



The Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club  
welcomes you to the  
**Sarasota/Lido Key 5 & 10K Walk**  
An AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event #Y1509



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**Course description:** The rated 1A (easy) walk route guides participants from a sparkling public beach into the shopping and dining district of St. Armands Circle. From there, 5K walkers will enjoy a look at luxurious homes while the 10K participants head to Ken Thompson Park and the Mote Marine Aquarium. Both routes take walkers back to the beach through charming neighborhoods.



Photo by Michelle Devlin



Photo by Michelle Devlin

Eligible AVA Special Programs	
PROGRAM	STEP
<b>Par for the Course</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Walking the United States (Florida)</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Walking the USA A - Z (S)</b>	<b>All</b>

**Online Start Box Finish Table:** Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

**THIS PAGE IS FOR THE 5K WALKERS.**

**SEE PAGE 4 FOR THE 10K ROUTE.**

**Driving Directions to Walk Start Point Start.**

**Location:** Lido Key Beach, 400 Ben Franklin Dr., Sarasota FL. Start walk from the concession stand.

**Directions:** From I-75 N/S: Take Exit 210 to 780W/ Fruitville Rd., to Sarasota. Continue 6 miles on 780W/ Fruitville Rd. to US 41/Tamiami Trail. Left to Gulf Stream. Right to cross John Ringling Causeway for 3 mi. Left on Ben Franklin Dr. to beach parking lot on right.

These walk directions & maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited

In Case of Emergency: Dial 911  
For event related assistance:  
Call Alice Lawrence at 727-542-9742



**5K Walk Directions & Points of Interest (POI)**

*If you have a pet or do not like to walk on the beach, use alternate directions a-e to begin walk.*

**ALTERNATE WALK START DIRECTIONS (NO BEACH)**

- With your back to concession stand, **LEFT** into pavilion, passing LADIES Room on right.
- Go down ramp to curved driveway.
- Curve **LEFT** and follow drive toward sidewalk that parallels beach (Ben Franklin Dr.—no sign)
- LEFT**, parking lot and beach on left, to crosswalk just before curve away from beach at John Ringling Blvd.—NO SIGN.
- Go to step 5 of below directions.

**WALK DIRECTIONS (ON BEACH).**

- With back to concession stand, look at Gulf. Walk at an angle, bearing **RIGHT** to wooden walkway and “Beach Access.”
- At beach, **RIGHT** onto sand, passing life guard tower, water on left.
- Continue on beach, passing three more towers. About 40 feet after third tower, **RIGHT**, then angle **LEFT**, exiting beach at Beach Zone 1 sign. Go over walkway, staying **RIGHT**, to street. (Ben Franklin Dr.—NO SIGN.
- At Ben Franklin Dr., **LEFT**, to crosswalk just before curve away from beach at John Ringling Blvd.—NO SIGN.
- At crosswalk, across Ben Franklin Dr. to median’s sidewalk.
- At median sidewalk, **LEFT** to Polk Dr.

- CROSS** Polk Dr., continuing in median for one more block to a statue at S Washington Dr. (**Note: waterways on both sides of road. You are on a causeway connecting Lido Key and St. Armand’s Key.**)
- At statue, **RIGHT** and carefully cross Ringling Blvd.
- After crossing, immediate **LEFT**, crossing S Washington Dr.
- Continue along **RIGHT** side of Ringling Blvd. towards Harding/St. Armands Circle.
- At Circle, bear **RIGHT** towards s Boulevard of the Presidents. (You’ll go around much of outside loop of Circle in counterclockwise direction, Circle on left).
- At Boulevard of the Presidents., **CROSS** in crosswalk, then curve **LEFT** to John Ringling Blvd.
- At John Ringling Blvd., **CROSS** in crosswalk through circle of statues, then bear **LEFT**, Columbia Restaurant on right. (Do not continue around Circle).
- With Columbia Restaurant on right, walk away from Circle along **RIGHT** side of Boulevard of the Presidents.
- Continue ahead to bridge, crossing Madison, N Adams, & N Washington Drives. Go ½ on bridge and stop. (**Note: Boulevard of the Presidents is now Ringling Pkwy. The bridge connects St. Armand’s Key with City Island. Note view on right of Sarasota Bay & city of Sarasota.**)
- RETRACE** steps to Washington; **CROSS** and **LEFT**.
- Walk on **RIGHT** side of N Washington Dr., crossing Madison Dr., and continue towards (not to) intersection with John Ringling Blvd. **Note: if restrooms are needed, RIGHT at Madison to parking garage at intersection with Adams; restrooms are on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of garage. Return to Washington via Madison and RIGHT towards (not to) intersection with Ringling.**
- Just **before** intersection, on **RIGHT**, is St. Armand’s Meditation Garden. **ENTER** Garden, following either path diagonally across garden to small wooden walkway leading to John Ringling Blvd.
- At John Ringling Blvd., **RIGHT**, crossing N Adams Dr., heading towards St. Armands Circle, to a crosswalk. (**At circle, look across street at center of circle. See series of low bronze markers, each dedicated to a circus star, which form Circus Ring of Fame.**)
- LEFT** at crosswalk & use crosswalk—passing through small circular park with multiple statues—to **completely** cross John Ringling Blvd., & **LEFT** to S Washington Dr.

