



2025 VISITOR GUIDE

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WELCOME!

Hello there, I'm Peep the Sandpiper, your friendly feathered guide to Southwest Florida!

I'm here to help you explore our extraordinary corner of the world. Whether you're a local or a first-time visitor, our 2025 Visitor Guide is your key to discovering the hidden gems that make Southwest Florida special. Crafted with care right here in our region, it highlights the best experiences—from serene beaches to lush nature reserves. Keep an eye out for me as I lead you to local businesses and share the history of Southwest Florida. For more information on local businesses, follow SWFL Inc. on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. If you'd like to see your business featured in the 2026 Visitor Guide, contact our team at

Communications@SWFLinc.com.



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1. SAVOUR COFFEE

Savour Coffee, founded by Chef Matt Geiger, grew from his passion for the food and beverage industry. Located in Fort Myers, it offers a menu of breakfast, lunch, and pastries alongside specialty espresso drinks and unique creations. The shop features locally roasted coffee, delivered weekly, bringing a fresh and flavorful experience to every cup.



1. SWAMP CAT BREWING COMPANY

Swamp Cat Brewing Company is a Fort Myers brewery known for its craft beers that embrace Florida's local flavors and laid-back vibe. It offers a variety of brews, from hoppy IPAs to smooth lagers, all crafted on-site. With a welcoming atmosphere and a commitment to quality, it's a great spot for beer enthusiasts to enjoy a cold drink and relax.



BREWERIES

1. Swamp Cat Brewing Company
2. Oil Well Craft Beer
3. Marco Island Brewery
4. Scotty's Bierwerks
5. Bone Hook Brewing Company
6. Ceremony Brewing
7. Eight Foot Brewing
8. Riptide Brewing
9. Voodoo Brewing
10. Chubby Mermaid Brewing Co.



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4. Good Grounds
5. Take Two
6. Cadeau Cafe
7. Penny's Coffee Bar
8. The Bean of Ave Maria
9. Wake Up Marco
10. Sambel Bean

The Local Brews map was created to highlight the hardworking, local brewers that are proud to call Southwest Florida home and – literally – fuel the region.



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ACCOMMODATIONS & HOTELS

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12200 Tamiami Trail North
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Embassy Suites Fort Myers - Estero

10450 Corkscrew Commons
Drive Fort Myers, FL 33928

Fairfield Inn & Suites Bonita Springs

marriott.com/RSWFB

Hampton Inn by Hilton Bonita Springs-Naples/North

27900 Crown Lake Blvd
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Homewood Suites by Hilton - Bonita Springs

8901 Highland Woods Blvd,
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa

5001 Coconut Road Bonita
Springs, FL 34134

Kathy Nesbit Vacations, Inc. 7205 Estero Boulevard Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

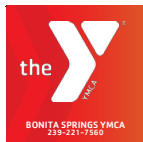
M3 Rentals

24860 Wax Myrtle Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Ranch House Motel

26620 Old 41 Rd Bonita
Springs, FL 34135

CHARITY & NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



Bonita Springs YMCA

27200 Kent Rd. Bonita
Springs, FL 34135

Cancer Alliance Network

3384 Woods Edge Circle,
Suite 102 Bonita Springs, FL
34134

Community Cooperative

3429 Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr. Boulevard Fort Myers, FL
33916



Community Housing and Resources, Inc.

2340 Periwinkle Way Suite
K-2, Sanibel, FL. 33957

(239)472-1189

SanCapCHR.org

Ding Darling Wildlife Society Inc

PO Box 565 Sanibel, FL
33908

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties

12571 New Brittany Blvd, Suite
100 Fort Myers, FL 33907

Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida

3760 Fowler Street Fort
Myers, FL 33901

Hope Clubhouse of Southwest Florida, Inc,

3602 Broadway Fort Myers,
FL 33901

Lighthouse of Collier, Inc.

2685 Horseshoe Drive South,
Suite 211 Naples, FL 34104

New Horizons of Southwest Florida

25300 Bernwood St Bonita
Springs, FL 34135

Pelican Landing Community Associations, Inc

24501 Walden Center Dr
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

P.O. Box 474 Bonita Springs,
FL 34133

Valerie's House

3551 Shoemaker Lane Fort
Myers, FL 33916

COMMUNITIES & ASSOCIATIONS

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Amavida at Lakes Park

7820 Fanning Court,
Fort Myers, FL 33907

239.360.5286

amavidaliving.com

DAY TRIP: FORT MYERS

Credit: TurnKey Photography



Start your day in Fort Myers with breakfast at **McGregor Cafe**, a cozy spot with a welcoming ambiance and fresh, homemade dishes. Surrounded by lush greenery, it's the perfect place to ease into your day with a hot coffee before exploring the city.

Next, head to **Blinking Owl Books**, an independent bookstore filled with new and used titles. Browse the shelves, discover hidden gems, and maybe pick up a book or two. From there, visit the **IMAG History & Science Center**, where interactive exhibits and engaging displays bring the past and present to life, offering a fun and educational experience for all ages.

Swing by **Sun Harvest Citrus** to sample fresh juices, shop for local citrus, and grab some sweet treats—an authentic taste of Florida. For lunch, enjoy a New York-style meal at **Bruno's of Brooklyn**, where family recipes and Italian favorites create a warm, neighborhood dining experience.

