
Marathon Key ½ day, Sombrero Reef, Snorkel, and SCUBA Diving; Field notebook observations on aquatic diversity; total diversity, will be compared to San Salvador; coral diversity compared to ancient reef
Big Pine Key ½ day, Blue hole, Hammock structure and diversity, Mangrove transect, structure and diversity, animal observations such as Key deer
West Summerland Key, ancient reef, diversity and reef structure, compared to living

1 May Pack to return to Fort Lauderdale,
Lignum Vitae Key ½ day, Field notebook observations on mud-flats, Mangrove structure, plants native to Florida, and identification of common plant to the Caribbean
Lunch Islamorada
Canal cut revealing cross-section of recent reef, Field notebook, reef structure
Fruit and Spice Park, a unique arboretum with 500 species or varieties of edible plants, learn about the diversity of tropical plants that are used as fruit and spices
Night at **Comfort Inns near Fort Lauderdale, FL, airport, Emergency Number 954-922-1600**
After dinner, discussion comparing living and fossil reefs

2 May **Arrive Ft. Lauderdale Airport 5:45AM**
American Airlines 5067 Depart Ft. Lauderdale 745A Arrive Nassau 850A
Bahamasair 428 Depart Nassau 1030A Arrive San Salvador 1130A
Noon, arrive The College of the **Bahamas Gerace Research Station**
(www.geraceresearchcenter.com), San Salvador, Bahamas, Emergency phone number 242-331-2520

Settle in and have lunch at Station
Visit North Point, explore Garden Cave (2, # refers to location on map, see also Oyster Pond, 3 with high marine diversity), a shallow flank margin cave and Lighthouse Cave (29), a large flank-margin cave, record observations in Field notebook and compare the geological structure including the solution features in the former compared to the lack of flow markings in the latter, also examine caves for signs of life and identify the animals and plants; North Point Field notebook observations and identification of sea life adapted to rocky shores

Return to Station, time should permit optional swimming and snorkeling at the beach next to the Station

3 May Biology and Geology of a Patch Reef, Leeward coastal vegetation, southwest coast

Lindsay Reef (9), southwest shore snorkel and dive, Field notebook observations of reef diversity, transects to look at coral and fish diversity, look at geology of grain size sorting of sediments at different distances from reef; leeward coastal vegetation transect; Olympic Games Memorial to Columbus monument and Columbus Monument, culture discussion on where Columbus may have landed first; Bamboo Point (8) geology of pot-holes on hard substrate, sand dwellers including sand dollars, helmet snails and sand eels

Bag lunch return for dinner

4 Biology of reef, Cultural of the Caribbean, southern part of island Farquharson Plantation near Victoria Hill, early 19th Century Plantation, and abandoned villages of Old Place, Breezy Hill etc., Sandy Point Observation Tower (14) for over view of area; French Bay (15, 20), shore snorkel and Dive, Field notebook observations of reef diversity, sea grass (*Thalassia*) and beach rock organisms; “Watling’s Castle” at Sandy Point Estate remains of 17th -19th Century plantation, Watling’s Blue Hole (18), Field note-book observations, comparison to same in Florida

Bag lunch return for dinner

After dinner, discussion comparing living reefs Florida with San Salvador

5 Cockburn Town, Fossil reef, and ½ day optional day, west coast
Cockburn Town Pleistocene Reef (6), Field notebook observations examining 3D structure, transect of coral types to compare to FL

Cultural of the largest town, Cockburn Town, typical Bahamian buildings

Some options include Little Lake (7) shell beds, Observation Tower (5)

Bag lunch return for dinner

After dinner, discussion comparing fossil reefs, Florida with San Salvador

6 Fossil beaches, Ancient salt ponds, Cultural, Windward vegetation transect, east coast

Quarry A (30) Exposure of Pleistocene deposit of from dune to subtidal, Field notebook observations, will compare to existing structure; Salt Pond (25) hypersaline pond existing for much of Holocene; visit Lighthouse at Dixon Hill, observe island from upper lookout; Crab Cay and wade out to see Chicago Herald marker commemorating the 400th anniversary of Columbus’s discovery (unlikely place for landing), Field notebook observations of windward coastal vegetation transect, dune to subtidal structure

Bag lunch return for dinner

After dinner, discussion of windward and leeward coastal vegetation

7 Day trip to local small cays (islands)

Boat trip, Field notebook observation of life offshore, floral diversity on a cay of smaller size, and reef structure by boat

8 Inland geology and vegetation and creek from source to delta into lagoon,
east

Storr's Lake (28) hypersaline lake with stromatolites you can feel under water; Granny Lake (27), hypersaline lake with stromatolites, Field note-book observations of Pleistocene lagoonal exposures, inland vegetation on hike; North Pigeon Creek Quarry (24) observe fossil sequence similar to the living creek entrance; Pigeon Creek (23, 22) as we go down the Creek to the entrance, observe Red Mangrove thickets, near entrance sea grasses with green algae and molluscs, tidal channels, tidal flats with blue-green algal mat and a sand delta

Bag lunch return for dinner

After dinner, discussion comparing vegetation of Florida with San Salvador

9 At San Salvador Airport at 1000AM

**Bahamasair 428 Depart San Salvador 1150AM Arrive Nassau 115PM
American Airlines 5062 Depart Nassau 400P Arrive Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

515PM

**Delta 312 Depart Ft. Lauderdale, FL 656PM Arrive Atlanta, GA 849PM
Delta 1909 Depart Atlanta, GA 945PM Arrive Louisville, KY 1103PM**