

A vertical photograph of a tropical beach at sunset. Two tall palm trees stand on either side of a red hammock. A person is sitting in the hammock, looking out at the ocean. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow light from the setting sun, with some clouds. The sand in the foreground is white and has some ripples. The overall mood is peaceful and relaxing.

fort MYERS

ISLANDS, BEACHES
& NEIGHBORHOODS

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 Estero

 wabi_sabi



FORT MYERS

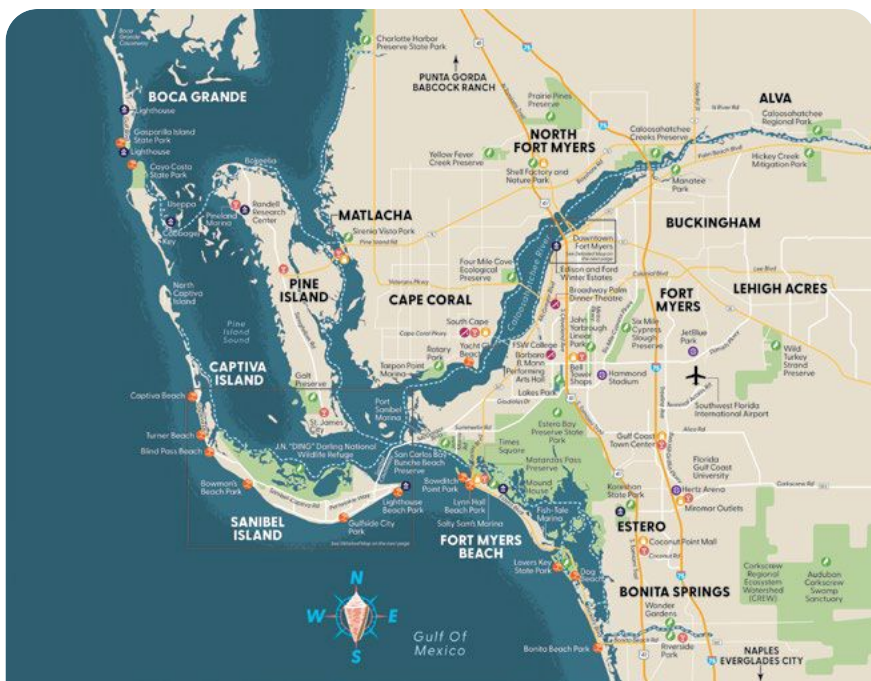
Miami

Getting to Fort Myers

Vacations should be carefree – and that includes getting to your destination. The good news is that Fort Myers is an easy trip – since Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) offers non-stop flights from more than 70 destinations including Puerto Rico, Canada, Cuba and Germany. Fifteen airlines service RSW, including several low-cost carriers. An added bonus? RSW is beautiful, medium-sized, and as stress-free as airports come. We're an easy drive from several other major Florida airports, too. And if you choose to road trip from your home to beautiful Fort Myers, major interstates will get you here efficiently.

MILEAGE FROM MAJOR AIRPORTS

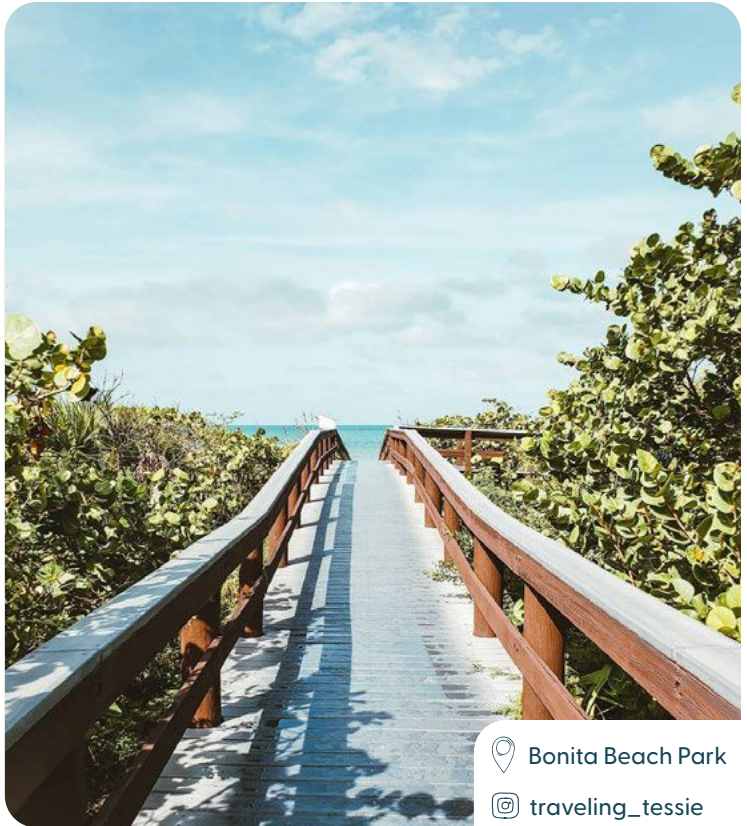
City	Distance	Estimated Driving Time
Atlanta	574mi / 920km	8 hours
Fort Lauderdale	140mi / 225km	2.5 hours
Miami	155mi / 250km	2.5 hours
Orlando	200mi / 320km	3 hours
Tampa	130mi / 210km	2 hours





See our Fort Myers area maps for a closer look at our neighborhoods.



Welcome



 Bonita Beach Park
 traveling_tessie

Welcome to Fort Myers and our Islands, Beaches & Neighborhoods

Visit Fort Myers and discover how our blue skies, warm weather and stunning coastal environment allow you to escape from your everyday cares. Find peace and tranquility at secluded beaches and lush nature preserves – or embark on new adventures and find family fun in our neighborhoods. As you embrace the slower pace of life here, you'll find that what is truly important – making lasting memories with family and friends – just feels right.



 Bowman's Beach, Sanibel Island

“**Making lasting memories with family and friends...**
just feels right.”

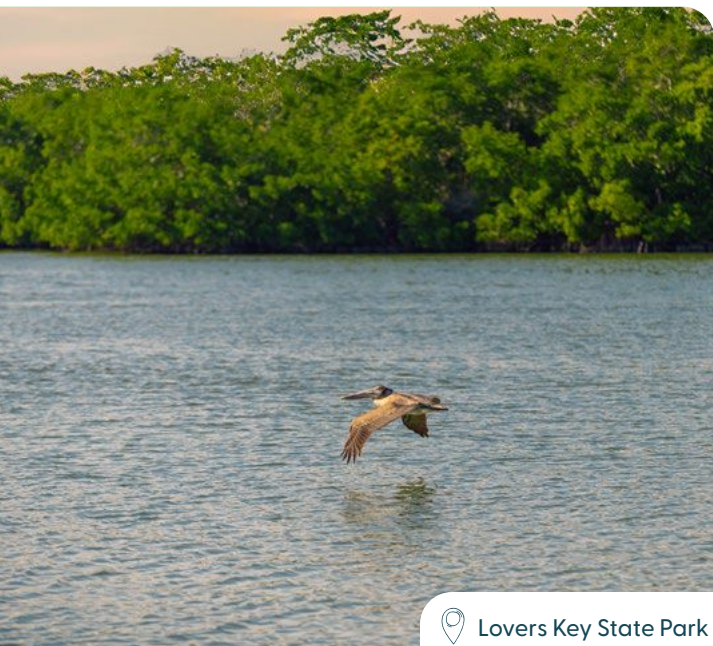
When you visit, take time to explore, and you'll see how Fort Myers blends gorgeous islands and beaches with preserved nature spaces and charming neighborhoods. Our sandy shores are home to sunny days year-round, making this the perfect place to relax as gentle Gulf waves bring beautiful seashells ashore. Take a beach walk to live in the moment, noticing seabirds flying overhead, dolphins chasing their dinner, and children playing at the water's edge. At day's end, set your eyes on the horizon and feel the weight of the world slip away as you experience nature's beauty at sunset.



 Sanibel Island



 Wonder Gardens, Bonita Springs

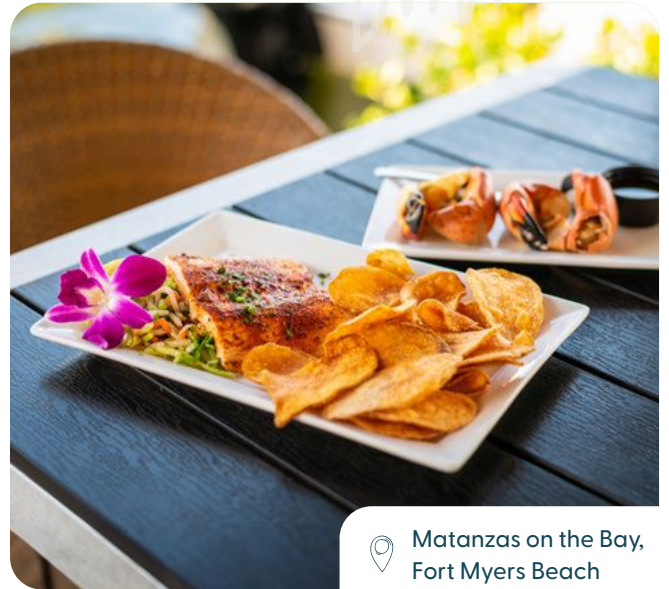



 Lovers Key State Park

You'll quickly find that water is at the heart of daily life in Fort Myers. From self-propelled fun on a paddleboard or kayak to island-hopping cruises and eco-tours, on-the-water adventures are easy to come by. Fishing is a popular pastime and there's no shortage of great spots to cast a line. And with easy access to the Gulf of Mexico, you'll be able to sample some of the freshest catches on menus at local restaurants and seafood markets.

With a long-standing commitment to preservation, nature also takes center stage in Fort Myers. Step into one of our pristine parks or preserves and embrace a fresh perspective. Hike, bike, walk, or paddle through diverse ecosystems and you'll be amazed at the unspoiled landscapes. The area's rich wetlands and mangroves provide incredible opportunities to observe wildlife in its natural environment. Embark on a guided eco-tour where you can connect with the natural world around you, with the help and insights of a local guide.





 Matanzas on the Bay,
Fort Myers Beach



 Cape Harbour, Cape Coral

When it's time to take a break from the beach, you'll have many opportunities to explore our lovely neighborhoods. Charming downtown areas offer unique shopping and dining experiences, as well as historic sites and attractions. This is also where the arts come to life with public art and murals on display, as well as lively events and festivals throughout the year. The culinary scene is diverse, with hidden gems and mouthwatering dishes waiting for you to discover.

In true Florida style, we have a laid-back island vibe where flip flops are always welcome. So – pack light and leave your everyday worries behind you – as you discover your dream Florida destination. We invite you to relax, explore, and create unforgettable memories with us.





Beaches



 Bonita Springs



 Sanibel Island

Discover the Serenity of Our Beaches

It's amazing how our warm sunshine, soft sands and calm Gulf waters lift your spirits and awaken your senses. Our beaches are naturally beautiful – not manicured – which means they are welcoming places for an abundance of wildlife. Come stroll a quiet stretch of sand, watch an osprey catch its dinner, see sandpipers and plovers skittering at the water's edge, or search for seashells strewn about like little treasures.

TIPS FOR VISITING OUR BEACHES



Many of our beaches are dog-friendly, but your dog must be on-leash, except at our dedicated Dog Beach.



Mobi-mats allow visitors in wheelchairs (and parents pulling beach wagons) easier access to the beach.

Key



Fishing



Dog-Friendly



Picnic



Food/Concession



Top Shell-Collecting Spot



Beach Wheelchair



Mobi-Mat



Portable Toilet



Restrooms



Lynn Hall Memorial Park

FORT MYERS BEACH

Sink your toes into the softest white sand and relax by the tranquil Gulf of Mexico at this popular beach located in the heart of a vibrant beach town. You'll be just steps away from shops and restaurants, so there's no need to pack a lunch or plan out your day – just go with the flow and see where the Gulf breezes take you. Enjoy waterfront views as you dine al fresco at a local restaurant then catch the incredible sunset show.



Bowditch Point Park

FORT MYERS BEACH

A peaceful respite on Fort Myers Beach, this lovely beach park sits at the northern tip of Estero Island with plenty of space for you to spread out and relax. Take a sandy stroll and watch as boats pass in and out of Estero Bay or pack a picnic and soak in the natural surroundings. You can even catch the LeeTran beach trolley here for a quick ride to the island's shops and restaurants.



“Here, every sunset is a celebration, every wave a gentle whisper.”



Alison Hagerup Beach Park

CAPTIVA ISLAND

Feeling like you're on "island time" comes naturally at this tiny but lovely beach. Known as one of the most romantic beaches in the area, it's also a popular place to watch the sun dip below the horizon. White sand stretches as far as the eye can see, and turquoise waters glimmer in the warm sun. It's easy to find your own stretch of sand with swaying palms. Parking is limited, so come early.





Turner Beach

CAPTIVA ISLAND

As you cross the Blind Pass Bridge, this charming beach will be the first thing you see. If you're looking to cast a line, you'll appreciate this top fishing spot with its rock jetty and easy access to a bridge. Walk further from the jetty and you'll find a gorgeous stretch of beach where you can soak up the sun, relax and swim.

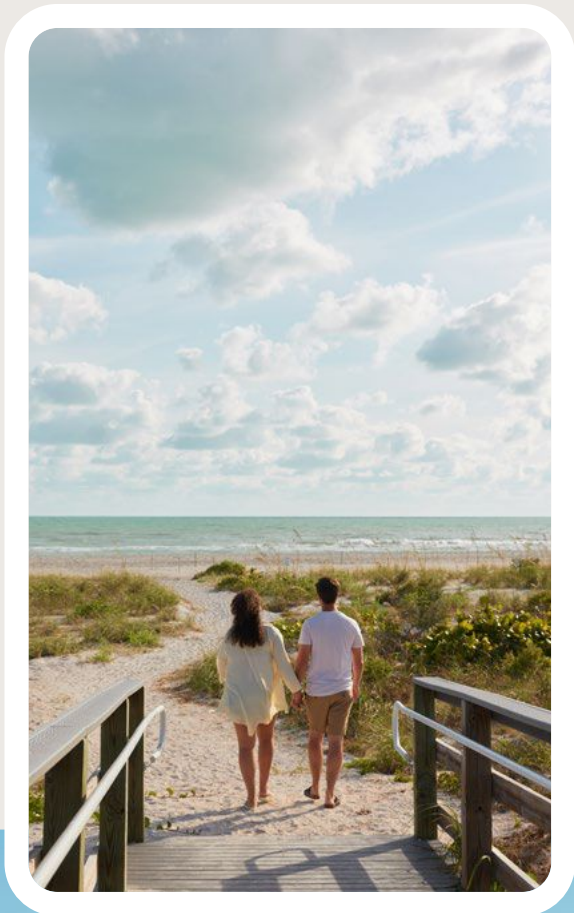


Lighthouse Beach Park

SANIBEL ISLAND

Step onto this picturesque beach that's home to the historic Sanibel Island Lighthouse, and you might feel a connection to a simpler time. Watch brown pelicans dive-bomb for a meal while you enjoy the laid-back atmosphere and natural beauty of this popular spot. Lighthouse Beach Park is easy to access by car, but if you're staying on Sanibel, double your pleasure by biking the island's scenic pathways and then enjoying time at the beach.





Bowman's Beach

SANIBEL ISLAND

If you're looking to spend an entire day on a stunning beach, Bowman's does not disappoint. Meander on sandy trails through the beautifully maintained park to the boardwalk, then through mangrove forests and over back bay waters to your destination. Here, secluded white sands and gentle Gulf waves are yours to enjoy. This beach is often blanketed in seashells, making it the perfect place to search for a natural souvenir. Just be sure not to take any live shells.



Blind Pass Beach

SANIBEL ISLAND

This quaint and relatively quiet beach is known for the pastel-colored shells that wash ashore here each day. The beach sits just south of Blind Pass Bridge, marking the end of Sanibel Island. It's a great spot to cast a line from shore or take a walk. Part of the beach extends into Blind Pass, where you can take in the beautiful view of the bridge and surrounding island homes.



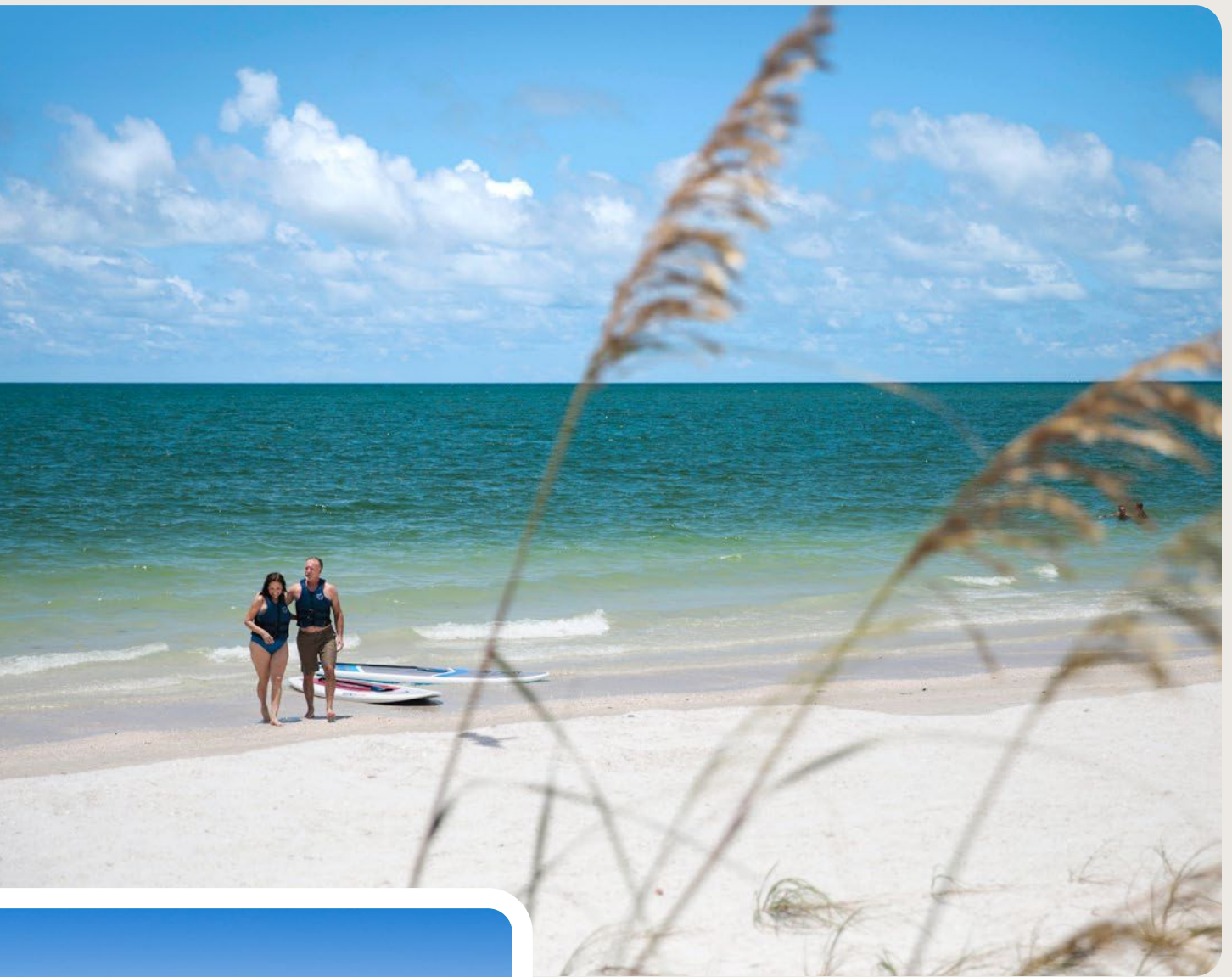


Gulfside City Park

SANIBEL ISLAND

Nestled on the natural shoreline of Sanibel Island, this spot is a nature lover's dream. Relaxation sets in as soon as you step foot on the tropical pathways that lead you to a gorgeous beach with sparkling Gulf waters. You're likely to see gopher tortoises and shorebirds upon your arrival.





