

nets drying in the sun, and shrimp boats, common sights year-round. Actually a small island in its own right that connects Pine Island proper to Cape Coral via bridges, Matlacha still depends on commercial fishing for its livelihood, as it has for decades. The old wooden swing bridge at Matlacha (finally connecting Pine Island with the mainland in 1927) is known as the "fishingest bridge in the world" and its more modern replacement, completed in 1968, continues to be a popular spot for anglers, with impressive catches of snook, redfish, trout, sheepshead and mangrove snapper, recorded year-round.

PINELAND: Located on the west coast of Pine Island, a little to the north of center, Pineland is a small, cozy community of cottages built on ceremonial Calusa Indian mounds, facing out to Pine Island Sound. In the distance, lie Useppa and North Captiva Islands and the Gulf of Mexico. Although a popular marina and daily charters to the out-islands are the major attractions that draw visitors to this off-the-beaten-path community today, it is worth the trip simply for the sheer beauty of its picturesque setting. The view out into

Pine Island Sound is breathtaking and the lush tropical foliage, featuring many stately coconut palms and the old gumbo limbo trees, create an especially exotic atmosphere. John L. Lewis, former president of the United Mine Workers, lived for several years on the old indian mounds overlooking Pine Island Sound. It is the Pineland area where you will find many of the famous Pine Island tropical fruit orchards. Pineland was first settled in the 1870s.

ST. JAMES CITY: Located at the southern tip of Pine Island, facing San Carlos Bay and Sanibel Island, with canal outlets into both Pine Island Sound and Matlacha Pass, St. James City is said to have originally been named sometime in the 1700s by Jesuit missionaries trying to establish a mission at the southern tip of Pine Island. Fierce Calusa Indians discouraged this effort but the name has stuck, down through the years. In 1885, rich New Englanders built a resort settlement on this location, calling it "St. James-on-the-Gulf." This included the 50-room San Carlos Hotel, which

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