



Selby Gardens



North Port

Nature Abounds

IN SARASOTA COUNTY

From trails and parks to wildlife and beyond, nature is always waiting just outside in Sarasota County.

Nature Highlights

- › Celery Fields, a 300-acre park, is home to a new micro forest with six different native tree species.
- › Marie Selby Botanical Gardens has 20,000 living plants.
- › More than 230 fish species swim in Sarasota Bay.
- › Stroll 1.4 miles around The Bay Park. The walking path includes a half-mile, ADA-accessible nature trail.
- › 37,000-acre Myakka River State Park is Florida's first state park.
- › The Legacy Trail is a 18.5-mile bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly trail.



- › Osprey's Oscar Scherer State Park is one of the best places in the state to see the threatened Florida scrub-jay.
- › Hunt for seashells on Nokomis Beach, Sarasota County's first public beach.



>> NATURE ABOUNDS ALL YEAR LONG



Spring

Photograph the splendor of spring during a guided nature walk through the Lens in The Bay Park or watch the spring bird migration with Sarasota Audubon Society experts at The Celery Fields in Sarasota or Venice Area Audubon Rookery. The Butterfly Garden of Selby's Historic Spanish Point Campus in Osprey is the place to view winged beauties in flight. Root for the home team when the Atlanta Braves and Baltimore Orioles fly south for spring training at CoolToday Park and Ed Smith Stadium.



Summer

The blaze of summer days means beachfront adventures and water fun. Let the kids search for sharks' teeth at Caspersen Beach or take the dog for a stroll at Brohard Paw Park in Venice. Hear the kids shriek with delight as they cool off at the Children's Fountain at Bayfront Park in Sarasota. Also in Sarasota, get out on the water with Sarasota Bay Explorers' hands-on Sea Life Encounter Cruise, or test your skills on a rowing scull at Nathan Benderson Park Lake.



Fall

Cooler weather and fewer visitors mean quiet days along the beaches and in nature areas. Paddle beneath a canopy of mangroves with a guided kayak trip. Pedal the 22-mile picturesque Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key. Go horseback riding with Epic Equine Experiences in Myakka or spend a whole weekend outdoors when you pitch a tent in the waterfront campsites at Turtle Beach Campground on Siesta Key. On Longboat Key, play a round of tennis or a game of golf at The Resort at Longboat Key Club. Enjoy shopping at outdoor markets or along St. Armands Circle.



Winter

Balmy winter weather lends itself to plenty of outdoor adventures. Go bicycling along the scenic Legacy Trail, which passes through Oscar Scherer State Park in Osprey, or let someone else show you around the beaches and trails with a guided ride from Endless Summer Eco-Tours & Rentals. Experience a local tradition when you marvel at the jumps, flips, and tricks during a Sarasota Ski-A-Rees waterskiing show. Or marvel at the harmony of horticulture and art at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' annual Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition. The 2023 exhibit features Louis Comfort Tiffany.