



NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE: THINGS TO DO

OUT & ABOUT

Longboat Key, Sarasota, Bradenton

BY: GINA URSINI, BRISTA REALTY



OUR VIBRANT CITY OFFERS AND 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 Longboat Key, Sarasota, and Bradenton. 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.

LONGBOAT KEY, SARASOTA, BRADENTON

Baltimore Orioles Spring Training

Address: 2700 12th St, Sarasota, FL 34237

Pick up some tickets to watch spring training at Ed Smith Stadium [here](#).

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

Held every December, boats decked out in holiday decor and festive music parade along the waters of Sarasota Bay. [View the upcoming boat parade schedule](#).

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

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. For more information, [click here](#).

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Kayaking

Island Adventure Outfitters

Phone: 941-773-1920

Address: 6844 Gulf of Mexico Drive

This Longboat Key Surf Shop offers kayak tours of Longboat Key and the surrounding areas.

LeBarge Tropical Cruises

Phone: (941) 366-6116

Address: 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL 34236

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

Lido Beach

Address: Benjamin Franklin Drive, Sarasota, FL 34236

Lido Beach is one of the best beaches in Sarasota, Florida. It's known for being less crowded than nearby Siesta Key Beach and it has an excellent view of downtown Sarasota. The sand here is soft and white, making it perfect for sunbathing or building sandcastles

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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 1860s-1930s. 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 whimsey.

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.

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: 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 also hosts 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

[Click here to discover local dog parks and beaches!](#)



17th St. Paw Park

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

This dog park is full of dog lovers, dog toys, and dog activity. It is the largest dog park in Sarasota County with two acres of land for dogs to have fun. It offers many things including a small dog area, hoses for water, benches, shade trees, and double-gated entries. Your furry friend will love this dog park!

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. The park has a water station, waste bags, and receptacles.

Bayfront Park

Type: Off-leash park dog park | Dog park for small dogs | Dog park for large dogs

Address: 4052 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, FL 34228

This Longboat Key dog park has plenty of room for you and your pet to enjoy each other's company. There are benches that overlook the bay as well as a dock where you can watch boats come in and out from the Gulf Coast. It also offers easy access to restrooms, picnic tables, water fountains, and parking areas.

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.

Brohard Paw Park Beach

Address: 1600 Harbor Drive, Venice, FL

Type: Off-leash park dog park | Dog park on the beach

This beach in Venice is dog heaven and will be well worth the drive. If you like dogs and beaches, then this is the perfect hang-out. Better yet, your pup will have a blast playing with lots of other canines and enjoying the surf and sand. Pet owners are respectable for picking up after their dogs. Therefore you will find this off-leash dog park on the beach to be in pristine condition.

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.

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.

Joan M. Durante Park

Address: 5550 Gulf of Mexico Dr, Longboat Key, FL 34228

The town of Longboat Key has provided pet-friendly water fountains for the pups. Check out their nature area. It is a perfect pet-friendly park to walk your dog. Hours are 7 AM to 8:30 PM.

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 drinking area, benches, picnic tables, but no covered shelter.

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 for small and large dogs.

Ringling Bridge Causeway Park

Address: Parking is located at the east end of the John Ringling Bridge.

Located in Bird Key Park in Sarasota, just before the John Ringling Bridge, this park is on the water. Not only will you love it, but your dog will also love it too.



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.

Quick Point Nature Preserve

Address: 100 Gulf of Mexico Drive

Open 5 AM – 10 PM

This 34-acre park features winding paths, a lagoon, native plants, and an osprey nesting pole. It is a great place to fish or go for a short walk or just relax and take in the views at the small private beach area.

We are a company of Real Estate Agents, Home Builders, and Marketing Specialists.

Real Estate

Gina Ursini

Broker/Owner Brista Realty

Licensed in Florida

Having sold over \$50,000,000 worth of real estate over the past several years, Gina has established herself as a trusted and respected real estate agent in the Longboat Key and Sarasota area. With experience as a decorator, home stager and real estate investor, Gina offers specialization in design and can assist clients in seeing the potential in any home. She has developed an intimate market knowledge and skilled negotiation expertise. In 2020, Gina was listed as one of the top 1% performing agents out of 2,100 agents in her prior brokerage.

Brittany Ursini

Licensed in Connecticut

Brittany's initial path took her to real estate law at a large firm in Manhattan, where she represented lenders and institutional investors in the purchase and sale of properties throughout the country. She brings a high level of astuteness and discretion to each transaction and uses her strong negotiating skills to help clients submit winning offers in a competitive market.

Christa Ursini

Licensed in New York

Christa spent 10 years in luxury real estate branding and marketing where she designed campaigns for top developers in NYC and beyond. Much like the creative process, buying or selling a home is not a straight line, but involves many twists and turns in which her creative thinking and solution-oriented approach are essential. She is in tune with the latest marketing techniques ensuring unique and effective ways to market properties.

Visit their website, www.stepstosuburbia.com, and take their quiz to see which CT or NY suburb best fits your personality.

Home Building & Luxury Remodeling

Brista Homes

Mark Ursini, Founder

Brista Homes is a development and construction company specializing in custom-built homes and luxury remodels throughout Longboat Key, Sarasota and its barrier islands. The many years of experience provides Brista Homes with the expert knowledge and unwavering craftsmanship to build and renovate high-quality, exceptional homes and condos. The team takes great pride in fulfilling their clients' needs and exceeding their expectations. They provide unlimited creative flexibility, allowing clients to tailor their home designs according to their specific preferences and lifestyle. As a family-run company, Brista Homes understand the true value of creating a home where lasting memories can be made and shared.

Restaurants - (Island Delights)

Whether you want an Old Florida experience, fine dining, or anything in between, you are sure to find something to satisfy your tastebuds on the island of Longboat Key. [Browse a full list of restaurants here.](#)

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

Learn about Sarasota's rich architectural history through a trolley tour. These guided tours are offered from October through May. December. A Historic Neighborhoods of Sarasota Tour is also available. The fee for the tour runs from \$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

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 gravesites, 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. [To learn more, click here.](#)

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 face-paced match makes for a beautiful afternoon.

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 here.](#)

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, is the posh St. Armand's Circle with 130 shops, spas, boutiques, and restaurants.

State Parks & Preserves

Spend the afternoon at one of our beautiful parks!

- Bradenton River Walk
- Emerson Point Preserve
- Lake Manatee State Park
- Myakka River State Forest
- Oscar Scherer State Park
- Phillippi Estate Park
- Red Bug Slough Preserve
- Robinson Preserve

SUP Sarasota | Kayaking & Paddleboard

Juliana Schuster

Phone: 941-281- 0215

Stand-up paddleboard and kayak rentals, sales, lessons, tours, race, and fitness training. [Click here to learn more.](#)

The Children's Garden and Art Center

Phone: (941) 330-1711

Address: 1670 10th Way, Sarasota, FL 34236

Website: 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, [click here.](#)

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

Website: sarasotaopera.org

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

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

Feel Good Yoga Studio & Massage

Phone: (904) 610-7565

Address: 6350 Gulf of Mexico Drive

Offering a variety of techniques for any age group or shape, Feel Good Yoga specializes in helping you feel your best. And it doesn't stop at yoga – massages are available too.

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

Websire: fl

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

Parasailing, Boat Tours, and Fishing Charters.





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