

ALAN SHEPARD PARK

COCOA BEACH

Monday July, 17th 8:30am-8pm

Alan Shepard Park is normally a beautiful Atlantic oceanfront park on a beach with amazing sand and magnificent waves. As like all the other beaches, it is simply the BEST way to spend a day.

HOWEVER, the influx of sargassum seaweed has affected most all of the beaches in Brevard County and we are keeping a close watch to be sure that we will not encounter any of that stinky stuff on any of our beach trips.

The park was named for one of America's very first astronauts, Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr. He was an astronaut, naval aviator, test pilot, and businessman. In 1961, he became the second person and the first American to travel into space and, in 1971, he became the fifth and oldest person to walk on the Moon at age 47. It is the perfect spot to watch a launch, but none are scheduled for the 17th.

The park offers big and small picnic pavilions, some with covered picnic tables that make this a perfect setting for none other than a PICNIC! A bathhouse and restroom facilities remain to be the final touches on a perfect picnic setting. You may of course bring some lunch from home or order carry-out from one of the outstanding restaurants near the park.

From our bus drop-off point to the beach access is a very short distance, just like the shopping and many fine restaurants. Also, beginning Memorial Day weekend, lifeguards are "ON" duty. Now you can really relax!

Beach Equipment Rentals:

Cocoa Beach Surf Company; 4001 North Atlantic Ave. A 6 minute walk from Alan Shepard Park.

For questions, there is a contact page at www.cocoabeachsurf.com

- Chair and Umbrella rental: 4 hours -\$8 EACH
- Cruiser Bikes: 4 hours - \$10

Ron Jon's Surf Shop; 4151 N. Atlantic Ave. 312-799-8820. A 5 minute walk from Alan Shepard Park.

- Chairs \$10 deposit & \$10 payment: 4-8 hours
- Umbrellas \$10 deposit & \$10 payment: 4-8 hours

Deposits are returned when equipment is returned by 7:30 pm.

Big Kahuna Beach Rentals; 3800 North Atlantic Ave (**on the beach**). A 7 minute walk from Alan Shepard Park. (321) 591-8120.
equipment.

- Chairs \$10 All Day
- Umbrellas \$20 All Day

Lunch options, in case you didn't pack your lunch today:

Pita Paradise: 225 W Cocoa Beach Causeway. Pita Paradise is a Lebanese/Mediterranean grill. They have some outdoor seating. It is a six minute walk from Shepard Park. Pita Paradise is located inside The White Rose Shopping Center: 293 W. Cocoa Beach Causeway. thepitaparadise.com.

Long Doggers: 350 W. Cocoa Beach Causeway. It is a nine minute walk from Shepard Park. They offer casual grub, beer, and a beach-house ambiance. longdoggers.com.

Poke Fin: 4295 N. Atlantic Avenue. It is a four minute walk from Shepard Park. They offer health-conscious, heaping poke bowls dished up in a funky, Hawaiian-inspired locale. [PokéFin Menu - Pokefin](#).

Rock The Guac: 4265 N. Atlantic Ave. A four minute walk from Shepard Park. One reviewer wrote, "This restaurant is the best Tex Mex grill on the Space Coast." Rocktheguac.com.

Note: Poke Fin and Rock The Guac share outdoor seating.

Sandbar Sports Grill: 4301 Ocean Beach Blvd- **Just one minute north of the park.** They are a surfer style sports tavern with multiple TVs, pub grub, and drink deals. They are known for their tacos. SandbarSportsGrill.com.

Frankie's Wings: 281 W. Cocoa Beach Causeway; located in the White Rose Shopping Center: 293 W. Cocoa Beach Causeway. Frankie's Wings is an unfussy joint offering various flavors of Buffalo-style wings, plus a variety of quick American eats along with wine & beer. A six minute walk from Shepard Park. frankieswingsandthings.com.