Lovers Key State Park

BONITA SPRINGS

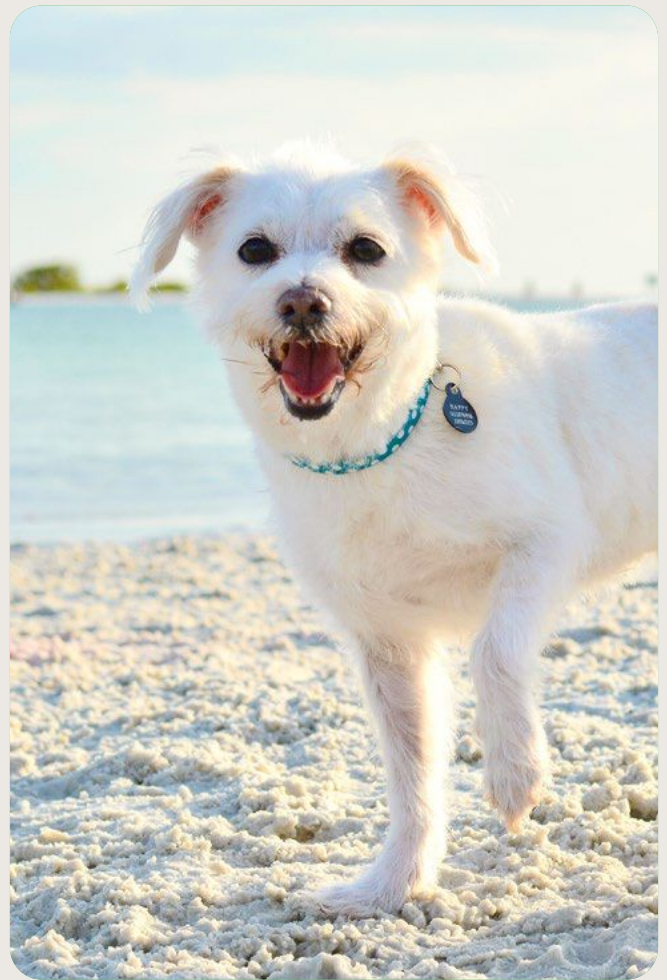
If your perfect day is sunning and swimming with a little bit of solitude, Lovers Key State Park is what beach dreams are made of. Legend has it this beloved local park gets its name from the couples who would steal away to the secluded spot for a little privacy. Today, you can stroll along the shoreline and trails of this natural paradise – the perfect place for a quiet walk or sunset serenade.



Dog Beach

BONITA SPRINGS

Although several Fort Myers area beaches are dog-friendly, this stretch of sand is the only local beach where dogs can play off-leash. Treat your canine companion to a day of running, splashing and swimming in the shallow back bay waters. Be sure to bring lots of water for your dog and clean up after them. When playtime is over, you can rinse off sandy paws at the on-site dog shower.



Bonita Beach Park

BONITA SPRINGS

This beautiful beach has everything you need for a relaxing or active beach day. Unwind on the beach or get out on the water to kick the fun up a notch. Rent Jet Skis, paddleboards and more at the watersports outfitter located on the north end of the park. If hunger strikes, walk over to Doc's Beach House and enjoy a meal with your toes in the sand.



Cayo Costa State Park

WEST OF PINE ISLAND
26.676376, -82.249603

Charter a private boat to take you to the untouched beaches of Cayo Costa, part of Florida's treasured state park system. You'll feel like you are worlds away (but no passport required) when you reach this unspoiled barrier island. It's an ultimate island experience where solitude is guaranteed, the seashells are plentiful, and dolphins and manatees are regular visitors. The emerald-hued waters are spectacular, making it the perfect place to swim, snorkel and float your worries away. You'll even find several hiking trails to explore.



@hannahrheaume





“**Discovering the natural beauty of our pristine beaches just feels right.**”



Island Hopping



Sanibel Island

There's a reason people want to be on "island time." It's the kind of laid-back feeling that comes with the sun on your face, the wind in your hair, and absolutely nothing you need to do – except, perhaps, to take in the beauty of your surroundings.

“Island hopping around Fort Myers is an experience you’ll never forget.”

Embrace serendipity on a tour boat to Cabbage Key or Useppa Island for lunch, or cross a bridge or two to quiet Pine Island or Sanibel and Captiva Islands, with their laid-back lifestyle and famous seashells. Whatever mode you choose, island hopping around Fort Myers is an experience you'll never forget.





Islands You Can Drive To

Sanibel Island and **Captiva Island** definitely deserve their “away from it all” vacation vibe, with beautiful beaches, island dining spots, and watersports. On **Pine Island**, the fishing and birdwatching are amazing, while **Estero Island** (Fort Myers Beach) offers water sports, sandy beaches, and casual restaurants.

Explore the islands and discover your new favorite activities, such as shell collecting, kayaking, and simply relaxing and taking in the views. Don't miss a variety of fresh seafood on the menu, and find a great spot when it's time for sunset.



Get around like a local – rent a bike or golf cart to explore our islands.



 Captiva Island

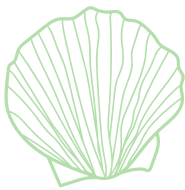
The Outer Islands

The pace of life is slower on our outer islands, which are accessible only by water. Whether you choose your own boat, a rental boat, or one of several charters or water taxis, your time exploring these barrier islands will likely be a highlight of your visit.

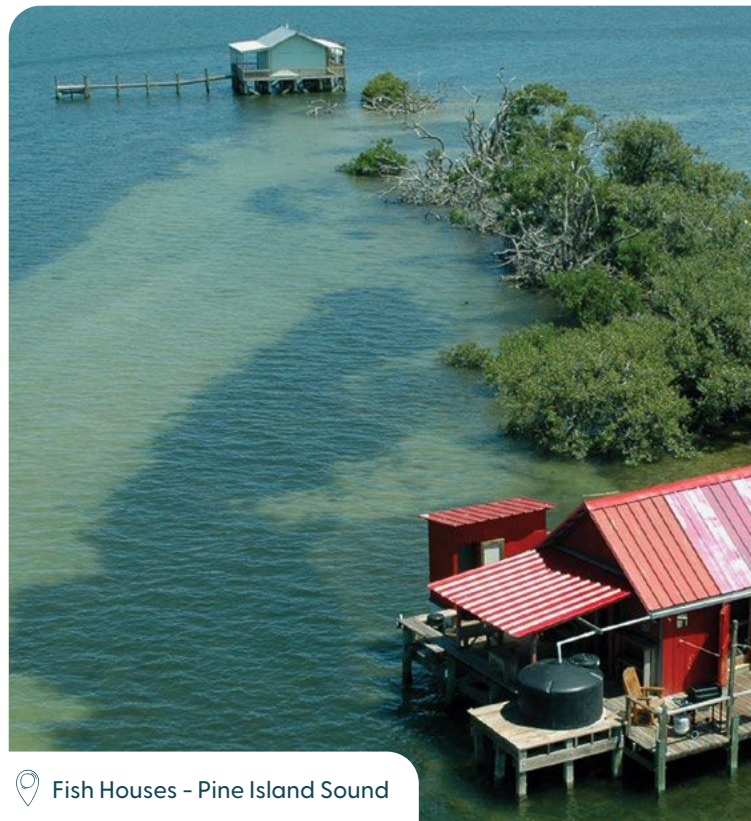
Pine Island Sound is home to **Cabbage Key**, where you'll find a historic inn and rustic cottages (several with private boat docks). At the legendary Cabbage Key Inn & Restaurant, you can have a grilled mahi-mahi sandwich and write your name on a dollar bill, taping it to the wall as many previous visitors have.



Useppa Island is where you'll find the historic Collier Inn; it's open only to members or guests of members, but you can eat at the restaurant here if you arrive with Captiva Cruises. Learn about the island's history at the small Barbara Sumwalt Museum. Or take the Pine Island ferry to **North Captiva**, the most developed of the outer islands, with its beachfront vacation rentals and casual restaurants.



Many shelling cruises head for the island of Cayo Costa, where surrounding waters are famous for seashells.



 Fish Houses - Pine Island Sound



 Captiva Island

See the Sights

Your island-hopping adventure is likely to be filled with wonders. See the historic fish houses of Pine Island Sound, watch dolphins jump in the boat's wake, and spot manatees in quiet backwaters. Spot the mangrove islands that dot the coastline (some of them, such as Picnic Island near Sanibel, can be explored). Rookery islands delight birdwatchers, especially around sunset, when the sky is filled with birds coming home to roost.

Rent a Boat

If you want to head out on your own, look into boat rentals. They're available at local marinas, where helpful staff will provide an orientation to your watercraft, charts of local waterways, and tips for having a great time.



Anyone born after January 1, 1988, will need to take a boating **safety course** before renting a boat.



Take a Boat Tour

Island Girl Charters

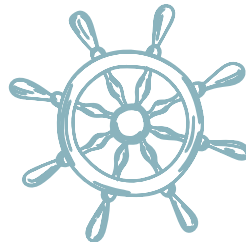
Departs from Pineland Marina on Pine Island to Cabbage Key and North Captiva.

Adventures in Paradise

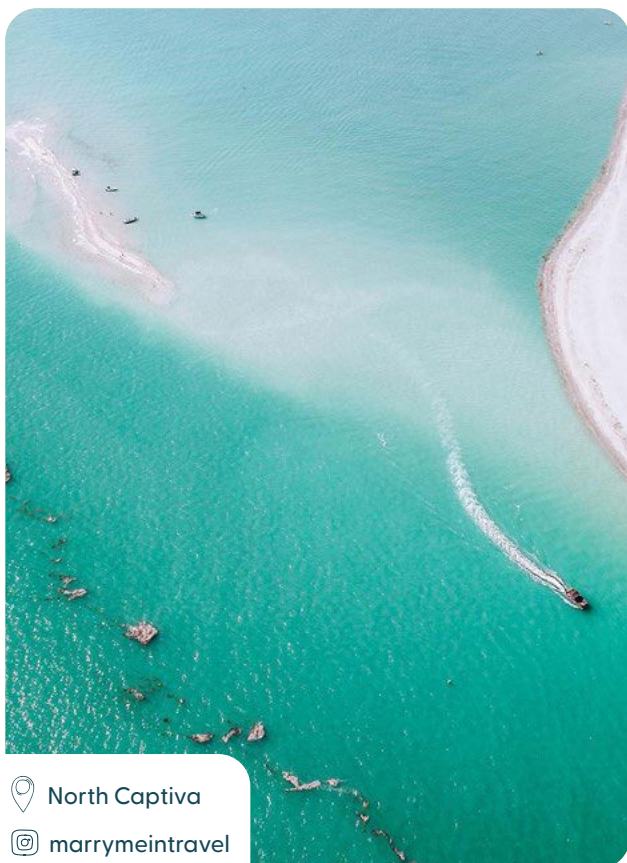
Departs from Port Sanibel Marina; a shelling tour includes lunch at Cabbage Key.

Captiva Cruises

Departs from Captiva Island to Cabbage Key, Useppa, Cayo Costa, Boca Grande (seasonal) and Tarpon Lodge on Pine Island (seasonal).



Book in advance, as tours often sell out.



📍 North Captiva
 @marrymeintravel

Book a Private Charter

Are you looking for a personalized adventure? An experienced captain who knows the local waters can help. Choose from wildlife-spotting, shelling, swimming, and sightseeing excursions from an expert like **Captain Cathy Eagle**, who departs from Pineland – her dolphin and nature tours take in Cayo Costa and stop for lunch on Cabbage Key.

FLIGHTSEEING ADVENTURES

Get a bird's-eye view of the Fort Myers area shoreline on a helicopter tour with **Str8 Up Aviation**. Its scenic flightseeing tours take in the mangrove and beach coastlines of Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Beach, or you can choose a Sanibel, Captiva, and Pine Island tour.

Nature & Parks



 J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge



Time spent in wild places is time that heals and renews, bringing us peaceful moments and treasured memories. In Fort Myers' parks and preserves, the relaxed pace is set by Mother Nature herself. Come discover the amazing diversity of ecosystems in Southwest Florida, including coastal waters, estuaries and bays, freshwater wetlands, pine flatwoods, and upland oak hammocks.



Listen to the sweet sound of bird calls.



Our region's environmental diversity supports a wide variety of plants and animals. You may see wild dolphins, manatees and (if you're very lucky) sea turtles swim in the calm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. You might hear the rapid rat-tat-tat of a pileated woodpecker before you see its flaming-red crest as it drills for insects on a sabal palm. If you visit a park with a freshwater lake or wetland, there's a good chance you'll spot an alligator gliding through the water or sunning itself on the shore.

Fort Myers' coastal and inland natural spaces are treasured for the positive impact they have on locals and visitors alike. In fact, more than 100,000 acres have been designated as conservation land to support wildlife and sustain the natural environment.

Make a plan to visit soon: You'll come away with amazing photographs and a renewed sense of wonder.

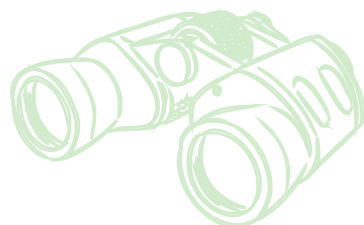


 Sanibel Island



Incredible Nature Experiences

Strap on your binoculars to **see birds and other wildlife** on a hike. Check out the boardwalk trail at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve in Fort Myers or explore Wildlife Drive at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island. In Alva, hike near the river at Caloosahatchee Regional Park or visit Hickey Creek Mitigation Park, part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. Visit the boardwalk and paved trail at Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve East in North Fort Myers. Cape Coral's 365-acre Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve has a lovely nature trail, and Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in nearby Naples is a top wildlife-spotting location.



Arrive in early morning, when parks open, for the coolest weather as well as the best bird watching and wildlife viewing.

See manatees throughout our waters year-round, including at Lovers Key State Park in Bonita Springs. Manatee Park in Fort Myers is a great place to spot these gentle giants in winter and early spring.

Immerse yourself in local ecosystems when you book a **dolphin and wildlife cruise** with a local tour company; take a full-day, **guided "eco-safari"** with Everglades Day Safari; or head out on an **open-air swamp buggy ride** with Babcock Ranch Eco-Tours.

Learn about the environment at discovery centers at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Lovers Key State Park, Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve and Rotary Park Environmental Center.

Ride the 25 miles of **bike paths** on Sanibel Island, or spend the day in Cape Coral, with more than 90 miles of interconnected bike paths. Mountain bikers will want to **try out the trails** at Caloosahatchee Regional Park in Alva.

Learn about wildlife rehabilitation during a fascinating Wildlife Walk Guided Hospital Tour at CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife) on Sanibel Island.

See sensational sunsets and the night sky when you plan a camping adventure at historic Koreshan State Park.

Experience untouched wilderness in Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, both just a short drive from Fort Myers.



 Galt Preserve, Pine Island

Creatures of the Coast



Burrowing Owl

Cape Coral is home to the largest population of Florida burrowing owls, which is the only owl species that make its homes underground.



Black Skimmer

These remarkable birds feed by flying just above the water, gently dragging their bills along the surface to capture small fish. Skimmers are the only birds in the world that do this.



Snowy Egret

The male and female of this species take turns incubating their eggs, sometimes passing a stick to each other like a baton when switching off.



Osprey

These large hawks are often seen flying near waterways, sometimes with fish in their talons. They protect their chicks fiercely.



Alligator

This cousin of the dinosaurs may be seen in any freshwater environment. Alligators can stay underwater for 20 minutes to several hours at a time.



Manatee

These marine mammals awe us with their sheer tonnage, but delight with their gentle demeanor.



Bottlenose Dolphin

Swift swimmers, dolphins slice through the waves at up to nearly 20 mph.



Sea Turtle

The region's most common species, the loggerhead, can grow to anywhere from 400 to 1,000 pounds.



Brown Pelican

Although they are very large birds, brown pelicans weigh only 8 to 10 pounds. Watch them dive-bomb into the Gulf, trapping fish in their gular, a flexible pouch.



Roseate Spoonbill

Our most stunning bird species can be seen here year-round in all its blushing pink glory.



See more information on **Fort Myers parks and preserves** along with an interactive map.

Paddling



📍 Lovers Key State Park

Getting out on the water is one of the best ways to experience the beauty of the greater Fort Myers area and – even better – exploring by kayak or stand-up paddleboard gives you access to areas no motorboat can reach.

Try one of these themed tours, led by local experts, and you may find yourself transported to a new state of mind where peace prevails and you feel a deep connection to nature.

Sunrise & Sunset

Starting or ending your day with a sun salutation on the water is bound to bring a sense of namaste. “We get a great view of the sunset where we paddle, and it’s so incredibly peaceful to be a part of the dawning light in the midst of mangroves or magnificently over Charlotte Harbor,” says Lisa Perry, co-owner of **Carmen’s Kayaks** in Bokeelia.

Paddlers often spot manatees in the early morning, and it’s common to see dolphins feeding around sunset. Both times of day, you’re practically guaranteed to share the setting with magnificent birds.



📍 Matlacha
📷 evonc727

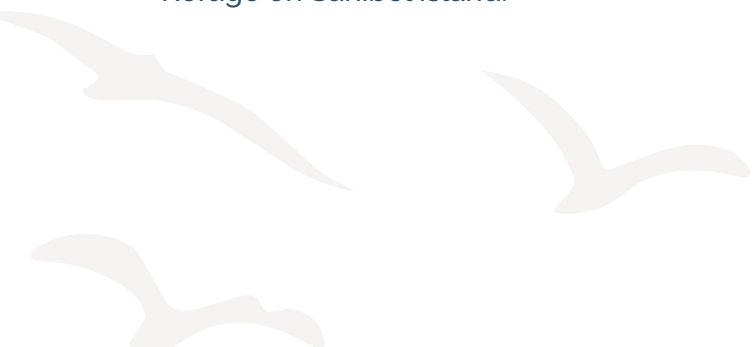


Wildlife Watching

Silently and respectfully entering the environments where wildlife thrives, paddlers often experience nature on an entirely different plane. "Kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding are two of the best ways to see wildlife," says Wendy Schnapp, co-owner of **Tarpon Bay Explorers**, the official concession for the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

"No motors make a paddler's impact minimal, which makes wildlife much more likely to go about their activities with little attention paid to the quiet observer," she says.

In the refuge's bay and trail waters, you may see everything from manatees and dolphins to fish, live shells, and coastal birds such as ibises, herons, and white pelicans.



Mangrove Tunnels

Enclosed in a serene and verdant world, gliding inside a mangrove tunnel feels a bit like you're inside nature's cathedral. "Paddling through a mangrove tunnel is like being transported to a different place and time," says Stefan Kuenzel, owner of **Kayak Excursions**, the recreation concession for San Carlos Bay - Bunche Beach Preserve in south Fort Myers. "There aren't many places where you can experience the wonder of mangrove tunnels, but lucky for us, Bunche Beach is one of those special places with a whole network of them."

Mangrove forests form tunnels when the trees arch over narrow creeks and waterways. The tunnels provide the ultimate in still-water kayaking, allowing you a chance to see unique creatures such as yellow-crowned night herons and mangrove crabs.



North Fort Myers



Sanibel Island
@actualoutdoors

Cultural Tours

Like the ancient Calusa people, modern-day paddlers can explore this region – and along the way, discover stories of the past in an area once considered sacred.

"We talk about the Calusa on every one of our tours, whether we're on the river – named the Caloosahatchee in their honor – or looking at a lightning whelk shell they used to make tools, or paddling around Pine Island, where they had a strong presence," says Connie Langmann, owner of **GAEA Guides**, which offers a variety of themed paddling tours. "It adds a whole other aspect to the nature experience."

Don't be surprised if a dolphin, manatee, or bald eagle shows up to guide you on your journey like a mystical spirit animal.





Kayak Fishing

Why not combine two of our favorite local watersports into one outing?

"Southwest Florida is the perfect place for kayak fishing, with acres of protected grass flats, slow-moving passes, and little tidal creeks that only kayaks can access," says Captain Justin Stuller, co-owner of **Estero River Outfitters**. "It really is a kayak fishing paradise!"

Pedal kayaks are well-suited to fishing in either salt or fresh water. Stuller recommends hiring a kayak fishing guide for their knowledge of local waterways, seasonality, and more.



Check out **kayak outfitters** offering tours and rentals throughout the islands, beaches and neighborhoods of Fort Myers.

