

# STAY & PLAY...

The city of Venice situated in between Sarasota and Port Charlotte, has remained a well-hidden Gulf Coast secret...until now.



COURTESY OF VISIT FLORIDA

## ...in Venice

Take a walk on any of Venice's beaches and you will no doubt see people digging in the sand with long-handled steel sieves, hoping with each basketful to discover a prize fossil. Caspersen Beach, situated south of the Venice Airport, is held by most to be the very best location to hunt for shark teeth. Venice Beach, one mile west of the Tamiami Trail, is such a popular shark tooth hunting spot that the town uses a picture of a fossilized shark tooth to form the "V" in Venice and holds a Shark's Tooth Festival each April.

However, there's much more to see and do than the beaches! From quaint boutiques to mouthwatering restaurants and abundance of outdoor activity...Venice has what it takes to make your next getaway memorable!

Venice Area Chamber of Commerce | 941-488-2236  
[www.venicechamber.com](http://www.venicechamber.com)

### While visiting Venice we recommend...

>>**A night at the theater!** For almost 60 years, **Venice Theater**, the country's third largest and most active community theaters, has been providing nonstop entertainment for both residents and visitors to the Gulf Coast. Featuring performances that are attractive to all family members, including children, the theater promotes a diverse range of productions with one goal - "Making a dramatic impact on all stages of life".

Upcoming performances include Why Do Fools Fall In Love (May 29 - June 14) and Loveland Camp Broadway (June 12-14) performed by Loveland students.

941-488-1115 | [www.venicestage.com](http://www.venicestage.com)

>>**A boat rental!** Whether you're visiting for a month - entire season - or have the fortuity of living in Venice full time, **Freedom Boat Club** is ideal for those wanting a hassle-free option to boat ownership! Since 1989, members of the club are provided with the freedom of unlimited boat usage, overnight and extended-hours boat use, without the worry or hassle of cleaning, maintenance, repairs or storage.

In addition to hassle-free approach to ownership, Freedom Boat Club provides its members with access to all 44 locations throughout the US, unlimited hands-on training and a variety of company sponsored social events to meet other members with similar interests. Year round and seasonal memberships are available.

888-781-7363 | [www.freedomboatclub.com](http://www.freedomboatclub.com)

>>When it comes to casual waterfront dining, nobody does it better than **Pop's Sunset Grill**, Nokomis. Popular with area locals and repeat seasonal visitors alike for the friendly staff and a good menu value, it's commonplace to see the restaurant's 185 feet of dock frontage lined up with boaters waiting for an open slip, on a sunny afternoon.

Appetizers, deemed Mooch's Munchies for the resident dolphin that inhabits the waters near the restaurant, sound like they could be meals in themselves and range from \$6.65 for fried gator bites or calamari to \$8.69. Entrees feature Sunset Signature Sandwiches including a Mahi Reuben, some of the best burgers around and Crab Salad. Children's entrees and old-fashioned "fry" baskets are available.

Pop's Sunset Grill is as convenient as the internet for a take-out order or to check the menu and upcoming events.

941-488-3177 | [www.popssunsetgrilltogo.com](http://www.popssunsetgrilltogo.com)

>>**A Rustic Waterfront Getaway!** Families wanting to explore a more "natural" and unhurried locale are automatically drawn to Manasota Key. Situated in within minutes of Venice, the 25-acre **Manasota Beach Club** provides an attractive alternative to today's more contemporary accommodation.

Private and fully-equipped cottages are highlighted with breathtaking water views, an abundance of towering greenery, and comfortable porch areas - perfect for watching the sunset at days end.

Unique to the club is the Seasonal fine dining and full American Meal Plan (three daily meals) which can be integrated with each stay. Cottages with kitchens are available year round.

Onsite activities include daily children's programs, tennis, croquet, shuffleboard, onsite pool area, and playground area.

941-474-2614 | [www.manasotabeachclub.com](http://www.manasotabeachclub.com) \*