

Out & About

Things to Do in Longboat Key, Sarasota and Bradenton



**Parks, beaches, watersports,
entertainment & more.**

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**By Gina Ursini
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Our vibrant and affluent city offers an abundance of fun things to do!

The information below is a list I compiled for public use as a guide of things to do in Sarasota, Bradenton, and Longboat Key. My goal is to provide you with quality recommendations and support local businesses.

I am always looking to expand my list of local attractions.

If you are a business owner or if you know of a reputable provider that you feel should be included on my list, please contact me or complete the form on the last page of this booklet.

Fax, mail, or email the completed form to:

Gina Ursini | Fax: 941-761-5201 | gina@bristarealty.com

1656 Main Street, Sarasota, FL 34236

Please feel free to share our list!

Note: Information provided is intended solely for informational purposes only and is obtained from sources believed to be reliable but are not guaranteed. No guarantee of any kind is implied.



Our beautiful city offers an abundance of fun things to do including sporting events, cultural events, shopping, dining, and beautiful beaches. From arts and culture to local attractions, discover some of the best things to do in Sarasota, Bradenton, and Longboat Key, Florida.

Sarasota - Bradenton - Longboat Key

Baltimore Orioles Spring Training

Address: 2700 12th St, Sarasota, FL 34237

<https://www.mlb.com/orioles/spring-training/ballpark>

Pick up some tickets to watch spring training at Ed Smith Stadium.

Bayfront Park

Phone: (941) 954-4105

Address: Marina Jack Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Experience the most beautiful Sarasota Bay views while picnicking, fishing, or taking a relaxing stroll along the bayside. For entertaining the children, there is a playground area and play fountain, providing hours of enjoyment.

Celery Fields

Phone: (941) 861-5000

Address: 6893 Palmer Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34240

This 360-acre manmade hill, owned by Sarasota County is great for bird watching, walking, and biking. See more than 200,000 aquatic plants, wildlife, and trees. Access points and two boardwalks are located off Palmer Blvd and the other off Raymond Road.

Christmas Boat Parade

Website: <http://www.sarasotachristmasboatparade.com/>

Held every December, boats decked out in holiday decor and festive music parade along the waters of Sarasota Bay.

Classic Car Museum

Phone: (941) 355-6228

Address: 5500 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243

Located across the street from the Ringling Museum, this nostalgic museum boasts over 90 cars with over 100 years of man's greatest invention.

DeSoto National Memorial Park

Phone: (941) 792-0458 x105

Address: 8300 Desoto Memorial Hwy, Bradenton, FL 34209

<https://www.nps.gov/deso/index.htm>

Located in NW Bradenton, this park offers guided tours on the history of DeSoto along with walking trails and beautiful views of the Manatee River.

Farmer's Market

Phone: (941) 225-9256

Address: 1487 2nd St c, Sarasota, FL 34236

Pick up fresh fruit and produce at the Farmer's Market, held each Saturday in downtown Sarasota.

Florida Maritime Museum

Phone: (941) 708-6120

Address: 4415 119th St W, Cortez, FL 34215

Located in a historic schoolhouse on almost four acres in the historic Cortez Village, this museum is dedicated to the maritime history of FL. Enjoy exhibits, artifacts, photographs, boat models, tools, and a library with archives including diaries from the past, ship logs, letters, and more.

Florida Studio Theater

Phone: (941) 366-9017

Address: 1241 N Palm Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236

Also known as FST, this non-profit organization, located on Palm Avenue in downtown Sarasota, offers enlightening contemporary plays for all to enjoy.

Freedom Fest - Longboat Key

Address: 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228

The quarter-mile Fourth of July parade loops around Bay Isles Road. Games and old-fashioned fun follow the parade.

Gamble Plantation

Phone: (941)723-4536

Address: 3708 Patten Ave, Ellenton, FL 34222-2152

The mansion of Major Robert Gamble and headquarters of an extensive sugar plantation, this is currently the only surviving plantation house in South Florida.

