

**We heard that many of you "jumped for joy"
when we mentioned a trip to beautiful Amelia Island**

so the Barefoot Beachcombers Club will be pleased to escort you there in September. In summary, the first day, we will go to Neptune Beach for a pleasant lunch at unique restaurants and cafes followed by an afternoon at Jacksonville Beach. We'll then proceed to the city of Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island for a lovely 3-night stay. And~~after several historic or scenic adventures over the next two days~~on the way home we will spend a few hours over lunch at St. Augustine's historic center.

Oh yeah, then there's the beach!! Enjoy as much or as little time as you like relaxing at the beach opposite our hotel or at Seaside Park, just 427 feet further south. (That park offers picnic tables & pavilions, plus a boardwalk, beach access & showers.) The water temperature should be about 82 degrees—just puurfect!

Dates: Mon-Wed. Sept. 10-13 4-Day cost: \$100

(includes transportation costs, drivers' tips, breakfast staff tips, historical island bus tour, & dessert party)

(Beat that fare, JP Tours or Senior Adventures!)

We will depart from Lamers' fenced and secured bus yard in Wildwood on Monday at 8:30 for our 2 3/4-hr. drive (with rest stop) to the Beaches Town Center in the heart of **Neptune Beach**, 12 mi. east of Jacksonville. Get off the bus unencumbered by beach equipment and enjoy lunch at a one of a dozen restaurants of your choosing among the beautiful shop-lined courtyards and brick walkways. Perhaps the (Edgar Alan) Poe's Tavern, Ragtime Tavern Seafood Grill, Hawkers Asian Street Fare, or the North Beach Fish Camp will capture your fancy. For those of you who prefer to be health conscious--rather than getting your fancy captured--there's the Homespun Kitchen. Note: Poe's spirit will be watching you ~

When your appetite has been appeased and your thirst quenched, reboard the bus for just a 5-minute drive to Jacksonville Beach which is the only local beach offering lifeguards and spacious restrooms. Its 4.1-mile stretch of sand is white and soft and offers lots of room for strolling, tossing a football, building a sand castle, or just catnapping.

The only problem is "you won't want to leave" at 4:00 when we resume our trek 1 hour north to Amelia Island.

We have reserved a block of rooms at **The Amelia Hotel at the Beach** at 1997 South Fletcher Avenue where we stayed in 2013. Their rates, the most reasonable rates on the island, run between \$94 and \$109. The hotel is immediately across the street from the beach and is only an 8-minute bus ride from the historic downtown district. The rooms include a microwave, refrigerator, Wi-Fi, iron, and hairdryer. The hotel provides a free "hot and healthy" breakfast, private use of their hospitality room in the evening, and--more importantly--freshly baked cookies!

Only after you have been chosen in our lottery may you call the hotel at (904) 206-5200 to book a room of your choice and provide a 50% deposit. Ask for our group rate

under the code: **BBC.**

That evening, just step outside the door to gather with old and new friends for dinner on the adjacent waterfront at Sliders Seaside Grill.

Now ~ To introduce you to The City of Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island

With 13-miles of beautiful beaches, abundant native wildlife, and pristine waters, this barrier island has long been a beloved destination for visitors. Amelia has frequently been voted among Top 10 North American Islands by Conde Nast Traveler's Reader's Choice Awards. The crowds that exist on many Florida beaches are not here, a particularly fine reason to like this beach. Be prepared for the Atlantic Ocean breeze...which feels very nice while it's still hot in Florida. And September's water should welcome you at about 82 degrees.

With 400+ years of recorded history under eight flags, this island is an especially historical place that, "The French visited, the Spanish developed, the English named, and the Americans tamed." And did we mention pirates? Fernandina Beach has a storied past and was the stamping ground of pirates, sea captains, and sailors. Try a local favorite cocktail, "Pirate's Punch," at the Palace Saloon (113 Centre St.), the oldest continuously-operated drinking establishment in Florida. It's hard to miss the Palace, as you'll see the life-size pirate statue outside the saloon doors. He's probably has his picture taken 5 million times with scallywags like you!

