

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** When are you opening?

**A:** WE PROMISE WE WILL UPDATE EVERYONE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES. We aren't looking to keep it a secret and surprise everyone. The moment we have an idea we'll post something up. In a perfect world, construction can get done in time for an early-Summer reopening. But this isn't a perfect world. And we're doing construction on a wooden pier in the ocean. There will, without a doubt, be a setback or two.

**Q:** Will the pier be extended / how long will the pier be / will there be fishing upon opening?

**A:** We talked for a long time (and still do) about how to rebuild the pier. It hopefully comes to no surprise that piers are incredibly expensive. And it's not the initial cost that's tough to fork the cash out for. It's the amount of time, money, and risk it takes to maintain and insure them. Insurance for our current pier (just the property coverage) is hundreds of thousands of dollars. It costs \$10-15,000 per year to get a qualified inspection of the piling. Then it can cost tens of thousands more per piling to replace them depending on where they are in the water.

That said, we will open back up to about half of the length that we used to be (about 500 feet). We only built back to about where the bait shop used to be. And we did it with the knowledge that Crabby Joe's (the restaurant) is what funds our ability to rebuild Sunglow Pier back east. So we have plans to rebuild the fishing pier in the nearest possible future we can.

One other comment that comes up a lot is why we wouldn't (woodn't) build out of concrete. The short answer is: time and money. To build a concrete pier would cost 8-10 times more than wood. We've done concrete for the first 250 feet or so where we can sink piling from the beach which is less expensive. But once you have to get into the ocean you're needing to hire a lift-barge to float from Jacksonville to Daytona for potentially months. Whereas the wood piling we're able to sink and connect from the deck of the pier using a special crane. For reference, Flagler Beach is redoing their pier (with funding from the State) to the tune of \$14 million dollars (and the budget keeps increasing). It's an 18-month project. That just wasn't something we could chew off in the midst of rebuilding seawalls, running all new utilities, etc.

We'd love nothing more than to have been able to cut the check and be back to 1000 feet like we were. But if we had to do that, the pier would be likely owned by a corporate company like many other piers. And it wouldn't be Crabby Joe's, it'd be a carnival over the ocean focused

only

on squeezing every cent out of the place. And we didn't feel good turning our legacy into that. We're trying our damndest to keep Crabby a locally-owned business. It's been a community staple for over half a century. It needs to stay that way. Especially the way everything else is commercializing around us. So we're digging our heels in on our community harder than ever. Both by maintaining our vibe and business and by diving deep into supporting our local community upon reopening.

**Q:** Will the restaurant still have the same old Crabby vibes?

**A:** Damn right. The only thing we're looking to improve is consistency of our food, and seeing just how hospitable we can be. Keep it local, keep it simple. There was an astounding and resonating amount of want for Crabby to not change, and we're all about it. It's what worked for as long as it has and it's what we want it to be!

**Q:** Will there still be space between the deck boards to watch the waves below?

**A:** Yep. We want the space to allow for expansion, but we also enjoy seeing all the kids (and kids-at-heart) peeking through the deck boards.

**Q:** Are you rebuilding the gift shop?

**A:** The gift shop is going to be temporarily located at the hostess area which will have a bit more storage space than before. But the old shop that is somewhere at the bottom of the sea near Ponce Inlet is not going to be replaced when we reopen. And unfortunately we won't have all the variety we used to have just because of the lack of space, but we'll try our best to bring the favorites back.

**Q:** Will there be outdoor seating?

**A:** For the sake of this discussion, we're going to teach y'all some Crabby lingo:

- Inside = I can't see through the floor or the roof

- Outside/Dining Room = I can see through the floor, but not the roof
- The Patch = I can see through the floor and the roof. There's an umbrella above my head. Inside hasn't changed much. We removed a couple tables to add space for the gift shop overflow and waiting space.

Outside we actually made larger (which was something we were actually working on in the weeks leading up to Hurricane Ian). So we gained some space on the covered area. This dining space will be open air like it used to be, and will have vinyl roll downs for some weather protection.

The Patch was completely lost in the storm. We've built back about 75% of it and it's going to act as similar space as before with seating. This area remains uncovered.

**Q:** Will there be access to Crabby Joe's from the beach?

**A:** We hope so. At the tail end of our budget was to replace the staircase. And we didn't prioritize it due to the county's staircase right next door. But the county is now in the middle of a construction project on their seawall and closed off their staircase, thus ruining our hopeful way to save a few bucks until we reopen. So we're working on getting the stairs on a priority list, but it may not be there right upon reopening.

**Q:** What is the parking situation?

**A:** Better! We actually gained parking by being able to push our seawall to the east a bit. And we moved the two big coolers and dumpsters that used to block your view when you pulled up further back in the lot. So now you get to walk up to those full beach views! And don't forget we have an entire parking lot across the street just for you all (and our staff)!

**Q:** Are you bringing back the Omelette Station?

**A:** Stay tuned. Not upon opening as we get settled, but we're working on making sure we've got the space to put it back together.