

Good-times guide

Making happy memories together!

Host a Pirates of the Caribbean bash!



Can't wait to see what Captain Jack Sparrow and the rest of the crew are up to in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*? Host a swashbuckling soiree before you head to the theater—we've got everything you need to make it a blast for kids and adults!

1 Set the mood with your invitations!

Download a font like "Treasure Map Deadhand" (free at FontSpace.com) and print info on off-white paper, then tear. (For a burned look, tear the edges off a smaller piece of paper, place on top of your invitation paper and spray black spray paint around the smaller sheet.) Incorporate pirate phrases into your wording, like:

Shiver me timbers

Or you can order ship-in-a-bottle invites from Amazon.com (\$15 for 12), or make your own from cleaned soda bottles and hand-deliver (or contact the postal service for rates).



2 Greet your pirates!

When guests walk in, greet 'em with a hearty "Ahoy, matey!" and offer up accessories—hats, eye patches, faux beards, clip-on earrings, etc. Find them in party stores, or make your own.



What you'll need

From the supermarket:

- Fish sticks or chicken strips
- Veggie plate
- 1 box strawberries, 1 orange, pineapple chunks, 1 small watermelon (for kebabs)
- Whole coconuts, shredded coconut and coconut ice cream
- Cupcakes or fudge bars
- Root beer, pineapple juice and ginger ale

From the liquor store:

- Rum
- From the crafts store or online:
- Parchment paper or bottle invites
 - Cardboard for swords
 - Fabric for eye patches and tablecloth
 - Paper pirate flags

3 Make a high-seas spread!

Keep your savory foods straightforward and kid-friendly—fish sticks, mini pizzas and a veggie plate—and focus your energy on making one or two show-stopping desserts like these treats designed by Courtney and Phronsie Dial of Pizzazzerie.com:

❖ **Skull-and-bones cupcakes.** Make pirate flags out of paper and toothpicks, or pick up readymade decorations and kits at Etsy.com/shop/andersruff and MeriMeri.com.

❖ **"Walk the plank" cookies.** Use red icing to decorate long fudge bars with an ominous message!

❖ **Coconut cream cups.** Adults and kids will love coconut ice cream (or sorbet) served in hollowed coconuts and topped with shredded coconut.

❖ **Caribbean kebabs.** To make, spear fruit chunks onto wooden skewers and stick into a halved watermelon. Embellish with paper flags or tropical-themed drink skewers.

Tip! For instant atmosphere, cover your table with fishnet or black-and-white-striped fabric, found in crafts stores, and make a sign that says *High Seas Snacks*.



4 Serve seafaring sips!

For the kids: Simply decant root beer into glass bottles of different shapes and call it "Captain's Cola"!

For the grownups:

Delight adult guests with our tropical Fountain of Youth Punch—it's named for the Fountain of Youth plotline in *On Stranger Tides*!

❖ Fountain of Youth Punch

In pitcher, combine 4 1/2 cups ginger ale with 1 1/2 cups pineapple juice and 1 cup rum. Stir and serve over ice. Garnish glasses with orange slices and maraschino cherries. **Serves 5-6.**

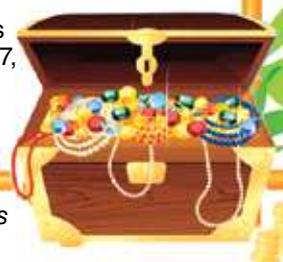


5 Create a treasure hunt for the kids!

While adults are chatting and sipping punch, give each child a list of movie-themed finds and send 'em searching around your party space. Have a small prize for the guest who collects the most in 10 minutes! **What you can hide:** locket (like Jack's), strand of pearls, treasure map, plastic sword, chocolate coins, crown compass, toy skull.

6 Play songs from the movie!

Download tracks from the older movies' soundtracks on Amazon.com or iTunes, or check out *On Stranger Tides*' soundtrack in stores this week—it goes on sale May 17, three days before the film's release.



—Katie Alberts