

We haven't been to Madeira Beach since March 2017 and we hear they're really missing us.

So consider joining us on Monday, March 16, 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 deep beach so carrying your personal chairs, umbrellas, and coolers might seem like a foreboding task if you wish to be set up right at water's edge. There is a company on-site that is offering us two chairs, an umbrella and a table for \$25. I would need to notify them 10 days 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 in the parking lot, but they can be a 4-minute walk from the water's edge. Procrastinators take heed!

You might want to bring your lunch from home then enjoy a Village restaurant for dinner.

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](http://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 at your bus still in the parking lot on your way to the Village.

There is also a narrated dolphin watching boat tour (\$22.50) at noon and 2:00, [www.boattoursjohnspass.com/dolphin-quest-tour](http://www.boattoursjohnspass.com/dolphin-quest-tour). The boat travels the picturesque Boca Ciega Bay for 1 ½ hrs.

Sit back and relax on comfortable waterfront seats as you take in the legend of John's Pass, view the beautiful homes of Treasure Island and meet our most playful residents—the bottlenose dolphins! Watch them swim, jump and entertain you throughout your experience on the Dolphin Quest!

Get lost in your search for Tampa Bay's most exquisite wildlife as the wake of the Dolphin Quest sightseeing tour invites our featured guests to join us in a playful ride. Revel in the wonder of nature as Florida's coastal creatures curiously make appearances for stunning photo opportunities and serene scenic memories. Capture the images of Ibis families poking for food, brown pelicans or bald eagles taking flight over the boat, a female manatee and calf feeding on vegetation, a Great Blue Heron catching fish, and so

much more. 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.! 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. You can even buy alcoholic slushes and wine ice cream.

Just be sure to allot time for dinner at one of the following restaurants, many of which are new since our last visit, so you can sleep happily content on the way home.

Bamboo Beach Bar & Grill  
13025 Village Boulevard  
[www.bamboobeachbar.com](http://www.bamboobeachbar.com)  
One of Florida's oldest bars

Addicted to the Bean  
152 129th Ave  
[www.addictedtothebeanfl.com](http://www.addictedtothebeanfl.com)

Bubba Gump Shrimp Company  
185 Boardwalk Place W  
[www.bubbagump.com](http://www.bubbagump.com)  
Shrimp, dixie-style baby back ribs

DeLosa's Pizzeria  
12800 Village Boulevard  
[www.delosaspizza.com](http://www.delosaspizza.com)  
Hand-tossed New York style pizza, salad

Friendly Fisherman Lounge  
150 John's Pass Boardwalk  
[www.gofriendlyfisherman.com](http://www.gofriendlyfisherman.com)  
Bar, karaoke, live music

Hooters  
192 W Boardwalk Pl E  
[www.originalhooters.com](http://www.originalhooters.com)

MAD Beach Craft Brewing Co  
12945 Village Boulevard  
[www.madbeachbrewing.com](http://www.madbeachbrewing.com)

MAD Pub  
12293 Village Blvd  
[www.madpub.us](http://www.madpub.us)

Sculley's Boardwalk Grille  
190 John's Pass Boardwalk  
[www.sculleysrestaurant.com](http://www.sculleysrestaurant.com)  
beach

Pirate's Pub & Grille  
114 Boardwalk  
[www.yelp.com/biz/pirates-pub-and-grub-madeira-beach](http://www.yelp.com/biz/pirates-pub-and-grub-madeira-beach)

O'Shucks Seafood & Grill  
111 Boardwalk Place W  
[www.oshucksseafoodandgrill.com](http://www.oshucksseafoodandgrill.com)

Cuban Paradise Cigars & Cafe  
12933 Village Blvd  
[www.cubanparadise.com](http://www.cubanparadise.com)

The Boardwalk Grill  
204 Boardwalk Pl E  
Lobster rolls, grouper sandwiches

VFW Hall Post #4256  
12901 Gulf  
Bar and restaurant

Walt'z Fish Shack  
224 Boardwalk Place  
[www.waltzfishshak.com](http://www.waltzfishshak.com)

Wild Seafood Company  
215 Boardwalk PI E  
[www.wildseafoodco.com](http://www.wildseafoodco.com)

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

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