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In the northwest corner of Bradenton is a 487 acre coastal saltern, marsh, and mangrove habitat called Robinson Preserve.

This coastal oasis is the perfect habitat to see roseate spoonbills, wood storks, white pelicans, bald eagles, and least terns. People who visit the Robinson Preserve can explore this coastal habitat in various ways. There are 3 miles of paved trail and an additional 5 miles of shell and coastal trails. For paddlers, Robinson Preserve offers over 3 miles of waterways to navigate. See marshes and mangroves up close as you wind along the coastline of Robinson Preserve.

Climb the 40 foot observation tower for a oneof-a-kind 360 view of the preserve. Before you leave, be sure and stop by the Mosaic Center for Nature, Exploration, Science, and Technology (NEST), a tree-house and learning space featuring guided tours and activities..

The Robinson Preserve is located at 1704 99th St. NW, Bradenton, FL 34209. Hours vary by season.



Perico Preserve is a restoration project that has undergone significant changes. This area used to be farmland and has been transformed into an oasis for coastal wetlands.

This 176 acre property features seagrass lagoons, shorebird nesting habitats, gopher tortoise habitats, and more! This unique preserve is also the home to research and environmental studies designed to ensure that Perico Preserve maintains its delicate habitat and that the wildlife at the preserve thrives. Visitors walking through the preserve can get close to widlife without startling them in their natural habitats.

There are nearly 1.5 miles of winding trails that take visitors through forested hammock, uplands scrub and through several marshes.

Perico Preserve is located at 11700 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34209. Hours vary by season.



Leffis Key is an island preserve with a fantastic view of the beautiful Sarasota Bay. The hill on Leffis Key is 26 feet high and offers breathtaking views of the intercoastal waterways.

The hill features sand dunes, sea oats, dune sunglowers, sea grapes, and other plant species that are native to Florida. There are also many beautiful marsh plants that are along the banks of the pristine shallow water habitat.

Visitors to Leffis Key can walk along the footpaths, sit and watch the waves lap the shorelines from one of the beaches, and stroll along the boardwalk that passes through a forest of mangroves. You might even see fiddler crabs when the tide is low!

Leffis Key is located at 2350 Gulf Dr. S., Bradenton Beach, FL 34217. Hours vary by season.



Neal Preserve is a 120 acre seaside habitat with beautiful mangrove forests, salt terns, and oak hammock uplands. The Neal Preserve also features a 20 foot tall observation tower, shell trails, and boardwalks, perfect for walking outside.

This preserve has a rich history. Native
Americans once resided in this area, and their
history dates back to over 3,000 years ago.
Visitors to the Neal Preserve walk among
reconstructed burial mounds. Walking through
this open air museum is a fun way to connect
with days gone by.

Visitors to the preserve can enjoy eating lunch at the pavilion, scaling the observation tower, and walking along the half mile of trails and boardwalks.

Neal Preserve is located at 12301 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34209. Hours vary by season.



Top 5 Marine Life Near Anna Maria Island 1. Sea Turtles

2. Dolphins

3. Jellyfish

4. Stingrays

5. Manatees





Visitors to the island are invited to experience the Florida wetlands like never before at the De Soto National Memorial. This National Park features a beautiful beach along the Manatee River and the mouth of Tampa Bay. Visitors to this preserve can expect to see a wide variety of plant and animal species such as bald eagles, brown pelicans, gulls, terns, and other shorebirds.

The 26 acre park is primarily coastal wetland and features mangrove forests and upland pine fltlands as well as hardwood forest. Walk through time as you explore the shores that Hernando de Soto is thought to have been sailing to when his expedition went awry.

De Soto National Memorial is located at 8300 De Soto Memorial Highway, Bradenton, FL 34209 and is open from dawn until dusk.

Wilflife Viewing Guidelines

1. Look, but don't touch!

For the safety of you and the animals that you encounter on Anna Maria Island, please do not touch any wildlife that you come across.

2. Do not enter "No Entry" zones.

The many preserves in the Anna Maria Island area are working hard to restore delicate habitats for the creatures that live here. Venturing off of the trails and walking through these habitats damages the environment and can hinder a species' ability to reproduce.

3. Do not feed the wildlife.

Animals have a natural instict to care for themselves and to hunt for food. Feeding them makes them more comfortable around boats and teaches them to stop hunting for food because it will be provided to them.



Top 5 Marine Bird Species Near Anna Maria Island

- 1. Herons 4. Pelicans
- 2. Sandpipers 5. Cranes
- 3. Osprey