

ANASTASIA STATE PARK, THE MARITIME MUSEUM AND BRISKY'S BBQ FOR DINNER

MONDAY JULY 21

8:30AM-8:30PM

Anastasia State Park is 2 ¼ hours from The Villages on the Atlantic side of the state. This unspoiled, beautiful park sits about one mile off Highway A1A. The beach is deep...not as deep as Siesta Keys, but it's a trek to the edge of the water. Sometimes the currents can be significant. It is however, a magnificent beach to sit and appreciate the beauty of the Atlantic Ocean.

Yes, we've scheduled this beach for the third year in a row, but it's partly because of the BBQ we cater in at the end of our beach day! Then again, the scenery is glorious. You'll have the opportunity to visit another lighthouse, the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum after we arrive as it is adjacent to the park. It is 219 steps (14 stories) to the top of the lighthouse, and offers a view of the Atlantic and the nation's oldest city ~ St. Augustine. You will have approximately one hour to tour the museum and the gift shop. We have a group rate of \$13.50 per person. Our bus will take you to the museum and pick you up at the end of your time there.

South of the lighthouse lies one of the area's most beautiful, untouched beaches inside Anastasia State Park. During walks on the beach at certain times of the year, you can find starfish, shells, crabs, and other creatures in the tidal waters and sand. There are four miles of beach for walking, sandbars and shallows for swimming.

In addition to the beach, there are a few activities that may interest you. In particular, Salt Run, a 2-mile long pond that offers a sheltered spot for **kayaking, paddle boarding or canoeing**. A journey on **Salt Pond** will be filled with native wildlife, iconic sights of St. Augustine. Equipment for the above activities can be rented at www.anastasiawatersports.com. You will find the rental rates there.

Beach Gear: It is recommended that we bring our own chairs and umbrellas as the vendor has very limited rentals available.

The Island Grill is open for lunch. They serve a variety of foods, including sandwiches, quesadillas, chicken tenders, fish tacos, nachos, beer, wine & assorted frozen drinks. You can, of course, bring your lunch from home.

In addition to the beach, the park offers biking, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, and bird watching. The park has 195 identified bird species, sometimes visible on any one of the three hiking trails.

The **Ancient Dunes Trail**, at 0.7 miles long, starts at the back of the campground and takes about 12 minutes. It is considered an easy walk.

The **Anastasia State Park Marsh Trail** is also considered an easy route at 0.9 miles, taking 16 minutes to complete.

The **Spanish Quarry** that begins near the park entrance. It may be difficult to find as it is a short trail and very overgrown with natural habitat. We hunted it down last year and would not recommend doing that again unless you just feel compelled.

Around **3:00**, **Brisky's BBQ Catering** will arrive with their incredibly tender beef brisket, pulled pork, BBQ beans, coleslaw, potato salad, green beans and rolls. We thoroughly stuffed ourselves last year and everyone commented that it was the best BBQ they had ever eaten. We will enjoy this feast again this year in the Sea Turtle Pavilion which is near the Island Grill. The price per person is \$15.00 (includes tax & tip). The BBC will provide utensils, plates and napkins and will subsidize the pavilion rental. **This is INCLUDED in your trip fee.**

But the day is not quite over yet. **At 4:30 pm**, we will depart from Anastasia and head to **Buc-ees** for dessert. It is about 30 minutes away on World Commerce Parkway and is the perfect place to shop for dessert. If you have not yet been to Buc-ees, you will want to explore this newcomer as it is a totally different kind of "travel stop." There are about 104 fuel pumps....but only for cars. No semi-trucks are allowed. These are the cleanest restrooms you'll find anywhere on the road. And it only gets more interesting from there. We will spend about 45 minutes at **Buc-ees**, re-board our bus and make our way back to The Villages, arriving before 8:30 pm.