

EXPLORE MANATEE'S PAST



Emerson Point Preserve [1]
5800 17th Street West, Palmetto 34221
941.721.6885 www.mymanatee.org/conservation.html
Relish this 365 acre, state-owned, Manatee County preserve that contains a very large prehistoric temple mound later used as the homestead of Colonel Robert Stewart Griffith. Visitors can enjoy bird watching, hiking, bicycling, fishing and canoeing in a quiet, natural setting of native plants and wildlife.

Robinson Preserve [2]
1704 99th Street NW, Bradenton 34209
941.748.4501 www.mymanatee.org/conservation.html
In the 1920's, this 487 acre conservation property was farmed for winter vegetables and bulbs. Come and see the historic Valentine house, or climb the 40' observation tower. Other amenities include boardwalks, biking/hiking trail, canoe/kayak launch and more.

Pillsbury Mound [3]
Northwest Bradenton 34209
941.748.4501 www.mymanatee.org/conservation.html
This one-acre temple mound survives as a remnant of a larger prehistoric Native American settlement. Plans are currently being developed for archaeological interpretation as well as public access to the site.

De Soto National Memorial [4]
8300 Desoto Memorial Hwy., Bradenton 34209
941.792.0458 www.nps.gov/deso
Learn about Spaniard Hernando de Soto's arrival to Tampa Bay in 1539, and the prehistoric landscape upon which he arrived. Archaeological remains of prehistoric shell midden ridges and mounds as well as the ruins of a 19th century tabby-built structure comprise the cultural components of the park.

Neal Preserve [5]
12301 W Manatee Avenue, Bradenton 34209
941.748.4501 www.mymanatee.org/conservation.html
119-acres offer evidence of prehistoric peoples as well as habitat for a variety of birds including snowy egrets, brown pelicans and osprey. When completed, the preserve will feature a variety of recreational amenities.

Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez and F.I.S.H. Preserve [6]
4415 119th Street West, Cortez 34215
941.708.6121 www.manateeclerk.com/historical/MaritimeMuseum.aspx
The handsomely restored original 1912 school building houses the museum and displays the life of local commercial fishing and families. The Museum is adjacent to the F.I.S.H. Preserve which is currently being restored to its natural habitat, perfect for hiking and kayaking.



Madira Bickel Mound State Archaeological Site [7]
Bayshore Drive, Terra Ceia 34222
941.723.4536 www.floridastateparks.org/madirabickelmound
This ancient Native American site consists of a flat-topped ceremonial mound in use during at least three periods of Native American cultural time periods. The earliest component dates back 2,000 years.

Gamble Plantation Historic State Park [8]
3708 Patten Avenue, Ellenton 34222
941.723.4536 www.floridastateparks.org/gambleplantation
This antebellum mansion was home to Major Robert Gamble and the headquarters of an extensive sugar plantation. It is the only surviving plantation house in South Florida.

Manatee County Agricultural Museum [9]
1015 6th Street West, Palmetto 34221
941.721.2034 www.manateeclerk.com/historical/AgMuseum.aspx
This museum features equipment, tools, artifacts, and photographs that reflect the rich agricultural heritage of Manatee County. The Museum is also the home of the Manatee County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Palmetto Historical Park [10]
515 10th Avenue West, Palmetto 34221
941.723.4991 www.manateeclerk.com/historical/PalmettoPark.aspx
The Palmetto Historical Park is a charming look back at early Palmetto. Visit the 1914 Carnegie Library, 1880 Post Office, 1920 School House, early-1900 Cottage, Military Museum, and Chapel. Archive Center is available for researching local family history. Guided tours daily.

South Florida Museum [11]
201 10th Street West Bradenton 34205
941.746.4131 www.southfloridamuseum.org
The South Florida Museum interprets the region from the Pleistocene to the present with stunning life-size dioramas and dramatic exhibits based on its extensive collections of anthropological artifacts, paleontological specimens and objects of cultural interest.

Manatee Village Historical Park [12]
1404 Manatee Avenue East, Bradenton 34208
941.749.7165 www.manateeclerk.com/historical/ManateeVillage.aspx
Visit this collection of restored buildings from Manatee County's settlement history and experience life in Manatee County before the arrival of modern conveniences such as automobiles and electricity.

