

Florida Roll'n Gators!

When: January 22 – January 25, 2026

Where: Sarasota County Fairgrounds
3000 Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34237
941-365-0818

Thursday, January 22:

1:00p-5:00p **Check In** with Florida Roll'n Gators Host (see check-in guidance below)

5:00p **Happy Hour** – Snacks provided by hosts. BYOB

6:00p **Light Dinner** – Bring your own utensils, plates, and beverages.

7:00p **Games** – In the activity room.

Friday, January 23

11:00a-1:00p **Bob's Train – Lunch and some Sarasota Circus History**

(<https://www.bobstrain.com/>)

Directions: While on Fruitville Rd, turn North on to School Ave. Follow the bend West as School turns into 3rd St. Take the first right. Continue into the property and Bob's Train will be on your left. If lost, call (941) 321-5643.

1:00p-5:00 p **Explore Sarasota** – There is a lot to see in Sarasota. See below.

5:00p **Dinner at Gecko's Grill & Pub, 1900 Hillview St, Sarasota, FL 34239**
Carpool if you can.

7:00p **Games** – In the activity room.

Saturday, January 24:

- 10a-11a Florida Roll'n Gators Business Meeting
- 11a- 5p **Explore Sarasota** – There is a lot to see in Sarasota. See below.
- 6:00p **Pot Luck Dinner** – Bring your own plates, silverware and drinks.
- 7:00p **Games** – in the activity room

Sunday January 25:

- 8:30-9:30 **Continental Breakfast by Hosts** – Meet at the Host site for goodbyes and breakfast goodies. Bring your own coffee or tea.

For rally attendees who would like to stay in Sarasota for an extra night, the fairgrounds will allow us to stay through Monday at 10:00 am. **Please include this extra night in your registration site fees.**

Monday January 26:

- 10:00a Checkout time for those who have elected to stay an extra night.

For Questions or Information, call or email the Hosts:

Dan & Mary McWhertor
954-599-3347 954-599-3377
dan.mcwhertor@gmail.com

Note: The fairgrounds is hosting two events during our stay. These may or may not interest you.
Mr. Swindles Traveling Peculiarium (<https://www.mrswindles.com>) Shows at 4 and 7 - \$76
Loving Cats Worldwide®Catstravaganza ([Loving Cats Worldwide Sarasota](#)) 10-4 - \$20

Things To Do – Sarasota Florida

Best Museum: The Ringling (<https://www.ringling.org/>) – John and Mable Ringlings' 56 room winter home Ca' d'Zan, Art Museum, Circus Museum and Gardens. This may be something you want to save for Saturday, unless you are already a fan and just want a refresher. Admission is \$30 or \$45 so make sure you have enough time to enjoy.

Best Farmers Market: Detwiler's Farm Market

<https://detwilermarket.com/> (Clark Rd or Palmer Blvd)

Best Desserts: Yoder's Restaurant & Amish Village

<https://www.yodersrestaurant.com/>

Best Amish Buffet: The Der Dutchman

<https://dhgroup.com/restaurants/der-dutchman-sarasota-fl/>

Best Nature Trail: Myakka River State Park

Myakka is home to 40 miles of trails that will take you through a wide range of habitats and expose you to native birds and deer and a healthy population of American alligators, among other critters. **While there, be sure to take a side quest to the park's canopy walk.** A stroll through the canopy provides a unique opportunity to be up close and personal with the park's sprawling trees and the epiphytes that grow on them. *13208 State Road 72, Sarasota, (941) 361-6511, floridastateparks.org*

Check out more of the "Best" here: [Best Of Sarasota 2025 Winners](#)

Below are some more finds from [Things To Do In Sarasota Florida](#)

St Armands Circle (<https://www.sarasotafl.gov/Our-City/St-Armands-Circle>)

John and Mabel Ringlings' vision as a premier destination for arts, dining, shopping, and recreation. With over 130 stores and restaurants located within walking distance of each other on the Circle, St. Armands has retained its exclusive Old-World charm since opening to the world.

