

With the hectic holiday season quickly approaching please join us as we travel to the relaxing and blissfully serene setting of

Coquina Beach

followed by dinner in Bradenton Beach

Monday November 20th, 8:30am-8:00pm

This white sandy Coquina Beach with viridian waters located on the southern end of beautiful island of Anna Maria is merely a 2 hour and 15 minute drive. So, before joining a bustling, boisterous bunch for Thanksgiving, do yourself a favor and savor a day with crystal clear waters and plenty of shade to retreat from the sun.

Coquina beach offers a long swimming beach plus a casual cafe called, none other than, “**The Coquina Beach Cafe.**” This lovely low-key waterfront spot offers seafood platters, sandwiches plus frozen drinks, beer and wine. However, be aware that **NO ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED ON THE BEACH,**

<https://www.coquinabeachcafe.com/menus>

While enjoying the beach you will have access to all the amenities including LIFEGUARDS, restrooms, showers, cabanas, (2) BBQ pits, and picnic facilities including (12) tables. A brown bag lunch from home is always a safe bet.

We will depart for Coquina Beach at 8:30 am. Upon approximate 11:15 am arrival we will have a short walk to the beach. Unfortunately we were unable to negotiate a discounted beach gear rate: **Chairs \$10 each, umbrellas \$22, plus 7% tax and a 10% gratuity** available to rent from **The Coquina Beach Cafe: 2650 Gulf Drive.** You need to pay for your equipment inside the cafe.

Coquina Baywalk at Leffis Key Preserve

This incredible, mostly shaded nature walk is located in the Leffis Key Preserve, one of the few remaining protected areas of the island. It is a pristine, shallow water habitat with panoramic views of Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Coquina Baywalk is a mile long trail that is the result of a long restoration project that began in the 80's. The goal was to restore the wetlands and seagrass, revive the mangroves to provide a habitat for spawning fish and birds while allowing public access to a scenic trail. Volunteers planted over 50,000 native plants, salt marsh and intertidal plants and trees to fully restore the habitat. The baywalk is a quick 1-mile walk but you will see a range of species, small fish, crabs, hawks, stingray, and much more. It is packed with wildlife and it can all be viewed from a safe distance on a well-built wooden boardwalk with benches available for resting. Reviews of the baywalk describe it as "absolutely magical," "educational," "a hidden gem," plus it is only an 8 minute walk from the beach, just across the street. Just a couple of FYI's: There is no trail map available and mosquitos may be present.

DINNER IN BRADENTON BEACH

For dinner and shopping, we will board the bus around 3:45pm and head to Bradenton Beach, only 5 minutes away, where there are numerous restaurants for your dining pleasure. There are also a number of terrific little shops if you are inclined. Please be ready to board your bus about 5:45 pm for our departure back to The Villages with an arrival around 8:00 pm.

RESTAURANTS

Anna Maria Oyster Bar: 200 Bridge St.; seafood

<https://www.oysterbar.net/menus/piermenu/>.

Back Alley Treasures: 108 Bridge St. (located in: Bridgewalk-A Landmark Resort); beachy coffee shop and bar with lite bites

<https://www.backalleytreasures.com/menu>

Bamboo Island Bar: 119 Bridge St.; Brazilian fusion plates, pizza and mojitos. Located in the island plaza on the 2nd floor

<https://www.bambooislandbar.com/menu>

Beach House Waterfront Restaurant: 200 Gulf Dr. N; seafood

<https://beachhousedining.com/our-menu/>. A perennial favorite, servicing directly on the beach if you want to keep your toes in the sand a little longer.

Bridge Tender Inn: 135 Bridge St.; grouper, burgers

<https://places.singleplatform.com/bridge-tender-inn-and-dockside-bar/menu?ref=Yahoo>.

Daiquiri Deck: 107 Bridge St. ;1200 reviews with 4 1/2 stars; seafood and frozen daiquiris

<https://www.daiquirideckannamaria.com/menu/food-menu>

Gulf Drive Cafe: 900 Gulf Dr. N; breakfast and seafood on the beachfront <https://gulfdrivetiki.com/main-dishes/>

Island Time Bar and Grill: 111 Gulf Dr S; American dishes

https://www.yelp.com/menu/island-time-bar-and-grill-bradenton-beach?adjust_creative=yahoo&utm_campaign=yelp_feed&utm_medium=feed_v2&utm_source=yahoo

The Kokonut Hut: 900 Gulf Dr. N; tropical cocktails and casual grill fare

<http://places.singleplatform.com/the-kokonut-hut/menu?ref=google>

Smoquehouse: 1701 Gulf Dr. N; sandwiches, soups and salads

https://smoquehouse.com/?page_id=83

Tommy Knockers: 111 7th St. N; food and alcohol; no menu available.

The Wicked Cantina: 101 7th St. N: Mexican

<https://wickedcantina.com/menu>

Dessert

Island Scoops: 103 Gulf Dr. N: ice cream

https://www.yelp.com/menu/island-scoops-bradenton-beach?adjust_creative=yahoo&utm_campaign=yelp_feed&utm_medium=feed_v2&utm_source=yahoo

Gelato Go: 119 Bridge St. gelato & pastries

https://www.yelp.com/menu/gelato-go-anna-maria-island-bradenton-beach-5?adjust_creative=yahoo&utm_campaign=yelp_feed&utm_medium=feed_v2&utm_source=yahoo