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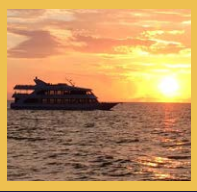


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2027 Newcomers Guide to Lee, Collier and Charlotte Counties

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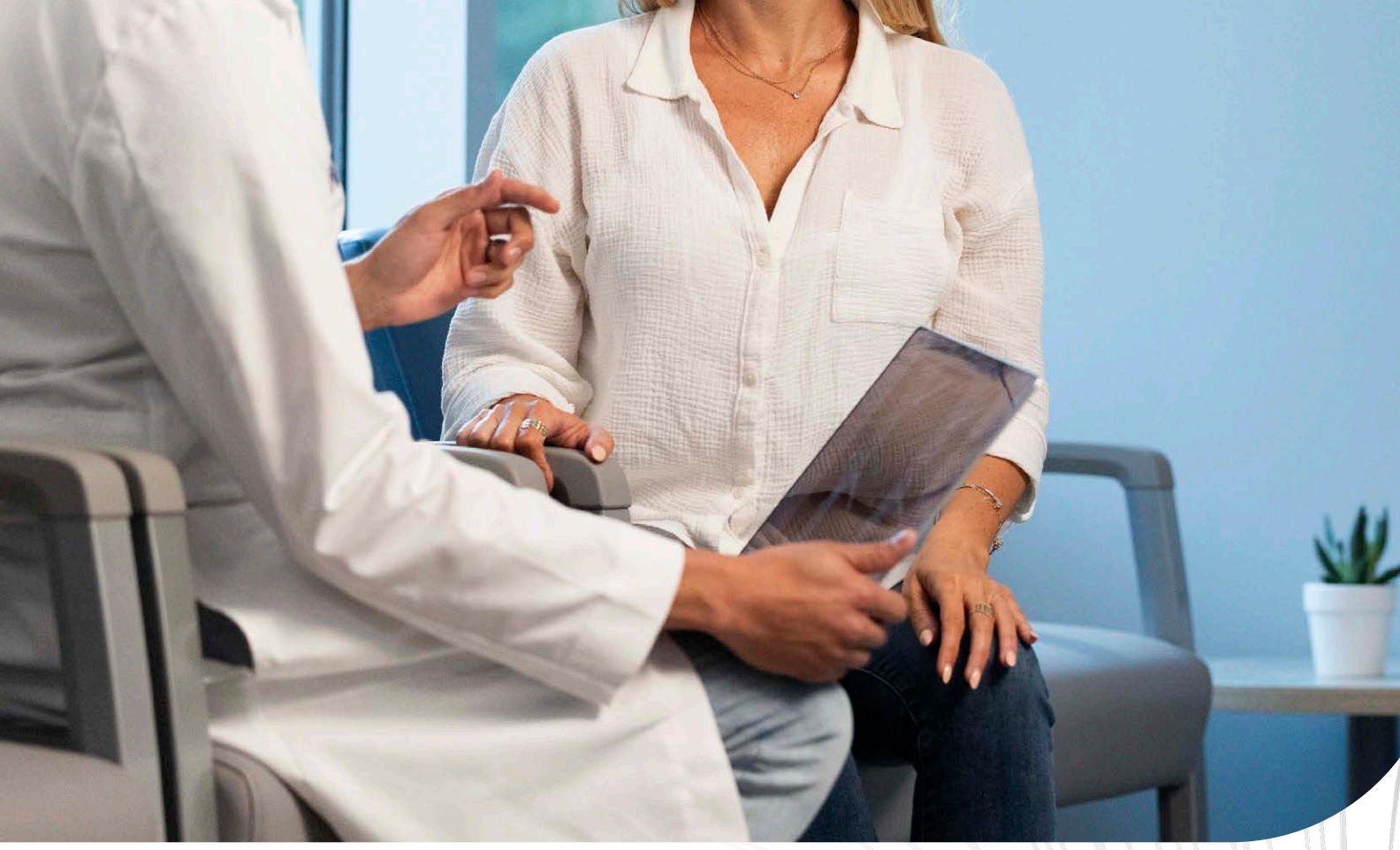
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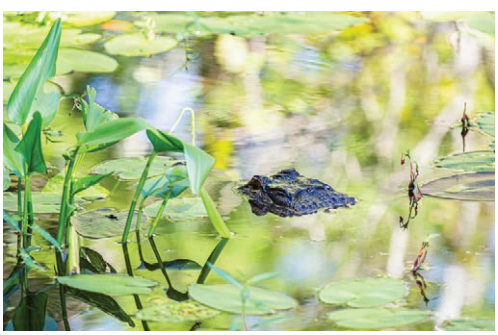
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LOCAL FLAVOR 50

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ON THE COVER:
Koreshan State Park
Photo by David Wishtischin



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LEE COUNTY

Alva

Tucked along the Caloosahatchee River east of Fort Myers, Alva remains one of Lee County's most rural communities, with cattle pastures, citrus land, oak canopies and equestrian properties that preserve an Old Florida feel. The community's name is traditionally traced to Capt. Peter Nelson, who called the area Alva in the late 1800s. River access, Hickey Creek Wildlife and Environmental Area and the Alva Boat Ramp put the outdoors at the center of daily life.

Boca Grande

At the southern end of Gasparilla Island in Lee County, Boca Grande offers white-sand beaches, world-famous tarpon fishing and an uniquely preserved village atmosphere. The Gasparilla Inn has welcomed guests under its current name since 1913, while the former railroad corridor now serves as a popular multi-use path through the island. Gasparilla Island State Park, the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse and a downtown area with locally owned shops and restaurants help define the community's refined character.

Bonita Springs

Between Naples and Estero, Bonita Springs offers beach access and an increasingly lively downtown along Old 41 Road. Riverside Park hosts festivals and concerts, while Arts Bonita, Wonder Gardens and historic Shangri-La Springs give the city a strong cultural identity. To the west, Lovers Key State Park is one of the area's signature natural destinations. New restaurants, music venues and redevelopment have brought fresh energy downtown without erasing the small-town character that still distinguishes Bonita from its larger neighbors.

Cape Coral

Built around water, Cape Coral has more than 400 miles of canals and waterways and remains the most populous city in Southwest Florida. Founded in the late 1950s by brothers Leonard and Jack Rosen, the peninsula has become a major city while still reflecting a lifestyle centered on boating, fishing and outdoor recreation. South Cape continues to evolve as a dining and entertainment district, and the city's parks, preserves, marinas and neighborhood gathering places give its sprawling footprint a strong recreational identity.



Bonita Springs' 2026 4th of July Celebration at Riverside Park

DAVID WISHTISCHIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Estero

Estero has evolved from a rural settlement into a busy community positioned between Fort Myers and Naples. Its unusual history remains visible at Koreshan State Park, where buildings from the late-19th-century Koreshan Unity settlement are preserved along the Estero River. Coconut Point, Miromar Outlets and Hertz Arena are central to a major shopping and entertainment corridor, while parks, trails and protected lands help maintain the natural landscape. In 2026, the village completed an Eco-Historic Planning Study focused on revitalizing Old Estero and the area around Koreshan State Park while preserving historic and environmental assets.

Fort Myers

Fort Myers is Lee County's historic and cultural center, with a downtown River District that features restored architecture, independent restaurants, galleries, nightlife and waterfront events. The Edison & Ford Winter Estates preserve the winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, while the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Florida Repertory Theatre and Laboratory Theater of Florida give downtown a strong presence in performing and visual arts. Spring training, riverfront festivals and continued downtown redevelopment keep the city connected to both its history and its expanding regional role.

Fort Myers Beach

Fort Myers Beach is still visibly rebuilding after Hurricane Ian, but the island's recovery has moved far beyond the earliest emergency phase. Restaurants, hotels and businesses continue to return along Estero Boulevard, and construction is underway on Lee County's replacement Fort Myers Beach Pier at Times Square. The new pier is scheduled for completion in summer 2027. The Mound House, set atop an ancient Calusa shell mound, provides a glimpse into the island's deeper history.

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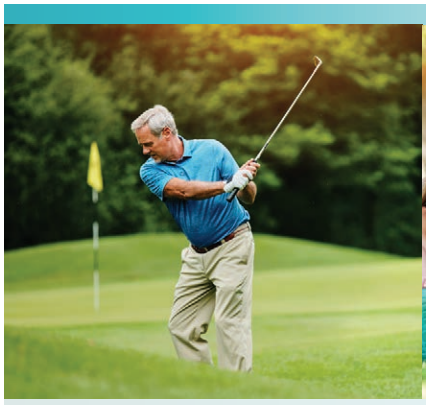
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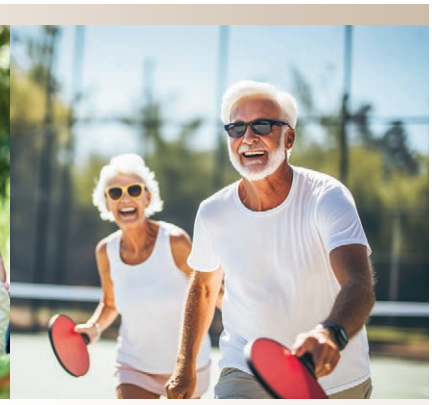
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neighborhoods stretching east of Fort Myers. Once marketed largely as inexpensive Florida land, it now supports a substantial year-round population, expanding schools, parks, medical services and commercial enterprises.

North Fort Myers

Across the Caloosahatchee from downtown Fort Myers, North Fort Myers features established riverfront neighborhoods, 55-plus communities, older commercial corridors and wide stretches of rural land. The area includes access to the river, parks and preserves such as North Fort Myers Community Park and Prairie Pines Preserve.

Pine Island and Matlacha

Pine Island, the largest island on Florida's west coast, still reflects an untouched Old Florida feel. Bokeelia, Pineland and St. James City are known for fishing, boating, tropical fruit farms and a low-rise island landscape, and the Calusa Heritage Trail at the Randell Research Center preserves the island's deep Indigenous history. At the island's eastern entrance, Matlacha is known for colorful galleries, fishing cottages, waterfront businesses and a vibrant arts community.

Sanibel and Captiva

Sanibel and Captiva are renowned for shelling, wildlife and a low-key approach to development. Sanibel's extensive network of paths, J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium and Lighthouse Beach Park showcase the area's dedication to conservation. Farther north, Captiva,with its smaller, island vibe, beacons visitors with its Gulf beaches, waterfront restaurants and spectacular sunset.

COLLIER COUNTY

Ave Maria

Thirty miles east of Naples, Ave Maria is consistently one of the top-selling communities in the country. Developed through a partnership involving Barron Collier Companies and Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan, the town opened in 2007 alongside Ave Maria University. Ave Maria Catholic Church — the dramatic landmark at the center of town, influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright principles — stands as its architectural focal point. In 2026, Ave Maria Elementary opened as the town's first public school, serving pre-K through fifth grade, and Freedom Ave Maria opened a campus offering a personalized high school education program.

Everglades City

Known as the Gateway to the Ten Thousand Islands, Everglades City is a small fishing community surrounded by mangroves, waterways and protected wilderness, with nearby access to Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. Once the Collier County seat, Everglades City



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Golden Gate Estates

Golden Gate Estates, located east of Naples, offers a version of Collier County far removed from beachfront condominiums and manicured resort communities. Originally established as large rural lots, the Estates are known for acreage, privacy, horse properties, canals, native vegetation and residences lining a vast network of roads. Growth has brought more schools, shopping and traffic to the area.

Immokalee

Immokalee is one of Southwest Florida's most important agricultural communities and one of its most culturally diverse. The name is commonly translated from a Seminole/Mikasuki word as "my home," a good description for a place shaped by generations of farmworkers, ranchers and families from many backgrounds. Winter vegetables, citrus and ranching remain central to the local economy. The Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch preserves the area's ranching history, and Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee draws regional entertainment to the area.

Marco Island

The largest of the Ten Thousand Islands, Marco Island is famous for its broad Gulf beaches, boating, resort living and its significant archaeological history. Tigertail Beach is known for birding, shelling and its unusual tidal lagoon, and South Marco Beach provides another popular public access point. The Marco Island Historical Museum preserves the island's Calusa heritage, including the story of the celebrated Key Marco Cat. Resorts, waterfront restaurants, marinas and neighborhood canals give Marco a polished vacation destination appeal, and the water access and nearby wild islands showcase the natural landscape.

Naples

Naples reflects Southwest Florida's Gulf-front living, high-end shopping, dining, golf and arts. Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South form the walkable heart of Old Naples, and Tin City preserves a more



ENGLEWOOD BEACH VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU / COURTESY PHOTO

casual atmosphere attuned to the city's waterfront history. Artis—Naples, The Baker Museum, Naples Botanical Garden and a large network of galleries and cultural organizations support a robust arts scene. The Naples Pier, one of the city's signature landmarks, is closed for an approximately 18-month reconstruction project that began in January 2026 following damage from Hurricane Ian. Nearby beach access remains available. Lowdermilk Park and Clam Pass are among the other popular Gulf destinations.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Babcock Ranch

Babcock Ranch, in southeastern Charlotte County just north of the Lee County line, continues to expand rapidly as America's first solar-powered town. Half of its 18,000 acres are dedicated to greenways, parks and lakes. RCLCO Real Estate Consulting ranked Babcock Ranch No. 4 nationally among top-selling master-planned communities at midyear 2026. Growth continues with new retail, dining and medical services at The Shoppes at Yellow Pine, which opened in 2025, and development of B Street, a walkable mixed-use district.

Cape Haze and Placida

On the Cape Haze peninsula, communities such as Cape Haze and Placida offer a quieter coastal lifestyle built around boating, marinas, fishing and access to the barrier islands. The 8.5-mile Cape Haze Pioneer Trail traces a former railroad corridor and provides a paved route for biking and walking. Ferries and private boats connect the mainland to Don Pedro and Little Gasparilla islands.

Englewood

Located on the Charlotte and Sarasota county line, Englewood embodies an easygoing atmosphere. Historic Dearborn Street has become a walkable center for restaurants, live music, galleries, markets and community events, and nearby Manasota Key offers beach access and waterfront recreation.

Port Charlotte

Port Charlotte is an expansive unincorporated residential community distinguished by boating and access to Charlotte Harbor. Its canal network, parks and boat ramps make fishing and paddling easy, and Tippecanoe Environmental Park preserves the area's natural terrain. Charlotte Sports Park is a major regional asset and, in 2026, hosted Tampa Bay Rays spring training again. Shopping, healthcare and a variety of services are spread across the area rather than in a traditional downtown, giving Port Charlotte a practical, suburban character well suited for year-round residents.

Punta Gorda

Punta Gorda's downtown area and waterfront make it one of Southwest Florida's most walkable small cities. The 2.5-mile Harborwalk links parks, marinas, historic sites, restaurants and Fishermen's Village along Charlotte Harbor, and murals and preserved architecture highlight a history dating to the 1880s. Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens, the Military Heritage Museum and nearby wildlife attractions cement the city's cultural appeal.

Rotonda West

Rotonda West is one of Charlotte County's most recognizable planned communities, located around a circular road system and a network of canals on the Cape Haze peninsula. The area is primarily residential and is known for golf, quiet neighborhoods and proximity to Englewood, Boca Grande and Gulf beaches. Rotonda Community Park features trails, pickleball and tennis courts, playgrounds and open space, and Cape Haze Pioneer Trail expands biking and walking options. The area's appeal is in its recreation, space and easy access to the coast. ■

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EXPLORE THE BEACH AND BEYOND

THERE'S MORE THAN EVER TO DISCOVER IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

BY ANDREA STETSON AND KRISTIN VOIT
Florida Weekly Correspondents

Southwest Florida's sunshine, beaches, golf and waterfront dining have attracted tourists and retirees for generations — but word is getting around that coastal living offers newcomers more reasons than ever before to make the move to paradise.

New outdoor gathering places, entertainment venues, museums, galleries, nightlife and festivals offer year-round entertainment options. Once sleepy communities now feature everything from cat cafés, bunny yoga, goat yoga, Pilates, cold plunge spas, coffee shops spinning vintage vinyl, craft breweries, whiskey bars and cigar lounges to ax-throwing, rock climbing, smash rooms, airboat rides through the Everglades and dinner at the region's increasingly ambitious restaurants.

Rest assured, the old-Florida charm is intact — there is just way more to do these days. There are still undisturbed mangrove shorelines, weather-beaten fish camps, roadside produce stands and tranquil water views that seem largely untouched by time. Mix that with the region's explosive growth, and you have culture, dining, entertainment and possibilities that would have been difficult to imagine here not so long ago.

Across Southwest Florida, downtown areas are finding new energy, dining and gathering places are multiplying, upgrades are underway at parks and beaches and new community developments are underway throughout Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. For newcomers, this means more choices — and plenty of reasons — to call this paradise home.

"I see us surpassing Palm Beach," said Tim Savage, owner of Gulf Coast International Properties. "Historically, if someone was looking here and Palm Beach, we would lose to Palm Beach, but now the lifestyle here really can't be beat in Florida and even the nation. We are consistently one of the top places to live in the country."

Southwest Florida's social scene

In the 1990s, Old U.S. 41 in Bonita Springs was lined with auto repair shops and convenience stores. Over the past two decades, though, the quaint neighborhood has steadily reinvented itself, and this year that evolution is especially visible.

New restaurants, artist cottages and events are adding life to the historic downtown. Riverside Park is undergoing the second phase of a major renovation, a new splash pad and restroom facilities are under construction at the Banyan Lot, and redevelopment of the former Bamboo Lot is bringing residential and retail space, public parking and gathering areas to the district.

"It is very unique," said Trish Leonard, past president of the Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance. "It is very quaint, but it is also lively. It's the small-town charm, big bright future, but it is also evolving in a way that will make you want to come downtown."

Arts Bonita launches the Bonita Springs Art Walk on the second Wednesday of each month throughout the busy tourist season, featuring more than 40 artists. The new event joins the fine arts festival, held one weekend each month from January through March and Art & Soul nights at Shangri-La Springs, on the second Wednesday of each month from December through April.

"We want to be known as the capital of art in Southwest Florida," said Alyona Ushe, CEO of Arts Bonita.

Midtown at Bonita, a mixed-use lifestyle development on track for completion in late 2026, promises to attract regional crowds to its wide assortment of retail, dining, commercial and residential options.



COURTESY PHOTO

Southwest Floridians have developed a hunger for lingering and mingling, especially at mealtime. Rooftop at Riverside, Bonita Springs' food truck park, joins Slipway, located along the Caloosahatchee River in Cape Coral, which features 10 food trucks, a marina, waterfront dining and live music. Further south, Naples' Celebration Park has become a popular food truck destination.

Foxtail Coffee Co. offers cozy spots to linger or grab a drink to go — and at the new Book Cafe in South Fort Myers, customers lounge in comfortable armchairs and sip artisan coffee, slow-brewed chai or draft lattes, snack on pastries or bagels and peruse shelves full of books.

Nearby, Yahweh Café offers lattes and handcrafted boba teas with Korean corn dogs, mochi donuts and ice cream. At Disco Bean Coffee in Bonita Springs, DJs spin vinyl records, and retro décor channels the vibe of the '70s and '80s. Owner Patty Amandis caters to music and coffee lovers, as well as those searching for rare musical gems to add to their collections.

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Outdoor adventures

As the weather cools (a little bit) and more people venture outdoors, a growing collection of parks is unveiling new features and attractions. Cape Coral's Festival Park opened in August with multi-use sports fields, festival grounds and a concessions and restroom building. Along the Caloosahatchee, Jaycee Park reopened on April 30 after a major renovation that added a 5,000-square-foot splash pad, a large playground, a bandshell and recreational amenities.

Southwest Florida's beloved beaches are also getting upgrades, including facility improvements at Bonita Beach Park, Bonita Beach Access #1 and Little Hickory Island Beach Park. Although parking may be temporarily limited during construction, LeeTran ULTRA On Demand offers a convenient way to reach the beach.

Fort Myers Beach continues its post-hurricane transformation as well. Public beach facilities are being restored, and plans are underway to replace the Fort Myers Beach Fishing Pier.

For those seeking an upscale beach experience, Paraíso Beach Club is expected to open in late 2027. Members will have access to a multi-story clubhouse over-looking Vanderbilt Beach, two saltwater pools, three open-air dining venues and lounges, wellness offerings including massage and yoga, beach service and more.

Nearby, the private Port Royal Club is scheduled to reopen in fall 2026 after a $100 million redevelopment that includes a new clubhouse, multiple dining venues, a beachfront pool, spa, banquet space and more.

In 2027, Wonder Gardens in Bonita Springs plans to open a new event center over-looking the Imperial River, providing space for classes, camps, educational programs and private events. President and CEO Sally Mulvena has also identified an animal health center as the next major project, with space for veterinary exams, quarantine and hurricane protection.

Eastward expansion

Many of Southwest Florida's newest developments are expanding east of the surf and sand. For newcomers, the growth means more choices beyond the traditional coastal lifestyle, with newer communities bringing schools, health care, dining, recreation and everyday necessities closer to home.



"Les Misérables" at The Naples Players

COURTESY PHOTO

In the early 2000s, developer Nicholas Cameratta, COO of Cameratta Companies, saw miles of untouched property and farmland east of I-75 along Corkscrew Road in Estero.

"We absolutely love the location," Cameratta said. "The location is good — proximity to the airport, lots of shops and easy access to Fort Myers and Naples."

Cameratta Companies opened The Preserve at Corkscrew in 2012, Corkscrew Shores in 2014, The Place at Corkscrew in 2017 and Verdana Village in 2021.

The group's biggest project, The Kingston, a master-planned community expected to include about 10,000 homes, celebrated its grand opening in October. Development plans include commercial space and wetland restoration, preservation and wildlife habitat. "It's transforming," Cameratta said. "It is a huge change."

The same eastward momentum is visible in Collier County. Ave Maria opened its first on-site public elementary school in the fall, and Freedom Ave Maria, a personalized education program for students in grades 9-12 operated by The Freedom Institute, opened a campus this year. The new Gatherpoint neighborhood by Pulte and Lennar has launched sales of its modern homes and planned resort-style amenities, while Midtown Plaza continues to attract businesses to the area.

Southwest Florida is also growing upward with the introduction of new high-rise residences, including two Ritz Carlton Residences, a Four Seasons and a Rosewood.

In downtown Naples, The Naples Players debuted The Baker Day School of the TNPAcademy of Dramatic Arts, the region's only full-time academic and arts program for middle and high school students. Naples Comprehensive Health (NCH) and Nicklaus Children's Hospital are also expanding women's and children's services through the Van Domelen Institute for Women and Children, with a planned pavilion at the NCH North campus.