Great Calusa Blueway

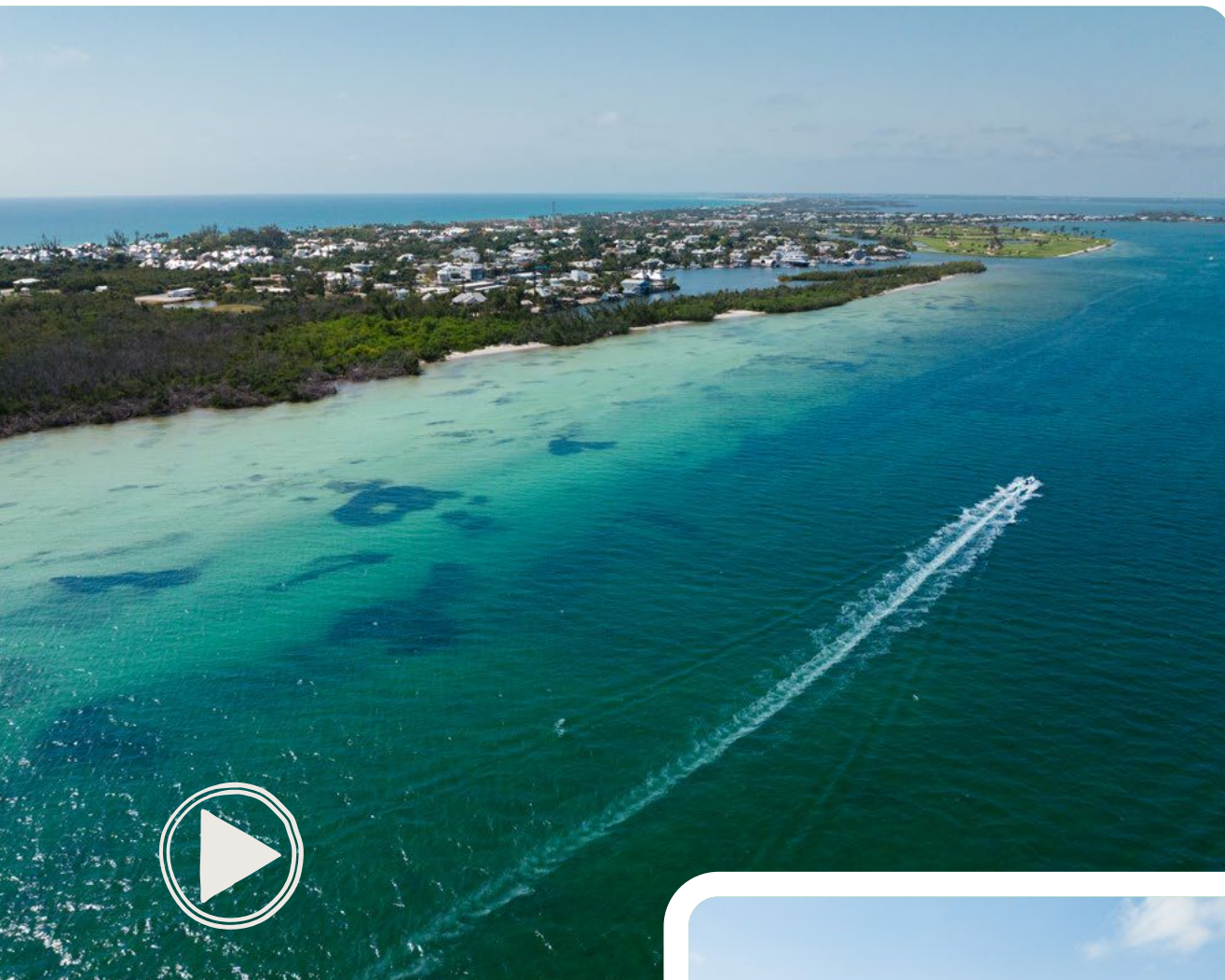
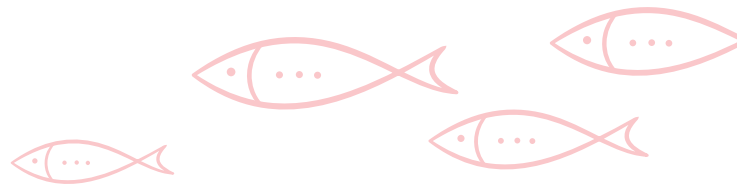
Enjoy a one-of-a-kind Fort Myers experience when you paddle some of the nearly 200 miles of the Great Calusa Blueway. This beautiful aquatic trail winds through the Intracoastal Waterway, the Caloosahatchee River, and narrow creeks from Cayo Costa south to Bonita Springs' Imperial River. For Blueway coordinator Mike Hammond, its magic connects you directly with both nature's beauty and local heritage.

"As soon as you hit the water, you're part of nature," he says. "You're part of the history of the Calusa, old fish camps, and islands. It's like living an episode of the Nature and History channels combined."

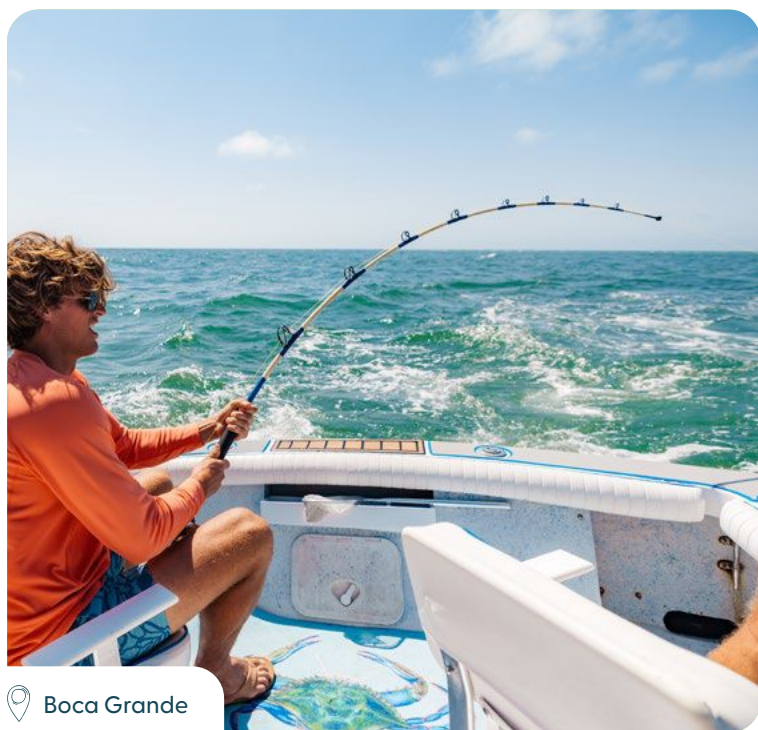
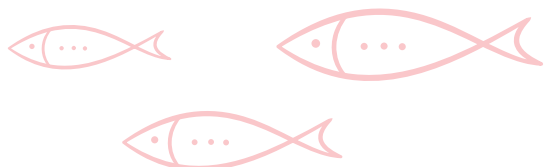
Visit our **Great Calusa Blueway** page for helpful resources to plan your adventure, from trail maps, top stops, and safety tips to routes for novice paddlers and more. There's even a Calusa Blueways app.



Fishing



From the thrill of pulling in a trophy catch to a relaxing afternoon casting a line at the beach, our destination is a fishing hotspot whether you are a first-timer or an experienced angler.



 Boca Grande

Local Fishing Spots & Ways to Fish

The good news is that you have a lot of options. For freshwater bass fishing, head to **Lakes Park** in Fort Myers. The brackish waterways within **J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge** on Sanibel Island and the protected waters around Pine Island yield good catches.

You can fish from most public beaches in the area (Dog Beach and Lighthouse Beach Park being the exceptions), just be sure to keep your distance from swimmers. **Lovers Key State Park** and **San Carlos Bay - Bunche Beach Preserve** are good places to fish from the shore.

You might also try bridge or pier fishing - head to Matlacha, known for "**The Fishingest Bridge in the World**" or try the **Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve**, a quiet and beautiful spot.

Kayak and paddleboard fishing is a wonderful experience in our calm, coastal waters, and local outfitters can help you with equipment needs.

Fly fishing is also growing in popularity in Southwest Florida. Chartering an inshore or offshore fishing trip with an experienced captain will put you in the action.

FISHING LICENSES

Florida residents between 16 and 65 years old and non-residents over age 16 need a license to fish. The only exception is when fishing off a chartered boat (when you are covered by the captain's license). Get a fishing license at a local bait and tackle shop, or go to myfwc.com/license



Cape Coral

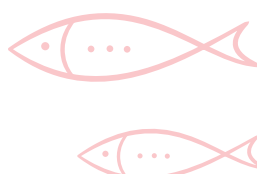
Prized Catches

Boca Grande is considered the "Tarpon Capital of the World," so if **Silver Kings** are on your life list for great catches, plan to visit in late spring through early fall. These flashy beauties – which are "catch and release" only – are known as great fighters, and can weigh more than 200 pounds.

Sport fishermen will want to head out into the Gulf to catch "good eating" fish such as grouper and several species of snapper. Inshore, redfish and snook are legendary catches.

Fishing by the Season

Changes in temperature, tides, and weather, as well as seasonal spawning, impact fish populations. Generally, from April to October, you can expect red grouper, king mackerel, tarpon, or snapper. As the waters cool from November to March, you are more likely to catch amberjack, black grouper, drum, or pompano. But no matter the season, you're bound to be uploading photos of your catches to Instagram by sunset.



Be sure to follow Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission guidelines, available at myfwc.com

Family



 Fort Myers

Life often seems to move pretty fast – all the more reason to plan a family vacation in Fort Myers, the perfect place to slow your pace, enjoy family time, and make wonderful memories together.

Our islands, beaches and neighborhoods provide the best outdoor playgrounds imaginable,

while our parks are home to wildlife species that dazzle and fascinate. And when the kids need to let off some steam, fun parks are the perfect solution.

Here's a guide to making the most of your family vacation in Fort Myers.





Beaches & Nature

Morning – Immerse yourself in nature at **J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge** on Sanibel Island. Get your bearings at the free visitor and education center, then drive, bike, or take a tram tour along Wildlife Drive through habitat teeming with birds and an occasional river otter or alligator.

You could also book a guided kayak tour with **Tarpon Bay Explorers**, where an experienced naturalist will provide insight into the interesting animals and plants that call the refuge home.

Or – Rent bikes (of all sizes and for all ages) and set out on some of the 25 miles of paved, shared-use paths on Sanibel Island.



 Salty Sam's Pirate Cruise

At the **Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium**, learn about the treasures you can find on our beaches. Continue riding along the lush paths, stopping for lunch along the way, or browsing the shops at **Jerry's**.

Afternoon – It's time to hit the beach for swimming and shell-seeking. **Bowman's Beach** and **Gulfside City Park** on Sanibel Island are covered with shells, especially after high tide.

Evening – Board a spacious catamaran and look for wild dolphins at play on an eco-tour with **Sight Sea-R Cruises**, or take up swashbuckling on your excursion with **Salty Sam's Pirate Cruise**, both departing from Fort Myers Beach.



 Boca Grande

 jennyvogel10

“In Fort Myers, endless fun awaits the whole family.”



📍 Sun Splash Family Waterpark

Water Slides & Kitschy Fun

Morning – Start your day by whooshing down water slides at **Sun Splash Family Waterpark** in Cape Coral. From thrilling to relaxing, there are slides and pools for all ages.

Or – Try a new tropical experience at **Brightwater Lagoon** in North Fort Myers. Play in the clear blue water or find adventure on a paddleboard, in a kayak, or on the water obstacle course and slide.

Afternoon – Head to Fort Myers to play 18 holes (or 36 for true golf fans) on a fun-for-the-whole-family putting course designed by Tiger Woods at **PopStroke**. Kids and their parents will enjoy pulling out a driver and taking aim at targets at **Topgolf**, too.

Evening – Strike up some indoor fun at **810 Billiards & Bowling**, located at Miromar Outlets in Estero – complete with bowling, sports simulators, billiards, dart boards, axe throwing lanes, and the iconic Mean Mugs Milkshake Bar.



Attractions & Museums

Morning – Be amazed by the freely wandering flamingos and peacocks at **Wonder Gardens** in Bonita Springs, which dates to 1936. Home to more than 300 rescued and rehabilitated animals, it feels like Old Florida in a very cool way.

Or – Young kids are particularly fond of the mini train ride at **Lakes Park** in Fort Myers, but even adults can climb aboard for the 15-minute scenic tour. Your ticket includes admission to the park's Railroad Museum of South Florida.

Afternoon – Encourage your kids' fascination with live animals and outer space with a visit to **Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium** in Fort Myers. The attraction hosts live animal demonstrations, talks, walks, and planetarium shows.

Or – If they're into more hands-on learning, go to **IMAG History & Science Center** in Fort Myers to explore weather, electricity, and other scientific phenomena. See and learn about native fish species, go on a fossil hunt, or touch a stingray in the Sea-to-See Touch Tank.

Evening – After dinner, have a sweet treat when you choose from more than 85 flavors of ice cream and sorbet at **Love Boat Ice Cream** at four Fort Myers area locations.



 Wonder Gardens

FAMILY STAYS

Discover family-friendly resorts that offer activities and experiences tailor-made for the kids. From arts and crafts to outdoor adventures and games, the whole family will be entertained.

On Fort Myers Beach, **Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina** brings the fun with daily activities for all ages. Create a nature craft souvenir, play in a foam party, or enjoy a movie night outside by the pool. Join Ranger Rob for weekly Nature Discovery programs that include wildlife talks and stargazing adventures.

Sundial Beach Resort & Spa, on Sanibel Island, has a whole team dedicated to fun. Compete in table-tennis tournaments, paint seashells, or learn about the island's ecosystem on a guided beach and shelling walk led by marine educators from the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium. If you're looking for some friendly family competition, reserve some time to play a game of pickleball or bocce ball.

Make a splash at the **Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa** in Bonita Springs. Complete with five winding water slides, a lazy river, and a lagoon-style pool with a tot-slide, there is a water feature for kids of all ages. Enjoy some "me-time" when you enroll the kids in Camp Hyatt where they can make new friends and have fun. Families can choose from full- or half-day sessions.

Romance



 Pine Island Sound



 Sanibel Island

Our laid-back destination is the perfect spot for a romantic getaway. Whether you're planning a beach wedding or honeymoon – or simply looking to reconnect with your special someone by disconnecting from your busy life – Fort Myers will earn a special place in your heart.

There are so many ways to make your romantic getaway here memorable. Watch a beautiful sunset, rent a tandem kayak, charter a boat, or plan a sunset sail to experience romance on the water. Eat at colorful, flip-flop casual places or dress up for a night of fine dining. No matter who you are, your love is welcome here.

“Unwind, reconnect, and discover the perfect place to fall in love.”



Picnic for Two

Grab a beach blanket, some bubbly, and takeout from your favorite local restaurant, and savor the scenery with your sweetie. Or take it to another level with help from local companies that offer gourmet picnic experiences.

Scenic Settings

Fort Myers romance is punctuated by its beautiful sunsets over the Gulf, and you'll find wonderful vantage points to take in special moments together. Stroll hand-in-hand along the shoreline or enjoy a sunset cruise. Whether beachside or out on the water, love flourishes in this picturesque setting.



 Captiva Island



 Matanzas on the Bay

On the Water

There's something so romantic about being at sea, a gentle breeze flowing through your hair as you glide over gentle waves. There are so many ways to experience romance on the water along the Fort Myers coast. Rent a tandem kayak to paddle in calm waters, plan a peaceful sunset sail, or charter a boat and look for wild dolphins and majestic shorebirds.



For Nature Lovers

Legend has it **Lovers Key State Park** gets its name from the couples who would steal away to this secluded spot for a little privacy. Stroll along the trails and shoreline of this beautiful landscape or join a ranger-led program to spot manatees, osprey, and gopher tortoises.





Date-Night Dining

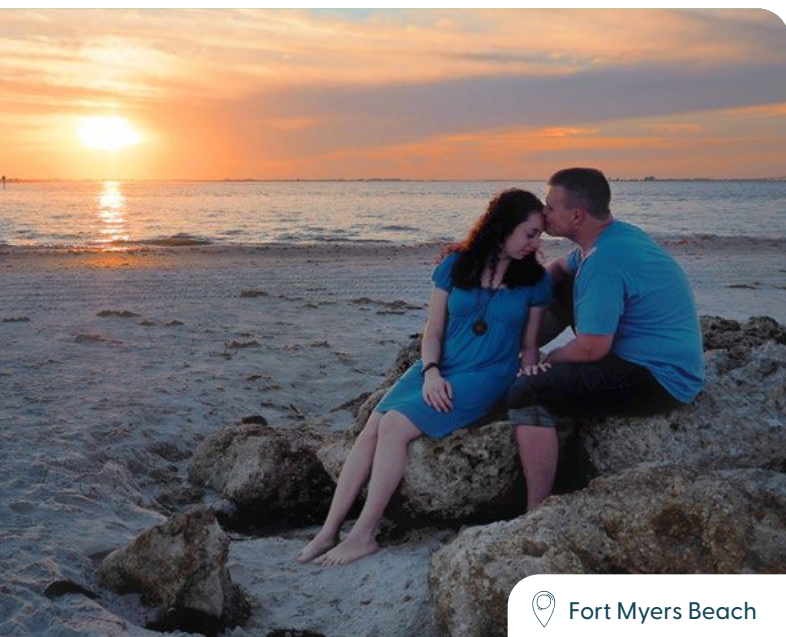
To amp up the romance factor, treat your love to a delectable dinner in an intimate setting. Reserve your table at a romantic restaurant such as **Angelina's Ristorante**, **Cristof's on McGregor**, **Tarpon Lodge**, or **The Veranda** — just to name a few. Or, if your style is less candlelight-and-fine-dining and more casual-and-carefree, a great night out option might be a wine bar, nautical tiki cruise, or craft brewery.



 Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina



Get inspiration for your dream day at [VisitFortMyers.com/weddings](https://www.visitfortmyers.com/weddings)



 Fort Myers Beach

PLAN YOUR WEDDING OR HONEYMOON

Picture saying “*I do*” with one of our gorgeous beaches or historic waterfront estates as your backdrop. Our natural beauty, laid-back vibe, vibrant dining scene, and beautiful resorts make this area the perfect place for weddings and honeymoons. Local wedding planners, resorts, and restaurants can help you plan your special day.

History

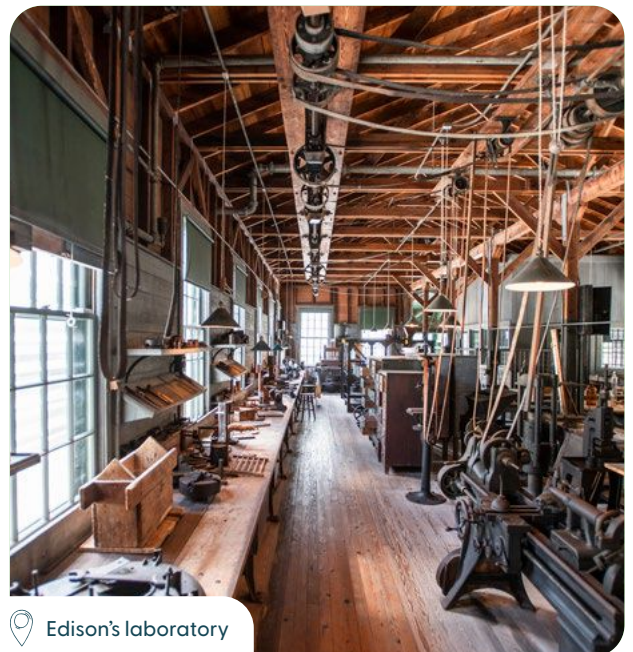


 Koreshan State Park

Fully immerse yourself in Fort Myers as you dive into the area's history and heritage via guided tours, museum explorations, and visits to historical sites.

Delve Into the Area's Rich Past

Fort Myers' fascinating history began more than 12,000 years ago, when the indigenous Calusa people came to Southwest Florida to fish, hunt, gather food, and raise their families in a highly complex society. Much later, pioneers moved here to farm the land and raise cattle. Fort Myers was a military outpost during the Third Seminole War and, later, a Civil War Union Army base.



 Edison's laboratory



📍 Edison and Ford Winter Estates

In the late 1800s, Thomas Edison began spending winters in Fort Myers, forever changing the city's story. In 1916, his friend Henry Ford bought the house next door. Other important figures are responsible for the handsome facades in the **Fort Myers Historic River District**, which has the largest concentration of historic structures in Southwest Florida.

Today, the highlight of any visit to Fort Myers is a tour of the **Edison and Ford Winter Estates**, where you can wander the beautiful gardens and homes, view early-model Ford automobiles and see Edison's laboratory.

Other attractions include the **Williams Academy Black History Museum** in Fort Myers, **Koreshan State Park** in Estero, the **Mound House** on Fort Myers Beach, and the **Museum of the Islands** on Pine Island.



Take a historic walking tour of downtown Fort Myers with **True Tours**, or explore Bonita Springs with the **Bonita Springs Historical Society**.



📍 Downtown Fort Myers

Arts & Culture



 Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center



From browsing colorful galleries to enjoying a show at one of our many performing arts venues, you'll find an arts and culture scene that's intimate, welcoming, and filled with enriching experiences.

“ Discover a vibrant world of art and culture at every turn.

