

Anna Maria Island and Sarasota Area Beaches & Wedding Venues

The following are the beaches and other venues we recommend for your Florida wedding plans!

Where a point of contact is provided, please go through this person if you need more information, and please let them know you heard about them through Simple Weddings!

Anna Maria Island

Anna Maria Island is largely residential and many areas have limited beach access and limited parking. If you are staying at one of the many condos along the beach, it is usually possible to have your wedding on the beach nearby. Otherwise, our favorite spots for beach and outdoor weddings include:

The Waterfront Restaurant – Located on the north end of Anna Maria Island near [Bayfront Park](#), The Waterfront Restaurant is one of our favorite locations for both weddings and receptions. They have a beautiful outdoor courtyard with a retractable awning (great in case it rains!), and are located across the street from a scenic white sand beach on Tampa Bay. The adjacent Anna Maria City Pier is a beautiful spot to take pictures, as are the large rocks along the beach. The beach here faces northeast, so the sun sets on the other side of the island, but the Gulf Beaches (and sunsets) are only about a quarter mile away, so it's possible for the Bride & Groom to jump in the car, drive two minutes, and get a few sunset pictures before dinner!

www.thewaterfrontrestaurant.net

[Point of Contact: Bill or Ryan, info@thewaterfrontrestaurant.net, (941) 778-1515]

The Tropic Isle Inn – The Tropic Isle Inn is nestled in a quaint residential area near the middle of Anna Maria Island, within steps of their own private white-sand beach on the Gulf of Mexico. Laze your day away by their lush tropical gardens and their inviting pool which is heated during the cooler winter months. Their poolside gazebo is the perfect backup plan in case of a rainy day. They are a family and pet oriented resort that allows you to shed the worries of the world and enjoy your own little piece of paradise, and we think they are perfect for your beach wedding! Minimum stay and site fee may be required for wedding parties.

www.tropicisleinn.com

[Point of Contact: Stacie, info@tropicisleinn.com, (800) 883-4092]

Coquina Beach Park – Located at the southern tip of Anna Maria Island (just before you cross the bridge to Longboat Key), Coquina Beach Park is a perfect option for those who want a simple beach wedding in a beautiful natural setting. The park boasts plenty of free parking, basic restrooms, concessions, pavilions, picnic tables, and of course beautiful white sand beaches!

Longboat Key

Public beach access and parking are extremely limited on Longboat Key, and unless you are staying at one of the many upscale condos on the island (who we are happy to work with), there really isn't a suitable location for a beach wedding.

Lido Key (Sarasota)

North Lido Beach – Located just steps from the elegance of St Armand's Circle (an upscale shopping and dining district), [North Lido Beach](#) is a gorgeous expanse of sugar white sand. Perfect for a beach wedding!

Siesta Key (Sarasota)

Siesta Public Beach – [Siesta Public Beach](#) is a gorgeous stretch of white sand beach located on the northern half of Siesta Key. While there is parking available, this area can get quite crowded at times. Otherwise, much like Longboat Key, public beach access and parking are limited on Siesta Key.

Florida's Beaches – This unique guidebook is all about Florida's Beaches from Tampa Bay to Naples, and nothing else. By David McRee, Florida's infamous 'Beach Hunter', it's the perfect companion to your other travel books. Available for download or in hard copy from <http://www.beachhunter.net/book.htm>