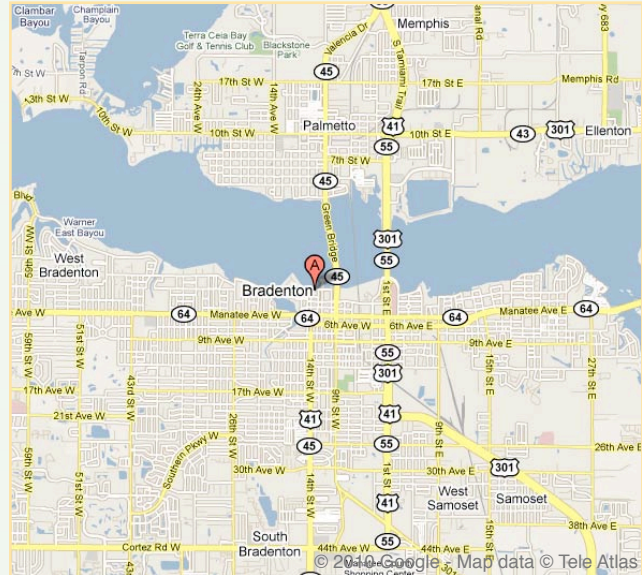


This trip takes visitors to a gem along Florida's Gulf Coast, practically unknown to traditional vacation planners. Bradenton has lots to offer, sitting just thirty minutes south of St. Petersburg, this beach-side destination is an optimal choice for Florida travel. Dubbed "The Friendly City," visitors will find themselves at ease with the beautiful beaches, seaside shops and outgoing locals. In Citrus Country, your worries will melt away during the 'Golden Hour', while enjoying all the comforts of home at Country Inns & Suites By Carlson®.



I love this Country.™

This itinerary is provided for informational purposes only. Attraction and merchant details are subject to change and guests should independently verify all information. By providing this information, Country Inns & Suites By Carlson™ is not directly or indirectly implying any approval, association, sponsorship, or affiliation with any of the attractions, businesses, services or offerings referenced herein, nor are such attractions or businesses sponsors of this information. © 2011 Country Inns & Suites By Carlson, Inc. All rights reserved.

Welcome to Citrus Country! Here you will find a surplus of sun while enjoying laid-back living at its' finest. If baseball is your thing, pull up a bleacher seat at McKechnie Field and cheer for the Pittsburgh Pirates as they prepare for the season, or let the exhibits at the South Florida Museum take your imagination to new heights. When the sun sets, stroll back to the Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, grab a fresh baked chocolate chip cookie and a book from the Read It & Return Lending Library<sup>SM</sup> near fireplace, then snuggle up with your kids on the couch and enjoy some great family time.

Bradenton-area Country Inns & Suites By Carlson locations:

[Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Bradenton](#) at I-75

[Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Sarasota I-75](#) - 19 miles from Bradenton

[Country Inn & Suites By Carlson, Pinellas Park](#) - 32 miles from Bradenton

South Florida Museum	Family Choice** With the Bishop Planetarium to observe the skies, the Parker Manatee Aquarium to admire the seas and the museum offering a look back in time, guests get three world-class attractions for the price of one. Be sure to say 'hello' to Snooty, Manatee County's mascot. Admission is \$15.95 for adults, \$11.95 for children and \$13.95 for seniors.	<a href="http://southfloridamuseum.org/">southfloridamuseum.org/</a>
McKechnie Field	Family Choice** Watch the Pittsburgh Pirates gear up for the season, by battling it out with the Twins, Yankees, Rays and more! Go for the game or the always delicious ballpark hotdogs and popcorn. Prices range is \$11 to \$19 per ticket.	<a href="http://floridagrapefruitleague.com/pirates.html">floridagrapefruitleague.com/pirates.html</a>
Mixon Fruit Farms / Justin Matthews Wildlife Rescue	Mom's Choice** Explore this fully operational farm and learn about Florida's citrus heritage. Adults pay \$16.00 for the tour and lunch, kids pay \$6.00. Before you leave, be sure to stop by and say 'hi' to the creatures at Justin Matthew's Wildlife Rescue. Meet critters like the Green Iguana, the African Spurred Land Tortoise...or even Justin himself! Admission for kids under 10 is less than \$5, everyone else is under \$9.	<a href="http://mixon.com/visitgrove.asp">mixon.com/visitgrove.asp</a>
Florida Railroad Museum	The Florida Railroad Museum offers a fully functional train ride that IS the museum. Visitors ride the rails for 90-minutes, as volunteers tell tales of railroad history in Florida. Open-air or air-conditioned seating is available – be sure to keep your eyes peeled for alligators along the train tracks! Admission for adults is \$12, kids under 12 pay \$8 and 3 years or younger are free.	<a href="http://frfm.org">frfm.org</a>
Sarasota Jungle Garden	With more than 10 miles of nature trails, you can tell your friends you actually got lost in the jungle. Feed free-roaming flamingos, or snap a photo with an alligator. Many of the animals here are rescued and rehabilitated by park staff. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children and \$14 for seniors.	<a href="http://sarasotajunglegardens.com">sarasotajunglegardens.com</a>

Saturday Morning Market	Staying for the weekend? Support local farmers and artisans by making a stop at the Saturday Morning Market. Grab lunch, find affordable art and enjoy music of live local bands. Visit the Market's website after 10pm on Friday to make sure bad weather hasn't forced them to close. Admission is free.	<a href="http://saturdaymorningmarket.com">saturdaymorningmarket.com</a>
Red Barn Flea Market	If bargain hunting is your vice, Red Barn Flea Market & Plaza is awfully nice. This 80,000 sq. ft. attraction offers nearly 600 different vendors and is open every weekend. Check the website for dates and special event listings.	<a href="http://redbarnfleamarket.com">redbarnfleamarket.com</a>
Anna Maria Oyster Bar	A mixture of fresh seafood, steak, pasta, and chicken dishes makes Anna Maria Oyster Bar an ideal location for even the pickiest little eaters. Sundays through Thursdays stop in and pay a Penny an Inch for Kid's Menu Items. Entree prices from \$4 to \$20.	<a href="http://oysterbar.net/">oysterbar.net/</a>
De Soto National Memorial	The De Soto National Memorial documents the interactions of Spanish explorers meshed with Native American history. From December to April, make a point to see Camp Uzita reenact 16 <sup>th</sup> century Florida life. On Saturdays, take part in the Native Mask Painting, or simply enjoy a stroll through the parks miles of walking paths. Admission is free.	<a href="http://nps.gov/deso">nps.gov/deso</a>
Village of the Arts	Support the local artists, all in one neighborhood! This unique area is completely composed of artists from all genres. Catch the Art Walk the first weekend in March or simply meander around these lovely galleries. Admission is free.	<a href="http://villageofthearts.com/">villageofthearts.com/</a>
Smuggler's Cove Adventure Golf	Experience mini-golf the way it was meant to be played! Smuggler's Cove Adventure Cove features rushing water, caves, and live alligators! Voted Florida's Best Mini Golf by Florida Monthly Magazine readers, Smuggler's Cove brings the family together for some jolly good fun! Play a round for \$10.99 per adult and \$9.99 per child.	<a href="http://smugglersgolf.com">smugglersgolf.com</a>

\*\* Family Choice and Mom's Choice designation based on fun for all ages, cost and Mom's approval.