



FORT MYERS

Fort Myers is a bustling Florida city with ecological, historical and cultural attractions, as well as shopping across the spectrum - high-end outlets, antiques, boutiques and outdoor malls. Dining and nightlife entertain when the sun goes down, with almost nightly spectacular "shows" as it sinks over the Caloosahatchee river.

Fort Myers is the perfect place to soak up some history - take a historic downtown walking tour with True Tours, or take advantage of the ample opportunities for antiques hunting. You could also take the kids to the IMAG History & Science Center for an afternoon of hands-on learning and exploration. Budding historians, scientists and inventors will want to take a narrated tour of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates, just a mile from Downtown on McGregor Boulevard - children of all ages will enjoy the indoor/outdoor celebration of the prolific inventor's and industrialists' lives.

The River District comes alive on the first and third Friday of the month as local and regional artists and musicians line the streets. On the first Friday of each month, rain or shine, thousands of art lovers stroll along Broadway, First, Hendry and Jackson streets taking in new art exhibitions, art demonstrations and meet-the-artist receptions. On the third Friday of each month, jazz, blues, rock & roll and many other genres can be heard and vary each month. Both events are free to the public with many venues featuring additional attractions and specials. 6-10 pm

There's a range of accommodation available in Fort Myers from Residence Inn Fort Myers Sanibel Gateway, to the boutique Hotel Indigo with a rooftop pool and bar overlooking the Caloosahatchee River - there's something to suit every taste.

Fort Myers is suitable for families and couples who are looking for great dining opportunities, culture and history.

FORT MYERS BEACH

Fort Myers Beach, situated at the northern tip of Estero Island on the tranquil Gulf of Mexico, faces out to Sanibel Island on one side, and San Carlos Island and the mainland on the other. Visitors return year after year for its laid back holiday atmosphere, dazzlingly fine white sandy beaches which gently shelve into the ocean, great seafood and local cuisine and entertainment - in fact you'd think you were in the Caribbean.

Hotels, cafes and restaurants line the wide white sand beach stretching for seven miles. You can sit back and enjoy the sun, walk along the beach and stop off at one of the beach bars and listen to live music, or try your hand at one of the many water sports available on the beach. There is even a sailing school available in several locations, which is great for relaxed family days out in sheltered and shallow waters, or for those looking for a little adrenaline on the Gulf.

There is plenty to enjoy away from the beach too: head to the seafood market and try local shrimp and crab delicacies; people watch near Times Square and San Carlos Blvd with their beach stores, restaurants and bars - this is the heart of Fort Myers Beach and a great place to visit during the day or evening. Close by you can also explore Matanzas Pass Preserve, a small nature reserve which leads you through a maze of mangroves to the water and stunning vistas.

Fort Myers Beach also offers a daily boat service to Key West on the Key West Express by catamaran, where you can watch the dolphins play in the wake of the boat as you make your way down to the Keys, with stunning sunsets on the return journey. Ideal for a day trip without all the driving, getting there is half the fun on this full service passenger ferry from port to port in three hours.

Accommodation options on Fort Myers Beach are varied - Outrigger Beach Resort, located on the souther, quieter end of Fort Myers Beach, offers the islands best Tiki Bar, standard and self-catering units, , whilst Pink Shell Beach Resort and Marina - perfect for families - is on the northern end of the beach and is a full service resort including water sport rentals, spa and marina for boat trips and rentals

Fort Myers Beach is suitable for families and couples who are looking to be close to amenities and places of interest and of course a great beach. Connected closer to the mainland, ideal for active visitors planning to including a shopping day, exploring Downtown Fort Myers, beach time and evening live entertainment whilst watching the sunset all in one day.

Driving Distances (Fort Myers Beach):

- Fort Lauderdale: 132 Miles / 2 hrs drive
- Tampa: 147 Miles / 2.5 hrs drive
- Miami: 148 Miles / 2.5 hrs drive
- Orlando: 169 Miles / 3 hrs drive

Accommodation comprises of hotels and self-catering hotels and vacation home rentals from apartments to four bed homes with private pool. Following is a selection of properties:

- [Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina](#)
- [SunStream Hotels & Resorts](#) (DiamondHead, GullWing, Pointe Estero)
- [Outrigger Beach Resort](#)
- Vacasa Vacation Rentals

