

# DRIVE OR FLY OR BOAT ON OVER.

The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel are located just minutes from Southwest Florida International Airport and easily worth the drive from anywhere in the state.

## MILEAGE FROM FLORIDA CITIES

<b>Orlando</b>	196 miles /315.4 km	Est. drive time: 3 hours
<b>Miami</b>	158 miles /254.3 km	Est. drive time: 2 1/2 hours
<b>Tampa</b>	126 miles /202.8 km	Est. drive time: 2 hours
<b>Daytona</b>	251 miles /403.9 km	Est. drive time: 4 hours
<b>Jacksonville</b>	335 miles /539.1 km	Est. drive time: 5 1/4 hours



Find your island and much more when you escape to The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel. Visit [FortMyers-Sanibel.com](http://FortMyers-Sanibel.com) to learn more or to order a FREE Lonely Planet guidebook.



# THE BEACHES OF FORT MYERS & SANIBEL



## FIND YOUR ISLAND WHEN YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.

Find your island and find an endless supply of sunny days. Find natural beaches perfect for burying your toes in soft, white sand and watching the horizon stretch to infinity. Find warm Gulf waters and hop by boat from natural island to natural island completely carefree. Find hundreds of ways to play on The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, each one a fine example of living life as it's meant to be lived in the place Florida was truly meant to be.



# YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOU'LL FIND YOUR ISLAND.

With over 590 miles of natural coastline, more than 100 islands, 50 miles of soft, white-sand beaches and the unique and diverse ecosystems at 25 nature preserves and parks, it was difficult picking only 10 experiences to help you find your island. But, we had to start somewhere.

## 1 BEACH FUN

If you're looking for endless beaches, everlasting relaxation and nonstop water recreation, then you've come to the right place. Florida's best beaches are found here. Walk the sandy coastline, build a sandcastle, read a book and simply be. Or be one with the tranquil water and kayak, windsurf, fish or snorkel. Life on or near the water is special and beautiful.



## 3 GREAT CALUSA BLUEWAY PADDLING TRAIL

This 190-mile marked paddling trail gets you closer to nature in ways you never thought you could. Explore the waterways once plied by the Calusas, the natives who thrived for centuries in Southwest Florida before the Spaniards' arrival, that lead you through mystifying mangroves and put you up close with roseate spoonbills and manatees. Forget The Nature Channel; you are in it.

## 4 LOVERS KEY STATE PARK

The park name comes from the way the island was only accessible by boat and was said that only lovers made the journey to the isolated and beautiful beach. But today, anyone can access the island by tram or by boardwalk; and couples can tie the knot in the pavilion overlooking the Gulf. An abundance of wildlife and activities await you. Manatees, bottlenose dolphins, bald eagles, shelling, sunbathing, biking, picnicking, you name it. Heaven lies ahead.

## 2 SHELLING

There is nothing more that symbolizes the unhurried life and laid back attitude than shelling in the outer islands. Perfect Gulf waters and white-sand beaches hold over 400 species of shells, which would make even a professional shell collector gasp. Some people come to relax and some people come only to shell. To us, they're the same thing.



## 5 LIGHTHOUSES

The Sanibel Lighthouse and the Boca Grande Lighthouse are true landmarks of the area. Why? Not because of their size, but for what is around them. Beautiful beaches, observation decks looking over the tranquil waters, picnic areas, swimming, just about anything relaxing.

## 6 ART GALLERIES

Colors of every variety. Textures of all form. The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel are bursting with artistic expression. Jewelry, sculpture and paintings entice your senses. The best places to see these riches are the galleries on Pine Island and Matlacha. Here, the pieces of art are indicative of the people who created them: bold, colorful and bright.

## 7 FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

There are events all year, but there are some that are stand-outs. The Edison Festival of Light is three weeks of celebration of the innovation of Thomas Edison, culminating in a nighttime parade. The American Sandsculpting Championship Festival brings masters of the craft and amateur sand sculptors together to create amazing works of art at this five-day event.

## 8 EDISON & FORD WINTER ESTATES

Imagine what it must've been like to be one of these legends and that the only limit to success was your imagination. Being one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Fort Myers and Sanibel area, these 20 acres of tropical gardens are the location of Edison and Ford's historic homes, cottages, laboratories, and a museum filled with artifacts, inventions and special exhibits. Enter a world unlike any other.



## 9 ISLAND HOPPING

With literally hundreds of islands punctuating this lush area, you simply must experience them. Either by seaplane or by water, set out to explore. Start at North Captiva for a little shelling, hop over to Cabbage Key for lunch. The restaurant sits atop a 38-foot Calusa Indian shell mound giving guests a panoramic view of Pine Island Sound. Finish up at Cayo Costa, known for its natural pristine environment, for a nature hike or a lazy stroll on miles of shell-strewn beaches.

## 10 DING DARLING

A fortunate few ever have the privilege of laying their eyes on such a place. Will you be one of those fortunate few? The J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge is the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystems in the United States. And what goes with mangroves? That's right – birds. Migratory birds of over 220 species are protected in this pristine habitat. While here, be sure to tour Wildlife Drive. You might just spot an alligator.