Historic Spanish Point

Phone: (941) 966-5214

Address: 337 N Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229

This is a preserved Sarasota archeological site once inhabited by Indians. See prehistoric shell middens and learn about our Sarasota Prehistory, Pioneers, and Plants.

Historical Downtown Sarasota Walking Tour

Phone: (941) 400-8583

Address: 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL 34236

Sarasota is an interesting city full of history and architecture. During this guided walking tour, you will discover the history and folklore of our area, both past, present, and future.

Horseback Riding on the Beach

Phone: (941) 907-7272

Address: Palma Sola Bay

A unique and authentic old world Florida experience of horseback riding on the beach with highly skilled horses and trainers.

John Ringling Bridge Causeway Park

Address: 420 John Ringling Causeway

The landmark John Ringling Bridge, which connects downtown Sarasota to St. Armand's Circle, is a great way to get in some exercise while capturing the gorgeous Sarasota Bay views. Parking is available at both ends of the approximate mile long bridge.

John Ringling Museum

Phone: (941) 359-5700

Address: 5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34243

Located on the grounds of John and Mabel's Sarasota mansion, visitors will enjoy Ringling's art collection, circus museum, and their breathtaking gardens.

Jungle Gardens

Phone: (941) 355-5305

Address: 3701 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34234

A wonderful children's attraction featuring interactive experiences with birds, reptiles, animals, and entertaining shows.

LeBarge Tropical Cruises

Phone: (941) 366-6116

Address: 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL 34236

Enjoy a two-hour cruise along the Sarasota Bay where you will see dolphins, manatees, and various other marine mammals. Select from a menu of cruises, each offering something totally different.

Manatee Village Historical Park

Phone: (941) 749-7165

Address: 1404 Manatee Ave E, Bradenton, FL 34208

Located in Manatee County, this historical village takes you back in time with historical landmarks dating back to the 1860's – 1930's. Historic structures include a courthouse, church, store, school, and cracker house.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Phone: (941) 366-5731

Address: 900 S Palm Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236

Located in downtown Sarasota, along Sarasota Bay, the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is a tropical oasis not just for adults, but for kids too. The Children's Rainforest offers a hands-on experience of discovery and exploration.

Marietta Museum of Art & Whimsey

Phone: (941) 364-3399

Address: 2121 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34234

Stroll through a garden setting of art and whimsy. Open November through May.

Marina Jack Dinner Cruise

Phone: (941) 365-4232

Address: 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL 34236

Enjoy sightseeing on the Gulf of Mexico. Located on the downtown Sarasota bayfront, this narrated lunch or dinner cruise is a must do.



We are a company of Real Estate Agents and Home Builders

We are a full-service real estate team boasting decades of experience in the real estate industry. Using our real estate, legal, home building, and marketing experience, our team excels in providing a wide range of services to our clients.

[Gina Ursini](#)

[Broker/Owner, Brista Realty](#)

Gina has immersed herself in the communities of Longboat Key and Sarasota, gaining an unparalleled appreciation and admiration for the beauty and elegance of our coastal paradise. With experience as a decorator and home stager, she offers specialization in design and can assist clients in seeing the potential in any home. She enjoys sharing her design expertise and guiding clients through important selections for their homes.

[Brittany & Christa Ursini](#)

[Real Estate Agents - Connecticut & New York](#)

Brittany and Christa both left their successful NYC careers in real estate law and marketing to become real estate agents - but from day one they had a different philosophy. Their goal is to transform the process from an overwhelming feat into a comprehensive step-by-step experience, allowing you to self-discover what it is you want within a community and a home. But not just any community or home. One that is uniquely you, reflecting your personality,

[Mark Ursini](#)

[Brista Homes - Founder & President](#)

In 2000, Mark founded Brista Homes. His daughters, Brittany and Christa, were the inspiration behind the company name and reflect the company's commitment to family values. Mark specializes in high-end custom homes and luxury remodels in Longboat Key, Sarasota, and its barrier islands. A portfolio of his quality craftsmanship can be viewed at www.bristahomes.com.

