

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to the University of South Alabama Exploritas program!

For more than 25 years, the University of South Alabama Exploritas program has offered enriching programs all over the Gulf Coast. With our dedication of lifelong learning, we have a great team of expert instructors, experienced group leaders, and a helpful staff.

Take an adventure around the Gulf Coast with classroom lectures and explorations of the area with field trips planned. All you need is an inquiring mind, an adventurous spirit, and the belief that opportunities for learning and discovery are endless. There are no tests or grades, just your willingness to learn. Come see what we are all about while making new friends to share the experience.

From all of us, Happy Hosteling!

Laurent, Leigh, and Kristie

SPECIAL NEEDS

All of our sites have accommodations that are accessible for people with disabilities. Please make any special needs requests on your Health/Emergency form in advance. Pets, with the exception of those trained to assist someone with a disability, are not allowed at any of our program sites.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Most University of South Alabama programs begin on Sunday afternoon and end with lunch on Friday. Please review the dates carefully. Please plan to stay for your entire program. Sometimes fields must be scheduled on the final day of the program and we wouldn't want you to miss anything.

SIGHT-SEEING

Please remember that Exploritas programs are fundamentally an academic experience. There is at least one exciting field trip in each program, usually but not always relating to one of the courses. If the course content relates to a specific attraction, such as Bellingrath Gardens, Historic Homes, or the Battleship USS Alabama, there will be a field trip to that attraction. Otherwise, sight-seeing the various attractions is on your own. We suggest you plan on driving or renting a car to enjoy all the area has to offer. There is very limited public transportation. Please plan to come early or stay over to enjoy everything this fascinating area has to offer.

RECREATION

There may be recreational activities available including golf, fishing, tennis, shopping, etc. Bring your equipment and we will give you specific information at orientation. There is a classroom available in the evenings for cards, games, socializing. Please bring your cards and favorite game.

MEALS

Meals present you with local fare to give you yet another taste of the Gulf Coast culture. Please inform us prior to your arrival of any dietary needs.

WHAT TO BRING

To make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible, we suggest you bring the following:

- Casual clothing that is appropriate to the season and program and can be layered
- Sweater or light jacket, for air-conditioned classrooms
- Coat or jacket for winter's occasional cold, windy days
- Hat
- Comfortable shoes
- Umbrella or rain gear
- Toiletries and medications
- Alarm clock
- Cards and/or games
- Insect repellent and sun block

- Exploritas Passport (if you have one)

SAILING PROGRAM:

- Shoes with light-colored, soft soles (tennis shoes, deck shoes, walking shoes); shoes with hard and/or dark soles cannot be worn on board the boat
- Sunscreen
- Hat that fits well
- Jacket
- Casual, comfortable clothing that can be layered
- Seasick medication, if you think you need it
- Binoculars, cameras, etc... *You are responsible for your own gear.*
- A spirit of adventure and fun

GOLF PROGRAM:

- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Golf clubs
- Casual, comfortable clothing that can be layered

MARDI GRAS PROGRAM:

- For the mock Mardi Gras ball, you may wear a costume, dress, or casual clothing
- Camera/Recorder for pictures of colorful floats and revelry.
- Sense of adventure

HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING YOUR PROGRAM

While we take appropriate health and safety precautions on all Exploritas programs, we urge you to be informed and to share in the responsibility for your well-being. If you have specific concerns regarding your participation in this program, please consult your physician and feel free to contact us with your questions. Undertaking any journey away from home requires physical preparation and considerable thought about your health and safety.

EXPLORITAS TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PLAN

This insurance plan is included as part of your program cost and offers emergency medical evacuation insurance and delayed baggage insurance. The primary purpose of this plan is to provide 24-hour assistance for emergencies. (Refer to the brochure included with your enrollment notice for complete details.)

OPTIONAL TRIP CANCELLATION, INTERRUPTION & TRAVEL DELAY INSURANCE

If you purchase this optional insurance, you will be protected in case you need to cancel your program, need to leave your program early, are delayed going to or returning home, need to change or cancel your airfare. (Refer to the brochure included with your enrollment notice for complete details.)

TIME ZONE & WEATHER

TIME ZONE:

Alabama is in the Central Time Zone

WEATHER:

Coastal weather changes quickly, and is occasionally windy. It can be cold in the winter. Bringing appropriate clothing is sometimes a challenge. Below are average temperatures reported by the U.S. Weather Service to help be prepared:

<u>Month</u>	<u>High (°F)</u>	<u>Low(°F)</u>
January	61	41
February	64	43
March	70	50
April	79	57
May	84	64
June	90	72
July	91	73
August	91	73
September	88	70
October	79	57
November	70	48
December	63	43

Ashbury Hotel and Suites

Ashbury Hotel & Suites
600 W I-65 Service Rd S
Mobile, AL 36608 251-344-8030
www.ashburyhotel.com

Accommodations

The Ashbury Suites hotel has a large atrium to greet the guest. Hotel sleeping rooms are located just off of the lobby and the conference center (where our meetings and meals will be held) are located off of the lobby as well. The atrium is large and contains hotel welcome desk, nice seating area, a heated pool and a small lounge. The hotel also offers a guest laundry room.