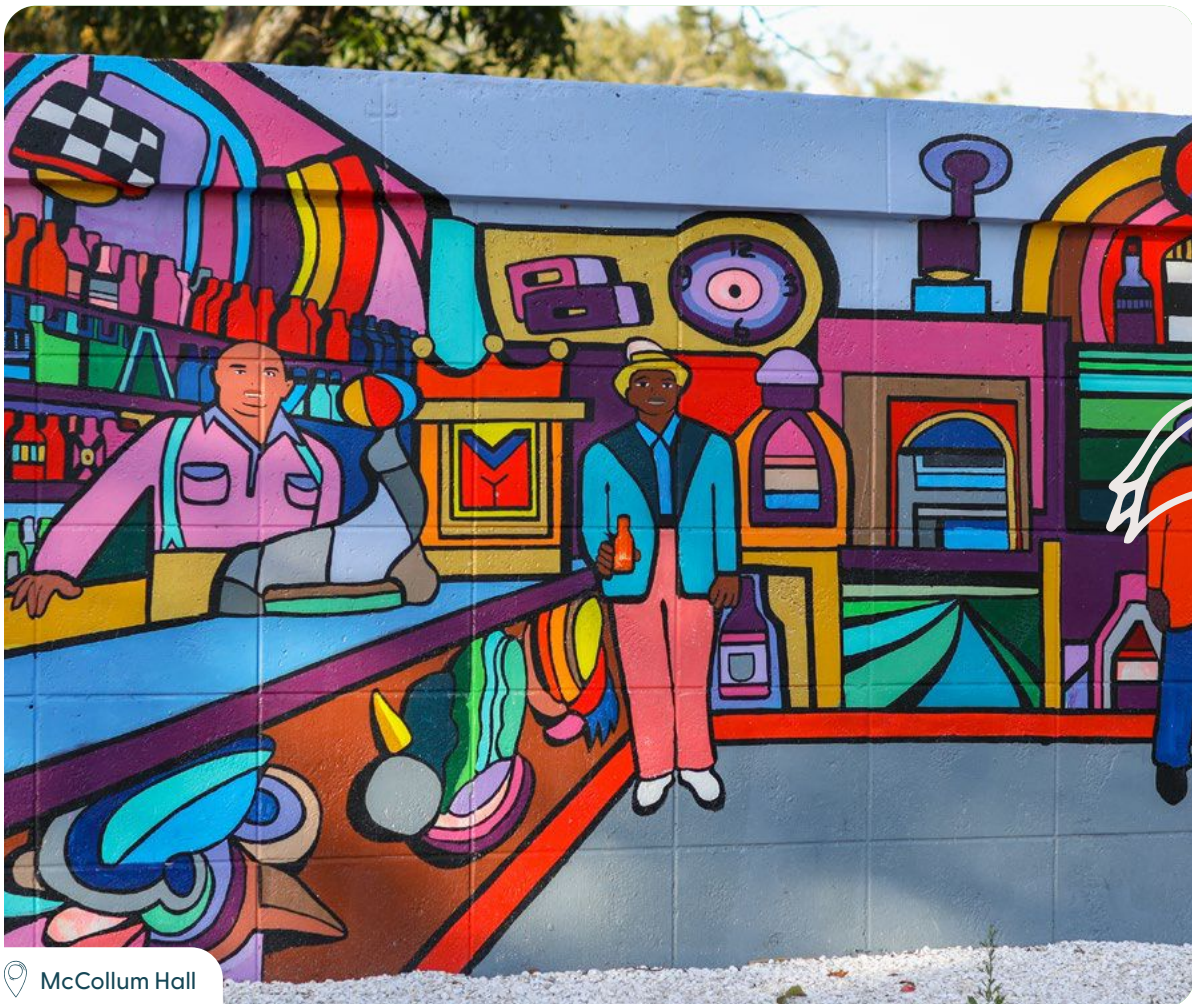
Explore Your Creative Side

Stroll through the Fort Myers Historic River District to see more than 50 murals highlighting the city's fascinating history. The **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** offers lively art exhibitions, films, special events, and a rooftop sculpture garden.

Just down the street, a vibrant mural behind **McCollum Hall** showcases its colorful history as a performing hall hosting such musical greats as Count Basie and Louis Armstrong. You can meet local artists at the **Downtown Fort Myers Art Walk**, which takes place on the first Friday of every month.



 Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre



 McCollum Hall



 Matlacha Menagerie

Be sure to check out **Alliance for the Arts** in Fort Myers, **BIG ARTS** on Sanibel Island, and **Arts Bonita** in Bonita Springs for rotating art exhibits, workshops, and performing arts. See works by a new generation of artists at the **Florida Gulf Coast University Art Galleries** and the **Bob Rauschenberg Gallery** at Florida SouthWestern State College.

For further inspiration, enjoy a performance at one of Fort Myers' exceptional theaters, including the storied **Florida Repertory Theatre**, **Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre**, and several experimental playhouses, as well as two symphonies, an opera company, and the highly respected **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall**.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN AN INTERACTIVE MURAL JOURNEY

Beautiful art and neighborhood pride blend in a special project created in partnership with Lee County government and the Fort Myers Mural Society – a series of outdoor murals dotted throughout the area.

Each has interactive elements that invite you to become a part of the scene – whether it's a beach vista or a children's garden. This is a work of art in progress, but all are expected to be completed in 2025.

Waterfront Dining



 Miceli's Restaurant

Looking for a truly memorable Florida vacation experience? It doesn't get better than relaxing with a cool drink and a delicious meal with a view of scenic waterways, boats and wildlife. Whether along a peaceful river, quiet canal, beautiful mangrove estuary or the incredible blue-green waters of the Gulf of Mexico, waterfront dining in and around Fort Myers is sure to enchant you. Enjoy amazing views, fresh seafood, frosty tropical drinks, live music and soft breezes – not to mention spectacular sunsets.



 Yucatan Waterfront Bar & Grill



Fort Myers

With its stellar waterfront location, **Oxbow Bar & Grill** is a popular downtown spot. Dine indoors or out – either way, you'll enjoy scenic views of the Caloosahatchee River, as well as several bridges a-twinkle with lights at nightfall. This stunning setting calls for seafood and creative cocktails with a slight Southern accent, and that's just what you'll find on the menu.

Dining at **Boathouse Tiki Bar & Grill** at Sweetwater Landing Marina is as much about embracing Fort Myers' laid-back lifestyle and great weather as it is about having a tasty meal. Experience the expansive tiki hut, two bars, and a sandy area where you and your friends can relax – there's even a pool and live music every day. Come by boat and pull up right to the restaurant, order from the expansive food and cocktail menu, and enjoy the waterfront views.



 Boathouse Tiki Bar & Grill



Fort Myers Beach

Named for the lead character in the murder mystery novels written by Randy Wayne White (a local fishing captain-turned-novelist), **Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille** specializes in "Floribbean-style" cuisine. Indulge in their signature dish, the Yucatan Shrimp, which livens up fresh steamed shrimp with garlic butter, mild chilies, cilantro and Key lime juice. The waterfront view is a showstopper, and diners can watch shrimp boats heading in and out of Matanzas Pass.

Another beloved landmark overlooking Matanzas Pass, **Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant** fits perfectly with the island's relaxed vibe. Just a stone's throw away, **Nervous Nellie's** serves up creative cocktails and fresh entrees that are just as colorful as the decor.

Soak in the relaxed atmosphere at **Fresh Catch Bistro** as you dine and take in gorgeous views of the marina and bay.

Sanibel Island

The Sanibel Marina is home to the beloved **Gramma Dot's Seaside Saloon**. Enjoy a quaint setting, dockside views, and a seafood-focused menu. Try one of their award-winning dishes, like the coconut shrimp or fried oysters.

Captiva Island

For an upscale experience, dine at **The Green Flash**, known for its gorgeous waterfront views and delicious dishes, which lean heavily into local seafood.

Boca Grande

Surrounded by water, Boca Grande naturally embraces the nautical lifestyle with delightful marina-side dining. Impressive yachts fill the harbor, and two restaurants at Boca Grande Marina offer a choice of casual island sports bar eats (**Miller's Dockside**) or finer fare (**Eagle Grille**), with everything from Gasparilla shrimp and grits and local grouper to filet mignon.



 Eagle Grille



 Coconut Jack's Waterfront Grille

Matlacha

Tiny Matlacha is known for its fishing heritage and waterfront restaurants, and you'll find plenty of fresh seafood and Italian dishes on the sizeable menu at **Miceli's Restaurant**, a canal-side favorite. Island-style cuisine matches the tropical vibe at **Yucatan Waterfront Bar & Grill**. Disconnect as you take in the sweeping views of Matlacha Pass or swing your cares away at the Swing Bar.

Pine Island

Blue crab and roasted corn chowder is a specialty at **Tarpon Lodge Restaurant**, a hidden gem overlooking Pine Island Sound that is set in a quaint, circa-1926 lodge in Bokeelia. Enjoy your meal on the porch outside or have a more formal experience in the inviting dining room. Come by land or sea to the **Waterfront Restaurant & Marina** in St. James City, an island favorite. Enjoy a laid-back atmosphere, casual deck views, and comforting seafood dishes.





Cape Coral

With its tempting menus, live music, and serene views of a mangrove estuary, as well as boats coming and going from Cape Harbour Marina, **Rumrunners** has stood the test of time with Cape Coral diners. Depending on the time of day, sample everything from French toast to peel-and-eat shrimp to sushi rolls and the Rumrunners rib-eye. Enjoy scenic marina views while sampling creative pizzas and sipping craft cocktails at **High Tide Social House**. This fish house-style restaurant is located in Tarpon Point Marina, a hub of waterfront dining in Cape Coral.

Bonita Springs

Watch for dolphins in the bay waters and soak up the laid-back atmosphere at this bar and patio under a thatched roof, and you'll learn why **Coconut Jack's Waterfront Grille** has been voted Bonita Springs' best waterfront restaurant for more than 10 years running. You'll find plenty of tasty seafood dishes as well as creative tropical drinks to go with the view.

MORE WAYS TO DINE BY THE WATER

Adventures in Paradise Lunch Cruise

Round up friends or family and be whisked away by boat to Cabbage Key Inn & Restaurant to enjoy lunch on a barrier island.

Sightseeing & Lunch with Captiva Cruises

Enjoy lunch with a side of history when you climb aboard a Captiva Cruises tour boat. Choose a historic restaurant on either Cabbage Key or Useppa Island, both accessible only by boat.

Captain Your Own Foodie Cruise

Rent a boat from a local marina and chart a course for a food-hopping tour, starting with cool drinks and stone crab apps, then sailing on to grouper sandwiches and Key lime pie.



Read about more "dock and dine" experiences in Fort Myers.

Craft Beer

Sunny days, new friends, and delicious craft beers to sample – some might consider it the perfect recipe for a Florida getaway.



 Crazy Dingo Brewing Co.

On your next Fort Myers vacation, relax in taprooms and beer gardens that pour the finest handcrafted wheat ales, IPAs, lagers, sours, and hazies – and, for entertainment, find lawn games, live music, food trucks, and even see animals on a working farm. Here are some of Fort Myers' happiest, hoppiest places – many of them both kid- and pet-friendly.

Fort Myers Brewing Co.

FORT MYERS

Southwest Florida's largest brewery – celebrating 12 years in 2025 – was the first to open in Fort Myers. Their award-winning beers include the popular High 5 IPA you'll find all over Florida as well as the Chocolate

Peanut Butter Porter offered year-round, but there are many delicious seasonal brews to try, as well as their Spyk'd hard seltzers.

Millennial Brewing Co.

DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

This modern, open-concept beer hall with a rustic warehouse vibe offers plenty of room to spread out with family and friends, both indoors and out.



Crazy Dingo Brewing Co.

FORT MYERS

Set within Southern Fresh Farms, this brewery makes you feel like you're in a different world, as you sip a tasty beer at a picnic table overlooking the farm. Kids can feed the animals and enjoy the playground. You'll find food trucks and live music on weekends.



 Crazy Dingo Brewing Co.

Hopsized Brewing Co.

BONITA SPRINGS

Winner of the "2023 Best Small Brewery in Florida," this is a family-friendly, must-try spot on your brewventure. Hopsized's co-founder leans on his science background to create nuanced, high-quality beer, which you can watch being made through a glass wall in the taproom.

Scotty's Bierwerks

CAPE CORAL

Sample the rotating selection of beers brewed on-site at this dog-friendly indoor/outdoor spot. Seasonal brews include Creamsicle Fruited Ale, German Pilsner, and Oatmeal Stout. Time your visit for Food Truck Fridays and enjoy live music.



Check out **more breweries** in the Fort Myers area.



 Scotty's Bierwerks

NEW BREWERIES

There's always upcoming talent adding inspired takes on brewing to the Fort Myers scene. Check out the newer kids on the beer block as you sample lagers, IPAs, sours, and more at **Voodoo Brewing Co.**, **Swamp Cat Brew Co.**, and **Chubby Mermaid Brewing Co.**

Golf



 Fort Myers Country Club

In Fort Myers, warm weather means vacationing golfers needn't miss a single day on the links. Whether you're a novice or a scratch golfer, you'll appreciate the diversity of the "greens scene" from Boca Grande to Bonita Springs. The area even offers several new golf experiences.

Fort Myers Country Club

FORT MYERS

With a history that dates to 1917, this 18-hole course has hosted celebrity golfers throughout the years – even Thomas Edison, who lived nearby. The club's restaurant still bears Edison's name, while the course is known for its signature Donald Ross domed greens and short-game highlights.

Shell Point Golf Club

FORT MYERS

Native birds meet birdies at this Audubon-certified course with pristine water hazards and challenging fairways. Its divot-free, six-tee boxes and super-fast putting greens make it a locals' favorite. Close to Sanibel Island in the Shell Point Retirement Community, the course feels like a lush, private escape, yet it's open to public play.

Eastwood Golf Course

FORT MYERS

This par 72 course was designed by Bob Von Hagge and Bruce Devlin and features 87 strategically placed bunkers, and water on 10 of the 18 holes. In addition to a championship golf course, Eastwood includes a remodeled driving range and practice green.

Old Corkscrew Golf Club

ESTERO

A Southwest Florida favorite, thanks to its challenge and natural beauty, the 7,400-yard Jack Nicklaus course is set in a stunning world of wetlands, bald cypress stands, pinelands, and native scrub. No houses interrupt the Old Florida feel and beautiful views. Players find this Audubon International Signature Sanctuary challenging because of its abundant sand and water traps.



📍 Saltleaf Golf Preserve, Bonita Springs

Coral Oaks Golf Course

CAPE CORAL

Set within a century-old oak hammock, Cape Coral's municipal golf course feels like a peaceful retreat. Golfers appreciate its challenging, Arthur Hills-designed championship course and GPS-equipped golf carts.

The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club

SANIBEL ISLAND

This 18-hole championship course inside an Audubon-sanctioned wildlife preserve offers an island-style golf experience with opportunities to spot alligators, otters, and wading birds. The course, designed by Mark McCumber, is considered suitable for golfers at all skill levels.

The Clutch

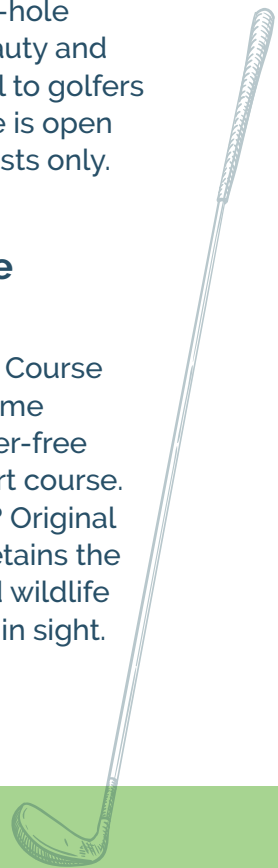
CAPTIVA ISLAND

Golf-meets-Gulf at South Seas resort's newly expanded 12-hole short course. Its natural beauty and strategic challenges appeal to golfers of all skill levels. The course is open to members and resort guests only.

Saltleaf Golf Preserve

BONITA SPRINGS

The former Raptor Bay Golf Course has not only changed its name but also brings a new bunker-free format and a nine-hole short course. What has stayed the same? Original architect Raymond Floyd retains the course's natural beauty and wildlife habitat, without any homes in sight.



OTHER FUN GOLF EXPERIENCES

PopStroke

Tiger Woods' golf entertainment concept offers two 18-hole putting courses (one is challenging, while the other is great for novices and families). Enjoy a full-service restaurant, yard games, and a playground.

Topgolf

Topgolf "tops" the list of fun attractions in Fort Myers with 70 HDTV-equipped, climate-controlled golf bays and balls that keep score. Have food and drinks delivered to you or hang out in the onsite bar and restaurant.

Chips Sports Pub

Here's a sports bar with a difference: two indoor suites where you can play virtual games from Topgolf to Zombie Dodgeball.



Sports

If your crew's ideal vacation includes seeing exciting sporting events, you're in luck. Beautiful year-round weather and a deep bench of talented teams make Fort Myers an excellent destination for sports lovers.



 Hammond Stadium

Catch a Spring Training Game

Every February and March, baseball fans flock to Fort Myers to catch their favorite Major League teams warming up ahead of the regular season. The **Boston Red Sox** and the **Minnesota Twins** call this area their winter home, and they host other Grapefruit League teams during their home games. Catch the Sox at JetBlue Park at Fenway South, a stadium so inspired by the team's regular season digs that it even has its own "Green Monster." Nearby, the Twins train at Hammond Stadium within Lee Health Sports Complex.



Experience Exciting Everblades Hockey

If you crave the fast-paced excitement of an ice hockey game, venture to Estero to see the **Florida Everblades** at Hertz Arena. This professional minor league team is very good – they've only missed the playoffs once in more than two decades, and won the Kelly Cup finals in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Swampee, their reptilian mascot, riles up the crowd during the games, which take place from October through April.



 Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off

Watch College Sports Galore

With two colleges here – **Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)** and **Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW)** – there's bound to be a fun sporting event to check out while you're in the area. FGCU is home to the Eagles; FSW's team is the Bucs. Both schools have men's and women's basketball teams as well as volleyball, softball, and other sports that are entertaining to watch.

Plus, there are several high-caliber college sports tournaments held here – especially basketball. If you're here in November, check out the **Fort Myers Tip-Off** and the **Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off**. Both NCAA basketball tournaments take place at Suncoast Credit Union Arena. You can also catch the **Gulf Coast Showcase**, which takes place at Hertz Arena.

See the Mighty Mussels Play

There's more thrilling baseball on deck after the Major League teams head back to their northern homes. You can catch the **Mighty Mussels** minor league team play at Hammond Stadium within the Lee Health Sports Complex in Fort Myers. Catch a home game April through September.

Don't Miss These High School Tournaments

The Fort Myers area is home to some top national tournaments for high school athletes, including the **City of Palms Classic**, a top-tier basketball event that has taken place for 50 years. It's held in December at the Suncoast Credit Union Arena.

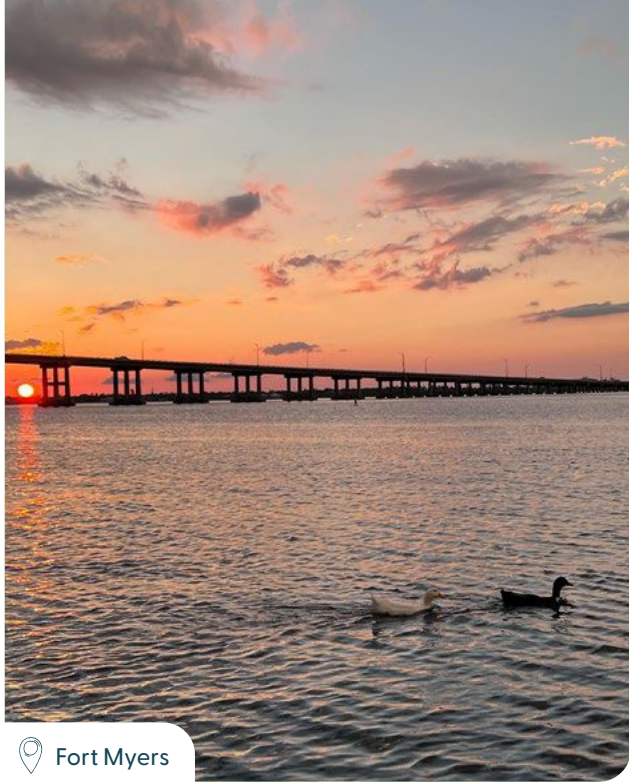
“Here, every season brings memorable sports moments.”



 Bonita Springs



Neighborhoods



Fort Myers



Fort Myers Beach

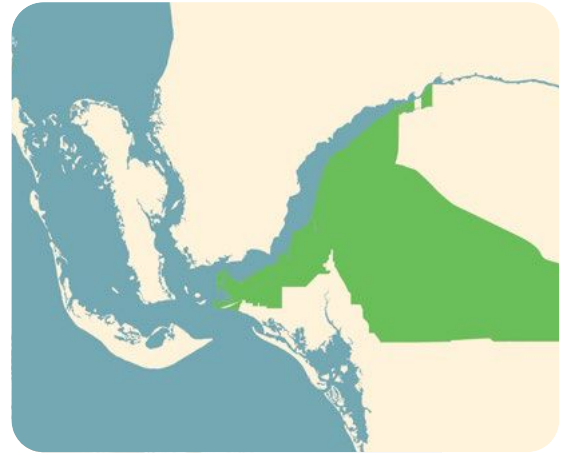


Sanibel Island

One of the joys of traveling is finding the unique personalities of a place, often found in its quirky or lesser-known spots. In Fort Myers, our neighborhoods are places to discover hidden gems – including off-the-beaten-path historic sites, small art and culture centers, lovely community parks, and mom-and-pop restaurants where you can get a great meal and some equally great local advice. We invite you to take a turn you hadn't expected to explore our local history, culture and community. We think you'll come away with a deeper appreciation for our destination's natural beauty, too.

