



# FLORIDA'S INCREDIBLE PANHANDLE!



## Wolves, Plantations, Caverns, Elephants, & More!

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## Travel Is Fun Tours

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### 4 DAYS June 4-7, 2023

**Includes:** 4 Great Days, 3 Hotels, 5 meals (3B, 2L), Visits to incredible Florida attractions including Historic **Florida Caverns**, Seacrest **Wolf Preserve**, **Torreya Forest** & the **Gregory Plantation Home**, The Florida **State Capital & Governor's Mansion**, **Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Farm/Home**, 2 Tails Elephant Ranch & More!!!

**DAY ONE** – After our morning pickups we'll make our way to Florida's beautiful Panhandle Area. We'll make rest stops & a lunch stop along the way and arrive at our first destination this afternoon, exciting and unique **Florida Caverns!** This amazing natural wonder will require some walking, but the gift shop has an excellent Virtual Cavern tour if the real Caverns aren't to your taste. Cool air, the sound of dripping water, a visual array of mystifying stalactites, stalagmites, flowstones and draperies - this is what greets visitors when they explore the otherworldly depths of Florida Caverns. Florida Caverns offers visitors a rarity in the state, a chance to explore stunning caves. While moving between the large underground rooms, one can observe the many chisel marks made by 1930s-era Civilian Conservation Corps workers. These hard-working men enlarged the cave passageways by hand so visitors could stand upright during the guided tours. They also built the park's spacious visitor center. After our subterranean adventures we will check into our home for the night the **Marianna Comfort Inn & Suites** with great amenities including Premium Free WiFi, 100% Smoke Free Hotel, Hot Breakfast, Outdoor Pool, Exercise Room, Computer w/ Internet, 32-inch Flat Screen TV, Refrigerator, Hair Dryer, Microwave and Coffee Maker. Dinner tonight is on your own with several choices within easy walking distance such as: Ruby Tuesday, Wendy's, Pizza Hut, Waffle House & more!

**DAY TWO** – After your included Hot Breakfast we will pack up and begin our adventure tracing our way back towards home... Our first stop is sure to capture your imagination! We will visit the **Seacrest Wolf Preserve** for a breathtaking 2-hour encounter with these amazing animals plus other critters! Be sure to wear long pants, no leggings and close toe shoes today! Experience First-Hand the Call of The Wild! Seacrest Wolf Preserve offers an unforgettable, educational experience where visitors encounter wolves. This rare and immersive experience allows guests to come face to face with the Seacrest Wolf Ambassadors as they learn important scientific information about this amazing keystone species. Yes you will be face to face with these beautiful animals! After our encounter with the wolves and other animals we will have a delicious country lunch (included) at Katies Café! After lunch what next? Welcome to **Torreya State Park** - High bluffs overlooking the Apalachicola River make Torreya one of Florida's most scenic places. Developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Birdwatching is also a popular activity. Over 100 species of birds have been spotted in the park. Forests of hardwood trees provide the finest display of fall color found in Florida. The park is named for an extremely rare species of Torreya tree that grows only on the bluffs along the Apalachicola River.



Torrey State Park is rich in history. During the Civil War some 200 Confederate soldiers called the high bluffs home for two years. The cannon emplacements are still visible today along one of our hiking trails. We participate in a memorable tour of the 1840s plantation home of Jason Gregory and family.

This 3,000-square-foot home originally sat on the west bank of the Apalachicola River. The home was donated to the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s with the understanding that the home would be dismantled and moved. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers took every brick and board, loaded the pieces on barges, transferred to the east bank and then reconstructed the fine old home where it can be seen today.

After touring the Gregory Plantation we'll move on to tonight's lodgings, the **Courtyard by Marriott** in Tallahassee. Amenities include: Free Wifi, Restaurant, Outdoor Pool, Fitness Center, Convenience Store, Coffee/tea maker, Mini fridge, Microwave and TV. Dinner is again on your own with choices such as the Hotel Restaurant, Mission BBQ, Olive Garden BJ's & more!

