



SUMMER FUN ON FLORIDA'S BEACH

CLEARWATER, FL (May 2003) – For those who are looking for a sizzling summer beach vacation, but don't want to get burned by too much sun or high priced fun, St. Petersburg/Clearwater -- Florida's Beach has the perfect blend of beautiful beaches and outstanding activities ranging from Sailing Camp to Camp Create for burgeoning artists. Below is a list of news, events and deals taking place this summer. For more information, go to www.FloridasBeach.com.

NEWS:

Summer Travel Brings Great Explorations: This children's museum celebrates its grand re-opening this summer after a \$2.7 million renovation with "all new" exhibits. The museum has relocated to the St. Petersburg warehouse that was Sunken Gardens' "World's Largest Gift Shop." Great Explorations exhibits include a climbing wall and a raceway where visitors build a tabletop racecar, and a sailboat exhibit where visitors learn about direction and air pressure. Great Explorations is a museum for children of all ages with the goal of making learning fun. 727-821-8992 www.greatexplorations.org

Pirates At The Pass: This new family fun cruise departs from John's Pass Village & Boardwalk aboard a replica pirate ship. It features water gun battles, treasure hunts, pirate stories, face painting and limbo. The adventure goes through the Bay and Gulf to spot wild dolphin. Charters, birthday parties and weddings are also available. The two-hour tour is \$28 for adults and \$18 for children 2-20. Children under 2 are free. 727-423-7824 www.thepirateshipatjohnspass.com

Maze of Illusions at Florida International Museum: St. Petersburg's Florida International Museum features a new 4,000-square-foot exhibit called *Maze of Illusions and Puzzles*. It offers visitors the fun and science of optical illusions with more than 30 different optical effects hidden in the maze. The challenge is to negotiate the maze and experience the puzzles and illusions, while trying to find the way out. The exhibit runs through August 10 and admission is \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. Children under 6 are free. 727-822-3693 www.floridamuseum.org

EVENTS:

Sailing Camp (May – August): The Clearwater Community Sailing Center provides safe and affordable sailing opportunities for visitors. Sailing camps are available on weekly or half-day programs. Camps feature sailing basics and on-the-water training aimed at children ages 8-16. Weekly camp is \$150 and half-day adventures are \$45. 727-517-7776 www.clearwatercommunitysailing.org

Camp Create (June – July): St. Petersburg's Arts Center features the Camp Create weekly Art Camp allowing children to work in a variety of media including photography, jewelry-making, animation, digital imaging, printing, painting and sculpture. Kids learn about art, artists, the creative process and ideas influencing how we see the world. Camps are broken out by age group (5-6, 7-8, 9-12 and 13-15). Each group meets Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sessions run June 2 through August 1. Camp Create costs \$130. 727-822-7872 www.theartscenter.org

MEDIA CONTACT: Wit Tuttell, St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau 800-822-6461 or 727-464-7213; Fax 727-533-2183; wit@FloridasBeach.com

Blue Jays Baseball Camp (July 10-12): This three-day camp features professional instruction in all phases of baseball by Dunedin Blue Jays players and coaches. Dunedin is a minor-league affiliate of Major League Baseball's Toronto Blue Jays. Participants ages 6-16 will be grouped by age and/or skill level. A certified athletic trainer will be on staff to insure a safe experience. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to noon each day and campers will receive a ballpark lunch. Cost is \$80 and includes a camp photo and ticket to a Dunedin Blue Jays game where campers will join the Jays on the field for the National Anthem. 727-733-9302 www.dunedinbluejays.com

Marine Science Summer Camps (May – July): The Clearwater Marine Aquarium's summer camps use a 26-foot Beach Cat and 32-foot Catamaran as secure mobile classrooms from which young scientists can snorkel and explore Clearwater Bay's marine communities. Each camp lasts three hours with an hour of classroom time before heading to the Intracoastal Waterway. While onboard students get to snorkel or wade in the sub-tropical water to discover marine life. Classes are limited to 16 students and geared to specific grade levels. New classes this year include Sea Turtle Hatchling, Sunset Bayou Explorers and Sea Turtle Lab. CMA's summer camps are designed for children between 5 and 15. Camps are \$150 and include a free T-shirt. 888-239-9414 www.cmaquarium.org

