



Experiential Education Courses in the Everglades

Our 2,000,000 Acre Classroom!

Everglades Area Tours.com

Dedicated to the experiential education of students, families and travelers from Florida, the Americas and the World.



Half-Day Everglades Experience

Students will experience the Everglades with a wet "Swamp Walk" in Big Cypress Swamp National Preserve or Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park with one of our knowledgeable (and passionate) naturalists. They will learn about the natural history of the Everglades, the impact of humans on the ecosystem, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) - the largest restoration project our planet has known. They will be introduced to a variety of native and exotic flora and fauna species that inhabit this ecosystem.



Full-Day Everglades Experience

In addition to a Guided Swamp Walk in the morning, with kayaks or canoes, students will experience another Everglades ecosystem in the afternoon. Rainwater flows from Florida's peninsula to the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico. Paddling through the tunnels and canopies of dense mangrove forests with an experienced naturalist guide, students will be exposed to and learn about the Everglades as it transitions from a freshwater ecosystem to a brackish estuary. Lunch is provided between experiences.



Three-Day Everglades Experiential Education Course

The Everglades are vast, richly diverse and unlike any other place on our planet. Home to hundreds of species of birds, unique reptiles, manatees, dolphins, sea turtles and dozens of other rare and endangered animals, this vast wilderness is the perfect environmental classroom for students to experience the outdoors. This course is a fun, outdoor educational experience; camping, canoeing, navigating - learning all the time. Students participate in all aspects, and learn to work independently and as a group.



Five-Day Everglades Experiential Education Course

Each day is a full day of learning... fun, energetic, educational and thought-provoking. The course challenges the students to learn about themselves and achieve more than they thought possible. Structure is apparent, but we also understand the importance of fun. Students will learn to live outdoors practicing Leave No Trace principles, pick up skills in coastal camping, marine navigation, canoeing, wildlife identification, cooking, teamwork initiatives, leadership, local natural history, as well as, environmental ethics and stewardship.

Welcome to our classroom; it's over two million acres!

"The Everglades is a test," one environmentalist has written. "If we pass, we may get to keep the planet." We, at Everglades Area Tours, feel that by immersing a group of students into our natural "classroom" over a number of days sharing common challenging experiences, that they may return home with a greater appreciation for sustainable development, our interconnectedness to the environment and to each other, as well as, a greater knowledge of Florida, and more importantly, a greater level of confidence in themselves.

We are dedicated to "the experiential education of students, families and travelers from Florida, the Americas and the World. It is only through education that we have the opportunity to preserve the Everglades, its culture and its heritage...while there is still time"

The Everglades is made up of a variety of habitats: sawgrass marshes, marl prairies, pinelands, hardwood hammocks, cypress swamps, mangrove forests and marine estuaries. It is the only ecosystem of its kind and is a giant 2,000,000 acre classroom that is right in our back yard. The Everglades is currently undergoing the largest restoration project the planet has ever known – the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP).

Chokoloskee Enterprises, Inc (d/b/a Everglades Area Tours.com) has been operating naturalist-led eco-tours, sea kayaking expeditions and guided fishing trips for the last 15 years within Everglades National Park, the 10,000 Islands National Wildlife Refuge and/or the Big Cypress National Preserve. In recent year, we have been conducting Experiential Education Courses for students that range in scope from a half-day experience to a full week in the outdoors of our Everglades Classroom.

Key Personnel



Capt. Charles Wright is a professional fishing guide, outdoor writer and naturalist interpretive guide. He grew up in South Florida and the Keys, and has personally enjoyed Everglades National Park since 1972. Schooled as an Environmental Engineer, an FAA Certified Flight Instructor, Florida Master Naturalist and US Coast Guard (USGS) Captain, he left his environmental consulting business and moved to Everglades City after hurricane Andrew. He has been guiding professionally in the Park since 1997, and is the President of Chokoloskee Enterprises, Inc. (d/b/a Everglades Area Tours), and is on the Board of Directors of the Everglades Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Guides Association. He is also active in the Society for Ethical Tourism, Florida Paddle Sports Association, the Audubon Society and the Collier County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Originally a fishing guide using poling skiffs and center-console boats, his charters always had an educational component. It was not long before he began to use the stealth and accessibility of the fishing kayak to get his clients to parts of the fishery that no others could access. The use of a dedicated transport boat for the kayaks, the desire to share the Everglades and educating his guests, steered him to conduct educational-based tours in the Park and eventually to create Everglades Area Tours. These Everglades Experiential Eco-Educational Courses are the result of his (and Chris Schuld's) passion to share and protect the Everglades he finds so precious.



Christopher Schuld is the lead interpretive guide and Florida Master Naturalist for kayaking and walking tours, Course Director/Lead Instructor for multi-day experiential courses, and lead sea kayaking guide on multi-day expeditions. He has a vast range of experience instructing, coordinating and supervising diverse groups of adults and youth in remote wilderness environments for extensive periods of time. He also has significant experience paddling and navigating throughout the entire Ten Thousand Islands ecosystem and Everglades National Park, as well as hiking through Big Cypress National Preserve and the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve. Chris is very familiar with multiple facets of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan from a recent internship with the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation (ARMF). He has an appreciation for the human and cultural history of southern Florida, as well as the flora and fauna of the region. In 2010, he was asked to be the Expedition Leader for a seven day expedition that the Everglades Coalition/ARMF sponsored, called "The River of Grass". He has certifications in Wilderness First Responder and Swift Water Rescue, and is also a White Water Tandem Canoe Instructor. Chris was a Lead Instructor with the North Carolina Outward Bound School, has led crews into the backcountry of the Pacific Northwest, taught English in Japan, worked with the Peace Corps in Honduras, and was a Construction Coordinator with Habitat for Humanity.