

Florida Travel

LIFESTYLES

Sarasota / Manatee Counties

While making the decision of where to relocate - what do you look for?
Is it the area's cultural offerings?
World-class beaches?
The convenience of nearby highways and International airports?
Opportunities for continuing education?

Sarasota / Bradenton / Anna Maria / Longboat Key / Venice



For those considering relocating to Florida, it may come as a surprise to discover that one destination can indeed provide its residents with all of the above...and much more!

Mostly surrounded by water, Sarasota & Manatee Counties are home to a virtual wonderland of parks, recreation areas, and public beaches offering everything from swimming to fishing to surfing! Locals and visitors alike easily slip into the area's alluring life of leisure.

>>The Lifestyle

If you can tear yourself away from the award-winning beaches, you'll find that the city of Sarasota is quite proud of its reputation as the "Culture Capital" of Florida. In fact, Sarasota's art, music, film, dance and theater offerings far exceed what you would expect from a city with an estimated population of 413,000 in 2010.

Unique to many of today's communities is Sarasota's bustling downtown center. Laden with art galleries, theaters, restaurants and stylish shops.

For artistic inspiration, tour Towles Court Artists Colony, a unique artist's neighborhood that is anything but quiet - visually speaking. Bright colors permeate the streets with remarkable sculptures, statue-filled courtyards and fluorescent-colored buildings.

For a more conservative, yet equally comfortable neighborhood atmosphere, the 8,500-square-foot Lakewood Ranch, America's largest green-certified community, boasts seven villages, from townhomes to custom estates, where families become neighbors, neighbors become family and everyone enjoys a sense of community.

In addition to its residential areas, Lakewood Ranch features gourmet and family-friendly restaurants, A-rated schools, unique shops and boutiques, business parks, hospital and medical center, three different masterfully designed golf courses, an athletic center with fitness, aquatics and 18 lighted tennis courts; even Polo and Cricket clubs. For the outdoor enthusiast, Lakewood Ranch also features over 150 miles of sidewalks and trails, community parks, lakes and nature preserves sharing dramatic landscapes with forest and wetland preserves abundant with native wildlife.

In contrast, Venice is known for its friendly, small-town feel, its quaint shopping center of low-rise buildings that are primarily in a Mediterranean style, and its lovely boulevard shaded by giant live oaks that extend from downtown to the beckoning beach. The beach, starting at the northern edge of the city is where Venice jetties open a passage

from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Gulf of Mexico. Much of it is undeveloped and merges into Sarasota County's Caspersen Beach Park. Prehistoric sharks' teeth (there is no problem with sharks) are found on the beaches at Venice and Caspersen. Venice has been called the "Shark's Tooth Capital of the World".

To the north of Sarasota, Manatee County includes the communities of Bradenton and Palmetto, two of the largest incorporated cities in the County. The island cities of Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach, and Longboat Key offer lifestyles with their own set of personalities. Miles and miles of white beaches, water sports, premier golf courses, and proximity to major tourist attractions make the island communities prime vacation spots, but more and more people are discovering that they can enjoy the amenities all year long whether they live on the island or mainland.

Beginning in November of each year, both Sarasota and Manatee County's population grows substantially as winter residents move in. December through February, sun-seekers from the Northeast and Midwest join international tourists at the county's beaches, golf courses and attractions.

>> **The 9-5**

Jobs in real estate development and tourism/recreation currently dominate Sarasota County economy. Health care and retirement services also are major employment sectors. Manufacturing, technology, and financial service jobs continue to build strength into the local economy. Many Sarasota County jobs are in small- to mid-sized businesses.

Sarasota County's educated and creative workforce is diverse enough to satisfy both new and expanding businesses.

More than half of Sarasota County's population is in the prime working age range of 18 to 64. Adding the labor pool from bordering Manatee and Charlotte counties expands the total to about 350,000.

Young talent emerging from Sarasota County's high schools, colleges and universities annually infuses the decades-long immigration of experienced corporate executives, managers, supervisors and technicians. More than half the adults in the workforce 25 and older have continued their education at the college level.

