



ACCOLADES 2020

[7 food and drink experiences to have on The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel](#)

Matador Network

January 2020

Most places in the U.S. aren't as lucky as Southwest Florida. Miles of beaches, the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, both nature and nightlife, *and* access to super-fresh cuisine *all year long*? You can practically hear the rest of the country sighing. But it's that last one that causes foodies to flock here in droves, and not just in winter. With a culinary history tying together fishermen, farmers, and plenty of warm days, The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel hits the cuisine jackpot — come here, and you'll strike it rich, too. Let the seven tasty experiences below serve as proof.

[The 50 Most Exotic and Beautiful Beaches Around the World](#)

Marie Claire

January 2020

Sanibel Island

Florida gives good beach and Sanibel Island is no exception.

[24 Best Day Trips in South Florida](#)

Vacation Idea

January 2020

Bonita Springs is a lovely southwestern Florida city that is home to stunning Gulf Coast beaches and waterfront parks, including the stunning 2.5-acre Bonita Beach Park, which is home to a year-round swimming area and a picturesque boardwalk. Barefoot Beach Preserve Park protects 342 acres of natural land on one of Florida's last remaining undeveloped barrier islands, named as one of the best beaches in the United States by Forbes Magazine. Lover's Key State Park spans more than 1,000 acres throughout four barrier islands, known for its excellent opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, hiking, and biking. Other outdoor attractions include the secluded Little Hickory Island Beach Park and the beautiful Everglades Wonder Gardens, which showcase exotic wildlife.

[20 Places Where You Can Escape Winter's Wrath Without a Passport](#)

MSN Travel

January 2020

Sanibel, Florida

Have a shell-tastic vacation in Sanibel, Florida, this winter. Sanibel occupies a unique location where the ocean delivers truckloads of seashells on the beach every morning which makes for a fun "shelling" experience for the whole family. Beyond shelling, relax at Sundial Beach Resort & Spa, explore Captiva Island, eat at the famous Cabbage Key Inn & Restaurant, and spend the day looking for sand dollars on Cayo Costa island.



[Top Beaches in Florida](#)

HGTV

February 2020

Sanibel Beach

Sanibel is a unique barrier island with an east-west orientation that differs from the typical north-south layout. This east-west designation has helped Sanibel earn its reputation as one of the Shell Islands — prime spots along Florida's coastline for gathering perfectly intact shells in every shape and size. Hit the beach with a bucket, shovel and small net, and stroll the beach at low tide to peruse the ocean's bounty of conch, cockles and scallop shells. Bowman's Beach is the quietest and most remote stretch of sand in Sanibel, while a historic lighthouse beckons visitors to take a stroll on the rustic boardwalk at Lighthouse Beach.

[9 Quiet Beach Towns in America](#)

PureWow

February 2020

Key West is tranquil when compared with Miami, but it's a far cry from the sleepy beach town escape you're *really* looking for. Boca Grande, on the other hand, is a true glimpse of idyllic old Florida. Think: tree-lined streets without traffic lights and long stretches of quiet Gulf of Mexico shores.

[33 Utterly Amazing Travel Destinations in the U.S. You've Never Heard Of](#)

BestLife

February 2020

Florida has no shortage of great beaches from the Keys to Amelia Island, but if you're looking for a vacation that feels more like the Caribbean, check out the sister islands, Sanibel and Captiva.

[7 Up-and-Coming U.S. Cities](#)

Seeqr.

February 2020

For those of us living in colder climates, who hasn't wanted to drop everything and move to Florida? Fort Myers is a city currently debunking the myth that the Sunshine State is only for retirees. Ranked as the fastest growing city in the U.S. by [Wallethub](#) in 2018, Fort Myers has something for everyone. Its proximity to the Gulf Coast offers beachgoers, boaters and anglers plenty of sun and surf for their pastimes, while the River District has restaurants, hotels and plenty of history to keep city-goers happy. So whether you're looking for a week away or a place to settle down, Fort Myers could be calling your name.



