

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA

Morning gardens, bayfront walks & local dining

Morning: Downtown Sarasota

Begin your getaway in downtown Sarasota, where palm-lined streets lead to locally owned boutiques, art galleries, restaurants and colorful public art.

Walk along Main Street and Lemon Avenue before heading toward Bayfront Park for views of Sarasota Bay, the marina and the Ringling Causeway.

If you are visiting on a Saturday morning, browse the Sarasota Farmers Market for local foods, flowers, handmade goods and fresh produce.

Late Morning: Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Visit the Downtown Sarasota campus of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, a tropical oasis overlooking Sarasota Bay. Explore the orchid displays, rainforest garden, mangrove walkway and waterfront grounds.

Lunch: Downtown Sarasota

Restaurant ideas:

- **Duval's Fresh. Local. Seafood.** 📍1435 Main St
- **Boca Sarasota** 📍19 S Lemon Ave
- **Made Restaurant** 📍 1990 Main St
- **Owen's Fish Camp** 📍 516 Burns Ct

Afternoon: Bayfront & Burns Court

Spend the afternoon walking through Bayfront Park, watching the boats in the marina and enjoying the views across Sarasota Bay.

Evening: Downtown Sarasota

Enjoy dinner downtown before seeing a performance at the Sarasota Opera House, Florida Studio Theatre or one of the city's other cultural venues.



Morning: The Ringling

Start your second day at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Explore the Museum of Art, Circus Museum and beautiful Bayfront Gardens overlooking Sarasota Bay.

Allow several hours to experience the sprawling estate and learn how the Ringling family helped shape Sarasota's cultural identity.

Afternoon: Ca' d'Zan

Tour Ca' d'Zan, the spectacular Venetian Gothic mansion that served as the winter residence of John and Mable Ringling.

Admire its elaborate architecture, richly decorated rooms, waterfront terrace and panoramic views of Sarasota Bay.

Evening: Sunset & Dinner

Watch the sunset from Lido Beach before heading to nearby St. Armands Circle for dinner, dessert and an evening stroll.

Dinner ideas:

- **Columbia Restaurant** 📍411 St Armands Cir
- **Crab & Fin** 📍420 St Armands Cir
- **Shore St. Armands** 📍465 John Ringling Blvd
- **Tommy Bahama Restaurant & Bar** 📍300 John Ringling Blvd



SIESTA KEY, QUARTZ SAND & GULF SUNSETS

A Sarasota & Siesta Key itinerary

Morning: Siesta Beach

Begin your final day at Siesta Beach, famous for its soft quartz-crystal sand and clear Gulf water.

Spend the morning swimming, sunbathing, walking the shoreline or taking photos near the beach's colorful lifeguard stands. The park also offers a playground, volleyball courts, picnic areas and concessions.

Lunch: Siesta Key Village

Restaurant ideas:

- **Siesta Key Oyster Bar** 📍 5238 Ocean Blvd
- **The Cottage** 📍 153 Avenida Messina
- **Sun Garden Cafe** 📍 210 Avenida Madera
- **Daiquiri Deck Siesta Key Village** 📍 5250 Ocean Blvd

Afternoon & Sunset: Siesta Key Recommendations

Choose the perfect way to finish your Sarasota and Siesta Key getaway.

- **Siesta Beach:** Stay for swimming, beach volleyball, sunbathing or a long walk.
- **Crescent Beach:** Enjoy a quieter stretch of shoreline south of the main public beach.
- **Point of Rocks:** Bring snorkeling gear and explore the rocky limestone formations
- **Turtle Beach:** Search for shells, kayak through nearby waterways
- **Siesta Key Village:** Return for shopping, live music, ice cream or an early dinner.

Stay through sunset and watch the sky change colors over the Gulf of Mexico. If your visit falls on a Sunday, look for the informal Siesta Key Drum Circle near sunset.



- Wear comfortable shoes—you'll walk more than you think.
- Keep downtown Sarasota, The Ringling and Siesta Key on separate days to avoid unnecessary driving.
- Arrive at Siesta Beach early because the free public parking lot can fill quickly.
- Use the free Route 77 Siesta Islander trolley to travel between Siesta Key Village, Siesta Beach, South Village and Turtle Beach.
- Book Ca' d'Zan tours, botanical garden admission and popular dinner reservations ahead of time.
- Check museum and garden operating hours before visiting because schedules may change seasonally.
- Bring reef-conscious sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and plenty of water.
- Check the beach warning flags and swim near a lifeguard whenever possible.
- Pack water shoes and snorkeling equipment if you plan to explore Point of Rocks.
- Visit the Sarasota Farmers Market on Saturday morning if it fits your travel dates.
- Check local calendars for theater performances, art walks, farmers markets and special events.
- Leave room for downtime and unexpected shops, galleries, restaurants or waterfront views.
- Don't leave Siesta Key before sunset—it is one of the most memorable parts of the entire Sarasota experience.