Those living in Manatee County aren't all play and no work! Boasting an average age of 43.1 years and a Median household income of \$50,416, the Economic Development Council of Manatee County, successfully assisted 171 businesses, including local companies that were

celebrating 50 years

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Selby Galleries I & II

REAL(ists)

Opening reception: Friday, January 15, 5-7 p.m.
Director's Tour: Monday, January 18, 11:30 a.m.

*Exhibition Seminar and Luncheon: Friday, January 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,
Banquet Hall, Michael's On East (For reservations call 941.359.7563)*

Selby Gallery Hours:
May - August: Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
September - April: Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and
Tues., 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Closed all major Holidays.

Contact Us
2700 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL
Phone: 941.359.7563 or 941.351.5100
Email: selby@ringling.edu
Web: www.ringling.edu/selbygallery

Location
Selby Gallery is located on the Ringling College of Art and Design campus, one-half block east of 2700 N. Tamiami Trail on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way in Sarasota.

About Selby Gallery
All Selby Gallery exhibitions and presentations (and most of our special events) are free and open to the public.
Paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues; and Woman's Exchange of Sarasota, Inc. Promotional sponsorship by Sarasota Magazine.

Detail: Rapada Spence, *Metropolis*, 2008, Oil on canvas, 140.5 x 176 cm

expanding, startup companies, or those relocating to the area. These combined projects contributed over \$600 million in capital investment; occupied approximately 6,500,000 million square feet of office/industrial space; and created almost 400 new jobs.

we recommend >>>
ACCOMMODATIONS. . . .

[Manasota Key] **Manasota Beach Club**
 Families wanting to explore a more "natural" locale are automatically drawn to Manasota Key. Situated 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

[Longboat Key] **Sun 'n Sea Cottages**
 Under a canopy of Australian pines, Sun 'n Sea one, and two-bedroom cottages and deluxe suite apartments are ideal for those seeking a truly relaxing getaway. Situated on Longboat Key, and within minutes of St. Armands Circle, these accommodations provide guests with the convenience of well-equipped kitchens, complimentary amenities including WiFi and nearby shopping, dining and golf. Sun 'n Sea is locally owned and operated. Visit their Website for an online photo gallery.
 941-383-5588 | www.sunnsea.com

must see & do >>>

Sarasota's **Asolo Repertory Theatre** is proud to be Florida's premier professional theatre and one of the most important cultural forces in the United States. As a center for theatrical excellence, Asolo Rep crafts the highest quality productions of classical, contemporary, and newly commissioned work performed in true rotating repertory. This unique theatre experience features an accomplished resident acting company complemented by distinguished guest artists, performing on three stages.
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Upcoming performances include My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, RENT, Annie, Doubt and much more!

Venice Theatre is also proud to announce the designation of hosting the 2010 International Amateur Theater Festival (June 22-27, 2010).

941-488-1115 | www.venicestage.com

dining with the locals >>>

[Nokomis] **Pop's Sunset Grill**

Popular with area locals for the friendly staff, casual waterfront attitude and abundance of food, it's commonplace to see the restaurant's onsite dock 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 fried gator bites to calamari. Entrees feature Sunset Signature Sandwiches including a Mahi Reuben and Crab Salad. Children's entrees and "fry" baskets are available.

Unique to Pop's Sunset Grill is the convenience of account access. Guests may customize their ordering by reviewing, editing, or changing past orders online.

941-488-3177 | www.popssunsetgrill.net

[Siesta Key] **The Broken Egg**

The Broken Egg Restaurant, Gift shop & Gallery has been a must-see island tradition since 1985. This local favorite is best known for its unwavering fresh fare and uncommonly friendly service.

Experience award-winning breakfast and lunch on the deck in a tropical setting or indoors surrounded by an art gallery. Relax with views of sunset's beautiful colors during dinner at the Siesta Key location.

Discover why many celebrities dine at their Siesta Key & Lakewood Ranch locations.

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