



Swashbucklers and Steel Drums Engulf St. Pete/Clearwater

Reggae Star Sean Paul, Costumed Pirates Take Center Stage This Weekend

St. Pete/Clearwater, FL (June 10, 2009) – Echoes of sword fights and steel drums will fill the air this weekend as two of the area’s most popular events return to St. Pete/Clearwater.

The 8th Annual John Levique Pirate Days, a three-day buccaneer bash celebrating Levique’s discovery of the quaint fishing port, kicks off this Friday from the John’s Pass Village & Boardwalk in Madeira Beach.

With Terry and the Pirates providing the soundtrack, Friday’s Pirate Ball will take place from 7 to 11 p.m. and will feature food from local vendors, a costume contest and a silent auction.

Saturday’s events begin on the high seas---or in this case, the Gulf of Mexico---where a leisurely boat parade unfolds into a sea battle. Other events on Saturday sure to shiver your timbers include kayak races, fight circles, a corn hole tournament, bar brawl and a kids’ costume contest.



A street parade, which runs up Gulf Boulevard before continuing into John’s Pass, departs from Treasure Island City Hall at 1 p.m on Sunday.

Other events scheduled to mark the occasion include a family treasure hunt and a hurricane expo, where emergency management experts will provide tips on hurricane preparedness.

Admission to Pirate Days is free, but some events require tickets, the proceeds of which benefit the Fisherman Lost at Sea Memorial Fund. For more information, please visit www.JohnsPassFestivals.com.

For those who prefer to experience the Caribbean *without* pirates, the Tampa Bay Caribbean Carnival celebrates its 17th year with Grammy Winner Sean Paul, who highlights a list of regional and international reggae, calypso and steel drum acts.

Drawing an eclectic mix of visitors from throughout the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean to scenic Vinoy Park on the bay front in downtown St. Pete, the two-day celebration is one of the area's most electrifying events.

This year's lineup includes live performances, a steel drum competition, ethnic foods and crafts and a costume parade.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate, while children under the age of 12 are free.

For more information or to order tickets, please call 877-772-5425.

Visit St. Pete/Clearwater is the destination marketing organization for Pinellas County, Florida.

For more information: www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com



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