Depart: 8:00 a.m. from Florida Institute of Technology’s CAI Building, 1050 West NASA Blvd., Melbourne, Florida

Return: 8:30 p.m.

Arrive: 11:00 a.m. (approximately)
Take a docent-led tour of the Chihuly Collection, presented by the Morean Arts Center (45 minutes to one hour).

CHIHULY COLLECTION: The Chihuly Collection is a stunning, permanent collection of world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly’s unique artwork in a magnificent 10,000 square-foot setting designed by award-winning architect, Albert Alfonso. The tour is an intimate viewing of Chihuly’s large-scale installations usually seen from afar.

Lunch: on own at the Banyan Restaurant on site

2:00 p.m. @ GLASS STUDIO & HOT SHOP: A visit to the Glass Studio & Hot Shop is a can’t-miss opportunity to get behind the scenes and observe working artists creating their magnificent glass pieces. Guests are seated comfortably while the artists provide running commentary on their actions and techniques, the science behind the glass and the artistic vision guiding the process. The artists, working in front of the furnace, the glory hole, and the annealing kiln take molten glass and, with techniques dating back thousands of years, create the glass art available today.

MOREAN ARTS CENTER: The Morean Arts Center, with roots dating back to 1917 as the Art Club of St. Petersburg, focuses on an innovative, community-oriented approach to art and art education. Exhibitions are ever-changing; however, they can supply you with detailed advance information on the scheduled show for your visit.

MOREAN CENTER FOR CLAY: The Morean Center for Clay is housed in the historic Train Station creating the largest working pottery in the southeast. Also, on site at the Train Station are a variety of kilns, including the legendary Anagama kiln built by master potter Don Reitz. A trip to the Center for Clay gives you a behind-the-scenes tour of active artists’ studios, working kilns and beautiful finished works, also for sale. Kiln openings and live demonstrations are available.

A bonus stop on the way home to the Parksdale Farms for strawberry shakes or strawberry shortcake in Plant City that the Food Network calls the best in the country.

Price: $75 (includes transportation aboard a deluxe mini bus, tour guide and museum entrance fees.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 12 @ 5 p.m.