

Piers are fascinating structures. They are categorized into three types: working piers, pleasure piers, and fishing piers. They range in size from a simple lightweight wooden structure of pillars or piles that extend from a shoreline to major structures with multiple piers that may also be called a dock. The earliest piers were noted prior to Queen Victoria's era. Belgium's coastal town of Blankenberge, in the province of West Flanders on the North Sea, was where the first pleasure pier was built in 1894. <en.wikipedia.org>

The City of Naples Florida Pier is a pleasure pier. The history of the pier begins with building of a hotel in 1888. It was a working pier then. It was a 600-foot T-shaped pier that extended out from the shore in water 18 feet deep into the Gulf of Mexico. As noted in the historic sign above, it was used as a working pier in the beginning.

Hurricanes and a fire in 1922 have caused much damage to the Naples Pier since the late 1800s. The first hurricane was in 1910. Two other hurricanes in 1926 and 1960 destroyed much of the pier, but that did not stop the pier's restoration by the citizens of Naples. After the hurricane in 1910, it was rebuilt and extended another 100 feet into Naples Bay in the Gulf of Mexico. Today, the pier is over 1,000 feet long and 12 feet wide.

Pleasure piers had their beginning during the Victorian era in Britain.

"The story of Britain's pleasure piers is one of invention and reinvention. In their prime – roughly from the Victorian era to the mid-20th century – Britain's piers were a cherished staple of the country's seaside resorts, opulent structures that drew in throngs of giddy visitors.

They grew from simple promenades into towering entertainment complexes, complete with restaurants, arcade games and rollercoaster rides. Fueled by the rise of rail travel and made possible by developments in the use of iron, Britain's piers once stood as a testament to the country's engineering ingenuity.

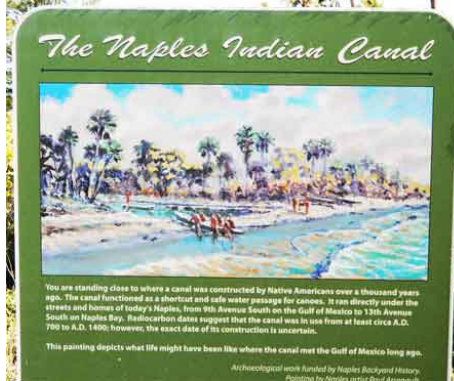
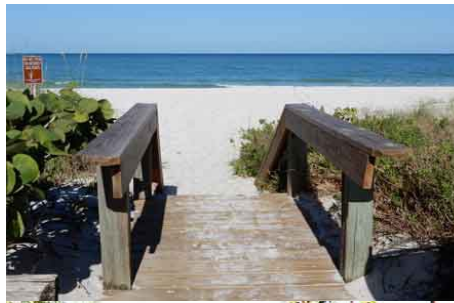
But the second half of the 20th century was hard on Britain's piers. As air travel grew increasingly more affordable, and successive fires and storms took their toll, many of Britain's piers disappeared."

<historyhit.com>

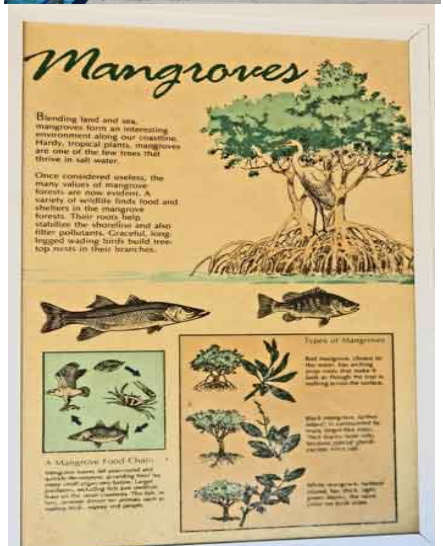
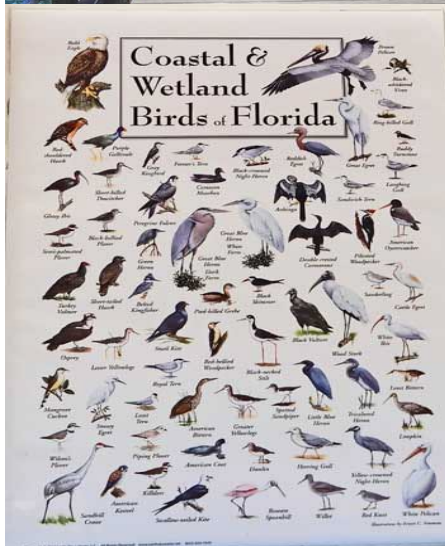
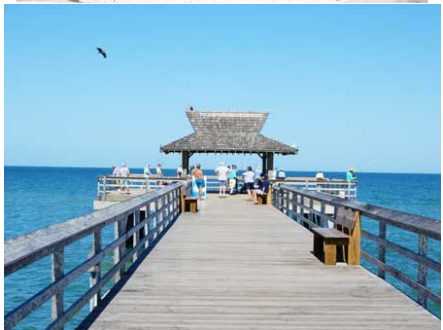
This photo program gives you a view from two locations. The first is on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South called Naples Beach in "Old Naples." The second is 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It is the location of entry to the Naples Pier. The photo below is taken from 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Naples Beach, also in "Old Naples." [Click here or on the picture below to watch Naples Pier on youtube.com.](#)







"More than 1000 years ago the canal ran from what is now 9th Avenue South on the Gulf of Mexico to 13th Avenue South on Naples Bay."  
 See sources below for more information about the canals that were used 700 A.D to 1400 A.D.









Sources: <https://www.naplesgov.com/parksrec/page/naples-pier>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pier>, <https://www.naplesindiancanal.org/>,  
<https://napleshistoricalsociety.org/naples-indian-canal/>, <https://lostworlds.org/ancient-indian-canal-naples-fl/>,  
<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2012/04/ancient-calusa-canal-in-naples.html>,  
<https://archive.naplesnews.com/lifestyle/family/history-the-tale-of-olde-naples-pier-ep-400396499-335099641.html/>,  
<https://www.historyhit.com/the-rise-and-demise-of-britains-victorian-pleasure-piers/>, and  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1b7izwwhppWSwumexO2PI4eazX7k&ie=UTF8&t=h&lc=com.panoramio.all&oe=UTF8&msa=0&ll=26.131707000000038%2C-81.806173&z=17>.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2KU4QkcTik>

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