



Welcome to *Day Tripping With ACE*

We look forward to having you join us for another exciting term of travel destinations. Outings will be full-day field trips around Northwest, Central, and Southwest Florida. A charter bus will take us on more distant travels, and the Blue Classroom On Wheels school bus for the short trips. Topics will have educational and entertainment value. Reservations are on a first-come basis. Please register before the cut-off dates.

Bus Pick-Up Location

The bus will leave from the Suncoast Technical College campus located at 4748 Beneva Road. Enter the campus off Proctor Road. The bus will be parked in front of the south side of Building 3 (where ACE classes are held).



(941) 361-6590

ace-sarasota.com

Babcock Preserve Eco Tour & FPL Babcock Ranch Solar Energy Center (*Punta Gorda, FL*)

Date: Monday, February 26, 2024

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 16, 2024

Approximate Schedule: 8:00 am—5:00 pm

Board the Charter Bus: 8:00 am

Fee: \$119.00 (Admission included, Lunch not included.)

Discover the Natural Heart of Florida – We will begin the day with a tour of the **Crescent B Ranch**, part of the **Babcock Preserve**. The Swamp Buggy tour will include the Telegraph Cypress Swamp. You will see a working cattle ranch and the natural wildlife of the historic Babcock Ranch. The tour travels through part of 14,000 acres of pasture and ecosystems.



We will enjoy lunch at the **Gator Shack Restaurant** on the Babcock Ranch. You will order off the menu.



Following lunch, we will re-board our bus and travel to the **Discovery Center at the FPL Babcock Ranch Solar Energy Community**. It was the first solar-powered town in America, located in southwest Florida, north of Ft. Myers. The 400+ acre community features single-family homes, condominiums, townhouses, and a few businesses. It is a planned community powered by solar and built to withstand severe weather. There is an 870-acre solar field with 650,000 individual solar panels operated by FPL. It will power up to 50,000 homes, although there are only about 5,000 homes on Babcock Ranch. The excess power goes back on the grid to service surrounding communities. On cloudy days and nights, a natural gas generator fills the gap.

The Community Center doubles as a reinforced storm shelter. The development is thirty miles inland to avoid coastal storm surge. Powerlines are underground. Large retention ponds surround the development to protect homes from flooding. The streets were designed to absorb floodwaters. Babcock Ranch is the brainchild of Syd Kitson, former professional football player in the 1980s with the Green Bay Packers. We will visit the Discovery Center for a presentation about this solar community and tour a couple of models before heading home from a long but interesting and educational day.



BABCOCK RANCH
FLORIDA

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International Independent Showmen's Museum

(Gibson/ton/Riverview, FL)

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Approximate Schedule: 10:30 am—4:30 pm

Board the Charter Bus: 10:30 am

Fee: \$105.00 (Includes admission)

Step back in time to the days of the traveling shows across America. The **International Independent Showmen's Museum** is a uniquely different museum of 54,000 square feet, filled with fun and memories. Our guided tour will highlight the history of the American carnivals, circuses, freak shows, girlie shows, and other gems of Americana. There was the world of the midway with games of chance to separate the carny-goers from their money, the Tilt-a-Whirl, corndogs, and more. Today corporations own the shows, not the eccentric carny families of the 1930s and 1940s.

Gibson/ton (also called Gibtown) was the winter home for the people who worked and performed in the carnivals, circuses, and midways. The towns around Tampa and Sarasota were dotted with these types of entertainment, and were an influence on American culture. From the small theater troupes and medicine shows to the large circuses, the Showmen's Museum features it all.



WINTER SEMESTER 2024 REGISTRATION BEGINS

PATRONS

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

ONLINE

Monday, December 4, 2023

ace-sarasota.com

Telephone/In Person

December 4—22, 2023

4748 Beneva Road

Sarasota, FL 34233

(941) 361-6590

We are located on the Suncoast Technical College (STC) campus, west end of Building 3.

IN PERSON & TELEPHONE

REGISTRATION RESUMES

Monday, January 8, 2024

REFUNDS

**One Day Classes are
Non Refundable!**

QUESTIONS?

Contact instructor at

(941) 921-9392 or

BrendaLeeHickman@comcast.net



**EXPLORING
Northwest, Central &
Southwestern Florida
Winter 2024**

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