McKechnie Field

Address: 1611 9th St W, Bradenton, FL 34205

The spring training home of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Friendly staff and players frequently toss balls to the kids in attendance.

Medieval Fair

Website: <http://www.sarasotamedievalfair.com/>

Address: 601 S Pompano Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237

This annual event is held in November of each year. Enjoy food, rides and games, face painting, artisan and craft demonstrations, and entertainment.

Mote Aquarium

Phone: (941) 388-4441

Address: 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy, Sarasota, FL 34236

Say hello to Hugh and Buffet, the aquarium Manatees. See sharks, sea turtles, and other marine life through touch pools, working labs, and interactive exhibits.

Music on Main - Lakewood Ranch

Held the first Friday of each month on Lakewood Ranch Main Street from 6-9 pm. This is a free concert series and block party with music, food, friends, and fun.

Myakka Wildlife Tours

Phone: (941) 365-0100

Address: 13208 State Rd 72, Sarasota, FL 34241

See and learn about alligators and our area wildlife on a narrated, one hour covered airboat tour.

Nathan Benderson Park

Phone: (941) 358-7275

Address: 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota, FL 34235

The perfect setting for a 3.5-mile walk or jog along neatly manicured trails. If water sports are your passion, then drop a paddleboard, canoe, rowboat or kayak into the pristine 400-acre lake or enjoy a picnic in the 600-acre park. Pets are welcome! The park is also host to a number of events including rowing championships, 5K runs, movie nights, and Circus Sarasota.

Palm Avenue First Friday Walk

Held on the first Friday of every month, the Palm Avenue Arts Alliance sings, performs, and dances for the community as guests shop and dine along the historic Palm Avenue in downtown Sarasota.

Palma Sola Botanical Park

Phone: (941) 761-2866

Address: 9800 17th Ave NW, Bradenton, FL 34209

A 10-acre site in northwest Bradenton. It is home to an assortment of palms, rare flowering trees, fruits and subtropical plants. The tranquil gardens are also home to 3 large lakes where one can unwind and relish the scenic views.

Pet-Friendly Parks

17th St. Paw Park

Address: 4570 17th St., Sarasota (17th Street between Honore & Beneva)

Separate gated areas for both small and large dogs with hoses for water.

Arlington Dog Park

Address: Arlington Paw Park

2650 Waldemere Street, Sarasota (Waldemere between Swift & Beneva)

A repurposed baseball field is now a play area for pets with separate gated areas for small and large dogs.

Bird Key Park

Address: 101 Bird Key Drive, Sarasota, FL 34236

A great place to bring your dog for a swim. There is a dog poo station and a hose down area for your pup after they go for a splash.

Dog Leg Park

Address: 7550 69th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221

This 3-acre off leash park has an enclosed area for small or elderly dogs.

Amenities include a doggie drinking fountain, waste bags, and covered shelter.

Happy Tails Park

Address: 51st Street West, B Bradenton, FL 34209

A fenced, 3-acre park located at the northern corner of GT Bray Park.

Pet Friendly Parks - Continued

Holmes Beach Dog Park

Address: 51st Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209

A smaller park offering a place for your dog to run and play. There is a hose for water but you must bring your own bowl. Shade at this park is limited.

Lakeview Paw Park

Address: 7150 Lago Street, Sarasota (Between Proctor & Bee Ridge)

A shared entry leads to the separate gated areas, one for small dogs and a separate area for larger dogs. There is a shared pup drinking area, benches, picnic tables, but no covered shelter.

Longwood Park

Address: 6050 Longwood Run Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34243

A leash is required at this county maintained dog park.

Paw Patch Park

Address: 7025 44th Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34203

A 2-acre off leash dog park located in the community of Creekwood in East Bradenton. The park offers separate areas of small and large dogs.



