



SIESTA KEY FLORIDA HIKING TRIP JANUARY 25 – JANUARY 31, 2020

Let's hit the beach and get out of the cold Ohio winter! Our first trip for 2020 will be to Siesta Key/Sarasota in southwestern Florida. There is plenty of good hiking nearby at Myakka River State Park (53 miles of trails, along with airboat tours and bike rentals) and Oscar Scherer State Park as well as the Venetian Waterway Trail and Legacy Trail.

Lodging will be at Tropical Beach Resorts, 6717 Sara Sea Circle, Sarasota 34242. The location is great - we can walk to a private portion of Crescent Beach (150 yards from our property) and then continue on to the public Siesta Beach. I have 10 rooms reserved: 6 designer efficiencies with two double beds (\$169) and 4 studio rooms with 1 king bed (\$139) plus tax. Every room has a kitchen. The property has two outdoor pools and many restaurants and shops nearby. There is also an island shuttle you can use to get around. Siesta Beach was rated #1 beach in the United States (2017) with sugar white powdery sand. You can view pictures of the rooms and resort at www.tropicalbeachresorts.com. Average high temperature in late January for Siesta Key is about 70 degrees so it should not be too hot for hiking.

This motel resort gets very good reviews on Trip Advisor and booking.com. Please call Tropical Beach Resorts 941-349-3330 - anyone that answers can assist and state you are with the Akron Hiking Club. **Our rooms for the rates above will only be held until March 15. However, if there is enough interest I will probably be able to extend that deadline another month. Once the 10 rooms are booked, you still may be able to get a reservation – but not at the rates quoted** above. One room deposit is required at time of booking. Check in is Saturday January 25 and checkout is Friday January 31, 2020. Rates for January were much more reasonable than February and March – which are the top high season months here and prices jump considerably.

I am planning on scheduling an early morning beach walk (the beach extends for many miles) and maybe an occasional sunset beach walk also. Then during the day we can hike elsewhere and explore the Sarasota/Venice area. We will have dinner out together every evening; lunch is on your own.

Nearby Sarasota is known as one of the most cultural cities in Florida. Sarasota Jungle Gardens is located on 10 acres of lush tropical vegetation with winding jungle trails and entertaining, educational bird and reptile shows. The Ringling Museum and Mote Marine Laboratory are also points of interest. Sarasota/Bradenton is the closest airport; others nearby are Fort Myers and Punta Gorda.

American Airlines has some very good rates to Sarasota – I found some flights for as low as \$200 RT if you don't mind a stop along the way (non-direct).

Please e-mail Chris Tiedemann at christiedemann@gmail.com or call me at 330-524-9415 if you are planning on going or have any questions