

Let's revisit a hidden gem together!

Port Canaveral -- South Jetty Park

Monday, March 16, 2015

8:30 am - 8:30 pm

Most people know very little about Port Canaveral other than as a cruise departure port. Rarely do they notice the beauty of the South Jetty Park as they sail past it. But this time, we are inviting you to spend a few relaxing hours enjoying its lovely, modern park setting.

We selected this beach because we discovered last year that it is generally of no interest to hoards of spring breakers. There are no hotels, shops, loud music, or pizza parlors--the things essential to most teens wanting to "partaaaaay." You can again enjoy the clean and quiet two-story concession stand, sundry shop, restrooms, and the lovely grounds of South Jetty Park.

When we arrive, you'll have the option to enjoy your home-made lunch or visit the nice food concession stand. Because the water will likely be too cool to swim, we'll cut our visit a bit short this time by adding a new destination--the Exploration Tower—just two minutes away. It opened in November 2013. This is an optional excursion; if you prefer, you can remain at the beach until dinner time.

The normal admission price of \$6.50 is reduced to \$4.25 for our group. We'll spend about 1-1/2 hours exploring seven stories of fun and adventure with interactive exhibits and activities that everyone can enjoy. On the second floor, discover and learn of the early populations, the first European settlers and the history of the Port. You can explore Central Florida's past and present using a large scale interactive map. On the third floor, enjoy a one-of-a-kind movie in their 72 seat state-of-the-art theater. Learn about Port Canaveral's vibrant history and the key events that helped transform it into the flourishing harbor that we know today. On the fifth floor, experience what it's like to be a Port Canaveral Harbor Pilot and navigate your boat using a simulator through Canaveral Harbor to greet cruise ships. An exhibit zone on the sixth floor celebrates the frontiers of air and space including the view of a rising rocket.

Finally, on both the sixth and seventh floors, enjoy both indoor and outdoor panoramic views, not only of Port Canaveral and its cruise ships, but of the Kennedy Space Center, the surrounding beach and river, and the spectacular wildlife located in Brevard County.

You may enjoy visiting their website at: <http://www.explorationtower.com/>

For dinner—again, only two minutes away--you can choose between the following five waterfront restaurants which are virtually side-by-side. To look over their menus in advance, visit:

www.fishlipswaterfront.com

www.seafoodatlantic.org

www.rustysseafood.com

www.millikensreef.com

www.grillsseafood.com/locations/port-canaveral/

At 6:15 pm, we'll depart, a bit worn out, for our own special village.

The cost for this trip is \$25 per person *if you just want to go to the beach*. If you wish to visit the Exploration Tower, please add \$4.25 pp to your check. Members who still have a credit on file only need to pay admission to the Exploration Tower. Mail your check to:

Barefoot Beachcomber Club ('BBC' will also suffice)
333 Colony Blvd. #110
The Villages, FL 32162

On March 1, we will use our lottery system to determine reservations for this trip, and you will be notified shortly thereafter of your seat confirmation or waitlist status.