



2022 Accolades

2022 Travelers' Choice® Best of the Best Awards for Destinations

Tripadvisor

January 2022

Fort Myers Beach

Located on Florida's Gulf Coast, Fort Myers offers its own great beaches as well as being surrounded by some 100 barrier and coastal islands to explore. The shelling is stupendous, and the nearby Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum is inspirational. The Great Calusa Blueway offers 40 miles of canoe and kayak trails.

Hidden Treasure: The Best Shores for Beachcombing

The Travel

January 2022

Sanibel Island

Florida is a top destination for travelers looking for a healthy dose of fun in the sun. Warm waters kiss the stunning shorelines. In the distance, the bright blue sky meets the water of an ocean that seems to go on forever. Because of the omnipresent current of the Gulf of Mexico, thousands of shells make their way from as far as the Caribbean to the shorelines of Sanibel Island. The region is home to the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, the only of its kind in the entire country. A stroll along the pristine shore will uncover hundreds of varieties of shells in all different shapes, sizes, and colors.

The Most Relaxing Vacation Spots in the United States

Thrillist

January 2022

Sanibel Island

So much of Florida looks like a relaxing destination (white sand beaches, crystal blue waves, swaying palms) without actually being a relaxing destination (overrun shorelines, high-rise condos, Florida Men). That's not the case on Sanibel Island. Located off the state's Gulf Coast, this is Florida's ultimate leave-your-worries-at-home destination. The southern part is awash in secluded beaches and laid-back seaside stays like the Sanibel Beach Resort (complete with tiki bar). Meanwhile, the northern half of the island is protected by the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, where you can spot 250 species of birds, gators, and eagles along marshy trails. From here, it's also an easy ride to other islands, including nearby Captiva and Cayo Costa, where you'll find a wealth of sandbars to snorkel through and even more idyllic, peaceful beaches to lounge on.



8 Best President's Day Fishing Locations in the U.S.

Fishing Booker

February 2022

Fort Myers

If you're more of a saltwater kind of angler, then the [Fort Myers](#) area should be up there at the top of your President's Day fishing list. From quick inshore trips to longer offshore excursions, you have the freedom to find a trip that's right up your alley. If anything, you'll be spoiled for choice.

The 12 Best Weekend Beach Getaways Across the United States

Veranda

February 2022

Sanibel Island

If you love nature, seashells, warm water, and just about the most breathtaking beach experience in the U.S., you have to visit Sanibel Island. Known for being a wildlife refuge along the Gulf of Mexico, visitors can see a variety of beach creatures up close and personal, including sea turtles, manatees, and rare birds. That said, you can also accidentally come across gators, so be mindful of when you head out to the beach.

The South's Best Beach Towns

Southern Living

March 2022

Captiva Island

This gem in southwest Florida is quite literally perched on its own enclave of the Gulf of Mexico, which means you get all the views and plenty of opportunities for soaking up the sun. Captiva, along with its sister island Sanibel, make up the perfect warm-weather getaway to explore all year long, but especially in fall and winter months, thanks to mild temperatures. Spend time hunting for seashells, a favorite activity amongst visitors.

The South's Best Cities on the Rise 2022

Southern Living

March 2022

Fort Myers

While it may be best known for its laid-back beaches and picturesque views, Fort Myers is buzzing. The city is one of the fastest growing in the state, and its River District is reveling in the energy. Bright shops, bars, and restaurants entice vacationers to spend a few hours away from the beach, but it's the arts community that keeps them coming back. With nearly a dozen galleries featuring everything from coastal paintings to locally-crafted jewelry, the city offers endless ways to be inspired on and off the beach.

***Our list of accolades is growing! Check back later for more.**