

ODDITIES: *Self-Guided Itinerary*

Not everything at the Museum is what it seems. Follow this itinerary to find hidden surprises and unusual treasures. From the amusing to the macabre you never know what you'll find here at The Ringling.

BAYFRONT GARDENS

DWARF GARDEN Peeking out from among various subtropical plants, a cast of comical limestone statues pose and gesture to amuse their audience. The whimsical figures are players from the commedia dell'arte, a type of improvisational theater developed in Italy in the 16th and 17th centuries. Take your time gazing at the humorous and sometimes grotesque facial expressions of each statue as you stroll along the circular path.



SCULPTURE IN THE BANYAN TREE With exposed roots that spread like tentacles, the banyan tree can quickly overtake any obstacles that block its growth. One imposing specimen has nearly swallowed an unfortunate piece of statuary. Keep your eyes open for this spooky sight but don't get too close! (hint!...it's near the Secret Garden)



TIBBALS LEARNING CENTER (SECOND FLOOR)

TOM THUMB General Tom Thumb, born Charles S. Stratton in 1838, stopped growing when he was just 25 inches tall and weighed 15 pounds. Thanks to the patronage of P.T. Barnum, he launched to international stardom when he was just four years old. As an adult Tom met the 31 inch Lavinia Warren Bump and the two married in 1863. Peek behind the red velvet curtain to see evidence of this uncommon love story.



CA' D'ZAN

MOUSE AND ELEPHANT Two elaborate window grills are visible from the back terrace of the Ca d'Zan. Although the grills are made of iron, the fact that they are installed on only two windows indicate that they were not put up with home security in mind. Instead, they were intended to decorate and delight! See if you can spot a lion, a mouse, dragons, and unicorns throughout this ornamental ironwork. Also, keep your eyes open for one more of these grills on the campus. Hint: It is close to the next location on this itinerary!



MUSEUM OF ART

EUROPEAN FAMILY RIDING ON A BUDDHIST LION Lions and tigers and...families, oh my! Visit the Galleria in the Center for Asian Art to find this odd sight. The white porcelain sculpture shows a man and a woman riding on the back of a lion with another man standing in front of the group. Based on their clothing, the family is meant to look European. The lion and her babies, however, are depicted in typical Buddhist fashion! See if you can spot similar lions in the Chao Galleries that are adjacent to the Galleria.



EROS AND A DOLPHIN This bronze sculpture was cast from a marble Roman original created in the late 2nd century AD. It shows the god of love, Eros, entangled with a dolphin as they dive into the water below. But look closely at the snaking animal: it looks quite different from the dolphins we know today! What makes this creature different from the dolphins in our bay? What makes them similar?

