

Destination.. White Sandy Beaches!



Heritage contrasts with cultural
in a destination where beach and
consciousness add still more
what Sarasota offers. Circus master
was among the first to discover
in the early 1900s, and his impact
is many-ringed. Where his circus
ed, Ringling erected an Italian pal-
Cà d'Zan, or House of John. Visi-
r this elaborate Gilded Age mansion
part of the Ringling Estates which
es an art museum specializing in the
circus museum, gardens and a state-
heater. The lovely grounds are host to
nts and festivals throughout the year.

Sarasota thrives in the afterglow
's love for things artistic. The The-
arts District encompasses theaters
imental to opera. Art galleries are
ularly along Main Street and Palm
d trendy restaurants give the town a
for fine and innovative dining. His-
rtistic pockets of antiques, gallery-
d cafés crop up at Herald Square and
istricts. Art takes to the street along
s bayfront, home to a charter fleet,
y resorts, the striking Van Wezel
Arts Hall and G. WIZ, a nearby
useum. Famed shopping center, St.
ircle on Lido Key, features some of

Sarasota and Her Islands offers the outdoor
enthusiast a wide array of activities to explore
the natural beauty of Southwest Florida's gulf
coast. From a canopy trail winding through the
branches of ancient oaks and gator gazing on
the world's largest airboat, to kayaking through
mangrove tunnels and spotting rare wildlife,
With scenic waterway trails, azure-blue waters
and pristine wildlife preserves – families, nature
aficionados and adventure lovers alike can head
to Sarasota to experience the beautiful outdoors.

For a hands-on seaside exploration, Mote
Marine Aquarium offers a chance to see and
touch life under the sea. From petting stingless
stingrays and picking up starfish to learning
about sea turtle rehabilitation and peering into
the shark habitat, animal lovers experience an
up-close look at their favorite marine wildlife
and the efforts to preserve them and their habi-
tat. Those interested in the ecology of Sarasota
Bay can take a nature cruise with Sarasota Bay
Explorers, where they have the opportunity to
look for dolphins and manatees in their natural
habitat, while observing great blue heron, great
egrets, snowy plovers and American oyster-
catchers on the shore. For more native wildlife
visit the Crowley Museum & Nature Center,
where eagles and ospreys nest, and river otters,
butterflies, gopher tortoises, armadillos and
deer can be spotted in the peaceful sanctuary.

Siesta Key Beach, which offers the world's "fin-
est, whitest sands" as judged by the Woods Hole
Oceanographic Institution, is just a short hop to
the southeast of Sarasota. Traveling further down
the coast, you will find Venice, which is home
to the Venetian Waterway Park trail. Meander-
ing for nearly 10 miles along the eastern bank
of the Intracoastal Waterway, the trail provides
a scenic venue for rollerblading, biking and hik-
ing. The newly opened Legacy Trail totals more
than 12 miles in length and runs from just south
of the City of Sarasota to Venice. The Legacy
Trail hosts 15 areas to stop, rest, learn about its
history or just enjoy the natural beauty surround-
ing the trail. Try your luck by sifting through
the sand at Caspersen Beach in Venice to collect

After exploring the many sights of S
her islands, recharge in the invigora
of the Warm Mineral Springs Reso
Port and cool down with an auth
at the Lake Side Café. Let loose at
sunset cruise with LeBarge Tropic
Enjoy live music, drinks, and dan
taking in the breathtaking views o

*For more information contact the
Convention and Visitors Bureau at 80
or visit www.sarasotafl.org, also www.naturalsarasota.com; www.ringling.o*