Farther north in Charlotte County, Babcock Ranch continues its exponential growth, launching Tucker's Cove, a water park-themed amenity complex in September. Businesses continue to open along B Street, the community's new walkable downtown, and construction is underway on MidTown Marketplace. Plans are also advancing for Florida Gulf Coast University's academic, research and outreach facility focused on sustainability and resiliency. Tampa General Medical Group Babcock Ranch opened a new preventive care, adult and pediatric primary care practice, featuring on-site laboratory services.

Travel upgrades

As the region grows, its gateways are expanding to accommodate more travelers. Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers (RSW) is in the midst of a more than $1 billion expansion that will add a new 14-gate concourse and expand passenger facilities, with completion scheduled for late 2027.

Farther north, Charlotte County Airport Authority's Punta Gorda Airport expansion of Bailey Terminal is underway, with completion targeted for May 2027.

Perhaps this year's best surprise for newcomers to Southwest Florida is that the beaches, sunshine and warm winters may still be the main attraction, but they are part of a much bigger story. There are downtowns made for wandering, restaurants worth discovering, parks and preserves to explore, a spectacular variety of arts and entertainment options and communities designed for nearly every version of Florida living — and there is always something new in the works — on the beach and beyond.

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OUR LOCATIONS

Fort Myers at Park Royal | Fort Myers at The Forum | Cape Coral

(239) 432-5858 | pwcswfl.com

CULTURAL **VENUES**

Friends of the Library
(Collier County and Bonita Springs)
Support the Collier County Public Library and the Bonita Springs Library.

Collier: 650 Central Ave., Naples
Bonita Springs: friendsofbonitalibrary.org
239-262-8135 | collier-friends.org

Ghostbird Theatre Company
Presents site-inspired, place-specific stories and conceptual events.

Performance venues vary
barry@ghostbirdtheatrecompany.org | ghostbirdtheatrecompany.org

Grand Piano Series
Presents concerts with world-class international artists, educational initiatives and community outreach.

Concert venue: Artis—Naples, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples
469-333-3231 | grandpianoseries.org

Gulf Coast Symphony
Features volunteer musicians and a professional chamber orchestra, presenting Masterworks, pops, chamber and educational programs.

Music & Arts Community Center, 13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers
239-277-1700 | gulfcoastsymphony.org

Gulfshore Opera
Stages operas, concerts and outreach across Southwest Florida.

Office: 9911 Corkscrew Road, Suite 105, Estero
239-529-3925 | gulfshoreopera.org

Harbour View Gallery
Artist-owned cooperative featuring local work through juried exhibitions.

5789 Cape Harbour Drive, Suite 104, Cape Coral
239-540-5789 | harbourviewgallery.com

Hertz Arena
Multi-purpose sports and entertainment venue, home to the Florida Everblades hockey team, concerts and shows.

11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero
239-948-7825 | hertzarena.com

Hirdie Girdie Art Gallery
Artists' cooperative featuring works by local artists and rotating guests.

2490 Library Way, Sanibel
239-395-0027 | hirdiegirdiegallery.com

Laboratory Theater of Florida
Professional teaching theater known for bold plays, education programs and outreach.

1634 Woodford Ave., Fort Myers
239-291-2905 | laboratorytheaterflorida.com

Lee County Community Band
Brings quality musical entertainment to the Lee County community.

Mariner High School Auditorium, 701 Chiquita Blvd. N., Cape Coral
leecountyband.org

Melody Lane Performing Arts Center
Features youth productions, showcases, competition and dance, theater and voice classes.

75 Mid Cape Terrace, Suite 1, Cape Coral
239-220-9527 | melodylanepac.com

Mike Greenwell Regional Park
Hosts events in arena, exhibition spaces and outdoor facilities.

11831 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers
239-533-7275 | leegov.com/civiccenter

Music & Arts Community Center
Performance venue for the Gulf Coast Symphony and the Southwest Florida Theatre Company.

13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers
239-277-1700 | gulfcoastsymphony.org/venues/macc

Pine Island Art Association
Offers hands-on classes and experiences.

4577 Pine Island Road, Matlacha
smtraylo@gmail.com | pineislandart.com

Players Circle Theater
Produces professional theater productions in an intimate black-box space.

13211 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-800-3292 | playerscircletheater.com

Sanibel Music Festival
Presents a recital and concerts featuring internationally renowned artists.

2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
239-344-7025 | sanibelmusicfestival.org

Sanibel Historical Museum & Village
Historic buildings and exhibits from early island settlement to community life.

950 Dunlop Road, Sanibel
239-472-4648 | sanibelmuseum.org

Sanibel-Captiva Art League
Offers exhibitions, member activities and opportunities for artists.

Exhibition and meeting locations vary
sancapart.org

Shangri-La Springs
Historic boutique hotel featuring a spa, organic restaurant and meeting rooms.

27750 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs
239-949-0749 | shangrilasprings.com

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center
Hosts exhibitions, concerts, films and educational programs.

2301 First St., Fort Myers
239-333-1933 | sbdac.com

Southwest Florida Theatre Company
Professional company presenting musicals at the Music & Arts Community Center.

13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers
239-277-1700 | gulfcoastsymphony.org/groups/southwest-florida-theatre-company

Theatre Conspiracy
Presents contemporary and classic works in collaboration with venues across Fort Myers.

Performance locations vary
239-208-1003 | theatreconspiracyfl.com

Tower Gallery
Artists' cooperative showcasing original works by local artists.

751 Tarpon Bay Road, Sanibel
239-472-4557 | towergallery.net

Tribby Arts Center
Venue featuring an auditorium, galleries and studios for music and crafts.

17281 On Par Blvd., Fort Myers
239-415-5667 | tribbyartscenter.com

COLLIER COUNTY

Artis—Naples
Home to The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, presenting concerts, art exhibitions, visiting dance companies, lectures and Broadway programming.

5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples
239-597-1900 | artisnaples.org

Cambier Park Bandshell
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(239) 549-3689

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(239) 947-3689

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CULTURAL **VENUES**

civic celebrations and events.

755 8th Ave. S., Naples
239-213-3058 | naplesgov.com

Collier Museum at Government Center

Offers exhibits and galleries that capture local history.

3331 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-252-8476 | colliermuseums.com

Gulfshore Playhouse

Produces classic and contemporary plays and offers educational programs for students and adults.

100 Goodlette-Frank Road S., Naples
239-261-7529 | gulfshoreplayhouse.org

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center

Preserves the memory of the Holocaust through exhibits, survivor stories and educational programs.

975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd., Suite 108, Naples
239-263-9200 | hmcec.org

Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch

Features exhibits, programs and original buildings that tell the stories of local cow hunters, ranchers and pioneer families.

1215 Roberts Ave. W., Immokalee
239-252-2611 | colliermuseums.com

International Network of Creatives

Equips artists to reflect on and proclaim Christ in their lives and work.

1415 Panther Lane, Suite 353, Naples
239-591-6622 | internationalnetworkofcreatives.org

Marco Island Center for the Arts / Art Center Theatre

Offers exhibitions, classes and workshops, plus live theater and performances.

Center for the Arts: 1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island
239-394-4221 | marcoislandart.org
Arts Center Theatre: 1089 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
239-784-1186 | marcoislandart.org

Marco Island Historical Museum

Features exhibits exploring Calusa and Marco Island pioneer history.

180 S. Heathwood Drive, Marco Island
239-252-1440 | colliermuseums.com

Museum of the Everglades

Features exhibits offering an in-depth look at human history in the region.

105 Broadway Ave. W., Everglades City
239-252-5026 | colliermuseums.com

Naples Art District

District of working artists, offering open-studio events and art walks.

J & C Boulevard and Shirley Street area, Naples
239-249-1977 | naplesartdistrict.com

Naples Art Institute

Presents rotating exhibitions, festivals and classes for all ages.

585 Park St., Naples
239-262-6517 | naplesart.org

Naples Cinematheque

Celebrates cinema history through films, lectures and screenings across the region.

Various venues in Naples and Southwest Florida
naplescinematheque.com

Naples Concert Band

Volunteer concert band presenting free outdoor concerts.

Cambier Park Bandshell, 755 8th Ave. S., Naples
239-270-1221 | naplesconcertband.org

Naples Depot Museum

Highlights the railroading boom of the 1920s.

1051 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-252-8419 | colliermuseums.com

Naples Historical Society / Historic Palm Cottage

Offers tours, educational programs and lectures.

1051 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-252-8419 | colliermuseums.com

Naples Performing Arts Center

Performing-arts education and training, with programs in theater, dance, music and related disciplines for children and teens.

5450 YMCA Road, Naples
239-325-8789 | naplesperformingartscenter.com

Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

Artis—Naples' advanced youth ensemble offering training for student musicians.

5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples
239-597-1900 | artisnaples.org/education/student/youth-orchestra

The Naples Players

Community theater presenting a full season of plays, musicals and education programs.

701 5th Ave. S., Naples
239-263-7990 | naplesplayers.org

Norris Community Center

Venue featuring a black-box theater, meeting rooms and event spaces.

755 8th Ave. S., Naples
239-213-3058 | naplesgov.com

Opera Naples

Produces mainstage titles, concerts and education programs.

Wang Opera Center, 2408 Linwood Ave., Naples
239-963-9050 | operanaples.org

Paradise Coastmen Barbershop Chorus

Performs shows and community events.

Rehearsals: Our Savior Church, 1955 Curling Ave., Naples
239-352-6366 | paradisecoastmen.org

Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee

Hosts touring concerts, comedy shows, gaming, dining and events.

506 S. 1st St., Immokalee
800-218-0007 | casino.hardrock.com/immokalee

Smith Exhibit Hall

Interactive history museum beside Historic Palm Cottage. .

163 12th Avenue S., Naples, FL 34102
239-261-8164 | napleshistoricalsociety.org

The Studio Players

Presents diverse community theater productions.

Joan Jenks Auditorium,
4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples
239-398-9192 | thestudioplayers.org

TheatreZone

Professional company producing musicals and concerts with Broadway and regional talent.

13275 Livingston Road, Naples
888-966-3352 | theatre.zone

The Veterans History Museum

Features educational opportunities and exhibits honoring military history.

3331 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
614-205-0357 | veteranshistorymuseumnaples.org

CULTURAL **VENUES**

Voices of Naples
Performs seasonal concerts and offers auditions and vocal scholarships.

Rehearsals: First Presbyterian Church, 250 Sixth St. S., Naples
Concert venues vary
239-290-8550 | voicesofnaples.org

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Art Center Sarasota
Presents juried and curated exhibitions, classes, workshops and community programs.

707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
941-365-2032 | artsarasota.org

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota
Provides musical performances, educational outreach and scholarship competitions.

Office: 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 300, Sarasota
941-306-1200 | artistseriesconcerts.org

Arts Advocates
Features exhibits of works by Florida artists, programming and exhibitions and awards scholarships to local students.

3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 119, Sarasota
docent@artsadvocates.org | artsadvocates.org

Blanchard House Museum
Preserves African American history and culture in Southwest Florida.

406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Punta Gorda
941-370-3251 | theblanchardhouse.org

Charlotte Chorale
Prepares and presents professional-level choral music of all genres.

P.O. Box 494451, Port Charlotte
941-204-0033 | charlottechorale.com

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
Waterfront facility featuring flexible spaces for concerts, plays and community events.

75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda
941-833-5444 | charlotteharborecc.com

Charlotte Performing Arts Center
Facility used for school productions, community theater, concerts and shows.

701 Carmalita St., Punta Gorda
941-505-7469 | chs.yourcharlotteschools.net/cpac

Charlotte Players
Community theater presenting plays, musicals, events and educational programs.

1182 Market Circle, Port Charlotte
941-255-1022 | charlotteplayers.org

Fishermen's Village
Features shopping, entertainment, restaurants, recreation, accommodations and a marina fuel dock.

1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda
800-639-0020 | fishermensvillage.com

The Florida Philharmonic
World-class orchestra serving the Southwest Florida community.

Concert venue: Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, 11330 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda.
Mailing address: 130 E. Marion Ave., #511056, Punta Gorda
941-529-6094 | thefloridaphil.org

Florida Studio Theatre
Offers mainstage, cabaret, children's theater, play development and educational programs.

1241 N. Palm Ave., Sarasota
941-366-9000 | floridastudiotheatre.org

The Hermitage Artist Retreat
Supports new work across artistic disciplines.

Campus and office: 6630 Manasota Key Road, Englewood. Confirm the location for individual public programs.
941-475-2098 | hermitageartistretreat.org

Military Heritage Museum / Gulf Theatre
Explores U.S. military history through artifacts, tours, exhibits and flight simulators.

900 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-575-9002 | militaryheritagemuseum.org

North Port Performing Arts Center
Performing arts center presenting school and community productions.
6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port
941-428-8558 | nphstheatre.net

Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens
Art and nature santuary featuring sculptures, events, classes and exhibitions.

5827 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda
941-621-8299 | peacerivergardens.org

Sarasota Art Museum
Contemporary art museum featuring exhibitions and educational programs.

1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
941-309-4300 | sarasotaartmuseum.org

Sarasota Ballet
Professional ballet company performing at venues in Sarasota.

5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
941-359-0099 | sarasotaballet.org

Sarasota Jewish Theatre
Celebrates Jewish culture through theater and outreach.

Performance locations vary
941-365-2494 | sarasotajewishtheatre.com

Sarasota Opera
Professional opera company featuring performances, educational outreach and artist development programs.

61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota
941-328-1300 | sarasotaopera.org

Sarasota Orchestra
Offers performance and musical education.

709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
941-953-3434 | sarasotaorchestra.org

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
Presents Broadway musicals, performances, symphony orchestras and dance.

777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
941-263-6799 | vanwezel.org

The Venice Symphony
Features musical performances and experiences.

Venice Performing Arts Center, 1 Indian Ave., Building 5, Venice
941-207-8822 | thevenicesymphony.org

Venice Theatre
Offers live performances and educational programs.

140 Tampa Ave. W., Venice
941-488-1115 | venicetheatre.org

Visual Arts Center
Features galleries, studios and events.

210 Maud St., Punta Gorda
941-639-8810 | visualartcenter.org

Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe
Professional theater company dedicated to celebrating African American culture.

1012 N. Orange Ave., Sarasota
941-366-1505 | westcoastblacktheatre.org

ARTFUL **SIDE**

DISCOVER THE CREATIVE SIDE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Alliance for the Arts

The Alliance for the Arts is a hub for local artists, theater productions and seasonal art camps designed to inspire young creators.

The Alliance for the Arts 2025-2026 season includes the Youth Theatre productions of "Dreamland," "Something Rotten Jr.," "The Outsiders" and the Americana Community Music Association (ACMA) Concert Series, including performances by Brain Smalley and Roy Book Binder in early 2026. Film screenings of "Reel Families" and "Michael's Monthly Mystery Movie" run throughout the year. The Alliance offers various educational opportunities.

This winter's lineup includes the thought-provoking production of "Marian, Or the True Tale of Robin Hood," a clever gender-bending retelling of the classic legend that runs from Dec. 6 through 8. Bluegrass lovers will enjoy the Flatlanders on Jan. 12, while the Youth Theatre takes audiences under the sea with Disney Pixar's "Finding Nemo KIDS" on Feb. 1 and 2. In March, the ACMA Concert Series presents The Honey Badgers and Fred Ball, and on April 25, Chase Padgett's one-man show "Guitars" returns.

10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-939-2787 | artinlee.org

Artis—Naples

Artis—Naples anchors Southwest Florida's arts scene.

Highlights of the 2026-2027 season at the Baker Museum include "The Surrealist International: Fifty Years of Dreams," drawn from the collection of Tate, United Kingdom, and "Florida Contemporary 2026-27." Other exhibitions explore the work of Rolling Stone magazine's first chief photographer, Baron Wolman, sculptor Louise Nevelson and the relationship between art and the environmental movement.

Artis—Naples is also home to the Naples Philharmonic and presents Broadway, jazz, dance and other performing arts throughout the season.

5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples
239-597-1900 | artisnaples.org

Arts Bonita

With two distinct campuses dedicated to fostering the visual or performing arts, Arts Bonita offers exhibitions, concerts, theater and classes for all ages. Workshops and art classes in ceramics, painting, glass and other media run year-round for adults and youth.

At the Visual Arts Center, rotating exhibitions showcase work by regional, national and international artists throughout the year, including member and student exhibitions and traveling shows.



Artis-Naples, home of The Baker Museum

DAVID WISHTISCHIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

January through March, Arts Bonita welcomes more than 200 national and international artists to Riverside Park in Bonita Springs during the Bonita Springs National Art Festivals.

Arts Bonita's Performing Arts Center features concerts, theater, comedy, film, lectures, classes and additional programming.

Performing Arts Center |
10150 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs

Visual Arts Center |
26100 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs
239-495-8989 | artsbonita.org

BIG ARTS

BIG ARTS offers opportunities to enjoy the performing and fine arts, including exhibitions, films, workshops, classes and community events. The 2026-2027 exhibition season includes "The Living Lace" by Mariapia Malerba, from Jan. 29 to March 14; "BIRDS, No Words," from Feb. 9 to July 9; and "Journey of No Return: Cuban Artists Outside Cuba," featuring 13 artists whose migration experiences have shaped their work, from March 19 to May 2. Performing arts, film, lectures and educational programs round out its year-round offerings.

900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel
239-395-0900 | bigarts.org

Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW

A longtime center for contemporary art at Florida SouthWestern State College, the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery has worked with internationally recognized artists while remaining connected to its namesake, longtime Captiva resident Robert Rauschenberg. Founded as the Gallery of Fine Art in 1979, it was renamed for Rauschenberg in 2004 after decades of collaboration with the artist. The gallery is free and open to the public during exhibitions, and visitors are encouraged to call ahead because the space closes between shows.

Bob Rauschenberg Gallery ANNEX FSW Lee Campus, Building J, Library Lobby, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers
239-489-9313 | rauschenberggallery.com

Cape Coral Art Center

Cape Coral Art Center offers year-round classes in fine arts and crafts for artists of all ages and skill levels. The Art Center celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2027, with a Main Gallery exhibition, "50 Years in the Making," from Jan. 8 to 28. The 2026-2027 season begins with "Places I Remember," featuring Kim Carioto-Krugle's layered paper collages and oil paintings, from Nov. 6 to Dec. 17, followed by exhibitions exploring fine craft, textile art, family histories and traditions, ocean-inspired art and works created with recycled and repurposed materials through September 2027.

4533 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral
239-574-0802 | capecoral.gov

Fort Myers
ISLANDS, BEACHES & NEIGHBORHOODS

Lee County Parks & Recreation

Lakes Park
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A Southwest Florida Treasure in Fort Myers



FAMILY FUN

Children's Garden, splash pad, playground, miniature train and picnic areas.



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Kayaking, canoeing and beautiful freshwater lakes (boat rentals).



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Farmers Market, StoryTime in the Garden, Bird & Nature Walks, Fall Festival and Scarecrows in the Park.

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www.lakespark.org

Open daily from 7 a.m. until dusk.

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www.rrmsf.org

Weekdays: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Weekends: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ARTFUL **SIDE**



DAVID WISHTISCHIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

FGCU Art Galleries

Florida Gulf Coast University Art Galleries features exhibitions, collections and creative programming. The university operates several exhibition spaces, including the Wasmer Art Gallery and Gallery 101 in the Arts Complex, as well as an additional exhibition space in the Wilson G. Bradshaw Library. Exhibitions and related events are free and open to the public.

The 2026-2027 season includes figurative painter Lynn Davison's "Nothing Matters Very Much & Very Few Things Matter At All," student and permanent-collection exhibitions and public art across campus. "Battle of the Arts," featuring public mini-murals created during a live team competition, remains on view through September 2027, while "Depth Perception," a site-specific collaboration combining visual art and creative writing, runs from Nov. 13, 2026, through Oct. 30, 2027.

10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Fort Myers
239-590-7199 | fgcu.edu/artgalleries

Fort Myers Beach Art Association & Gallery

The working gallery features changing exhibitions of original work by member artists, along with classes, workshops, demonstrations, plein-air painting and other opportunities for artists and visitors. Its exhibition calendar includes judged and juried shows and changing member exhibitions throughout the year, while monthly courtyard sales during the winter season offer original artwork and cards created by association members.

13451 McGregor Blvd., Unit 1, Fort Myers
239-463-3909 | fortmyersbeachart.com

Marco Island Center for the Arts

Marco Island Center for the Arts continues its tradition of bringing diverse creative experiences to the island through exhibitions, classes, workshops and special events. At its Winterberry Drive campus, changing exhibitions complement youth and adult art classes in painting, watercolor, acrylic, oil, drawing, multimedia, sculpting and other media. The organization also operates Arts Center Theatre at Marco Town Center and presents the Musical Interludes concert series.

Art Center | 1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island
239-394-4221 | marcoislandart.org

Arts Center Theatre |
1089 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
239-784-1186 | marcoislandart.org

Naples Art District (NAD)

The Naples Art District is a hub for working artists, galleries and studios in the heart of Naples. Located just off Pine Ridge Road, the district includes more than 100 artists working, exhibiting and teaching, as well as more than 50 galleries and studios. Recognized by Collier County as a visual arts destination, the district attracts tourists and locals with its array of working studios and galleries, art for sale, events and classes. From November through April, visitors can explore Open Studios on Thursdays and Saturdays, meet artists and see demonstrations and works in progress.

J & C Boulevard,
Shirley Street and Yahl Street area, Naples
239-249-1977 | naplesartdistrict.com

Naples Art Institute

Naples Art Institute features xhibitions of local and international art draw visitors throughout the year. The arts organization encourages residents to experiment in the visual arts through a variety of classes, workshops, lectures, special programs and events.

Naples Art Institute's 2026-2027 exhibition lineup features "Rembrandt: Masterpieces in Black & White — Prints from the Rembrandt House Museum," through Jan. 24 and "Picasso: Back to the Origins," from Feb. 6 to May 2. The institute's outdoor art fair season includes the Naples New Year's Art Fair, on Jan. 2 and 3, the Naples National Art Fair, from Feb. 19 to 21 and the Naples Downtown Art Fair, on March 20 and 21. Art in the Park also returns for dates from November through April.

585 Park St., Naples
239-262-6517 | naplesart.org

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, run by Florida Arts, Inc., is dedicated to bringing a broad range of art events to the Southwest Florida community. Its two galleries feature changing exhibitions throughout the season, including "Sandman's Wake" in November and the Florida Artists Group's "MERGE" in February. The center also hosts concerts, films, special events, lectures and educational arts experiences for children and adults.

2301 First St., Fort Myers
239-333-1933 | sbdac.com

Tribby Arts Center

Located at Shell Point, Tribby Arts Center combines visual arts, creative studios and cultural programming with three art galleries and an outdoor sculpture garden. Its galleries feature changing exhibitions by Shell Point artists as well as regional and nationally recognized artists and are free and open to the public.