[Unplug or Party On at Fort Myers' Best Beaches](#)

USA Today 10 Best

March 2020

If you're looking for fun in the sun, there is plenty to be had on the beaches surrounding Fort Myers. From the peaceful and secluded, natural habitats on Cayo Costa to the action-packed shores at Lynn Hall Memorial Park, there is sure to be a place that has your name written in the sand.

[Florida's Top Beach Destinations](#)

The Group Travel Leader

April 2020

Fort Myers

Sun, surf and sand: There's nothing simpler than the recipe for an ideal beach day. But what sets a great beach destination apart from the rest is its ability to offer a wide array of activities beyond the shore for groups to enjoy. While the beach is, of course, the star at these five Florida cities, you'll quickly realize there's plenty more to see and do while you're there.

[10 Best Places to Retire in Florida](#)

Travel + Leisure

April 2020

Retiring in [Florida](#) is a goal for many baby boomers across the country – and the world, for that matter. Year-round warm weather, sandy beaches, natural beauty, [theme parks](#), and plenty of cultural attractions make the Sunshine State an attractive place to settle down.

[Best Labor Day weekend getaways in every state](#)

Reader's Digest

September 2020

Florida: Sanibel Island

For a quiet getaway, consider sleepy Sanibel Island on the Gulf of Mexico. Largely untouched by development, it doesn't have any stoplights or buildings taller than a palm tree. While it's famous for its shelling (though please leave those shells on the beach), it boasts plenty of other outdoor activities, such as kayaking, exploring the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge, and biking around the island and to its lighthouse. The oceanfront Sundial Beach Resort makes a great home base on the island, or visit South Seas Island Resort on nearby Captiva Island. Love shelling? Here are [15 beaches with the best seashells in the world](#).



[15 Beautiful US Islands That'll Make You Forget All About Traveling Abroad](#)

BuzzFeed

November 2020

Off the coast of Fort Myers, Florida, is a series of barrier and coastal islands in the Gulf's warm waters. Among these is Captiva Island, a beach-y sliver of land that spans just 5 miles in length. The tiny island is all about the outdoors — bird watching, biking, sailing, fishing — and remains surprisingly tranquil considering the ease of access from the neighboring Sanibel Island.

[The World's 50 Most Beautiful Beaches for Ultimate Relaxation](#)

Redbook

November 2020

Sanibel Island is a low-key spot on [Florida's](#) west coast that's known for its abundance of seashells. People come from all over to do the "Sanibel stoop," which is what island dwellers call combing the beaches for one-of-a-kind seaglass finds.

[16 Top Romantic Getaways in Florida](#)

U.S. News & World Report

November 2020

Few Florida destinations are as serene and laid-back as [Sanibel Island](#). Situated about 20 miles southwest of [Fort Myers](#) on Florida's Gulf Coast, Sanibel Island appeals to couples seeking rest and relaxation. Lovebirds will likely spend the bulk of their time at Sanibel Island's beautiful beaches, where they can swim, sunbathe and look for seashells. [Bowman's Beach](#) and [Blind Pass Beach](#) are especially popular for shelling, while the shoreline by the [Sanibel Island Lighthouse](#) is an excellent place to snap photos and see wild dolphins.

[The 17 Best Beaches in Florida](#)

Conde Nast Traveler

December 2020

Bowman's Beach, Sanibel Island

Easily accessible off the main Sanibel-Captiva Road yet remarkably undeveloped, this family-friendly beach lacks the crowds of neighboring stretches but promises all the pastel-hued sunsets, excellent shelling, and gentle waves for which [Sanibel Island](#) is known. It's also one of the best beaches in Florida for windsurfing, sailing, and even canoeing, thanks to inland waterways to the west of the beach. However, our favorite pastime here is a barefoot walk through the white sand, admiring the Gulf views and picking up more shells than we can carry along the way.



[18 Surprisingly Cool Small Towns In The USA](#)

Buzzfeed

December 2020

This probably isn't a place you'd pass by on a regular road trip, but it's one that's worth going out of your way to visit. Accessible by causeway, the serene and secluded Sanibel Island is a far cry from the rest of Florida. It's got pristine beaches and around [25 miles of bike trails](#) to explore, and 60% of the island is [preserved](#) from development. Definitely an excellent place to chill out and disconnect for a few days.