



Osprey



TAMIAMI TRAIL



Venice

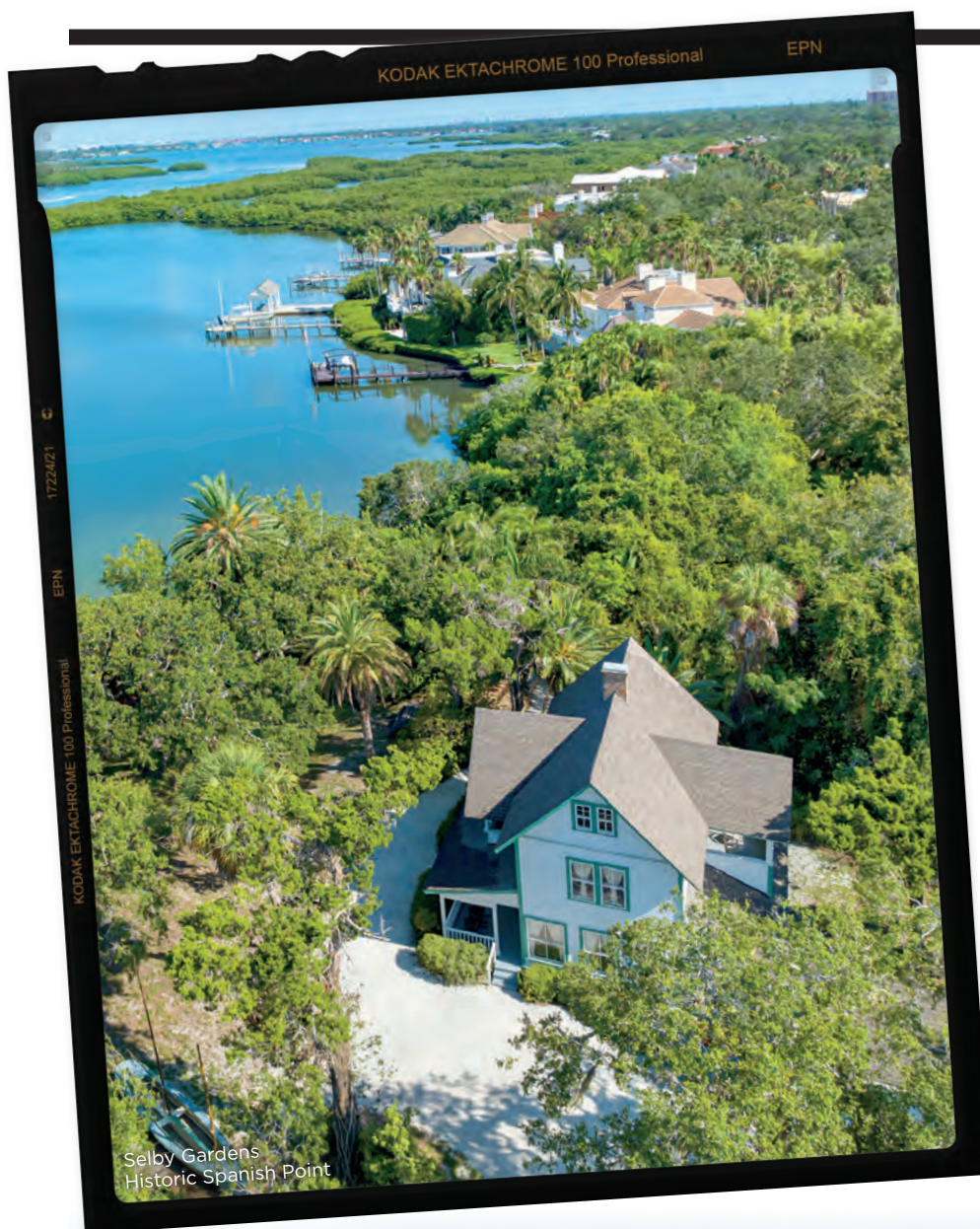


Traveling **THE TRAIL**

18 Miles of Fun & Unique Things to See & Do

Article Provided by Charmaine Tincher, Owner/Publisher, Venice City Lifestyle Magazine & Venice Area Chamber Member, written by Emily Leinfuss

A journey down the iconic Tamiami Trail reveals a vibrant tapestry of experiences. From Laurel through Osprey, Nokomis, Venice and further south, the route not only showcases our area's natural beauty and diverse attractions, but it also exemplifies the close-knit community spirit that thrives here. The name Tamiami Trail comes from the fact that this road was the main route connecting Tampa to Miami. Whether you're a local or a visitor, this scenic drive offers a year-round invitation to discover the charm, warmth, and countless treasures along the way.



