

# INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

**JUNE 19, 8:30 AM- 8:15 PM**

Please join us as we spend a day relaxing on glorious Indian Rocks Beach, with an optional visit to The Florida Botanical Gardens, then dinner at The Largo Mall. Indian Rocks is located on a barrier island near Clearwater, but is much less populated. It had only 3,662 residents in 2021, so it is a small town and definitely has a small town feel. There is a modest restroom on the beach and equipment rental available.

The beach is fairly narrow, but since no vehicles over 20' in length can navigate the turns in the beach parking lot, we will disembark the bus on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a very short distance from the crosswalk that takes us across Gulf Blvd. (In case you are wondering, our buses are 45' long.) It even has a traffic light to stop traffic for us! We will arrive at the beach at @ 10:45 or so.

If you don't want to carry your own chairs & umbrella that distance, IRB Chairs has rentals available. They can be reserved at <https://www.irbchairs.com/>. They run \$40 for a set – 2 chairs & umbrella or 2 chairs & cabana.

**Indian Rocks Beach does not have lifeguards.**

There are several restaurants within walking distance of the beach and you could always avail yourself of a restaurant restroom if you needed to freshen up before or after eating.

You will have the option of spending the entire day on the beach, or venturing out at 2:30 to tour the Florida Botanical Gardens. If you are trying to determine what plants to put in your landscaping, the gardens have an abundance of suggestions. All of the plants are tagged clearly, making it easy to snap a photo so you can find the plants once you get home. And the gardens are stunningly beautiful.

Restaurant options for lunch:

**Guppy's On the Beach:** 1701 Gulf Blvd; casual, focusing on upscale seafood dishes and more. Only a minute walk:

<https://www.guppys.com/menus/lunch/> ; opens at 11:30am

You may add your name to a waitlist by calling one hour prior to your arrival. (727) 593-2032. NOTE: This is not a reservation.

**Beach Wave Grill:** 2300 Gulf Blvd; featuring seafood, chicken and burgers. A 10 minute walk. <https://beachwavesgrill.com>; opens at 11am

**Sandy's Restaurant:** 2300 Gulf Blvd #7; informal diner serving typical American dishes such as eggs Benedict, pancakes, and burgers. A 10 minute walk. It appears their website has been hijacked, but you can find them and their breakfast & lunch menus on Facebook.

**Keegan's Seafood Grill:** 1519 Gulf Blvd; American eatery with emphasis on seafood. Only a minute walk. They open at 11am. You can view the menu (which looks fantastic) but not their prices online. Add your name to a waitlist before you go at [keegansseafood.com](http://keegansseafood.com). NOTE: This is not a reservation.

**Chicago Jaqx Pizzeria & Tap House:** 1511 Gulf Blvd; Chicago style pizza, hot dogs, burgers, and more. A 2 minute walk. [Menu - Chicago Jaqx Pizzeria And Taphouse](#) Be careful when viewing the menu – it is tantalizing!

At 2:30 pm, those who want to explore the wondrous Florida Botanical Gardens should board the bus for a 10 minute drive. You will have 1.5 hours to take in the various gardens led by a volunteer docent. For a preview, visit [flbgfoundation.org](http://flbgfoundation.org)

This 100-acre park has many differently designed and planted gardens. It demonstrates many ecologically sound gardening techniques. Admission is free, but we requested a docent guided tours of the property. Their tours

are one of their primary fundraising activities and at \$5 per person, it's one of the cheapest things we've done all year.

The gardens are categorized as: Butterfly, Cactus/Succulent, Cottage, Herb, Jazz, Majeed Discovery, McKay Creek Plaza, Native Plant, Palm, Rose, Topiary, Tropical, The Vinery, The Wedding/Celebration Garden and the Wetlands Walkway and Wildlife Overlook.

Those remaining on the beach will have until 4:15 to board and load us their beach gear. The bus will return to the gardens after gathering up the last remaining sun seekers on the beach and will stop at the Gardens to pick those members up. Then we will head to Largo Mall, less than 10 minutes away.

The Largo Mall features over 70 shops and services for your convenience and enjoyment. The Largo Mall dinner restaurants; Olive Garden, Buffalo Wild Wings, Red Lobster, Smiley Thai to Go, Firehouse Subs, Hungry Crab, Chili's, Jersey Mike's Subs, Beach Pizza, and The Greek City Cafe. It is an open-air mall.

Please board the bus by 6:00 pm in order to arrive back at The Villages by 8:15 pm.