

Ever run your fingers through sand that feels like confectioners
sugar
(or talcum powder, for you gents) ?

You'll have the delightful opportunity if you join us for our day at
Siesta Key (SK) on the Gulf.

Monday, November 14
8:30-8:30

While we normally travel on the third Monday of each month, a special event, the annual "Classic Sand Castle Competition", is scheduled for the second weekend in November. This unique form of art is certainly worth a modification to our schedule.

Be amazed as you walk among the many creative pieces. Citing the beauty and cleanliness of the pristine white sand, sculptors have remarked that their sculptures look almost as if they were "carved in marble." In only 24 sculpting hours spanning over four days, the master sculptors create sand masterpieces, some over ten feet tall, and transform the always beautiful Siesta Beach into an outdoor art gallery. It is certainly helpful to these artists that the sand is 99% pure quartz that stays cool in their hands and under their feet.

Oh, yeah. If you can tear yourself away from these castles, you can also swim in SK's turquoise water. At the "Great International White Sand Beach Challenge" held in 1987, Siesta Key was recognized as having the "whitest and finest sand in the world." Since then, SK Beach has been chosen as the #1 beach in both the US and the entire world by numerous groups and publications.

Set up your beach chair for a wonderful afternoon. Let your fingers caress this delicate sand. Bring your lunch from home or visit the relatively new café on-site. The menu is less like a

concession stand and more like a small restaurant. They reportedly have great paninis, flatbreads, and salads. Their food is made to order so it may take a little longer but enjoy sitting on their scenic sundeck while waiting.

Shallow water depth in the near shore area, together with year round lifeguard protection, makes this one of the safest beaches in the County. And this year, Sarasota County spent \$21.5 million in improvements to SK Beach, including a 15-ft.-wide pedestrian walkway, historical pavilion, and sundeck.

You can borrow a beach wheelchair if this wide beach might present a problem. The cost to rent two chairs and an umbrella is \$30. This cost appears high but the beach is very deep. You might want to instead consider renting two loungers for \$18 and just carrying your personal umbrella. Please make your decision known on your application.

On our way home, we'll stop in Brandon, Florida to enjoy dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. You can look over their extensive menu at:

<http://www.allmenus.com/fl/brandon/131097-the-cheesecake-factory/menu/>

We hope you find both of these sites too tempting to resist!

If you'd like to join us, please click on the below application form. As always, full trip details will be e-mailed on the Thursday before our trip. Our lottery date will be October 31st.

Print and mail only the below page.

I want to go to on the trip to Siesta Key. Enclosed is my check for \$25 per person.

Your name(s)

I believe I have a \$25 credit in your record ____ (check here)

1-4 people with whom I'd/we'd like to be on a bus

I'd like to rent two loungers _____

I'd like to rent two loungers and an umbrella _____