



FOCUS ON

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## [The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel]

The Florida of days long past, with unspoiled white sand beaches, exotic wildlife and lush subtropical foliage, still can be found on The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in Southwest Florida.

Known as Florida's tropical island getaway, this paradise is a favorite vacation spot for Floridians as well as visitors from across the United States and abroad.

The Lee County area embraces nine distinct areas, each with its own unique character. Best known are Sanibel and Captiva islands, connected to the mainland by an alluring three-mile-long causeway and, to each other, by a blink-and-you'll-miss-it bridge at Blind Pass.

Sanibel is known worldwide for its shelling and the associated posture referred to as the "Sanibel Stoop". Some fanatics attach flashlights to their heads, in an effort to be first in the daily search for top picks of the more than 400 varieties of shells found littering the beaches, particularly after an especially high or low tide. For most visitors, however, shelling is merely a delightful excuse to enjoy hours of sun worshipping along some of the finest shoreline in North America.

### [Shopping]

When you need a break from the beautiful sugar-white beaches, sparkling Gulf waters and picture-perfect year round weather, The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel offers unique shopping opportunities to visitors from all over the world. For shopaholics in need of some retail therapy there are upscale malls with designer labels, elegant boutiques and outlet centers with mega savings. Travelers looking for the perfect purchase for a reminder of a vacation in paradise, there are art galleries, museum stores, and quaint seaside shops to fill hours of fun.

Antique shops, flea markets, seashell shops, jewelry stores with inspirations from the sea and more are just waiting to be explored.

### [Dining]

Beyond the great variety of four-star cuisine, there is noth-

ing typical about dining at area restaurants. Between the cities of Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Bonita Springs, and the islands including Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel and Captiva, there are restaurants to suit any budget or mood.

**[Beaches]**

The area's famous beaches have been ranked as some of the best in the U.S. for shelling. The shell is celebrated each year at the Annual Sanibel Shell Fair & Show that has been going on for 71 years. The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum has the largest collection of shells in North America. Shops such as *She Sells Sea Shells* on Sanibel Island and the Shell Factory and Nature Park in North Fort Myers cater to shell collectors and sell crafts to do at home. With more than 100 barrier and coastal islands adjacent to the Lee County shoreline, this area is home to 50 miles of sandy white beaches that shelter some of the best shelling in the United States.

The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel yields some 400 species of multi-colored seashells, from the commonplace scallop and clam to the exotic tulips, olives, fragile paper fig shells and the rarest of them all, the brown speckled junonia.

**[The Arts]**

From dinner theatre and Broadway productions to museums and festivals of fine arts and crafts, the world of art and entertainment is more lively than ever in this destination. "Cultural and artistic enrichment opportunities for everyone - children, adults and families - are abundant in the Fort Myers/Sanibel area," said Suya Davenport, executive director of the Lee County Visitor and Convention

Bureau. "We are so fortunate to be living in an area that focuses on the best in life, including the arts. That's what makes this the perfect place to visit any time of the year."

**we recommend >>>**  
**ACCOMMODATIONS.** . . . . .

Make your next getaway - truly an escape. Situated along Florida's Southwest gulf coast, the restful **Palm Island Resort** encompasses a two-mile portion of private, pristine beach on the Gulf of Mexico at the northern end of Palm Island, which is approximately seven miles long and 700-yards wide at its broadest. Resort guests stay in 160 privately owned tropical villas and travel to the resort by boat or car ferry. Golf carts, bicycles and walking are the only means of transportation on the resort.

**866-976-7902 | [www.palmisland.com](http://www.palmisland.com)**

Visitors are encouraged to make the most of their Southwest Florida vacations by incorporating as many entities into one vacation as possible. At the **Cove Inn**, Naples, travelers can enjoy the conveniences of an in-room refrigerator and microwave, in addition to the abundance of outdoor activity and amenities.

Guestrooms, which are individually owned, feature a spacious balcony. Water views are available.

**800-255-4365 | 239-262-7161 | [www.coveinnnaples.com](http://www.coveinnnaples.com)**

The intimacy of the 19-suite **Marco Island Lakeside Inn** beckons travelers to relax and savor this tropical and luxurious retreat. Nestled among towering palms and within one mile from area beaches, the inn features a unique

*Visit Sanibel & Captiva Islands,  
 and Ft. Myers Beach*



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[www.LighthouseIslandResort.com](http://www.LighthouseIslandResort.com)

array of accommodations including poolside studio suites with landscaped entrances and sitting areas. Outdoors guests can enjoy the sparkling heated pool.