In the afternoon, test your putting skills at **Popstroke**, a fun golf and dining spot designed by Tiger Woods. Its two 18-hole courses and family-friendly vibe make it perfect for all ages.

Before dinner, visit **Bay Street Yard**, a lively venue with food trucks, local brews, and live entertainment—a great way to sample the local food scene. Then, enjoy dinner at **Coldwater Oyster Bar**, known for its fresh seafood and vibrant coastal atmosphere.

End the night at the **Florida Repertory Theatre** with a live performance, enjoying top-notch shows in an intimate setting. For a final stop, unwind at **Backyard Social** with craft cocktails and light bites, soaking in the laid-back vibe. With a full day of Fort Myers highlights, you'll leave feeling fulfilled and ready for your next visit.



Did you know?

Fort Myers is home to two Major League Baseball spring-training facilities and stadiums, currently occupied by the Boston Red Sox and Minnesota Twins.



Credit: Fort Myers Mighty Mussels



Credit: HM Restaurant Group



Credit: Brie Eikeseth



Credit: HM Restaurant Group



Credit: Kris Boyle



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Diamond Oaks Village

24110 S Tamiami Trail Bonita
Springs, FL 34134

DR Horton

10541 6 Mile Cypress Pkwy
Fort Myers, FL 33966

KW Property Management & Consulting

3365 Woods Edge Circle, Suite
102 Bonita Springs, FL 34134

London Bay Homes

2210 Vanderbilt Beach Road,
Suite 1300 Naples, FL 34109



Sandalwood Village

3511 Vanderbilt Beach Rd
Naples, FL 34109

(888)696-1418

sandalwoodvillage.com

Sterling Oaks

822 Sterling Oaks Drive
Naples, FL 34110

Stock Development

2647 Professional Cir #101
Naples, FL 34119

MORTGAGE & TITLE

Assured Title Services, LLC

26811 S Bay Dr #280 Bonita
Springs, FL 34134

REAL ESTATE



Amy Alvarez-Betz Premiere Plus Realty Co.

16295 S Tamiami Trail #207,
Fort Myers, FL 33908

(914)486-8489

amarilysalvarez.com

BayBeach Realty, L.C.

25295 Catskill Dr Bonita
Springs, FL 34135

Griffith Group at Downing

Frye Realty

lifeinbonitasprings.com

John R. Wood Properties

26269 S Tamiami Trail Bonita
Springs, FL 34134



Kris Boyle Realtor

24821 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite
2, Bonita Springs, FL 34134

(505)316-2306

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Stephanie Barrett, SWFL, Inked Agent

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Myers, FL 33907

(941)815-0201

Suzana Kroeff, Realtor

24031 South Tamiami Trail
Suite 100 Bonita Springs, FL

34135



Did you know? The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs features its own private island. Guests can take a complimentary ferry to Big Hickory Island, where they can enjoy a secluded beach, pristine waters, and stunning Gulf of Mexico views, adding an exclusive touch to their stay.

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
23161 Via Coconut Point, Estero Fl. 33928
239-317-3200

Marriott.com/RSWCO



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Lee and Hendry Counties

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Bonita Springs

9080 Bonita Beach Rd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

McGregor

15271 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33908

South Fort Myers

16133 S. Tamiami Trail
Fort Myers, FL 33908

North Fort Myers

31 Willis Rd.
North Fort Myers, FL 33917

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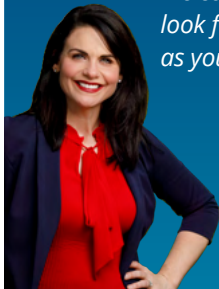
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Noelle Branning
Lee County Tax Collector



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DAY TRIP: CAPE CORAL



Credit: Fort Myers Islands, Beaches and Neighbors

Begin your day in Cape Coral at **Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve**, where you can stroll the boardwalk through lush mangroves or take a guided kayaking trip to explore winding waterways teeming with local wildlife.

As the sun heats up, cool off at **Sun Splash Family Water Park**, a fun spot with thrilling slides, lazy rivers, and splash zones that offer something for all ages. For lunch, head to **Rum Runners**, a waterfront restaurant known for its fresh seafood, juicy steaks, and tropical drinks, all served with beautiful canal views.

After lunch, stop by **The Bent Brush** for a creative afternoon at this local art studio. Join a guided painting session and bring home a unique piece of art that captures the day's inspiration.

Next, unwind with a visit to **Wicked Dolphin Distillery**. Take a tour to learn about the distilling process and enjoy a tasting of their award-winning rums crafted from Florida sugarcane. Afterward, swing by the **Cape Coral Yacht Club** to relax at the beach, fish from the pier, or take a scenic swim in the Gulf waters.

Wrap up your day with a trio of dining and drink spots: start at **Point 57 Kitchen + Cocktails** for a chic dinner featuring updated American fare and creative cocktails, then move to **Jungle Bird**, a vibrant tiki bar with island-inspired dishes and tropical drinks. End the evening at **Scotty's Bierwerks**, where you can enjoy a local craft beer in a lively taproom setting.