The 2026-2027 exhibition season includes "Poets & Painters: An Artistic Collaboration," beginning Nov. 6, and "REVIVE! Trash to Fashion: The Couture Collection," presented in partnership with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, from Jan. 8 to Feb. 18. Beginning March 6, "Explorations" features the work of longtime painter Paul Arsenault and artist Richard Rose, accompanied by additional exhibitions exploring fine craft, photography and Polynesian voyaging traditions through June 17.

17281 On Par Blvd., Fort Myers
239-415-5667 | tribbyartscenter.com

Visual Art Center

Visual Art Center offers art classes, instructors and exhibit opportunities for members and visitors of all ages and skill levels. The center includes three major galleries, six classrooms, jewelry, glass, pottery and technology studios, an arts library and a gift gallery. Changing exhibitions are free to explore, while classes and workshops offer opportunities to work in a variety of art media throughout the year.

210 Maud St., Punta Gorda
941-639-8810 | visualartcenter.org

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AllAboutClosets.com

SWFL **SHOPPING**

LEE COUNTY

Bell Tower

Bell Tower features shopping, dining and entertainment, featuring The Fresh Market, Nordstrom Rack, Congress Jewelers, Dave & Buster's, Regal, Talbots and other retailers and restaurants.

13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers
belltowerfl.com

Cape Harbour

Cape Harbour offers a collection of locally oriented boutiques, galleries, resort wear, gifts, specialty shops, restaurants, marina activity and waterfront events.

Cape Harbour Drive, Cape Coral
capeharbour.net/cape-harbour-shops

Coconut Point

Coconut Point offers more than 110 stores and restaurants, with Dillard's, Super Target, Nordstrom Rack, Apple, Barnes & Noble and PGA TOUR Superstore among its major retailers.

23106 Fashion Drive, Estero
239-992-9966 | simon.com/mall/coconut-point

Coralwood Center

Coralwood features Hobby Lobby, Burlington, Ulta Beauty, ALDI, Esporta Fitness, HomeGoods, Bealls, Five Below and Marquee Cinemas, along with dining, services and medical businesses.

2301 Del Prado Blvd. S., Cape Coral
woolbright.net/portfolio/retail-space-for-lease-rent/coralwood-center-in-Cape-Coral

Edison Mall

Edison Mall has more than 160 retail, dining and entertainment options, including Macy's, JCPenney and Dillard's.

4125 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers
239-939-5464 | shopedisonmall.com

Fleamasters Flea Market

Fleamasters features roughly 900 stores and vendor spaces selling produce, antiques, collectibles, clothing, jewelry, tools, gifts and more.

4135 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers
239-334-7001 | fleamastersfleamarket.com

Fort Myers River District

This eclectic downtown shopping district is filled with locally owned boutiques, galleries and specialty shops.

Downtown Fort Myers
myriverdistrict.com

Gulf Coast Town Center

Gulf Coast Town Center features major retailers, restaurants and entertainment, including Target, Costco, Bass Pro Shops, Dick's Sporting Goods, HomeGoods, Marshalls, Ross, Burlington and Regal.

9903 Gulf Coast Main St., Fort Myers
239-267-5107 | gulfcoasttowncenter.com

Midtown at Bonita

Midtown is a major new 68-acre mixed-use destination under construction. The residential component is already open, and retail and restaurant spaces are under buildout, with first openings projected by the end of 2026.

13000 Bonita Beach Road S.E., Bonita Springs
midtownbonita.com

Miromar Outlets

Miromar Outlets offers more than 120 shopping, dining and entertainment options, with outlet and factory stores including Saks OFF 5TH, Coach, Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, H&M, adidas, Columbia, Tommy Bahama and Under Armour.

10801 Corkscrew Road, Estero
239-948-3766 | miromaroutlets.com

Periwinkle Place

Sanibel's landmark shopping village features Original Chico's, Congress Jewelers, Everything But Water, Sanibel Day Spa, Blue Giraffe, Pinocchio's and Tiki Jim's among the current businesses.

2075 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
periwinkleplace.com

Promenade at Bonita Bay

The open-air Promenade pairs boutiques, galleries, restaurants and services with landscaped courtyards and water features. A Saturday farmers market returns seasonally.

26795 S. Bay Drive, Bonita Springs
239-949-1573 | promenadeshops.com

Shops at Del Sol

This new retail center is opening in stages in 2026. The development includes restaurants, specialty businesses and services.

1100-1221 Solaris Drive, Cape Coral
tlddeveloper.com/project/shops-at-del-sol



PROMENADE / COURTESY PHOTO

The Forum

This east Fort Myers power center includes Target, The Home Depot, Ross, Michaels, Petco, Staples, Rack Room Shoes, Bath & Body Works and Sky Zone, along with restaurants and services.

9350 Dynasty Drive, Fort Myers
inventrustproperties.com/property/the-forum-fort-myers

COLLIER COUNTY

Coastland Center

Naples' major enclosed mall has more than 100 shopping, dining and entertainment offerings, including Macy's, JCPenney, Dillard's and CMX CineBistro.

1900 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-262-7100 | coastlandcenter.com

Esplanade Shoppes at Marco Island

This coastal Italian-style development combines nearly 50,000 square feet of retail and office space with restaurants, residences and a marina.

760 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
esplanadeshoppesatmarcoisland.com

Fifth Avenue South

Naples' signature downtown avenue features boutiques, galleries, jewelers, specialty retailers, restaurants, cafes, cultural venues and frequent community events.

Downtown Naples
239-692-8436 | fifthavenuesouth.com


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ARTFUL **SIDE**

Galleria Shoppes at Vanderbilt

This North Naples center features specialty shops, services and dining and is also home to the popular Saturday Vanderbilt Farmers Market.

2343 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples
239-594-5000 | shopvanderbilt.com

Granada Shoppes

Features Trader Joe's, Hobby Lobby, Marshalls, HomeSense, Five Below, Havertys, Bath & Body Works, Men's Wearhouse, P.F. Chang's and numerous restaurants, specialty shops and services.

10940-11140 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
brixmor.com/leasing/retail-space/fl/naples/granada-shoppes

Marco Walk Plaza

Offers restaurants, boutiques and services in a walkable setting.

599 S. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
954-232-5831 | marcowalkplaza.com

Mercato

Features upscale shopping, dining, nightlife, residences and events and includes Whole Foods Market, Nordstrom Rack and Alamo Drafthouse. The renovated Piazza serves as a gathering space for events.

9110 Strada Place, Naples
239-254-1080 | experiencemercato.com

Naples Design District

Naples' creative quarter features boutiques, luxury and consignment finds, galleries, antique and home furnishings, interior-design showrooms and dining.

Naples Design District, Naples
info@naplesdesigndistrict.com
naplesdesigndistrict.com

Naples Plaza

Features Marshalls, PGA TOUR Superstore, Office Depot, West Marine, Pet Supermarket, Woodhouse Day Spa, Just Salad, Chipotle and other shops, restaurants and services.

1900-2075 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
brixmor.com/leasing/retail-space/fl/naples/naples-plaza

Park Shore Plaza

Features The Fresh Market, Barnes & Noble, HomeGoods, Burlington, T.J. Maxx, Sierra, Kirkland's and Dollar Tree, along with restaurants and specialty businesses including Yard House and Felipe's Mexican Taqueria.

4111-4383 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
brixmor.com/leasing/retail-space/fl/naples/park-shore-plaza

The Shoppes at Orange Blossom

This newer Publix-anchored center serves the rapidly growing northeast Naples/Golden Gate Estates area.

1715 Oil Well Road, Naples
publix.com

The Village Shops on Venetian Bay

More than 45 waterfront shops and restaurants line this bayside destination, offering fashion, jewelry, gifts, art, home accents and dining with views of Venetian Bay.

4200 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples
239-261-6100 | venetianvillage.com

Third Street South

Historic Third Street South offers boutiques, galleries, home furnishings, jewelry and specialty shopping amid restaurants and landscaped streets.

Old Naples
239-434-6533 | thirdstreetsouth.com

Tin City Waterfront Shops

Tin City has more than 30 locally owned boutiques, galleries and specialty shops, along with waterfront dining, sightseeing cruises and boating activities.

1200 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-262-4200 | tincityofnaples.com

Waterside Shops

This luxury center features shops and restaurants, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Hermès, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Dior, Tiffany & Co., Van Cleef & Arpels, Tory Burch, lululemon and Vuori.

5415 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-598-1605 | watersideshops.com

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

B Street

Opening in stages in 2026 across from Founder's Square at Babcock Ranch, B Street is a walkable mixed-use district with retail, dining, offices and residences.

WestTown, Babcock Ranch
babcockranch.com/our-town/commerce-cuisine

Crescent B Commons

Babcock Ranch's established Publix-anchored shopping plaza serves everyday needs with grocery shopping, restaurants and services.

Cypress Parkway, Babcock Ranch
babcockranch.com/our-town/commerce-cuisine

Downtown Punta Gorda

Downtown Punta Gorda offers boutiques, gift shops, galleries, books, home decor and specialty retailers to the mix.

Downtown Punta Gorda
explorepuntagorda.com/visit-here/shopping

Fishermen's Village

This Punta Gorda waterfront landmark features boutiques, restaurants, resort suites, special events, entertainment and access to Charlotte Harbor.

1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda
941-639-8721 | 800-639-0020
fishermensvillage.com

Port Charlotte Town Center

The county's principal enclosed mall remains an active shopping destination, anchored by Dillard's and JCPenney and supplemented by specialty retail, dining, services and entertainment.

1441 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
941-624-4447
portcharlottetowncenter.com

Promenades Port Charlotte

This established Port Charlotte shopping center has been substantially refreshed, including a recent comprehensive renovation. The center also includes ALDI, Bealls Outlet, YouFit and a mix of services and businesses.

3280 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte

The Shoppes at Yellow Pine

Babcock Ranch's newer lakefront retail plaza has become a substantial shopping and service destination. Current businesses include HomeGoods, Marshalls, Ulta Beauty, Five Below, Ace Hardware, Verizon, restaurants and health services.

Cypress Parkway, Babcock Ranch
babcockranch.com/our-town/commerce-cuisine








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Prices subject to change.

LOCAL **FLAVOR**

LEE COUNTY



Angelina's Ristorante

CHRISTINA MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY / COURTESY PHOTO

41 Bistro
Italian and Mediterranean-influenced dishes, steaks, seafood and pasta.
19050 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers
239-208-4103 | 41bistro.com

Acqua Bistecca
Italian-influenced menu of steaks, seafood, pasta and cocktails.
5500 Coconut Road, Bonita Springs
239-319-2301 | acquabistecca.com/location/estero-bay

Angelina's Ristorante
Fine Italian dining, with house-made pastas, an extensive wine collection and nightly live piano music..
24041 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs
239-390-3187 | angelinasofbonitasprings.com

Aqua (Multiple Locations)
Polished seafood, steak, sushi and cocktails with live entertainment.
27940 Crown Lake Blvd., Bonita Springs
239-405-7188 | aquafifth.com
862 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
855-752-3488 | aquafifth.com
2348 Immokalee Road, Naples
239-591-5759 | aquafifth.com
4720 SE 9th Place, Suite 100, Cape Coral
239-257-1297 | aquafifth.com

Backwater Jacks Restaurant
Seafood and sandwiches in a casual setting with views of the marina.
27598 Marina Pointe Drive SW, Bonita Springs
239-992-3010 | bonitabaymarina.net

Bay Street Yard (Food Truck Park)
Casual downtown dining, featuring live music, food vendors and craft cocktails.
2136 Bay St., Fort Myers
239-940-8744 | baystreetyard.com

Bellini's Fort Myers
Italian classics, seafood and steaks.
13451 McGregor Blvd., Suites 5-9, Fort Myers
239-270-5005 | bellinisfortmyers.com

Bimini Basin Seafood & Cocktails
Seafood, raw-bar favorites and cocktails with boat access.
458 Tudor Drive, Cape Coral
239-347-7033 | biminibasinrestaurant.com

Blanc
Open-kitchen restaurant, with shareable plates, steak, seafood and French-Asian dishes.
13451 McGregor Blvd., Suite 10, Fort Myers
239-887-3139 | blancentertainment.com

Blossom & Brie
This farm-side restaurant, with arm-fresh cuisine, friendly farm animals and a relaxed setting.
8250 Nalle Grade Road, North Fort Myers
239-385-0415 | blossomandbrie.com

The Bohemian
Inventive small plates with seasonal cocktails. A MICHELIN Guide's Florida selection in 2026.
27975 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs
239-451-9619 | thebohemianbonita.com

Bonito Bistro
Contemporary American dishes, seafood and seasonal specials.
4450 Bonita Beach Road SW, Suite 10, Bonita Springs
239-221-7001 | bonitobistro.com

Bruno's of Brooklyn
Old-world Italian flavors with a modern twist.
2149 First St., Fort Myers
239-278-0211 | brunosofbrooklyn.com

Bubba's Roadhouse & Saloon
Hand-cut steaks, ribs, burgers and hearty sides.
2121 SW Pine Island Road, Cape Coral
239-282-5520 | bubbasroadhouse.net

The Bubble Room
Known for kitschy décor, oversized servings and nostalgic atmosphere.
15001 Captiva Drive, Captiva
239-472-5558 | bubbleroomrestaurant.com

C Level Bistro & Wine Bar
Seafood, steaks and small plates, with an extensive wine selection.
4450 Bonita Beach Road SW, Bonita Springs
239-221-7046 | c-levelbar.com

Cabbage Key Inn & Restaurant
Accessible only by boat, featuring dollar-bill-covered bar, open-air dining and classic seafood and burgers.
Intracoastal Waterway Marker 60, Cabbage Key
239-283-2278 | cabbagekey.com/dining

Canary Club Pizza & Cocktails
Mediterranean and Middle Eastern influenced pizzas from a wood-fired oven. A MICHELIN Bib Gourmand in 2026.
10610 Founders Way, Suite 140, Bonita Springs
239-776-8065 | canaryclubbonita.com

Casa Blu Mediterranean Restaurant
Mediterranean seafood, grilled meats, pasta and shareable plates.
8076 Mediterranean Drive, Suite 107, Estero
239-413-6478 | casablurest.com

Chops City Grill (Multiple Locations)
Serves prime steaks, seafood and cocktails.
8200 Health Center Blvd., Bonita Springs
239-992-4677 | chopsbonita.com
837 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-262-4677 | chopscitygrill.com

LOCAL **FLAVOR**

Cielo

A piano bar with polished service and a fresh, seasonal menu.

1244 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
239-472-5555 | cielo-sanibel.com

Coconut Jack's Waterfront Grille

Features mangrove views, seafood baskets, tropical drinks and deck seating.

5370 Bonita Beach Road SW, Bonita Springs
239-676-7777 | coconutjacks.com

Daruma Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Lounge

Combines teppanyaki showmanship with sushi, sashimi and Japanese entrées.

13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 231, Fort Myers
239-344-0037 | darumarestaurants.com

Deep Lagoon Seafood & Oyster House (Multiple Locations)

Offers a variety of local seafood dishes.

14040 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-689-5474 | deeplagoon.com
8777 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-880-3337 | deeplagoon.com
760 N. Collier Blvd., Suite 105, Marco Island
239-235-7497 | deeplagoon.com

DeRomo's Gourmet Market & Restaurant

Part Italian market and part full-service restaurant, offering house-made pastas, imported specialties, seafood and classic Italian dishes.

26811 S. Bay Drive, Suites 140 and 148, Bonita Springs
239-325-3583 | deromos.com

Dixie Fish Company

Serves fresh Gulf seafood and Southern-inspired favorites, with waterfront views and live music.

714 Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach
239-233-8837 | dixiefishfmb.com

Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille (Multiple Locations)

Offers Caribbean-inspired seafood in a laid-back atmosphere.

708 Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach
239-765-9660 | docfords.com
2500 Island Inn Road, Sanibel
239-472-8311 | docfords.com

Eat Sarap

Independent Filipino American counter, serving adobo, pancit, sisig, lumpia and halo-halo on weekends.

11902 Bonita Beach Road SE, Bonita Springs
475-414-0324 | eatsarapusa.com

El Jardín

Serves Mexican favorites and house specialties in a casual setting.

1019 Cape Coral Parkway E., Cape Coral
239-922-5029 | eljardin-escondido.com

Fancy's Southern Café (Multiple Locations)

Exudes warm hospitality and southern flavors in an upscale atmosphere.

8890 Salrose Lane, Suite 101, Fort Myers
239-561-2988 | fancyssoutherncafe.com
2214 Bay St., Fort Myers
239-208-2564 | fancyssoutherncafe.com

Fathoms Restaurant & Bar

Pairs seafood and seasonal coastal dishes with craft cocktails, live music and sunset views.

5785 Cape Harbour Drive, Suite 106, Cape Coral
239-542-0123 | fathomsrestaurant.com

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9500 Corkscrew Palm Circle #3 • Estero, Florida 33928

LOCAL **FLAVOR**

Fernandez the Bull (Multiple Locations)

Cuban restaurant known for ropa vieja, lechón asado, Cuban sandwiches and mojitos.

3250 Bonita Beach Road SW, Suite 207, Bonita Springs
239-676-7978 | fernandezthebull.com
3375 Pine Ridge Road, Suites 101 and 102, Naples
239-653-9097 | fernandezthebull.com
1201 Piper Blvd., Suite 10, Naples
239-254-9855 | fernandezthebull.com

The Firestone Grill Room

Features prime steaks, fresh seafood and locally sourced produce.

2224 Bay St., Fort Myers, FL 33901
239-334-3473 | firestonefl.com

The Fish House

Serves local seafood and cocktails in a casual waterfront setting.

4685 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs
239-495-5770 | thefishhouserestaurants.com

Gather

Serves dinner, weekend brunch, shareable plates and cocktails in a relaxed social setting with broad marina views.

5971 Silver King Blvd., Suite 116, Cape Coral
239-673-9939 | gathercape.com

Gramma Dot's

Dockside restaurant serving seafood and drinks.

634 N. Yachtsman Drive, Sanibel
239-472-8138 | sanibelmarina.com/dining

The Green Flash

Offers bay views and seafood platters.

15183 Captiva Drive, Captiva
239-472-3337 | greenflashcaptiva.com

Harold's

Features a seasonal menu of local ingredients, perfect for conversation and wine.

15250 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers
239-849-0622 | haroldscuisine.com

Independent Pub

Features pub favorites, including bangers and mash, cottage pie, curry and a Guinness chocolate cake.

1219 Lafayette St., Cape Coral
239-673-1782 | pubcapecoral.com

Jason's Deli (Multiple Locations)

Offers sandwiches, wraps, soups, salads, loaded baked potatoes and other casual favorites, with vegetarian and gluten-sensitive options.

13550 Reflections Parkway, Fort Myers
239-590-9994 | jasonsdeli.com
16451 Corporate Commerce Way, Fort Myers
239-466-3354 | jasonsdeli.com
2700 Immokalee Road, Naples
239-593-9499 | jasonsdeli.com

Jungle Bird Tiki

Tiki bar featuring tropical cocktails and island-inspired food.

1520 Lafayette St., Cape Coral
239-471-4111 | junglebirdtiki.com

Keylime Bistro (Multiple Locations)

Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, with seafood, live music and signature key lime pie.

11509 Andy Rosse Lane, Captiva
239-395-4000 | keylimebistrocaptiva.com
433 W. 4th St., Boca Grande
941-964-0440 | keylimebistrocaptiva.com
Southwest Florida International Airport, Concourse D, Fort Myers
keylimebistrocaptiva.com

La Fontanella Ristorante (Multiple Locations)

Northern Italian classics, including seafood and pasta.

24600 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 204, Bonita Springs
239-498-6808 | lafontanellahospitality.com
7050 Winkler Road, Suite 112, Fort Myers
239-237-2143 | lafontanellahospitality.com

Liberty

Progressive American small plates in an understated dining room. A MICHELIN Guide's Florida selection in 2026.

12995 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 112, Fort Myers
239-689-5528 | eatliberty.us

Lobster Lady Seafood Market & Bistro

A market and a restaurant, featuring seafood.

1715 Cape Coral Parkway W., Units 2 and 3, Cape Coral
239-471-0136 | lobsterladyseafood.com

MAKS Asian Kitchen & Sushi

Fresh sushi, sashimi and Asian comfort dishes.

13650 Fiddlesticks Blvd., Suite 206, Fort Myers
239-985-9632 | maksfl.com

McGregor Café

Best known for its filling breakfasts and fresh salads.

4305 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-936-1771 | mcgregorcafe.com

The Mucky Duck

Draws crowds for its sunset views and pub-style dishes.

11546 Andy Rosse Lane, Captiva
239-472-3434 | muckyduck.com

MudBugs Cajun Kitchen

Cajun flavors and nightly music, featuring gumbo and crawfish.

1473 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
239-472-2221 | mudbugssanibel.com

Next Door

Handmade pasta, seasonal Italian cooking and a polished atmosphere.

5971 Silver King Blvd., Suite 114, Cape Coral
239-984-2453 | nextdoorcape.com

Nice Guys Pints & Pies

A punk-rock soundtrack, creative pizzas and inventive cocktails.

1404 Cape Coral Parkway E., Cape Coral
239-549-7542 | niceguyspizza.com

Oise Ristorante

Japanese and Italian influences, featuring elevated sushi, handcrafted pasta, steaks and shareable plates.

2262 First St., Fort Myers
239-933-5590 | oiseristorante.com

Petar's Restaurant

Features a changing menu of upscale American and European-inspired dishes in an open-kitchen setting.

3300 Bonita Beach Road SW, Suite 120, Bonita Springs
239-249-4064 | petarsrestaurant.com

Pezzo Pizza + Bar

Artisan pizza, Italian comfort food and cocktails in a casual setting.

20041 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 18, Estero
239-908-9197 | pezzopizzabar.com

Phuzzy's Boat Shack

Seafood baskets, sandwiches and cold drinks in a casual, boat-friendly setting with outdoor seating and live music.

3051 Stringfellow Road, St. James City
239-283-5555 | phuzzysboatshack.com

Pinchers (Multiple Locations)

A casual seafood restaurant serving crab, shrimp, grouper and other seafood favorites.

28580 Bonita Crossing Blvd., Bonita Springs
239-948-1313 | pinchersusa.com
5991 Silver King Blvd., Cape Coral

239-540-7939 | pinchersusa.com
10029 Gulf Center Drive, Fort Myers
239-415-4040 | pinchersusa.com
2360 W. First St., Fort Myers
239-245-7049 | pinchersusa.com
18100 San Carlos Blvd., Fort Myers Beach
239-415-8973 | pinchersusa.com
1200 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-434-6616 | pinchersusa.com
591 S. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
239-970-5391 | pinchersusa.com

Point 57 Kitchen & Cocktails

Specializing in craft cocktails and Southern-inspired comfort food.

