

MOVING TO SARASOTA, FLORIDA



RELOCATION GUIDE



DG
*Danielle Gladding
& Co. Realty*

**DANIELLE GLADDING
& ALISON KANTER**

DG & Co. Realty
941-539-8535 | 941-306-9786
DanielleGladdingCo.com



FUN FACTS ABOUT SARASOTA



Why I LOVE Sarasota, Florida

"I love the lifestyle that Sarasota, promotes! There's so much to do outdoors – boating, kayaking, fishing, paddle-boarding, golfing, tennis, and long walks on our world-class beaches – and just as much to feed the soul. Sarasota is Florida's Cultural Coast, home to the Ringling, the opera, the ballet, the symphony, and live theater – an arts scene that rivals cities ten times our size. I love that we have sunshine nearly year-round, the Gulf at our doorstep, world-class culture around every corner, and a downtown full of galleries, restaurants, and independent shops.

But the very best part is the people. One of the things I love MOST about our city is the incredible community and our fabulous small businesses. I am SO passionate about seeing all of them thrive." -Danielle

- Located in Sarasota County
- Population of 480,000 County & 57,000 City (2024 Census)
- Founded in 1902
- Cultural Coast of Florida – home to the arts, theater, and opera
- Beaches that rank among the best in the world, including Siesta Key
- Home of The Ringling Museum of Art
- Gateway to the Gulf and world-class boating and fishing
- Home to New College of Florida and State College of Florida
- Sugar-sand beaches and a subtropical climate
- Median Household Income of \$72,105 City (2024 Census)
- Hosts the Sarasota Film Festival
- A haven for boaters, anglers, and beach lovers





THINGS TO DO IN SARASOTA

St. Armands Circle.

St. Armands Circle is Sarasota's iconic open-air destination for shopping and dining. Envisioned by John Ringling in the 1920s, this lushly landscaped island of boutiques and restaurants sits just steps from Lido Key Beach

The Mall at UTC

Shop over 150 stores and restaurants at this premier destination in Lakewood Ranch, anchored by Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, and Dillard's. With upscale retail, dining, and seasonal events, it's a favorite for residents and visitors alike.

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

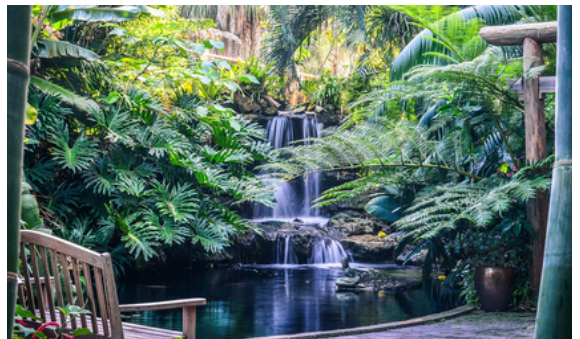
Explore the state art museum of Florida, home to a world-class collection and the historic Ca' d'Zan mansion on Sarasota Bay. With sweeping bayfront grounds and a circus museum, it's the heart of our Cultural Coast.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Wander the 15-acre downtown campus along Sarasota Bay, the only botanical garden in the world devoted to epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, and ferns. A serene bayfront escape blending nature and art, it's a beloved Sarasota treasure for outdoor lovers.

Sarasota's Renowned Beaches

Sink your toes into the sugar-white sand of Siesta Key, consistently ranked among the best beaches in the world. From swimming and shelling to sunset strolls, our Gulf beaches are a year-round draw.





THINGS TO DO IN SARASOTA



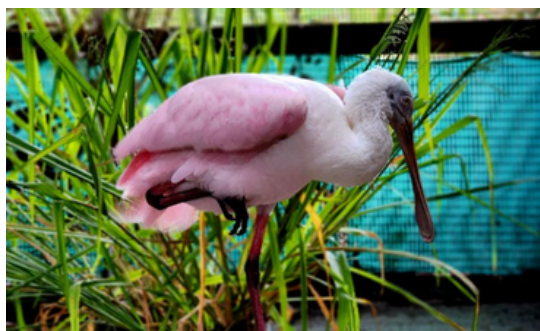
Sarasota Opera House

Experience world-class opera in this beautifully restored 1926 landmark, now celebrating its 100th anniversary. Home to Sarasota Opera – the only company in the world to have performed all of Verdi's works – it's a jewel of downtown's cultural scene.



Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium

Discover the brand-new Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA), where three floors of immersive exhibits bring the Gulf to life. Get eye-to-eye with sharks, rays, and sea turtles in a sweeping 400,000-gallon.



Save Our Seabirds

Stroll the Bird Walk at this nonprofit sanctuary on City Island, home to around 100 resident pelicans, owls, hawks, and herons. A peaceful, family-friendly stop where every visit supports the rescue and rehabilitation of Florida's wild birds – and admission is free.



Members Only Clubs

From The Field Club and The Oaks to Longboat Key Club, Sarasota's private clubs offer golf, tennis, dining, and waterfront living at its finest. It's where lasting friendships and the area's signature social scene come together.



