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Spring Break 2019

List of all the things to do
and places to visit for
Spring Break.

FLORIDA'S MOST
FASCINATING
PLACES TO VISIT!

Looking Ahead 2020

Planning your family vacation can help you save
time and money.

Story by: Jason Miller



Saga & Sage



Congratulations Broward !!!

***Broward County School Board
has approved student participation for
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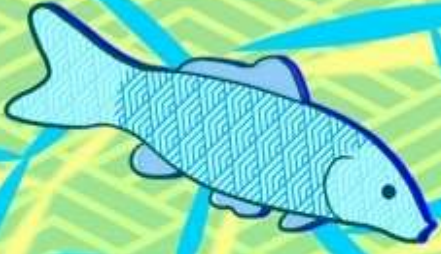
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WELCOME
TO FLORIDA





*A featured Editorial in anticipation of
Earth Day 2019*



SAVE THE REEF

Harmful Sunscreen Ingredients



For the last 4 1/2 years Coral Reefs of Florida have had a bout with a disease caused by a bacteria that is slowly killing the reefs and it's inhabitants. While a local university is exploring use of an anti-biotic as well as instructing scuba divers with precaution with spreading it even more, now the Coral Reefs are facing another threat. Coral Reefs in the Keys are facing the threat of being destroyed with chemical pollution synergistic with global warming. Two chemicals found in sunscreen (not mineral sunblock) are not only toxic to humans, but have long done irreparable damage to marine life, imposing on the ecosystem of Florida's southernmost sunny paradise.

Oxybenzone & Octoxinate are just two of the few other chemicals generously bottled in over-the-counter as well as prescription sunscreens. As millions of consumers use these products, our freshwater and oceans can't hold up under the demand to naturally dissipate or rid the waters of these toxins. Therefore, last year Hawaii has officially banned the use of chemical sunscreens on their beaches. Key West has followed suit immediately after. The National Park Service reports 4 to 6 thousand tons of sunscreen wash-off into coastal reef areas. They also recommend use of mineral sunblocks containing only zinc oxide & titanium dioxide, two minerals not found to be harmful to the environment since they are inert and biodegradable, safer and more effective for human application. They are also less likely to wash or sweat off, being their cling-like metallic properties reflect harmful rays, rather than permeate your skin as well as eco-waterways.

Naturally, as humans consume these topical solutions, these run off the skin at rinse stations or just come off when visitors want to take a direct dip in the beautiful emerald waters to cool off. The creams and sprays applied are posing additional dangers to coral habitat. Patrick Rice, a chief science and research officer at Florida Keys Community College contributes, "Oxybenzone is an oil and it floats on the surface, these items should be banned as they have no place in our waters in the Florida Keys."

Gwen Filosa of Miami Herald states, "Many who support the ban say it's a step in the right direction to preserve the reef." The same article shares the sentiments of toxicologist, Joe DiNardo who worked on the Hawaiian ban, "It's not really not an emotional issue; it's really just science. It's hard to do something about global warming. We can do something about chemical pollution today and that's what the whole concept is about."

So what kind of protection would agree with the environment when going out to the water? Personally, I use two name brands, Garden Goddess and Badger. There are many others out there, as well. Clicking this linked article will help you with deciding environmentally-friendly protection that proves healthier for your family while protecting the Coral Reefs:

<https://www.skincareox.com/40-best-organic-sunscreens-non-toxic-natural/>

Products I recommend that would be consistent with Active 'Mineral' Ingredients are "Garden Goddess", "Badger", and "Sol Bar", & select "Alba Botanica" which states clearly on their website: "Free of ingredients identified to have potential adverse impact to coral reef." Sunflower is another one to consider.

Check your cabinets & closets for Active Ingredients. Quite a few popular Chemical Sunscreens have the following additional Active Ingredients to look out for, ones that are synthetic or chemical, such as:

Octisalate and Avobenzene 3.0%, Homosalate 15.0%, Octisalate 5.0%, Octocrylene 10.0%, Oxybenzone 6.0%; ect.

Alphabetical List of Chemical Sun"screens":

Avobenzone
Diethylamino
Hydroxybenzoyl
Hexyl
Benzoate*
Disodium
Phenyl
Dibenzimidazole
Tetrasulfonate*
Homosalate
Octisalate
Octinoxate
Octocrylene
Ensulizole
Octyl
Triazone*
Ethylhexyl
Triazone*
Oxybenzone
Bis-
Ethylhexyloxyphenol
Methoxyphenyl
Triazine*
Methylene Bis-
Benzotriazolyl
Tetramethylbutylphenol*
Tris-Biphenyl Triazine*

Alphabetical List of Mineral Sun"blocks":

Titanium Dioxide
Zinc Oxide

Both Lists Provide.....UVA + UVB Filters



Contributed by the Editor

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Yes, Kids Are Tourists, Too.....

Horny reptiles with razor sharp teeth are not your regular pet, but here in Florida you are bound to come across one. There are plenty sight-seeing destinations that involve the ancient reptiles. Whether you would want to get close or not, it's a memorable decision lasting for lifetimes. In fact you may want to take one home. But that would not be possible. Why, you ask?

Out of the 5 million alligators in the Southeastern US, a whopping 1.25 million are native to Florida alone. Though there are enough to go around, it doesn't mean they can live just anywhere in the continental planet. They prefer their marshy home environment full of swamps, rivers and lakes. They've had hundreds of years to make the humid wetlands their breeding grounds among the wetlands, generally away from humans, claiming kingly occupation of the precious Everglades.

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Kids Are Tourists ?

Know... Then GO!!



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