Did you know? At the Dick Pritchett Eagle Cam in North Fort Myers, you can watch bald eagles Harriet and M15 on the live stream—or drive onto the property and see them up close from your car!



Credit: Pure Florida



Credit: Fort Myers Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods



Credit: Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB



Credit: Fort Myers Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gulfshore Opera

9911 Corkscrew Road, Suite
105 Estero, FL 33928



The Naples Players

701 5th Avenue South Naples,
FL 34102
(239)434-7340
naplesplayers.org

ATTRACTIONS

Artis Naples

5833 Pelican Bay Blvd North
Naples, FL 34108

Bonita Springs Poker Room

28010 Race Track Rd Bonita
Springs, FL 34135

ECHO Global Farm Tours

17391 Durrance Rd North Fort
Myers, FL 33917

Edison & Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Golf Safari Mini Golf

3775 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Naples Zoo

1590 Goodlette Rd Naples,
FL 34102

Prado Stadium 12

25251 Chamber of Commerce
Drive Bonita Springs, FL
34135

Seminole Casino Hotel

506 South 1st Street
Immokalee, FL 34142



Credit: Fort Myers Brewing Company



Credit: Wonder Gardens Bonita Springs

DINING, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

RESTAURANTS, FOOD & BEVERAGES



Naples Ice Cream Shoppe

1269 Airport Pulling Rd South,
Naples 34104
(239)331-8905

naplesicecreamshoppe.com

Buffalo Chips Restaurant

26620 Old 41 Rd Bonita
Springs, FL 34135

Innovative Food Holdings Inc.

9696 Bonita Beach Rd SE,
Ste 208 Bonita Springs, FL
34135-8502

Johnny Malloy's Sports Pub

10347 Bonita Beach Rd SE
#101 Bonita Springs, FL
34135

Pinchers

28580 Bonita Crossing
Boulevard Bonita Springs, FL
34135

Roy's Restaurant

26831 S Bay Dr #100 Bonita
Springs, FL 34134

Royal Scoop Homemade Ice Cream

15 8th Street Bonita Springs,
FL 34134

Ruth's Chris Steak House

23151 Village Shops Way
Estero, FL 33928

The Fish House of Bonita Beach

4685 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

SHOPPING & RETAIL

Driftwood Garden Center

20071 S Tamiami Trail Estero,
FL 33928

Evelyn & Arthur

26811 S Bay Dr Suite 124
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Promenade at Bonita Bay

26795 S Bay Dr Bonita
Springs, FL 34134



Sunshine Ace Hardware

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200, Bonita Springs FL
34135
(239)992-0454

SunshineAce.com

Trophy Center of SW Florida

12830 South Tamiami Trail
Unit 6 Fort Myers, FL 33908



Credit: Fort Myers islands, Beaches and
Neighborhoods



Credit: Bay Street Yard

DAY TRIP: BONITA SPRINGS



Credit: TurnKey Photography

Start your day in Bonita Springs at **The Wonder Gardens**, where you can explore lush botanical displays and interact with exotic animals like flamingos. It's a relaxing and unique way to begin your day.

Next, visit **Bonita Springs Historical Society** to stroll through historic buildings and learn fascinating stories about the town's past.

For some afternoon excitement, head to **Sports Challenge America**, where you can try activities like virtual sports, or bowling—perfect for a fun challenge with friends or family. If you're in the mood for gaming, visit **Bonita Springs Poker Room** to test your skills at poker or other card games in a lively environment.

In the evening, catch a movie at **Prado Stadium 12 Theater**. Enjoy the luxury seating and latest films for a comfortable and enjoyable experience. After the movie, savor inventive cocktails at **Chartreuse Craft Cocktail Lounge**, known for its stylish atmosphere and creative drinks.

Then, unwind at the **Rooftop at Riverside**, where you can enjoy panoramic city views while sipping cocktails. Finish your day with a special treat for your dog at **Barkalicious Bites Bakery**, a bakery exclusively for dogs, offering delicious dog-friendly goodies.

For a comfortable stay, consider **Hyatt Regency at Coconut Point** for its upscale amenities and convenient location. Alternatively, **Fairfield Inn & Suites** offers a cozy, budget-friendly option, while **Homewood Suites** provides spacious accommodations with added comforts for a longer stay.



Did you know? The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs features its own private island. Guests can take a complimentary ferry to Big Hickory Island, where they can enjoy a secluded beach, pristine waters, and stunning Gulf of Mexico views, adding an exclusive touch to their stay.




Credit: TurnKey Photography



Credit: Wonder Gardens Bonita Springs



Credit: Wonder Gardens Bonita Springs



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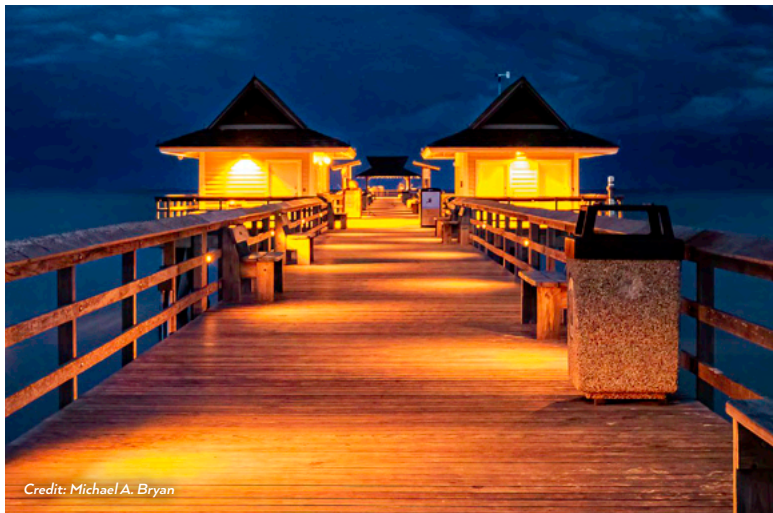
26620 OLD US 41 RD, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