Sports

Catch spring training with the Baltimore Orioles at Ed Smith Stadium, cheer on rowing regattas at Nathan Benderson Park, or tee off at championship golf courses. Sarasota is a year-round playground for sports and outdoor lovers alike.

RESTAURANTS LOVED BY LOCALS IN SARASOTA



SIMPLY CLICK ON A RESTAURANT NAME AND YOU'LL
BE RE-DIRECTED TO THEIR WEBSITE IMMEDIATELY!

131 Main

Cuisine: American, Steak and Seafood

Address: 6608 University Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34240

Vibe for Newcomers: A sophisticated yet comfortable Lakewood Ranch restaurant featuring premium steaks, fresh seafood and dishes prepared over a hickory wood-fired grill. Perfect for date nights, business dinners or special occasions.

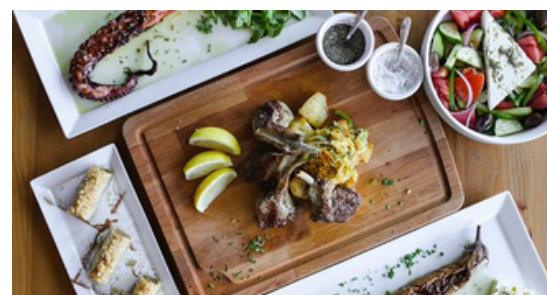


Blu Kouzina

Cuisine: Greek and Mediterranean

Address: 25 North Boulevard of the Presidents, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A bright, relaxed St. Armands restaurant that brings the feeling of a Greek island to Sarasota. The shareable dishes and welcoming atmosphere make it perfect for gathering with friends and family.



Mediterraneo

Cuisine: Contemporary Italian

Address: 1970 Main Street, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A lively downtown favorite serving authentic Italian dishes in a warm, polished atmosphere. It is perfect for a relaxed lunch, date night or dinner with friends.



Arts & Central

Cuisine: Contemporary American and Global Fusion

Address: 611 Central Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A stylish and creative destination in Sarasota's Rosemary District, featuring shareable plates, modern interpretations of familiar dishes and an artistic atmosphere made for socializing.



The Main Bar Sandwich Shop

Cuisine: Deli – Sandwiches & Salads

Address: 1944 Main St, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A downtown institution since 1958, this nostalgic deli serves its legendary "Famous Italian" sub in a space steeped in Sarasota's circus history – a beloved slice of local tradition.



DATE NIGHT RESTAURANTS IN SARASOTA



**SIMPLY CLICK ON A RESTAURANT NAME AND YOU'LL
BE RE-DIRECTED TO THEIR WEBSITE IMMEDIATELY!**



Maison Blanche

Cuisine: French Fine Dining

Address: 2605 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, FL 34228

Vibe for Newcomers: An intimate and elegant Longboat Key destination offering refined French cuisine and attentive service. It is an ideal choice for anniversaries, celebrations and memorable evenings out.



Euphemia Haye Restaurant

Cuisine: Eclectic New American and Globally Inspired Fine Dining

Address: 5540 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, FL 34228

Vibe for Newcomers: A charming Longboat Key institution with an intimate garden setting, imaginative dishes and a beloved upstairs dessert room. It is an excellent choice for a special occasion or memorable evening out.



Pietro's Italian Restaurant and Wine Bar

Cuisine: Authentic & Wine Bar

Address: 3809 S Tuttle Ave, Sarasota, FL 34239

Vibe for Newcomers: An intimate, family-owned spot for authentic Italian cuisine and fine wines, where chef-owner Pietro makes every guest feel like part of the famiglia.



Duval's

Cuisine: Seafood and American

Address: 1435 Main Street, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A welcoming downtown favorite known for fresh local seafood, creative cocktails and polished service. It is a great introduction to Sarasota's lively Main Street dining scene.



Ringside

Cuisine: Modern American and Coastal Seafood

Address: 233 Benjamin Franklin Dr, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A lively, circus-inspired dining experience near Lido Beach and St. Armands Circle. Expect creative cocktails, fresh Gulf seafood and playful décor celebrating Sarasota's circus history.



MORE AMAZING DINING IN SARASOTA

Hanami Sushi, Cocktails & Lounge

Cuisine: Japanese — Sushi, Hibachi & Cocktails

Address: 1525 Fourth St, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A must-visit for newcomers, this lushly designed Rosemary District hotspot pairs fresh sushi and hibachi with craft cocktails in a historic, beautifully restored setting.



Antoine's Restaurant

Cuisine: French & European — Fine Seafood **DiningAddress:**

1100 N Tuttle Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237

Vibe for Newcomers: Perfect for a special evening out, this cozy, sophisticated spot serves elegant continental cuisine — everything made in house, from the bread to the famous mussels and desserts.



Rosemary And Thyme

Cuisine: American Bistro — Eclectic & Contemporary

Address: 511 N Orange Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: Great for a relaxed dinner in the heart of the Rosemary District, this bistro fuses American flavors from across the country with a warm, welcoming atmosphere.