All rooms have a coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, high speed Internet and free cable and HBO. There are non smoking rooms available

Check-in and Registration

Registration is from 4:00-5:30 pm in the lobby of the Ashbury Suites. You will receive your Exploritas packet at this time. Rooms are available after 4:00 pm. Orientation begins at 5:30 pm and is followed by dinner and introductions.

Incidental Expenses

All non-Exploritas expenses, including phone calls from your room, are your responsibility and are payable at checkout.

Early Arrival/Stayover Accommodations

If you are planning to arrive early or stay over after the program, make your reservations in advance with the hotel at the above number. Ask for the Exploritas rate. This bill is separate from the Exploritas.

Classes / Meals / Special Diets

Classroom is located on the first floor of the hotel. All meals are served in the hotel dining room. **Because the meals are catered, limited special diets (allergies, diabetic, vegetarian) are available only by advance notice on the Health/Emergency form.**

Directions to Ashbury Hotel & Suites

From Interstate 10: East or West

Take I-65 North to Exit 3, Go left onto airport Blvd., Go over the overpass, get in the right hand lane and take a right on the West Service Road proceed to Ashbury Hotel and Suites, which in on your left. From Interstate 65: South Take I-65 South to Exit 3, Staying in the far right hand lane go through the stop light, immediately take a right onto the West Service Road proceed to Ashbury Hotel and Suites, which in on your left.

From Interstate 65

Take I-65 South to Exit 3, Staying in the far right hand lane go through the stop light, immediately take a right onto the West Service Road proceed to Ashbury Hotel and Suites, which in on your left.

From Mobile Regional Airport

Exit out of the airport taking a left at the light onto Airport Blvd. Go approximately 7 miles. Just before reaching I-65, Turn Left on the West Service Road (There will be a Shell Station on the left) proceed to Ashbury Hotel and Suites, which in on your left.

TRANSPORTATION

Advanced reservations are recommended for all transportation services.

Mobile has taxi service, but very limited public transportation.

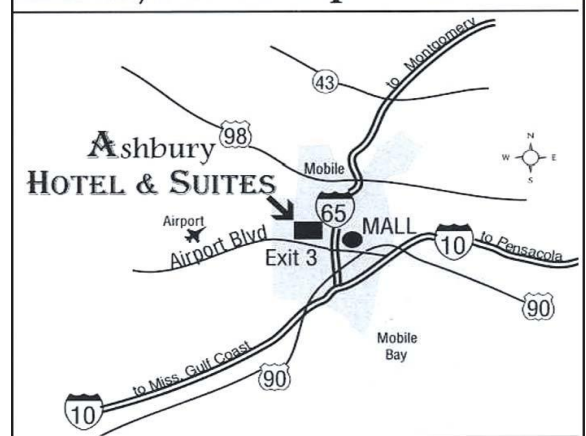
No University vehicles are available.

Mobile Regional Airport Shuttle 800-357-5373

Yellow Cab 251-476-7711

Mobile Bay Transportation 800-272-6234

Exit #3, I-65 at Airport Boulevard



Beckwith Camp & Conference Center

Fairhope/Beckwith Episcopal Camp and Conference Center

10400 Beckwith Lane Fairhope, AL 36532

TEL: 251-928-7844 or 251-928-8475 (emergencies only; after hours)

www.beckwithccc.org or www.eschamber.com (Fairhope, Alabama Chamber of Commerce)

Accommodations

On the shores of picturesque Weeks Bay and set on 54 acres of tall pines and landscaped grounds, Beckwith offers comfortable rooms with private baths and inviting Southern porches for socializing. Great birding, walking trails, and sunrises on the pier await you. One lodge is ground-level, the other is up half-a-flight. There is a ramp, but no elevator. Parking is adjacent to the buildings.

Fresh towels are provided daily with full maid service on Wednesday. There are no phones in the sleeping rooms. Dining room and classroom are located in separate buildings about 30 yards away. Don't forget your flashlight. There is a piano, so please bring your music. Refrigeration will be provided for medications, as needed.

Check-In/Registration

Registration is from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Alves Conference Center. You will receive your Exploritas packet at this time. Rooms are available after 4:00 p.m. Orientation begins at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by dinner and introductions.