800-729-0216 | [www.marcoislandlakeside.com](http://www.marcoislandlakeside.com)

Located on the picturesque SW Florida coast between trendy Naples and the tranquility of Sanibel Island, **The Pink Shell Beach Resort & Spa** caters to families and small groups seeking a memorable, four-star resort experience. Their focus is on providing attentive service and uncompromising cleanliness in a surrounding with breathtaking views of the Gulf of Mexico and sugar-white sandy beaches. At the Pink Shell Beach Resort and Spa, "The Only Thing They Overlook Is the Beach!"

877-261-0862 | 888-222-7465 | [www.pinkshell.com](http://www.pinkshell.com)

For more than 20 years, discerning travelers to Naples have been finding their piece of paradise with the assistance of **Phase III Real Estate Services**.

As a full service Real Estate office, which is locally owned and operated, clients searching for a seasonal, annual or permanent residence along this breathtaking community will find their dreams come true by a standard that exceeds many expectations.

Available properties include single family homes, private water view condominiums and resort-style accommodations with an extensive list of amenities. For more information contact Fran Parker Broker/Owner.

800-5-NAPLES | 239-597-9111 | [www.vanderbiltvacation.com](http://www.vanderbiltvacation.com)

**Shalimar Cottages and Motel** is located on the gently sloping, shell-strewn beaches of Sanibel Island. Amenities

include a large heated pool, 300 feet of shelling beaches, cable T.V. with VCR, HOB and DVD, free wireless internet, bicycle rentals and gas grills. Come and enjoy all the modern conveniences in a natural setting.

800-995-1242 | [www.shalimar.com](http://www.shalimar.com)

**Sanibel Arms West**, Sanibel - This beautiful beachfront condominium property is bordered by more than 475 feet of private beach on the Gulf of Mexico. The spacious condominiums feature two bedroom, two baths, living and dining room, fully equipped kitchen and large, private balconies with screened-in porches. Heated pool, sun deck, tennis courts, shuffleboard, gas grills, and free wireless internet are also available.

800-950-1138 | [www.sanibelarmswest.com](http://www.sanibelarmswest.com)

For the ultimate vacation experience, indulge in the pleasures of Sanibel Island's most sought after vacation resort, **Pointe Santo de Sanibel**. This beautiful resort, is situated directly on the Gulf of Mexico is nestled in 10 acres of lush tropical gardens with stone paths throughout. In the center of the property is a lagoon with footbridges leading to a quaint island which occupies the heated swimming pool, hot tub and clubhouse. Other amenities include gas grills and tiki huts, tennis, beach volleyball and a children's recreation program.

Each of Premier Properties' condominiums are beautifully remodeled and professionally decorated with private screened lanais viewing the gulf. 800-824-5442 | 239-472-9100 | [www.premiersanibel.com](http://www.premiersanibel.com)

**Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites**, Fort Myers - Newly renovat-

Come explore our world famous Island coast for the perfect and complete Florida vacation. With our shell-strewn beaches, friendly encounters with nature, quiet island nights and balmy days you will find it easy to unwind and relax and enjoy the fabulous shopping, dining, attractions and activities that our islands offer. Visit us on-line to explore a wide selection of accommodations for your tropical escape.



### Anchor Inn & Cottages

The perfect island vacation. Choose from three locations offering cottages and efficiencies. Stay on the beach or in town. Walk to shopping, dining & restaurants or stay waterfront on Pine Island Sound.

Call 888.469.9543 or Book Online:  
[www.LocalIslandGetaway.com](http://www.LocalIslandGetaway.com)



### Sanibel Moorings

Featuring 1, 2 and 3 bedroom condos with full kitchens, living & dining rooms. Amenities include boat docks, 2 pools, tennis courts, WiFi, bike rentals, canoeing & kayaking.

Call 800.237.5144 or Book Online:  
[www.SanibelMoorings.com](http://www.SanibelMoorings.com)



### VIP Vacations

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[www.VIPRental.com](http://www.VIPRental.com)



### Sandalfoot Condos

Beach views from every condo! One and two bedroom units are fully equipped to make your stay restful and rejuvenating. On-site bike rentals free wireless internet.

