



Sarasota Bay – A Safe Haven from a Hurricane in Florida?

[Birgit Laniewski Nature](#)

Is the Sarasota Bay area ...blessed? Depending on who you talk to, the answer is yes. There are various Sarasota Indian myths that the lands were blessed by Native Americans to be protected against hurricanes.

Indian Legends

Some hold the belief that Sarasota is protected from hurricanes because the Native Americans who first settled there knew that it was safe from the elements.

Others believe that they blessed the lands to stay eternally safe from destructive storms and hurricanes. Still others think that it's an ancient Indian burial ground on the lands of Sarasota that keeps it protected.

There is not much known about those ancient ones, who were not Tocobaga, the people of Tampa Bay, nor Calusa, people centered by Charlotte Harbor. Isn't it tempting to believe in those fascinating myths?

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Facts about a hurricane in Florida

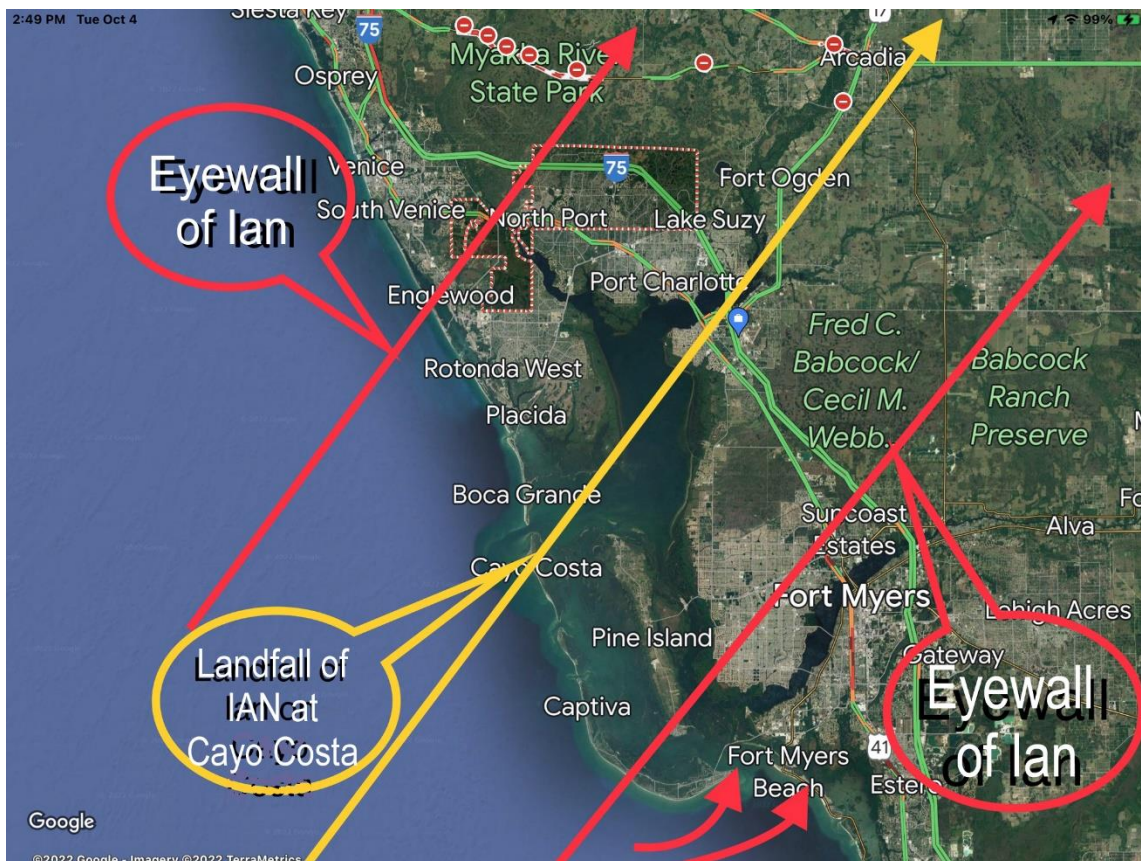
Fact is: Sarasota Bay has not been a bull's-eye for a major hurricane in Florida since reliable records began in 1871.

Science

Science explains this luck with geography. The typical tracks are moving on a "hurricane highway" through the Bahamas and the Yucatan Channel. Then

hurricanes curve towards the northeast. Cuba with its mountains is a major inhibitor of tropical systems. Heading to Sarasota would require an unlikely sharp curve into eastern direction, what would also significantly weaken any storm. Same is with the often-seen scenario of landfall on the east coast of Florida, preventing Sarasota Bay from getting the worst of it.

