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Travel Is Fun Tours

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CALOOSAHATCHEE QUEST!

... A once a year cruise on the Captain JP Riverboat!



2 DAYS February 23 & 24, 2020

INCLUDES: 1 night at the Punta Gorda Baymont Inn & Suites, 3 Meals included, 6-1/2 hour cruise on the paddlewheeler Captain JP; exploring the Caloosahatchee River & navigating the Franklin & Ortona Locks , a morning visit to the Ford & Edison Estates, an afternoon visiting the critters at Peace River Wildlife Center and much more!

DAY ONE: We'll Start the day with a visit to the Ford & Edison Estates located in beautiful Ft Myer's Florida. Visitors to the **Edison and Ford Winter Estates** in Fort Myers will enjoy the historic winter homes, the Edison Botanical Research Lab and the Edison Ford Museum on more than 20 acres of botanic gardens.

World-renowned inventor, Thomas Edison traveled to Florida in the winter of 1885 looking for a place to relax and enjoy warm weather. He found both in abundance in the frontier town of Ft Myers. Edison purchased 13-acres of land on the Caloosahatchee River for \$2,750. Soon after, Edison sketched a plan for his winter retreat, including houses, a laboratory, and extensive gardens.



The estate would eventually become known as Seminole Lodge. Here, the Edison family enjoyed swimming, boating, shelling, and other outdoor activities. Edison once boasted that the best tarpon fishing in the world was available "right in front of my house in Florida." Seminole Lodge hosted famous friends, including Henry Ford, John Burroughs, president-elect Herbert Hoover, and many more.



Automobile magnate, Henry Ford, developed a deep friendship with Thomas Edison that began with Ford working for the Detroit Edison Illuminating Company in the 1890s. In 1914, the Ford family first visited the Edisons in Fort Myers, and in 1916, Ford purchased the property next door to Seminole Lodge. banks of the Caloosahatchee River.

The Ford family also enjoyed exploring the outdoors while wintering in Fort Myers, including bird watching and boating. Ford was sure to spend time in Fort Myers for one particular day each year: February 11, Thomas Edison's birthday.

After exploring the Winter homes of these two American legends we'll go up the street for lunch on your own. You'll have over a dozen choices within a few block's including Pizza, Taco's and of course Ford's Garage!

After Lunch we will motor north to Punta Gorda and the **Peace River Wildlife Center!** Peace River Wildlife Center wildlife rehabilitation and education center is tucked neatly into the mangroves overlooking Charlotte Harbor at Ponce de Leon Park in Punta Gorda Isles, Florida.

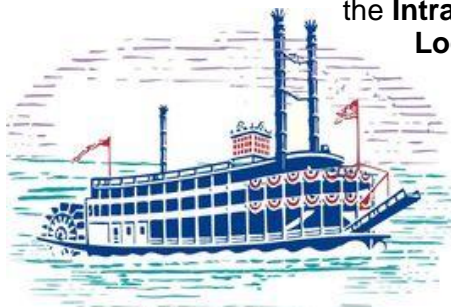
As of 2018, PRWC admits over 2,500 patients annually, a number that has increased every year since the Center's founding. If a bird or small animal cannot be returned to its native habitat after treatment and recovery but is otherwise healthy, it could become a permanent resident of the Center. The Center typically has over 100 permanent wildlife residents on educational display.

All of the permanent residents are available for viewing by the public in attractive, spacious aviaries and habitats, suggestive of their native environments. Among the birds available for viewing are Bald Eagles, Hawks, Owls, Ospreys, Crested CaraCara, Sandhill Cranes, Pelicans, Herons, Shorebirds, Cormorants, Songbirds, Crows and Vultures. We also have Tortoises and Turtles. The Mammals you will see are Opossums and Rabbits.



After our Visit with the charming animals at the Wildlife center we will check into our home for the evening, the **Baymont Inn & Suites** in beautiful Punta Gorda Florida. You may stay at the hotel & enjoy dinner (on your own) at one of the restaurants in easy walking distance or enjoy an evening visit to the shops & restaurants of Punta Gorda's renowned Fisherman's Village!

DAY TWO: After the included breakfast at the Baymont we will head back to Ft Myer's to board the majestic **Captain JP Paddle wheeler**. We will sail on a relaxing cruise east on a 65 mile voyage down the **Intracoastal Waterway**, passing through the **W. P Franklin Locks and Ortona Locks**. Enjoy all the sights along the way, such as beautiful homes and wildlife along the river's edge from our two inside, climate-controlled decks, or from our open 3rd deck. The cruise includes informed narration, **buffet lunch and dinner**, music for dancing and **cash bars** for your refreshment! After our day of cruising our luxury motor-coach will pick us up in Barron Park in LaBelle, Florida. We'll enjoy a quiet safe ride home as we share our memories of our South Florida Adventure and plan our next Travel Is Fun adventure!



COST: \$339 per person twin, Or \$399 per person single.

Travel Protection offered through our office at \$30 per person.

Please pay deposit of \$100 to secure a seat, balance due 12-30-19
(Seats will continue to be sold after balance due date if space is available)

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