Florida's Seafood Bar & Grill: 480 W. Cocoa Beach Causeway. **OPENS 11:30 am.** They offer seafood & cocktails in a nautical setting with hand painted murals & outdoor seating. It has 4.5 stars with over 6,000 reviews. It is a twelve minute walk from Shepard Park. florida-seafood.com

Nolan's Irish Pub: 204 W. Cocoa Beach Causeway. **OPENS 11:30 am.** A cozy pub offering classic Irish bites & draft beer set in a warm environment with live music & a patio. A six minute walk from Shepard Park. nolansirishpub.net

Captain J's Seafood Steak, Bar & Grill: 211 E. Cocoa Beach Causeway. While we featured this restaurant on our trip to Shepard Park in 2021, the current reviews indicate that the prices are high and the food is rated only "good". However, the view from the rooftop is said to be spectacular. No working website at the moment.

If you brought an avid golfer along on the trip, and he is tired of the beach already, send him to:

Lighthouse Cove Mini Golf: 3811 N. Atlantic Ave. Or If you need a break from the beach and are looking for some action. The LCMG has both eighteen and thirty-six hole miniature golf courses in a

tropical paradise. Their staff can deliver beer or wine while you play. There is a great balance of shade and benches if you need a rest spot. When you finish mini-golf, head to the Cove's dine-in cafe known as **Dune Dog**. They offer delicious hot dogs, burgers, and much more. Best of all, indulge in some ice cream from the Cove's **3 Scoops Ice Cream Parlor**. Lighthouse Cove is an eight minute walk from Shepard Park. **Mini golf rate:** Seniors: 18 holes- \$13.99 or 36 holes- \$19.99.

Shopping near the beach:

Ron Jon Surf Shop: 4151 N. Atlantic Ave. It is a five minute walk from Shepard Park and three minutes from Lighthouse Cove. This is the largest Ron Jon's in the world at 52,000 square feet. It will take you awhile to see everything.

Florida Key Lime Pie Company: 102 Dixie Lane. Opens at 12:00 pm. The company offers much more than just pies. Check it out after lunch for some dessert. It is a five minute walk from Shepard Park.

At 3:30 pm we will depart the beach for a 30 minute bus ride to **Avenue Viera** Town Center Mall in Melbourne for a little shopping and dinner.

Avenue Viera is an outdoor shopping mall with 4.5 star reviews. The Avenue is an open-air premier shopping mall that features national retailers, specialty boutiques, and wonderful restaurants. It has a pedestrian friendly lay-out - one that entices shoppers to linger in the attractive commons and take their time as they meander into and out of shops and restaurants. avenueviera.com Since we've not visited there previously, we are allowing some shopping time.

Dinner: Avenue Viera restaurants.

- 28 North gastropub; <https://28northgastropub.com/menu/>
- Bean Sprout; <https://beansproutfl.smiledining.com/?2023032601>
- Bonefish Grill; [Bonefish Grill in Viera, FL | 2251 Town Center Ave](#)
- Chili's; <https://chilis.com/menu>
- Longhorn; [LEGENDARY STEAKS COMBOS | Menu | Longhorn Steakhouse](#)
- The Melting Pot; [Melting Pot Melbourne | Fine Dining Fondue Restaurants in Melbourne, FL](#)
- Moe's; [Moe's Southwest Grill - Viera - Order Online \(moes.com\)](#)
- Olive Tree Greek Grill; <https://olivetreegreekgrill.com/food-menu/>
- Panera Bread; <https://www.panerabread.com/en-us/home.html>
- Pizza Gallery & Grill; <https://pizzagalleryandgrill.com/menu/>
- Taj; <https://www.tajviera.com/menu>
- Thai HANA; <https://thaihana.com>
- Tuscany Grill; <https://tuscanysgrill.net/dinner-menu.html>

We'll be full and perhaps a little sun-scorched when we depart from Avenue Viera at 6 pm and head back to The Villages, arriving at @ 8:00 pm.

To get in on the fun, print the reservation form by clicking on the green button above. On **July 3rd**, we will conduct our lottery and you will be notified shortly thereafter of your seat confirmation or waitlist status. Mail or drop the reservation form, along with your check (made out to the BBC) for **\$28.00** per person to:

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

You could instead hand your addressed envelope to a person at the counter at Safe Ship in Colony Plaza, saving you the stamp and ensure its timely arrival.