**OPTION: To Visit Circus Ring of Fame: LEFT & go only ½ way across Ringling Blvd. RIGHT & use crosswalk to carefully cross over to Circle Center, & look at markers & flowers. To get back on main route, retrace steps on crosswalk to center of Ringling Blvd. RIGHT & complete crossing of Ringling Blvd., then LEFT.**

- CROSS** and **RIGHT** on S. Washington Dr. to Fillmore Dr. extension. (**Note: see strangler Fig Tree wrapped around**

5K Directions continued ➡

5K Directions continued:

- palm tree on left near walls at 25 & 61 Washington Dr.).*
- 23. **CROSS** Fillmore Dr. extension, continuing until Washington intersects Blvd. of the Presidents. (Note plaque on gate at 139 Washington Dr.)
- 24. At intersection, carefully **CROSS** Boulevard of Presidents at crosswalk and **LEFT** to a bridge.
- 25. **CROSS** over bridge; bear **RIGHT**, then **LEFT** to cross Polk Dr. at crosswalk to median walkway of Boulevard of the

- Presidents.
- 26. **CONTINUE** on this first section of the median sidewalk until you cross a small wooden bridge near Grant St.
- 27. Carefully **CROSS** S Boulevard of the Presidents diagonally **RIGHT** to Grant St.
- 28. **CONTINUE** along left side of Grant St. to Ben Franklin Dr. (beach).
- 29. At Ben Franklin Dr., carefully **CROSS** at crosswalk, and go onto curved walkway back to Lido Key Beach and finish.



**THIS PAGE IS FOR THE 10K WALKERS.**

**SEE PAGE 2 FOR THE 5K ROUTE.**

**Driving Directions to Walk Start Point Start.**

**Location:** Lido Key Beach, 400 Ben Franklin Dr., Sarasota FL. Start walk from the concession stand.

**Directions:** From I-75 N/S: Take Exit 210 to 780W/Fruitville Rd., to Sarasota. Continue 6 miles on 780W/Fruitville Rd. to US 41/Tamiami Trail. Left to Gulf Stream. Right to cross John Ringling Causeway for 3 mi. Left on Ben Franklin Dr. to beach parking lot on right.

**In Case of Emergency: Dial 911**  
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**10Km Walk Directions & Points of Interest (POI)**

**If you have a pet or do not like to walk on the beach, use alternate directions a-d to begin walk.**

**ALTERNATE WALK START DIRECTIONS (NO BEACH)**

- With your back to concession stand, **LEFT** into pavilion, passing LADIES Room on right.
- Go down ramp to curved driveway.
- Curve **LEFT** and follow drive toward sidewalk that parallels beach (Ben Franklin Dr.—no sign).
- LEFT** on sidewalk to crosswalk just before curve at John Ringling Blvd.—NO SIGN.
- Go to step 5 of regular walk directions.

**REGULAR WALK DIRECTIONS (ON BEACH).**

- With back to concession stand, look at water. Walk at an angle, bearing **RIGHT**, to wooden walkway and “Beach Access.”
- At beach, **RIGHT** onto sand, passing life guard tower, water on right.
- Follow beach with Gulf on left, passing three more towers. About 40 feet after third tower, **RIGHT**, then angle **LEFT**, exiting beach at Beach Zone 1 sign. Go over walkway, staying **RIGHT**, to street. (Ben Franklin Dr.—NO SIGN).
- At Ben Franklin Dr., **LEFT**, to crosswalk just before curve at John Ringling Blvd.—NO SIGN.
- At crosswalk, carefully **CROSS** Ben Franklin Dr. to median’s sidewalk