SUNDAY-THURSDAY 11AM-9:30PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11AM-10PM

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Credit: Michael A. Bryan



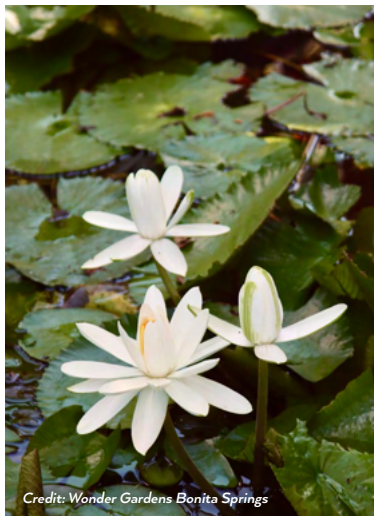
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Credit: Wonder Gardens Bonita Springs



Credit: Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB

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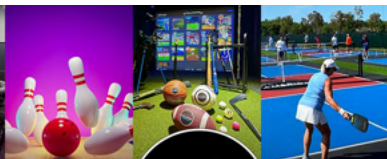


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✉️ tj.o@aol.com

📞 (239)992-5000



10347 BONITA BREACH RD. SE 101 BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CHARITY & NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health

6075 Bathey Ln Naples, FL 34116

DENTISTS

Gulfshore Pediatric Dentistry
9921 Corkscrew Rd Estero, FL 33928

Jeffrey W. Holzinger, D.D.S.
9200 Bonita Beach Road,
Suite #112 Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Pelican Landing Dental
23451 Walden Center Dr
Estero, FL 34134

DERMATOLOGY

Houck Dermatology - Estero
10200 Arcos Avenue, Suite
201 Estero, FL 33928

Houck Dermatology - Naples Newgate Center
5100 Tamiami Trail N. Suite
102 Naples, FL 34103

SWFL Dermatology Plastic Surgery & Laser Center
138800 Tamiami Trail North
Naples, FL 34103

FITNESS & NUTRITION



Ageless Fitness and Vitality Booth Wellness Center
10011 Estero Town Commons
Place Unit 101A
(239)301-4121
agelessfitnessfl.com

HEALTH CENTER & LAB SERVICES

Neuropsychiatric Research Center of Southwest Florida
14271 METROPOLIS AVE
STE A Suite A Fort Myers, FL 33912

HOME HEALTH CARE

Home Instead Senior Care
11181 Health Park Blvd. Suite
3060 Naples, FL 34110

Right at Home
27657 Old 41 Rd Bonita
Springs, FL 34135

The Preserve
14750 Hope Center Loop Fort
Myers, FL 33912

HOSPITALS

Lee Health
23450 Via Coconut Point
Estero, FL 34135

NCH Healthcare Systems350
7th St N Naples, FL 34102

Physicians Regional Healthcare System
6101 Pine Ridge Rd Vineyards,
FL 34119

PHYSICIANS

Associates In Nephrology
9550 Bonita Beach Rd #108
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Dr Mel Irvine
9250 Corkscrew Road suite 5
Estero, FL 33928

SALON & SPA

Royal Nails & Spa
26795 South Bay Drive. # 164
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Soluna Medical Aesthetics
8800 Bernwood Parkway
Unit 2 Bonita Springs, FL
33971



Did you know? The Southwest Florida Everglades is the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles coexist, making it a unique habitat for these two species.



Credit: Visit Fort Myers

NATIONAL PARK: EVERGLADES



Credit: Global National Parks

The Everglades National Park, is a remarkable natural treasure in South Florida, spanning 1.5 million acres of subtropical wilderness. Known for its rich biodiversity, the park is home to unique habitats that support a variety of wildlife, including the endangered Florida panther, American crocodile, and West Indian manatee. These vast wetlands, often referred to as the “River of Grass,” are dominated by slow-moving waters that flow from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, creating a complex ecosystem unlike any other in the world.

Visitors to the Everglades can explore a range of activities that bring them closer to this vibrant landscape. From walking trails and bird-watching to kayaking through mangrove tunnels and guided airboat tours, the park offers countless ways to connect with nature. Anhinga Trail and Shark Valley are popular spots for observing alligators and a variety of bird species up close, while more adventurous visitors might enjoy backcountry camping or exploring the Ten Thousand Islands.

Beyond its beauty, the Everglades plays a crucial role in Florida’s ecosystem, providing fresh water to millions of residents and supporting the overall health of the region’s environment. Efforts to preserve and restore this unique landscape are ongoing, highlighting the importance of protecting this national park for future generations. A visit to the Everglades is not just a journey into a scenic paradise; it’s a chance to witness a delicate and dynamic ecosystem that continues to captivate and inspire.



