

*We feel that this beautiful Atlantic beach park
is the perfect shaded setting for July so we're returning to*
Andy Romano Beachfront Park in Ormond Beach
Monday, July 16 8:30 - 7:30

This sparkling community–designed 4–acre beachfront park built in 2012 offers free parking, a splash pad, picnic pavilions (first come–first served), a food concession with standard beach fare, outdoor showers, and restrooms. The reddish pink sand by the water's edge is caused by crushed coquina shells washing up during tide. Ormond is much less congested and commercial than Daytona, just three miles away.

As you can see below, the beach is narrow, making it easy to carry your beach gear just a short distance from the parking lot. Unfortunately, we learned that chairs and umbrellas are not available for rent here. (If you don't own any, borrow some from a friend or neighbor.)

In fact, if you prefer to keep your toes sand–free, you can simply relax in your chair on this walkway and enjoy the view. You might get a kick out of watching these little darlings at play.

One of my favorite things about this beautiful park is sitting in the cool shade of the picnic pavilions and the below area while watching the waves roll in just a few hundred feet away. And the customary cool breezes make it so comfortable in this setting.

If the summer heat does get to you, you might want to hop aboard our buses about 2:30 for a 7–minute drive to visit The Casements. This “Jewel of Ormond Beach” on the eastern bank of the Halifax River was purchased by John D. Rockefeller in 1918 and he lived there during winter months until his death at the age of 97.

While a resident of Ormond Beach, "Neighbor John," as he preferred to be called, enjoyed community activities: playing golf, participating in the sing–along at the Ormond Hotel each Sunday, and entertaining friends such as Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone. A tour of his home is free, but donations are very much appreciated. If you know your limitations in the July heat and think you would be interested in joining us for this tour, please check the appropriate box on your application form. We would return you to the beach in time for dinner.

For your early-bird dining pleasure, the following six restaurants are either right across the street or within a two-block walk of the Romano Park located at 839 S. Atlantic Avenue. Note their proximity by their addresses.

Dimitri's Bar Deck & Grill (www.dimitrisbardeck.com) 790 S. Atlantic Ave.

Don Peper Mexican Grill Cantina (www.donpeppersormond.com) 794 S. Atlantic Ave.

Charlie Horse Restaurant (www.charliehorserestaurant.com) 810 S. Atlantic Ave.

Bonefish Grill (www.bonefishgrill.com) 814 St. Atlantic Ave.

The Black Sheep Pub and Eating House (www.theblacksheep.co) 890 S. Atlantic Ave.

The Beach Bucket (www.thebeachbucket.com) 867 S. Atlantic Ave. (in a beach-front hotel)

Whichever you choose, just be back aboard our buses outside the Andy Romano Park at 5:45 p.m.

At the end of our last visit here, we heard comments like "Can you believe this is July in Florida?" And when we boarded our buses to return to The Villages, our members told us they could return here every month. Well, we hope we haven't kept you waiting too long!

To join us on this trip, print the reservation form (click on green button below) and mail it along with your check (made out to the BBC) for **\$28** per person to the address below. On **July, 1st**, we will conduct our lottery and you will be notified shortly thereafter of your seat confirmation or waitlist status.