Comida

Cuisine: Latin American-Inspired Cuisine

Address: 1534 State Street, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: A vibrant downtown restaurant offering bold flavors, handcrafted cocktails and a warm, modern setting. It is a fun choice for dinner with friends, date night or an evening exploring downtown Sarasota.



The Reserve by Chef Antonio

Cuisine: Italian & Southern European

Address: 1322 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Vibe for Newcomers: An intimate hidden gem set in the historic former Ringling family home, where Chef Antonio blends authentic Italian tradition with a contemporary American twist — perfect for a memorable dinner.





RELOCATION TIPS FOR MOVING TO SARASOTA

Real Estate Basics: Buying or Renting in Sarasota

Median single-family home price: ~\$457,000 (down about 7% year-over-year as the market rebalances toward buyers). Homes typically go under contract in around 54 days, with condos closer to 100. Most residents own rather than rent.

Top 5 most populated cities:

Jacksonville (~1,010,000), Miami (~487,000), Tampa (~415,000), Orlando (~335,000), St. Petersburg (~267,000). Sarasota sits on the Gulf Coast, about an hour south of Tampa. Tip: Work with a local agent who knows the barrier islands—Longboat Key, Siesta Key, and Bird Key each have their own rhythm.

Insider note: Ask about flood zones and insurance early—coastal Florida has its own rules.

Real Estate Process: Steps to Settle In

Get pre-approved—sellers expect it. 2. Team up with a local Sarasota agent (we've got you!). 3. Understand HOA and condo docs before you commit. 4. File your Homestead Exemption—it saves you thousands. Tip: The "Save Our Homes" cap limits annual assessment increases to 3%, a real perk for primary residents. Bonus: Factor insurance into your budget—it's a bigger line item here than up north.

Real Estate Perks: Why Florida Stands Out

No state income tax means more of your money stays yours—on salary, pensions, Social Security, and investment income alike. Florida's effective property tax rate runs about 0.78%, below the national average. No estate or inheritance tax, either. Tip: The Homestead Exemption can knock up to \$50,000 off your primary home's taxable value—ask us how to file! Bonus: Your patio and pool get used all year here.

Living the Sarasota Life: Beyond the House

Winters are mild and sunny (60s–70s°F), while summers are warm and humid (upper 80s–low 90s) with afternoon showers. Beach, boat, golf, or bike—it's outdoor living nearly every day. Tip: June through November is hurricane season, so keep an eye on the forecast and know your evacuation zone. Bonus: Sunsets over the Gulf never get old—Siesta Key's are legendary.

Community & Culture: Fitting In

Sarasota blends laid-back beach town with genuine cultural depth. From gallery walks and opera nights to farmers markets and St. Armands Circle strolls, there's always something bringing people together. Downtown buzzes; the barrier islands stay serene. Tip: Join a club or civic group—it's the fastest way to meet neighbors. Bonus: Say hello—Gulf Coast warmth is real.

Practical Tips: Surviving the Move

Long-distance moving runs roughly \$3,500–\$7,000+ depending on distance. Sarasota's economy leans on healthcare, tourism, real estate, and the arts. Tip: Book movers early—snowbird season (fall through spring) spikes demand and prices. Bonus: Summer heat and humidity are real—stay hydrated and embrace the AC!

Wrap-Up: Your Florida Adventure Starts Now

From downtown's cultural buzz to the quiet luxury of Longboat Key, Sarasota's got it all. Reach out to us—we'll find your dream home! Fun fact: Sarasota is known as Florida's Cultural Coast, home to the Ringling, the opera, and the ballet. Come for the beaches, stay for the lifestyle—this is home.

REAL CONTENT FROM SARASOTA



WATCH THESE VIDEOS TO GET A FEEL FOR LIFE IN SARASOTA!
SIMPLY CLICK ON THE VIDEO YOU WANT TO SEE AND YOU'LL
BE RE-DIRECTED IMMEDIATELY!



YOUR RESOURCE FOR ALL THINGS SARASOTA

Alison Kanter

Luxury Property Specialist

941-306-9786

AlisonKanterSRQ@gmail.com

www.daniellegladdingco.com



Danielle Gladding

Broker/ Owner

941-539-8535

DanielleGladdingSRQ@gmail.com

Sarasota and Longboat Key have been our home for decades.



As a mother-daughter team, we bring two generations of local knowledge to everything we do.

Danielle has called Sarasota home since 1976 and has been a licensed broker since 1987; Alison was born and raised here and returned home after earning her MBA to build this team alongside her mom.

We love everything about this area and the residents who make it so special. It would be an honor to introduce you to the communities we love so dearly!

We expertly deliver trusted real estate guidance to buyers relocating from across the country and across the state.

Whether it's your first home or your forever home, we help you find the right neighborhood, the right home, and the right fit for your lifestyle and budget.

We pair professional expertise with authentic storytelling that inspires confidence and connection. If you have any questions, from neighborhoods to restaurants – we're here for you! Don't hesitate to reach out anytime!



WELCOME TO SARASOTA!