

**MARCO MEN'S CLUB COED TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP  
SHORT DURATION, DAY LONG, AND WEEKEND TRIPS  
JANUARY 10, 2025**

A comment was made at a previous meeting regarding places people have traveled:  
"We have traveled all over the world, but we have not taken advantage of travel opportunities in our own backyard!"

This is a valid point. To that end, the following is the beginning of a list that I hope will be ever-growing with everyone's input.

This list will include day trips, elongated weekend trips or things to do in Marco and the vicinity. Often, we are looking for something to do or are planning for an upcoming visit from family or friends. This may be of assistance in helping you plan.

I look forward to what others may add to the list. If you have any questions or comments, please call:

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## **Museums:**

### 5 Collier County Museums

Collier County Museum at the Government Center

Naples Depot Museum

Marco Island Historical Museum

Immokalee Pioneer Museum and Roberts Ranch

Museum of the Everglades

Rev Institute of Historically Significant Automobiles – Naples

AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum – Clewiston

Official Museum of the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Smallwood Store – Chokoloskee

Built in 1906 as a trading post – listed on the National Register of Historical Places

Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples

Koreshan State Historic Site – Estero

Utopian village set up by pioneering group in 1893.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center – Naples

## **State Parks / National Parks / Swamps, Preserves / Etc.:**

Everglades National Park

Fakhatchee Strand Preserve State Park – Copeland

Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary – Naples

Babcock Ranch Eco-Tour – Babcock Ranch

Big Cypress National Preserve – Ochopee

Collier Seminole State Park – Naples (on US. 41, just south of San Marco)

Clyde Butcher Guided Swamp Eco-Tour – Ochopee

Shark Valley Visitor Center Tram Tour – Everglades National Park

Airboat Ride – Multiple locations along US 41, south of San Marco

Turner River Road on US 41 – Ochopee (alligator viewing)

Rookery Bay – Tower Road, Naples

Learning Center, boat, and kayak eco-tours

Manatee Park – Ft. Myers (manatee viewing when water temperature is below 68 degrees)

Dolphin Explorer – Rose Marina, Marco Island

## **Special Focus Trips:**

Sporting events – professional baseball, football, basketball, hockey, soccer games

Nearby

Fishing trips – Example, charter bass fishing at Lake O in Clewiston

Golf Junkets  
SCUBA Diving

**Attractions:**

Pirates of Marco Island – Rose Marina, Marco Island  
Miniature Golf – Winterberry, Marco Island  
Naples Zoo  
Naples Botanical gardens  
Grey Wolf Lodge / Water Park – Naples  
Water Park on Tamiami by Lely  
Shy Wolf Sanctuary  
Movie Theaters -Marco and Naples  
Casinos  
    Seminole Casino – Immokalee  
    Miccosukee Casino and Resort – Ochopee  
    Seminole Hard Rock Casino – Davie

**Seasonal Activities:**

Farmer’s Market – Marco Island, Wednesdays in season  
Immokalee Cattle Drive and Jubilee – March 5, 2025  
Everglades Seafood Festival  
Marco Island Seafood Festival  
Naples Seafood & Music Festival – March 14-16, 2025

**Day Trips – Other Places of Interest Nearby:**

Sarasota  
    Mote Marine Lab  
    Ringling Brothers Circus Museum  
    St. Armands Circle (shopping)  
Ft. Myers  
    Edison-Ford Winter Estate  
Clewiston  
    U.S. Sugar  
Tampa  
    Ybor City

### **Follow Up Trip:**

The Marco Men's Group recently took an outstanding trip to St. Augustine. It provided an excellent introduction, but instilled interest in a more detailed follow-up historical tour of St. Augustine and its environs. This would include:

The town of Yulee

David Yulee is the Father of Florida Railroads

He was a member of Florida's First Constitutional Congress, Territorial Delegate to the U.S. Congress, was Florida's first U.S. Senator, aided in the flight of Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Cabinet after the Civil War and aided the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Ft. Caroline – A fort originally occupied by the French.

Ft. Mote - The first Black fort for Free Slaves

Ft. Matanzas – Built to protect St. Augustine from the British and pirate invasions from the back side river access

Amelia Island – Significant history related to early settlement.

Fernandina – The second oldest city in the United States (significant history)

### **Long Weekend Trips (or longer):**

Florida Keys and Adventures along the Way

Florida Keys History of Diving Museum – Islamorada

Mangrove Mikes – Islamorada (great place for breakfast or lunch)

Local flavor

Robbie's of Islamorada – Feeding tarpon

Worldwide Sportsman (Bass Pro Shop) – Islamorada

Outdoor bar/restaurant where you can feed tarpon.

Duck Key

Hawk's Cay Resort

Marathon

Sunset Grille and Raw Bar (foot of the 7-mile bridge on the left side)

Great dinner and view

Key West – A lot to see and places to eat / drink/ etc.

Hemmingway House

Conch Train

Ft. Zachary Taylor

Mallory Square

Flagler Station Museum

Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum

Audubon House and Tropical Gardens

Duval Street Bars

Margaritaville

Captain Tony's Saloon

Hog's Breath

Sloppy Joes

There are many fine dining restaurants as well.

Southernmost Point in the Continental United States

Ft. Lauderdale

Miami

Tarpon Springs

Silver Springs

Crystal River

Cape Canaveral

Tallahassee – Watch State government in action.

Pensacola – Naval Air Station (impressive)

Helen, Georgia

Oktoberfest

Christmas light viewing

Bahamas