

Lido Beach (Sarasota) and St. Armands Circle

Monday, July 15 - 8:30 - 8:30

Bask in the summer sun at Lido Beach, located on Lido Key on the coast of Sarasota. Enjoy strolling the shore line, discover beautiful shells, relax with a good book, and join an interesting conversation. Lido Beach's amenities include rest rooms, concessions, a gift shop, beach umbrella and chair rentals (\$9 per chair and \$15 per umbrella, first come first served—a bit too costly in our opinion). The Seabreeze concession serves very good and reasonably priced food. Not your typical beach concession; all food is cooked to order. We have specifically requested that they serve their lobster rolls (and possibly their famed fish tacos). There are also hot and cold sandwiches, burgers and dogs, as well as beer & wine. The only restriction on alcohol is no glass containers are permitted. You can also call in your food order ahead of time (941-388-0400) from the comfort of your beach chair. As always, you are welcomed to bring your lunch from home. Note: Lifeguards are present in July.

Mid-afternoon, we'll take anyone interested about 1/2 mile away to St. Armands Circle, an island shopping center, unique in concept, history, and beauty.

St. Armands Circle provides an unforgettable experience for visitors from all over the world. Set amidst a tropical paradise, St. Armands is an enchanting circle of fine shops and gourmet restaurants. Lush tropical plantings, courtyards and patios, antique statuary and contemporary architectural design skillfully contribute to an international atmosphere of friendly warmth, enduring elegance, and timeless style. Relax in the restaurants and explore the shops ~ from trinkets to treasures, gourmet snacks to candlelight feasts.

The shops are upscale and pricey, but it's a fun way, nonetheless, to spend the late afternoon window shopping and people watching. Below is a map of the St. Armand's Circle layout.

We'll return to the beach to pick-up any “stragglers” to join us at St. Armands Circle for dinner. There is something there for everyone from casual to fine dining, sidewalk cafes, pubs to ice cream or fudge dessert treat. Columbia is very popular with great Cuban food. Visit New Pass Grill & Bait Shop across from Columbia for award winning burgers and seafood. Lynches Pub & Grub received 4 stars in Tripadvisor. The casual Venezia offers reasonably priced Italian fare. Try Tommy Bahama's or The Claw and Fin for great seafood. Le Colonie is a nice upscale eatery. Cafe Le Europe has an excellent wine list and food to match.

After dinner, we will jauntily climb--likely due to our thinner wallets--aboard our bus to snooze our way home, with pleasant memories of the day starring in our dreams.