Credit: National Park Service



Credit: National Park Service

DAY TRIP: BABCOCK RANCH



Credit: Fort Myers Islands, Beaches, and Neighborhoods

Begin your day in **Babcock Ranch** at **The PKWY**, a beautiful collection of six parks with 313 acres of preserve space. Enjoy playgrounds, grassy mounds, and fields for picnics or casual games. Be sure to visit **Bark Park** with your furry friends!

Next, visit **The Shoppes at Yellow Pine**, offering a mix of shopping, dining, and services. Browse stores like Ulta Beauty and Marshalls or grab a bite at Panera Bread or Jersey Mike's. The center also features medical services provided by Tampa General Hospital. Other businesses include Ace Hardware, Verizon, Tippy Hair Salon, and The Laser Lounge Spa.

If you're in town over the weekend, make time for a stop at **Founders Square**, where you can enjoy live music and food trucks that add to the lively community atmosphere.

After a shopping spree, relax with lunch at **The Lake House Kitchen & Bar**, where you can savor a delicious meal with scenic lake views. In the afternoon, dive into Babcock Ranch's natural beauty with a guided **Eco Tour**. Choose from airboat rides, wildlife safaris, or hiking to discover the region's ecosystems and wildlife up close.

Wrap up your day with a peaceful stroll or bike ride at **Sunset Park** along the two-mile **Dick Cuda Trail**. The trail features a boardwalk, observation deck, fishing pier, and dog park – perfect for unwinding and enjoying the tranquil surroundings.



Did you know? Babcock Ranch boasts the largest mixed-use solar project in the U.S., with over 700,000 solar panels powering the community and supporting its commitment to sustainability.



Credit: Babcock Ranch



Credit: Babcock Ranch



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DAY TRIP: NAPLES



Credit: TurnKey Photography

Kick off your Naples adventure at **Celebration Park**, where you can enjoy a variety of gourmet food trucks and a lively outdoor atmosphere. It's a great spot to gear up for a day of exploration.

Head next to the **Golisano Children's Museum of Naples (C'mon)**, which offers interactive exhibits and engaging activities that are perfect for kids and families.

Then, explore the vibrant scene of **5th Avenue South** or **Mercato Shops**. Browse through boutique stores, art galleries, and upscale shops, and grab a bite to eat at one of the area's chic restaurants.

In the afternoon, visit **Naples Zoo** to see exotic animals in a beautiful tropical setting. For a more serene experience, take a leisurely stroll through **Naples Botanical Garden**, where you can admire lush gardens and tranquil water features.

As evening falls, enjoy a performance by the **Naples Players** or have a laugh at **Off the Hook Comedy Club**, both offering great local entertainment.

Wrap up your day with a peaceful walk around **Rookery Bay**, soaking in the natural beauty and calm surroundings. End with a delightful meal at **Bicyclette Cook Shop**, renowned for its cozy atmosphere and delectable French-inspired dishes.



Did you know?

Naples is known for having the longest uninterrupted beach in Florida, stretching over 10 miles along the Gulf of Mexico.



Credit: Vito Palmisano Photos



Credit: Elite Jets of Naples



Credit: Vito Palmisano Photos



Credit: TurnKey Photography



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Credit: Nancy B



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Credit: Fort Myers Islands, Beaches, and Neighborhoods



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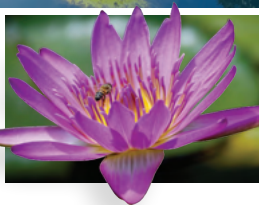
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STATE PARK: **LOVERS KEY**



Credit: Candid Studios

Lovers Key State Park, located between Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Springs, is a serene escape known for its natural beauty and diverse wildlife. Once accessible only by boat, this 712-acre coastal gem is now connected by bridges and trails, welcoming visitors to explore its tranquil landscapes.

The park boasts over two miles of pristine, sandy beaches, ideal for those looking to relax by the gentle Gulf waters. Adventure seekers can paddle through mangrove-lined waterways by kayak or canoe, often encountering playful dolphins and gentle manatees along the way. Anglers can enjoy fishing from the shore or piers, with chances to catch redfish, snook, and trout.

Lovers Key is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts, with a rich variety of birds, including ospreys, herons, and bald eagles, making it a popular spot for birdwatching. The Black Island Trail, winding through maritime hammock and mangrove forest, offers hikers and cyclists a chance to immerse themselves in the park's lush environment.

The park's entrance fee is \$8 per vehicle with two to eight people, \$4 for single-occupant vehicles, and \$2 for pedestrians, bicyclists, and extra passengers. With its stunning sunsets and scenic beaches, Lovers Key is also a sought-after location for weddings, offering a picturesque setting for special moments. Lovers Key State Park's dedication to preserving its natural habitats provides a perfect blend of exploration and relaxation, making it an inviting destination that captures the essence of Florida's Gulf Coast beauty.