SANIBEL ISLAND

Sanibel Island, a barrier island stretching for 12 miles off the coast of Fort Myers, offers some of the best beaches in the USA, left undisturbed by islanders who want to preserve the natural beauty of the region. There is an abundance of natural wonders on Sanibel including the largest Mangrove ecosystem in the USA which gives home to an array of species such as Florida's state bird the Roseate Spoonbill, manatees, dolphins, alligators, sea otters, pelicans and more. The J.N. 'Ding' Darling National Wildlife Refuge can be visited by car, cycle, foot or kayak, or for a nominal fee you can take a guided trolley tour and spot the wildlife for yourself. Guided trolley tours depart twice daily except Fridays, the refuge remains closed on Fridays. Trolley tours cost \$13 per person. Recommended to book in advance. Don't forget to stop in the Visitor Educational Center

Admission: \$5 per vehicle, \$1 per pedestrian, \$1 per bicycle

The geography of the island is also unique, with the tides of the Gulf of Mexico washing up hundreds of shells each day. Shelling is a popular pastime and those who partake in gathering these beautiful shells develop what is fondly known as the 'Sanibel Stoop'. You can walk for miles discovering different shells at every turn. Of course, the best way to discover Sanibel is by bike - there are 25 miles of cycle paths designed to make it safe and easy to get around. A visit to Sanibel Island is incomplete without getting out on the water to explore some of the nearby islands like Cabbage Key, Useppa Island, Boca Grande or Cayo Costa State Park (there are over 100 of them). . You don't really swim in the Pine Island sound, therefore I would not mention it like this. Most hotels have boats and kayaks to hire so you can explore the local wildlife, paddle through mangrove canopies and visit the neighbouring island. Any boat journey from Sanibel requires a camera - you'll be sure to see manatees and dolphins as you pass secluded beaches, private islands, lighthouses and spectacular waterfront homes. Maybe add a few recommendations of places, companies to use. To make it easier for agents to relate and have tangible items and activities to refer to.

Did you know that there are no chain restaurants nor fast food restaurants on Sanibel? Sanibel offers an array of local restaurants and venues in keeping with its un-commercialised approach, creating a great ambience and relaxed culture, particularly when enjoying a drink and watching the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico. A few island classics are Island Cow, Lighthouse Café, Doc Fords....

Sanibel is great for those looking to: reconnect with family and friends, for a quiet and relaxed getaway, for sun-drenched beaches, clear balmy waters and Mother Nature on their doorstep. Guests can choose from a range of holiday lets and rentals such as Royal Shell for vacation homes, Sundial Beach Resort for self-catering options with resort amenities. Sanibel Inn or Island Inn for traditional Sanibel Island beach hotels.

Sanibel Island is suitable for families and couples looking for a relaxed holiday with options to explore the area and enjoy plenty of nature based activities.

Accommodation comprises of hotels (no hotel can be higher than the surrounding palm trees) and holiday homes for rent, from apartments to four bed homes with private pool. Following is a selection of properties: no building can be taller than the tallest palm tree on the island, therefore no building is higher than 3 stories. No chain hotels on the island. Makes your stay truly unique and a true Sanibel experience.

- [Sundial Beach Resort](#)
- [Inns of Sanibel](#)
- [Casa Ybel](#)

- [Sanibel Island Beach Resort](#)
- Island Inn - an island classic
- Many hotels on Sanibel offer self-catering rooms/units including full kitchen and living room for more comfort and ideal for families and longer stays

CAPTIVA ISLAND

Captiva Island, the smaller sister island just north of Sanibel, is renowned for its slow pace of life - a place where people come to relax. Sit and read a book, walk the miles of pristine beach, learn to fish, catch up with friends and family or pitch up to the Mucky Duck Pub on the beach and be amazed at the glorious sunsets you will see - whatever you do, Captiva is a place to savour.

Artists have been drawn to Captiva for years because of its lifestyle, and it's easy to see why - the beauty of the area is awe-inspiring, with islands dotted around Pine Island sound, and cacti and bougainvilleas pepper the landscape. The heart of Captiva, whilst not quite a downtown, is home to a wonderful collection of local cafes and restaurants where visitors can watch the slow moving Captiva-world go by, chat with locals and listen to live music.