“See how much fun it is to make new discoveries.”

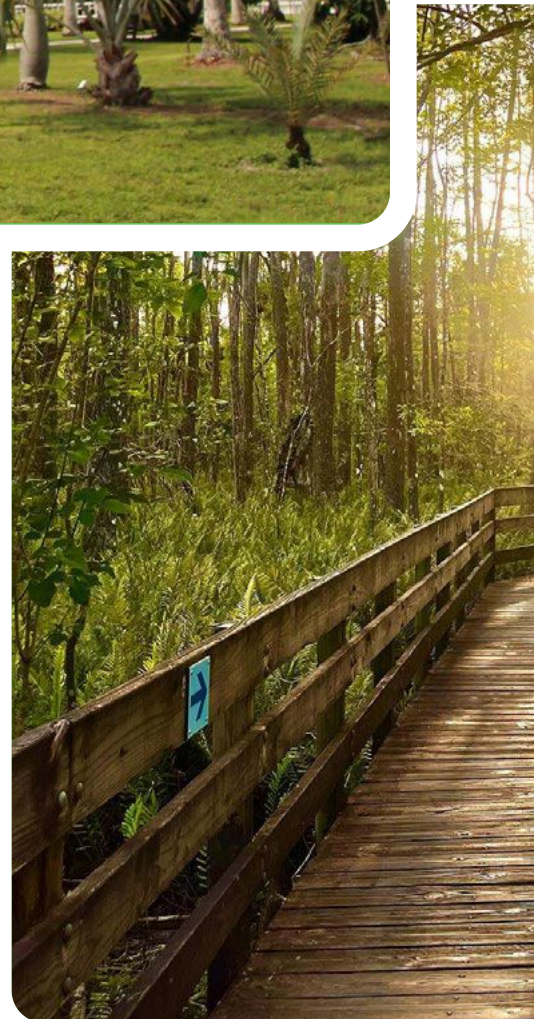
Fort Myers



📍 Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Whether you're a history buff or a nature lover, an art enthusiast or a sports fan, you'll find memorable experiences waiting to be discovered in Fort Myers. The city offers lively nightlife, delicious dining, and a vibrant arts scene, as well as beautiful parks and preserves.

“Get ready to discover unforgettable experiences.”

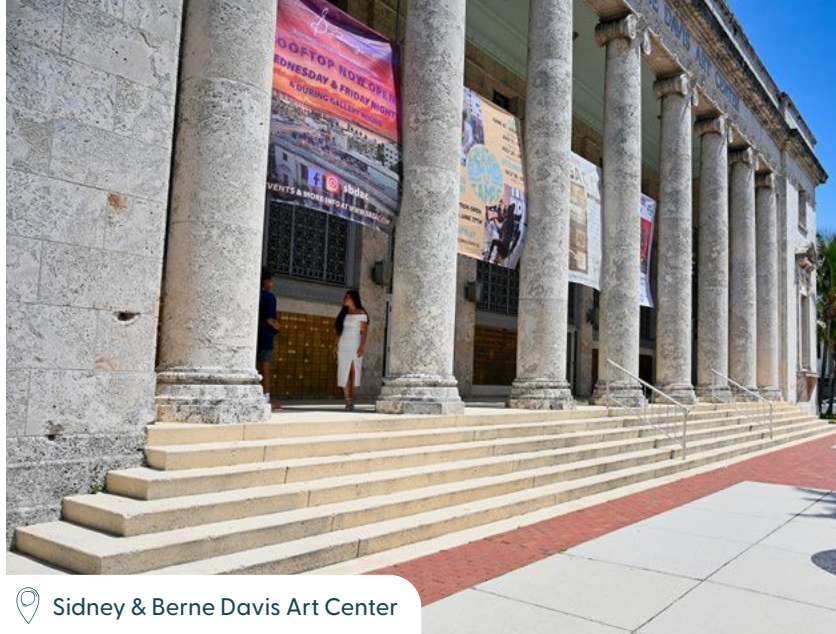


History, Heritage & the Arts

Fort Myers has a fascinating military history, having served as an Army outpost during the Third Seminole War and as a Union Army base during the Civil War. Visit the historic downtown **Fort Myers River District**, a time capsule of early 20th-century architecture where historic buildings house shops, galleries, and restaurants.

Step back in time at the **Edison and Ford Winter Estates**, the historic winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. Here, you can see some of Edison's 1,093 inventions as well as the beautiful gardens and an enormous banyan tree planted as a seedling in the 1920s.

Learn about the history of the local Black community at the **Williams Academy Black History Museum**, which includes a 1940s-era classroom.



📍 Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Visit the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** to see art exhibits or check out its lively music series. Ascend to **Sidney's Rooftop Sculpture Garden & Reception Area** for yoga, and a variety of other live entertainment and events as well as panoramic city views (check out this [live webcam](#)).

Continue your cultural pursuits by visiting the **Alliance for the Arts**, seeing live stage shows at the **Florida Repertory Theatre**, or attending a performance at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre**.

Parks & Preserves

Fort Myers offers lovely parks where you can hike, pedal, or paddle along trails and waterways. At **Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve**, you're likely to spot wading birds (and may even spy alligators or otters) as you wind your way along the boardwalk surrounded by cypress trees.

For more birdwatching, visit **San Carlos Bay - Bunche Beach Preserve** or **Lakes Park**, where you'll also find bike trails, playgrounds, a miniature train ride, and the **Railroad Museum of South Florida**.

Fort Myers has created a haven for one of its most beloved creatures at **Manatee Park** (view a [live webcam](#)). Enjoy a butterfly garden, walking paths, playgrounds, and kayak rentals here.



Visit Manatee Park in the cooler months – typically mid-December through March – for the best chance at seeing these gentle marine mammals.



📍 Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve



 Beacon Social Drinkery

Dining & Drinks

When hunger strikes, head downtown, where you'll find **The Veranda**, a culinary institution housed in two of the city's first homes. Relax in the courtyard or cozy bar and enjoy Southern favorites. Also downtown, **Ford's Garage** offers juicy burgers and craft beers surrounded by auto memorabilia, or stop in at The 86 Room, a 1920s-style speakeasy.

Beacon Social Drinkery, on the 12th floor of the **Luminary Hotel & Co.**, is another popular gathering spot. Just across the street, relax and socialize over creative cocktails and games at **Downtown Social House**. For more rooftop vistas, check out **Sidney's** at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, which elevates the downtown nightlife scene.

Good restaurants are plentiful throughout Fort Myers. **Farmers Market Restaurant**, the city's longest-operating restaurant, serves homestyle Southern eats. Jordan's Wine Bar & Cellar is popular for its tapas-style menu, vintage decor, live music, and wine, of course.

Consider **Backyard Social** your new hangout place: With cornhole, darts, and four lanes of duckpin bowling under neon lights, this family-friendly spot ticks all the boxes for a great outing. Order a refreshing cocktail and choose something delicious from a variety of food trucks on site.

Iconic **Norman Love Confections** has created an empire based on its award-winning chocolates and gelato. **Love Boat Ice Cream** produces sweet treats that have withstood the test of time. And **Fort Myers Brewing Co.** jump-started the local craft brewing scene in the area.

Family & Fun

Families will love spending time at the **IMAG History & Science Center**, which offers 60 hands-on exhibits and live demonstrations. Meet rescued birds and other animals and learn about natural history at **Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium**.

For some fresh-air, head to **Lakes Park** where you can rent bikes or go out on the lake in a swan-shaped pedal boat, electric boat, or kayak. Have fun fishing, explore gardens, run off some steam at the playground, and visit the railroad museum. You can even take a mini train ride in the park.



 Lakes Park



BAY STREET YARD

The latest venue to light up the downtown social scene, Bay Street Yard combines all of your favorite leisure activities in the open air. Among repurposed shipping containers and historic warehouses, the River District's backyard invites you to eat, drink, play, relax, and be entertained.

PopStroke, created by Tiger Woods, features two 18-hole putting courses, outdoor gaming, a playground, and restaurant. More than 70 air-conditioned golf bays make **Topgolf** a hit as well. For some nostalgic fun, visit **Sun Harvest Citrus** to sample fresh fruit, watch juice being made, or shop for Florida-themed gifts and souvenirs.

Shopping

Shoppers will want to explore downtown Fort Myers' galleries and specialty shops, and stop in **The Franklin Shops** for jewelry, artwork, and apparel. Two popular shopping areas – **Bell Tower** and **Gulf Coast Town Center** – feature shops, restaurants, and movie theaters.

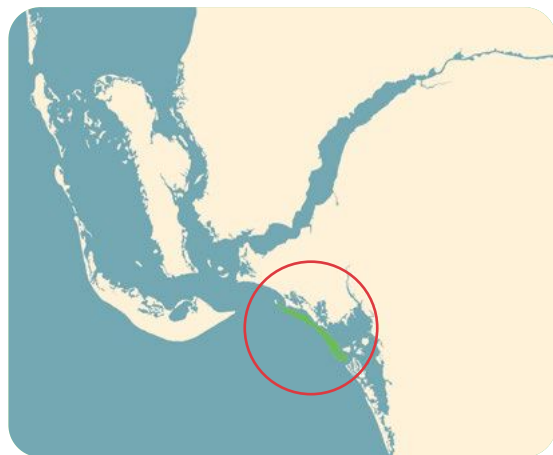
VISITOR INFORMATION

Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce

1520 Lee St., Ste. 101,
Fort Myers (239) 332-2930

The River District Alliance's website is a good resource for all happenings in downtown Fort Myers.

Fort Myers Beach



 Times Square

In the quintessential Florida beach town of Fort Myers Beach, life revolves around the sand and sea, making it an appealing spot for families, beach lovers, and watersports enthusiasts alike.

Beaches & Nature

Drive across the Matanzas Pass bridge from the mainland and you'll find yourself at the entrance to **Times Square**, which is a perfect introduction to Fort Myers Beach. Spend some time in this pedestrian plaza with its tower clock, then walk over to **Lynn Hall Memorial Beach Park**, where you can play in the gentle waves. Or spend a few hours at the small but lovely **Crescent Beach Family Park**, just south of Times Square.



Make your way down Old San Carlos Boulevard from the Gulf toward the bay, past restaurants and bars that end at the water and the new and inviting **Bayside Park**. Here, you'll find a rain garden with native landscaping, and a shaded platform for a free, weekly concert series. **Bowditch Point Park** lies to the north with its secluded sands bordering the Gulf and Matanzas Pass. Pause a while to take in the sights – from luxury pleasure craft to weathered shrimping trawlers.

Yearning to get out on the beautiful waters of Fort Myers Beach? Waverunner rentals, parasailing, and boating of all kinds are available.



Stop to take a photo in front of the Fort Myers Beach clock, a landmark in this beach town.



@thetravelingchild



Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve

Explore the waterfront to find everything from a pirate ship cruise (choose a family-focused or adults-only option) to nature and dolphin tours, or your own private boat rental. **The Key West Express**, a jet-powered catamaran, can even whisk you away on a fun day trip to Key West, Florida's southernmost point.

For more on-the-water adventures, head to the **Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve**, which lies between Estero Island and San Carlos Island. The preserve is known for its bottlenose dolphin and bird populations, and local tour companies such as **Adventures in Paradise** can take you on a memorable cruise.

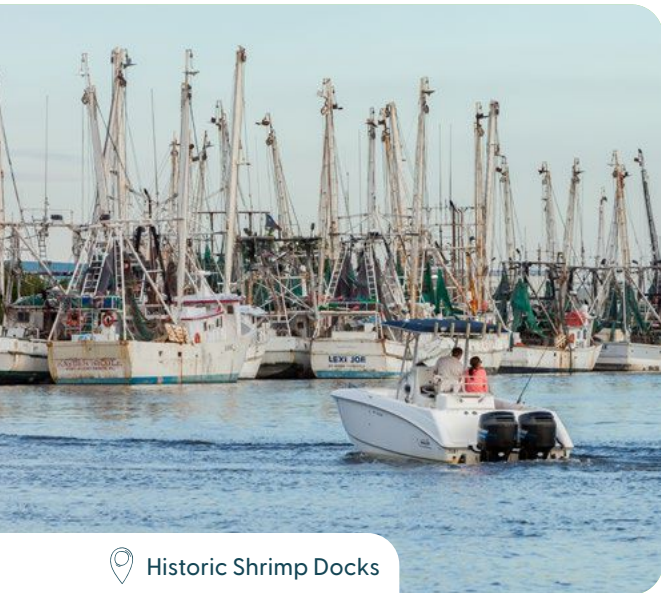
Looking for an island-style social outing? Set sail on a **Tiki Pub** boat tour, offering daytime, sunset, and dolphin discovery excursions in San Carlos Bay and Estero Bay.

History & Heritage

Go back in time 2,000 years at **Mound House** where you can learn about the Indigenous Calusa people and explore the island's oldest standing home, situated at the top of an ancient shell mound. Though most visitors come by car, you can arrive at this lovely bayside location by boat if you wish. Paddle sports enthusiasts can use the free kayak launch to explore the **Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail**.



Book a guided eco-tour from Mound House to explore quiet back bay waters.



 Historic Shrimp Docks



Fort Myers Beach boasts one of Florida's last working waterfronts. Dating to 1949, the historic shrimping fleet on San Carlos Island continues to cruise local waters to supply restaurants with the area's signature sweet, pink Gulf shrimp.

Visit the Historic Shrimp Docks on San Carlos Island to experience this important piece of local history. At Erickson & Jenson Seafood Packer, you might see the shrimp boat crews offload their briny hauls. The market here sells pink shrimp fresh from the boats.

Locals and visitors alike look forward to the annual **Fort Myers Beach Lions Club Shrimp Festival**. It's a 65-year tradition each March when members of the Lions Club steam up 1,200 pounds of fresh shrimp to serve alongside other local seafood. Arts-and-crafts booths, a parade, a 5K and kids' run, a shrimp-eating contest, and the crowning of the Shrimp Queen add to the fun.



 Nervous Nellie's

Dining & Drinks

Fort Myers Beach is often described as fun and funky – and that's particularly true of its food and beverage scene. One of its favorite dining and good-time destinations, Fisherman's Wharf, overlooks the San Carlos Island shrimp docks. Its waterfront restaurants – **Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille** and **Dixie Fish Company** – serve shellfish right from the boats.

Down the road at **Salty Sam's Marina**, the colorful **Parrot Key Caribbean Grill** serves up island-style dishes and entertainment with a view of the docks.

At the new **Margaritaville Beach Resort**, dining and drinking establishments inspired by Jimmy Buffett tunes range from the "barefoot casual" **Lah De Dah Beach Bar & Grill** to fine dining at the Gulf-front **JWB Grill**.

Local favorites Heavenly Biscuit, Yo! Taco, and **La Ola Surfside** serve tasty bites from food trucks. Down the street from the Times Square neighborhood, **Yucatan Beach Stand** and **Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant** welcome diners for seafood, cocktails, and good times.

Next to Bayside Park, enjoy dining on the waterfront patio at **Nervous Nellie's**, known for its fun and colorful vibe.

Junkanoo Below Deck and **Fresh Catch Bistro** share a bayfront space at the **Snook Bight Marina** overlooking mangroves and quiet backwaters.



ISLAND HOPPER FEST AT THE PINK SHELL RESORT

The **Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina** is one of several venues that hosts the **Island Hopper Songwriter Fest** each September, which welcomes the nation's greatest BMI singer-songwriters for 10 days of live music. Headliner Scotty McCreery played on their pool deck at 2024's final show.

Places to Stay

If you'd like to stay right on the Gulf, **DiamondHead Beach Resort** and **Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina** welcome visitors, and the much-anticipated **Margaritaville Beach Resort** is open. If you'd like to stay bayside, secluded **Lovers Key Resort** welcomes visitors at the south end of Estero Bay, and there are a number of vacation home rentals available.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce

100 Lovers Lane,
Fort Myers Beach
(239) 454-7500



Sanibel & Captiva Islands



 Sanibel

With their lovely shell-strewn beaches and protected green spaces, Sanibel and Captiva Islands are nature retreats for beach lovers and outdoor adventurers. These “sister islands” are wonderful places to plan a relaxing Florida getaway.

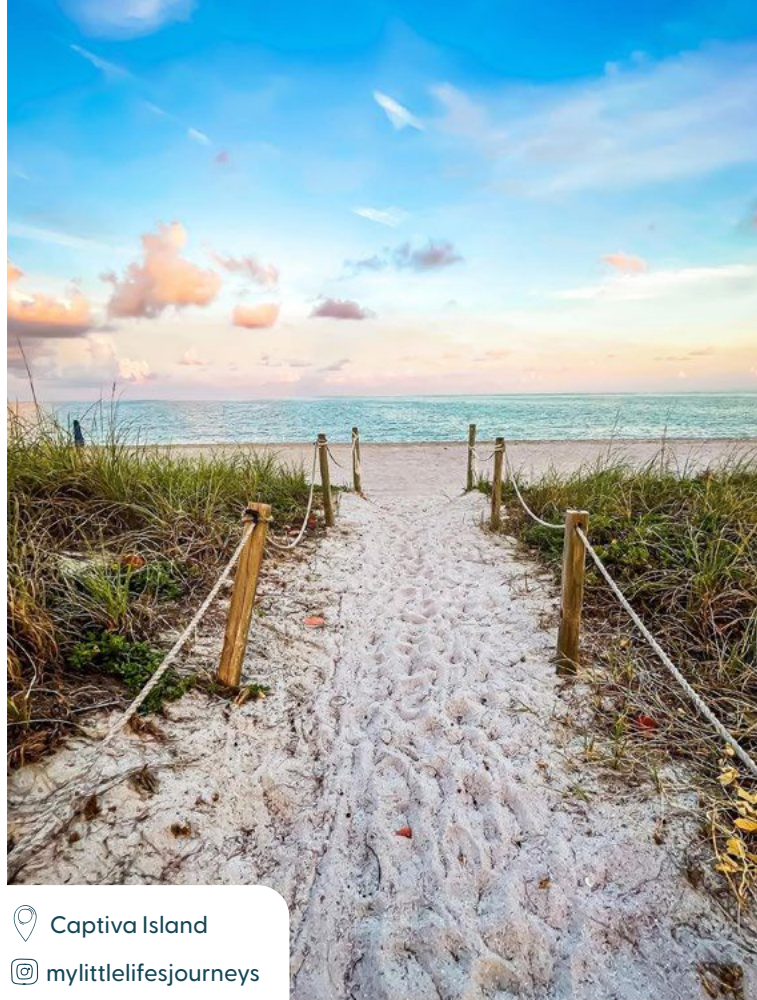
“The “sister islands” are wonderful places for your relaxing getaway.”



Beautiful Beaches

Nearly 20 miles of white sand line the calm, turquoise waters of the Gulf of Mexico as far as the eye can see. Relax on beautiful beaches where you can search for seashells and keep company with sandpipers, brown pelicans, and wild dolphins. In summer, endangered sea turtles and rare shorebirds nest on these sands, monitored by volunteers from the **SCCF** (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation).

On Sanibel Island, **Lighthouse Beach Park** gets its name from the iconic structure that has guided ships' captains for more than 140 years. A fine-sand beach wraps around the island's end here, from Gulf to bay.



📍 Captiva Island

📷 mylittlifelifejourneys

Gulfside City Beach Park is a popular spot for families, with its placid waters and picnic facilities, while secluded **Bowman's Beach** is known for its scenic stretch of white sand covered with shells.

Pretty **Blind Pass Beach** and **Turner Beach** both lie at the crossroads of Sanibel and Captiva. They're great spots for shore fishing and sunset watching. **Alison Hagerup Beach Park** on Captiva has limited parking, but gorgeous Gulf views.

Water Activities

Beyond swimming and shell-collecting, you can enjoy every type of water activity imaginable on Sanibel and Captiva. Head to '**Tween Waters Marina** on Captiva Island for fishing charters or learn how to sail with **Offshore Sailing School**. At several marinas on the islands, you can arrange a private boat tour or rent a boat to captain your own adventure.

For a fun and active day, rent a kayak, canoe, or paddleboard from outfitters such as **YOLO Watersports** on Captiva and **Tarpon Bay Explorers** on Sanibel.



📍 Captiva Island

Outdoor & Nature

On these islands, two-wheeling is one of the best ways to get around, so check out **Billy's Bike Shop** or several other local bike rental businesses, then head out on Sanibel Island's 25 miles of scenic paved pathways.

