



Sarasota County, Florida What's New?

Beyond miles of sugar-white sand beaches, lies a haven of arts and culture, eclectic festivals and exquisite dining in Sarasota County. Nearly 1,000 new hotels rooms welcome visitors in 2018 and 2019. A glimpse into Sarasota County's heritage finds rich roots in the circus and a tidy Amish culture, while birding and nature spots provide outdoor fun.

New Hotels

[Art Ovation](#), an Autograph Collection by Marriott, in the heart of downtown Sarasota and within walking distance to many of the city's cultural venues such as the Sarasota Opera and Florida Studio Theatre, opened in late March 2018. In homage to Sarasota as the "Cultural Capital of Florida," this hotel infuses arts into the universal character of the hotel, with quarterly curated exhibitions and performing arts vignettes on a regular basis.

[The Carlisle Inn](#) of Sarasota opened the first-ever hotel in Sarasota's Pinecraft Amish and Mennonite community in March 2018. It offers 100 rooms and is within walking distance of the area's famed home-style restaurants. The décor weaves Florida's natural scenery into the overall beautiful and simple decor the Amish and Mennonites are known for in other parts of the country.

[The Sarasota Modern](#), a Tribute Portfolio Hotel located in the Rosemary District of Sarasota will be designed to honour Sarasota's mid-century modern architectural heritage. The hotel is expected to open in Autumn 2018.

[Embassy Suites](#) is slated to have 180 rooms and 18 stories in the heart of downtown when it opens in late 2018.

Culture Hound

Known as Florida's Cultural Coast®, Sarasota has Florida West Coast's only professional ballet, professional opera and professional orchestra alongside more than ten theatres and the State's Art Museum, The Ringling.

From December 20, 2018 through January 5, 2019 is the 15th Annual [Perlman Music Program Sarasota Winter Residency](#). This intensive program offers 20+ free events including orchestra and chorus rehearsals, master classes and works-in-progress student recitals.

The recently debuted Kotler and Coville Glass Pavilion serves as the new formal entryway into [The Ringling](#). This architectural representation of glass provides glimpses of the American and European studio glass work inside, most of it donated by the Kotler and Coville families.

In 2019, [Marie Selby Botanical Gardens](#) will continue to integrate the arts throughout the grounds and gardens with the *Gauguin: Voyage to Paradise* will explore the botanical world the artist encountered throughout his life in the 19th Century and feature original artwork by the artist along with exotic horticultural displays.

Discover Natural Sarasota County

Hike, paddle, bike, fish or sit back in Sarasota's natural paradise. Wetlands, lakes and a river interconnect throughout Myakka River State Park, one of the state's oldest and largest parks and Oscar Scherer State Park offers concierge camping packages. The Celery Fields opened its first welcome centre and offer exceptional opportunities to observe more than 300 species of birds nesting and foraging in their natural habitat.

The Circus Comes to Town

Famously renowned as the historical winter home for the Ringling Bros. Circus, visitors can check out The Ringling Circus Museum, and for live circus entertainment they can head to the Circus Sarasota and Sailor Circus performances at select times throughout the year. The Circus Arts Conservatory now offers weekly adult and youth classes where visitors can try circus arts themselves.

Dine Away

Brimming with outdoor dining and fresh local seafood, Sarasota has one of the largest groups of independent restaurants. The annual Forks & Corks Wine Festival in January and the Savour Sarasota Restaurant Week brings the masses out for more than 60 restaurants offering special offers in June.

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About Sarasota County:

Sarasota County offers a vibrant arts and cultural scene, a diverse array of culinary options and a variety of outdoor activities to take advantage of the clear waters and the abundant wildlife. Sarasota County can provide the quintessential, laid-back beach getaway with numerous sprawling, white-sandy beaches, including Siesta Key Beach; often voted the number one beach in the USA. For more information about Sarasota County visit www.visitsarasota.com

*Siesta Beach won TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Award for Best Beach in the US in 2017. The same beach also claimed the top spot in the US by Dr Beach in May 2017. Marks are awarded for cleanliness, safety and facilities.