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Credit: Lovers Key Adventures

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Bonita Springs, FL 34134

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Credit: Fort Myers Mighty Mussels



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Credit: Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

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Credit: Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB



Credit: Vito Palmisano Photos

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moranwm.com

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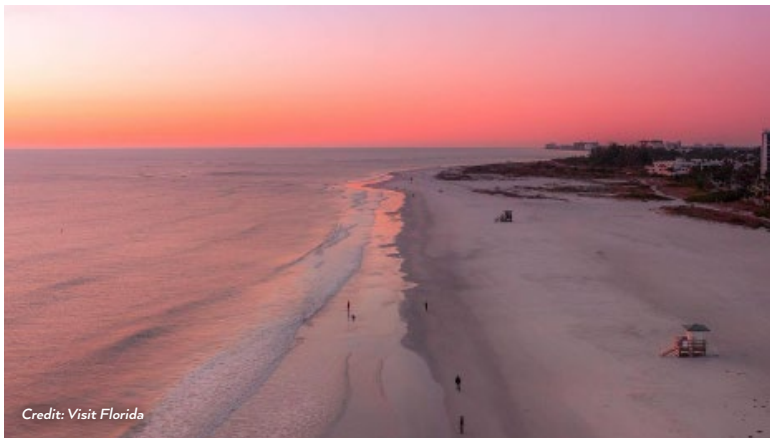
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Credit: Visit Florida

DAY TRIP: AVE MARIA



Explore Ave Maria with a day full of golf, culture, and local flavors. Begin with a round at **Panther Run Golf Club**, a public course offering lush greens and a welcoming atmosphere.

Next, visit the **Ave Maria Oratory**, a striking church that offers a serene space for reflection and appreciation of its beautiful architecture. Continue your cultural journey at the **Mother Teresa Museum**, where exhibits celebrate the life and work of this inspiring figure.

If you're visiting on a Saturday, don't miss **Ave Maria's Farmers Market** at the Town Center from 9am to 2pm. Enjoy fresh produce and local crafts in a lively, community-focused setting.

For lunch or a snack, head to **The Pub & Grill at Ave Maria** for a hearty meal or visit **OASIS The Kitchen Lounge** for innovative dishes. Alternatively, savor authentic Mexican fare at **Blue Agave Mexican Restaurant**.

Wrap up your day with a free 45-minute trolley tour of Ave Maria to see the town's highlights and get a charming overview of its unique features. If you have access, the **Ave Maria Water Park**, reserved for residents and their guests, is a great place to unwind and enjoy some fun for families.



Did you know?

Matlacha is entirely man-made, created in 1926 by dredging oyster beds to build a causeway and bridge, with its first settlers being Great Depression refugees.



Credit: Dreaming Dee Photography



Credit: Ivan Seligman

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(239) 495-6558

suncoastblinds.com



Credit: Suzie Thompson, Lady in Pink Photography

DAY TRIP: ESTERO



Start your day in **Estero** with some retail therapy at **Miomar Outlets** and **Coconut Point**, two premier shopping destinations that offer a mix of designer brands, unique boutiques, and charming outdoor spaces. Browse over 140 stores at Miomar's beautifully landscaped setting, then head to Coconut Point to explore a vibrant array of shops, cafes, and entertainment spots, making for a perfect blend of relaxation and discovery.

Next, visit **Estero River Outfitters** for an outdoor adventure. Rent a kayak or paddleboard to explore the peaceful **Estero River**, gliding through mangroves and spotting local wildlife along the way.

For lunch, swing by **Pelican Larry's**, a lively spot with a laid-back vibe known for fresh seafood and cold drinks. Enjoy classics like fish tacos or a grouper sandwich in a casual, beachy setting.

In the afternoon, visit **Hertz Arena**, where you can catch a live hockey game or hit the ice for some public skating—a fun way to cool off and enjoy a bit of action.

As evening approaches, indulge in a classic steak dinner at **Ruth's Chris Steakhouse**. With sizzling steaks and an elegant setting, it's a perfect spot for a luxurious dining experience. For a more casual dinner, **Pezzo** offers delicious wood-fired pizzas and fresh pastas in a warm, inviting atmosphere.



Did you know? Estero has almost a dozen golf course communities.



Credit: Vito Palmisano Photos



Credit: SWFL Relocation Guide



Credit: Payton DeMay

STATE PARK: **KORESHAN**



Credit: Florida State Parks

Nestled along the serene banks of the Estero River, Koreshan State Park offers visitors a unique blend of history, nature, and outdoor adventure. Established in the late 19th century by the Koreshan Unity, a religious community led by Dr. Cyrus Teed, the park preserves the fascinating story of this utopian settlement that once envisioned a self-sufficient society built on principles of communal living and innovative ideas. Today, visitors can explore the historic buildings, including the Art Hall, Planetary Court, and Founder's House, which offer a glimpse into the lives of the Koreshan pioneers.

Beyond its historical allure, Koreshan State Park is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. The park's trails wind through lush landscapes of pine flatwoods, hardwood hammocks, and riverfront ecosystems, providing excellent opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, and wildlife observation. Canoeing and kayaking along the Estero River allow visitors to immerse themselves in the park's natural beauty, with chances to spot turtles, otters, and a variety of native birds. The park also features a campground, making it a perfect spot for an overnight getaway under the stars.

