

Might you enjoy returning to the memories of your youth at the beach ??

If so, consider joining us at **Anna Maria Island** on the Gulf on
Monday, April 15 from 8:30am - 7:20-ish

This is one of the beaches most frequently requested by our members for a return visit.

We'll travel first to the northern end of the 7-mile long Anna Maria Island simply to see its beauty and appreciate its steadfast policies of "no tall buildings, no fast food." Enjoy viewing customary pastel beach houses-- which previously did not cost \$5 million. We'll then return to the center of the island to spend the day at Manatee Beach in the town of Holmes Beach. There you can relive fun times of your youth (without all the shennigans, we trust!!). Otherwise, you might wind up in the island jail originally built in 1927 to handle late-night disturbances from a newly established bar. The jail had a wooden roof with bars that left jail goers open to a night of mosquito swarms and plenty of bites. That encouraged them to never come back again!

Manatee Beach is the kind of simpler, unfussy sort of beach you may have visited along the Atlantic Coast or on the shores of a Mid-American lake. The water is so clean you can stand in it up to your hips and still see your toes. The gulf waves are very gentle, making it easy to both float and swim.

The sand is perfect for walking along the beach, observing natural life, other beach goers (well some of them, anyway), dolphins, fish, starfish, and sea shells. Or you can simply "sit and sip."

Either bring your lunch from home, or enjoy the offerings of the Anna Marie Beach Café which is known for its great food and really nice staff. See menu at:

<https://www.amibeachcafe.com/blank-nj8ci>

And while you place your order at a service window, the food is served to you at your umbrella-covered table and your dinnerware and refuse is

cleared away for you. (Mom and Dad likely played that role in the 50s and 60s.) Beer, wine, and a small sundry/gift shop are also available.

The restrooms are simple, but we've survived them before. Beach equipment can be rented: two beach chairs and an umbrella \$20, or one chair \$6, one umbrella \$12. This is one of the few Gulf beaches under protection by a lifeguard. And if you find that you've had enough sun for the day, relax and enjoy a simple but spacious shady area on the beach.

Half-way home, we will stop at another club favorite, **Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen**, in Wesley Chapel for a high quality, quite tasty--yet reasonably priced--dinner. Three other non-chain restaurants we spoke with could not accommodate our number of guests. So we either had to leave you home or enjoy Cheddar's warm hospitality. We think we made the right choice!

To join us on this trip, print the reservation form (click on green button below) and mail it along with your check (made out to the BBC) for **\$28** per person to the address below. On **April 8th**, we will conduct our lottery and you will be notified shortly thereafter of your seat confirmation or waitlist status.

**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.