As you pedal through **J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge**, roseate spoonbills, yellow-crowned night herons, snowy egrets, and even manatees or otters might turn your bike ride into a photo safari. (Check out the **live webcam**.) Go at sunset to watch flocks of white ibis, cormorants, and pelicans come to roost on the rookery islands.



J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge



CROW

Down the road from the refuge, the **Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium** – the only one of its kind in the world – supports Sanibel's identity as a mecca for shell-seekers. Its aquariums and touch pools delve into the world of seashells, octopi, clams, and snails. Nearby, you can see wildlife exhibits and take a tour at **CROW** (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife).



Admission to the visitor center at "Ding" Darling, winner of "America's Best Restroom®" is free.

History, Heritage & the Arts

Take a photo in front of the recently refurbished 1884 **Sanibel Lighthouse**, one of the area's most beloved landmarks.

Learn about bygone days at **Sanibel Historical Museum and Village** where you can tour turn-of-the-century homes, a post office, a one-room schoolhouse, and a general store.

Next door, **BIG ARTS** is the heart and soul of culture on Sanibel Island. An art gallery and an outdoor sculpture garden make this a pleasant stop.



Dining & Drinks

Dining out on Sanibel and Captiva feels as relaxed and tropical as being at the beach. Flip-flops are acceptable attire at places like **Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille** on Sanibel, where the Yucatan Shrimp (not to mention Randy Wayne White, who wrote the character Doc Ford into mystery novel stardom) has created a loyal following.

Other local dining experiences to try include **Lighthouse Café's** breakfast, **Mudbugs Cajun Kitchen's** New Orleans-style delights, and **Gramma Dot's** marina-side delights (stop in for fresh seafood and key lime pie).



 Gramma Dot's

Shopping

Periwinkle Place, a perennial favorite with Sanibel shoppers, offers a variety of delightful clothing and specialty shops. **Jerry's Shopping Center** is home to **Jerry's Foods** as well as gift and apparel shops. You can also enjoy browsing at shell shops such as **She Sells Seashells**, which stocks shells, gifts, and shell-crafting supplies. **MacIntosh Books + Paper** is a landmark for good reads, book signings, greeting cards, and gifts.

On Captiva Island, **Sunshine Seafood Café and Wine Bar** creates fine fare in an intimate setting. **Old Captiva House** at 'Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa has been serving happy diners since the 1930s. New to the resort, **The Shipyard** feels as nautical as its name.

It's back to shorts, sundresses, and flip-flops at island landmarks like **The Green Flash**, with its back bay vistas and fresh seafood.



Places to Stay

The islands' lovely seaside resorts and cottages are being rebuilt and coming back. Vacation condos and home rentals such as **Sanibel Moorings** offer space to spread out, along with family-friendly amenities. **Seahorse Cottages** is a relaxing spot set on a quiet lane within an easy walk to the beach.

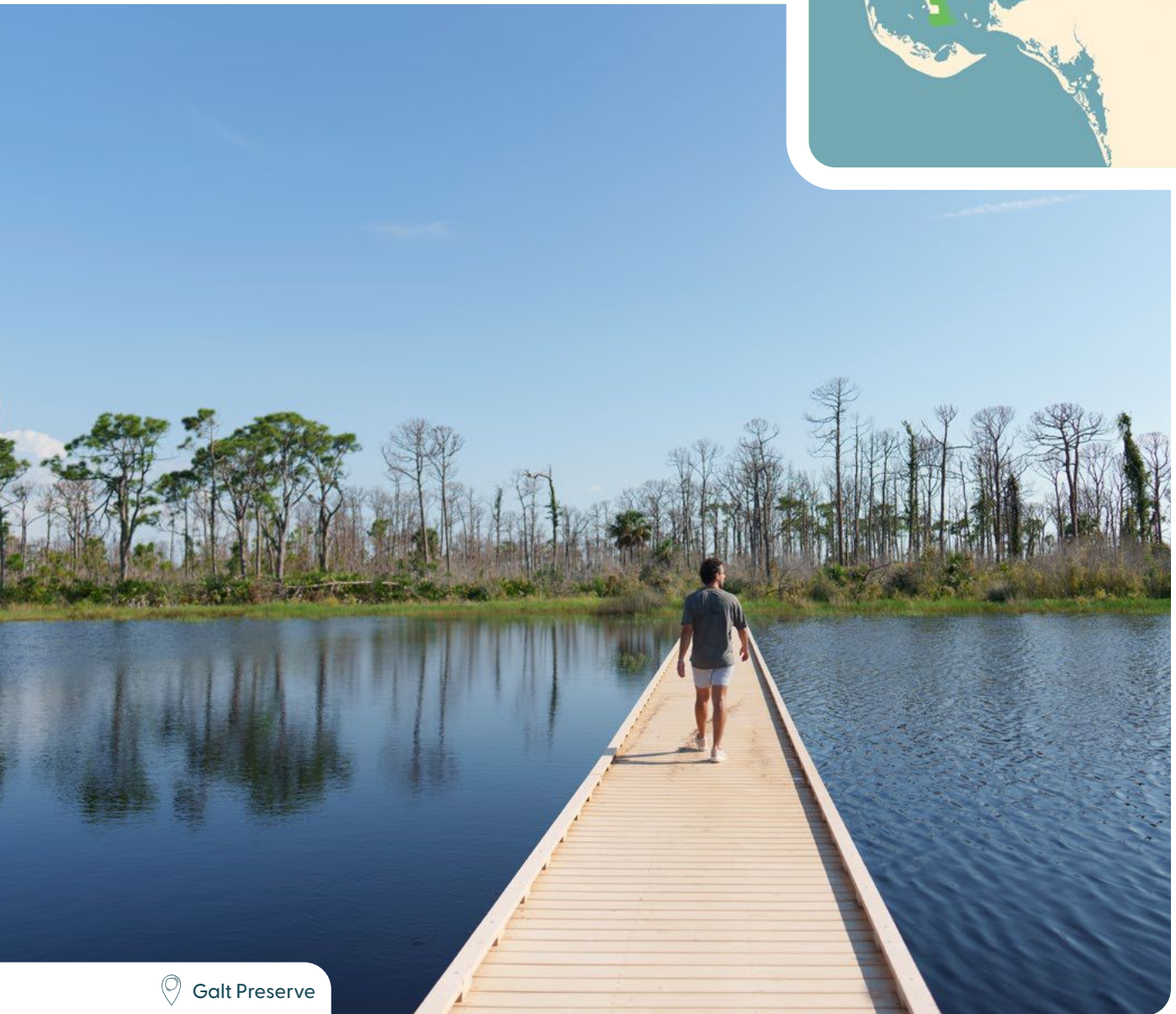
Several iconic beach accommodations are ready to welcome you, including the historic **Island Inn**, **Sundial Beach Resort & Spa**, and **Sanibel Island Beach Resort**, which has renovated all 98 rooms. **Casa Ybel Resort** is open, with its Gulf-facing suites on 23 acres of pristine beachfront. On Captiva, historic **'Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa**, **Jensen's on the Gulf**, and **South Seas** are great options for an unforgettable island getaway.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce

1159 Causeway Blvd.,
Sanibel Island (239) 472-1080

Pine Island & Matlacha



 Galt Preserve

Although it's the largest island off Florida's Gulf Coast, Pine Island is arguably its best-kept secret. Those who know it appreciate the rural roads, fishing culture, and quiet, hometown feel. Some might call it "Old Florida."

At Pine Island's doorstep, **Matlacha** (pronounced matt-lah-SHAY) is known for its eccentric personality. Good-time bars, locally owned restaurants and water views everywhere begin your transition from mainland to island vibe.

Cross the Matlacha Bridge, known as the "Fishingest Bridge in the World," breathe a deep, salty sigh, and immerse yourself in the laid-back local lifestyle.

History & Heritage

Matlacha's beginnings as a commercial fishing village are an important part of its identity, and present-day life for many here still centers around boating and fishing.

Pine Island's agricultural heritage is alive and well in its many palm tree and mango farms. At **Fruitscapes**, you can buy mangoes, lychees, dragon fruit, and other exotic fruits. At **Promised Land Mangoes**, see adorable farm animals and shop for fruit, raw honey, and homemade jams and chutneys.

The small-but-fascinating **Museum of the Islands** depicts the rich history of the islands. Here, you can learn about the Indigenous Calusa people and life for early pioneers. The Calusa Heritage Trail at the **Randell Research Center** offers a deeper look at the Calusa culture.

Outdoor Recreation

Island Girl Charters on Pine Island offers cruises to the Outer Islands. At Pine Island's north end, **Four Winds Marina** offers boat rentals, a water taxi, and boat charters for fishing, sightseeing, shell-seeking and more. Matlacha is a jumping-off point for kayaking and paddleboarding adventures, or you can try your luck at the fishing pier at **Matlacha Park**.



For a full-on mango-lovers experience, plan a visit in July for the **MangoMania** festivities.

Bike the 14-mile Pine Island Bike Path or hike in **Galt Preserve** in St. James City, where 2.5 miles of trails offer access to a natural habitat for birds, alligators, and bobcats.



 Randell Research Center

Shopping

Known for its exuberant and artistic vibe, Matlacha is home to several galleries and shops carrying unique artwork and gifts, including the **Matlacha Menagerie**, and **Traders Hitching Post**.

Dining & Drinks

Matlacha is known for local pink shrimp, mullet, and blue crab. Tropical fruit appears on menus, too, especially locally grown mangoes, in season June through September.

The **Blue Dog Bar & Grill** is a local favorite, **Miceli's Restaurant** offers Italian waterfront dining, and the **Perfect Cup Roastery & Café** serves the best brews. With bayside views, live music, island cuisine, and a bar with swings for seats, **Yucatan Bar & Grill** personifies the island vibe on Matlacha.

The Waterfront Restaurant & Marina in St. James City is an island institution, known for its seafood specialties. **Phuzzy's Boat Shack** serves fresh seafood in a tropical setting.

In Bokeelia, hungry visitors can head to the **Lazy Flamingo** or **Street Eatz & Ale**. Be sure to visit the historic **Tarpon Lodge Restaurant**, which takes you back to 1920s Florida.

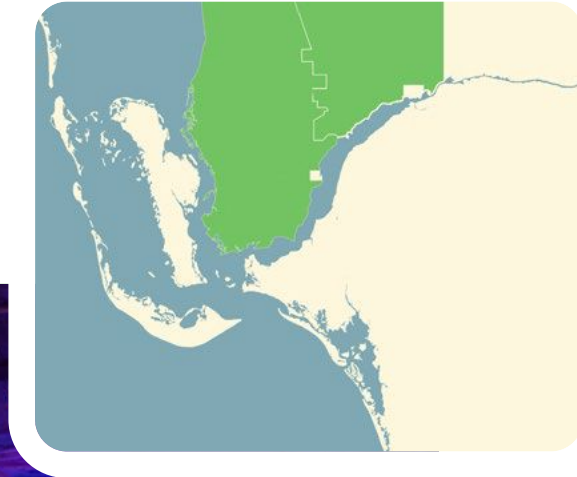
VISITOR INFORMATION

The Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce

10530 Stringfellow Rd., Unit 3,
Bokeelia (239) 283-0888



Cape Coral & North Fort Myers



 Dixie Roadhouse

Cape Coral and North Fort Myers are known for their friendly neighborhoods and proximity to the mighty Caloosahatchee River. You'll find that each has hidden treasures to share with visitors.



Although Cape Coral has grown significantly in the past few decades, it remains a laid-back community with a small-town feel and vibrant restaurant scene. It's home to vast parks where you can enjoy the area's natural beauty and, with more than 400 miles of canals and surrounding waterways, it's a haven for boating and water activities.



 Sun Splash Family Waterpark

In North Fort Myers, visitors can pick up old-fashioned Florida souvenirs, paddle along the Great Calusa Blueway, enjoy a day at the new resort-style lagoon, and explore miles of nature trails through diverse native plant communities.

“Come experience a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure.”

Family Fun

Cape Coral and North Fort Myers feature family fun parks for all ages. **Sun Splash Family Waterpark** in Cape Coral boasts slides, pools, a lazy river, a beach, and other thrills. Open seasonally, it appeals to both little ones with its interactive water feature, and thrill seekers with its screamer slides. **Gator Mike's Family Fun Park** offers go-karts, an aerial course with ziplines, a climbing wall, mini-golf, paintball, a video arcade, and a virtual reality arena.

The brand-new six-acre **Brightwater Lagoon** water park features man-made beaches, clear-blue water, a swim-up bar, and an inflatable obstacle course.

Outdoors & Nature

Cape Coral's parks are remarkable in their breadth. Explore the hiking trails of **Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve** and admire monuments dedicated to U.S. Veterans. At the **Rotary Park Environmental Center**, take in the area's wildlife, a butterfly house (complete with a **live webcam**), native gardens, nature trails, and observation towers.



 Rotary Park Environmental Center



You may spot tiny **burrowing owls** in Cape Coral's parks and neighborhoods. Be sure to give these rare birds plenty of room.

The city maintains 90 miles of interconnected bikeways and more than 40 parks for outdoor recreation suitable for all activity levels. You'll also find fishing charters, boat rentals, and tours at local marinas such as **Tarpon Point** and **Cape Harbour**.

Nature lovers appreciate North Fort Myers for its **Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve**, where a 1.5-mile boardwalk and accessible, paved trail wind through hardwood hammocks, wetlands, and pine flatwoods. There's also a paddlecraft launch on a creek leading to the river.

Prairie Pines Preserve features 17 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. Set on the river's edge, **North Shore Park** offers hiking, fishing, and a sailing center. (Check out the action on the park's **live webcam**.)

Local Farms & Farmers Market

With its vast rural acreage, North Fort Myers is a natural choice for specialty and artisan farms. Tour **ECHO Global Farm** to learn about sustainable farming and its mission to feed the hungry worldwide by researching and teaching nontraditional agricultural methods.

Since the late 1960s, **Walker Farms** in North Fort Myers has created a "buzz" with its natural honey and beeswax products.

Head to **Blossom & Brie**, where farm-to-table dining means a view of acres of pastureland as you savor dishes made from fresh veggies and farm-raised heritage livestock. For more farm-fresh produce, visit the **Cape Coral Farmers Markets**.



📍 Cape Harbour

History & the Arts

Hailing Cape Coral's status as Southwest Florida's first Purple Heart City, the **Brotherhood of Heroes Resource Center & Museum** pays respect to the history of the Purple Heart medal.

The beautiful, 16-acre **Cultural Park** is a hub for outdoor lovers. Here, you can enjoy a picnic, let the kids run off steam at the playground, explore rose gardens, or stroll or bike the multi-use pathway. You'll also find the **Cape Coral Historical Society & Museum** here, along with the **Cultural Park Theatre Company** and the **Cape Coral Art League**.



📍 ECHO Global Farm



Dining & Drinks

Waterfront restaurants here serve great food with amazing views. In Cape Coral, **Fathoms Restaurant & Bar at Cape Harbour Marina** and its sister restaurant, **Gather at Tarpon Point Marina**, offer creative American favorites. **Sage on 47th** is a great option for shareable plates, craft cocktails, and a hip vibe. For fresh homemade pasta and other Italian specialties, try **Next Door**.

Latin and South American specialties abound in Cuban bakeries, Mexican taquerias, and Peruvian restaurants. Head to **El Mambo II Bakery & Restaurant** for Cuban bread, pulled pork mojo, and pastries. For authentic Peruvian ceviche and saltado (Latino stir fry), check out **Aji Limon**.

For a unique experience, take a tour of family-run **Wicked Dolphin Distillery** and sample award-winning rums in the tasting room.

Many of the city's independent restaurants are found in the South Cape district, the hub of downtown happenings. Vintage pinball machines and offbeat murals create the vibe at **Nice Guys Pizza and Beer**.

The legendary **Nevermind Awesome Bar & Eatery** is praised by foodies and craft cocktail lovers. Local craft breweries help liven up the scene, and **Dixie Roadhouse** hosts parties with line dancing and live music.

The **South Cape Hospitality & Entertainment Association** hosts annual trolley and pub crawl events that celebrate local restaurants and bars. Each event centers on a fun theme, such as BaconFest, Mardi Gras, and Spooktacular.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce

2051 Cape Coral Pkwy. E.
Cape Coral (239) 549-6900

North Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce

2787 N. Tamiami Trail, #10
North Fort Myers (239) 997-9111



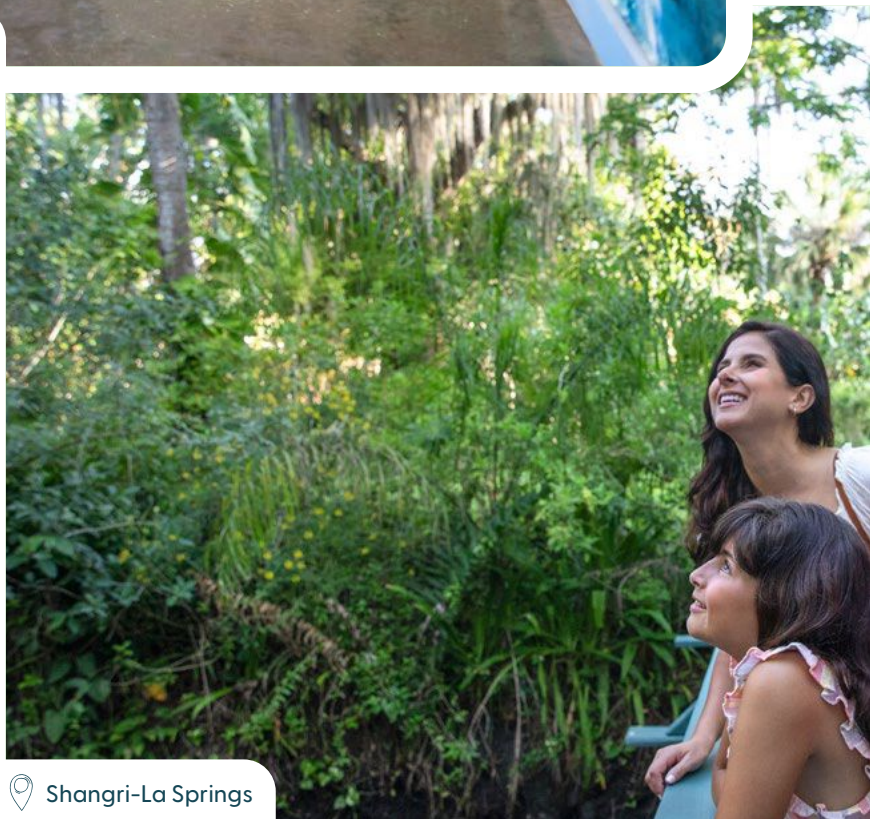
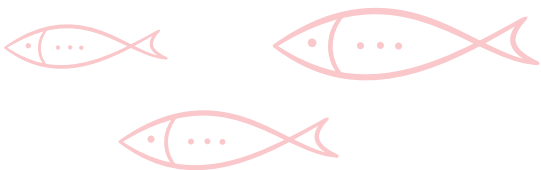
 Gather at Tarpon Point Marina

Estero & Bonita Springs



 Lovers Key State Park Discovery Center

South of Fort Myers, Estero and Bonita Springs are small cities known for their fascinating history and beautiful, white-sand beaches. Where homesteaders once fished and grew citrus, you'll find thriving communities today.



 Shangri-La Springs

Outdoors & Nature

Nature and history converge at **Koreshan State Park**, where early settlers attempted to create a utopian community in the late 1800s. Explore historic buildings and gardens to learn the fascinating story, and enjoy hiking, picnicking, and camping in the park. The riverfront setting makes it popular with paddlers, who can launch and make their way down the Estero River to **Mound Key Archaeological State Park**. Set in Estero Bay and accessible only by boat, Mound Key is believed to have been the ceremonial center of the Indigenous Calusa people.

To the south, the shoreline turns wide and sandy. **Bonita Beach Park** draws beach lovers to its white sands for shell-seeking, sunbathing, and watersports. **Dog Beach** on the Bonita Beach Causeway is a beautiful spot where dogs can run free and play in shallow water.

In Bonita Springs, **Lovers Key State Park** is a destination unto itself, with 2.5 miles of beaches, bayside boating and kayaking, nature trails, and the interactive **Discovery Center**.



📍 Dog Beach
 📷 bethanythe



History & the Arts

Estero began growing about 30 years ago with the opening of nearby **Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)**. The Estero River and Estero Bay help the community retain its natural charms while shopping malls and golf communities provide modern amenities.

Old 41 Road runs through the heart of downtown Bonita Springs. The original **Shangri-La Springs** offers a farm-to-table restaurant and historic hotel, as well as a spa and organic gardens that are open to the public. Dating to 1936, **Wonder Gardens**, a local landmark known for its Old Florida charm, is undergoing a modern refresh. Victorian solariums house ornamental ducks, lorikeets, and golden pheasants, and you can see peacocks and flamingos roaming free on-site or via the **live webcam**.

