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LEADERS TO FOLLOW

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By Sara Tusek

TRAVEL-AND-LEARN IN THE USA

TOURIST OR STUDENT—OR BOTH?

When you visit an unknown country, you can go simply as a tourist—seeing the sites, admiring the scenery, and enjoying the activities.

Or you can go as a student—getting to know the history, the culture and the beliefs of the people who live in that country.

International Leadership Institute's "Travel-and-Learn" programs combine both tourism and study, allowing participants to not just skim the surface as a tourist or become burdened with learning as a student, but to have the best of both worlds—enjoying a new country while getting to know and understand a bit about the people who live there.

ILI'S FIRST EUROPEAN TRAVEL-AND-LEARN PROGRAMS

Our first European Travel-and-Learn program took place in 1985, in Switzerland. We invited students and associates from St. Lawrence University and Clarkson University for a three-week trip over the Christmas holidays and January break. The participants not only had the chance to ski and enjoy the charming resort village of Murren, but they also were lectured by prominent experts in international economics, politics, Swiss history and career development.

This program attracted students interested in international careers, giving them a starting point in Europe for further exploration and discovery. They had a chance to ski, hike, and sled the Alps while meeting people who could help them create the international career of their dreams.

In 1991, we repeated and expanded this European program, adding Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria to Switzerland. Students from The University of the South and Covenant College had the opportunity to be more than tourists—to make friends and professional contacts that could help them return to Europe at a later point in their career.

ILI'S FIRST US TRAVEL-AND-LEARN PROGRAMS

The collapse of communism in 1989 in Central Europe made it possible for ILI to begin to bring students from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and the former East Germany to the USA for summer Travel-and-Learn programs.

The first program was in 1991 and included travel up and down the East Coast, from Florida to New York, and a trip out West to Colorado and Wyoming. The participants in these programs took full advantage of their opportunities to improve their English and understand how Americans think and act.

Subsequent US-based Travel-and-Learn programs took place in Florida, Tennessee and Georgia, taking participants to such events as the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, St. Augustine (America's oldest city), Cloudland Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Crooked River State Park, and, of course, the beautiful beaches of Florida. Every program included information on the history, politics, and economic situation of the places visited.



Beach at St. Augustine, Florida

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 IN PRINCETON, NJ

DEDICATED TO HELPING PEOPLE DEVELOP AND USE LEADERSHIP SKILLS

OFFERS PERSONALIZED & EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP, CAREER, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN THE US AND IN EUROPE

HAS RUN MORE THAN 90 EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE US, FOR EUROPEAN CLIENTS

HAS PARTNERED WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA, THE JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MORE THAN 780 OTHER BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



TRAVEL-AND-LEARN IN THE USA FROM P. 1

Travel-and-Learn, Florida, in the Fall & the Spring

The International Leadership Institute (ILI) was headquartered in Florida from 1993-2010. In those years, ILI hosted hundreds of visitors from Europe, showing them the most exciting and beautiful sites in the Sunshine State of Florida; some programs included visits to Tennessee and Georgia as well.

In the Fall and Spring months, Florida is the perfect place to relax and soak in the sunshine. While other parts of the world are chilly, windy and rainy, Florida is at its best:

In October, November, March and April, days are warm and sunny, while the nights are refreshingly cool. The average daily high in the Orlando area is 79 F/26 C; average daily low is 56 F/13 C. The Fall and the Spring are not the highest tourist season, so the state's best activities aren't crowded. The beaches, springs and gardens are accessible and inviting, clean and .

The next scheduled Travel-and-Learn in Florida is from October 12-26, 2011. Please email jbt@ili.cc for details.

This Travel-and-Learn program is designed to allow participants to unwind and enjoy some of the best-known beaches, gardens, tourist attractions and cities in Florida. Here are some highlights of past programs:

- *Florida Nature: Wekiva Springs and Blue Springs State Parks; Polasek Gardens; Washington Oaks State Gardens; Everglades National Park..*
- *Tourist Attractions: SeaWorld and Downtown Disney, Orlando; Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral.*
- *Cities: Orlando, Sarasota, St. Augustine, Venice, and Naples..*
- *Personal out-guide services of Jarda Tusek, ILI President.*

The program fee includes:

- *All Florida accommodations, at LaQuinta Inns or similar quality, with breakfast; most have swimming pool & gym facilities.*
- *Transportation by car or van within Florida for scheduled activities.*
- *Airport transfers to and from the designated airport, Orlando International Airport (MCO).*
- *Welcome and Goodbye dinners.*
- *Admission fees to scheduled activities as noted.*

Please note: schedule may change slightly due to weather conditions; airfare to Orlando and return not included.



Travel-and-Learn, Jewels of the American West

In cooperation with the International Leadership Institute, Karel Prihoda of Prague organized a group of friends and acquaintances for the first "Jewels of the American West" Travel-and-Learn program in May, 2009.

The program participants in this pilot program visited well-known national parks, including Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and Montana, Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, and Zion National Monument in Utah.

The major purpose of the "Jewels of the American West" program was to explore the wide-open lands of the American West, from the magnificent Rocky Mountains to the rainbow-painted deserts, with air so thin and dry and the sunlight so full of color that distant mountain peaks seem to be standing close by.

Also on the program were the lands of the Native Americans: the homes of the Hohokans, Navajo, Apache and other legendary tribes. With their spectacular canyons and impressive forests, these lands have been inhabited by the Natives for centuries and still retain much of their wild and untamed power. Here is the true American West of legend.

This Travel-and-Learn program was a great success, and we will offer it again in 2012.