3522 Del Prado Blvd. S., Cape Coral
239-471-7785 | point-57.com

Prawnbroker Restaurant & Fish Market

A fresh fish market, dinner restaurant and a lively bar, featuring daily seafood selections.

13451-16 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-489-2226 | prawnbrokerfortmyers.com

Sage on 47th

Chef-driven shareable plates, a thoughtful cocktail program and neighborhood energy.

1015 SE 47th Terrace, Cape Coral
239-542-0200 | sageon47th.com

Seed & Bean Market

A locally grown cannabis café and marketplace, with coffee, food, beer and cocktails and optional hemp-derived offerings.

4720 S.E. 9th Place, Suite 300, Cape Coral
239-471-7339 | seedandbeanmarket.com

Shrimp Shack

Serves fresh, made-to-order seafood, including shrimp, fish, scallops and oysters prepared fried, broiled or blackened.

13361 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers
239-561-6817 | shrimpshackusa.com

Slipaway Food Truck Park & Marina

Features food trucks, a full-service central bar, live entertainment, boat access and marina services.

1811 Cape Coral Parkway E., Cape Coral
239-360-8883 | slipawaycape.com

South Beach Grille

This Fort Myers Beach favorite reopened at Santini Marina Plaza after Hurricane Ian with longtime owners Brad and Susan Phillips and returning members of its veteran team.

7205 Estero Blvd., Suite F-650, Fort Myers Beach
239-463-7770 | southbeachgrillefmb.com

Suji Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Lounge

Features hibachi showmanship, sushi, grilled steaks and a full bar.

10801 Corkscrew Road, Suite 51, Estero
239-949-9886 | sujijapanesesteakhouse.com



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LOCAL **FLAVOR**

Sunflower Café

Serves classic American comfort with Greek-inspired touches for breakfast, brunch and lunch.

11410 Summerlin Square Drive, Fort Myers Beach
239-415-4262 | sunflowercafefl.com

Survey Café

French-American flavors with small-town charm. The Café offers a special French dinner menu on Friday and Saturday evenings from January through April.

10530 Wilson St., Bonita Springs
239-992-2233 | surveycafedowntown.com

Sweet Melissa's

James Beard Award-nominated chef Melissa Donahue brings her seasonal, locally focused cooking to Fort Myers.

16230 Summerlin Road, Fort Myers
239-990-6889 | sweetmelissasrestaurant.com

Taberna Olé

Features Spanish tapas, paella and grilled meats in a welcoming bar atmosphere.

12377 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 3B, Fort Myers
239-931-0050 | tabernaole.com

A Table Apart

Pacific Rim, Hawaiian and global influences, with seafood and meat dishes prepared from locally sourced ingredients.

4295 Bonita Beach Road SW, Bonita Springs
239-221-8540 | atableapart.com

Tarpon Lodge Restaurant

Bayfront Pine Island lodge, featuring fresh seafood in a waterfront setting.

13771 Waterfront Drive, Bokeelia
239-283-3999 | tarponlodge.com

Traders Restaurant

Island-inspired plates and a busy bar.

1551 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
239-472-7242 | traderssanibel.com

Unico Ristorante Italiano

Traditional Italian cooking, including house-made pasta, seafood and regional specialties.

19810 Village Center Drive, Suite 145A, Fort Myers
239-234-2536 | unicorestaurant.us

The Veranda

Southern refined dining, featuring an elegant courtyard garden and careful service.

2122 Second St., Fort Myers
239-332-2065 | verandarestaurant.com

Vybe

Wine and whiskey bar, featuring shareable plates, a chef counter, an expansive covered patio and live music.

13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 245, Fort Myers
239-524-8923 | vybefortmyers.com

Waffle Monkey

Waffles, specialty coffee and a playful tropical atmosphere define this breakfast-and-lunch café.

27975 Old 41 Road, Suite 106, Bonita Springs
239-325-0024 | wafflemonkey.net

WichCraft Handcrafted Gourmet Sandwiches

Sandwiches with globally inspired flavors in a casual setting.

27975 Old 41 Road, Suite 105, Bonita Springs
239-450-3011 | wichcraftbonita.com



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www.Attorneyshapiro.com

Hablamos Español
Nou pale kreyòl

LOCAL **FLAVOR**

COLLIER COUNTY

Alice Sweetwater's Bar & Grille

Seafood, sandwiches, salads and comfort food in a casual setting.

1996 Airport Road S., Naples
239-793-3700 | alicesweetwaters.com

Amber Cove

Seafood, steaks and continental favorites in an intimate dining room.

885 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples
239-566-2371 | ambercoverestaurant.com

Barbatella

Regional Italian dishes, wood-fired pizza, gelato and cocktails in a colorful courtyard.

1290 Third St. S., Naples
239-263-1955 | aielligroup.com/barbatella-naples/home

The Bay House

Waterfront dining, featuring seafood and southern-inspired favorites.

799 Walkerbilt Road, Naples
239-591-3837 | bayhousenaples.com

Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar

Seafood and contemporary American fare, with two levels and an open-air upper deck overlooking Venetian Bay.

4270 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples
239-649-5552 | baysideseafoodgrillandbar.com

Bernwood Tavern & Cucina

Handmade pastas and Italian comfort food.

15215 Collier Blvd., Suite 324, Naples
239-354-9955 | bernwoodtavern.com

Bha! Bha! Persian Bistro

Sophisticated Persian cuisine.

865 5th Ave. S., Naples
239-594-5557 | bhabhabistro.com

Bicyclette Cookshop

Globally influenced seasonal new American cooking, with local ingredients and Gulf seafood. A MICHELIN Guide's Florida selection in 2026, serving lunch, snacks and dinner.

819 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples
239-514-3333 | bicyclettecookshop.com

Black Forest German Restaurant

Traditional schnitzel, sausages and other German specialties served with beer and old-world hospitality.

2366 Immokalee Road, Naples
239-592-4784 | blackforestnaples.com

Blackbird Modern Asian

Contemporary Asian dishes, sushi and creative cocktails.

1500 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-944-2473 | blackbirdmodernasian.com

Bleu Provence

Southern French food, with one of the area's most extensive wine collections.

1234 Eighth St. S., Naples
239-261-8239 | bleuprovencenaples.com

The Boathouse on Naples Bay

Waterfront tables and seafood, open for lunch, dinner or drinks.

990 Broad Ave. S., Naples
239-643-2235 | boathouseonnaplesbay.com



LOCAL **FLAVOR**

Bone Hook Brewery & Craft Kitchen

Brewery offering house-made beer, burgers, seafood, smoked meats and pub favorites.

1514 Immokalee Road, Suite 106, Naples
239-631-8522 | bonehookbrewing.com

Brooks Restaurants (Multiple Locations)

Inventive burgers and casual bar favorites.

330 Ninth St. S., Naples
239-262-1127 | brooksburgers.com
845 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples
239-631-8298 | brooksburgers.com
2220 Logan Blvd. N., Suite 805, Naples
239-451-6397 | brooksgrillandtavern.com
5375 Hibiscus Drive, Naples
239-325-2630 | brooksburgers.com

Caiman Cantina

Serving fajitas, birria tacos, ceviche and other Mexican dishes with a coastal Florida influence, along with handcrafted tequila and mezcal cocktails.

10395 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-788-0222 | caimancantina.com

Cafe Normandie

An intimate French restaurant serving crêpes, seafood and classic bistro dishes.

3756 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-261-0977 | cafenormandienaples.com

Caffè Milano

Features contemporary Italian cooking and handmade pastas.

800 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-692-8480 | caffemilano.com

Campiello Ristorante & Bar

Wood-fired pizzas and modern Italian dishes in the courtyard or the indoor dining room.

1177 Third St. S., Naples
239-435-1166 | campiellonaples.com

Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill

Serving seafood, Cuban-influenced dishes and local favorites.

102 S. Copeland Ave., Everglades City
239-232-0041 | facebook.com/captainmorgansseafoodgrill

Casa Cotzelli

Casa Cotzelli serves handmade pasta, artisan pizza, seafood and traditional Italian family recipes.

12712 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-331-3563 | casacotzelli.com
6175 Towncenter Circle, Naples
239-592-5055 | casacotzelli.com

Ce Soir

French-inspired cuisine and cocktails in an intimate Bayfront dining room.

492 Bayfront Place, Naples
239-516-4210 | cesoirnaples.com

Celebration Park

Features food trucks, a waterfront bar, live music and sunset views.

2880 Becca Ave., Naples
239-316-7253 | celebrationparknaples.com

Chez Guy Parisian Bistro

Traditional French bistro cooking, daily specials and a full wine list.



LOCAL **FLAVOR**

5447 Airport-Pulling Road N., Naples
239-431-5824 | chezguynaples.com

Chilakil Mexican Grill & Tortilleria

Serving carnitas, handmade tortillas, chilaquiles and fresh salsas.

11225 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-530-4420 | chilakil.com

CJ's on the Bay

CJ's pairs seafood, sandwiches and cocktails with views of the marina.

740 N. Collier Blvd., Suite 105, Marco Island
239-389-4511 | cjsonthebay.com

Claypot Authentic Turkish Food

Turkish kebabs, meze, flatbreads and desserts in an inviting, casual setting.

4910 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 310, Naples
239-306-2193 | claypotnaples.com

The Continental

An indoor-outdoor steakhouse on Third Street South, offering prime meats, seafood and cocktails in a garden courtyard.

1205 Third St. S., Naples
239-659-0007 | damicoscontinental.com

Côte d'Azur

Provençal seafood, meats and French classics.

11224 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-597-8867 | cotedazurrestaurant.com

The Dock at Crayton Cove

Caribbean-inspired meals, cocktails and sunset views.

845 12th Ave. S., Naples
239-263-9940 | dockcraytoncove.com

Doreen's Cup of Joe

Oversized pancakes, fresh coffee and a full breakfast menu.

267 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
239-394-2600 | doreenscupofjoemarco.com

El Trovador Steakhouse

Latin American flavors with grilled steaks, seafood and live entertainment.

965 Fourth Ave. N., Naples
239-799-7001 | eltrovadorfl.com

Everglades Rod & Gun Club

A rustic lodging and dining destination, serving fried seafood, hushpuppies and seasonal stone crab.

200 W. Broadway, Everglades City
239-695-2101 | evergladescityrodandgunclub.com

Grappino

Regional Italian comfort food, including pasta and pizza and an extensive selection of grappa.

90 Ninth St. N., Naples
239-331-4325 | aielligroup.com/grappino-naples/home

Harold's Place

A poolside Naples hangout, featuring burgers, shrimp baskets, cold beer and live music.

2555 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-263-7254 | naplesharoldsplace.com

HavAnnA Café of the Everglades (Chokoloskee)

Known for breakfast, Cuban sand-



LOCAL **FLAVOR**

wiches and café con leche.

191 Smallwood Drive, Chokoloskee
239-695-2214 | havannacafe.com

Heyday Cookshop

Featuring a seasonal menu, natural wines and rotating chef residencies.

4691 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-234-6226 | heydaycookshop.com

Hogfish Harry's

Tropical cocktails and seafood in a poolside courtyard.

600 Neapolitan Way, Naples
239-776-7623 | hogfishharrys.com

Jane's Café on 3rd

Featuring breakfast and brunch items in the quiet atmosphere of Old Naples.

1209 3rd St. S., Naples
239-261-2253 | janesgardencafe.com

Jimmy P's
(Naples and Bonita Springs Locations)

Specializing in wagyu and butcher-driven steakhouse fare and a full-service butcher shop with a casual café at the Bonita Springs location.

1839 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-643-2427 | jimmypsbutchershop.com/jimmy-ps-charred-naples
25010 Bernwood Drive, Bonita Springs
239-221-7428 | jimmypsbutchershop.com/bonita-springs

Keewaydin's on Fifth

Gulf seafood, steaks and cocktails in a polished but relaxed location.

711 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-262-5787 | keewaydins.com

Kelly's Fish House Dining Room

Naples' oldest seafood restaurant, serving Gulf seafood on the Gordon River.

1302 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-774-0494 | kellysfishhousediningroom.com

Lake Park Diner
(Multiple Locations)

This modern local diner features responsibly sourced burgers, bowls, salads and updated American comfort food.

944 Seventh Ave. N., Naples
239-228-6351 | thelakeparkdiner.com
8856 Founders St., Naples
239-529-1559 | thelakeparkdiner.com

Lee Be Fish

The fresh catch of the day goes directly from the boat to the plate, and the fish tacos are a local favorite.

350 Royal Palm Drive, Marco Island
239-389-0580 | leebefish.com

The Little Bar

An eclectic mix of a roadhouse featuring live bands and a seafood shack featuring seafood baskets.

205 Harbor Place N., Goodland
239-394-5663 | littlebargoodland.com

The Local

Offers a changing menu sourced from Florida farms, ranches and Gulf seafood.

5323 Airport-Pulling Road N., Naples
239-596-3276 | thelocalnaples.com



LOCAL **FLAVOR**

LowBrow Pizza & Beer

Creative pizzas, beer and eclectic décor.

3148 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-529-6919 | lowbrowpizzaandbeer.com

M Waterfront Grille

Contemporary American cuisine with views of Venetian Bay.

4300 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples
239-263-4421 | mwaterfrontgrille.com

Marek's Collier House

Southern hospitality and coastal cooking in one of Marco Island's most historic settings.

1121 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island
239-388-4107 | thecollierhouse.com

Nosh on Naples Bay

A polished waterfront restaurant that features globally influenced plates, craft cocktails and marina views.

1490 Fifth Ave. S., Suite 101, Naples
239-384-9208 | noshonnaplesbay.com

Oar & Iron Raw Bar & Grill (Multiple Locations)

Polished yet relaxed dining, with raw-bar selections, seafood, steaks and cocktails.

8850 Founders Square Drive, Naples
239-427-3335 | oarandiron.com
8485 Dani Drive, Fort Myers
239-396-4351 | oarandiron.com
42070 Cypress Parkway, Babcock Ranch
941-646-8944 | oarandiron.com

Oasis The Kitchen Lounge

Featuring an inviting atmosphere, natural, modern design and enticing menu.

5072 Annunciation Circle, Suite 103, Ave Maria
239-658-5938 | oasisavemaria.com

Old Vines Mercato

Featuring an extensive wine collection, seasonal small plates and contemporary American dishes.

9105 Strada Place, Suite 3125, Naples
239-591-5351 | oldvines.net/mercato

Omasava

An intimate Japanese omakase experience with seasonal ingredients sourced locally and from Japan, featuring chef-led tastings over two nightly seatings.

305 Fifth Ave. S., Suite 321, Naples
239-359-2000 | omasava.com

Osteria Tulia

Rustic Italy meets Naples' sophistication, featuring handmade pastas, wood-roasted meats and craft cocktails.

466 5th Ave. S., Naples
239-213-2073 | osteriatulia.com

The Oyster Society

Art Deco decor and excellent service, featuring seafood, sushi and cocktails.

599 S. Collier Blvd., Suite 218, Marco Island
239-394-3474 | theoystersociety.com

Panevino Ristorante Naples

Impeccable service and thoughtfully crafted Italian fare in a welcoming environment.

8853 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-514-8655 | panevinonaples.com





THE ULTIMATE DINING EXPERIENCES ON 5TH AVE, NAPLES

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PAZZO! CUCINA ITALIANA

KEEWAYDIN'S ON 5TH SEAFOOD • COCKTAILS

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LOCAL **FLAVOR**

Pazzo! Cucina Italiana

Scratch-made Italian dishes, house-made pasta, and fresh seafood, with indoor or courtyard seating.

853 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-434-8494 | pazzoitaliancafe.com

PJK Neighborhood Chinese
(Naples and Estero Locations)

This modern Chinese kitchen blends traditional and coastal influences, emphasizing scratch-made sauces, dumplings, family-style plates and creative cocktails.

835 4th Ave. S., Naples
239-367-0300 | pjkchinese.com
23151 Village Shops Way, Suite 109, Estero
239-421-9867 | pjkchinese.com

The Real Macaw

Featuring a menu of Caribbean classics, creative cocktails and a festive outdoor patio.

3275 Bayshore Drive, Naples
239-732-1188 | therealmacaw.com

Ridgway Bar & Grill

Locally influenced cuisine and an award-winning 600-bottle master wine list.

1300 Third St. S., Naples
239-262-5500 | ridgwaybarandgrill.com

The Rooster Food + Drink

Homemade Southern breakfast and lunch, from traditional favorites to inventive brunch creations.

600 Goodlette-Frank Road N., Suite 101, Naples
239-228-5973 | theroosternaples.com

Sails Restaurant

Featuring the coastal flavors of France, Italy and Greece, with whole fish for wood-grilling or plancha cooking, complemented by raw-bar selections and attentive service.

301 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-360-2000 | sailsrestaurants.com

Sea Salt

Venetian-inspired restaurant featuring seafood and an expansive wine list.

1186 Third St. S., Naples
239-434-7258 | seasaltnaples.com

Snook Inn

Island fare, dockside dining, sunset views and live music in a relaxed indoor-outdoor setting.

1215 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island
239-394-3313 | snookinn.com

Stan's Idle Hour

Features live music on an outdoor stage, water views and drinks.

221 Harbor Place, Goodland
239-394-3041 | stansidlehourgoodland.com



LOCAL **FLAVOR**

The Supper Club

Pairs cocktails and wine with a changing chef-driven dinner menu.

2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 158, Naples
239-591-5749 | oldvines.net/supperclub

Swan River Seafood Restaurant & Fish Market

Known for New England-style seafood, fresh catches and house-made chowders.

3741 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-403-7000 | swanriverseafood.com

T-Michaels: Steak & Lobster House

Specializing in prime-cut steaks, seafood, cold martinis and sunset views.

4050 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples
239-261-0622 | t-michaels.com

Texas Tony's Rib & Brewhouse

Texas-style barbecue, with meats hand-sliced to order, ribs, beef brisket, pork and chicken, along with homestyle sides and barbecue sandwiches.

4519 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-732-8392 | texastonys.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Tong Yin

Traditional Thai flavors and contemporary techniques, featuring curries, noodles and composed dishes made with carefully sourced ingredients. A MICHELIN Guide's Florida selection in 2026.

75 Ninth St. S., Naples
239-331-4961 | tongyinnaples.com

Tulia Italian Steak

A vintage-inspired Italian steakhouse offering prime and wagyu steaks, house-



made pasta, classic sides and an extensive wine collection.

365 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-315-4019 | tuliaitaliansteak.com

Unidos Latin Kitchen & Bar

Latin American flavors, grilled dishes and cocktails in a contemporary setting.

1 Ninth St. S., Naples
239-331-3668 | unidosrestaurant.com

USS Nemo Undersea Cuisine & Adventures

Asian-influenced seafood, including a signature miso-broiled sea bass.

3745 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-261-6366 | ussnemorestaurant.com

Watermark Grille

Serving steaks, ribs, seafood and classic sides in a relaxed dining room.

11280 Tamiami Trail N., Naples
239-596-1400 | facebook.com/WatermarkGrille

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Carmelo's Italian Ristorante

Featuring Sicilian favorites, including pastas and nightly specials.

321 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda
941-621-4091 | carmelosristorante.com

Castaways

Dockside dining, coastal fare and cocktails in an easygoing waterfront atmosphere.

1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Unit A56, Punta Gorda
941-844-1720 | castawayspg.com

Celtic Ray Public House

An authentic Irish pub, pouring pints, serving fish and chips and featuring live music most nights.

145 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-916-9115 | celticray.net

Donato's Italian Restaurant

Donato's Italian Restaurant features generous portions of familiar classics.

1900 Tamiami Trail, Unit 117, Port Charlotte
941-764-1600 | donatosportcharlotte.com

Farlow's on the Water

Caribbean and Southern influences, featuring seafood, steaks, tropical landscaping and live entertainment.

2080 S. McCall Road, Englewood
941-474-5343 | farlowsonthewater.com



LOCAL **FLAVOR**

FM Don's
White tablecloths and polished service, featuring steaks, seafood and seasonal specials.

201 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-637-8800 | fmdonspg.com

The Grill at 1951
Featuring steaks and seafood with polished service and live jazz music.

1951 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
941-255-0994 | thegrillat1951.com

Hometown Grill, Port Charlotte
Good service, hot coffee and hearty portions for breakfast and lunch.

1931 Tamiami Trail, Suite 10, Port Charlotte
941-629-5898 | thehometowngrill.com

The Icehouse Pub
This English-style pub offers a rotating selection of beers and hearty pub fare.

408 Tamiami Trail N., Punta Gorda
941-575-0866 | theicehousepub.com

The Islands Kitchen & Cocktail House
An elevated waterfront restaurant, serving tropical-inspired dishes, sushi and craft cocktails with sunset views.

1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Unit C47, Punta Gorda
941-347-7991 | theislandspg.com

Laishley Crab House
Overlooking the harbor, the expansive dining area serves seafood towers, sushi and seasonal stone crab.

150 Laishley Court, Punta Gorda
941-205-5566 | laishleycrabhouse.com

Latitude 26°
Serving coastal seafood, steaks and cocktails in a modern waterfront dining room.

1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Unit A55, Punta Gorda
941-205-8050 | latitude26pg.com

Leroy's Southern Kitchen & Bar
Southern comfort food, a lively bar and a blues-inspired atmosphere.

201 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-505-2489 | leroyspg.com

The Lighthouse Grill and Tiki Bar
An open-air waterfront restaurant, featuring seafood, tropical drinks and nightly live music.

260 Maryland Ave., Englewood
941-828-1368 | lighthouse-grill.com

Lock 'N Key Restaurant
Featuring seafood, steaks, tropical drinks, patio seating and live music.

2045 N. Beach Road, Englewood
941-474-1517 | lockandkeyrestaurant.com

Magnolias on the Bay
Bayfront dining with indoor and outdoor seating, featuring seafood, sushi and steaks.

2395 N. Beach Road, Englewood
941-460-8219 | magnoliasonthebay.com

Ortigia Cucina & Bar
Contemporary Italian cooking, featuring small plates, imported salumi and cheeses, seafood, fresh pasta and cocktails.



LOCAL **FLAVOR**

212 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-646-8039 | ortigiacucina.com

Peace River Seafood

Featuring blue crab, local shrimp and oysters.

5337 Duncan Road, Punta Gorda
941-505-8440 | peaceriverseafood.com

Perfect Caper

Excellent global technique and local ingredients have earned Perfect Caper a spot on national best-of lists.

121 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-505-9009 | theperfectcaper.com

Prime Serious Steak

This contemporary steakhouse offers hand-cut, at least 28-day-aged Iowa Premium Black Angus beef, along with seafood and classic steakhouse sides.

19655 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte
941-627-8325 | primeseriousssteak.com

Riviera Bar & Grill

Offering laid-back vibes, freshly made dishes, a waterfront location with boat-up access, cocktails and live music.