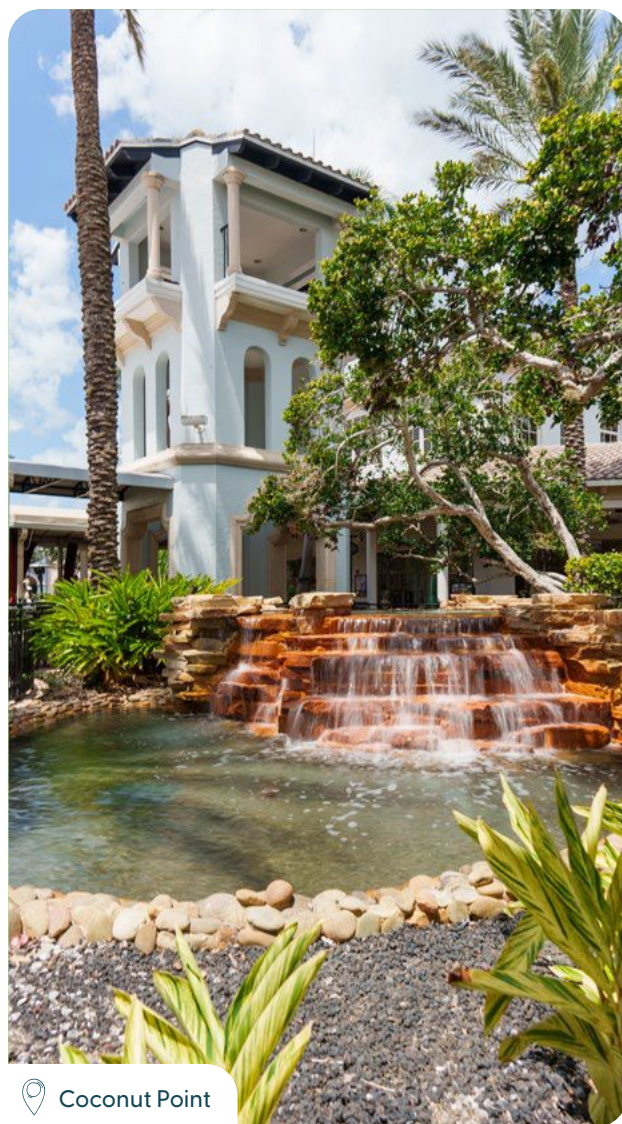
In **Riverside Park**, the heart of Bonita Springs, renovated fishing cottages (originally built in 1945) house artist galleries and workshops, and the bandshell hosts movies in the park as well as other community events.

With two campuses, **Arts Bonita** is dedicated to the performing and visual arts. It hosts year-round programming plus three major arts festivals each winter.

Shopping

Estero and Bonita Springs have become must-visit destinations for avid shoppers, with options ranging from lushly landscaped malls to an outlet center offering deep discounts. **Coconut Point** is a picturesque outdoor mall with more than 110 stores where you can shop for clothing, jewelry, and sporting goods, as well as dine at nearly 25 eateries.

Fountains and tropical foliage surround shoppers at **Promenade at Bonita Bay**, with one-of-a-kind shops, luxury boutiques, and high-end salons. **Miromar Outlets** in Estero features discount designer and name-brand wares at nearly 150 stores, plus restaurants and a new bowling, billiards, and sports simulator entertainment center.



Coconut Point



Doc's Beach House

Dining & Drinks

While the area has plenty of landmark restaurants, it's also exciting to see new concepts. **Rooftop at Riverside**, a food truck park across from **Riverside Park**, serves up everything from seafood to crepes, Mexican street cuisine to ice cream, and you can pair your food with creative cocktails or craft brews.

For breakfast or lunch, stop in at **Waffle Monkey**, an independently owned café that serves handmade Belgian waffles with both sweet and savory toppings.

For delicious Peruvian cuisine, head to **El Gaucho Inca Restaurant** in Estero. You'll find a wide selection of ceviches, along with fresh seafood and meat entrees, and five different "parrilladas" (or family platters) that allow you to sample several dishes.

One of the area's established businesses, **Petar's Restaurant** in Bonita Springs, specializes in sophisticated global cuisine in comfortable surroundings. Diners can sip on wine from an extensive list as they watch their meal being prepared in the open kitchen.

Waterfront views add sparkle to beloved dining spots such as **Doc's Beach House**. With its toes-in-the-sand location right on Bonita Beach Park, it's known for its seafood and Chicago-style pizza. The lively, tiki-themed **Coconut Jack's Waterfront Grille** welcomes you by boat or car to enjoy its extensive tropical drinks menu, seafood baskets, and more.

Italian food is the focus at **Divieto Ristorante** in Coconut Point, Estero. Choose one of the classic dishes, a thin-crust pizza, or the signature Ruota di Parmigiano, where servers toss the creamy fettuccine Alfredo tableside in a Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese wheel.



📍 Downtown Coffee and Wine Company

Foodies will also want to check out **Angelina's Ristorante**, a cozy and romantic spot for fine Italian cuisine. Pasta dishes come in two sizes, leaving room for an antipasto, entrée, or house-made tiramisu.

A relative newcomer to the downtown dining scene, the **Bohemian Restaurant** quickly became one of the area's top-rated restaurants. Seafood towers, shareable plates, and seasonal dishes are among the menu's highlights.

Places such as **Downtown Coffee and Wine Company**, **Chartreuse Craft Cocktail Lounge**, and various microbreweries have infused the area with a hip, youthful vibe. The new **Chubby Mermaid Brewing Co.**, just south of downtown, adds to an exciting brewery scene, with local favorites such as **Hopsized Brewing Co.** and **Ceremony Brewing**.



© Adobe Stock

DON'T MISS SUGARSHACK

The Sugarshack Sessions Experience started out as live acoustic music shared on a popular YouTube channel from a backyard in Bonita Springs. Now, fans can be part of the live filming, and soon Sugarshack Downtown – a restaurant that's a collaboration with Brickyard Hollow Brewing Co. – will bring live music, great food, and craft beer to downtown Bonita Springs.

VISITOR INFORMATION

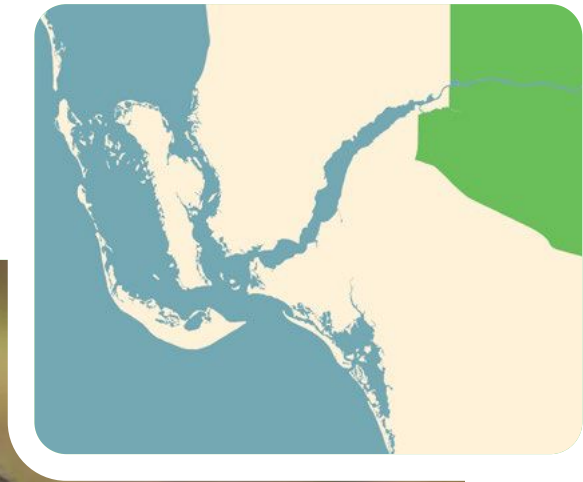
SWFL Inc.

20041 South Tamiami Trail, Unit #3,
Estero (239) 992-2943

Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce

9990 Coconut Rd., Suite 337,
Estero (239) 390-1137

Alva, Buckingham & Lehigh Acres



 Telegraph Creek Preserve

Pastoral scenes paint the landscape in the rural communities of Alva, Buckingham, and Lehigh Acres. Nature parks teem with captivating wildlife, restaurants showcase locally grown produce, and small-town life provides quiet charm.

Parks & Outdoors

Part of the nearly 200-mile Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail, **Caloosahatchee Regional Park** is Alva's main attraction, and for good reason. This popular kayaking destination is also home to a campground, hiking trails, an equestrian trail, and a mountain biking course that winds through the woods. Visitors often rent kayaks at the park and paddle to **Hickey Creek Mitigation Park**, which boasts a fishing pier and trails that offer spectacular birdwatching. Birders also explore **Harns Marsh Preserve** in Lehigh Acres, known for its limpkins and occasional snail kite sightings.

Also in Lehigh Acres, **Veterans Park and Recreation Center** pays homage to service personnel: Its walkway is lined with oak trees dedicated to individual vets. Golfers will be happy at several local courses that welcome public play, including one designed by Davis Love III at **River Hall Country Club** in Alva.

History & Heritage

Turn off Route 80, the main thoroughfare in Alva, to cross a bridge into the past. Plan to visit on a Saturday to explore the **Alva Library & Museum** (it's also open other days by appointment). Browse the historic photos, furnishings, appliances, shop tools, medical equipment, clothing, and other artifacts displayed in the charming 1909 library building. Across the road sits the circa-1886 Alva Methodist Church, picturesque with its white clapboard siding and steeped bell tower. Take a stroll down the road to capture photos of the river and the two-lane drawbridge.



Watch a cricket match or join a volleyball game on the sand courts at Veterans Park and Recreation Center in Lehigh Acres.



Alva

mustseefloridapaddle

Dining & Drinks

Despite their rural nature, or perhaps because of it, our eastern communities boast some locally famous foodie spots. It should come as no surprise that two involve farm-fresh products. **Buckingham Farms** in Buckingham grows hydroponic produce and raises livestock – products sold at the farmstand and served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the onsite country restaurant.

In Alva, **31 Produce** (look for the grinning strawberry) also sells local produce and includes a café and bakery, as well as a petting zoo. **Alva Country Diner** has long served up homecooked favorites such as meatloaf, country-fried steak, and fresh-baked pies. For live music in a casual, fun atmosphere, **The World Famous Buckingham Blues Bar** brings community and national acts to its intimate stage.

VISITOR INFORMATION

East Lee County Chamber of Commerce

25 Homestead Rd. N., #9,
Lehigh Acres (239) 369-3322



31 Produce

Boca Grande & Outer Islands



 Gasparilla Island

If you want to enjoy some of our most memorable – one could even say magical – experiences, explore Boca Grande and the islands north of Captiva Island. Here you'll discover a nautical lifestyle, seaside adventures, and historic charm.

“Island vibes and historic charm await you in this coastal escape.”

One option is to drive from the mainland across the Boca Grande Causeway to reach **Gasparilla Island** and the storied town of **Boca Grande**, with its white-sand beaches, pastel-colored homes, fiery-hued bougainvillea, and aura of quiet wealth. Arriving by boat lets you explore castaway islands along the way, each with its own distinct personality and no vehicle access from the mainland.



“Unbridged” **North Captiva Island** offers a true getaway, with private beaches, spacious vacation homes, and no cars. (Visitors explore on foot, by bike, or golf cart.)

The 100-acre **Cabbage Key** tells tales in its historic inn and legendary restaurant. At all of these islands, you can slow down and relax in beautiful surroundings.

Beautiful Beaches

The Outer Islands hold the promise of getaway beaches in the truest sense of the word. With most of North Captiva Island's homes and other structures clustered at its north end, vast portions of the island are free from signs of civilization. While you can pull up to some of North Captiva's beachfront by boat, most people who enjoy the beaches here opt to stay at one of the island's vacation rentals.

Cayo Costa State Park offers a secluded island experience with natural, shell-strewn beaches that are perfect for swimming, snorkeling, and birdwatching. At this time, it's accessible only by private or charter boat. Bring drinks and anything else you'll need for your beach day, as no amenities are available.



 Cayo Costa State Park



 Gasparilla Island Lighthouse

 brittanypannebaker

In Boca Grande, **Gasparilla Island State Park** features a gorgeous beach that stretches a mile along the Gulf of Mexico and Boca Grande Pass. The nearby **Port Boca Grande Lighthouse** was built in 1890 to guide ships into Charlotte Harbor. The island has another beachfront beacon – the **Gasparilla Island Lighthouse**. The 105-foot tower, which was originally built in 1881, was reassembled and installed on Gasparilla Island in 1927.

History & Heritage

Discover a treasure trove of architectural gems in Boca Grande including **The Gasparilla Inn & Club**, which opened in 1911 for the wintering “social season.” Its regal halls reflect an era of privilege on a once-little-known island. Downtown Boca Grande extends from the inn along a path once occupied by the railroad that brought the DuPonts, Rockefellers, and other captains of industry to the island in the 1900s. Today it’s a paved trail for cyclists and golf carts, both popular ways to get around. The restored brick railway depot now houses a restaurant and boutiques.

Dating to the 1950s, **Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church** was inspired by the Spanish Mission style.



 Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

Outdoor Recreation

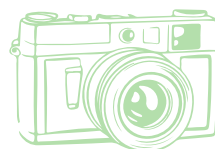
Spending time on the water here is a must. Consider a boat rental, nature tour, or fishing charter. Tarpon rule the fishing scene, thanks to the deepwater Boca Grande Pass, which is known as the “Tarpon Capital of the World.” Charter captains specialize in fishing for tarpon, dubbed the “Silver King” because of their shiny scales and mammoth size. In fact, tarpon define the island’s summer season with the annual **World’s Richest Tarpon Tournament**.

The island’s marinas are brimming with boats of all sizes. While **Boca Grande Marina** is one of the area’s oldest and best-known boating centers, other local marinas offer rental boats for fishing and island hopping as well.

For a land-based adventure, rent bikes or a golf cart and explore the six-mile Boca Grande Rail Trail, which runs the length of Gasparilla Island.



 World’s Richest Tarpon Tournament



Stop along the bike path under the towering canopy of trees on Banyan Street for a stunning photo opportunity.

Dining & Drinks

The most iconic on-island dining experience is at the Gasparilla Inn. Beyond periodic refurbishments, not much has changed in the inn's Main Dining Room in more than 100 years. It retains its air of tropical gentility and a dress policy for dinner.

The Pink Elephant, a charming restaurant owned by the inn, is located on Boca Grande Bayou, just a short stroll down the street. The menu focuses on regional comfort food and local seafood. Known for its wine list, the restaurant won a Wine Spectator Award of Excellence in 2024.

If you want to hang where the locals go, duck into The Temptation Restaurant. Join the after-5 p.m. bar scene and stay for local seafood specialties.

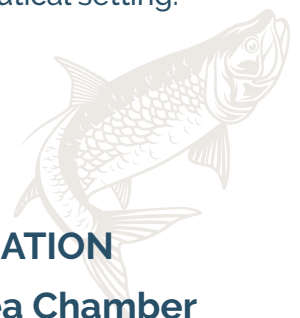
Dine beachfront at **South Beach Bar & Grill**, focusing on Florida seafood and tasty cocktails for lunch and dinner. Two restaurants at Boca Grande Marina serve up waterfront views along with good food – stop in at **Eagle Grille** for fine dining, and **Miller's Dockside** for a sports bar atmosphere.



Miller's Dockside

For refreshing smoothies, specialty coffees, breakfast sandwiches and brunch items, stop in at Boca Grande's **Bella Vida**. Craving Italian? Head to Sister's Restaurant, helmed by Chef Monty, who trained in Napoli, Italy.

When you're out on the water, a stop at **Cabbage Key Inn & Restaurant** on Cabbage Key is a must. Snap a photo against the backdrop of dollar bills adorning the walls in this nostalgic open-air restaurant. **Captiva Cruises** offers lunch cruises to Cabbage Key and **Useppa Island**, a private island with exclusive member access. The quintessential boater's hangout, Useppa's **Tarpon Bar** serves cold drinks and island eats in a nostalgic, nautical setting.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce

471 Park Ave., Ste. 3,
Boca Grande (941) 964-0568



Cabbage Key Inn & Restaurant

Events

Southwest Florida
Expo, North Fort

Every year, these happenings celebrate what Fort Myers is all about – amazing nature, food, arts and community.

JANUARY

Bonita Springs National Art Festival

This top-rated event runs three weekends, January through March, bringing hundreds of fine artists and crafters to downtown Bonita Springs' Riverside Park.

Cape Coral Art Festival & Marketplace

This outdoor event takes over Cape Coral Parkway and features a diverse array of creative works from artists around the world, as well as live entertainment and delicious food.



Fort Myers Seafood & Music Festival

Three days of live reggae, rock, jazz and R&B performances provide the soundtrack for savoring local seafood and other fresh eats in downtown Fort Myers.

Tour De Cape

A kickoff celebration preludes two days of walking, running and biking, including a 5K run/walk, bike tours ranging from 15 to 100 miles, and a kids' ride.

FEBRUARY

ArtFest Fort Myers

One of Fort Myers' oldest arts traditions brightens the downtown riverfront for a weekend of music, family fun and stunning works by select artists.

Edison Festival of Light

Honoring Fort Myers' most revered historic figure, the festivities culminate in a lighted night parade. Kids, dogs and cars get in the act with parades and shows.

Burrowing Owl Festival

Cape Coral's wildlife inspires a day devoted to nature, focused on its iconic pint-sized owl. Hear speakers and take a nature tour.

Restaurant Week & Taste of the Islands

To benefit the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) on Sanibel Island, this local restaurant week culminates in an event offering culinary specialties, competitions and live music.

Southwest Florida Ag Expo

Enjoy carnival rides, food, crafts, a livestock show and sale, agriculture exhibits, live entertainment, a petting zoo and more.

Spring Training: Minnesota Twins & Boston Red Sox

Major League Baseball's Grapefruit League season kicks off, bringing two major teams to Fort Myers to warm up. Enjoy watching the Twins and Red Sox compete at local stadiums.

da Ag
Myers





📍 PRIDE Cape Coral

MARCH

Spring Training Continues

Running to the end of the month, Major League Baseball's Minnesota Twins and Boston Red Sox compete, with exciting games happening nearly every day.

Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival & Parade

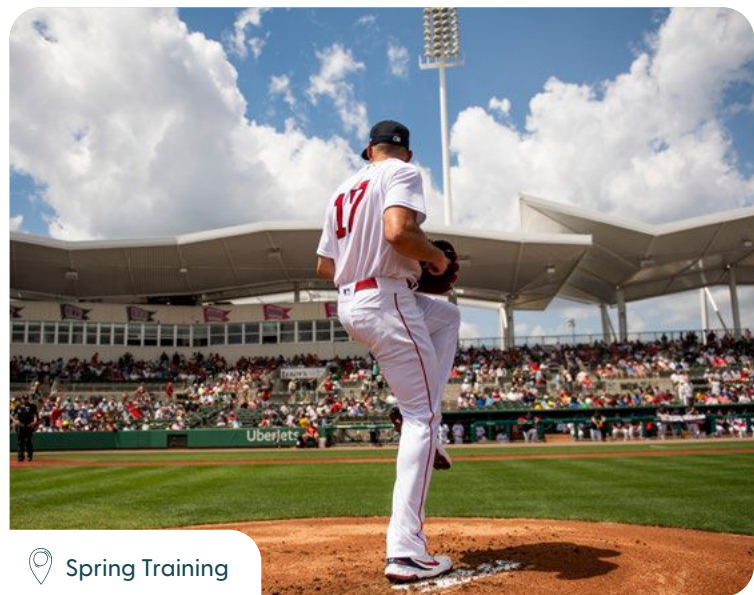
The Lions Club steams 1,200 pounds of wild Gulf shrimp and vendors sell seafood on the beach. Don't miss the community parade and coronation of the Shrimp Queen.

ECHO Global Food and Farm Festival

Tours, workshops, educational demonstrations and tastings affirm ECHO's mission to end world hunger through innovative farming and "food-scaping" practices.

PRIDE Cape Coral

This annual LGBTQ+ Pride celebration includes a parade in downtown Cape Coral as well as live entertainment.



📍 Spring Training

Sounds of Jazz and Blues

For one special day, come to hear great jazz and blues musicians play at Coral Oaks Golf Course in Cape Coral.

Sanibel Shell Festival

Shell lovers, collectors, artists and competitors gather for three days of arts and education to celebrate Sanibel Island's worldwide reputation as the "Seashell Capital of the World."

ArtStumble Mural Week

Celebrate 10 newly created murals with music, food, vendors, demonstrations and Q&A's with featured artists offering insight and inspiration.

APRIL

Bonita Springs Short Film Festival

Bonita Springs Centers for the Arts hosts this annual competition for all genres (westerns to documentaries), ages and skill levels.

"Ding" Darling Day

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge hosts a free Conservation Carnival at Lakes Park in Fort Myers with games, tours and exhibits in honor of Earth Day.

MAY

Fort Myers Film Festival

Find showings and discussions of independent, award-winning films from around the world at this five-day festival in downtown Fort Myers.

"Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament

Fishing teams compete to hook the most Silver Kings and take home a big purse. This catch, care and release tournament benefits local water quality and conservation.

South Seas Tarpon Tournament

The newest tarpon competition in the area honors families of fallen and disabled service members by benefiting Folds of Honor.

World's Richest Tarpon Tournament

With its hefty entry fees and purse, the competition heats up in Boca Grande, where the deepwater pass is a legendary habitat for the highly prized tarpon.

JUNE

Fringe Festival

Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers presents a fringe theater competition festival – four days of entertainment by adults and kids.



"Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament

JULY

Mango Mania

From fun contests to interesting seminars, a celebration of all things mango in honor of Pine Island's reputation for this juicy fruit.

Downtown July 4th Celebration

A patriotic music concert is followed by a fireworks show over the Caloosahatchee River at downtown Fort Myers' Caloosa Sound Amphitheater.

Independence Day Sanibel Island

A traditional community parade down Periwinkle Way kicks off a day of parties at local venues and the famous Road Rally, a scavenger hunt on wheels.

Red, White & Boom

Cape Coral celebrates July 4th in a big way with free live entertainment, family activities and a splashy fireworks display over the river.

Star-Spangled Bonita 4th of July

Live music, food trucks, laser lights and a drone show light up Bonita Springs' Independence Day shindig at Riverside Park.



📍 Island Hopper Songwriter Fest

SEPTEMBER

Island Hopper Songwriter Fest

Don't miss this annual event when songwriters from around the U.S. take over local venues for 10 music-filled days.

Sizzle Dining

Southwest Florida's premier culinary event brings 20 days of delicious prix-fixe lunches and dinners at top restaurants, plus special brunches and chef demo events.

FitMix Fest

Music and movement combine for a festive total wellness experience in downtown Fort Myers.

OCTOBER

Cape Coral Oktoberfest

Grab your lederhosen and head to Cape Coral for two weekends of oompah bands and chicken dancing as well as authentic German food, beer and souvenirs.

Haunted Walk at the Calusa Nature Center

Revel in the fun of Halloween as dozens of 'scaractors' dress up and act out classic Halloween and horror scenes along the nature trail at night.

NOVEMBER

American Sandsculpting Championship

This Fort Myers Beach tradition brings sculptors from around the U.S. to build elaborate sand creations for demonstrations and competition.

Fort Myers Tip-Off

U.S. college basketball teams meet on the court to vie for tournament championships throughout an intense three days of playoffs.

Gulf Coast Showcase

Top men's and women's college basketball teams from across the United States meet at Hertz Arena in Estero for a week of fierce Thanksgiving-time competition.

DECEMBER

Sanibel Luminary Holiday Stroll

Luminary candles and canopy tree lights bring a glow to Sanibel Island's commercial district. Businesses host holiday open houses with treats and entertainment.

Captiva Luminary Holiday Stroll

Get in the holiday spirit on Captiva Island, from shopping and dining along a candlelit trail to visits from Santa.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates Holiday Nights

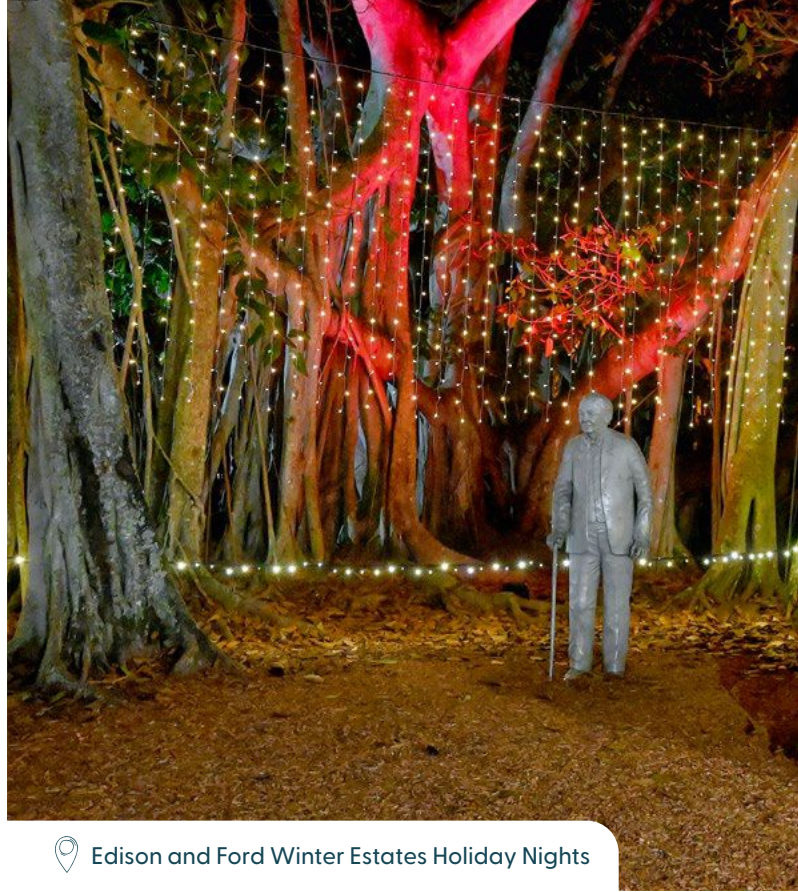
For more than a month, this iconic attraction features live entertainment as visitors stroll the historic homes and gardens, decorated and aglow with thousands of lights.

Burroughs Home & Gardens Holiday House

Get in the holiday spirit up and down Fort Myers' First Street starting with a tree-lighting at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and followed by a month-long Holiday Stroll of decorated businesses.

Festival of Trees at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

A Santa block party and decorated tree raffle are among the activities during the Goodwill Industries four-day fundraiser in downtown Fort Myers.



 Edison and Ford Winter Estates Holiday Nights

Lighting of the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse and Museum

Share the magic of this annual tradition, one night only, when the lighthouse beacon shines, along with festive lights, live music and plenty of holiday cheer.

Fort Myers Beach Boat Parade

Watch from the shore or a waterside restaurant as boats decked in holiday array parade from Salty Sam's Marina through Matanzas Harbor.

Cape Coral Holiday Boat-a-long

Ring in the holidays with live entertainment, food trucks, crafts, a visit from Santa, plus the boat parade – a tradition for more than 40 years in Cape Coral.

City of Palms Classic

America's best teams meet in Fort Myers for the nation's top high school basketball tournament, a 50-year tradition at Florida SouthWestern State College.

New Year's Eve Downtown Countdown

Ring in the new year dancing in the streets with live performances throughout downtown Fort Myers plus a ball drop and fireworks at midnight.





Planning Tips

 Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa

WHERE TO STAY

The Fort Myers area offers a wide range of accommodations, from beachfront resorts and charming cottages to cozy vacation rentals and RV parks. Whether you're looking for a peaceful retreat by the water or a vibrant stay near downtown, you'll find the perfect place to suit your needs.

WEATHER & SEASONALITY

Our sunny destination enjoys warm weather year-round, but we do have some seasonal differences.

Winter

Winter is the dry season, so expect mostly sunny days.

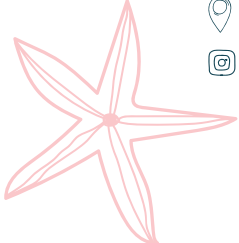
Daytime temps: high 70s to low 80s

Nighttime temps: mid-50s to low 60s



 Fort Myers Beach

 pinkseaphoto



Spring

March and April are temperate, dry months.

Daytime temps: highs in the low to mid-80s

Nighttime temps: lows are often in the 60s

May marks the beginning of the rainy season, when brief afternoon showers occur nearly every day.

Daytime temps: around 90

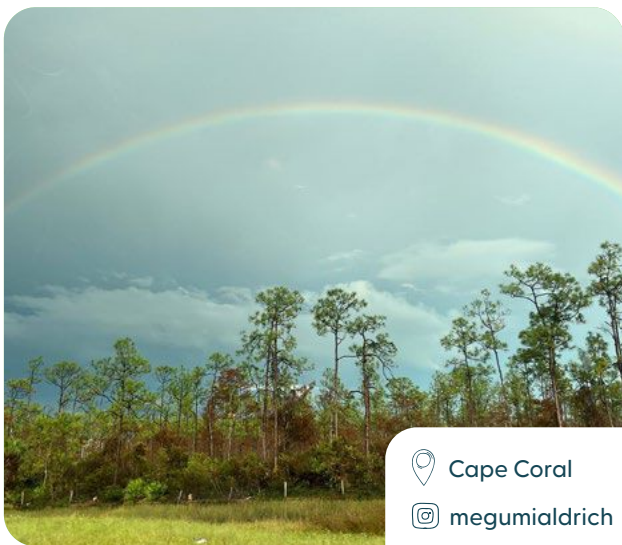
Nighttime temps: around 70

Summer

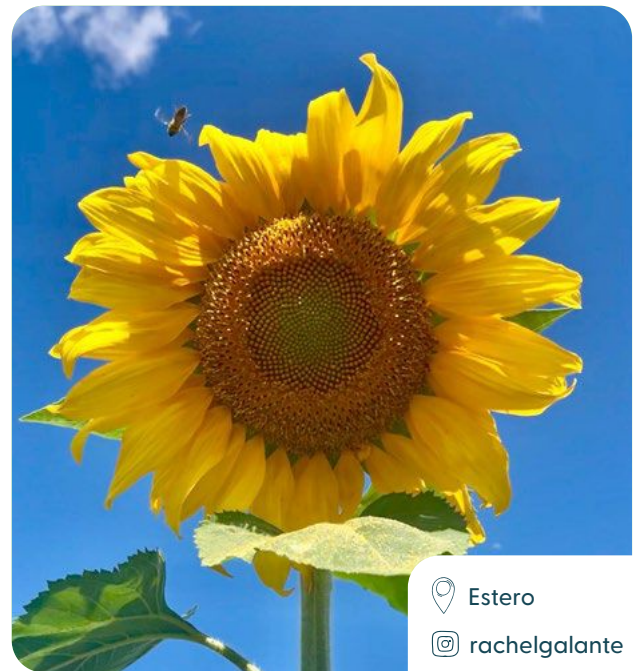
June, July and August are popular months for families; plan outdoor activities in the morning or early evening; stay cool in the water or at an indoor attraction; and plan for common afternoon showers.

Daytime temps: low 90s

Nighttime temps: mid-to upper- 70s



📍 Cape Coral
📷 megumialdrich



📍 Estero
📷 rachelgalante

Fall

September, October and November are wonderful times to visit. Temperatures start warm, and then begin to moderate. Plus, it's a quieter time with kids back in school.

Daytime temps: averages range from 90 in September to 81 in November

Nighttime temps: average lows range from 60 to 75.

Severe Weather

Rainstorms are sometimes accompanied by thunder and lightning. If you are outside and see or hear a thunderstorm coming, it's important to find a safe place inside or in a car. Tropical storms and hurricanes are possible from June 1 to November 30. If a storm is approaching, seek guidance from the staff at your lodging property and watch local news media for updates.

What to Pack

T-shirts, shorts, summer dresses and flip flops are the dress code of the destination, every day. Bring comfortable walking shoes as well as sunscreen and bug spray.

Be sure to pack a light sweater or jacket, as all indoor spaces are air-conditioned and can be chilly.



TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES

Lee County ADA Compliance

In the spirit of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), Lee County welcomes diverse visitors and is prepared to provide reasonable accommodations for services, programs or activities.

Lee County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for persons with disabilities to ensure that information and communication are accessible to people who have speech, hearing or vision impairments.

Questions or comments about accessibility in Lee County?

PLEASE CONTACT:

Raphaela Morais-Peroba

239-533-8782, RPeroba@leegov.com,

or Florida Relay Service 711

OFFICIAL FORT MYERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

Need travel advice or have a question about one of our neighborhoods? Friendly folks at our local visitor information centers and chambers of commerce are happy to help.

Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau Office



2201 Second St., #600, Fort Myers, FL 33901; 800-237-6444; 239-338-3500

Visitor Services Information Booths

Information booths are available throughout Southwest Florida International Airport, both on the departure and arrivals levels.

The booths are staffed by tourism ambassador volunteers every day, except for major holidays. Hours vary seasonally.



 Sanibel Island
 [na_biezniku](#)



 Information Booth at Southwest Florida International Airport

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce

471 Park Ave., Suite 3, Boca Grande, FL 33921; 941-964-0568

Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce

2051 Cape Coral Parkway E, Cape Coral, FL 33904; 239-549-6900

East Lee County Chamber of Commerce

25 Homestead Rd. N, #11 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936; 239-369-3322

Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce

100 Lovers Lane, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931; 239-454-7500

Greater Estero Chamber of Commerce

9990 Coconut Rd., Suite 337, Estero, FL 34135; 239-390-1137

Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce

1520 Lee St., Ste. 101, Fort Myers, FL 33901; 239-332-2930

Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce

10530 Stringfellow Rd., Unit 3, Bokeelia, FL 33922; 239-283-0888

North Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce

2787 North Tamiami Trail, #10, North Fort Myers, FL 33903; 239-997-9111

Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce

1159 Causeway Blvd., Sanibel Island, FL 33957; 239-472-1080

SWFL Inc.

20041 South Tamiami Trail, Unit #3 Estero, FL 33928; 239-992-2943

See the Sights

We hope to welcome you to our islands, beaches and neighborhoods soon, but until you can get here, catch a glimpse of some scenic spots via our [live webcams](#).

Fort Myers: Check out a gorgeous view of the downtown River District.

Manatee Park, Fort Myers: Spot manatees, especially during the winter months.

Fort Myers Beach: See lively Times Square and surrounding beaches.

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge: Do some birdwatching from the observation tower.

Sanibel Island: Spot the island's historic lighthouse at this popular beach park.

Pine Island: Enjoy waterfront views of Jug Creek from Knights' Landing Marina.

North Fort Myers: Catch views of the Caloosahatchee River from North Shore Park.

Cape Coral: Spot colorful native Florida butterflies at Rotary Park.

Bonita Springs: Get a glimpse of Wonder Gardens, an iconic Florida attraction.



KEY

-  ARTS
-  BEACH
-  DINING
-  HISTORIC SITES
-  PARKS/NATURE SITES
-  SHOPPING
-  SPORTS
-  GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY PADDLING TRAIL





Charlotte Harbor
Reserve State Park

**PUNTA GORDA
BABCOCK RANCH**

**NORTH
FORT MYERS**

ALVA

**CAPE
CORAL**

BUCKINGHAM

LEHIGH ACRES

**FORT
MYERS**

**FORT MYERS
BEACH**

ESTERO

BONITA SPRINGS

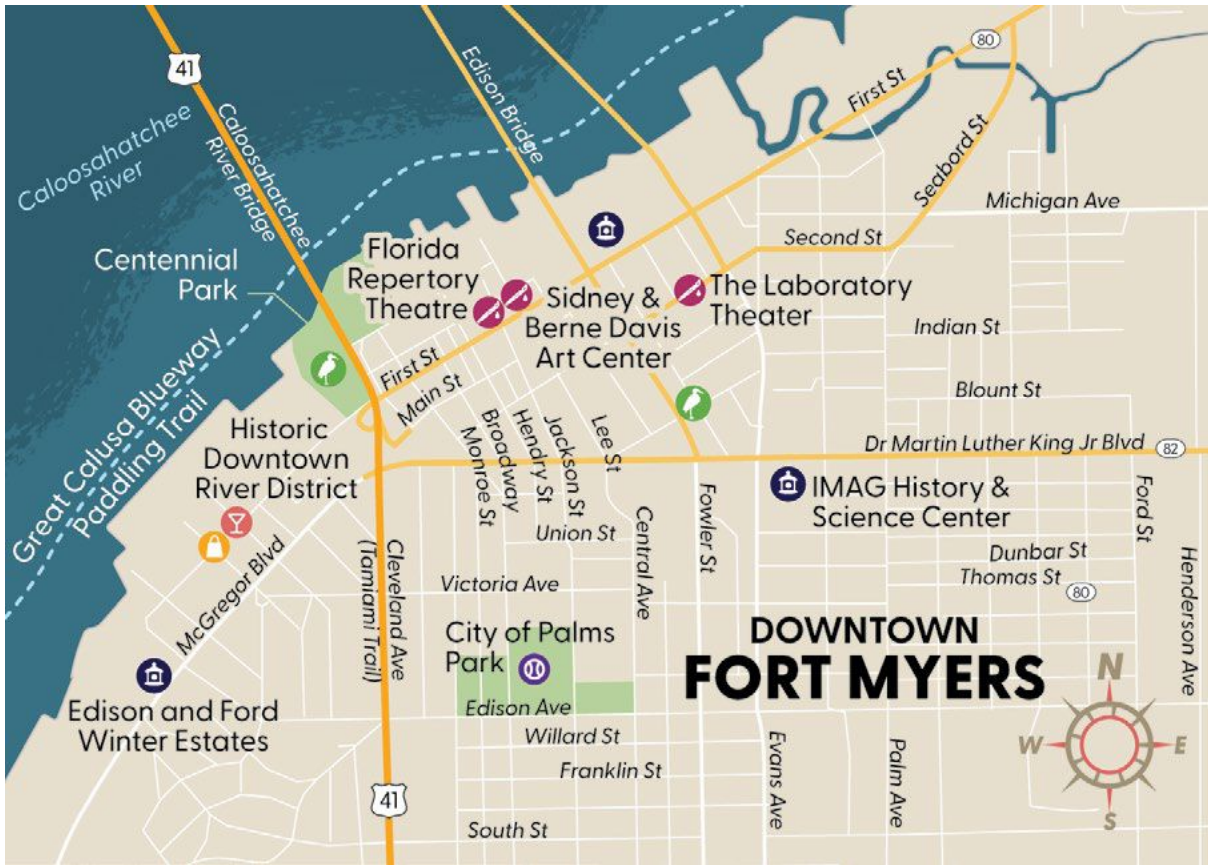
**NAPLES
EVERGLADES CITY**

Gulf Of
Mexico

**Downtown
Fort Myers**
See Detailed Map on
the next page

See next page

DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS



SANIBEL ISLAND



KEY

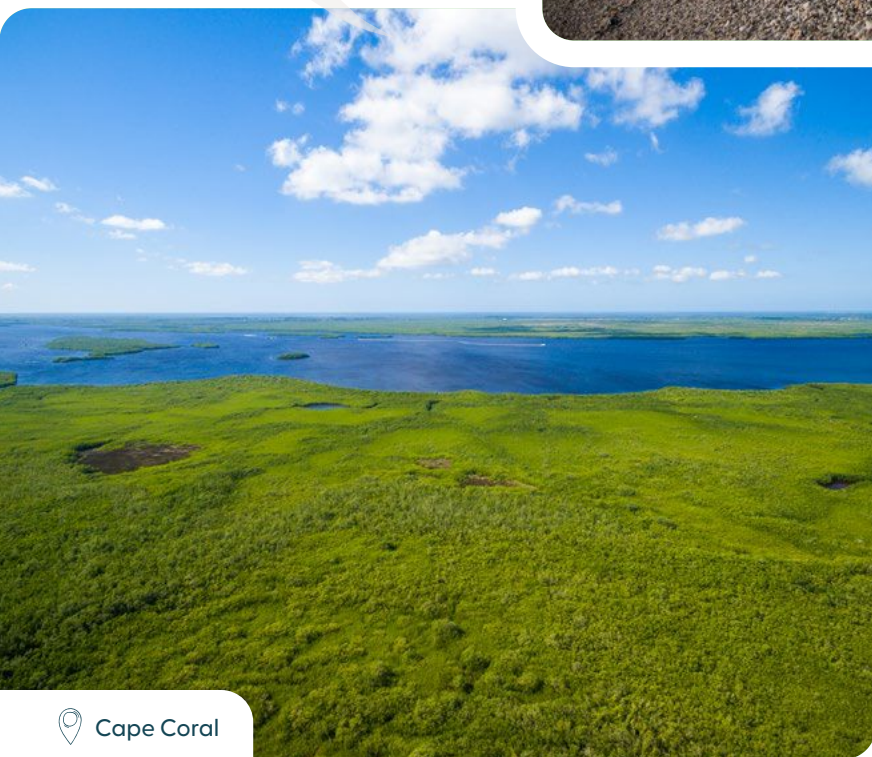
-  ARTS
-  BEACH
-  DINING
-  HISTORIC SITES
-  PARKS/NATURE SITES
-  SHOPPING
-  SPORTS
-  GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY PADDLING TRAIL

FUN FACTS ABOUT Fort Myers

1. Fort Myers is one of the sunniest cities in the U.S., with an average of 271 sunny days per year.
2. Over 35,000 acres have been preserved in their natural state through the **Lee County Conservation 20/20 program**.



 Captiva Island



 Cape Coral

3. **Downtown Fort Myers** has the largest concentration of historic structures in Southwest Florida.
4. The **Florida Everblades** (Estero's minor-league hockey team) have won the Kelly Cup Championship for three consecutive years.
5. Famous American artist, Robert Rauschenberg, lived on **Captiva Island**.
6. The **J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge** is part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the U.S.

7. Sanibel Island is home to the **only museum in the U.S.** dedicated to shells and the animals that live inside them.
8. **Pine Island** is the largest barrier island in Florida and has no traffic lights, tolls, or high rises.
9. **Cape Coral** has more miles of canals than Venice, Italy.
10. Gasparilla Island is home to **two historic lighthouses**.



 J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge



Connect with us on social

