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Family Summer time in Miami: Let Freedom Sing in a Wild, Wild World!

Epic 4th of July festivities and curated tours of The Everglades National Park – One of the U.S.'s most extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Sites – bring families together and create lifetime memories

Coral Gables, Florida (June 2017) – Let's face it... Parents before you know it, your children will be teens they won't want to travel with Mom and Dad anymore. This is exactly why it's important to take family trips now, while they are young and it's still fun for everyone! As the 241th birthday of the United States officially kicks off summer time in Florida, it is time to set your vacation sights on Miami! Flashes of red, white, and blue will fill the skies this July, as Coral Gables and The Biltmore Hotel pull out all the stops to celebrate Independence Day with Florida's largest party and welcome the summer with wild, wildlife family adventures!

If you are traveling to Miami during first week of July, The Biltmore is the right place for your family to help the USA celebrate Independence Day! For as long as Americans can remember, they have been celebrating the Fourth of July with backyard BBQs, music, drinks and magnificent fireworks. The City of Coral Gables and The Biltmore Hotel have made their mark on the 4th of July holiday with their own impressive events; they will host the popular **Fireworks Spectacular** – a favorite of locals and visitors alike. Festivities begin on the 4th at 5:00 p.m. with **Happy Hour**, followed by **The Stars and Strips BBQ** dinner and **Fireworks Display** at 9:00pm. For reservations 305 913-3244 or july4th@biltmorehotel.com

After the 4th of July festivities die down, summer time family activities roll in! Continuing to reinvent the travel experience for the most discerning travelers, The Biltmore Hotel offers families unique eco-tours and activities which highlight the magnificent adventures at the Everglades National Park while creating lifetime memories. This *Experiential Travel Program* with the prestigious tour operator, Dragonfly Expeditions, includes luxury accommodations, a curated menu of activities, as well as exclusive dining experiences. The suite of packages offer flexibility for room selection for families and allow guests to select the tours of their choice. **Exploring the Everglades** program is only available to guests. Known as the *River of Grass*, The Everglades is located less than an hour away and it is a must-have experience for nature and wildlife lovers.

THE EVERGLADES BACKWATER TOUR: A morning of discovery and exploration in one of the world's most threatened and beautiful wild places. Traverse the Everglades wild backwater, wading in clear knee-to-waist deep waters, as you discover lush cypress domes while native orchids and bromeliads hang overhead. Guests will learn why conservationists have described this area as "a beautiful, rugged, subtropical landscape." Only available to 0.1% of all visitors who have ever visited the Everglades this tour has been recognized by National Geographic, The Weather Channel and Conde Nast Traveler as a best in class tour. Walking sticks and water shoes are provided. The tour will be followed by lunch at the

charming Camellia Street Grill in Everglades City where you'll enjoy appetizers, entrée, dessert and a beverage on their outdoor patio overlooking the Barron River, before returning to the Biltmore. After lunch the group will stroll through the Clyde Butcher Gallery in Big Cypress. Internationally renowned for his black and white photographs of natural landscapes in North America, Clyde Butcher's pictures awaken a true sense of understanding and respect for South Florida's natural beauty. Tour pricing start at Group of 4 \$459/person, Group of 5 \$341/person, Group of 6 \$316/person. This tour begins Sept. 1st.

THE MICCOSUKEE INDIAN HERITAGE AIRBOAT TOUR: Accessible only by airboat, The Biltmore guests will travel several miles into the Everglades to experience two historic Miccosukee island camps. They will walk the islands that they once called home to hear how Miccosukee families for generations learned to live in harmony with what many considered an unlivable landscape. They will of course seek out the family of wild gators that live near the big camp. If they care to show themselves, the guide will demonstrate his ability to "speak gator." To the frequent amazement of visitors, the gators often respond. Next on the itinerary is a visit to the Clyde Butcher Gallery where nature art lovers will enjoy a tour through the black and white gallery of world-renowned photographer. Butcher known for his stunning images of natural beauty, his special fondness for South Florida is apparent and must be seen to be appreciated. The last stop will be a unique location in the Everglades serving good old-fashioned BBQ with a little Latin Flavor and of course their Famous Smoked GatorRibs. Tour pricing start at Group of 4 \$349/person, Group of 6 \$259/person

WALKING THE ANHINGA TRAIL

The Biltmore guest will head down to the Southern part of Everglades, where they will hike the beautiful Anhinga Trail, listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. This trail wends its way through a sawgrass marsh, often replete with wildlife such as alligators, turtles, anhingas, herons, egrets, and many other birds, especially during the winter. The group will lunch at the Everglades Gator Grill- a low-key Homestead restaurant featuring alligator meat sandwiches, burgers and fried chicken. For dessert we'll stop at a remote, old-fashioned, roadside fruit stand in the Everglades – "Robert is Here." This storied place is a popular Everglades family destination. Locals order at the counter, pick up their hand-made milkshakes and shop amidst the hustle and bustle and the huge variety of local fruit and vegetables on location. Tour pricing start at Group of 4 \$328/person, Group of 6 \$234/person

FULL DAY EVERGLADES IMMERSION

After a scenic drive to the western side of the Everglades, families will enjoy a mid-morning Tram Tour through the Shark Valley section of Everglades National Park. These open-air trams allow an up-close opportunity to view the wildlife within the sawgrass prairies on either side of the tram and provide a singular way to experience the beauty of the Everglades. Next is a stop at Clyde Butcher's gallery where we'll have the chance to peruse his gorgeous black and white photo so f nature and landscape. Finally and only accessible by airboat, guests will travel miles into the Everglades to experience two historic Miccosukee island camps. They will walk the islands that they once called home to hear how the Miccosukee families for generations learned to live in harmony with what many considered an unlivable landscape. Tour pricing start at Group of 4 \$528/person, Group of 6 \$409/person

Minutes from the hustle and bustle of downtown Miami and the captivating sparkle of South Beach, The Biltmore is a luxurious haven, a historic artifact that has enticed and lured travelers and jetsetters from around the world for the past 90 years. For more information about The Travel Program or to make your reservation, please visit www.biltmorehotel.com or contact Dragonfly Expeditions by email info@dragonflyexpeditions.com.