- At median sidewalk, **LEFT** to Polk Dr.
- CROSS** Polk Dr., continuing in median for one more block to a statue at S Washington Dr. (**Note: waterways on both sides of road. You are on a causeway connecting Lido Key and St. Armand’s Key.**)
- At statue, **LEFT** and carefully **CROSS** Ringling Blvd. Immediately turn **RIGHT**, crossing N Washington Dr. Continue straight ahead on sidewalk (Ringling Blvd.).
- At traffic circle (St. Armands Circle, also known as Harding Circle) continue on sidewalk, bearing **LEFT** onto Blvd. of Presidents. (Do not cross this boulevard.) Walk away from circle on left sidewalk of N Boulevard of Presidents.
- Route will cross Madison and Arthur Drives through a small triangular park at N Washington Dr. to bridge.
- GO ONTO** bridge. **Note: Bridge connects St. Armands Key and City Island. Enjoy view on right.**
- CONTINUE** over bridge (Boulevard of Presidents’ name changes to John Ringling Parkway.), passing Morningside Dr. on left and making a big curve to right at Morningside **Place**, until traffic light at Ken Thompson Pkwy. (Do not cross this next bridge).
- At intersection of Thompson/Ringling Parkways, **PUSH BUTTON FOR CROSSING SIGN.** Carefully cross parkway with WALK sign at crosswalk; then bear **LEFT** onto sidewalk of Thompson Parkway.
- CONTINUE** on Parkway to entrance to Mote Marine Aquarium, and **RIGHT** to the front entrance.



Wikimedia Commons

- At front entrance, turn **LEFT** at crosswalk, crossing driveway and following manatees and green turtle painted to sidewalk, and looping back to Thompson Pkwy. **Note: Mote Marine is the National Center for Shark Research as well as studies in other fields such as Red Tide and Green Turtles. It is also a recovery center for injured and sick sea life.**
- RIGHT** at parkway onto sidewalk and follow to first sidewalk on right. You will pass the Mote Marine Mammal Research & Rehab Center across the parkway.
- RIGHT** at sidewalk (Boat Ramp/Rest Rooms sign, following sidewalk away from parkway, curving left to small building on right with rest rooms.

**10K directions continued ➡**

## 10K directions continued:

18. **CONTINUE** on sidewalk to first walkway on **RIGHT**.
19. **RIGHT** at walkway to enter Ken Thompson Park Preserve (watch for low branches). **NOTE: the red mangroves roots provide needed tidal salt water and are important for fish protection and removal of waste.**
20. **GO ONTO** boardwalk and follow to first "Y."
21. Bear **RIGHT** at Y to observation deck. **Note: Checkout the great view of Sarasota Bay, the Ringling Bridge and Sarasota. The purple building is Van Wezel for the Performing Arts Hall.**
22. **RETRACE** steps, bearing **RIGHT** at "Y" and continue to second "Y."
23. Bear **LEFT** at second Y. Boardwalk becomes a sidewalk at playground.
24. Circle to **RIGHT**, following sidewalk to Sarasota Bay and monument to Ken Thompson.
25. **RETRACE** last steps and turn **RIGHT** to continue on sidewalk as it curves along waterfront and parking area.
26. At Sarasota Sailing Squadron, **GO PAST** entrance and follow sidewalk as it curves **RIGHT**, along side of Sailing Squadron towards a picnic area and open walk.
27. **FOLLOW** sidewalk, water on right, as it curves back to **LEFT**, along a chain link fence toward Thompson Pkwy. and crosswalk.
28. At crosswalk, **CROSS** over to other side of parkway and **RIGHT**, following sidewalk back to traffic light at Thompson/Ringling Parkways intersection.
29. At intersection, bear **LEFT**. Follow sidewalk on left side of Ringling Pkwy. to first street on left, Bowdoin Circle (sign is crooked).
30. **LEFT** onto Bowdoin Cir, walking on left side until it intersection with Ringling Pkwy. at "The Pink House."
31. **LEFT** at Ringling Pkwy., crossing bridge to first street on left, N Washington Dr.
32. **CROSS** N Washington Dr. and immediate **LEFT**, crossing Madison Dr. towards (but not to) Ringling Blvd. Just before intersection, on right, is St. Armand's Meditation Garden.
33. **RIGHT** into Garden, following either path diagonally across garden to small wooden walkway leading to John Ringling Blvd.
34. At John Ringling Blvd., **RIGHT**, crossing N Adams Dr. and heading towards St. Armands Circle, to a crosswalk. (**Note: At circle, look across street at center of circle. See series of low bronze markers, each dedicated to a circus star, which form Circus Ring of Fame.**)
35. **LEFT** at crosswalk and use crosswalk—passing through small circular park with multiple statues—to completely