Florida Pioneer Summer Program (July 21-25): Children ages 5-11 will discover what it was like to live in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area 150 years ago at a summer program held on site in the pinewood forest of Heritage Village. Living history interpreters at Heritage Village will lead children in the crafts and activities of Florida pioneers, including soap making; butter churning; working in a pioneer garden; carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving wool; carving wood; catching and cooking fish, and more. Music and storytelling will round out this unique living history experience. Hours for the pioneer summer program are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Program fee is \$100; students provide lunch and snacks. 727-582-2426. www.pinellascounty.org/heritage

DEALS:

Swashbucklin' at the TradeWinds: TradeWinds Island Resorts in St. Pete Beach features *Swashbucklin' By the Sea* packages available through Dec. 2003. The family-friendly pirate package includes a run-in with Redbeard, grog and grub at a TradeWinds hangout and "walking the plank" aboard a replica pirate ship. Starting at \$699 for a hotel rooms, \$869 for a suite, the four night/five day package features accommodations; a Royal Conquest Pirate Cruise for three; admission to Redbeard's Pirate Show; and a Family "Dive-In" movie (view a family film from the pool or lounge chair). The Redbeard Pirate Show is performed on TradeWinds' Pirate Island. The likeable pirate spins tall tales and conducts a sing along. Prior to the show, face-painting, eye patches and tattoos are prepared for the kids. 866-587-8538 www.JustLetGo.com

Innisbrook Features Hot Fun: The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort north of Clearwater features a *Hot Fun Summer Family Getaway Package* for \$119 per room, per night through Sept. 17. The package includes a spacious suite with complete kitchen and living areas, daily kid's activities at the famous Loch Ness Monster Pool with waterslides and sandy beach areas, free junior golf, complimentary soft drinks for kids and other recreation discounts. 800-456-2000 www.westin-innisbrook.com

MEDIA CONTACT: Wit Tuttell, St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau 800-822-6461 or 727-464-7213; Fax 727-533-2183; wit@FloridasBeach.com

Sunsational Deals For Families: Clearwater's Radisson Suites Resort features a *Go Family Adventure Package* through Dec. 24. The package includes a deluxe two-room suite accommodation, welcome beach pail with goodies, supervised children's activities in Lisa's Klubhouse, breakfast at a resort restaurant or in-suite dining for four, four tickets for the 'Dolphin Encounter' boat cruise, and four tokens for sunset trolley ride to-and-from nearby "Sunsets on Pier 60" with artisans and crafters, street performers and glorious sunsets. Children's activities include daily morning crafts and games, and one "Kids Night Out" dinner party per child per stay. Cost for the package is \$239 per night. 800-333-3333 www.radissonsandkey.com

Spy Kids Weekends at Homewood: Homewood Suites by Hilton Clearwater has a secret mission for kids and their families: to conquer boredom and gear up for one of the most anticipated family movies of the summer, "SPY KIDS™ 3-D Game Over." It's all part of the national Suite Homewood Summer promotion available at Homewood Suites by Hilton Clearwater Thursday-Sunday nights June 1-Aug. 31, 2003. Rates start at \$85 and the package includes standard accommodations in a suite that sleeps four and a daily complimentary hot breakfast. Kids checking in with their families also will receive an exclusive "SPY KIDS™ 3-D Game Over" SpyPak featuring a pair of SPY KIDS sunglasses and a digital watch inside a customized SPY KIDS nylon waist pouch. To make reservations, travelers can visit the Homewood Suites Web site at homewoodsuites.com or call 1-800-CALL-HOME.

###

High resolution photos of the area and events are available by e-mail or on CD. Please request them from wit@floridasbeach.com or go to www.Floridasbeach.com/mediakit