

*How about joining us from 8:30 – 7:15 on Monday, March 21
for an adventure to New Smyrna Beach~
"a small quiet beach town in Florida done just right!"*

We purposely chose a trip to New Smyrna Beach on the Atlantic in March where cold water AND SHARKS are going to prevent swimming anyway. Then we can save our lovely warmer temperatures and waters on the Gulf until the upcoming Spring and Summer months.

But first, before dipping your toes in the sand, we will briefly stop for an optional visit to the Marine Discovery Center. Admission to their facility & grounds is FREE (donations appreciated.) The following website tells you more about the things that can be seen there.

<https://www.marinediscoverycenter.org/>

Anyone not interested in this short visit will continue to the beach, just 6-7 minutes away. The buses will then return to the Center at 11:30 to pick up the people who toured there.

At the beach, our buses will drop you off on Flagler Avenue. Yes, you could just drop your chair in the sand and relax there the rest of the day, but if you start feeling a little fidgety, you may find pleasure in opening this website to see all that Flagler Avenue has to offer for your shopping and luncheon pleasure. <https://flaglerave.com/>

You might begin your visit at some of their quaint seaside shops or by grabbing lunch at one of their most highly recommended places--The Breakers (for its award-winning burgers) at 518 Flagler—right on the beach where the bus will drop us off. See their menu at:

<https://breakersnsb.com/menu/>

--or Manzano's Beachside Deli (for gourmet deli paninis) at 311 Flagler Avenue. How long's it been since you had a Big Lebowski sandwich??? Manzano's is only a 7-minute walk from the beach up colorful boutique-lined Flagler Avenue. If you look at the attached menu "with bread flown in from New York," I think you may find it worth the pleasant stroll:

<http://manzanonsb.com/menu>

You could call in your order at 386-402-4981 in advance. But if you just need something easy, bring your lunch from home. (Sometimes there are food vendors on the beach too.)

Just don't eat too heavily because we have an early dinner on the way home.

Because this is a car-accessible beach, we older folk need to always watch out when crossing the beach. Otherwise, it's very clean white sand watched over by plenty of lifeguards and safety patrols that cruise up and down the beach. Clean restrooms and showers are available in the beachfront parking lot. (I think they may require coins?) Two beach chairs and an umbrella is available for rent for \$35; single chairs are \$15. It's a great place to enjoy and have fun in the sun!

HOWEVER, **please be aware** that New Smyrna Beach sees more shark attacks annually than any other beach in the world. Happily, sharks mostly hang out at the Ponce de Leon Inlet--which we will avoid at all cost--and appear to favor the taste of salty surfers! It may be a bit comforting to know that none of the attacks here have ever been fatal. In fact, most attacks amount to minor nibbles by young bull sharks. Still, if you'd rather not be the "appetizer du jour," you may want to surround yourself in the water by your other more tasty friends or just spend your time relaxing on the beautiful beach and enjoying the amenities offered in the town. I forewarn you that if Steve sees you in the water, he will drag you out kickin' and screaming! (We're just too lazy to fill out all the necessary paperwork involved with shark nibblings.)

As we leave New Smyrna, we will drive you down the Canal Street Historic District hopefully to arouse your interest in returning to this area soon for shopping, dining, brew-pubbing(?) or attending their many artistic and historical events.

Then we'll have an early dinner at Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen in Sanford. Thankfully, they always accept our large reservation. As you can see from the following website, they offer an extensive menu at very affordable prices.

<https://www.restaurantmealprices.com/cheddars-prices/>