

We haven't been to Madeira Beach since July 2014, and we hear they're really missing us.

So consider joining us on Monday, March 20, from 8:30-8:30 on a return to lovely Madeira Beach, located on a chain of barrier islands that run along the Gulf Coast of the Tampa Bay area.

Madeira Beach has a total area of 3.3 square miles, 1.0 square mile of land and 2.2 square miles of water. The City's slogan is "Two Miles Long and a Smile Wide." Let's add our smiles to that measure!

As you can see, it's a pretty wide beach so carrying your personal chairs, umbrellas, and coolers might be a foreboding task. There is a company on-site that is offering us two chairs and an umbrella for \$20. I would need to notify them two weeks in advance of the number of chairs/umbrellas we need, so I will ask about your interest in such equipment on the below application form.

There are restrooms nearby, but they can be a 4-minute walk from the water's edge. Procrastinators take heed!

We chose Madeira Beach, in large part, due to its short walk to John's Pass Village, a quaint turn-of-the-century fishing village. (Visit www.Johnspass.com, where over 100 merchants offer unique retail shopping and a good variety of restaurants.) So once you've had enough fun in the sun and sea, you can walk across the road (actually, under the bridge we came in on) to enjoy all this Village has to offer.

If you've used your own beach equipment, you can drop it off as you pass by your bus on the way to the Village.

There is also a local fishing fleet (to whet your appetite) and a dolphin watching boat tour (\$17.50) at noon and 2:00. (www.boattoursjohnspass.com/dolphin-quest-tour). The boat travels the picturesque Boca Ciega Bay for 1 ½ hrs. Watch its playful residents—bottlenose dolphins—swim, jump, and entertain you. If you'd like to assure yourself of a seat on this 35-passenger boat, call for a reservation at 727-392-7090 and arrange payment.

You might also enjoy a visit to the Florida Winery at 12945 Village Boulevard in John's Pass where magic happens! All of their wines are made right there in house. Just steps from the beach you'll find the most unique winery on earth. Beach real estate isn't cheap so they squeeze a lot of wine out of a small space--about 900 sq ft.! It's not a lot of room but it is enough for them to create the most amazing libations known to man. They use three 2000-liter jacket fermentation tanks and nine 2000-liter racking and aging tanks. All of the bottling is done by hand right in the front window. With 20 varieties being produced and about 50 awards won in their first 4 years it's obvious they make great use of the limited space they have.

Just be sure to allot time for dinner at one of the following restaurants so you can sleep happily content on the way home.

Bamboo Beach Bar & Grill
13025 Village Boulevard
www.bamboobeachbar.com
One of Florida's oldest bars

Brown Boxer Pub & Grille
15000 Madeira Way
<https://www.facebook.com/brownboxermadeira>
Tampa Bay's premiere Sports Pub and Grille

Bubba Gump Shrimp Company
185 Boardwalk Place W
www.bubbagump.com
Shrimp, dixie-style baby back ribs.

DeLosa's Pizzeria
12800 Village Boulevard
www.delosaspizza.com
Hand-tossed New York style pizza, salads, pasta

Friendly Fisherman Lounge
150 John's Pass Boardwalk
www.gofriendlyfisherman.com
Bar, karaoke

Hub's Raw Bar & Tavern
150 John's Pass Boardwalk
johnspassvillage.net/portfolio/hubs-oyster-bar-tavern/
The best Raw Bar on the islands.

Sculley's Boardwalk Grille
190 John's Pass Boardwalk
www.sculleysrestaurant.com

Pirate's Pub & Grille
114 Johns Pass Boardwalk
www.yelp.com/biz/pirates-pub-and-grub-madeira-beach

The Hut Restaurant and Tiki Bar
John's Pass Boardwalk
www.thehutbarandgrille.com
The Gulf Beaches' Largest Waterfront Bar & Tiki Hut

VFW Hall Post #4256
12901 Gulf Blvd.,
Bar and restaurant

Waltz Fish Shack

224 Boardwalk Place

www.waltzfishshak.com

East end of the village . . . a unique "don't miss"

As always, specific trip details will be e-mailed to you on the Thurs. before this trip. Hopefully they will answer any questions you may have at this time.

If this trip interests you, please print the reservation form (click on green button below) and mail it along with your check (made out to the BBC) for \$25 per person to the address below. On February 24th, we will conduct our lottery and you will be notified shortly thereafter of your seat confirmation or waitlist status.

I/we would like to go to Madeira Beach with the BBC on March 20th. Enclosed is my \$25 check (pp).

Print your name(s): _____

I/we wish to be on the bus with these friends

I/we still have a credit with the BBC and I would like to use that credit. _____

We wish to reserve two lounge chairs and an umbrella for \$20 _____ (check here if interested and include the \$20 fee now.)