



Pre and Post Symposium activities to do on your own in Florida

Sites Of Interest for planning your trip/vacation

IWGS Symposia are about expanding knowledge while networking and having fun. So, Florida is the perfect location. We plan to show off this Aquatic State by giving you a taste of both its natural and cultivated sides. You will see interesting sights and meet interesting water garden aficionados. The schedule makes it easy to turn your trip into a vacation by coming early and/or staying late. So please join us for education, excursions, fellowship, and fun ...

FLORIDA

Florida has 1100 miles of beaches, many near our hotel. Some rank as the world's best.

Audubon of Florida includes a printable checklist of Florida birds, photo gallery, and song files.

<http://visitflorida.com> – Florida's comprehensive Official Travel Planning website with shopping, nature trails, fish, or museums. You can even order vacation guides or create a custom one.

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/> -- Florida has 175 state parks, with over 723,000 acres and 100 miles of beaches.

<https://www.paradisecoast.com/>

<https://www.paradisecoast.com/visitor-information-centers>

<https://flamuseums.org/>-- Look for one of the 340 cultural, historic, and scientific museums in Florida

NAPLES

www.naplesfloridatravelguide.com/blog/things-to-do-in-southwest-florida

<https://www.naplesfloridatravelguide.com/blog/shopping-in-naples-florida>

[Naples Zoo](#) at Caribbean Gardens

[Conservancy of Southwest Florida](#)

[Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary](#)

[Everglades Wonder Gardens](#) <https://wondergardens.org> (29 min away)

FORT MEYERS

A day trip to Fort Meyers (45 min drive from the Naples Botanical Gardens):

<https://www.naplesfloridatravelguide.com/blog/must-see-attractions-in-fort-meyers>

[Echo Global Farm in Fort Meyers](#): moto is Hope against Hunger

[Edison & Ford winter estates](#):

SARASOTA (1 hour and 45min. drive from Naples)

The Ringling Brothers circus museum: www.ringling.org Mable Ringling Rose Garden at The Ringling

Ca' d'Zan and the John and Mable Ringling Museum
Marie Selby Botanic Gardens

SOUTH FLORIDA

www.sunny.org – A great site with attractions, activities, free things to do, sports, and even a live beach cam.

www.fla-keys.com -- The Official travel site for the Florida Keys and Key West.

<http://www.ntbg.org/gardens/kampong.html> -- The National Tropical Botanical Garden has countless flowering trees and tropical fruit cultivars collected by David Fairchild. Open for tours by appointment only.

<http://www.florida-everglades.com/> – All about the Florida Everglades

www.montgomerybotanical.org - Montgomery Botanical Center is a center for plant research collections emphasizing palms and cycads, devoted to the science of tropical botany.

The amazing Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead is a public park with over 500 varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs, and nuts. It showcases mangos, bananas, and bamboo.

The World Fishing Center in Dania Beach is an angler's paradise, with a museum, library, and park with a virtual-reality fishing simulator.

<http://www.wannadocity.com> -- A theme park where kids can try out real jobs.

Miami area (2 hours from Naples)

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/> -- Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

Miami Beach Botanical Garden

Flamingo Gardens

Butterfly World is a 10-acre butterfly attraction, research center, botanical garden, and aviary.

Bonnet House Museum and Gardens

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens

Mounts Botanical Garden

ORLANDO & CENTRAL FLORIDA

<http://orlandoinfo.com> a comprehensive site with everything you need to plan your visit, including ideas, maps, coupons, and Orlando Podcasts.

<http://www.go2orlando.com/> – The Orlando Sentinel's vacation planning guide.

The inexpensive I-Ride Trolley goes up and down International Drive. Check for maps, directories, and coupons.

Harry P. Leu Gardens has numerous types of gardens including a large lake, a new tropical stream garden, plus palm and bamboo gardens.

www.disneyworld.com -- Disney has numerous theme parks, resorts, and attractions.

The Kennedy Space Center is about 45min east of Orlando.

About 20 minutes or 14 miles away from Orlando you can find this gem- Holt Nurseries, located at 2690 Lakeville Rd Apopka, FL 32703, USA, phone 321 209 3191.

Holt Nurseries is located in the south Apopka foliage district, is one of only a handful of wholesale pond plant growers and distributors.

Naturally, the owners, Debora and Tom Holt, are horticulture enthusiasts at heart. Their 10+ acre foliage production facility grows everything from cacti to ferns and everything in between, but equally impressive is the private botanical gardens the owners have built on the property. Hundreds of towering palms, eccentric micro-gardens, and something awesome at every turn, the gardens are certainly something unique. The main water feature boasts over a million gallons and incorporates an island, waterfalls, and most importantly, several varieties of water lilies, including *Victoria amazonica*.

Up the winding shaded pathway is where genera such as *Calathea*, *Begonia*, *Philodendron*, and *Cordyline* are featured, leading us to the many terraced ponds that gently spill into each other. *Alocasia*, *Colocasia*, *Monstera*, and countless other tropical varieties flourish.

The gardens feature a grotto-style swimming pool that the owners personally designed and built. What's particularly extravagant about these gardens is that they are entirely self-managed and provide a glowing example of how to achieve theme-park style opulence without the price tag.