

*Hallelujah!!! After being MORE THAN PATIENT, we think we deserve a long-awaited return to one of our favorite locales, Florida's soft sand and lovely blue waters!*

So we welcome everyone fully vaccinated by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to join us on Monday, July 19 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 unmasked smiles to that measure!

As you can see, it's a pretty deep beach so you may want to set up your lightest-weight chairs, umbrellas, and coolers a bit distant from the water's edge. There is no longer a company on-site offering beach rentals.

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 and a drink from home in a small cooler then enjoy a restaurant for dinner in the adjacent John's Pass Village, a quaint turn-of-the-century fishing village (Visit [www.Johnspass.com](http://www.Johnspass.com)), where over 100 merchants (current number unknown) have offered 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 on a walkway under the bridge) to enjoy all this Village has to offer. You can simply drop off your beach equipment at your bus as you pass by on your way to the Village.

There is also a narrated dolphin watching boat tour (\$22.50) at noon and 2:00. (<https://boattoursjohnspass.com/dolphin-cruise-florida/>). 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! 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 unique 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 many restaurants/pubs shown at this website:

<http://johnspassvillage.net/restaurants-3/>

If you'd like to read reviews about one or two you may be contemplating, you can visit

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/RestaurantsNear-g34410-d117384-John\\_s\\_Pass\\_Village\\_Boardwalk-Madeira\\_Beach\\_Florida.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/RestaurantsNear-g34410-d117384-John_s_Pass_Village_Boardwalk-Madeira_Beach_Florida.html)

Then you can sleep happily on the way home.

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

If this trip interests you, print the reservation form (click on green button below) and mail it along with your check (made out to the BBC) for \$29 per person to the address below. On June 16th, we will conduct our lottery and you will be notified shortly thereafter of your seat confirmation or waitlist status.