

One fabulous barrier island – three unique towns- one of our favorite beaches. Come to Anna Maria Island with us on Monday, May 16th; from 8:30am to 8:30 pm.

Manatee Beach in the town of Holmes Beach is a long-time Club favorite because of its soft sand, shells, its crystal clear water and its 'old school' approach to island development. Homes or buildings on the island must be less than 37' tall. Two men, George Bean and Charles Roser, were the driving forces behind the limited development and preservation of the island. Mr. Roser also left the world the Fig Newton cookie. Mr. Bean left us Bean Point Beach on the northern tip of the 7 mile long island in the City of Anna Maria. From it, you can see the convergence of the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. It is beautifully scenic, but because of the tides, hazardous to swimmers.

Once we arrive at Manatee Beach, you'll want to stop in at Anna Maria Beach Café, known for its great food with patio dining under umbrellas. You can preview their menu out at: <https://www.amibeachcafe.com/menus>. The Café is also a sundry store, gift shop and offers beach rentals on a first come, first served basis. One chair is \$8.50, one umbrella is \$19.99; an umbrella + two chairs runs \$29.99 (+tax). (Try as I might, I was unable to get them to agree to reserve chairs for us, but they assured me that at 11am on a Monday, they will have rentals available. I suggested that if they didn't and any of our members ended up plopping down on the sand.....we would enlist their help to get those members back up on their feet!)

Once we have eaten our lunch, either from the Cafe or from home, and soaked up the sun and gentle Gulf waves, we will finish our day in the City of Bradenton Beach, incorporated in 1953, at the southern end of the island. Since at its widest point, the island is only 8 blocks wide, there are many shops and

restaurants in close walking distance. Villagers always feel right at home because there is a roundabout right in the center of town, at the intersection of Gulf and Bridge Streets.

We'll make a stop at the highly popular Beach House Restaurant directly on the Gulf, on Gulf Street.

<https://beachhousedining.com/our-menu>. If you didn't get your fill of sandy toes, this restaurant offer dining right on the beach.

You can choose to eat there or stroll to one of several other restaurants in the immediate area, stopping to shop along the way of course.

A short walk along Bridge Street to the Bay side of the island, you'll find The Bridge Tender Inn Restaurant, Dockside Grill & Bar, on Bridge Street (naturally).

<https://bridgetenderinn.rocks/menus/>

Just a bit further, and you will find the iconic Anna Maria Oyster Bar on the Pier, featuring waterfront dining on the Bay.

<https://www.oysterbar.net/menus/>

You might also want to save a little time for a visit to Island Scoops. <https://islandscoops.shop/menu-and-flavors/>

No matter where you choose to dine, you will have many unique and artsy shops to enjoy. For a complete listing of restaurants and shops in the City of Bradenton Beach, check this: <https://annamariaisland.com/things-to-do>.

At the end of the our time in the city of Bradenton Beach, having our fill of the nostalgia that Anna Maria Island offers and the bounty of its restaurants, our buses will carry us safely home.