1 Selby Gardens Historic Spanish Point

The past is present at **Selby Gardens Historic Spanish Point**. Discover a vibrant tapestry of archaeological splendor, botanical beauty, and 5,000 years of Floridian history for your exploration. selby.org

2 Bay Preserve at Osprey

Bay Preserve at Osprey is a lively hub of nature, sport, and learning operated by the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. From bocce to birdwatching, and festivals to fishing, it's a natural oasis for recreation and relaxation. conservationfoundation.com/bay-preserve-at-osprey

3 Oscar Scherer State Park

Immerse yourself in the 1,300-acres of natural Floridian wonderland that is **Oscar Scherer State Park**. Encounter elusive Florida scrub-jays, navigate 15 miles of trails, and indulge in recreational activities – from canoeing to camping, and more. floridastateparks.org

4 Tervis Osprey Store

You don't want to miss visiting the **Tervis Osprey Store** – the original factory store and outlet for the iconic drinkware brand. Personalize your tumblers and discover the magic of Tervis: keeping drinks hot or cold for 70 years. tervis.com/osprey



5 Osprey Fishing Pier

Generations of local families have shared the joys of fishing at the **Osprey Fishing Pier**. This ADA accessible landmark boasts optimal sunset viewing and is a perfect spot for angling and kayaking. scgov.net

6 Blackburn Point Historic Swing Bridge

NOW'S THE TIME FOR YOUR FIRST DETOUR! Turn west on Blackburn Point Road to go over the one-lane **Blackburn Point Historic Swing Bridge**. Built in 1926, it's still manually operated by a bridge tender.

7 Casey Key or Tamiami Trail

You can go this-a-way: Keep driving on Blackburn Point Road for a four-mile scenic drive through **Casey Key**. Or, better yet, you can turn back and head south towards **Nokomis** to continue your **Tamiami Trail** adventure.


8 Total Impact Guns + Range

More than just a robust retail gun store for firearms and accessories, **Total Impact Guns + Range** offers a state-of-the-art indoor gun range, silencer kiosks, concealed carry classes, expert gunsmith services and helpful staff. totalimpactguns.com

9 Patriots Park

Patriots Park is where a 2-ton steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center stands as a symbol of 9/11 remembrance. It's a powerful memorial where Venice honors fallen heroes – on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and every day. venicegov.com





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Historic Venice Train Depot



10 Historic Venice Train Depot

FOR YOUR SECOND DETOUR, TURN ONTO THE VENICE BYPASS FOR SOME NOT TO BE MISSED ATTRACTIONS. The 1927 **Historic Venice Train Depot** boasts a restored caboose, a Ringling Bros' Circus sleeping car, a Gunther Gebel-Williams statue, and rich local history through tours and exhibits. veniceareahistoricalociety.org

11 Venice Theatre

The award-winning **Venice Theatre** isn't letting 2022 Hurricane Ian damage get in the way of its 2023-24 season. A diverse selection of shows will open at the 130-seat Raymond Center and the 90-seat black box Pinkerton Theatre. venicestage.com



Ringling Bros' Circus sleeping car!

12 Centennial Park

Located in the heart of downtown Venice, **Centennial Park** is home to the 'splashy' Children's Interactive Fountain and an inviting gazebo that hosts year-round concerts and other events. Walkways and picnic areas also abound. venicegov.com/visiting/fountain

13 Shark Sculpture Hunt

Centennial Park has you poised to embark on a fun and educational **Shark Sculpture Hunt**. Search for and discover 10 bronze pieces depicting native and prehistoric sharks through clues you'll find online. visitvenicefl.org/sharks

Centennial Park

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Venetian Waterway

14 East Blalock Park

Discover a campus of culture at **East Blalock Park**. Enjoy myriad activities at the **Venice Community Center** (scgov.net), participate artfully with the **Venice Art Center** (veniceartcenter.com), visit the **Venice Library** (scgov.net) and **Venice Museum** (venicemuseum.org), the latter of which is located within the historic Triangle Inn.

15 Venice Institute for Performing Arts

The **Venice Institute for Performing Arts** spearheads top-tier entertainment and educational initiatives for children and adults, while it oversees 200+ annual events at the Venice Performing Arts Center. That's where you can also hear the 48-bell Andrew W. Crawford Carillon. veniceperformingartscenter.com



Come take a selfie with the megalodon tooth when you visit the Chamber!

16 Your Venice Chamber of Commerce

The Venice Area Chamber of Commerce has been promoting local business growth and success since 1925. It also serves as the area's visitor center, in partnership with Visit Sarasota County, and has information about local attractions, businesses, and events. Visit venicechamber.com for hours of operation and to learn more.