Koreshan State Park hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including guided tours, historic reenactments, and workshops that connect visitors to the area's rich cultural and natural heritage. Whether you're seeking a step back in time or a peaceful escape into nature, Koreshan State Park offers a distinctive and engaging experience that showcases the heart of Southwest Florida's history and landscapes.

The park is open daily from 8 a.m. until sunset, and the entry fee is \$5 per vehicle (up to eight people), \$4 for a single-occupant vehicle, and \$2 for pedestrians, bicyclists, and extra passengers.



Credit: Florida State Parks



Credit: Florida State Parks

DAY TRIP: PUNTA GORDA



Credit: Visit Florida

Landing at **PGD Airport** in Punta Gorda, your day begins with the ease and charm of this welcoming town. After picking up your bags, you take a short drive to **Sunseeker Resort**, where luxury awaits. Recharge in premium rooms and luxury Sunsuites™ featuring water views and designer furnishings that exude elegance. Dive into the resort's premium amenities, from lounging by sparkling pools to indulging in watersports. For a touch of relaxation, championship golf and spa services are at your fingertips, along with signature dining experiences that elevate your morning to something truly special.

Eager to explore, you make your way to the **Military Heritage Museum**, where history unfolds through interactive exhibits and powerful stories of service members. From flight simulators to artifacts, the museum offers a deeply engaging experience that leaves you reflecting on the bravery of those who have served.

Lunchtime leads you to **Fresh Catch Fish Co.**, a local gem known for its fresh, Gulf Coast seafood. Here, you dive into dishes that highlight the flavors of the region, from succulent shrimp to the freshest catch of the day. The laid-back atmosphere makes it an ideal spot to relax and enjoy the true taste of Punta Gorda.



Did you know? Punta Gorda was founded in 1884 and incorporated in 1887. The city was an important port for cattle shipments to Cuba in the 1890s.

With your appetite satisfied, you drive to the **Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary**, where rescued exotic animals find solace and care. Walking through the sanctuary, you come face-to-face with tigers, bears, and colorful birds, each with a story that highlights the importance of wildlife conservation. It's a peaceful yet inspiring visit, adding a touch of adventure to your day.

As the sun begins to set, you head to **Twisted Fork**, a roomy hangout with a covered terrace offering hefty plates of classic fare, plus beer and live music. Enjoy the lively atmosphere and hearty dishes before returning to **Sunseeker Resort**. There, you unwind and reflect on a day filled with memorable experiences and newfound appreciation for Punta Gorda.



Credit: Bob Dowding



Credit: Round the World in 30 Days



Credit: Military Heritage Muse

STATE PARK: CHARLOTTE HARBOR



Credit: Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park

Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park is a serene sanctuary that celebrates Florida's natural beauty. Spanning over 43,000 acres, it stands as the third-largest state park in Florida, encompassing miles of mangroves, salt marshes, and tidal creeks that provide vital habitat for a diverse array of wildlife. The park serves as a crucial estuarine environment, nurturing everything from juvenile fish to wading birds and even bobcats. Its pristine landscapes make it a haven for nature enthusiasts, offering a glimpse into ecosystems that have thrived for centuries.

The park is a paradise for outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, and birdwatching. The park's scenic trails, such as the aptly named Old Datsun Trail, wind through lush hammocks and along tranquil waterways, providing excellent opportunities to spot wildlife in their natural habitat. For those seeking adventure on the water, paddling through the park's extensive mangrove tunnels is an unforgettable experience, offering close-up encounters with marine life, including dolphins and manatees.

Beyond recreation, Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park plays a critical role in conservation. Its protected lands help filter pollutants from urban runoff, safeguarding the delicate balance of one of Florida's most productive estuaries. Efforts to preserve this park not only maintain its natural beauty but also protect the health of the surrounding communities that rely on these waters.

The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Admission is free, making it an accessible destination for anyone looking to connect with Florida's natural heritage. Whether you're exploring its scenic trails, paddling through serene waters, or simply soaking in the beauty of unspoiled nature, Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park offers an immersive experience that captures the essence of Florida's coastal wilderness.



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Credit: Saltleaf Golf Preserve

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coraloaksgolf.com

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saltleafgolf.com

Stoneybrook Golf Club
(239) 948-3933

stoneybrookgolfestero.com

Ibis Landing Golf & Country Club

(239) 369-8200

ibislandingcc.com

The Nest Golf Club
(239) 947-2282

nestgolf.com

Highland Woods Golf and Country Club

(239) 495-9332

hwgcc.com

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Old Corkscrew Golf Club
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tiburonnnaples.com

Panther Run Golf Club
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pantherrungolfclub.com

Arrowhead Golf Club
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arrowheadgolfclub.org

Quail Village Golf Club
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quailvillagegolfclub.org

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Babcock National Golf Club
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babcocknationalgc.com

Seminole Lakes Country Club
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seminolelakes.net

Twin Isles Country Club
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twinislescc.org

Riverwood Golf Club
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riverwoodgc.com



HIT THE BEACH

Credit: Fort Myers Islands, Beaches & Neighborhoods

To explore more beaches or for more information, visit [visitfortmyers.com/beaches](https://www.visitfortmyers.com/beaches).

