

Journey Through Florida's Waters: Life as Captain Emily of Salty Pelican Boat Tours



"The moment I step onto our boat each morning, watching the sun rise over Gulfport Marina, I'm reminded why I chose this path. Every day brings new adventures, new faces, and new opportunities to share the magic of our local waters."

~ Captain Emily

A Love Story with the Gulf Coast

When people ask me how I became a boat captain and marine educator, I always smile. You see, my journey to founding Salty Pelican Boat Tours with my husband, Captain Rob, wasn't just about career choice—it was about following a calling. Growing up along Florida's Gulf Coast, I developed an unshakeable connection with our local waters. Every splash of a dolphin's tail, every graceful flight of a pelican, and every sunset over Boca Ciega Bay told stories that I knew needed to be shared.

Now, as I stand at the helm of our tours, microphone in hand and the warm Florida breeze in my hair, I get to share these stories with families, couples, and curious souls from all walks of life.

A Day in the Life of Your Marine Guide

Morning Magic on the Water

Each morning begins before sunrise at Gulfport Marina. As Captain Rob and I prepare for the day's adventures, there's a peaceful moment when the water is perfectly still, reflecting the pink and orange hues of dawn. These quiet moments remind me why we named our company "Salty Pelican"—watching these magnificent birds dive for their breakfast, showing nature's perfect harmony in action.

Creating Connections with Our Guests

"The best part of my day? It's when I see that spark of wonder in someone's eyes—whether they're 8 or 80—as they spot their first dolphin or learn something fascinating about our local marine life."

As your guide, I believe in creating more than just a boat tour. Together, we'll explore the hidden treasures of Tampa Bay's waters. I'll share stories about:

- The family of dolphins that frequently visit our tours (95% of our guests get to see these playful creatures!)
- The vital role of our seagrass meadows in nurturing young marine life
- The fascinating lives of our local birds, from ospreys to roseate spoonbills
- The incredible mangrove forests that protect our coastline

Educational Adventures for Every Age

For Families

As a marine educator, nothing brings me more joy than watching children's faces light up when they learn something new. Did you know that dolphins have unique whistles, like underwater names? Or that baby seahorses hold onto seagrass with their tails like tiny anchors? These are the kinds of discoveries that make our family tours special.

For Visiting Groups

Whether you're hosting out-of-town guests or planning a local school field trip, our tours offer a unique perspective on Florida's marine ecosystem. I tailor each tour's educational content to my audience, ensuring everyone leaves with new knowledge and appreciation for our waters.

For Celebration Groups

Planning a bachelorette party or special celebration? Captain Rob and I love creating memorable experiences for these occasions. We'll blend fun with fascinating marine life encounters, making your celebration unique and meaningful.

The Magic of Our Marine Ecosystem

Seagrass Sanctuaries

"One of my favorite moments is when I explain how a single acre of seagrass can support over 40,000 fish and 50 million small invertebrates. The collective gasp from our guests always makes me smile."

As we glide over the seagrass meadows, I'll show you why these underwater prairies are crucial nurseries for marine life. You might spot:

- Young stingrays gliding gracefully over the grass
- Schools of mullet swimming in formation
- The occasional manatee grazing peacefully
- Seahorses clinging to swaying grass blades

Dolphin Encounters

While Captain Rob expertly navigates to the best dolphin-watching spots, I'll share fascinating insights about these intelligent creatures and beyond. Did you know that dolphins sleep with half their brain awake to stay vigilant against predators? They are highly social animals, often forming lifelong friendships within their pods and communicating through a complex system of clicks and whistles.

Beyond dolphins, our journey will also introduce you to an array of marine life, such as majestic sea turtles known for their long migrations, and colorful coral reefs teeming with diverse species. These vibrant ecosystems are crucial for maintaining the balance of ocean life. You'll also learn about the vital role of plankton, the microscopic organisms that form the basis of the marine food web, and how they contribute to the earth's oxygen supply. Join us for a deeper understanding of these fascinating marine ecosystems and their intricate connections.

Conservation Through Connection

One of my deepest and most enduring passions is sharing the profound ways in which each of us can contribute to protecting our precious marine environment. I believe that the ocean is not just a distant entity or a vacation backdrop, but a living, breathing system that connects us all—no matter where we come from. Through heartfelt storytelling, vivid imagery, and real-life examples, I strive to bridge the gap between people and the waters that sustain life on this planet.

Whether it's explaining the intricate balance of marine ecosystems or highlighting small, actionable steps that anyone can take, my goal is to inspire a sense of wonder and responsibility. Even for those who are only here for a brief visit, I want them to leave with a deeper understanding of their connection to these waters and a newfound appreciation for their role in preserving them for generations to come. To me, this work is not just about education—it's about fostering a shared sense of stewardship and love for the ocean, which has been such an integral part of my own journey.

Making a Difference Together: Marine Conservation on Our Tours

"Every wave that touches our boat carries a story, and every creature we encounter has a lesson to teach. Let me share with you how our daily adventures can create lasting change for our oceans." ~ Captain Emily

Special Moments That Define Us

Sunset Magic

"There was this evening last summer when we had a family from Minnesota aboard. As the sun set and dolphins played in our wake, their teenage daughter turned to her parents with tears in her eyes and said, 'I never knew nature could be this beautiful.' These are the moments that remind me why we do this."

Dawn Discoveries

Our morning tours often reveal the most surprising encounters—from watching osprey dive for breakfast to seeing dolphins teaching their calves to fish. Each tour writes its own story, and I feel privileged to narrate these moments for our guests.

Join Us on the Water

Whether you're:

- A family looking for an educational adventure
- Visitors wanting to experience real Florida marine life

- Locals hosting out-of-town guests
- Planning a special celebration
- Simply seeking a meaningful connection with nature

Captain Rob and I would love to welcome you aboard Salty Pelican Boat Tours. Together, we'll explore the wonderful waters of Tampa Bay, create lasting memories, and maybe even spark a lifelong passion for marine conservation.

Book Your Adventure Today

- **Daily Tours:** Join us for scheduled departures from Gulfport Marina
- **Private Charters:** Create your own unique experience
- **Special Celebrations:** Make your event unforgettable

"Every tour is a new chapter in our ongoing story with these waters. We'd love for you to be part of it." - Captain Emily

[Book Online Now](#) or call for private charter inquiries.