



## Bonita Springs

Serene waterways and historic state parks have shaped Bonita Springs into a relaxed retreat. Named for a mineral spring that was once believed to have healing powers, Bonita Springs is tucked below Estero on the southern end of the county. Attractions such as The Wonder Gardens continue to bring the wonders of the natural world to the forefront. Enjoy kayaking through a canopy of oaks and pines along the nearby Imperial River, which is part of the Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail. Many beaches have reopened as well as popular attractions. There are extensive choices of hotels and resorts throughout the neighborhood.

### Things to do and see:

[The Wonder Gardens](#)

[Shangri-La Springs](#)

[Riverside Park](#)

[More...](#)

## Estero

If you're searching for top-tier shopping and outdoor exploration, Estero is the place to start your adventures. Spend the day shopping at Coconut Point Mall, where over 110 brand-name shops and popular restaurants are surrounded by an easy-to-stroll boardwalk. Or stop by Miromar Outlets for shopping, dining, and entertainment all in an open-air Mediterranean atmosphere. Learn more about this corner of Southwest Florida at the Estero Historical Society, open every Saturday and by appointment. Your visit will illuminate the local lifestyle from the early 1900s, while the adjacent gift shop offers crafts, artwork and other artisan-made goods.

### Things to do and see:

[Estero Bay Preserve State Park](#)

[Koreshan State Park](#)

[Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary](#)

[Miromar Outlets Shopping Mall](#)

[More...](#)





## Fort Myers

With the historic River District of colonial buildings in Spanish Floridian aesthetics at its heart, traversed by palm-shaded McGregor Boulevard snaking its way along the Caloosahatchee River to the sea, Fort Myers radiates outward for miles. It's the regions, urban anchor and commercial center, boasting a vibrant arts and theater scene, parks and gardens galore, active sporting communities, and down-to-earth Floridian vibe.

Downtown Fort Myers River District is also a vital part of our story. Locals love to gather here, and visitors are drawn to the charming brick-paved roads framed by palm trees. Take time to move at your own pace around eclectic shops and dining options. Just a few miles away are the historical and beautifully maintained Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Wander around these adjacent homes set on more than 20 acres of botanical gardens, then join a guide to explore the enriching Museum and Laboratory. There's so much to explore.

### Things to do and see:

[Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve](#)

[IMAG](#)

[True Tours](#)

[Manatee Park](#)

[The Franklin Shops](#)

[Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center](#)

[Edison and Ford Winter Estates](#)

[Butterfly Estates](#)

[River District](#)

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## Alva, Buckingham, Lehigh Acres

With an impressive amount of preserved land and natural areas, you'll discover miles of freshwater canals, fishing lakes, hiking and biking trails, horseback riding, tennis and multiple golf courses. Built as the first retirement community in Florida after World War II, Lehigh Acres serves as the residential base for much of the area. Past the subdivisions, you'll find a rural charm, and Alva, the oldest settlement in the area. Buckingham exudes historic character, while its agricultural-based economy spans on both sides of the Orange River (named for distribution of the area's most popular crop).



### Things to do and see:

[Caloosahatchee Regional Park](#)

[Buckingham Farms](#)

[Hickey Creek Mitigation Park](#)

[Harns Marsh](#)

[More...](#)



## Cape Coral

Located west of Fort Myers, Cape Coral is known for its 400 miles of saltwater and freshwater canals and vacation homes — yet the adventures you find on land are just as rewarding. Cape Coral is one of the largest cities in Florida by land, meaning there's plenty of space to explore. Immerse yourself in a forest of mangroves at Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve, where a 6,600-foot hike partly on a boardwalk is open for exploration. Yellow Fever Creek Preserve covers nearly 340 acres of wilderness including a gentle 2.5-mile-long walking trail.

### Things to do and see:

[Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve](#)

[Cape Coral Art Center](#)

[Gator Mike's Family Fun Park](#)

[Cape Harbour](#)

[More...](#)





## Sanibel and Captiva

At 15 miles long and just 5 miles across, Sanibel Island brings together the best Southwest Florida has to offer in an intimate, charming island setting. Spend your morning collecting seashells on its world-renowned white-sand beaches and your afternoon exploring the protected nature that makes up more than half of the island.

Captiva's beaches are some of the most coveted in the world for their white sands and rich collections of seashells. Yet this special island still preserves a secluded charm that makes you feel as if you've discovered a place that's all your own.

### Things to do and see:

[Bowman's Beach Park](#)

[J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge](#)

[Captiva Cruises](#)

[More...](#)

## Fort Myers Beach

Fort Myers Beach, also known as Estero Island, or as the locals call it FMB, appeals to locals and visitors alike. Fort Myers Beach offers breathtaking sunsets, live music, and fun times for all ages.

### Things to do and see:

[Nautical Tiki Cruises](#)

[Salty Sam's Marina](#)

[Key West Express](#)

[Dog Beach](#)

[Lynn Hall Memorial Park](#)

[Matanzas Pass Preserve](#)

[More...](#)





## Matlacha, Pine Island, Outer Islands

Matlacha (pronounced Mat-luh-SHAY) forms a bridge from the mainland to Pine Island, which, like Sanibel and Captiva islands, relies only on stop signs to control the flow of traffic. The waters surrounding the island are a hot spot for sports fishers, and wildlife-spotting happens naturally while saltwater kayaking through the mangroves of Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve. Pine Island takes you back in time. Found just over "The Fishingest Bridge in the US" from Cape Coral, Pine Island eases into a rural landscape where the speed of life takes a back seat to independence, peace and quiet. Green stretches of pine flatwoods accent the spaces between the island's distinct yet neighborly communities of Bokeelia, Pineland and St. James City.

Boca Grande has evolved into an illustrious playground for dreamers and explorers alike. The community exudes a relaxed and barefoot elegance, the result of life moving no faster than a bicycle or golf cart. The area is also known as the "Tarpon Capital of the World" if you hope to catch the prized "Silver King".

These offshore, teal waters hold some of the best-kept secrets in Florida. With no bridge access, the outer islands attract curious boaters of all abilities. Hop on a boat, take a ferry, or head out on an island-hopping tour. More than 100 islands punctuate the coastal waters with natural experiences not to be missed.

### Things to do and see:

[Matlacha Community Park](#)

[Boca Grande Park and Community Center](#)

[Galt Preserve](#)

[Gulf Coast Kayak](#)

[Calusa Heritage Trail](#)

[Cabbage Key Inn and Restaurant](#)

[More...](#)

