INDIAN ROCKS BEACH MONDAY JUNE 16, 2025 8:00 AM- 8:30 PM

Please join us as we spend a day relaxing on glorious Indian Rocks Beach, with the option to visit The Florida Botanical Gardens, <u>flbgfoundation.org</u> followed by dinner at Largo Plaza. Indian Rocks is located on a barrier island near Clearwater, but is much less populated. It had only 3,640 residents in 2023, so it is a small town and definitely has a small town feel. There is a modest restroom on the beach and equipment rental available from one of the most efficient vendors we deal with.

We will disembark on 17th Avenue which is a very short distance from the crosswalk that takes us across Gulf Blvd. There is a traffic light to stop traffic for us and a crosswalk! We will arrive at the beach around 10:45 am.

Beach Gear Rental:

Indian Rocks Beach Rentals will set up our gear for us. You may rent two chairs, one umbrella, and one table for \$40. The \$40 includes your tax but not your gratuity if you choose to give a bit of cash to your set up guy. This vendor has been very cooperative in the past, but as a club, we normally rent @ 30 setups. It's a short walk to the beach so if you can cart your own gear, please do.

Unfortunately, we are only being allotted 25 setups. So get your money in quickly because it's first drawn in the lottery, first served. Due to the limited number of chairs available, we will not be offering single chairs on this trip.

You will have the option of spending the entire day on the beach, or venturing out at 2:30 pm to visit The Botanical Gardens, about 15 minutes away. You will have 1.5 hours to take in the various gardens. For a preview visit flbgfoundation.org.

THE FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS:

The beautiful gardens feature local and tropical flora plus 90 acres of diverse natural habitats. If you are trying to determine what plants to put in your landscaping, the gardens have an abundance of suggestions. All the plants are tagged clearly, making it easy to snap a photo so you can find the plants once you get home. And the gardens are stunningly beautiful.

The Gardens are categorized as: Butterfly, Cactus/Succulent, Cottage. Herb, Jazz, Majeed Discovery, McKay Creek Plaza, Native Plant, Palm, Rose, Topiary, The Vinery, The Wedding/Celebration Garden and the Wetlands Walkway and Wildlife Overlook. You will be touring the gardens at your own pace.

Restaurants

According to the locals, You will find exceptional food on IRB. Have a quick lunch at the "Kooky Coconut," a longstanding spot you will love with its bamboo facade. Burritos and quesadillas are popular here, as is the ever-changing selection of 20 ice cream flavors. There are several restaurants within walking distance of the beach and you could always avail yourself of a restaurant restroom if you needed to freshen up before or after eating.

Beach Waves Grill: 2300 Gulf Blvd. featuring seafood, chicken and burgers. A 10 minute walk OPENS at 11 am www.beachwavesgrill.com

Guppy's On The Beach: 1701 Gulf Blvd. casual dining, focusing on upscale seafood dishes and more. Only a minute walk. OPENS 11:30 am. www.guppys.com

IRB Creamery: 1401 Gulf Blvd; many, many flavors of ice cream.

Keegan's Seafood: 1519 Gulf Blvd. American eatery with emphasis on seafood. Only a minute walk. OPENS at 11 am keegansseafood.com

Kooky's Coconut: 760 Gulf Blvd. a funky, tropical themed shack with a menu of sandwiches, Mexican food, burgers, hot dogs & ice cream. No website available.

Those members remaining on the beach will have until 4:15 to board and load up their beach gear. The bus will return to the gardens after gathering up the last remaining sun seekers on the beach and will stop at the Gardens to pick those members up. Then we will head to the Largo Plaza, less than a 10 minute drive.

After departing the Gardens we will drive to the Largo Plaza where you will find a few familiar restaurants to choose from for dinner.

Beach Pizza Plus * Buffalo Wild Wings * Chili's * Chipotle * Firehouse Subs * The Greek City Cafe * Hungry Crab * Jersey Mike's * Olive Garden * Smiley Thai to go.*

Please board the bus by 6 pm in order to arrive back at The Villages by 8:15 pm.