2,000 years of Archaeology and History

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MANATEE COUNTY'S RICH HERITAGE

centers around the Manatee River. Named for the Manatee, a mammal commonly referred to as a sea cow, the river winds for fifty-five miles from Tampa Bay to the northeast corner of Manatee County. Evidence that prehistoric inhabitants depended on the Manatee River can be seen in the burial, midden and temple mounds located along the river's banks.

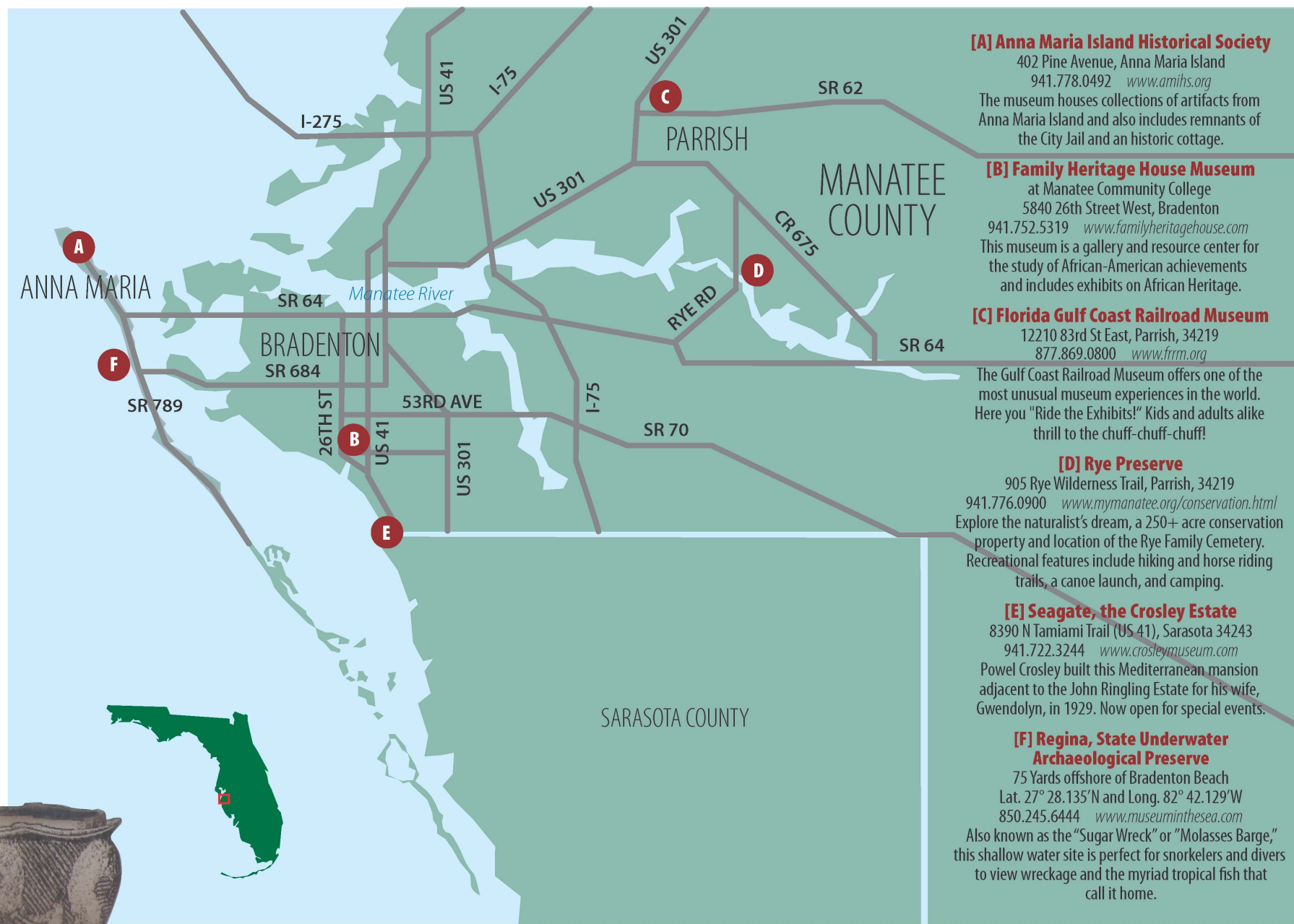
FOR CENTURIES UNTOLD, Indian tribes enjoyed the Florida wilderness. By the 16th century, the Spaniards had arrived and were among the first Europeans to explore the Manatee River. From there, they journeyed into the Southeastern North American continent and beyond.