The island boasts a number of resorts such as 'Tween Waters Inn Island Resort & Spa which has 13 picturesque acres of grounds for guests to enjoy, as well as an extensive stretch of white-sand beach; and South Seas Island Resort - located at the norther tip of Captiva it offers a stunning resort experience with 2.5 miles of beach on its doorstep and is home to the Offshore Sailing School. Being located at the gateway to Pine Island sound and the Gulf of Mexico, it's the perfect launch pad from which to discover the surrounding islands.

Captiva Island is suitable for families, groups and couples who are looking for a quiet holiday with nature on their doorstep. Being relatively remote by road (one hour to the mainland) means that it is the perfect destination for longer stays, island hopping and exploring the area. Experience the slow pace of these islands, Sanibel and Captiva are 25mph or 35mph.

Accommodation on Captiva is mainly focused on holiday home rentals through [Royal Shell Vacations](#) and the [South Sea Island Resort](#);

Hotel lodging on Captiva:

- ['Tween Waters Inn,](#)
- [South Seas Island Resort](#)

CAPE CORAL

Just across the Caloosahatchee, to the west of Fort Myers is Cape Coral, renowned as a waterfront wonderland with more canals than anywhere else in the world, including Venice, Italy. (over 400 miles of waterways) and also by birding enthusiasts for its abundance of wildlife - it boasts the largest population of burrowing owls in Florida. Exploring Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve is a great way to see local wildlife, with raised walkways through the mangroves allowing visitors to experience Florida's eco system first hand.

A short drive from Fort Myers and the historical Edison and Ford Winter Estates, on the shores of the Caloosahatchee River, Cape Coral is ideal for those who want to be by and on the water. Many holiday home rentals in Cape Coral are waterside and offer the opportunity to add a boat as part of the rental so you can navigate to a nearby beach or moor up at a waterside restaurant. Making it a boaters paradise, easy enough for all levels of experience. All boat rentals include a full instruction on how to operate the vessel as well as local rules and tips.

Cape Coral also boasts a stunning resort - the Westin Cape Coral; a paradise for those looking to relax and be pampered after a long drive and fun filled Orlando visit. The Westin is surrounded by water with its own marina with a daily water taxi to Fort Myers Beach for its guests and many water sport activities right there for everyone to enjoy. With a kids club, golf courses nearby, spa and array of eateries, The Westin is a great place to chill in the sun.

Cape Coral lies on the shores of the Caloosahatchee River, although it does not have a beach as such, the Cape Coral Yacht Club welcomes visitors to the "Riverfront" beach area with the Boat House Tiki Bar and Boat Ramp. A great spot where locals and visitors alike come together to enjoy the sunset while sitting on the open air deck next to the fishing pier.

Cape Coral is suitable for families, groups and couples who are looking for a relaxed holiday on the waterfront setting with many activities. Cape Coral also hosts SunSplash Water Park, ideal for families with small children. **Accommodation** Cape Coral offers holiday home rentals directly onto the river and Gulf of Mexico via waterway canals that run through the area. Most properties have direct water access with possible boats to be rented and available at your vacation home . [Osprey Villas](#) are specialists in this area. Vacasa is another vacation home partner or Vesteva Vacation Rentals for Cape Coral. For hotel resort accommodation [The Westin Cape Coral Resort](#) offers an excellent resort stay with all rooms featuring kitchen facilities too.

BONITA SPRINGS

Just to the south of Fort Myers, Bonita Springs looks out onto Estero Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It's a great base for exploring nature parks and beaches - Lover Key State Park is made up of four barrier islands and offers hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking and miles of pristine beaches. The Everglades are just a short drive away and can be explored alone or as part of an organised tour including a typical airboat ride. Everglades Day Safari is one of the excursions available for half and full day tours departing from the area.

The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa is set in 26 acres of lush tropical gardens, offering a perfect resort stay. The resort's water taxi takes guests to its private beach on a barrier island just off shore, a quick 20 minute boat trip away. The resort itself has an 18 hole golf course next door and a brand new water park with a lazy river and fun waterslides .

At nearby outdoor mall, Coconut Point there is an array of shops and restaurants to browse or, if you are looking for a bargain, the Miromar Outlets Mall in Estero is a collection of over 140 brand name and designer stores and restaurants.

Bonita Springs is suitable for families and couples who are looking for a resort stay while being close to shops and attractions in a tranquil setting.

Accommodation in Bonita Springs is focused on the [Hyatt Regency Coconut Spa & Resort](#)