Sarasota Jungle Gardens (<https://sarasotajunglegardens.com/>)

Marie Shelby Botanical Gardens (<https://selby.org/>)

Step into a tropical paradise at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. This 15-acre oasis on Sarasota Bay is a feast for the senses, with winding paths that lead you through a stunning array of native and exotic plants. The gardens are renowned for their world-class orchid collection - keep an eye out for these delicate beauties clinging to tree branches throughout the property. The real magic happens when you reach the edge of the property, where you're treated to breathtaking views of Sarasota Bay. It's the perfect spot for a moment of zen amidst the lush greenery.

1534 Mound St, Sarasota, FL Daily 10-5 Admission \$25:

Sarasota Farmers Market (<https://sarasotafarmersmarket.org>)

This downtown market operates every Saturday, 52 weeks a year, rain or shine. Along North Lemon Avenue, Sarasota, (941) 225-9256 – (Open 7-1)

Towles Court Artist Colony (<https://towlescourt.com/>)

Tucked away just a few blocks from downtown Sarasota, Towles Court Artist Colony feels like a secret garden of creativity. This charming neighborhood of 1920s bungalows has been transformed into a vibrant community of artists' studios, galleries, and cafes. As you stroll along the brick pathways, you'll see artists at work in their studios, their doors open to curious visitors. The colorful facades of the buildings are works of art in themselves, adorned with murals and sculptures. It's a place where you can chat with local artists, pick up a unique souvenir, or simply soak in the bohemian atmosphere.

Adams Ln & Morrill St, Sarasota, FL Tues-Sat 11-4 Admission Free

Siesta Key Beach

If there's one place in Sarasota you absolutely can't miss, it's Siesta Key Beach. This stretch of shoreline isn't just beautiful - it's consistently ranked among the best beaches in the world. What makes it so special? It's all about the sand. The sand here is 99% pure quartz, giving it a powder-soft texture and a brilliant white color that stays cool even on the hottest days.

948 Beach Rd, Siesta Key, FL Open 24/7 Parking fees may apply

Insider tip: Visit early in the morning to enjoy the beach at its most serene and to secure a good parking spot.

Big Cat Habitat (<https://bigcathabitat.org/>)

Ever wondered what it's like to stand just feet away from a Bengal tiger? At Big Cat Habitat, you can do just that - safely, of course. This animal sanctuary is home to an impressive array of rescued big cats, including lions, tigers, and ligers (yes, that's a real thing). But it's not just about cats - you'll also find bears, primates, and a variety of birds.

7101 Palmer Blvd, Sarasota, FL Wed-Sun 12-4 Admission: \$25

Insider tip: Don't miss the opportunity to feed the bears - it's an experience you won't forget!

Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsy (<https://whimsymuseum.org/>)

Marietta Museum is dedicated to raising the importance of positive and whimsical art. The museum exhibits a diverse collection of quality art, from classic to lighthearted and fun.

Enjoy paintings, sculptures, and mixed media from more than 250 living artists.

2121 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL Thurs-Sat 1-4 Admission \$20

See also: <https://www.mustdo.com/articles/marietta-museum-of-art-and-whimsy-offers-an-amusing-side-to-art/>

Check-In Guidance

The fairgrounds is located just south of Fruitville Road in Sarasota, Florida. If you are approaching from the east (I-75), turn left at Brink Ave, then left on Ringling Blvd then right on South Pompano Ave. If you are approaching from the west, go past Brink Ave and turn right on South Pompano Ave. The gate into the fairgrounds on Brink Ave will be closed. Enter the fairgrounds at the southeast gate on South Pompano Ave. Follow the road to the front of the fairgrounds where the hosts will direct you to your site. Think of it like arriving at an SEA Rally in Lakeland, just on a much smaller scale. Look for the Florida Roll'n Gators flag. The two red boxes below show where we will be parking. The building to the left of the yellow arrow is the activity center.