Of course, we will spend the better part of one day in the Historic District on Centre Street. There are cobblestone streets and gas lamps and plenty of great restaurants and shops. We will probably enjoy dinner there during two nights of our stay, making your restaurant selection a little less difficult.

One day, we will have the pleasure of having a guide from the Amelia Island Museum of History join us on our bus for a one-hour tour of the island. You will hear fascinating anecdotes of the families and industries that helped establish this island's history.

We hope to also offer an optional visit to Fort Clinch, the beautifully green 1,100-acre northernmost point of Amelia Island where you can learn the history of one of the most well-preserved 19th century forts in the country. The fort is manned by Living History Interpreters who provide a valuable glimpse into our nation's past during the Civil War. The tour was very well received by our members in 2013. There is a nominal \$4.50 admission fee.

One day we'll offer you an optional 2.5 hr. boat trip (reduced fare of \$28) during which you'll learn the extensive and rich history of Amelia and Cumberland Islands.

The route cruises by shrimp boats where dolphins, sea turtles, manatees, egrets, herons, and spoonbills mingle and past Fernandina's historic Old Towne and Ft. Clinch. Finally, we'll observe the wild horses of Cumberland Island. While drifting along, the boat historians will share the colorful stories that define the character of this unique part of the world and tell you the story of the hundreds of non-native feral horses that, after hundreds of years, have adapted to surviving in a natural environment without help or

support of any kind from humans.

On our way home, our committee decided to abandon our idea to visit the World Golf Hall of Fame and shopping at the St. Augustine Outlets for several reasons. We decided that our three hours would be better spent visiting the historic center of St. Augustine. Even if you've been there before, there is a wealth of sights and adventures to see and do, both here on picturesque St. George Street and on the neighboring waterfront.

You can expand your historical knowledge at Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest fort (1672) in the continental U.S. Admission is \$10. Or you might visit the Pirate and Treasure Museum across the street from the fort. Admission of \$15 allows you to explore 5,000 sq.ft. of pirates and history.

There will be plenty of cafes and restaurants to choose from for your luncheon pleasure, including some of our favorites:

The Columbia http://www.columbiarestaurant.com/Menus-By-Location/Locations/St-Augustine-Historic-District?utm_source=tripadvisor&utm_medium=referral or the outdoor courtyard at **Harry's Seafood Bar and Grill** <https://hookedonharrys.com/menu-st-augustine>.

We'll reboard our buses for our 2 hr. 25 min. mid-afternoon drive to The Villages, ready for a sleepy evening on the couch.

COSTS -

\$100 per person check made payable to the BBC. **Note:** It will not be cashed before July 4th. (Again, this includes transportation costs, drivers' tips, breakfast staff tips, an historical island bus tour, & a dessert party at our hotel one evening)

Note: This is refundable only if we find someone to take your place.

Your hotel room : We have reserved the following:

- 43 STANDARD ROOMS (mixed bedding) - \$94 PER NIGHT, PLUS 11% TAXES
- 5 DELUXE STANDARD ROOMS (mixed bedding) - \$99 PER NIGHT, PLUS 11% TAXES
- 14 OCEANSIDE ROOMS (mixed bedding) - \$109 PER NIGHT, PLUS 11% TAXES

(And, again, **only after you have been chosen in our lottery** may you call the hotel at (904) 206-5200 to book the room of your choice and provide a credit card deposit of 50%. Ask for our group rate under the code: **BBC**. The balance will be paid upon check-in.

Your room can be cancelled 48 hours or more before our arrival date without penalty.

If you wish to share a room with another person of the same sex (!!), make an indication on the reservation form below and we will try to make the arrangement. Check the appropriate box on the form, provide your phone number and we'll then get back to you.