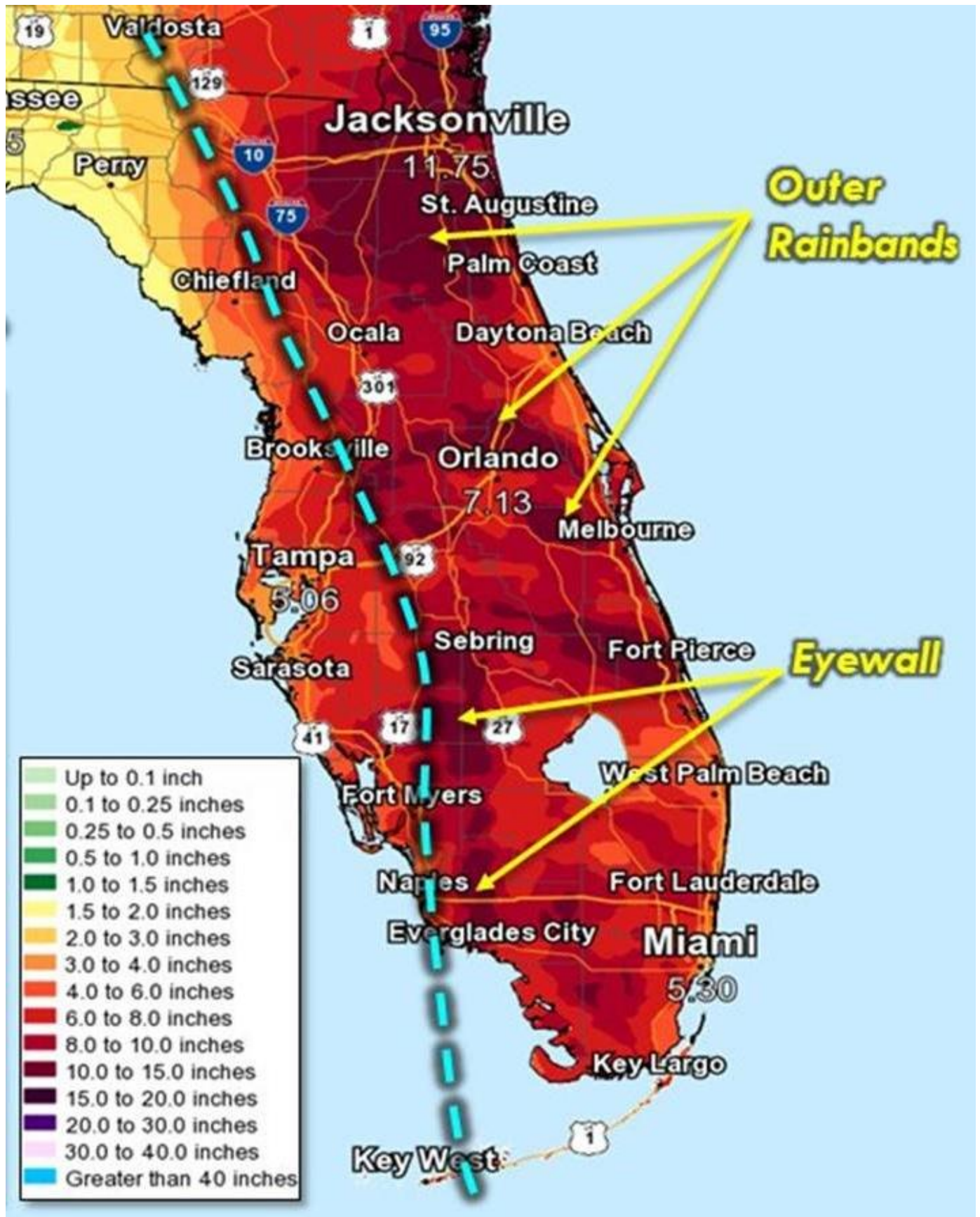
2022 Hurricane IAN Path



2004 Hurricane CHARLEY Path



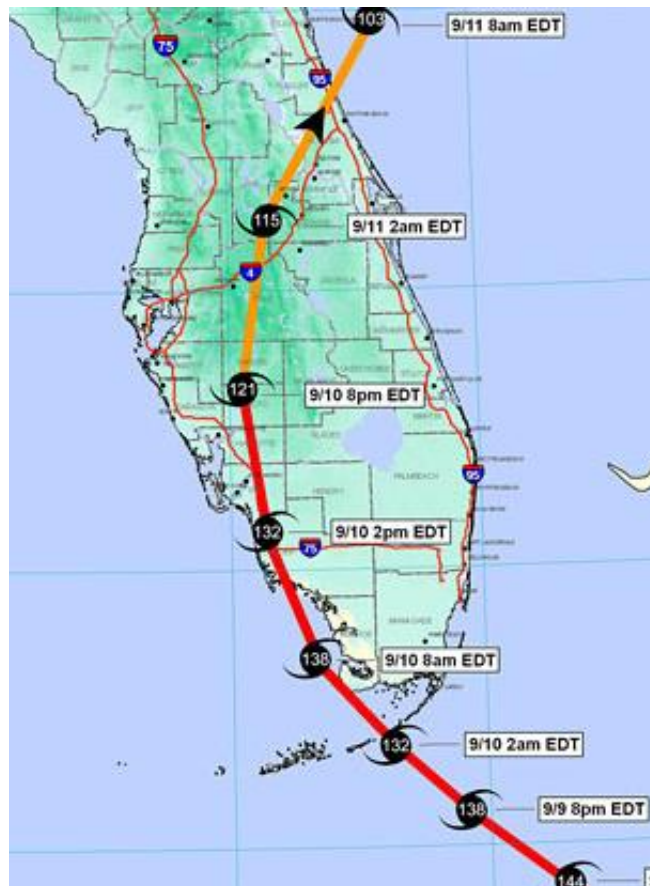
2017 Hurricane URMA Path



1964 Hurricane ISABELL Path



1960 Hurricane DONNA Path



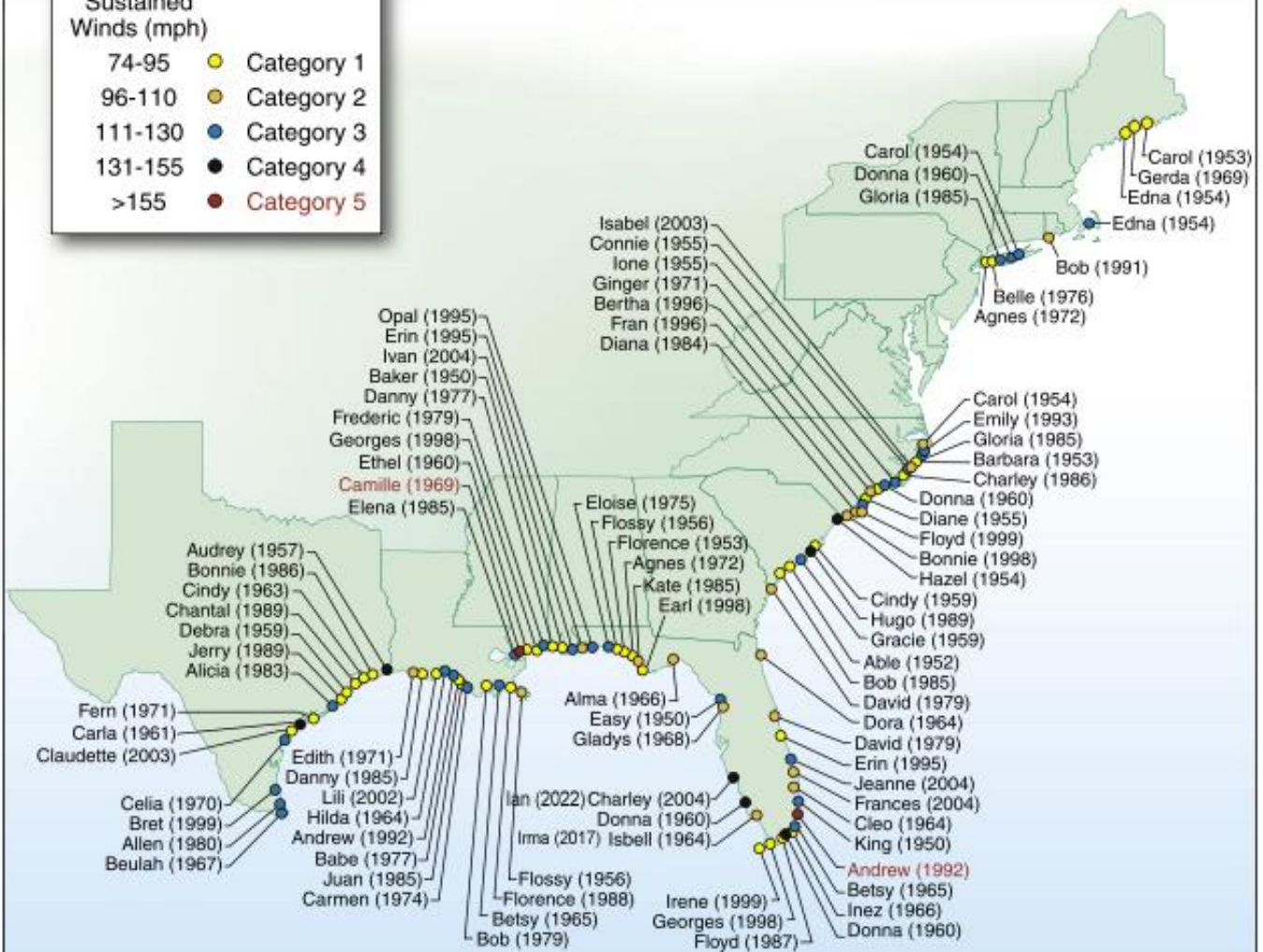
Continental United States Landfalling Hurricanes 1950-2004

SWFL Updated to 2022

Saffir-Simpson Category of Landfalling Hurricanes

Sustained Winds (mph)

- 74-95 ● Category 1
- 96-110 ● Category 2
- 111-130 ● Category 3
- 131-155 ● Category 4
- >155 ● Category 5



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