UPON ACCEPTING OWNERSHIP OF THE FLORIDA TERRITORIES in 1819, the United States government began a program to encourage the settlement of Florida. Enticed by the offer of free land, pioneers began arriving in the Manatee River region in 1842. Despite many problems, by 1855 enough settlers lived in the area to justify the establishment of a new county.



CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE THROUGH MANATEE'S PAST. LONG-TIME RESIDENTS OR FIRST-TIME VISITORS HAVE PLENTY OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY TO ENJOY IN MANATEE COUNTY. MANY OF THESE SITES OFFER FREE ADMISSION. FOR YOU WATER ENTHUSIASTS, SOME SITES CAN BE ACCESSED BY SEA.



[A] Anna Maria Island Historical Society
402 Pine Avenue, Anna Maria Island
941.778.0492 www.amihs.org
The museum houses collections of artifacts from Anna Maria Island and also includes remnants of the City Jail and an historic cottage.

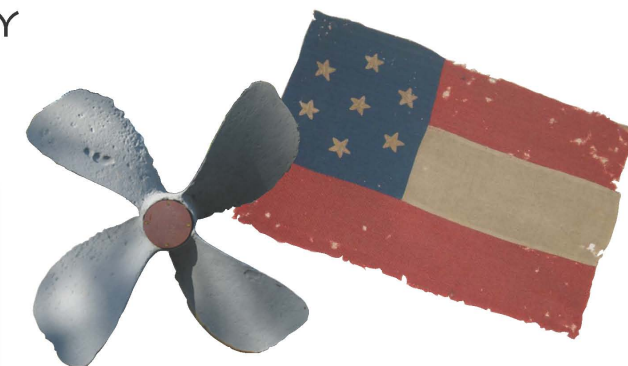
[B] Family Heritage House Museum
at Manatee Community College
5840 26th Street West, Bradenton
941.752.5319 www.familyheritagehouse.com
This museum is a gallery and resource center for the study of African-American achievements and includes exhibits on African Heritage.

[C] Florida Gulf Coast Railroad Museum
12210 83rd St East, Parrish, 34219
877.869.0800 www.frrm.org
The Gulf Coast Railroad Museum offers one of the most unusual museum experiences in the world. Here you "Ride the Exhibits!" Kids and adults alike thrill to the chuff-chuff-chuff!

[D] Rye Preserve
905 Rye Wilderness Trail, Parrish, 34219
941.776.0900 www.myanatee.org/conservation.html
Explore the naturalist's dream, a 250+ acre conservation property and location of the Rye Family Cemetery. Recreational features include hiking and horse riding trails, a canoe launch, and camping.

[E] Seagate, the Crosley Estate
8390 N Tamiami Trail (US 41), Sarasota 34243
941.722.3244 www.crosleymuseum.com
Powel Crosley built this Mediterranean mansion adjacent to the John Ringling Estate for his wife, Gwendolyn, in 1929. Now open for special events.

[F] Regina, State Underwater Archaeological Preserve
75 Yards offshore of Bradenton Beach
Lat. 27° 28.135'N and Long. 82° 42.129'W
850.245.6444 www.museuminthesea.com
Also known as the "Sugar Wreck" or "Molasses Barge," this shallow water site is perfect for snorkelers and divers to view wreckage and the myriad tropical fish that call it home.



AT ITS CREATION, Manatee County consisted of 5,000 square miles and extended from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Okeechobee. Agriculture, including vegetable farms and citrus groves, along with cattle ranches, fishing, and tourism, provided a livelihood for its residents.



TODAY, THE COMMUNITY STILL RETAINS the charm and simplicity of the river settlement established by those early pioneers. Just as the Manatee River winds its way throughout Manatee County, its history and heritage intermingle with our county's modern day lifestyle.



TIME FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT!

THE PHOTOGRAPHED ITEMS SHOWN HERE CAN BE FOUND AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN THESE MAPS. TELL US WHERE YOU FOUND EACH ITEM AND REGISTER FOR FREE PRIZES BY CLICKING ON THE EXPLORE MANATEE MAP LINK AT FLPUBLICARCHAEOLOGY.ORG/WCRC