Incidental Expenses

All non-Exploritas expenses, including phone calls from your room, are your responsibility and are payable at checkout.

Early Arrival/Stayover Accommodations

Accommodations and food service at Beckwith are available for the duration of the Exploritas only. If you want to come early or stay over after the program, please see the partial list of area hotels below. Please make your arrangements directly with the motel:

Downtown hotel – Battlehouse Hotel 251- 338-2000

Beltline hotel – Courtyard by Marriott 251-344-5200

Eastern Shore – Hampton Inn 251-626-2220

Classes / Meals/Special Diets

Classes are held in the Alves Conference Center on the first floor. Meals are served family-style in Wilson Hall. **Limited special diets (allergies, vegetarian, diabetic) are available by advance request on your Health/Emergency form.**

Directions to Beckwith Episcopal Camp & Conference Center

Traveling from east or west on I-10, take exit 35 onto Hwy. 98 South to Daphne & Fairhope. Stay on four lane highway (do not exit onto Scenic Hwy. 98). Four lane highway will narrow to two lanes approximately 3 miles Hwy. 98 will intersect with Scenic Hwy 98. Turn left onto Scenic Hwy 98. Approximately 2 miles you will see a Camp Beckwith sign. Turn right onto CR 27 South (Mary Ann Beach Rd.) Continue on for Approx. 2 miles you will see a sign marking the entrance to Beckwith Camp and Conference Center on your left.

From I-65, take exit 37 South, the Bay Minette/Gulf Shores Parkway exit. Take State Hwy 287 south to State Hwy 59 south. Gulf Shores Parkway. Take I-10 westbound, take exit 35 onto Hwy. 98 South to Daphne & Fairhope. Stay on four lane highway (do not exit onto Scenic Hwy. 98). Four lane highway will narrow to two lanes approximately 3 miles Hwy. 98 will intersect with Scenic Hwy 98. Turn left onto Scenic Hwy 98. Approximately 2 miles you will see a Camp Beckwith sign. Turn right onto CR 27 South (Mary Ann Beach Rd.) Continue on for Approx 2 miles you will see a sign marking the entrance to Beckwith Camp and Conference Center on your left.

TRANSPORTATION (Advanced reservations are recommended for all transportation services.)

Fairhope has no public transportation.

Mobile Bay Transportation

800-272-6234 Arrangements require 24 hour notice.

Hilton Garden Inn

Hilton Garden Inn

23092 Perdido Beach Blvd. (Hwy. 182)

Orange Beach, AL 36561

TEL: (251)974-1600

Accommodations

Hilton Garden Inn Orange Beach Beachfront hotel is situated on a private white sand beach on the gulf coast. The hotel features indoor-outdoor pool, whirlpool, fitness center and 24-hour complimentary business center, guest laundry and more. Classroom, dining room and lodging are all contained in the hotel. Enjoy opportunities to watch dolphins, pelicans, sea and shore birds, beachcomb or just relax. Spectacular sunrises and sunsets await you.

All rooms have one king or two queen beds, microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, iron and board, balcony, cable TV, and hairdryer. Comfortable, climate controlled rooms always include private bath. Maid service is provided daily. Free parking is available in hotel's private lot.

Check-In/Registration

Registration is from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Hilton Garden Inn. You will receive your Exploritas packet at this time. Rooms are available after 4:00 p.m. Orientation begins at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by dinner and introductions.

Incidental Expenses

All non-Exploritas expenses, including phone calls from your room, are your responsibility and are payable at checkout.

Early Arrival/Stayover Accommodations

If you are planning to arrive early or stay over after the program, ask for the special Exploritas rate when you make your advance reservations at the above number. This bill is separate from Exploritas.

Classes / Meals/Special Diets

Classroom is located on the second floor of the hotel. Elevators are available. All meals are served in the hotel dining room. **Because the meals are catered, limited special diets (allergies, diabetic, vegetarian) are available only by advance notice on the Health/Emergency form.**

Convention & Visitors Bureau Information

Call 1-800-745-7263 for your delightful, free informational magazine about Alabama's beautiful Gulf Coast. Talk with a hospitality specialist to request specific information about golf, fishing and other attractions. Don't miss this exciting publication! Contact the Gulf Shores Convention and Visitors Bureau on the Internet at www.gulfshores.com or email to info@gulfshores.com.

Directions to Hilton Garden Inn

From Interstate 10, east or west, take exit 44 south at Loxley, AL. Go south on Hwy. 59, Gulf Shores Parkway, about 35 miles to Gulf Shores. Hwy. 59 ends at Hwy. 182. Turn left on Hwy. 182, East Beach Blvd, which becomes Perdido Beach Blvd. Hilton Garden Inn is 3.5 miles on the right side of the road.