**CROSS** John Ringling Blvd. and **LEFT** to S Washington Dr.

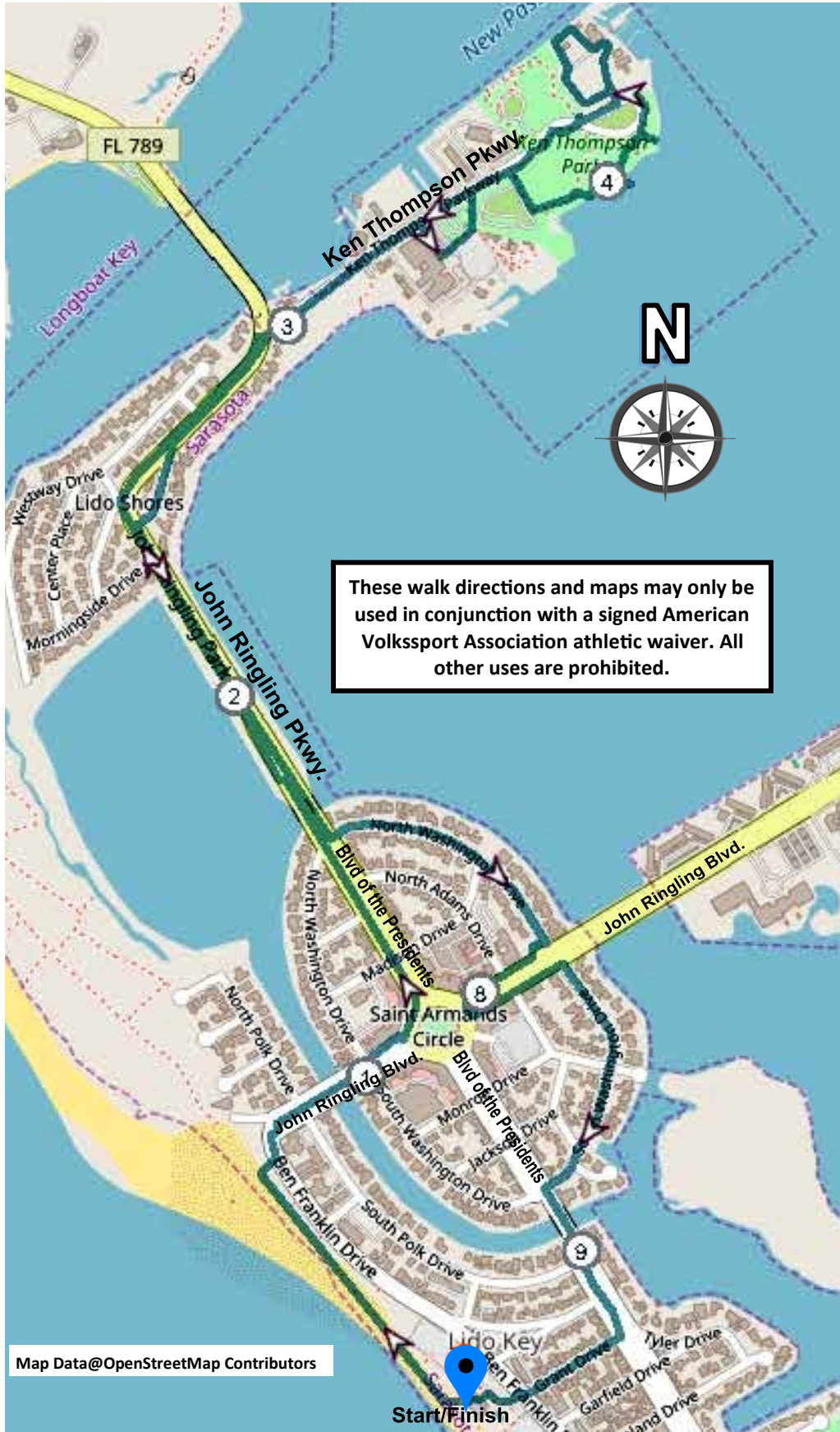
**OPTION: To Visit Circus Ring of Fame: LEFT and go only ½ way across Ringling Blvd. RIGHT & use crosswalk to carefully cross over to Circle Center, & look at markers & flowers. To get back on main route, retrace steps on crosswalk to center of Ringling Blvd. RIGHT & complete crossing of Ringling Blvd., then LEFT.**

36. **CROSS** and **RIGHT** on S. Washington Dr. to Fillmore Dr. extension. (**Note: See Strangler Fig Tree wrapped around a palm tree on left near walls at 25 & 61 Washington Dr.**)
37. **CROSS** Fillmore Dr. extension, continuing until Washington intersects Blvd. of the Presidents. (Note plaque on gate at 139 Washington Dr.)
38. At intersection, **carefully CROSS** Boulevard of the Presidents at crosswalk and **LEFT** to a bridge.
39. **CROSS** over bridge and bear **RIGHT**, then **LEFT** to cross Polk Dr. at crosswalk to median walkway of the Boulevard of the Presidents.
40. **CONTINUE** on this first section of the median sidewalk until you cross a small wooden bridge near Grant St.
41. Carefully **CROSS** Boulevard of the Presidents diagonally **RIGHT** to Grant St.
42. **CONTINUE** along left side of Grant St. to Ben Franklin Dr. (beach).
43. At Ben Franklin Dr., carefully **CROSS** at crosswalk and go onto curved walkway back to Lido Key Beach and finish.



Photo by Michelle Devlin

# 10K Route: Circled numbers are Ks walked



Map Data@OpenStreetMap Contributors