5500 Deltona Drive, Punta Gorda
941-639-2633 | rivierabarandgrillpuntagorda.com

Rum Bay Restaurant

This Palm Island destination, accessible by boat or ferry, features casual island dining, seafood, burgers and tropical cocktails.

7400 Rum Bay Court, Placida
Water taxi: 7092 Placida Road, Cape Haze
941-697-0566 | rumbaypalmisland.com

SandBar Tiki & Grille

A lively local tiki bar, featuring seafood, house-smoked barbecue, tropical drinks and live music.

1975 Beach Road, Englewood
941-460-8280 | sandbartikigrille.com

TT's Tiki Bar

TT's features standard bar fare, live music, cold drinks and a waterfront setting.

33 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda
941-637-6770 | ttspg.com

The Twisted Fork

Featuring roadhouse energy, homemade Southern food and live music.

2208 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte
941-235-3675 | twistedfork.net

Visani Italian Steakhouse and Comedy Theater

This Italian steakhouse features touring comedy and music acts.

2400 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte
941-629-9191 | visani.net

Wally's Southern Style BBQ

Offering slow-smoked ribs, brisket, pulled pork and homestyle side dishes.

3591 S. Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
941-613-0005 | wallysbbq.com

Winesett House

Featuring a coastal American menu, craft cocktails and a carefully curated wine list.

139 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-637-9477 | winesetthouse.com



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

Events may be rescheduled or canceled, so please check official websites for the latest updates.

LEE COUNTY

Babcock Ranch Showcase Saturdays

Recurs monthly (seasonal)

Features local musicians, food trucks and artisan vendors at Founder's Square at the center of Babcock Ranch.

Founder's Square, Babcock Ranch
941-235-6901 | babcockranch.com

Fort Myers Art Walk

First Friday of every month

Art galleries, outdoor art exhibits, street musicians and vendors fill the River District each month.

First and Hendry St., Fort Myers
hello@explorefortmyers.com | myriverdistrict.com

Fort Myers Music Walk

Third Friday of every month

This free public event features live performances from local and regional musicians throughout area bars, restaurants and art galleries.

First and Hendry St., Fort Myers
hello@explorefortmyers.com | myriverdistrict.com



LEE COUNTY VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU / COURTESY PHOTO

Fort Myers Beach Illuminations Parade

Nov. 7, 2026

Fort Myers Beach begins its holiday season with an Illuminations Parade, one of the island's major annual community events.

Fort Myers Beach
239-454-7500 | fortmyersbeach.org/events/illuminations-parade



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

LCEC Stone Crab Music Fest

Nov. 8, 2026

Features seafood, live music and a marketplace of local vendors.

Winn-Dixie Plaza, 9940 Stringfellow Road, St. James City
239-283-0888 | pineislandchamber.org/chamber-events/stone-crab-festival

Fort Myers Boat Show

Nov. 12 to 15, 2026

The long-running event features boats, marine products and exhibits for boating enthusiasts.

Caloosa Sound Convention Center, 1375 Monroe St., and Centennial Park, Fort Myers
239-656-7083 | miaswf.com/swami-shows

American Sand Sculpting Championship

Nov. 19 to 23, 2026

World-class master and amateur sculptors create sand art. Features include live music, food vendors and family activities.

DiamondHead Beach Resort, 2000 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach
239-454-7500 | fmbsandsculpting.com

Coconut Point Art Festival

Nov. 21 and 22, 2026 and Feb. 20 and 21, 2027

Showcase of sculptures, paintings, jewelry, photography and more.

23181 Via Villagio Drive, Estero
561-746-6615 | artfestival.com

Edison and Ford Winter Estates Autumn Garden Festival

Nov. 21 and 22, 2026

Features plant and garden vendors with food trucks and live music.

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-334-7419 | edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/garden-festival

Edison and Ford Winter Estates Holiday Nights

Nov. 27 to Dec. 23 and Dec. 26, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027

Thousands of lights and historic holiday decorations illuminate the gardens at this seasonal tradition. Santa visits, musicians, carolers and refreshments on select nights.

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-334-7419 | edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-historic-holiday-nights-celebration

Cape Coral Holiday Nights on the Lawn

Nov. 27 and 28, 2026

Tree and menorah lighting, inflatables, food trucks, ice skating, a trackless train, vendors, Santa, holiday movies and a Saturday-night drone show.

Cape Coral City Hall, 1015 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral
239-573-3128 | capecoral.gov/community/special_events/holiday_nights_on_the_lawn.php

Sanibel and Captiva Luminary Holiday Stroll

Dec. 4, 2026 on Sanibel and Dec. 5, 2026 on Captiva

Evenings of holiday shopping, decorated storefronts, music, Santa visits and



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

family activities.

Participating businesses, Sanibel and Captiva
239-472-2348 | sanibel-captiva.org

Cape Coral Holiday Festival of Lights

Dec. 5, 2026

Large community street festival featuring free family attractions, holiday entertainment, Santa, vendors and seasonal activities.

Downtown Cape Coral
239-549-6900 | holidayfestivalcc.com

Fort Myers Beach Christmas Boat Parade

Dec. 5, 2026

Decorated boats light up Matanzas Pass.

North Matanzas Pass, Fort Myers Beach
239-454-7500 | fortmyersbeach.org/events/37th-annual-boat-parade

Coconut Point Holiday Craft Festival

Dec. 5 and 6, 2026

Holiday marketplace of handmade work by juried crafters and seasonal shopping.

23181 Via Villagio Drive, Estero
561-746-6615 | artfestival.com/festivals/coconut-point-holiday-craft-festival

Cape Coral Holiday Boat-a-Long

Dec. 19, 2026

Boats decorated in holiday lights parade through Bimini Basin, along with free entertainment, food trucks, crafts, Santa and an outdoor movie.

Four Freedoms Park, Cape Coral
239-573-3128 | capecoral.gov/community/special_events/holiday_boat_a_long.php

Holly Jolly Market

Dec. 19 and 20, 2026

Holiday market featuring artists, makers and seasonal shopping.

Times Square, Fort Myers Beach
blueribbonevent.com/florida-shows

Bonita Springs National Art Festivals

Jan. 9 and 10, Feb. 6 and 7 and March 6 and 7, 2027

One of the top-ranked juried art festivals in the country, presented by Arts Bonita. Art lovers can browse and purchase work from award-winning artists and sample treats from local food vendors.

Riverside Park, 10450 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs
239-495-8989 | artsbonita.org/artfest



ECHO's Global Food and Farm Festival

CHRIS TILLEY PHOTOGRAPHY / COURTESY PHOTO

Cape Coral Festival of the Arts

Jan. 9 and 10, 2027

Juried art event featuring food vendors, live musicians and hundreds of artists. Ranked among the nation's top five art festivals by Sunshine Artist magazine in 2020.

Cape Coral Parkway between Del Prado Blvd. and Vincennes Blvd., Cape Coral
239-699-7942 | capecoralartfestival.com

Venezia Renaissance Faire

Jan. 9 and 10 and Jan. 16 and 17, 2027

A medieval village with jousting, combat demonstrations, musicians, comedy, food and an artisan marketplace.

28010 Race Track Road, Bonita Springs
800-273-5794 | veneziarenaissancefaire.com

Coconut Point Art & Craft Festival

Jan. 23 and 24, 2027

This juried outdoor craft festival features handmade home décor, jewelry, wearable art and other work by artisans from around the country.

23181 Via Villagio Drive, Estero
561-746-6615 | artfestival.com

Fort Myers Beach Festival of the Arts

Jan. 23 and 24, 2027

Juried art and craft show featuring handmade and artist-designed work.

Times Square, Fort Myers Beach
blueribbonevent.com/florida-shows

Wings Over Water Festival

Jan. 23, 2027

Expert presentations, exhibits, children's activities, food, guided tours and a rubber duck race.

Harns Marsh, Lehigh Acres
anielson@la-msid.com | la-msid.com/wings-over-water-festival

Fort Myers Seafood & Music Festival

Jan. 29 to 31, 2027

Features fresh local seafood, desserts and live musical performances.

2000 W. First St., Fort Myers
941-487-8061 | paragonfestivals.com/festival/fort-myers-seafood-music-festival-2027

ArtFest Fort Myers

Feb. 5 to 7, 2027

More than 200 artists showcase their work, with live demonstrations, culinary experiences and family art activities.

Downtown River District, Fort Myers
239-768-3602 | artfestfortmyers.com

SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

The Southwest Florida Wine and Food Fest

Feb. 5 and 6, 2027

Features themed dinners held at private venues throughout Southwest Florida, followed by a Grand Tasting and live auction.

Private venues throughout Southwest Florida
swflwinefest.org

Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Arts & Crafts Festival

Feb. 13 and 14, 2027

Juried fine arts and crafts festival.

2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
239-427-1909 | sanibelartfair.com

Edison Festival of Light – Grand Parade

Feb. 20, 2027

Southwest Florida's largest night parade, featuring illuminated floats, marching bands and dance troupes. A smaller daytime Junior Parade is held on Feb. 14, 2027.

Downtown River District, Fort Myers
239-334-2999 | edisonfestival.org

Bonita Springs Boat Show

Feb. 25 to 28, 2027

Features area boat dealers, marine accessories, engines, electronics and boating services.

Bonita Springs Poker Room, 28010 Race Track Road, Bonita Springs
239-656-7083 | miaswf.com/swami-shows

Southwest Florida Agricultural Expo

Feb. 25 to March 7, 2027

Features livestock, rides, crafts and live entertainment.

11831 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers
888-212-3258 | swflagexpo.com

Burrowing Owl Festival

Feb. 27, 2027

Celebrate Cape Coral's burrowing owls, featuring exhibits, guided wildlife tours, unique vendors, children's activities, food and beverages and a silent auction.

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral
239-549-4606 | ccfriendsofwildlife.org/events/2027/25th-annual-burrowing-owl-festival

Cape Coral Music & Arts Fusion Walk

Seasonal

A family-friendly event that features pop-up shops by local artists, live music and an array of art vendors.

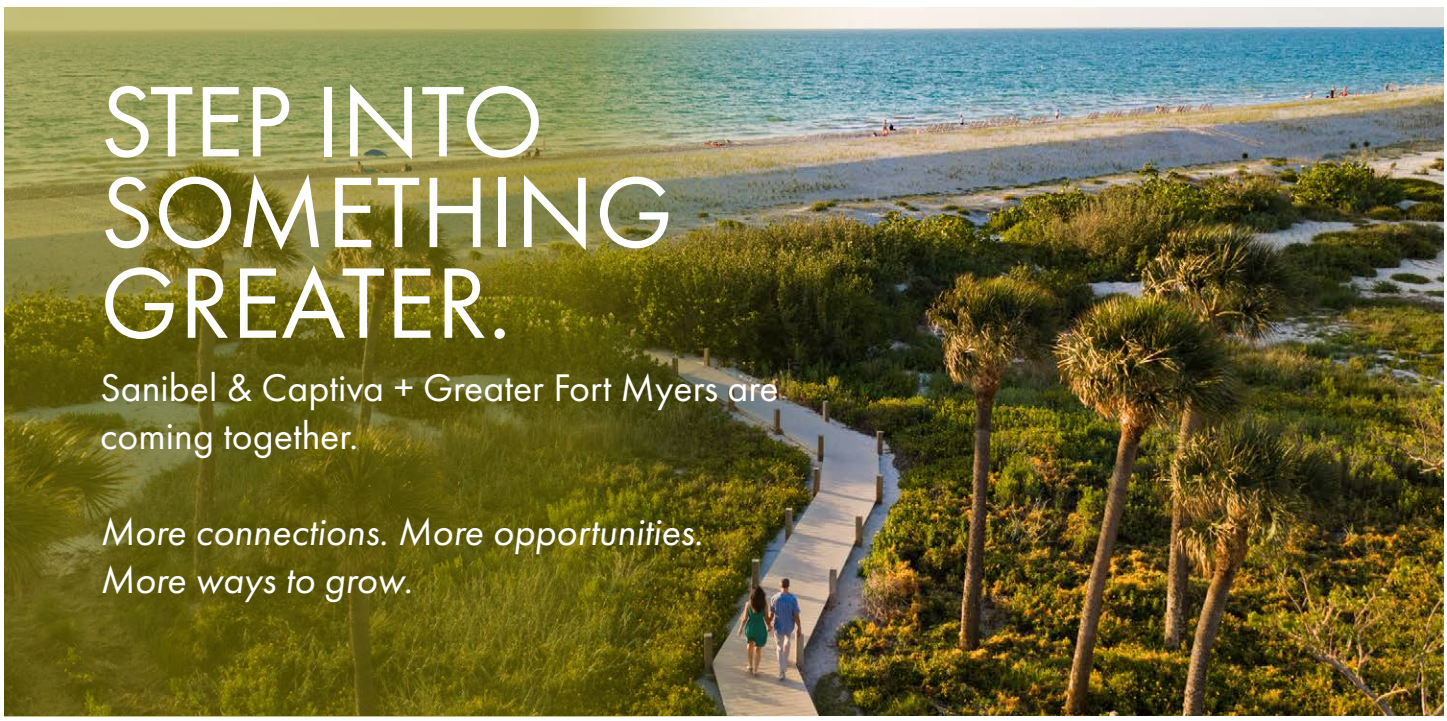
SE 47th Terrace between Vincennes Blvd. and S.E. 15th Ave., Cape Coral
239-573-3128 | capecoral.gov

ECHO's Global Food & Farm Festival

Annually in March

Tour a global farm and experience a tropical rainforest demonstration, learn about alternative energy sources and discover ways to make an impact on world hunger.

17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers
239-543-3246 | echonet.org



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

Sanibel Music Festival
March 2, 6, 9, 13, 16 and 20, 2027

Features six classical and crossover concerts with internationally recognized soloists and ensembles.

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
sanibelmusicfestival.org

Sanibel Shell Show & Festival
March 4 to 6, 2027

Celebrate the treasures of the sea with exhibits, shell art and educational displays.

2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
239-472-2155 | sanibelshellclub.com/sanibel-shell-show/

Southwest Florida Reading Festival
March 6, 2027

Authors from every genre gather to share their creative process eager fans of all ages in this free celebration of literature.

2450 First St., Fort Myers
239-533-4832 | readfest.org

PRIDE Cape Coral
March 6, 2027

Features a parade, live entertainment, vendors and activities centered on equality, inclusion and support for the LGBTQ+ community and allies.

TBD, Cape Coral
239-347-8107 | pridecapecoral.com

IslandFest with Mullet Toss
March 6, 2027

Family-friendly festival celebrating the mullet with tossing competitions, fishing seminars, local artisans, island food, live music and community activities.

Pine Island / St. James City
239-283-0888 | pineislandchamber.org/chamber-events/islandfest

Bonita Art Celebration
March 13 and 14, 2027

This inaugural fine art event showcases original works in an outdoor setting.

28001 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs
239-297-0352 | naplespicasso.com/event/bonita-art-celebration-2027

Fort Myers Beach Lions Club Shrimp Festival
March 13 and 14, 2027

Celebrate commercial shrimping heritage, featuring the Pink Gold Shrimp Boil, arts and crafts, a parade, pageant and family activities.

Old San Carlos Blvd. and Bayside Park, Fort Myers Beach
239-451-3425 | fortmyersbeachshrimpfestival.com

Bonita Springs Seafood & Music Festival
March 19 to 21, 2027

Features a food, live music and an arts and craft market.

28001 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs
941-487-8061 | paragonfestivals.com/festival/bonita-springs-seafood-music-festival-2027

Sounds of Jazz & Blues
March 27, 2027

Music festival, featuring live jazz and blues, food and fun.

Coral Oaks Golf Course, 1800 N.W. 28th Ave., Cape Coral
239-573-3128 | capeconcerts.com

Mermaid Fest
March 27 and 28, 2027

A coastal themed event with an outdoor marketplace.

Times Square, Fort Myers Beach
blueribbonevent.com/florida-shows

Fort Myers Blueberry Fest
May 1 and 2, 2027

Features fresh blueberries, live music, food, arts and crafts, contests, a petting farm, pony rides and other activities.

Mike Greenwell Regional Park, 11831 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers
ftmyersfest.com

Fort Myers Film Festival
May 19 to 23, 2027

The festival showcases independent films from a wide array of genres at venues throughout Fort Myers.

2301 First St., Fort Myers
239-810-6323 | fortmyersfilmfestival.com

World's Richest Tarpon Tournament
May 20 and 21, 2027

Anglers compete in a catch-and-release tournament for top prizes.

Boca Grande Pass, Boca Grande
941-964-0568 | bocagrandechamber.com

Cape Coral Red, White & Boom
July 4, 2027

Independence Day celebration with fireworks, food vendors and live entertainment.

Cape Coral Bridge area, Cape Coral
239-573-3128 | capeboom.com



Plein Air Fest, Naples Art District at Naples Botanical Garden

COURTESY PHOTO

SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

MangoMania

July 10, 2027

Celebration of mango season, featuring local growers, live music, food and crafts.

TBD, St. James City
239-283-0888 | pineislandchamber.org

Island Hopper Songwriter Festival

Sept. 17 to 26, 2027

Features performances by BMI singer-songwriters and local performers. Hosted in venues throughout Lee County.

Multiple venues, Lee County
800-237-6444 | island-hopperfest.visitfortmyers.com

Cape Coral Oktoberfest

Annually in October

Oktoberfest celebration, with beer gardens, German food and live Bavarian music.

2101 S.W. Pine Island Road, Cape Coral
239-283-1400 | gasc-capecoral.com

COLLIER COUNTY

Evening on Fifth

Second Thursday each month, year-round

Features dining, shopping and musical performances lining the sidewalks of Fifth Avenue South.

5th Avenue S., Naples
239-692-8436 | fifthavenuesouth.com

Third Street South Farmers Market

Year-round on Saturdays

Featuring local produce, baked goods, flowers, seafood, jams and prepared foods.

Third Street South between Broad Avenue South and 13th Avenue South, Naples; summer market in the parking lot behind Tommy Bahama
thirdstreetsouth.com/the-third-street-south-farmers-market

Naples Artcrafters

Nov. 14 and Dec. 12, 2026 and Jan. 9, March 13 and April 3, 2027 and February TBD

Monthly juried arts and crafts shows featuring local artisans.

Cambier Park, 580 Eighth St. S., Naples
239-304-5258 | naplesartcrafters.org/shows

Rockabillaque Florida

Nov. 14, 2026 (kickoff party Nov. 13)

Free festival celebrating rockabilly culture with live music, classic cars, vintage motorcycles, contests and vendors.

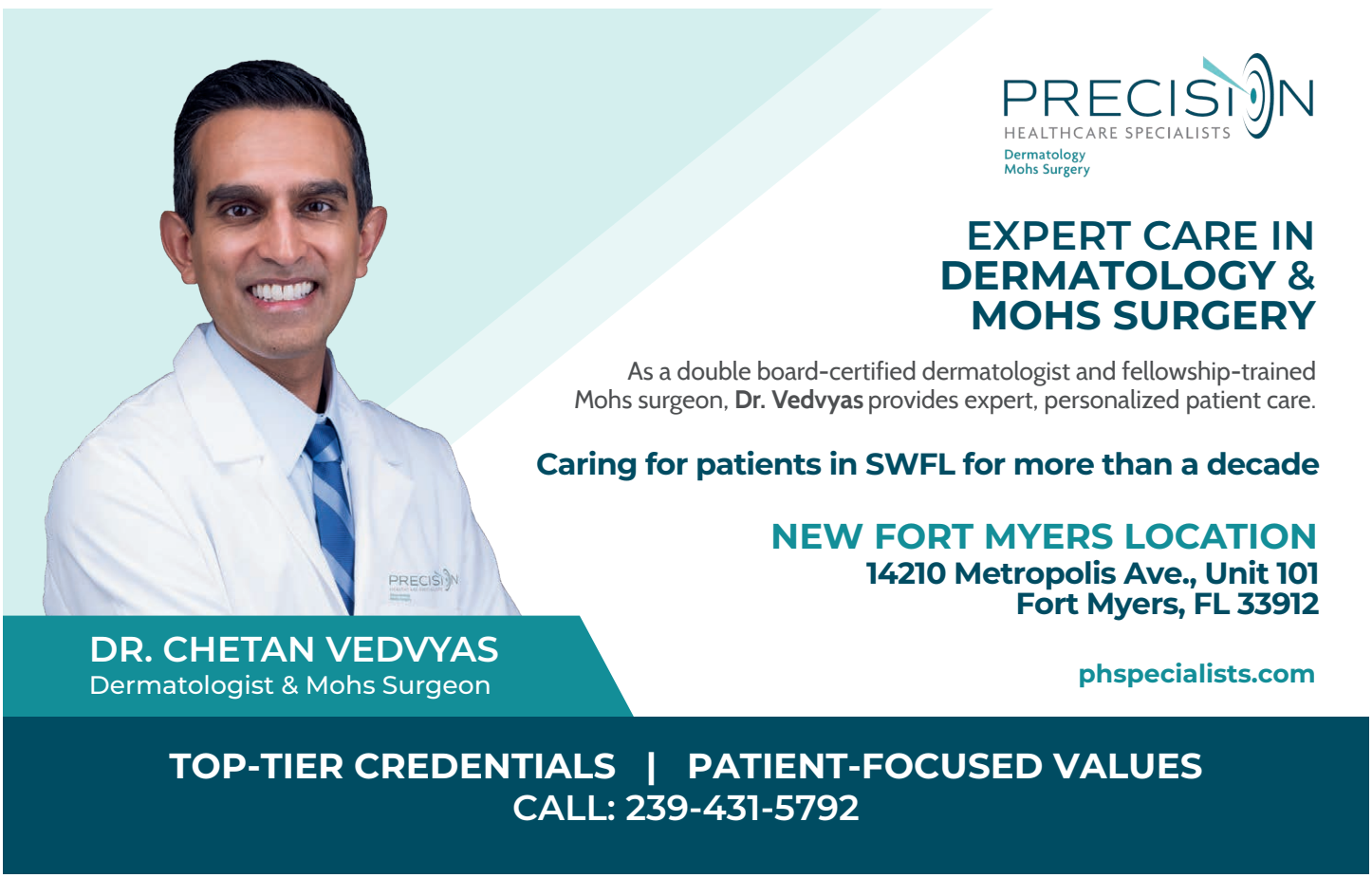
Seminole Casino Hotel, 506 S. First St., Immokalee
rockabillaqueflorida.com

CME Group Tour Championship

Nov. 19 to 22, 2026

The LPGA season's culminating event, featuring the top women professionals competing for the season title and large prize pool over four rounds.

2620 Tiburon Drive, Naples
cmegrouptourchampionship.com



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

North Pole on Third Street South

Nov. 23 to 25 and Nov. 27 and 28, 2026

North Pole celebration, featuring lights, seasonal entertainment and family activities in Old Naples.