Professional and Amateur Theaters

Take your pick of theaters including Florida Studio, Asolo Repertory Theater, West Coast Black Theater Troupe, Urbanite Theater, Players Center for Performing Arts, and the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

Robinson Preserve

Phone: (941) 742-5923

Address: Entrances at the West end of 9th Ave NW and 17th Ave NW, Bradenton, FL 34209

Run by the Natural Resources Department, Robinson Preserve offers a wealth of fun along with educational activities for nature and outdoor lovers of all ages. Head here for a day of birdwatching, horse riding or canoeing or bounce over to one of the observation towers and platforms to see the native plants, wildlife, and habitats along the Gulf Coast. Open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset all year round.

Sarasota Architectural Gems Trolley Tour

Phone: 941-350-5430

Address: 265 S. Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

Website: <http://cfasrq.org/events/calendar/>

Learn about Sarasota's rich architectural history which a trolley tour. These guided tours are offered Thursdays from 10-12 am from February - May and October - December. The fee for the tour runs \$35-\$45. Registration is required.



Sarasota Film Festival

Website: <https://www.sarasotafilmfestival.com/>

This 10-day long annual event showcases local and independent filmmaking. With over 850 film festivals across the nation, the Sarasota Film Festival (SFF) consistently ranks in the top 10%.

Sarasota National Cemetery

Phone: (941) 922-7200

Address: 9810 State Rd 72, Sarasota, FL 34241

Website: <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp>

Although it may seem odd to suggest a cemetery, this place of honor is a worthwhile experience that touches many who visit. Rich in military history, the impeccably cared for grounds, rows of grave sites, contemporary amphitheater, and photographic pillars with actual photos and letters from our military heroes are subtle reminders that our freedoms do not come for free.

Sarasota Polo at Lakewood Ranch

Phone: (941) 907-0000

Address: 8201 Polo Club Ln, Sarasota, FL 34240

A unique alternative to Sunday football. The polo club hosts Sunday matches from December through March, starting at noon. The combination of beautiful horses, high-end guests, and a fast paced match make for a beautiful afternoon.



Sarasota Ski Show A Rees

Phone: (941) 388-1666

Address: 1602 Ken Thompson Pkwy, Sarasota, FL 34236

<http://www.skiarees.com/>

Watch skiers practice for their upcoming competitions. Starting in mid-September, taking place on the Mote Aquarium grounds, this show is enjoyable and informative.

Siesta Key Beach

Address: 948 Beach Rd, Sarasota, FL 34242

Having ranked more than once as the #1 beach in the nation, Siesta Key Beach is made famous for its soft white sand and crystal blue waters and is well worth the visit.

Siesta Key Crystal Classic | Sand Sculpting Festival

Website: siestakeycrystalclassic.com

Held around November of each year, this event attracts professionals from all over in an annual sand sculpting festival. These masterpieces are a must see.

Siesta Key Drum Circle

Phone: (941) 861-5000

Address: 948 Beach Rd, Siesta Key, FL 34242

For an out-of-the-ordinary experience, on Sunday evenings before dark, head out to Siesta Key Beach to watch the Drum Circle. You will find super-friendly people from all walks of life, music, and dancing. This is a free event and great for people of all ages, including young children.



Siesta Key Village

Located in the heart of Siesta Key, this lively and colorful village is filled with shops, restaurants, ice cream shops, bars, and more. View a village map of all its shops at <http://www.simplysiestakey.com/VillageShopsMap.html>.

Siesta Key Rum - Distillery & Tasting Room

Phone: (941) 702-8143

Address: 2212 Industrial Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234

Using local sugar cane and natural spices this award winning rum has won stellar reviews. A limited number of tours are available in the small but beautiful distillery. Pre-registration is required but stop in at any time for a free tasting. Gifts and bottles of Siesta Key rum are available for purchase.