From Interstate 65, take exit 37 south, the Bay Minette/Gulf Shores Parkway exit. Take State Hwy. 287 south to State Hwy. 59 south, Gulf Shores Parkway, about 60 miles to Gulf Shores. Hwy. 59 ends at Hwy. 182. Turn left on Hwy. 182, East Beach Blvd, which becomes Perdido Beach Blvd. Hilton Garden Inn is 3.5 miles on the right side of the road.

From Pensacola Airport:

Turn left on 12th Avenue entrance and go 6/10 of a mile to Bayou Blvd. Turn right on Bayou Blvd. and travel 7 miles to Blue Angel Parkway (Hwy. 173). NOTE: Bayou Blvd. changes names several times, but stay on it. Turn left on Blue Angel Parkway (Hwy. 173) 6.8 miles to Hwy. 292. Turn right on Hwy. 292, go 20 miles to Hilton Garden Inn.

TRANSPORTATION

Advanced reservations are recommended for all transportation services. Orange Beach has no public transportation.

Pensacola Airport is closer to Orange Beach.

Mobile Bay Transportation

800-272-6234 Arrangements require 24 hour notice.

Holiday Inn Express

Holiday Inn Express

24700 Perdido Beach Blvd. (Hwy. 182)

Orange Beach, AL 36561

TEL: (251)974-1634 or toll free, 1-888-974-7444

www.hiexpress.com/orngbchal

Accommodations

Holiday Inn Express welcomes you to this delightful beachfront hotel where the emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico greet brilliant white sand beaches. Located directly on the shores of the glistening Gulf of Mexico, this newly renovated hotel features heated pool and whirlpool, fitness room, guest laundry and more. Classroom, dining room and lodging are all contained in the hotel. Enjoy opportunities to watch dolphins, pelicans, sea and shore birds, beachcomb or just relax. Spectacular sunrises and sunsets await you.

All rooms have private balcony, microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, cable TV, and Internet access. Comfortable, climate controlled rooms always include private bath. Maid service is provided daily. Free parking is available in hotel's private lot.

Check-In/Registration

Registration is from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express. You will receive your Exploritas packet at this time. Rooms are available after 4:00 p.m. Orientation begins at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by dinner and introductions.

Incidental Expenses

All non-Exploritas expenses, including phone calls from your room, are your responsibility and are payable at checkout.

Early Arrival/Stayover Accommodations

If you are planning to arrive early or stay over after the program, ask for the special Exploritas rate when you make your advance reservations at the above number. This bill is separate from Exploritas.

Classes / Meals/Special Diets

The classroom is located on the first floor of the hotel. Meals are served buffet style. *Because the meals are catered, limited special diets (allergies, diabetic, vegetarian) are available only by advance notice on the Health/Emergency form.*

Convention & Visitors Bureau Information

Call 1-800-745-7263 for your delightful, free informational magazine about Alabama's beautiful Gulf Coast. Talk with a hospitality specialist to request specific information about golf, fishing and other attractions. Don't miss this exciting publication! Contact the Gulf Shores Convention and Visitors Bureau on the Internet at www.gulfshores.com or email to info@gulfshores.com.

Directions to Holiday Inn Express

From Interstate 10, east or west, take exit 44 south at Loxley, AL. Go south on Hwy. 59, Gulf Shores Parkway, about 35 miles to Gulf Shores. Hwy. 59 ends at Hwy. 182. Turn left on Hwy. 182, East Beach Blvd, which becomes Perdido Beach Blvd. Holiday Inn Express is 5.2 miles on the right, next to Souvenir City.

From Interstate 65, take exit 37 south, the Bay Minette/Gulf Shores Parkway exit. Take State Hwy. 287 south to State Hwy. 59 south, Gulf Shores Parkway, about 60 miles to Gulf Shores. Hwy. 59 ends at Hwy. 182. Turn left on Hwy. 182, East Beach Blvd, which becomes Perdido Beach Blvd. Holiday Inn Express is 5.2 miles on the right, next to Souvenir City.

From Pensacola Airport:

Turn left on 12th Avenue entrance and go 6/10 of a mile to Bayou Blvd. Turn right on Bayou Blvd. and travel 7 miles to Blue Angel Parkway (Hwy. 173). NOTE: Bayou Blvd. changes names several times, but stay on it. Turn left on Blue Angel Parkway (Hwy. 173) 6.8 miles to Hwy. 292. Turn right on Hwy. 292, go 17 miles to Holiday Inn Express.

TRANSPORTATION (Advanced reservations are recommended for all transportation services.)

Orange Beach has no public transportation. Pensacola Airport is closer to Orange Beach.

Mobile Bay Transportation

800-272-6234 Arrangements require 24 hour notice.