Third Street South, Naples
239-434-6533 | thirdstreetsouth.com/christmas-on-third

Farm City BBQ

Nov. 25, 2026

Agricultural celebration, featuring live music, networking and fundraising activities.

751 39th Ave. N.E., Naples
farmcitybbq.com

Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden

Nov. 27, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027 (closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31)

Holiday celebration with illuminated gardens, live music and festive food and drinks.

Naples Botanical Garden,
4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
239-643-7275 | naplesgarden.org/series/johnsonville-night-lights-in-the-garden

Art In The Park

Nov. 28, 2026 and Feb. 6 and April 10, 2027

A series of juried outdoor fairs that feature exhibitions by artists across the state.

Cambier Park, 755 8th Ave. S., Naples
239-262-6517 | naplesart.org/art-in-the-park

Naples Christmas Parade

Dec. 8, 2026

A nighttime parade of decorated floats, marching bands, dance troupes and costumed performers.

5th Ave. S., Naples
239-213-7120 | naplesgov.com/parksrec/page/2026-city-naples-christmas-parade

Grant Thornton Invitational

Dec. 11 to 13, 2026 (tournament week Dec. 7 to 13)

PGA Tour and LPGA professionals team up in a mixed-team golf competition at Tiburón. The public competition takes place Friday through Sunday.

Tiburón Golf Club, 2620 Tiburon Drive, Naples
grantthorntoninvitational.com

LiveFest

Dec. 12, 2026

This evening concert experience features major country and pop artists.

2600 Tiburon Drive, Naples
livefest.com

Marco Island Holiday Art in the Park

Dec. 12 and 13, 2026

An outdoor holiday-season art show featuring handmade work.

Veterans Community Park, 901 Park Ave., Marco Island
blueribbonevent.com/florida-shows

Christmas Boat Parade

Dec. 19, 2026

Boats decked out with holiday lights and decorations journey through the local waterways.

Naples City Dock, Naples
239-682-0900 | miacc.org/event/christmas-boat-parade-on-naples-bay



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

Uptown Naples Fine Art Festival
Annually in January
A juried art show featuring original work.
800 Laurel Oak Drive, Naples
561-746-6615 | artfestival.com

Naples New Year's Art Fair
Jan. 2 and 3, 2027
Juried artists exhibit paintings, photography and sculpture.
755 8th Ave. S., Naples
239-262-6517 | naplesart.org/new-years-art-fair

Art Fest Naples Invitational
Jan. 16 and 17, 2027
A juried fine art and craft show, featuring original work.
Fleischmann Park, 1600 Fleischmann Blvd., Naples
239-634-2337 | artfestnaples.com

Barron Collier Companies Naples Half Marathon
Jan. 17, 2027
A destination half-marathon attracting more than 2,000 runners.
Cambier Park, 755 8th Ave. S., Naples
jakeh@gcrunner.org | napleshalfmarathon.net

Naples Boat Show
Jan. 21 to 24, 2027
Boating enthusiasts can browse displays by marinas, boat dealers and other marine-related businesses.
4284 Avalon Drive and 880 12th Ave S., Naples
239-682-0900 | naplesboatshow.com

Mercato Art Celebration
Jan. 23 and 24, 2027
Features original work from selected artists, shopping and dining.
9110 Strada Place, Naples
239-297-0352 | naplespicasso.com

Plein Air Fest
Jan. 23, 2027
Artists from the Naples Art District paint outdoors and engage with visitors.
Naples Botanical Garden, Naples
239-643-7275 | naplesgarden.org/events/plein-air-fest

Swamp Buggy Races
Jan. 24, Feb. 28 and April 3, 2027
A series of racing spectacles featuring custom-built vehicles that speed through water-filled tracks, featuring a parade and Swamp Buggy Queen pageant.
8520 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples
239-774-2701 | swampbuggy.com

Naples Winter Wine Festival
Jan. 29 to 31, 2027
World-renowned vintners and chefs unite for a weekend of tasting events, wine dinners and culinary collaborations benefiting children's charities.
The Ritz-Carlton Naples, Tiburón, 2600 Tiburon Drive and private venues, Naples
239-514-2239 | napleswinefestival.com

Opera Naples Festival Under the Stars
Jan. 30 to March 25, 2027
Opera, orchestral, choral and dance performances, culminating in outdoor productions.



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

Baker Park, Wang Opera Center, First Presbyterian Church of Naples and Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples
239-844-7464 | operanaples.org/opera-naples-festival-under-the-stars

Naples Automotive Experience – Cars on 5th

Feb. 4 to 7, 2027 (Cars on 5th Concours Feb. 6)

Features rare, exotic, classic and domestic automobiles. The signature Cars on 5th Concours showcases 750 vehicles.

Bayshore Drive, Naples; additional events at Hertz Arena and Northern Jet
carsonfifth.com

Terra Cotta Invitational

Feb. 4 to 6, 2027

Prestigious amateur event drawing top junior, collegiate and mid-amateur players from across the country.

9325 Collier Blvd., Naples
239-775-8911 | terracottainvitational.com/tournament-information

Marco Island Art in the Park

Feb. 6 and 7 and March 13 and 14, 2027

Outdoor art and craft shows featuring original work.

Veterans Community Park, 901 Park Ave., Marco Island
blueribbonevent.com/florida-shows

Chubb Classic

Feb. 8 to 14, 2027

A staple of the PGA Tour Champions staple, drawing veteran stars and featuring three rounds of stroke play, pro-am events and community engagement.

Tiburón Golf Club, Naples
239-241-8760 | chubbclassic.com

Naples Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale

Feb. 19 to 21, 2027

Orchid displays, demonstrations and a marketplace of plants and orchid supplies.

Naples Botanical Garden, 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
239-643-7275 | naplesgarden.org

Everglades Seafood Festival

Feb. 19 to 21, 2027

Seafood festival, featuring seafood, live music, carnival rides, and arts and crafts.

102 Copeland Ave. N., Everglades City
239-537-9922 | evergladesseafoodfestival.org

Naples National Art Fair

Feb. 19 to 21, 2027

Ranked among the nation's top art fairs, showcasing original works by juried artists.

Cambier Park, 755 8th Ave. S., Naples
239-262-6517 | naplesart.org/national-art-fair

Naples International Dance Festival

Feb. 26 to 28, 2027

Features performances by internationally acclaimed artists, films, exhibitions, classes and community programs.

Multiple venues, Naples
239-254-8242 | unitedartscollier.org/naples-international-dance-festival



SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

Naples St. Patrick's Day Parade

Annually in March

The state's largest privately funded parade features marching bands, Irish dancers and decorated floats.

Starts at the intersection of 3rd Street South and 10th Avenue South
naplesgov.com

The Naples Flower Show & Garden Market

March 5 and 6, 2027

Features floral designs, exhibits and a market of plants and garden accessories.

Naples Botanical Garden, 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
239-643-7275 | naplesgarden.org/series/naplesflowershow

Naples Craft Beer Festival

March 6, 2027

Fundraiser showcasing over 100 craft beers, chef pairings, live music and People's Choice tastings.

436 Bayfront Place, Naples
naplescraftbeerfest@gmail.com | naplescraftbeerfest.com



Naples St. Patrick's Day Parade

DAVID WISHTISCHIN/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Collier Fair Exposition

March 18 to 28, 2027

Features entertainment, agricultural exhibitions, carnival rides, games and live music.

751 39th Ave. N.E., Naples
239-455-1444 | collierfair.com

Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance's Orchid Show and Sale

March 19 to 21, 2027

Features hundreds of exotic orchids, workshops and plant sales.

15000 Livingston Road, Naples
239-269-6389 | gulfcoastorchidalliance.com



Collier Fair Exposition

DAVID WISHTISCHIN/FLORIDA WEEKLY

SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

Downtown Naples Art Fair

March 20 and 21, 2027

This prestigious outdoor art fair features original works by local, national and international artists.

Cambier Park, 755 8th Ave. S., Naples
239-262-6517 | naplesart.org/downtown-art-fair

Naples Pridefest

Annually in April

A celebration of equality and diversity with performances, vendors and community groups.

TBD, Naples
239-304-9407 | naplespride.org

Cars as Art

Annually in April

Classic, vintage and exotic automobiles are displayed as art and judged by professional artists.

1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island
239-394-4221 | marcoislandart.org

Franklin US Open Pickleball Championships

April 17 to 24, 2027

Fans and players from all over the world compete and celebrate America's fastest-growing sport.

USOP National Pickleball Center, 3520 Thomasson Drive, Naples
usopenpickleball.com

The Great Canoe Races of Naples

Annually in May

This canoe-racing competition features local paddlers, a vendor fair, live entertainment and a beer garden.

TBD, Naples
info@naplescanoeraces.com | naplescanoeraces.com

Gulfshore Playhouse Next Wave Festival

May 8 and 9, 2027

Playwrights, actors and directors workshop never-before-produced plays.

Gulfshore Playhouse, 100 Goodlette-Frank Road S., Naples
239-261-7529 | gulfshoreplayhouse.org/shows-events/next-wave-festival

Naples International Film Festival

Annually in October

A series of independent film screenings, panel discussions and events. An awards ceremony at the end of the festival recognizes the best featured independent films and filmmakers.

Artis—Naples, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd. and partner screening venues, Naples
239-597-1900 | artisnaples.org

Stone Crab Festival

Annually in October

Celebrate the start of stone crab season with live music, seafood vendors, arts and crafts booths and family activities.

1200 5th Ave S., Naples
stonecrabfestival.com

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(239) 947-9676 | TheGardenPlace.com
20071 South Tamiami Trail, Estero, FL









SIGNATURE **EVENTS**

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Florida International Air Show

Nov. 7 and 8, 2026

Nationally known performers and static displays of aircraft and vehicles offer opportunities to learn about aviation, space and military services.

Punta Gorda Airport, 28000 A-1 Airport Road, Punta Gorda
941-368-4430 | floridaairshow.com

Charlotte County Boat Show

Jan. 7 to 10, 2027

Features boat dealers, marine businesses and boating products.

Charlotte County Fairgrounds, 2333 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte
239-656-7083 | miaswf.com/swami-shows

Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival

Jan. 15 to 17 and April 2 to 4, 2027

Featuring seafood, live bands and coastal crafts.

Laishley Park, 100 Nesbit St., Punta Gorda
941-487-8061 | paragonfestivals.com/festival

Punta Gorda Sullivan Street Craft Festivals

Nov. 28 and 29, 2026 and Jan. 16 and 17, 2027

Three juried craft festivals from November through March, featuring artisans and original work.

331 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda
561-746-6615 | artfestival.com

Babcock Ranch Seafood & Music Festival

Annually in February

Featuring seafood, live music, a marketplace of artisan vendors and family-friendly fun.

42850 Crescent Loop, Babcock Ranch
941-487-8061 | paragonfestivals.com

Charlotte County Fair

Feb. 5 to 14, 2027

Features rides, fair food, livestock shows, agricultural exhibits and live entertainment.

Charlotte County Fairgrounds, 2333 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte
941-629-4252 | thecharlottecountyfair.com

Englewood Seafood & Music Festival

Feb. 26 to 28, 2027

Top musicians from multiple genres perform live music. The event features seafood, an arts and crafts market and local food items.

401 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood
941-487-8061 | paragonfestivals.com/festival/englewood-seafood-music-festival-2027

Babcock Ranch Art Show

March 6 and 7, 2027

This free juried art show features original work by local and national artists, with live music, food trucks, nearby restaurants and children's art activities.

Founder's Square, 42850 Crescent Loop, Babcock Ranch
877-709-6620 | babcockranchartshow.com

Annual Taste of Punta Gorda & Beyond

March 7, 2027

Features over 60 restaurants, dessert, drink and art and craft vendors, with live music and a children's area.

100 Nesbit St., Punta Gorda
taste@puntagordarotary.org | tasteofpuntagorda.org

Punta Gorda Hibiscus Festival

Annually in May

This floral event features plant sales, art, music and family fun.

400 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda
thehibiscusfestival.com



Florida International Air Show

FIGHTERJETS INC. / COURTESY PHOTO

SWFL **ATTRACTIONS**

LEE COUNTY

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum

This Sanibel museum is devoted to shells, mollusks and their ecosystems and features a living gallery of aquariums with more than 60 species of marine life.

3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel
239-395-2233 | shellmuseum.org

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium

The center features a planetarium, natural history exhibits, animal ambassadors, a butterfly aviary and nature trails.

3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers
239-275-3435 | calusanature.org

CROW Visitor Education Center

The clinic offers a close look at wildlife medicine and conservation through its Visitor Education Center, live-animal exhibits, daily educational presentations and reservation-only hospital tours.

3883 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel
239-472-3644 ext. 229 | crowclinic.org

ECHO Global Farm & Nursery

The farm explores practical, sustainable agriculture used in communities around the world. Guided experiences introduce tropical food plants, innovative growing methods and small-scale farming systems.

17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers
239-543-3246 | echonet.org

Edison & Ford Winter Estates

The riverfront winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford feature historic homes, botanical gardens, a museum and a research laboratory.

2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
239-334-7419 | edisonfordwinterestates.org



CROW's Visitor Education Center.

CROW/COURTESY PHOTO



SWFL **ATTRACTIONS**

Gator Mike's Family Fun Park

This family entertainment park offers go-karts, a 19-hole miniature golf course, an arcade, bumper boats and cars, aerial ropes and climbing walls, paintball and axe throwing.

35 N.E. Pine Island Road, Cape Coral
239-574-4386 | gatormikes.com

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

The refuge is internationally known for its migratory birds, and visitors can explore by car or bicycle, hike trails and paddle through mangrove waters.

1 Wildlife Drive, Sanibel
239-472-1100 | fws.gov/refuge/jn-ding-darling

IMAG History & Science Center

IMAG blends science, regional history and hands-on discovery through attractions and exhibits.

2000 Cranford Ave., Fort Myers
239-243-0043 | theimag.org

Mound House

Fort Myers Beach's oldest standing structure features museum exhibits, archaeology and the surrounding grounds.

451 Connecticut St., Fort Myers Beach
239-765-0865 | moundhouse.org

Rookery Bay Research Reserve
Environmental Learning Center






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300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34113
239-530-5940 RookeryBay.org

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SWFL **ATTRACTIONS**

Murder Mystery Dinner Train

The dinner train presents fine dining and original murder mystery productions on a scenic train ride.

2805 Colonial Blvd., #1012, Fort Myers
239-275-8487 | semgulf.com

Railroad Museum of South Florida

The museum includes an interpretive center, historic railroad equipment and a miniature railroad.

7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers
239-267-1905 | rrmsf.org

Southern Fresh Farms

Weekend visits and special programs offer a casual way to experience a working local farm.

8500 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers
239-768-0309 | southernfreshfarms.com

Sun Splash Family Waterpark

Cape Coral's seasonal water park offers slides, a wave pool, family play areas and special programming.

500 W. Lake Kennedy Drive, Cape Coral
239-574-0558 | sunsplashwaterpark.com



Visitors spot wildlife at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

THE LEE COUNTY VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU/COURTESY PHOTO

Wonder Gardens

This historic attraction features botanical gardens and rescued and non-releasable animals.

127180 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs
239-992-2591 | wondergardens.org

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SWFL **ATTRACTIONS**

COLLIER COUNTY

Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

The sanctuary protects one of North America's great remaining old-growth bald cypress forests.

375 Sanctuary Rd. W., Naples
239-348-9151 | corkscrew.audubon.org

CMON Golisano Children's Museum of Naples

CMON encourages children to learn through hands-on play, imagination and rotating interactive experiences.

15080 Livingston Road, Naples
239-514-0084 | cmon.org

Collier Museum at Government Center

This free museum introduces visitors to Collier County history, from archaeology and the Calusa to pioneers, agriculture and modern development.

3331 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-252-8476 | colliermuseums.com

Great Wolf Lodge Naples

The Naples resort features an indoor water park with a wave pool, lazy river, play areas and 12 waterslides.

3900 City Gate Blvd. N., Naples
866-462-9653 | greatwolf.com/naples

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center

The museum uses original artifacts, photographs, survivor stories and changing exhibitions to teach Holocaust and World War II history.

975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd., Suite 108, Naples
239-263-9200 | hmcec.org

Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch

Exhibits and programs interpret Immokalee's ranching, agricultural and pioneer history.

1215 Roberts Ave. W., Immokalee
239-252-2611 | colliermuseums.com

Marco Island Historical Museum

The museum explores Marco Island's Calusa heritage, early fishing and agricultural communities and the island's rapid modern development.

180 S. Heathwood Drive, Marco Island
239-252-1440 | colliermuseums.com



Naples Zoo at Carribbean Gardens is home to a wide variety of animals.

DAVID WISHTISCHIN/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Museum of the Everglades

This free museum is dedicated to more than 2,000 years of regional history.

105 W. Broadway Ave., Everglades City
239-252-5026 | colliermuseums.com

Naples Botanical Garden

The garden showcases plants from around the world in a restored native Florida habitat.

4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples
239-643-7275 | naplesgarden.org

Naples Depot Museum

This free museum features exhibits, historic rail cars and transportation artifacts that tell the story of how rail, road and water transformed Southwest Florida.

1051 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-252-8419 | colliermuseums.com

Naples Princess Cruises

The Naples Princess offers public sightseeing, sunset and dining cruises and private charters aboard Naples Bay and surrounding waterways.

550 Port O Call Way, Naples
239-649-2275 | naplesprincesscruises.com

Naples Train Museum

This nonprofit train museum features operating model railroads, interactive displays and an outdoor train ride.

1051 Fifth Ave. S., Naples
239-262-1776 | naplestrainmuseum.org

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens

Naples Zoo combines an accredited wildlife institution with a historic tropical garden, animal encounters, keeper programs, giraffe feeding and a Primate Expedition Cruise.

1590 Goodlette-Frank Road, Naples
239-262-5409 | napleszoo.org

Paradise Coast Sports Complex

The county sports and entertainment complex includes eight synthetic-turf fields, a stadium, volleyball courts, The Factory fitness area, The Cove food-and-beverage venue and a large lawn area used for community events and concerts.

3940 City Gate Blvd. N., Naples
239-252-4386 | playparadisecoast.com

Revs Institute

Revs Institute preserves and interprets historically significant automobiles and automotive history through galleries, an extensive research archive and educational programming.

2500 Horseshoe Drive S., Naples
239-687-7387 | revsinstitute.org

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

The reserve protects 110,000 acres of mangrove forest, uplands and coastal waters and serves as a living laboratory for research, conservation and education.

300 Tower Road, Naples
239-530-5972 | rookerybay.org

Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee

This regional entertainment destination hosts touring concerts, comedy shows, gaming, dining and events.

506 S. 1st St., Immokalee
800-218-0007 | seminoleimmokaleecasino.com

Shy Wolf Sanctuary Education & Experience Center

The nonprofit sanctuary cares for rescued wolves, wolf dogs and other captive-bred exotic animals while using guided visits to teach about responsible stewardship and the realities of exotic-animal ownership.

East Naples
855-SHY-WOLF | shywolfsanctuary.org

SWFL **ATTRACTIONS**

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Babcock Ranch Eco-Tours

Guided tours travel through working ranchland and several Southwest Florida ecosystems while naturalists discuss wildlife, ranching and conservation.

8502 State Road 31, Punta Gorda
800-500-5583 | babcockranchecotours.com

Blanchard House Museum

This historic home preserves and interprets African American history in Southwest Florida through exhibits, archives, educational programs and community events.

406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Punta Gorda
941-575-7518 | blanchardhousemuseum.org

Iguanaland

This reptile and amphibian attraction houses more than 250 species from around the world, with a strong emphasis on conservation, education and research.

33900 Bermont Road, Punta Gorda
941-844-5350 | iguanaland.com

James and Barbara Moore Observatory

The observatory gives the public opportunities to view planets, stars and deep-sky objects through telescopes during scheduled sessions and programs.

26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda
941-637-3518 | fsw.edu/charlotte/observatory

Military Heritage Museum

The museum interprets U.S. military history through galleries, artifacts and interactive experiences.

900 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda
941-575-9002 | militaryheritagemuseum.org

Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary

This nonprofit provides a permanent home for unwanted, retired or mistreated exotic animals.

41660 Horseshoe Road, Punta Gorda
239-543-1130 | octagonwildlife.org

Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens

The gardens include tropical and native plantings, five distinct ecosystems, trails and boardwalks and outdoor sculpture.

5827 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda
941-621-8299 | peacerivergardens.org

Peace River Wildlife Center

This wildlife rehabilitation and education center displays permanent resident native wildlife that cannot be released while teaching visitors about rescue, rehabilitation and conservation.

3400 Ponce de Leon Parkway, Punta Gorda
941-637-3830 | prwildlife.org

Redneck Mud Park

This large off-road recreation and camping venue hosts scheduled mudding weekends and special events, featuring trails, mud holes, racing areas and RV and primitive camping.

4570 Bermont Road, Punta Gorda
239-600-4783 | redneckmudpark.com

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NEWS & **INFO**

FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida Weekly, a member of the Hoffmann Family of Companies, is one of the largest circulating newsweeklies in Florida, distributing more than 90,000 papers in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Palm Beach and Monroe counties. Each week, Florida Weekly connects more than 220,000 readers with the people, places and stories that shape their communities through local journalism, arts and entertainment coverage, business news, dining, events and more. In print and online, readers have multiple ways to stay connected throughout the week.

Digital

- **Online** — FloridaWeekly.com extends our coverage beyond the weekly print edition with local news, arts and entertainment, business, dining, events, photo galleries, special sections and more.
- **Digital Edition** — Every edition of Florida Weekly is available digitally, giving readers access to the complete newspaper. QR codes at thousands of locations also take them directly to the current edition.
- **Mobile & App** — FloridaWeekly.com is easy to read on mobile devices, and readers can also access Florida Weekly through our app wherever they are.
- **Daily Email Newsletters** — Each Florida Weekly edition has its own newsletter, delivering local news and highlights directly to readers' inboxes daily so they can stay connected to the communities they choose.

Print

- **Five weekly editions** covering Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Palm Beach Counties and a monthly edition covering Key West. Florida Weekly also produces monthly neighborhood publications in Babcock Ranch and Wellen Park areas and a bi-monthly edition covering Ave Maria.
- **At Home** (monthly on the first Thursday) Charlotte County's guide to everything about the home.
- **Healthy Body** (monthly on the third Thursday) — Charlotte County's guide to your health.
- **Health Trends featuring Best Doctors** (January) — A look at the people, practices and services shaping health care in Southwest Florida, including our annual Best Doctors feature.
- **Destination SWFL** (March) — A magazine dedicated to visitors all about the region's communities, attractions, shopping and events to make a visit the best it can be. We also share some insider secrets to help visitors experience SWFL like a local.