Call 800.725.2250 or Book Online:  
[www.SandalfootCondo.com](http://www.SandalfootCondo.com)

*Sanibel Island • Captiva Islands • Fort Myers Beach*

ed in 2008, this resort offers an accommodation selection for every type of traveler. Whether it's a romantic getaway or the vacationing large family, guests can enjoy spacious guestrooms, with thoughtful, well-appointed amenities. The resort is located within easy walking distance to many fun-filled Fort Myers Beach attractions including shopping, dining, fishing pier and boat rentals. Onsite the Tiki Bar & Grill offers live entertainment. Barbecue grills with picnic areas are located throughout the resort. [239-463-9392](tel:239-463-9392) | [www.lighthouseislandresort.com](http://www.lighthouseislandresort.com)

Boasting luxurious resort condominiums, a wide stretch of private shell covered beach, enchanting gardens and unlimited activities, guests of [Sanibel Moorings](#) will experience their best Southwest Florida vacation yet. Ideal for both couples and families, Sanibel Moorings offers the convenience of fully-furnished vacation units with all the advantages of a private home. Onsite guests can enjoy a fully-stocked movie library, two outdoor heated pools, outdoor picnic area and newly-refurbished docks. [239-472-4119](tel:239-472-4119) | [www.sanibelmoorings.com](http://www.sanibelmoorings.com)

## must see & do! >>>

[\[Florida's Creative Coast Weekends\]](#) [Pine Island's](#) "season" events, the second weekend of each month, November through April. Free singer/songwriter concerts, extended gallery hours, seminars, workshops, demonstrations and more. Purchase your "Pine Island Passport" of value-added offers and discounts at many Island businesses. Weekend packages available at participating lodging partners. Come experience this funky slice of Paradise - wonderful kayaking, boat, air and nature tours. Tour historic Calusa Indian mounds, play a round of golf, dine on local seafood and specialty dishes, take cooking classes at Andy's Island Seafood, "Paint Out Loud" at Lovegrove Gallery, participate in a percussion workshop at Koucky Gallery and much more. For complete details call or visit their website. [239-283-0888](tel:239-283-0888) | [www.floridascreativecoast.com](http://www.floridascreativecoast.com)

[Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens](#) features breathtaking and mesmerizing exhibits and gardens! Safari Canyon presentations like Planet Predator and Serpents: Fangs & Fiction enable visitors to understand wildlife in exciting ways through living animals, wildlife video, and live camera close-ups. The Primate Expedition Cruise takes guests through islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes. Enjoy the Meet the Keeper Series, Snake Sunbathing, and Alligator Bay Feeding.

# Enjoy Florida's Creative Coast Weekends on Pine Island

## the Second Weekend of each month



November 13-15  
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January 8-10  
February 12-14  
March 12-14  
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[www.floridascreativecoast.com](http://www.floridascreativecoast.com)  
Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce  
[239-283-0888](tel:239-283-0888)



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New to the zoo is Black Bear Hammock, the largest black bear exhibit in an accredited zoo east of the Mississippi.

239-262-5409 | [www.caribbeanagardens.org](http://www.caribbeanagardens.org)

Newly-renovated in 2003, the **Riviera Golf Club**, Naples, is undoubtedly Southwest Florida's best kept secret! The course features par threes which range from 130 yards to 205 yards from the back tees, and is highlighted with beautiful mature tree-lined fairways.

The Blue Tees measure 4,521 yards, while the White Tees are a more friendly 4,089 yards. The Red Tees are only 3,217 yards, making it especially fun for lady golfers. Be sure and pick the tees that give you the best chance to make a birdie or two! For reservations or information call their Pro Shop or visit their Website.

239-774-2011 | [www.rivieragolf.com](http://www.rivieragolf.com)

One of Naples' premier golf resorts is getting greener! As the only hotel/condominium on a golf course in the area, **GreenLinks**, situated within the Lely Resort Golf and Country Club, proudly features courses designed by some of the best in the game.

In addition to challenging golf, visitors to the resort can enjoy amenities that include tennis, heated pool with outdoor Jacuzzi spa, state-of-the-art Conference and Meeting facility, fitness room, barbecue grills, business center, and nearby shopping, dining and entertainment. Ownership opportunities are available.

888-992-2099 | 239-732-9920 | [www.greenlinksnaples.com](http://www.greenlinksnaples.com)

Since 1986, **Captiva Cruises** has been offering a variety of cruises that explore wildlife, local ecology, history and intriguing islands accessible only by boat.

Aboard the Dolphin & Wildlife Adventure Cruise, naturalists acquaint passengers with the local resident bottlenose dolphins of Pine Island Sound.

If you're interested in a romantic evening, Captiva Cruises offers a Sunset Serenade Cruise featuring local island musicians to watch the magnificent Gulf of Mexico Sunsets.

The newest addition to the Captiva Cruises fleet is a 40-foot Sailing Catamaran called the Adventure, which hosts a variety of different cruises from beach and shelling sails to two hour sunset cruises to a shoreline discovery guided beach walk on a barrier island.

Captiva Cruises is locally owned and operated by an experienced staff of captains, guides, and event planners.

239-472-5300 | [www.captivacruises.com](http://www.captivacruises.com) \*

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