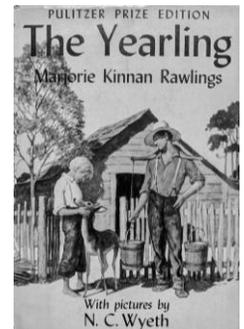
**DAY THREE** – After this morning's hot & cold Breakfast Today's Adventures include a tour of our State Capital, The Florida Governor's Mansion, and a trip to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawling Home/Farm!

**Florida State Capital** - The Historic Capitol, sometimes called "The Old Capitol," built in 1845, was threatened with demolition in the late 1970s when the new capitol building was built. Having been restored to its 1902-version in 1982, the Historic Capitol is directly behind the new Capitol building. Its restored space includes the Governor's Suite, Supreme Court, House of Representatives and Senate chambers, rotunda, and halls. Its adapted space contains a museum exhibiting the state's political history and the Florida Historic Capitol Museum

**Florida Governor's Mansion** - The original Governor's Mansion was built on the current site in 1907 and was occupied for nearly 50 years by a succession of eleven governors. In 1955, during the term of Governor LeRoy Collins, the first mansion was dismantled when it became structurally unsound. The current mansion was completed in 1956, and the First Family moved into their new home in the Spring of 1957. The Governor's Mansion was designed by renowned Palm Beach architect, Marion Sims Wyeth, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 20, 2006 to coincide with the mansion's fiftieth anniversary.

**Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Home/Farm** - Visitors to this old Florida homestead can walk back in time to 1930s farm life when Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings lived and worked in the tiny community of Cross Creek. Her cracker-style home and farm, where she wrote her Pulitzer prize-winning novel "The Yearling" and other wonderful works of fiction, has been restored and is preserved as it was when she lived here.

Lunch and dinner today will be on your own. Our home for tonight will be the **Country Inn & Suites** in beautiful Gainesville, FL – Amenities include: 24-hour fitness facilities, Breakfast, Microwave, Refrigerator and Swimming pool. For dinner (On your own) Cracker Barrel and Texas Roadhouse are within easy walking distance.



**DAY FOUR** – After today's delicious, included breakfast we are off for our final adventure of the trip. **Two Tails Elephant Ranch!** Two Tails Ranch was founded in 1984 by Theodore H. Svertesky (1954-1994) and Patricia L. Zerbin. The ranch is the only privately owned elephant facility of its kind. The natural coast of Florida is a prime location for elephants. The climate is almost identical to their native countries. The location of our ranch is surrounded by green grass, live oaks, and natural wildlife. It is a very peaceful environment that both animals and guests can enjoy. The ranch was built to board both Asian and African elephants needing temporary or permanent housing, regardless of health or dispositions. Over 250 elephants have passed through the gates of the ranch for a variety of reasons. Some stayed temporarily while their own exhibits were being remodeled or built. Others stayed for retirement, medical needs, behavior problems or even in emergencies after hurricanes destroyed their zoos. In 2008 Patricia Zerbin decided to start educational programs for private sectors and professionals to learn about elephants. As a result, All About Elephants, Inc. was created.

In private guided tours you will learn and interact with elephants like nowhere else. Our ranch is also home to our Grant Zebras Piere and Tache, African Spurthighed Tortoises Bert And Ernie, Red Foot Tortoises Daisy and Rosy, Ostrich Katherine, Emu Peepers, Camel Louis.

After our Elephant adventure and a delightful included lunch (TBA) it will be time to head home with our fantastic memories of Florida's wonders! We can't wait to see you on your next Travel Is Fun Tour!

**COST: \$739 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY/ \$919 PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY** A deposit of \$100 per person holds your space for this exciting tour, balance must be paid by April 21, 2023. Travel protection is available from Travel Insured International, please register, if desired at the link on our website [WWW.TIFTOURS.COM](http://WWW.TIFTOURS.COM) Remaining space will continue to be offered as available.

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