- **Arts Preview** ((November and February) — Our comprehensive guide to what's coming up in theater, music, gallery openings and more.
- **Florida Weekly's Best** (May) — Florida Weekly's writers and editors bestow hundreds of Flamingo awards to local people, places and things that make SWFL such an amazing place to live, work, visit and play.
- **Pet Lovers** (July) — A photo celebration to our readers' furry, feathery and even scaly companions.
- **Businesses of Distinction** (September/October) — Spotlighting the local businesses and the people behind them who help shape our communities.
- **Southwest Florida Newcomers Guide** (November) — From finding your favorite neighborhood spots to connecting with local services, this publication helps new residents feel at home in Southwest Florida. ■



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MEDIAN HOME PRICES: JULY 2026

Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA
$389,200
Year-over-year change: 0.1percent



COURTESY PHOTOS



Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA
$850,000
Year-over-year change: 6.9 percent

Punta Gorda MSA
$351,000
Year-over-year change: 2.3 percent

Source: Florida Realtors
floridarealtors.org/newsroom/market-data



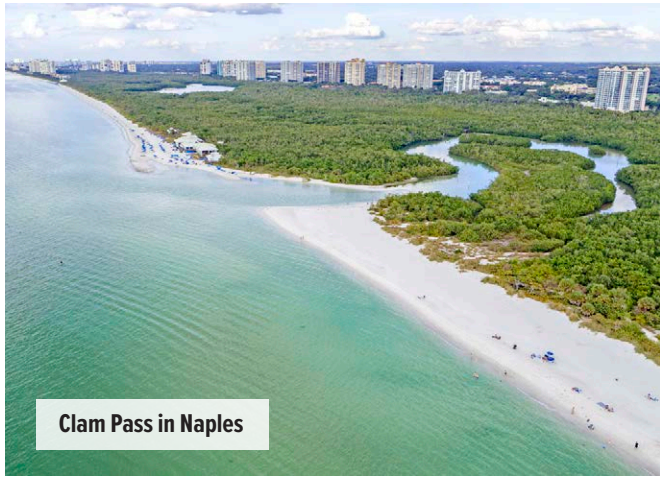




HISTORIC **DISTRICTS**

WHERE THE PAST AND PRESENT CONVERGE

Long before Southwest Florida became one of the country's fastest-growing regions, local communities were already writing the area's history — in fishing villages and cattle country, railroad towns and resort communities and along commercial streets and waterfronts. Centuries ago, Indigenous people built communities that have endured for generations. Beyond the new construction and modern amenities, Southwest Florida's history remains visible in old buildings, street patterns, museums, archaeological sites, working waterfronts and the landscape itself.



Clam Pass in Naples

MARCO ISLAND AND THE EVERGLADES CVB / COURTESY PHOTO

Where it began

Old Naples

Naples' earliest commercial and social center developed near the Gulf, around what is now Third Street South, where Naples began to take shape as a remote resort community in the late 19th century. The Naples Town Improvement Company was formed in 1886, and the Naples Pier was built in 1888, providing an essential connection to a community that was easier to reach by water than by land.

The railroad reached Naples in 1927, and the extension of the Tamiami Trail helped shift commercial activity away from Third Street toward Fifth Avenue South and Ninth Street. Fifth Avenue had already begun emerging as Naples' unofficial Main Street.

The Naples Historic District still preserves part of the earlier city, in an area between Third Street South and the Gulf. Historic Palm Cottage, built in 1895 and operated by the Naples Historical Society, offers another glimpse into early Naples.

Hurricane Ian caused catastrophic damage to the Naples Pier in 2022, destroying nearly half of the over-water structure. Construction on a replacement began Jan. 6, 2026. The city is rebuilding using more resilient standards, and the pier and its immediate access area remain closed during the approximately 18-month project.

Bonita Springs

Along Old 41 Road, two longtime Bonita Springs landmarks tell much of the story of the city's origins.

Shangri-La Springs traces its beginnings to 1926, when Gilmer Heitman built the 35-room Bonita Hotel along what was then the Tamiami Trail. The property changed owners, names and uses over the decades before becoming Shangri-La, but its historic buildings and grounds survived while Bonita Springs grew around them. In 2026, the property marked its centennial.

Just down the road, Wonder Gardens began in 1936 as the Reptile Gardens, created by the Piper family as a roadside attraction for travelers along the new Tamiami Trail. It later became Everglades Wonder Gardens. Today, the attraction combines tropical botanical gardens with habitats for rescued and non-releasable birds and reptiles.

Everglades City

Once accessible only by boat, the remote frontier settlement of Everglades City took on a new role in 1923 when it became Barron Collier's operational base for the construction of the Tamiami Trail and served as Collier County's first county seat.

The Museum of the Everglades occupies a commercial laundry building, built in 1927. The National Register-listed building has been restored to its 1920s appearance, and its exhibits reach considerably farther back, interpreting more than 2,000 years of human history in the region.

Everglades City remains closely associated with commercial fishing. Its annual seafood festival has celebrated the area's heritage for more than half a century.

Cities grow up

Fort Myers

Downtown Fort Myers is known today as the River District, but beneath its restaurants, galleries and entertainment venues is a genuine historic commercial district. Today, historic buildings in Downtown Fort Myers house offices, restaurants, galleries and cultural organizations.

The Fort Myers Downtown Commercial District contains buildings dating from the late 19th century through 1939, reflecting the years when the city emerged as Lee County's commercial and governmental center. The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. The Arcade Theatre was built by Harvie and Gilmer Heitman in 1915 as a vaudeville and motion-picture theater, and in 1998, after years of sitting dark, the theater became home to Florida Repertory Theatre.



Downtown Fort Myers

COURTESY PHOTO

Dean Park

Dean Park is a historic residential district rather than a commercial destination. Although its National Register period of significance extends from the early through mid-20th century, much of its defining residential development occurred during Fort Myers' early growth and 1920s boom.

The district is associated with community planning and development as well as architecture and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. Bungalows, porches, distinctive roof designs and residential homes make the transition from downtown Fort Myers noticeable.

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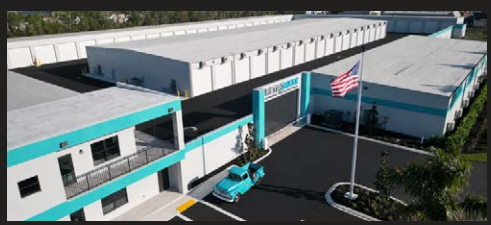
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HISTORIC **DISTRICTS**

Punta Gorda

Punta Gorda was originally registered as Trabue by Isaac H. Trabue in 1885 and incorporated as Punta Gorda in 1887. Its historic residential district preserves evidence of the city's development from 1884 through 1930, including wood-framed houses, Victorian-style homes and masonry buildings.

Several historic roads retain their original brick pavers, and historic churches and Punta Gorda City Hall also sit within the district, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

In 2026, the city proposed a rewrite of its Historic Overlay District regulations that would update preservation procedures, reestablish local historic registers and revise rules governing demolition and relocation of historic buildings.

Made by water

Boca Grande

Boca Grande, despite its polished appearance, was shaped by industry and transportation as much as by wealthy winter visitors.

Phosphate shipping helped drive development on Gasparilla Island, and the railroad connected the port at the island's southern end to inland mining operations. Downtown Boca Grande developed around that transportation network in the early 20th century, as commercial and residential buildings clustered around Park and Palm avenues and the railroad.

The original Hotel Boca Grande opened in 1911 and was renamed The Gasparilla Inn in 1913. Guests arrived by train and private yacht, and tarpon fishing helped establish Boca Grande as a popular winter destination. After the causeway opened in 1958, railroad service to the island ended. Part of the old right-of-way became a public path through Boca Grande, allowing today's walkers and cyclists to travel a route once used by trains.

At the island's southern end, the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse dates back to 1890 and today it houses a museum dedicated to Gasparilla Island history.

Pineland and Bokeelia

The Pineland Site Complex preserves roughly 2,000 years of human history, including more than 1,500 years of Indigenous occupation. It became one of the great towns of the Calusa, who built enormous shell mounds, engineered canals and developed a complex society sustained heavily by surrounding estuaries.

The Pineland Site Complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a Lee County historical resource. The Florida Museum of Natural History's Randell Research Center manages nearly 70 acres of the site, which extends across more than 100 acres. Calusa Heritage Trail winds through archaeological mounds, wetlands and remnants of the canal system, and posted signs explain Calusa life and the environment that sustained it.

Farther north, Bokeelia reflects a later chapter of Pine Island history. Lee County formally designated the Bokeelia Historic District along Main Street in 1990.

Matlacha

Lee County designated the Matlacha Historic District in 1990, preserving part of a small waterfront community whose development was closely tied to fishing and island life. Historic-preservation regulations continue to govern how resources are designated within the district.

Sanibel and Captiva

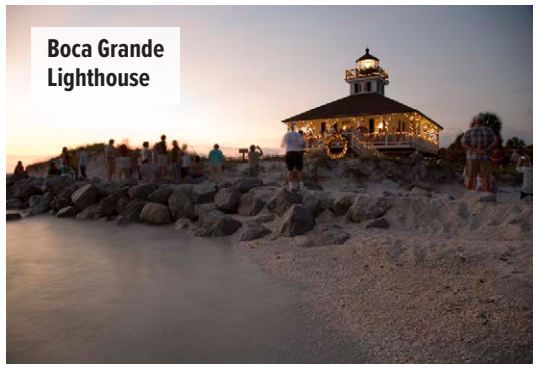


J.N. "DING" DARLING NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE / COURTESY PHOTO

The Sanibel Lighthouse dates to 1884, when settlement on the island was still sparse. Ferry service eventually connected Sanibel more directly with the mainland, and the opening of the Sanibel Causeway in 1963 transformed access to the island.

The Sanibel Historical Museum & Village preserves historic buildings, which were relocated and restored from locations around Sanibel. Visitors can also follow Sanibel's Heritage Trail to explore the island's history.

Captiva Island is five-mile stretch of barrier island located just north of Sanibel. Its small commercial area features eclectic restaurants, boutiques, and historic structures like the 1901 Chapel-by-the-Sea. While the northern end is anchored by the private South Seas Island Resort, the rest of the island maintains a quiet, residential feel where biking and golf carts are the preferred modes of transportation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Heading inland

Immokalee

Immokalee's history was influenced by cattle and agriculture rather than beachfront resorts. Indigenous people, including the Calusa and later the Seminole, were the early settled in the area before hunters, trappers, cowmen, missionaries, traders and settlers arrived. Settlement dates to 1872, and early pioneers adopted the name Immokalee in 1897.

The Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch is a 13-acre historic site with 15 original buildings that illustrate life on an early Southwest Florida ranch, homestead and citrus grove.

In 2026, the museum's Garden & Grove project recreated Sara Jane Roberts' half-acre vegetable garden and restored 1.25 acres of the historic citrus grove. The project included more than 140 citrus trees, avocado and mulberry trees and seven raised vegetable beds whose produce is intended for local food pantries.

Combining the past with the future

Historic Southwest Florida isn't frozen in time. Preservation in the region hasn't meant restoring things exactly as they were — hurricanes, development, changing industries, population growth and generations of people influence the evolution the communities and continue writing Southwest Florida's rich history. ■

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HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS

WHAT NEW RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A STORM

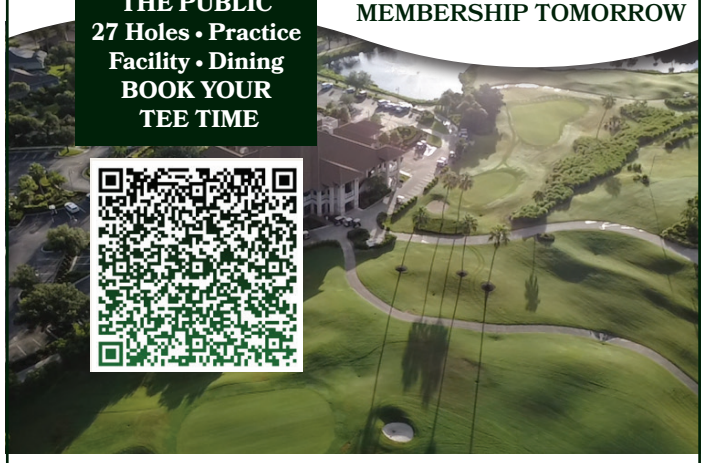
BY BOB MASSEY
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Moving to Southwest Florida comes with a few adjustments. Hurricane season officially runs from June 1 through Nov. 30, but storms don't consult the calendar — and they don't always behave according to the forecast. Their paths, intensity and potential impacts can change, sometimes considerably, which makes preparing in advance far easier than trying to figure it all out when everyone else is buying water, filling gas tanks and deciding whether to stay or go.

For newcomers, one of the most important first steps is learning their evacuation zone, the strength and vulnerabilities of their home, where they would go if ordered to evacuate, how they'll receive local emergency alerts and what they'll need if power, water, internet or cell service disappears for several days.

Fortunately, there are many ways to prepare for an oncoming storm. The following check-

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HURRICANE **SAFETY TIPS**

list provides the foundational precautions new residents need to know from before the start of the season to when a hurricane is predicted and after the storm is over.

Keep it somewhere you can find it before you need it. Hurricane preparation isn't about predicting exactly what a storm will do — it's about making fewer decisions when one is already on the way.

While no amount of preparation can guarantee anyone's safety in a storm, the items on this checklist will, at least, increase your chances of survival and recovery should a hurricane hit. It's all about stacking the deck when you're up against the uncertainty of nature.

Keep the odds in your favor. ■

BEFORE THE STORM

AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Insurance preparation

- Examine all insurance policy coverage.
- Add insurance hotline number to your phone and establish online account access.
- Photograph and document all personal belongings.
- Compile master list of emergency contacts and account information.

Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:

- County emergency management office
- Evacuation sites
- Doctors
- Banks
- Schools
- Veterinarian
- Out of town contacts
- Friends and family

Gathering important documents

- Physical documents should be kept in a waterproof container
- Cash (banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm)
- Medical records
- Banking information
- Credit card numbers
- Copies of social security cards
- Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
- Copy of will
- Other personal documents
- Set of car, house and office keys

Lighting and communication

- Flashlights (Do not use candles)
- LED lanterns
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Batteries (varying sizes)
- Cell phone chargers

Clothing and protection

- Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

Determine your protection strategy

- Identify your safest options for shelter from flooding and high winds.
- Develop both an evacuation plan and a sheltering-in-place plan.
- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline.
- Check motor vehicle tire pressure and fluid levels (oil, coolant).

MAKE SAFETY PLANS

Evacuation planning

- During hurricane season, find out if you live in a place that might need to evacuate. This includes evacuation zones, areas that flood easily, mobile homes or buildings that aren't safe. Knowing this helps you prepare and understand what to do when local officials issue evacuation orders. For more information or to find your zone, check with local Emergency Management or visit www.floridadisaster.org/knowyourzone.
- If officials order evacuation, leave without delay.
- Determine your destination, transportation method and lodging.
- Arrange transportation assistance in advance if needed or if using public transit.
- Mobile homes, RVs, trailer homes and manufactured housing are unsafe during high winds — plan to evacuate to a secure location.

Shelter-in-place planning

- Prepare to manage without internet, phone service, gas, water and electricity for extended periods.
- Practice relocating to your designated wind shelter.
- Identify a small, windowless interior room on the lowest flood-safe floor of a sturdy structure.
- Recognize that flooding occurs rapidly — have a quick evacuation plan ready.
- Build a personal support network of individuals who can help you and whom you can assist.



Communication planning

- Register for free emergency alerts through your local government.
- Establish how you'll track local news and weather updates.
- Obtain a backup battery or charging solution for your cell phone.
- Acquire a battery-operated radio for power outages.
- Learn alert terminology and appropriate responses:
- Familiarize yourself with alert types: Hurricane Watch and Warning, Tropical Storm Watch and Warning, Extreme Wind Warning, Storm Surge Watch and Warning, Flash Flood Watch and Warning, Flood Watch and Warning, Tornado Watch and Warning. In short:
- ■ WATCH: Be prepared!
- ■ WARNING: Take action!

Learn emergency skills

- Complete First Aid and CPR training.
- Prepare for utility disruptions — plan for power needs including medical equipment and cell phones.
- Consult your electrician about backup power requirements.

GATHER EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Food

- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages (at least 10 days)
- Snack foods
- Juices
- Baby food
- Special dietary items
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils (scissors, bottle opener, corkscrew, knife)
- Charcoal or propane grill
- Grill tools
- Charcoal or full propane tank

Medications and medical supplies

- Stock a one-month minimum supply of medication
- Regularly used medical supplies
- List of allergies
- List of the style, serial number and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug and dosage

First Aid Kit

- First aid manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages

HURRICANE **SAFETY TIPS**

- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

Specialty Items

- Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly and family members with disabilities
- Battery-powered fans, both desk/floor and handheld
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- Gasoline or generator (follow storage guidelines in manufacturer's manual)
- Carbon monoxide alarm
- Heavy-duty gloves for handling debris
- Insect bite treatment and bug spray
- Bleach
- Emergency whistles
- Lighters and/or matches
- Coolers and freezer packs
- Protective gear and battery/gas-powered chainsaw
- Two-way radios and NOAA weather radio
- Portable tool kit (or at least a hammer, screwdriver (flathead and Phillips), adjustable joint wrench and regular and needle-nose pliers)
- Gallon jugs for storing water to flush commodes
- Sunscreen
- Inflatable mattresses, pillows, blankets

Pet Supplies

- Pet food and water to last at least two weeks
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip information
- Carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Stock training pads
- Service animal I.D., veterinary records and proof of ownership
- Supplies for your service animal
- Make copies of current licenses/vaccines and store in container
- Place animals in crates with rawhide bones and toys during and following the storm
- Restrain pets using a leash or harness when appropriate
- Stock puppy training pads
- Obtain collapsible pet carriers to use in hotels, shelters or for evacuation

Supply Organization

- Assemble food, water and medications (stores and pharmacies may be inaccessible).
- Create a Go-Kit: minimum 3-day portable supply with device chargers and backup batteries of varying sizes (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.).
- Create a Stay-at-Home Kit: minimum two-week supply.
- Stock a one-month medication supply in child-resistant containers plus medical supplies/equipment.
- Secure personal, financial and medical records (hard copies or secure digital backup)
- Prepare a wallet card listing all medications and dosages.

Last-Minute Tasks

- Disable icemaker and clear ice bin.
- Adjust freezer and refrigerator to coldest temperature settings.
- Fill bathtubs with water (for non-drinking purposes).
- Set HVAC to maximum cooling (remember to switch AC off if power fails).
- Charge all electronic devices.
- In a power outage, unplug TV

You're an original.



We might be your tribe.

Unity® is for people who might call themselves spiritual but not religious. Unity® honors the universal truths in all religions & respects an individual's right to choose a spiritual path. Maybe come check us out this Sunday!

PS: God is love and so are you.

unity Bonita Springs

28285 Imperial PKWY
10am Sundays
unitybonita.org



239-489-2226 | 13451 MCGREGOR BLVD., FORT MYERS | PRAWNBROKERFORTMYERS.COM



239.437.4377 | 7790 CYPRESS LAKE DR., FORT MYERS | THEUGRILL.NET

HURRICANE **SAFETY TIPS**

and other electronic devices.

PROTECT YOUR HOME

Wind Protection

- Bring indoors or secure outdoor items that could become dangerous projectiles (lawn furniture, trash cans, etc.).
- Anchor items that must remain outside (propane tanks, gas grills).
- Trim or remove trees within falling distance of your home.
- Install permanent storm shutters or protective sheeting on windows.

Flood Protection

- Clear gutters, downspouts and drains.
- Stockpile sandbags and plastic sheeting.
- Consider sump pump installation with battery backup.
- Consider elevating your electric panel, water heater and heating system.
- Review insurance coverage with your agent.

DURING THE STORM

MAKE SMART DECISIONS

If evacuation is ordered

- Leave immediately as directed by local authorities.
- Take your Go-Kit.
- Use designated evacuation routes only — shortcuts may be blocked.
- Locate shelters through local officials or the Red Cross Emergency App.

If sheltering during the storm

- Move to a designated storm shelter or windowless interior room for wind protection.
- Stay away from glass doors and windows.
- Relocate to higher ground before flooding starts.

Flooding safety

- Never walk, swim or drive through floodwater.
- Remember: Turn Around! Don't Drown!

AFTER THE STORM

USE CAUTION

Stay safe

- Wait for official clearance before returning home.
- Stay away from downed wires, fallen power lines and damaged poles — they can cause electrocution.
- Avoid touching floodwaters (they contain sewage, chemicals and bacteria).
- Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights when power is out to prevent fire risk.
- Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:
  - Never use gasoline, charcoal, propane or natural gas devices indoors, in garages, basements, tents, campers or near open windows.
  - Carbon monoxide is invisible and odorless — but deadly. As an extra precaution, invest in a carbon monoxide detector.
  - If you feel weak, dizzy or sick, immediately move to fresh air.

Stay healthy

- Discard any food that became warm or wet ("When in doubt, throw it out!")
- Consult your doctor or health care provider about refrigerated medications.
- Monitor local health department announcements regarding drinking water safety.

Clean up safely

- Wear protective gear: boots, goggles and gloves.
- Clean and disinfect all wet items.
- Work with a partner when removing heavy debris.
- Ensure proper training before operating equipment like chainsaws.
- Be aware that heart attacks are a leading post-hurricane cause of death — avoid overexertion.
- Take regular breaks and practice self-care during cleanup.

Take care of yourself

- Recognize that stress, anxiety and difficult emotions are normal responses.
- Maintain healthy eating and adequate sleep to manage stress.

Welcome.

Contragulations on your new home!

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Every climate is different, and our local summers can put serious stress on an older AC unit. Before the heat hits, make sure your new home's cooling system is up to the task.

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Dr. Justin Kerr DVM, Owner

DR. KERR'S NATURAL REMEDIES at Burnt Store Animal Hospital

Are you looking for a way to help your furry family members live healthier, happier, and longer lives through a more natural approach to care?

Just like people, our pets thrive when their bodies are supported naturally and proactively. Natural remedies can help support immune health, mobility, skin and coat health, digestion, anxiety relief, and overall wellness...often with fewer harsh side effects than heavily processed alternatives.

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Burnt Store Animal Hospital
16480 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33955
239-315-0729
www.BurntStoreAnimalHospital.com
www.BurntStoreAnimalHospital.com/canine-rehab.html

HEALTH **CARE**

LEE COUNTY

LEE HEALTH

Lee Health is Southwest Florida's major nonprofit health system, with acute-care hospitals at Cape Coral Hospital, Gulf Coast Medical Center, HealthPark Medical Center and Lee Memorial Hospital, specialized pediatric care at Golisano Children's Hospital and a broad network of emergency, primary, specialty, outpatient and rehabilitation services throughout the region.

