

# ENGLISH

Vizcaya was built as the winter estate of Chicago businessman James Deering (1859–1925). Today it is a National Historic Landmark and an accredited museum. Our mission is to preserve Vizcaya to engage our community and its visitors in learning through the arts, history and the environment.

Vizcaya was originally 180 acres and included the Main House, gardens and the Village—a cluster of buildings across South Miami Avenue that housed staff, machine shops and domestic farm functions. Approximately 50 of these acres still remain.

Three men created Vizcaya with Deering: F. Burrall Hoffman (1882–1980) designed the buildings; Diego

Suarez (1888–1974) planned the gardens; and Paul Chalfin (1873–1959) was the artistic director for the entire project.

Deering and his designers were inspired by the estates of Europe, particularly Italy, and adapted these models to Vizcaya's subtropical setting. While Vizcaya may, at first, appear out of place in Miami, the inclusion of open-air rooms, native plants and local materials connect the estate with its location.

Built in two years (1914–1916), the Main House was meant to look old, as if a family had lived in it for centuries. The house contains antique artworks and furnishings collected in Europe and the U.S.

along with items specifically created for Vizcaya. It also features innovative technologies and modern conveniences of the early 1900s.

The formal gardens, completed in 1922, contain geometric plantings, architectural structures and sculptures. The gardens are nestled between a native mangrove shore and forest. Deering's decision to preserve these environments and build the Main House along Biscayne Bay distinguished him as one of Miami's early environmentalists.

After Deering's death, a minimal staff maintained the property, and his heirs used it occasionally. The hurricane of 1926, which devastated much of

Miami, severely damaged Vizcaya. Deering's nieces and their husbands spent years trying to establish Vizcaya as a museum for public enjoyment. In 1952, they conveyed it to Miami-Dade County, and it opened as a museum the following year.

Since then, Vizcaya has hosted several state events and thousands of Miami-Dade residents and visitors have chosen to commemorate important occasions here.

Please help us protect Vizcaya for future generations by not touching any of the historic surfaces or objects.



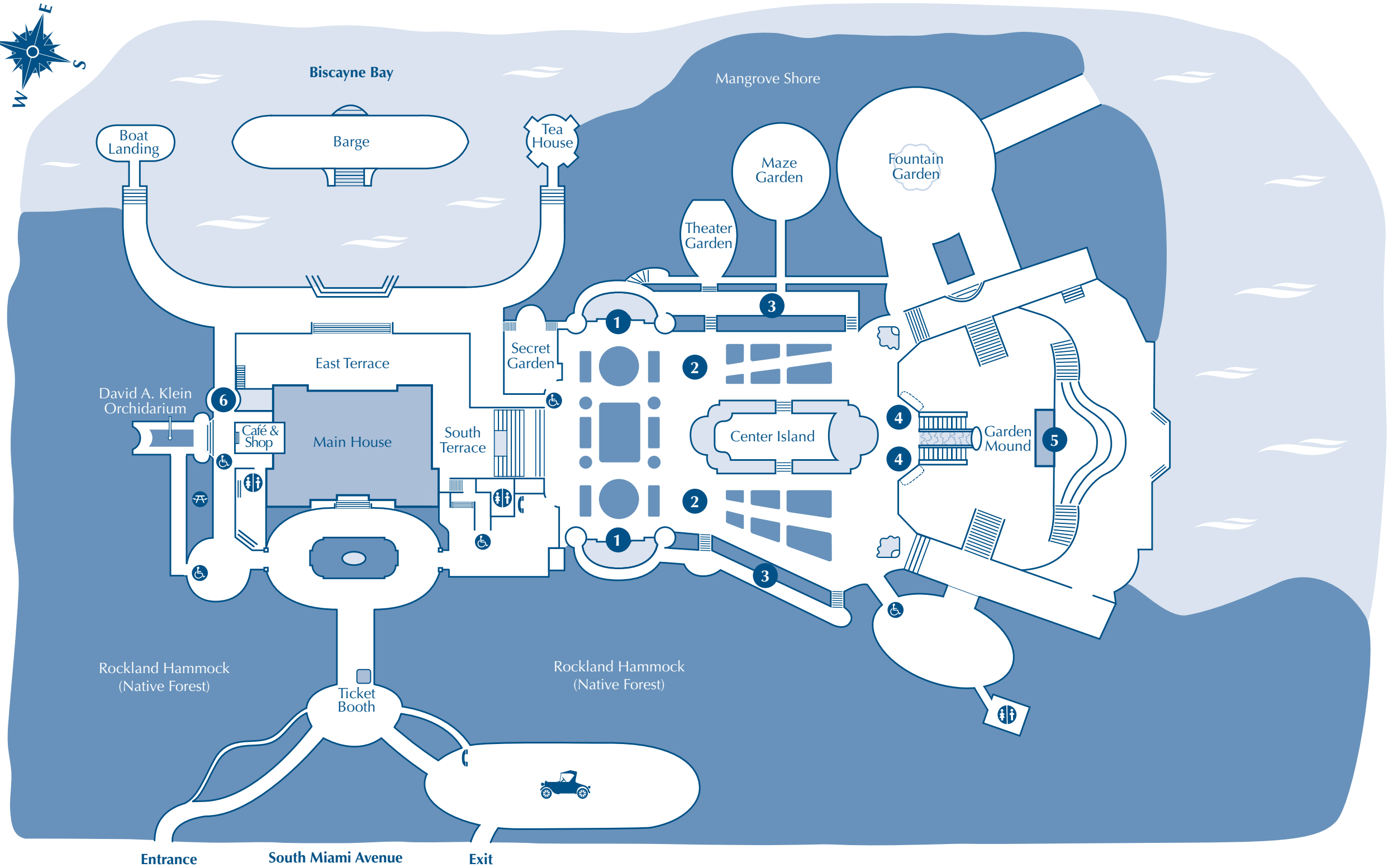
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305-250-9133 • [www.vizcayamuseum.org](http://www.vizcayamuseum.org)



## LEGEND

- No Public Access
- Stairs
- Spiral Staircase
- Temporary Exhibition Space





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# LEGEND

- Parking
- Public Telephone
- Restrooms
- Accessible Route
- School Group Picnic Area

- 1. Semicircular Pools
- 2. Parterres
- 3. East and West Statuary Walks
- 4. Mound Cascade and Grottos
- 5. Casino
- 6. Swimming Pool