17 Venetian Waterway Park

Paralleling along the Intracoastal Waterway, **Venetian Waterway Park** boasts a scenic multi-use trail that connects to the Legacy Trail (see page 32 for the Legacy Trail map) while it showcases Venice's natural beauty and wildlife. venicegov.com

18 Venice Attractions

DETOUR #3 IS NEXT, AND WELL WORTH THE WHILE!

Follow Avenida Del Circo road to Venice Area Beaches. Check out dog-friendly **Brohard Paw Park** and **Casperson Beach** – famous for shark teeth hunting (see story page 14). The **Venice Airport and Festival Grounds**, **Lake Venice Golf Club**, and the **Venice Fishing Pier** are all down this way! venicegov.com



Tito Gaona's Flying Trapeze Academy

19 Tito Gaona's Flying Trapeze Academy

Experience the thrill of trapeze at **Tito Gaona's Flying Trapeze Academy**. Under the expert guidance of the circus legend, dive into an adrenaline-filled adventure, tailored safely for all ages. titogaona.com

HEAD BACK ON US BUSINESS 4: THERE'S MORE OF VENICE'S AMAZING ATTRACTIONS TO COME!

Paw Park at Brohard Beach

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21 Shamrock Park and Nature Center

Visitors to **Shamrock Park and Nature Center** will enjoy pristine Florida scrub habitat while they look for Florida Scrub Jays and gopher tortoises. There are also trails for biking and birding. scgov.net



22 Spotlight Theatres

With its \$1 million upgrade, **Spotlight Theatres Luxury Stadium 11** now delivers state-of-the-art cinematic experiences that include heated recliners, expanded menus, and affordable, quality entertainment. spotlighttheatres.com

23 Venice Audubon Rookery Park

Venice Audubon Rookery Park is an urban oasis abounding with diverse bird species, offering unparalleled views for enthusiasts, especially at dawn and dusk. Nearby, explore the Audubon Center's educational displays and butterfly gardens.

veniceaudubon.org/rookery

24 Cook's Sportland

Cook's Sportland has offered area sports enthusiasts a vast range of gear for 50+ years. That's fishing, hunting, camping essentials, archery supplies (and a 7-lane archery range), and attire, plus shuffleboard and pickleball equipment. cookssportlandinc.com

25 Venice East Golf Course

Established in 1961, **Venice East Golf Course** boasts scenic views, challenging play, and meticulous fairways. Offering memberships, lessons, and a clubhouse, it remains a top choice for avid golfers and visitors alike. veniceeastgc.com

26 North Port/Wellen Park

Fun Fact: now, you are entering Wellen Park, where the incorporated City of North Port and Venice overlap.



Audubon Rookery Park

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27 Downtown Wellen
Downtown Wellen is a lively hub of dining, entertainment, shopping and more. Here, unique local boutiques, serene green spaces, and a sense of community converge, offering relaxation and connection for all. wellenpark.com/downtown-wellen

28 CoolToday Park
Atlanta Braves' Spring Training venue, CoolToday Park, provides entertainment and community events including concerts, happy hours, movie nights, wine tastings, and trivia contests. Its **Tomahawk Tiki Bar & Grill** serves up food and drinks year-round! cooltodaypark.com



29 Senator Bob Johnson's Landing
Senator Bob Johnson's Landing, a 7.1-acre natural haven in Sarasota County, provides a serene riverside experience that's ideal for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and birding. Features include trails, grills, rinse station, shelter, and accessibility for all. scgov.net

30 State College of Florida – Venice
State College of Florida – Venice is a 100-acre educational oasis offering credit classes, adult learning, and relaxation. With Lake Jervey's scenic trails, botanical garden, and an open campus policy, it's a favorite for both learning and leisurely strolls. scf.edu/AboutSCF/Locations/SCFVenice

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FUSION International Flavor Restaurant and FUSION Live is new to Venice and a unique establishment that offers a delightful experience for all its patrons. The restaurant serves international cuisine that is sure to tantalize your taste buds.

The bar is known for its live bands that play a variety of music genres, making it an ideal spot for music lovers.

The name FUSION is aptly chosen as it represents the restaurant's philosophy of bringing together different flavors and cultures. The restaurant's menu features a range of dishes from around the world. The restaurant also offers vegetarian, vegan & gluten-free options. The bar at FUSION is a great place to unwind with friends or family. The live bands that perform here are known for their energetic performances eclectic music selection from Country music to Reggae, Rock and Roll, Salsa, R&B and Soul or modern Music with popular DJs.

The bar also has an extensive selection of drinks, including liqueur, cocktails and beer and wine from all around the world. FUSION International Flavor Restaurant is a great place to visit if you're looking for a unique dining experience. The restaurant's international cuisine and the FUSION Live bar's live music make it an ideal spot for people of all ages. Whether you're looking to enjoy a romantic dinner or a night out with friends, FUSION has something for everyone.

FUSION-VENICE.com

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