

Nathan Benderson Park- Sarasota, FL

Nathan Benderson Park is one of North America's premier rowing venues. Opened in 2014, Nathan Benderson has hosted the 2017 World Rowing Championships, 2018 World Rowing Masters Regatta, 2016 and 2020 Olympic Trials, 2019 World Rowing U23 Championships, and the 2021 and 2022 NCAA Rowing Championships.

Closest Airports: Sarasota (7 Miles), Tampa (58 Miles), Fort Meyers (89 Miles), Orlando (126 Miles)

For GPS: use 5851 Nathan Benderson Cir, Sarasota, FL 34235 for the park itself. There may be signs directing you to park at University Town Center.

Parking: Parking varies depending on the size of the regatta. Just give yourself some extra time on the first day so that you can sort out where to park and if you have to walk over from the mall or ride the trolley. There is usually a daily charge for parking.

Hotels: The park is in an area called Lakewood Ranch. There are several hotels in the area around the University Town Center mall that are walkable to the park, restaurants, and shopping. There are also several hotels near the airport if you are flying in or out late at night or early in the morning.

The best place to watch is the beach near the finish line. For really large regattas they have a jumbotron that will show the first 2/3 of the race. After they finish you can run around to the canal and cheer for them from the bridge as they row back to the docks.

Regattas at Nathan Benderson often need volunteers. You can sign up to be on the stake boats or in a launch following races (<https://nathanbendersonpark.org/volunteer/>). Boat drivers are required to have a Florida boating safety certificate which you can get online (<https://www.boatus.org/florida/>).

