

ANASTASIA STATE PARK and ST AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Trip leaders: Barb Alajoki, Mary Chamberlain, Jan Verhaeghe

WHEN: Wednesday July 28, 2021

WHERE: Anastasia State Park and St. Augustine, FL

BUS BOARDING: 8:00 am at Lowe's Parking Lot. Hwy 441, behind the Cracker Barrel Restaurant

REBOARD BUS TO ST. AUGUSTINE: 2:15 pm

BUS BOARDING FROM ST AUGUSTINE 5:45 pm

ARRIVAL: approximately 8:00 pm

TRIP DESCRIPTION: Anastasia State Park covers 1600 acres of beaches, tidal marshes, the historic coquina quarry, and nature trails for hiking. There are 4 miles of beach along the Atlantic coastline. The State Park is located on the Great Florida Birding and Wild Life trail. There is a designated swimming area with lifeguards. St Augustine is 3 miles away. Alcohol from home is prohibited but can be purchased at the Island Beach Shop and Grill. Entering the sand dunes, which are protected wildlife areas, is also prohibited.

After approximately 3.5 hours on the beach we will reload the buses and take a 3 mile trip to St. Augustine to tour, shop, dine, happy hour and cool off before returning back to the Villages. Everyone is on their own for 3 hours, please be back at the bus for boarding at 5:45pm and departure. St. Augustine is a beautiful historic city. Ponce De Leon arrived there in 1513 in search of the Fountain of Youth. It is the oldest continuously occupied city in the United States. There are many fine restaurants, pubs, and museums. If you are not interested in a restaurant or pub, one of many attractions such as Castillo de San Marcos, Fountain of Youth, Lightner Museum, Ripley's Believe It or Not, or the St Augustine Distillery would be a good choice to visit and cool down from the summer heat.

AMENITIES: We suggest you **BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS/UMBRELLAS**. The park has extremely limited rentals (12 sets), which are rented on a first come first serve basis. The Island Beach Shop and Grill offers beach and camping supplies, souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, free Wi-Fi, boogie boards, bicycles (Concession stand is not currently open but could change). Anastasia Water Sports offers canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and standup paddleboard rentals. Water sports lessons are available. Please check availability. Due to Covid some items may not be available.

ANASTASIA ISLAND INFO LINKS:

<https://www.visitstaugustine.com/regions/anastasia-island>

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g28930-d199054-Reviews-Anastasia_Island-Florida.html

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/anastasia>

RENTALS:

The Island Beach Shop and Grill: [904-461-9322](tel:9044619322) (chairs and umbrellas \$28 for 2 chairs/umbrella and \$20 for 1 chair/umbrella set. **Only 12 sets first come first serve**, bicycles, boogie boards).

Anastasia Water Sports: [904-460-9111](tel:9044609111) (canoes, kayaks, sailboats, paddleboards) <http://anastasiawatersports.com/>

ST AUGUSTINE INFO LINKS:

www.floridastateparks.org/anastasia

www.visitstaugustine.com/restaurants

www.floridahistoriccoast.com

www.visitstaugustine.com

www.bigfatcouponbookonline.com

www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine/1day-itinerary