

Sarasota and Bradenton Beaches Overview



Siesta Public Beach (On Siesta Key)

Siesta Public Beach is renowned for its breath-taking sunsets, easy-going waves, and gorgeous, crystal-white sand. The sand is 99% pure quartz, soft and cool on the feet. "The Best Sand Beach in America" (The Travel Channel, 2004).



Turtle Beach (On Siesta Key)

Turtle Beach has no lifeguards, but there is free parking, picnic tables, playground, showers and restrooms. It's not as popular as Siesta Beach, but the locals know that if you can't find a parking space at Siesta Beach, Turtle Beach will have plenty of space available. Boaters can launch their boats into the lagoon and park their trailers while they enjoy a day on the water.



Crescent Beach (On Siesta Key)

Noted for its crescent shape and soft white sand, extends from the northern tip of Siesta Key, south past Siesta Beach to Point of Rocks. Access to Crescent Beach, north of the public beach, is achieved via marked Beach Access areas with very limited parking or a stroll from Siesta Beach. Access to the south is accomplished by boat from the Gulf of Mexico or walking south from Siesta Beach.



Casey Key

Casey Key is a spectacularly lush barrier island 15 miles south of Sarasota. The island stretches from Siesta Key on the north to the Island of Venice at its southernmost tip, allowing boaters and fishermen easy access to the Gulf of Mexico. The majority of the island is a conservation district, established in the early 1970s by the Florida State Legislature. Casey Key has matured well, its charm being its single greatest attraction.



Manatee Beach

Manatee Beach, located at the end of Manatee Ave. is a large public beach with free parking, concessions, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables and showers. This is a favorite beach of many, so get there early on the weekend and enjoy what the locals enjoy year-round.



Lido Key

Just north of world-renowned St. Armands Circle, **Lido Shores** nestles like a singular jewel in a perfect setting. Hugging the Gulf of Mexico, Sarasota Bay and New Pass, its picturesque locale provides the perfect backdrop for dramatic, upscale homes created by Sarasota's most talented architects and designers.

Lido Key has attracted noteworthy artists, intellectuals and celebrities, as well as successful entrepreneurs. Many of the homes fronting the Gulf are being remodeled or replaced and include private deep-water dockage. Bayside homes feature shimmering views across Sarasota Bay and spectacular after-dark vistas of Sarasota's ever-changing skyline.



Longboat Key

As much an international destination as it is a beloved favorite among visitors and residents from all over the U.S., Longboat Key's span crosses through both Sarasota and Manatee Counties. This wonderful length of shoreline is the magnificently landscaped thoroughfare that runs the full length of Longboat Key. It winds past splendid homes and condominiums, lush greenways and parks, hidden driveways and side streets, yacht basins and captivating stretches of the Gulf of Mexico.

Running along both sides are the emerald-shaded fairways that comprise the two championship courses of Longboat Key Club.



Longboat Key Beach

Unless you are a resident or staying at one of the Resorts, there is very little available in the way of public beaches. There are, however, several Beach Access points with free limited parking at Longview Drive, Westfield Street, Mayfield Street and Neptune Avenue. As a result, the beach that stretches the entire length of the key is not very crowded and is a good spot for shelling. Sand dollars are plentiful at times near the

sandbars just off the shoreline.



Beer Can Island Beach

This is a favorite spot for fishing, sunning and partying. Accessible by boat at Longboat Pass, many of the locals meet friends for a day of sun and fun. It is on the very north end of Longboat Key, accessible from North Shore Rd. off Gulf of Mexico Dr., and a great place to watch the boats going through the pass.



Bradenton Beach

Bradenton Beach is located in the city of Bradenton Beach that occupies the southernmost third of Anna Maria Island. Bradenton Beach stretches from the public beaches of Coquina and Cortez, north to the city of Holmes Beach. The beach is accessible from most of the side streets off Gulf Drive.



Manasota Key

The earliest residents of Manasota Key found a new life fraught with challenges, not the least of which was getting there. From New York, it was a 22-hour train ride to its last stop in Venice. It didn't get any easier after that. What roads there were weren't even dirt lanes, but rather two-wheel ruts through dense woods.

Much has changed since then, but the essential charm of Manasota Key remains the same. Today's Key is a captivating barrier island with just a two-lane road, pristine beaches and a variety of unique residential opportunities.



Coquina Beach

Coquina Beach, located on the south end of Anna Maria Island, is one of the largest beaches in the area with all of the amenities. Plentiful free parking, lifeguards, concessions, picnic tables, playground, restrooms and showers are all available. A boat launch, bayside, is across the street from the beach.



Cortez Beach

Cortez Beach is located between 5th and 13th Streets, off Gulf Drive in Bradenton Beach just north of Coquina Beach. It has free parking, lifeguards on duty, restrooms, picnic tables, and showers for all beachgoers. Combined with Coquina Beach, this is one of the nicest beaches on Anna Maria Island stretching for miles along the Gulf of Mexico.



North Lido Beach

North Lido Beach is beyond the lifeguard stands of Lido Beach and, because of its seclusion, it was popular years ago as a "topless" beach. Not today, but it is a great beach for a stroll or a quiet day enjoying the beauty and warmth of the Gulf of Mexico.

Lido Beach has plenty of free parking, lifeguards, concessions, fenced in community pool (small fee required), picnic tables, playground, showers and restrooms.



South Lido Beach

South Lido Beach has no lifeguards, but there is free parking, picnic tables, playground, showers and restrooms. It's a popular spot for fishing in the Pass or a family picnic with a volleyball court, cooking grills and plenty of shade trees.