

Venice Beach

Monday April 21: 8:30 am-8:00 pm.

Even though Hurricane Milton foiled our plans to visit Venice Beach last October, we're still craving a touch of Venice. We've checked the beach, the restaurants and the shops.....and they are definitely ready for our visit! Sunbathe on the soft white sand, swim the clear turquoise waters of the Gulf and hunt for fossilized prehistoric shark teeth in the Shark Tooth Capital of the World.

Venice is known as the "Shark Tooth Capital of the World" because of all the fossilized shark teeth that can be found along its beaches. They date back millions of years to when the area was underwater and a feeding ground for various sharks.

Please join us as we venture down to a beautiful beach famous not only for its 14-miles of world class beaches and stunning natural beauty but also for being a fascinating town with rich history and culture. Venice, just south of Sarasota on Florida's Southwest Coast, is also a place to go for plentiful shopping with an Old Florida charm.

Approximately a 2 ½ hour drive from The Villages. Venice Beach, a certified Blue Wave Beach is the city's most popular stretch of coastline, where visitors can look for fossils and reef dive a quarter-mile from shore.

In a shady spot near the beach pavilion you will find restrooms, showers, and a changing room. There is also a concession with a picnic area. The locals often have their lunch at the Pavillion because the food is so good. A lifeguard is on duty. This beach is wheelchair accessible. Drinking alcohol is allowed on the beach. **NO GLASS is allowed on the beach**

After an abundance of sun, we will depart the beach and head for West Venice Avenue for touring, shopping, and dining.

Explore Downtown Historic Venice:

Exploring the beautiful historic district of Downtown Venice is magical. The town was one of the first planned cities to be built, and due to the location along the bays and

water the creators were inspired by Venice, Italy. You will find much of the historic downtown area has classic Italian architecture as well as beautifully manicured gardens and palm tree-lined boulevards.

West Venice Avenue, the gateway to the Gulf, captivates visitors with its tropical beauty. Stunning palms tower the street, while hibiscus, jasmine, and other flowering plants provide endless color along the street. An abundance of trees and benches create an inviting environment for shopping and dining or enjoying a stroll on the avenue and then some stillness under a gazebo.

Sculptures and two bronze statues-Maria and Sophia are displayed along the avenue. Further down the street is a mural titled, "Healing in the Enchanted Garden." showcasing area wildlife in wonderful detail.

There are also thirteen historical buildings showcased during a walking tour. The map can be viewed here. www.visitvenicefl.org Once you are on the website, scroll down and click on "Historic Walking Tour."

Dining:

Your taste buds will delight in the dining options from Italian and Irish cuisine to pub and American fare. And the Avenue's special treats include French pastries, fine chocolates, ice cream, gelato, and scones.

Abby's On Miami: 220 Miami Ave W; seafood; No website available

Bar Harbor Cheesecake Company: 219 Miami Ave; 125 four-inch cheesecake flavors. This is not a sit-down cafe, No chairs. No website available

Burgundy Square Cafe: 227 West Miami Ave; seafood. burgundysquarecafe.website

Cafe Venice: 101 West Venice Ave #2; tapas, flounder and filet. <https://www.cafeveniceresaurantandbar.com/our-menus/dinner>

Ciao Gelato: 317A West Venice Ave; gelato, sorbet, mousse, and pastries. No website available.

Daiquiri Deck: 300 West Venice Ave; seafood; daiquirideck.com

Devin's Wine Bar: 101 West Venice Ave. #16; **OPENS @ 4pm** No website available.

Made In Italy: 117 West Venice Ave; Italian pies. Wood fired pizza; madeinitaly-venice.com

TJ Carney's: 231 West Venice Ave. Irish fare; tjcarneys.com

The Soda Fountain of Venice: 349 West Venice Avenue; ice cream parlor; thesodafountainofvenice.com

Venice Avenue Creamery: 249 West Venice Avenue; ice cream. No website available.

Venice Wine & Coffee: 201 West Venice Ave. CLOSSES at 6 pm. No website available.

Shopping:

West Avenue offers more than forty different shops and boutiques ranging from products and services including men and women fashions and accessories, coastal apparel, jewelry, home decor, bath and body products, children's toys, handmade candles, hammocks, stationery, book and paper conservation, and fine wines. Many are listed below.

Abode: 225 Miami Ave West. No website available.

Aqua Silks Studio: 101 West Venice Ave. aquasilksstudio.com

B & B Bootery: 311 West Venice Ave. No website available.

Bonnell's Boutique & Winery: 101 West Venice Ave. #3 No website available.

Captain's Landing: 243 West Venice avenue; captainslanding.com

Celebration Corner: 303A West Venice Avenue. Toys; No website available.

Dana Tyler: 233 West Venice Avenue; jewelry; danatyler.com

Florida Oil & Vinegar: 307 West Venice Ave; floridaoliveoil.com

Island Gift Nook: 227 West Venice Avenue; islandgn.com

Nest Venice: 233A Miami Ave. W.; nestvenice.com

Twist Boutique: 137 West Venice Ave. venicetwist.com

At 5:30pm we will depart for The Villages. There is plenty of room for your purchases beneath the buses. Hope you have a great time!