HIGHLIGHTS: Self-Guided Itinerary

This tour is perfect for first time visitors hoping to make the most of their time at The Ringling. This itinerary includes the world's largest circus model, the beautiful Bayfront Gardens, the historic Ca’ d’Zan mansion, and the Museum of Art filled with art from around the world. Approximately 4 hours.

TIBBALS LEARNING CENTER

HOWARD BROS. CIRCUS MODEL  In amazing detail, the Howard Bros. Circus Model captures the heyday of the tented circus in America. This model is the life’s work of circus historian and model builder Howard C. Tibbals, who began constructing it in 1956. The 44,000-piece model includes 152 miniature wagons, 925 animals, 67 clowns, and 7,000 seats under the big top, all on a three-quarter-inch scale.

BAYFRONT GARDENS

MABLE RINGLING’S ROSE GARDEN  Completed in 1913, this 27,000-square-foot garden was Mable Ringling’s first landscaping project. Inspired by her trips to Italy, she arranged the beds of roses in concentric circles around a focal point of a Classical tempietto, or temple-like structure. One variety of rose, developed by a member of the Museum’s staff, is named after Mable. See if you can spot it!

CA’ D’ZAN

FIRST FLOOR WALK-THROUGH  (Requires a separate ticket)  In the Venetian dialect, Ca’ d’Zan means “House of John.” The winter residence of John and Mable Ringling was completed in December 1926 at a cost of $1.5 million. Architect Dwight James Baum worked closely with Mable to model Ca’ d’Zan after the Venetian palazzos that she admired so much during her travels in Italy. The Ringlings entertained many of their rich and famous friends at this majestic bayfront palace.

MUSEUM OF ART

RUBENS GALLERIES  These galleries were specifically designed to display four paintings from the Triumph of the Eucharist series by Peter Paul Rubens. These works represent some of the most important examples of Baroque painting in America today. Rubens’s vibrant colors and dramatic compositions have made these enormous works a favorite of Museum visitors for generations.

COURTYARD  John Ringling’s Renaissance-style Museum was completed in 1930 to house his carefully assembled collection of art. The central courtyard holds an array of bronze and stone copies of famous classical, Renaissance, and Baroque sculptures. The 16-foot-tall reproduction of Michelangelo’s David has become an iconic symbol of the city of Sarasota.

CENTER FOR ASIAN ART  The 25,000-square-foot Center includes galleries dedicated to rotating installations of The Ringling’s Asian art holdings, a 125-seat lecture hall, an object and print study room, and open storage spaces to increase public access to the collections. Be sure to visit the Dr. Helga Wall-Apelt Gallery of Asian Art which houses art by contemporary Asian artists.