

ES-SSA 2022 – Field Trip

Sunday 23 October 2022

9 am – 4:30 pm; start and end: Embassy Suites on USF campus

Karst Features in the Tampa Bay Region

We will visit sinkholes, caves, and springs that are part of the Florida karst system. The Florida peninsula is a platform of porous limestones that were created in the mid-Tertiary. Caves, sinkholes, and springs associated with the limestone system are found throughout Florida. Modern sinkholes are mostly found in the Tampa Bay area and Central Florida – our first stop is at our ‘own’ USF Geopark sinkhole. The most spectacular caves and springs can be found in the central and northern part of the state – we will see smaller examples in the Tampa Bay area on our trip.

Below is a tentative (and subject to change) itinerary for the trip. The field starts at 9 am from the Embassy Suites hotel on the USF campus.

Stop No.	place	miles	cumul miles	time arrive	stop min.	time leave	cumul time
0	Embassy Suites	0	0			9:00	0:00
1	Geopark	1	1	9:05	15	9:20	0:20
2	Pasco Sinkhole	15	16	10:00	15	10:15	1:15
3	Pit stop	20	36	10:45	10	10:55	1:55
4	Dames Caves	24	60	11:25	45	12:10	3:10
5	Lunch Brooksville	13	73	12:30	30	1:00	4:00
6	Wall Springs Park	51	124	2:00	45	2:45	5:45
7	Tarpon Springs	4	128	3:00	45	3:45	6:45
9	Embassy Suites	36	164	4:30			

Trip Requirements:

- Sturdy shoes for short hike (~15 min one-way, sandy soil) to caves
- Flashlight (if intending to enter Peace cave)

- Weather & insect protection. Sunscreen lotion, hat, sunglasses, lip balm, umbrella or similar, insect repellent
- Water bottle and additional water for short hike

Below are some pictures illustrating field trip stops:



Stop 1 – USF Geopark – a sinkhole right on campus!



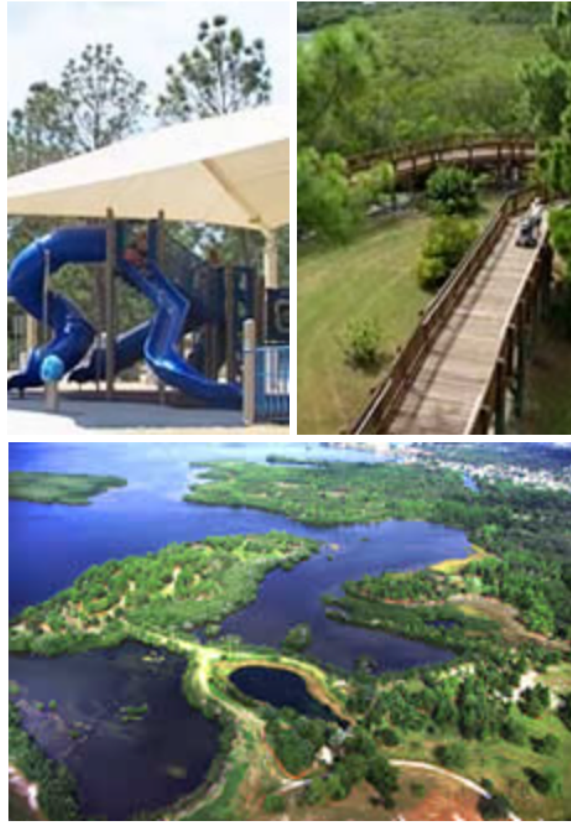
Stop 2 – aerial view of sinkhole in Pasco County, formed in July 2017.



Stop 4 – Dames and Peace caves. Jochen Braunmiller points to one of the entrances.



Stop 5 - Lunch in front of the Hernando County courthouse



Stop 6 - Wall Springs Park. A natural spring that hosted a resort a century ago.



Stop 7 - Tarpon Springs. Once home to a thriving sponge business; strong Greek influence.