

Trip info:

Fort De Soto Park, Tierra Verde Fl., BYO Picnic on the Beach (and optional self guided tour of the Historic Fort with a view)

Trip leaders: Bob and Cathy Snyder

WHEN: Wednesday August 17,2022

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

ARRIVAL: Approximately 10:30 am

BUS Boarding from beach parking lot to the Fort: (OPTIONAL for interested parties to tour the Fort): 1:30 pm.

Re-Board from Fort for home: 2:40pm

Boarding from Beach parking lot: (for Members who did not go to the Fort): 2:45 pm

ARRIVAL at TV: approximately 5:30 pm (no shopping or restaurant stop)

PRICE: \$27.00 per person (includes bus transportation and driver gratuity)

All NBBC trips are Non-refundable, participate at your own risk. Members must be vaccinated to participate

Snacks are allowed on the bus along with your personal water, coffee, and sodas in a spill proof container. **Mask are currently required** on all NBBC bus trips (subject to change, we are watching the recommendations for our area and will advise before the trip if Covid level drops below high risk). Members agree to wear their masks while on the bus if required. Please do not hassle the trip leaders or make them monitor. We are only volunteers.

If needed, seats will be distributed by lottery. Notice of bus assignments will be provided by August 1st. If you are not chosen, we will contact you to see if you wish to be put on the wait list. If you want to ride with a spouse or a bus partner, please sign up together with one check. **Only 2 seats can sign up (enter lottery) together.** If you want to request seats on the same bus as other members, make sure those members are going, and make sure member(s) listed also place your name on their registration form. **Read the trip registrations form and follow the instructions.** No guarantee can be given that we will match up members on bus but we do our best.

TRIP DESCRIPTION:

There are beaches, and then, there is Fort DeSoto Park. This expansive park and historic site offers one of the most stunning beaches in Florida. With miles of serene and sandy shoreline, this county park covers 5 islands and 1,136 acres on the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay.

Remember the time when we traveled to the beach just to be able to lay back, read a book, take a hike and enjoy a picnic? This trip is for you. Completely relax at a gorgeous beach that was rated #1 by TripAdvisor in 2009 without running to shops and restaurants. We will enjoy a beach day on the North Beach of Fort de Soto Park where you can picnic and spend the day at a beautiful sandy beach with lots of opportunity to enjoy the pristine waters, walk along the beach, pick up shells. You can picnic on the beach, at picnic tables under the trees, or at the covered pavilion that NBBC has reserved just for our group. The Pavillion will accommodate everyone and provide shade when needed. Concessions are not always available at Ft Desoto, everyone needs to bring their own picnic and drinks for this trip.

As an added option, for those who want to see the Fort, at 1:30pm the bus will transport you to the Fort for 1 hour to enjoy a self guided tour, visit the gift shop and view the Gulf from the top of the Fort. It is not a large Fort but it has some interesting historical facts, cannons, and a fabulous view from the top that will interest the history buffs in our midst. At 2:30pm please re-board the bus so it can return to Ft. Desoto's North Beach to pick up those who remained on the beach to go home.

We will not be stopping at shops or restaurants on the way home. We will be back in The Villages early so everyone can have dinner at home.

AMENITIES: The North Beach at Fort de Soto Park has restrooms and changing rooms which are located near our reserved pavilion and the small concession stand. The concession stand offers very little and many times is unable to open which is the reason that everyone needs to bring their own box lunch. Alcohol is not allowed on the beach, however, food and coolers are. Chair and umbrella rentals are very limited and very often are not available, please bring your own chairs and umbrellas. There will be plenty of storage in the cargo area under the bus. There is no lifeguard on duty.

Info Links: (REMINDER, Concessions & Rentals may be closed)

https://www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_ft_desoto.htm

<https://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/article/fort-de-soto-park>

<https://www.floridarambler.com/tampa-bay-getaways/fort-desoto-park/>