LEE COUNTY

Boca Grande Beach
Gasparilla Island State Park
Cayo Costa State Park
Fort Myers Beach
Lovers Key
Barefoot Beach
Bonita Beach Park
Bonita Dog Beach Park
Bowman's Beach
Lighthouse Beach Park

COLLIER COUNTY

Tigertail Beach
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
Lowdermilk Park
Vanderbilt Beach
Bluebill Beach Access
Clam Pass Park

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Englewood Beach
Stump Pass Beach State Park
Port Charlotte Beach Park
Don Pedro Island State Park
Peninsula at Englewood Beach



DAY TRIP: THE ISLANDS

FORT MYERS BEACH



Credit: Visit Fort Myers

Fort Myers Beach offers a variety of attractions and activities. Enjoy oceanfront relaxation and luxurious amenities at the **Pink Shell Beach Resort**, or savor delicious seafood at **Doc Ford's** in a lively atmosphere. Explore **Times Square**, a bustling area with shops, restaurants, and street performers, perfect for casual dining and souvenir hunting.

For adventure seekers, **boat rentals and water sports like jet skiing and parasailing are available**. Take a scenic ride on the **Key West Express**, where jet-powered catamarans transport you to Key West's vibrant history and stunning views. **Margaritaville** provides a lively spot for dining and entertainment in a laid-back setting.

Visit **Bowditch Point Park** for hiking and wildlife viewing, or stop by **Lovers Key State Park** for beautiful beaches, kayaking, and nature trails



Did you know? The Florida state bird, the northern mockingbird, is an incredible mimic—it can imitate the calls of over 200 other bird species and even sounds like car alarms or sirens!



Credit: Visit Fort Myers



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DAY TRIP: THE ISLANDS

MARCO ISLAND



Credit: TurnKey Photography

Explore Marco Island with a round of golf at **Marco Island Golf and Garden**, where the lush landscapes and scenic views set the perfect stage for your game. Afterward, enjoy a meal at **Oyster Society**, celebrated for its fresh seafood and lively ambiance. Stroll through the shops at **Marco Walk Plaza**, where you'll find an array of boutiques, specialty stores, and galleries for some retail therapy. Then, continue with casual dining and picturesque waterfront views at **CJ's on the Bay**, the perfect place to unwind and watch the sunset.

Add a sweet touch to your day with a visit to **Sweet Annie's Ice Cream Parlour**, offering classic flavors and homemade delights. For some outdoor exploration, head to **Tigertail Beach**, where you can walk along the sandy shores or rent a kayak for an adventure on the water. Finally, complete your day at the **JW Marriott** where you can relax and indulge in luxurious amenities for a truly memorable island escape.

DAY TRIP: THE ISLANDS

SANIBEL + CAPTIVA ISLAND

Experience a memorable day on Sanibel and Captiva Islands, starting with a visit to **Bowman's Beach** on Sanibel Island. Known for its beautiful shoreline and tranquil atmosphere, it's a perfect spot to relax and enjoy the ocean.

Next, explore **MacIntosh Books + Paper** for a unique selection of books and gifts. For a taste of local flavor, head to **Rosalita's Cantina Sanibel** for delicious Mexican cuisine in a lively setting.

Cross over to Captiva Island and enjoy a delightful meal at **The Green Flash Restaurant**, offering casual dining with stunning views. Spend some time at **Turner Beach**, where you can soak up the sun and enjoy the picturesque scenery.

For a touch of luxury, unwind at **Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa**, known for its beautiful accommodations and relaxing spa services. Alternatively, visit **The Shipyard** or **Crow's Nest Steakhouse** for more dining options.

To end your day on a peaceful note, join a relaxing yoga session at **Ambu Yoga**, helping you unwind and reflect on your island adventure.



Did you know? Adult manatees are usually 9-10 feet long and weigh about 1,000 pounds, but they can grow to over 13 feet and tip the scales at more than 3,500 pounds!



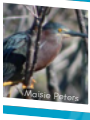
Credit: Come to Cape Coral

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SANIBEL ISLAND, FL
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Credit: Marin Asher, Sandy Bottom Boating, LLC



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DAY TRIP: THE ISLANDS

MATLACHA+PINE ISLAND



Credit: Captiva Cruises

Start your visit to Pine Island at the **Outdoor Island Market**, where you can browse local crafts, fresh produce, and unique goods. Afterward, explore the **Museum of the Islands** and the **Randell Research Center** to learn about the area's history and environmental significance.

For lunch, enjoy the scenic views and delicious cuisine at **Tarpon Lodge** or opt for a casual bite at **Street Eat & Ale**.

Head over to Matlacha and immerse yourself in the colorful art at **Leoma Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens**. Relax at **Matlacha Community Park**, taking in the local charm and peaceful surroundings.

For outdoor adventures, explore the **Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve** with its opportunities for kayaking and marine life discovery. Conclude your day at **Blue Dog**, a cozy spot perfect for unwinding and enjoying the island atmosphere.



Did you know? Although Boca Grande on Gasparilla Island to the north is popularly recognized as the tarpon capital of the world, the intercoastal waters and the Gulf of Mexico around Pine Island and Cape Coral yield everything from lady fish and amberjacks to redfish, grouper, Spanish mackerel and kings.

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Bonita Springs, FL 34135
City of Bonita Springs
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Did you know?

The sport of tarpon fishing originated in Pine Island Sound in the late 1880s

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