South Florida Museum

Phone: (941) 746-4131

Address: 201 10th St W, Bradenton, FL 34205

Visit the biggest natural museum on the Gulf Coast with dozens of historic artifacts, environmental displays, and prehistoric collections. In addition to the assortment of fossils of Florida's mammals along with marine life, the museum is home to a complete scale replica of a 16th-century manor house.

Sporting Events

Sports enthusiasts will have their share of sporting events to choose from including the Sarasota Polo Grounds, Premier Sports Campus Lakewood Ranch, Premier Rowing Facility of Benderson Park, Fiesta on Siesta, Sarasota Power Boat Grand Prix, or the Baltimore Orioles Spring Training Facility.

St. Armands Circle

Located just over the Ringling Bridge from downtown Sarasota, the circle offers fabulous dining, shopping, and sightseeing.

State Parks & Forests

Spend the afternoon at one of our area's beautiful state parks including Oscar Scherer State Park, Myakka River State Park, Myakka State Forest.

SUP Sarasota | Kayaking & Paddleboard

Juliana Schuster

Phone: 941-281- 0215

<http://sup-sarasota.com/>

Stand up paddle board and kayak rentals, sales, lessons, tours, race and fitness training.

The Children's Garden and Art Center

Phone: (941) 330-1711

Address: 1670 10th Way, Sarasota, FL 34236

Website: <http://www.sarasotachildrensgarden.com/>

An enchanting place to bring the kids! Children can dig, play, and explore the magical gardens with fairies, dragons, pirates, and more. Art and nature classes are offered weekly.

The Players Center

Phone: (941) 365-2494

Address: 838 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Enjoy performances by a cast of volunteer non-professional performers with incredible talents. For a schedule of current and upcoming shows visit <https://www.theplayers.org/shows/>.

The Premier Sports Campus

Phone: (941) 757-1582

Address: 5895 Post Blvd, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211

Located off SR 70 in Lakewood Ranch, the campus is host to a number of sports including Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, and Football. Guest can come to watch sporting events on the local, state, regional and national levels.

The Sarasota Opera House

Phone: 941-328-1300

Address: 61 N. Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

<http://www.sarasotaopera.org>

The historic Opera House is host to a number of performances throughout the year.

Towels Court

Phone: (941) 266-7318

Address: 1938 Adams Ln, Sarasota, FL 34236

Explore this artful neighborhood in downtown Sarasota filled with artist studios, galleries, and restaurants. From October – May, from 5-9 PM meet the artists and enjoy some live music while you stroll the Towels Court Friday Night Art Walk.

TreeUmp Adventure Course

Phone: (941) 322-2130

Address: 21805 E State Rd 70, Bradenton, FL 34202

For a unique athletic experience, gear up for some climbing, swinging, zip lining, and aerial adventures at the TreeUmp Adventure Course located in east Bradenton.

UTC Mall - (University Town Center)

Address: 140 University Town Center Dr, Sarasota, FL 34243

UTC is a mega mall with fine boutiques, high-end department stores, shops, and a variety of restaurants. Be sure to check out their event calendar for fun and exciting activities held at the mall throughout the year.

Yoga on the Beach

Grab a yoga mat for some beachside exercise at Siesta Beach. For a class schedule, visit YogaonSiestaBeach.com.

Yolo Adventures - Parasailing, Boat Tours, Fishing Charters

Phone: 941-792-6000

Address: 4110 127th St W, Cortez, FL 34215

<http://parasailflorida.com/>

Parasailing, Boat Tours, and Fishing Charters.

HOUSE HUNTING

If you are looking to buy, sell, relocate or purchase a second home in Florida, we can help. Contact us today.





Things to Do Form

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Description of Services: _____

Permission to give a shout out on social media: Yes No

Fax, mail, or email the completed form to:

Gina Ursini | Brista Realty | Fax: 941-761-5201 | gina@bristarealty.com
1656 Main Street, Sarasota, FL 34236