

SARASOTA/BRADENTON Florida

—COOPER LEVEY-BAKER

Go Shop

BIANCA'S MEXICAN STORE AND TAQUERIA

903 N Washington Blvd, Sarasota
941-316-9599

The taqueria is a favorite of locals looking for Mexican food, but Bianca's also has a small grocery, with shelves stocked with specialty items, CDs and art. The *Herald-Tribune* called it one of the best "Mom and Pop" establishments in Florida.

LOTUS

1451 Main St, Sarasota • 941-906-7080

www.lotussarasota.com

Specializing in fresh and invigorating accessories, home accents and feminine fashions, Lotus is one of a handful of boutiques bringing some of the latest trends to Sarasota's rejuvenated Main Street shopping scene.

SARASOTA ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE

1093 Central Ave, Sarasota • 941-362-0803

www.sarasotasalvage.com

You never quite know what you'll stumble across at this North Sarasota shop, which sells old-school furniture, bizarre retro accents and even some flat-out junk, all transformed into something new and exciting.

THE VILLAGE BOOKSHOP

1006 11th Ave W, Bradenton • 941-750-9141

www.thevillagebookshop.org

Doug Knowlton's lovingly arranged and thoroughly stocked bookstore is a must-stop during any trip to Bradenton's Village of the Arts, a sprawling collection of charmingly painted shops, studios and galleries.

Go See

ISLAND PARK

1150 John Ringling Blvd, Sarasota

Island Park is a perfect spot for a morning jog, a pleasant place for a relaxing read and a great park for a day with the family. Offering great views of the water, and a chance to release your stress.

ISLAND STYLE WATERSPORTS

2433 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota • 941-954-1009

www.islandstylewindsurfing.com

Island Style, located near Ringling College, can get you hooked up for all sorts of fun on the water, from kitesurfing to kayaking. Don't miss the chance to navigate the stunning mangrove tunnels just off Lido Key.

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY

1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy, Sarasota

941-388-4441

www.mote.org

Mote experts have taken the lead in Suncoast marine science, with seven research centers dedicated to finding out more about the life aquatic. Visitors can marvel at the range of sea life on display.

RINGLING MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN CIRCUS

5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota

941-359-5700

www.ringling.org

Part of the sprawling property that formerly belonged to circus magnate John Ringling, this museum features a 3,800-square-foot model replica of an old Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus.

SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

6062 Porter Way, Sarasota • 941-861-1180

For a glimpse at what brought visitors to Sarasota in the first place, there's no better destination than the local history center. Browse a fine collection of books on the area's history, geology and more.

Go Eat

GOLDSTAR DONUT SHOP

1246 Whitfield Ave, Sarasota

941-755-1225

With no frills and zero ambiance, Goldstar Donut Shop serves donuts, and that's about it. But what donuts! Crispy-shelled, with airy interiors, these fried fritters—paired with a cup of coffee—are sublime. \$

NEW PASS GRILL & BAIT SHOP

1505 Ken Thompson Pkwy, Sarasota

941-388-3050

www.newpassgrill.com

For fans of casual Florida dining—that is, downing greasy sandwiches and cold beer at picnic tables just steps from the water—New Pass Grill is a must. The joint slings low-budget standards infinitely improved by the aquatic surroundings. \$

TROPICAL THAI RESTAURANT

1420 Main St, Sarasota • 941-364-5775

While the food may occasionally lack the good slap-in-the-face intensity you crave in Thai food, this spot possesses an extensive menu and a patient staff eager to help you select the best dishes. \$\$

5-ONE-6 BURNS

516 Burns Ln, Sarasota • 941-906-1884

www.5one6burns.com

Situated near Sarasota's premier art-film haven, Burns Court Cinemas, 5-One-6

dishes up well-executed classics in a relaxed and just plain gorgeous setting. It's ideal for a bite before or after a flick. \$\$\$

DEREK'S CULINARY CASUAL

514 Central Ave, Sarasota • 941-366-6565

www.dereks-sarasota.com

Up-and-coming Sarasota chef Derek Barnes dishes out cutting-edge cuisine in a hip, minimalist space just north of downtown, rewarding the adventurous with witty twists on classics. It's a very bright light on the foodie scene. \$\$\$

Go Party

COCK-N-BULL PUB

975 Cattlemen Rd, Sarasota • 941-341-9785

www.cnbpub.com

The CnB has a beer menu so long that it comes in a three-ring binder. That should give you some idea of this location's dedication to getting the frosty stuff right.

THE IRISH ROVER

6518 Gateway Ave, Sarasota • 941-926-1060

www.irishroversarasota.com

The Rover is an Irish pub, with green covering nearly every square inch of the place, posters of the Emerald Isle everywhere and Guinness flowing freely.

LOST KANGAROO PUB

427 12th St W, Bradenton • 941-747-8114

www.lostkangaroo.com

A well-loved institution, the 'Roo pours a wide variety of brews from the tap right in the heart of downtown Bradenton. Free peanuts proliferate, and the shells crunch underfoot.

THE SPORTS PAGE

1319 Main St, Sarasota • 941-365-0469

www.sportspagesarasota.com

Every town needs a place to watch the game, and The Sports Page is Sarasota's. Decked out with plentiful TVs, serviceable grub, and plenty of beer on tap and in the bottle, this bar delivers.

Go Day-Tripping

ANNA MARIA ISLAND

20 miles from Sarasota

www.amichamber.org

Anna Maria Island is a bit of a drive from Sarasota's urban hub, but the voyage is well worth the chance to enjoy the island's white, sandy beaches and low-key charm. (Learn more about the island on page 41.)

Fun Fact!

Venice, Florida—just minutes south of Sarasota—bills itself as the "Shark Tooth Capital of the World."



Oh My Gauze designs are manufactured using 100% natural cotton. Our crinkled gauze is the best for the person seeking the ultimate in casual and comfortable fashions. Our gauze cotton clothing is light yet durable, very breathable, will not shrink and no ironing is necessary (*wonderful for travel*).

374 St. Armands Cir.
Sarasota, FL



888-MyGauze
(694-2893)



www.ohmygauze.com