- **Cape Coral Hospital**
  636 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral
  239-424-2000 | lee-health.org
- **Gulf Coast Medical Center**
  13681 Doctors Way, Fort Myers
  239-343-1000 | leehealth.org
- **HealthPark Medical Center**
  9981 S. HealthPark Drive, Fort Myers
  239-343-5000 | leehealth.org
- **Golisano Children's Hospital**
  9981 S. HealthPark Drive, Fort Myers
  239-343-5437 | leehealth.org
- **Lee Memorial Hospital**
  2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers
  239-343-2000 | leehealth.org
- **Lee Health Coconut Point**
  23450 Via Coconut Point, Estero
  239-468-0000 | leehealth.org



Lee Health HealthPark Medical Center

DAVID WISHTISCHIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

EMERGENCY AND COMMUNITY CARE

- **NCH Bonita Springs Freestanding Emergency Department**
  24040 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs
  239-624-6900 | nchmd.org
- **AdventHealth Cape Coral ER**
  2521 Del Prado Blvd. N., Cape Coral
  239-242-1357 | adventhealth.com
- **HCA Florida Cape Coral Emergency**
  322 SW Pine Island Road, Cape Coral
  941-249-6858 | hcafloridahealthcare.com
- **HCA Florida Lehigh Hospital**
  1500 Lee Blvd., Lehigh Acres
  239-369-2101 | hcafloridahealthcare.com
- **Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Myers**
  6150 Medical Park Loop, Fort Myers
  239-722-3600 | leehealth.org
- **Rehabilitation Hospital of Cape Coral**
  1730 NE Pine Island Road, Cape Coral
  239-599-3600 | leehealth.org
- **Park Royal Hospital**
  9241 Park Royal Drive, Fort Myers
  888-593-1321 | parkroyalhospital.com

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HEALTH **CARE**

VETERANS CARE

Lee County VA Clinic
2489 Diplomat Parkway E., Cape Coral
239-652-1800 | va.gov/bay-pines-health-care/locations/lee-county-va-clinic

COLLIER COUNTY

NAPLES COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH (NCH)

Naples Comprehensive Health operates NCH Baker Hospital and NCH North Hospital, along with a regional network of emergency, specialty and outpatient services. NCH North includes Collier County's only 24-hour pediatric emergency department and provides pediatric inpatient, neonatal and intensive-care services in collaboration with Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

- **NCH Baker Hospital**
  350 7th St. N., Naples
  239-624-5000 | nchmd.org
- **NCH North Hospital**
  11190 Health Park Blvd., Naples
  239-624-5000 | nchmd.org
- **NCH Northeast Freestanding Emergency Department**
  15420 Collier Blvd., Naples
  239-624-8700 | nchmd.org
- **NCH Bonita Springs Freestanding Emergency Department**
  24040 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs
  239-624-6900 | nchmd.org
- **NCH Immediate Care - Ave Maria**
  5360 Ave Maria Blvd., Unit 120, Ave Maria
  239-624-0460 | nchmd.org

PHYSICIANS REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Physicians Regional Healthcare System operates three Naples medical centers. Pine Ridge and Collier Boulevard provide acute-care and emergency services, while Physicians Regional North focuses on orthopedic and spine surgery. The North campus also includes an inpatient rehabilitation facility.

- **Physicians Regional Medical Center - Pine Ridge**
  6101 Pine Ridge Road, Naples
  239-348-4000 | physiciansregional.com
- **Physicians Regional Medical Center – North**
  1285 Creekside Blvd., Naples
  239-260-6631 | physiciansregional.com
- **Physicians Regional Medical Center - Collier Boulevard**
  8300 Collier Blvd., Naples
  239-354-6000 | physiciansregional.com
- **Physicians Regional Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility**
  1285 Creekside Blvd., Naples
  239-304-4102 admissions/tours | physiciansregional.com
- **Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Naples**
  14305 Collier Blvd., Naples
  239-383-6000 | encompasshealth.com
- **David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health**
  6075 Bathey Lane, Naples
  239-455-8500 | Immediate help: 239-352-4357 | davidlawrencecenters.org
- **NCH Immediate Care - Ave Maria**
  5360 Ave Maria Blvd., Unit 120, Ave Maria
  239-624-0460 | nchmd.org

VETERANS CARE

- **Naples VA Clinic**
  800 Goodlette Road N., Suite 120, Naples
  239-659-9188 | va.gov/bay-pines-health-care/locations/naples

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

- **HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital**
  21298 Olean Blvd., Port Charlotte
  941-629-1181 | hcafloridahealthcare.com/locations/fawcett
- **AdventHealth Port Charlotte**
  2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte
  941-766-4122 | adventhealth.com
- **Lee Health at Babcock Ranch**
  42880 Crescent Loop, Punta Gorda
  leehealth.org
- **TGMG Babcock Ranch**
  42040 Cypress Parkway, Suite 3, Punta Gorda
  941-389-6001 | tgh.org
- **TGH Urgent Care Powered by Fast Track — Babcock Ranch**
  42060 Cypress Parkway, Punta Gorda
  813-925-1903 | tgh.org

VETERANS CARE

- **Port Charlotte VA Clinic**
  4161 Tamiami Trail, Suite 401, Port Charlotte
  941-235-2710 | va.gov/bay-pines-health-care/locations/port-charlotte-va-clinic

Find a physician or caregiver

Discover the finest medical practitioners across Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties with Florida Weekly's esteemed compilation, *Best Doctors*. Navigate to FloridaWeekly.com, choose your specific area, then access this valuable resource by clicking on *"Special Sections"* followed by *"Best Doctors."*

At a **GLANCE**

- **Emergency:** Dial 911
- **Poison Control:** 1-800-222-1222
- **Lee Health TeleHealth:** 239-343-2222
- **NCH Virtual Care:** 239-624-5000
- **Hope Hospice:** 239-482-4673
- **Tidewell Hospice:** 855-843-3935



SWFL **TOP** 75 **EMPLOYERS**

	NAME	EMPLOYEES
1	Lee Health	16,506
2	Lee County Public Schools	12,264
3	Publix Asset Management Company	10,445
4	Lee County Local Government	9,959
5	Walmart Inc	8,202
6	Collier County Public Schools	6,091
7	Collier County Local Government	5,262
8	Arthrex Inc	4,440
9	NCH Healthcare System	3,940
10	Charlotte County Local Government	2,908
11	Physicians Regional Healthcare System	2,692
12	Amazon.com Inc	2,530
13	Charlotte County Public Schools	2,512
14	Herc Rentals	2,226
15	Wells Fargo Bank	2,093
16	Gargiulo Inc	2,082
17	Gartner Inc	2,000
18	The Home Depot Inc	1,956
19	Florida Gulf Coast University	1,943
20	Mcdonald's Corporation	1,930
21	Millennium Physician Group	1,758
22	Marriott International Inc	1,680
23	Shell Point Retirement Community	1,563
24	HCA Florida Healthcare	1,448
25	Walgreen Co	1,440
26	Unitedhealthcare Services Inc	1,295
27	Florida SouthWestern State College	1,255
28	Inspire Brands Inc	1,194
29	Neogenomics Inc	1,150
30	The Hertz Corporation	1,073
31	Hendry County Public Schools	1,071
32	CVS Health Corporation	1,056
33	Southeastern Grocers LLC	1,054
34	US Sugar	1,008
35	Chico's Fas Inc	1,000
36	Ace Hardware Corp	993
37	Walsh Group	971
38	Suncoast Credit Union	936
39	Truist	934
40	Lee County Electric Co- op	931
41	USA Today Co	926
42	John R Wood Properties	898
43	Hilton Hotels & Resorts	881
44	Beasley Broadcast Group Inc	833
45	Dillard's Inc	826
46	Burger King Corporation	806
47	Southern Technical College	801
48	7-eleven Inc	772
49	Subway IP LLC	772
50	Hendry County Local Government	772
51	Bank Of America	768
52	Starbucks Corporation	749
53	Lennar Corp	740
54	The TJX Companies Inc	736
55	The Wendy's Co	685
56	Intercontinental Hotels Group	681
57	Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida	678
58	Keiser University	669
59	B & I Contractors	640
60	Bonita Bay Club	621
61	Anywhere Advisors LLC	620
62	Lowe's Companies Inc	608
63	Beall's Inc	604
64	Outback Steakhouse of Florida LLC	602
65	Saluscare Inc	600
66	Family Home Health Service	588
67	Fifth Third Bank	575
68	Ave Maria University	572
69	Xfinity	563
70	Downing - Frye Realty Inc	539
71	Family Resource Center	537
72	Darden Concepts Inc	533
73	Domino's Pizza Inc	528
74	JPMorgan Chase Bank	525
75	Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute	516

SOURCE: RERI ANALYSIS OF DATA OBTAINED FROM BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS AND DATABASEUSA, OBTAINED THROUGH LIGHTCAST, FGCU.EDU/COB/RERI/RESOURCES/TOP-100. *LAST UPDATED: MARCH 16, 2026



SWFL **SPORTS**

FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULES, CHECK OFFICIAL TEAM AND VENUE WEBSITES.

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL SPRING TRAINING

Atlanta Braves

CoolToday Park has been the Braves' spring training home since its inaugural game in 2019, with the club holding its full spring schedule there since 2020. The North Port complex also hosts the Braves' Florida Complex League team and year-round events.

CoolToday Park, 18800 South West Villages Parkway, Venice
941-413-5000 | braves.com

Boston Red Sox

The Red Sox have trained in Fort Myers since 1993 and moved to JetBlue Park in 2012. Their original home was City of Palms Park from 1993 to 2011.

JetBlue Park, 11500 Fenway South Drive, Fort Myers
877-733-7699 | redsox.com

Minnesota Twins

The Twins have trained at the Lee Health Sports Complex in Fort Myers since 1991. Hammond Stadium anchors the complex, which also includes the Twins Player Development Academy and additional baseball and softball fields.

Lee Health Sports Complex/Hammond Stadium, 14100 Six Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers
800-33-TWINS | twins.com

Tampa Bay Rays

Charlotte Sports Park has been the team's spring training home since 2009. The Rays previously held spring training at Al Lang Field in St. Petersburg. The stadium was previously the spring training home of the Texas Rangers from 1986 to 2002.

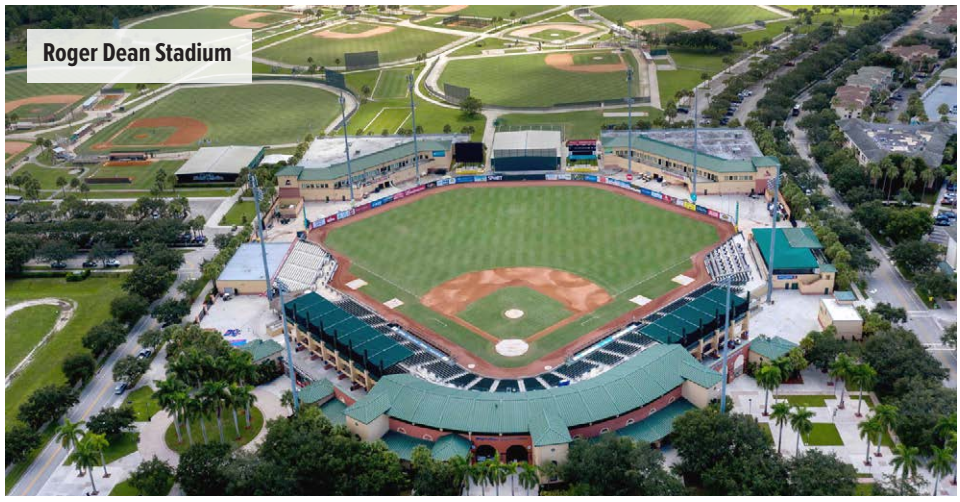
Charlotte Sports Park, 2300 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte
888-FAN-RAYS | raysbaseball.com

MINOR LEAGUE

Fort Myers Mighty Mussels

The Mighty Mussels, the Single-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, finished the 2026 season 68-60. The club set franchise records with 129 home runs and 288 stolen bases and also established new marks for on-base percentage and OPS. The franchise last won the Florida State League championship in 2018, when it was known as the Fort Myers Miracle.

Hammond Stadium, 14400 Six Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers
239-768-4210 | mightymussels.com



COURTESY PHOTO

HOCKEY

Florida Everblades

The Everblades have played in the ECHL since 1998 and have become one of the league's most successful franchises. Florida won its record fifth Kelly Cup championship in 2026, adding to championships in 2012, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Hertz Arena, 11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero
239-948-7825 | everblades.com

COLLEGE

Florida Gulf Coast University

FGCU is Southwest Florida's only NCAA Division I athletics program. The Eagles sponsor men's and women's cross-country, soccer, basketball, golf and tennis, along with volleyball, beach volleyball, baseball, softball and women's swimming and diving.

10501 FGCU Blvd., S., Fort Myers
866-342-8849 | fgcuathletics.com

Florida SouthWestern State College

Florida SouthWestern competes in the NJCAA with baseball, softball, volleyball and men's and women's basketball. Since athletics returned to FSW, the Buccaneers have won six national championships, including three each in volleyball and softball.

8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers
239-489-9300 | fswbucs.com

Ave Maria University

Ave Maria University competes in the NAIA's Sun Conference and sponsors a broad athletics program that includes football, baseball, basketball, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field and other varsity and club sports.

4810 Kelleher St., Ave Maria
239-280-2500 | avemariagyrenes.com

SOCCER

FC Naples

FC Naples, Southwest Florida's first professional soccer team, competes in USL League One at Paradise Coast Sports Complex. In its inaugural 2025 season, the club finished 13-9-8, placed fourth and became the first expansion team in league history to host and win a playoff match. The club returned for its second season in 2026.

Paradise Coast Sports Complex, 3940 City Gate Blvd. N., Naples
239-427-1854 | fcnaples.com

SWFL **BEACHES, PARKS AND PRESERVES**

LEE COUNTY

Bonita Beach Park

At the southern end of Little Hickory Island, Bonita Beach Park is a popular Gulf-front destination for swimming, shelling and sunset watching near the Collier County line. The park is undergoing a major post-Hurricane Ian reconstruction that may affect parking and amenities during the publication year. Beach access remains available nearby; check Lee County Parks for current access and transportation information before visiting.

27954 Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs
239-533-7275 | leegov.com/parks

Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve

On the north bank of the Caloosahatchee River, this 1,345-acre preserve has separate east and west access areas. The east side includes a 1.5-mile boardwalk and paved trail plus primitive hiking trails through wetlands, hammock and pine flatwoods. The west side offers a paddlecraft launch into Popash Creek, a short trail, boardwalk and observation deck. Both sides have paved parking, picnic pavilions and restrooms.

17100 McDowell Drive, North Fort Myers
239-707-0862 | leegov.com/parks

Cayo Costa State Park

Cayo Costa's nine miles of largely undeveloped Gulf beaches make this barrier-island state park one of Southwest Florida's most remote coastal escapes. Accessible by private boat, the park rewards visitors with shelling, swimming, fishing and wildlife watching in an unusually natural setting. Ferry service and overnight accommodations remain unavailable during ongoing Hurricane Ian recovery, and visitors should bring drinking water and supplies.

Cayo Costa Island, west of Pine Island
941-759-2007 | floridastateparks.org

Causeway Islands Park

Spread across the islands beside the Sanibel Causeway, this waterfront park offers sandy shoreline, broad views of San Carlos Bay and easy opportunities for fishing, paddling, picnicking and sunset watching. The islands reopened after Hurricane Ian with designated parking and basic visitor facilities while longer-term resilient improvements continue.

Sanibel Causeway, Fort Myers
239-533-7275 | leegov.com/parks



Rookery Bay Research Reserve

BEN HICKS / ROOKERY BAY RESEARCH RESERVE COURTESY PHOTO

SWFL **BEACHES, PARKS AND PRESERVES**

Estero Bay Preserve State Park

Florida's first aquatic nature preserve protects more than 10,000 acres around Estero Bay. Two land-access areas lead to rugged trails through pine flatwoods, coastal marshes and maritime hammocks. Some trails can be seasonally wet or flooded. The Broadway West access is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset.

4940 Broadway Ave. W., Estero
239-707-1709 | floridastateparks.org

Fort Myers Beach — Lynn Hall Memorial Park and Bowditch Point Park

The north end of Fort Myers Beach offers two distinct public beach experiences. Lynn Hall Memorial Park, beside Times Square, puts visitors close to the island's lively commercial district, while Bowditch Point Park at the northern tip offers quieter shoreline, fishing and birdwatching. Hurricane Ian reconstruction may affect parking and amenities during the publication year, so visitors should check Lee County Parks or LeeTran for current access information.

Lynn Hall: 950 Estero Blvd.; Bowditch Point: 50 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach
239-533-7275 | leegov.com/parks

Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve

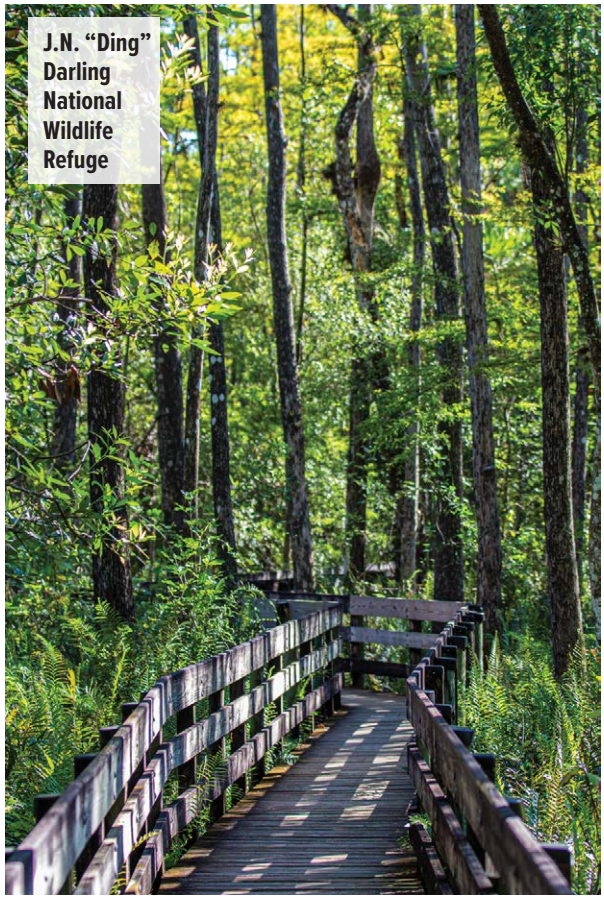
Cape Coral's 365-acre Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve features a boardwalk, nature trail, visitor center, Veterans Memorial area, observation piers and paddle access.

2589 S.E. 24th St., Cape Coral
239-549-4606 | capecoral.gov

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

J.N. "Ding" Darling protects more than 6,470 acres of mangrove forest, seagrass beds, marshes and subtropical hardwood hammocks on Sanibel Island. The refuge is internationally known for its migratory birds, with more than 245 species recorded. Visitors can explore the four-mile Wildlife Drive by car or bicycle, hike trails, paddle through mangrove waters and watch for roseate spoonbills, herons, alligators, manatees and other native wildlife.

1 Wildlife Drive, Sanibel
239-472-1100 | fws.gov/refuge/jn-ding-darling



DAVID WISHTISCHIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

John Yarbrough Linear Park

This six-mile paved multiuse trail parallels the Ten Mile Canal and creates a long north-south recreation corridor through Fort Myers. The trail is used for walking, jogging, bicycling and rollerblading, with fishing, shaded sections, restrooms and free parking available at the main access.

14608 Six Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers
239-533-7275 | leegov.com/parks

Koreshan State Park

Once home to the Koreshan Unity, Koreshan State Park combines a preserved historic settlement with trails and paddling along the Estero River. The park is open 8 a.m. to sunset, with the historic settlement open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can explore restored buildings, gardens and exhibits that tell the story of one of Southwest Florida's most unusual pioneer communities. The campground is currently unavailable; check the park website for reopening information.

3800 Corkscrew Road, Estero
239-992-0311 | floridastateparks.org

Lakes Park

Lakes Park combines trails, lakes, playgrounds, gardens, fishing, concessions and family recreation on more than 275 acres in south Fort Myers. A miniature railroad, seasonal farmers market and special events add to its family appeal. The park is open 7 a.m. to dusk; check the park calendar for current train, market and event schedules.

7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers
239-533-7575 | leegov.com/parks

Lovers Key State Park

Lovers Key State Park protects a 2.5-mile stretch of beach and mangrove estuaries where visitors may spot dolphins, manatees and shorebirds. Hiking, paddling, fishing and beachgoing are the main attractions, with beach access by foot or bicycle via the Mid-Beach Wood Bridge or South Beach Concrete Bridge. The former tram service has been permanently discontinued; visitors with boats should check current ramp conditions before arriving.

8700 Estero Blvd., Bonita Springs
239-707-6328 | floridastateparks.org

Manatee Park

Manatee Park is a non-captive warm-water refuge where manatees are most reliably seen when Gulf water temperatures fall below about 68 degrees, typically in late December, January and February. Boardwalks, viewing areas and educational displays explain manatee ecology and conservation; a public kayak launch, rentals, playground, butterfly garden and picnic areas are also available. The park is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

10901 State Road 80, Fort Myers
239-533-7521 | leegov.com/parks

Mound Key Archaeological State Park

Accessible only by watercraft, Mound Key rises from Estero Bay in a landscape of mangroves and towering shell mounds built over centuries by the Calusa. The

SWFL **BEACHES, PARKS AND PRESERVES**

island is believed to have been the cultural and ceremonial center of the Calusa when Spanish explorers arrived in the 1500s. A .75-mile trail crosses the island and climbs steep shell mounds more than 30 feet high. There are no facilities or boat docks. The park is open from sunrise to sunset with no entrance fee.

Estero Bay (typically accessed by water from Koreshan State Park or Lovers Key State Park)
239-707-1709 | floridastateparks.org

Rotary Park Environmental Center

This 97-acre Cape Coral preserve and environmental education center includes nature trails, ponds, native gardens, a butterfly house, playground, dog park and environmental center. A boardwalk through mangroves leads toward Glover Bight and provides an easy way to experience the area's coastal habitat.

5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral
239-549-4606 | capecoral.gov

Bunche Beach Preserve

This 718-acre tidal wetlands preserve on San Carlos Bay ranges from sandy beach to mangrove forest and salt flats. The natural shoreline is especially popular with birders, photographers, anglers and paddlers and features a paddlecraft launch, restrooms and wildlife-viewing areas. The preserve is open from dawn to dusk.

18201 John Morris Road, Fort Myers
239-533-7275 | leegov.com/parks

Sanibel Lighthouse Beach Park

At Sanibel's east end, Lighthouse Beach Park surrounds the historic 1884 Sanibel Lighthouse and offers beach access, shelling and views across the Gulf and San Carlos Bay. The lighthouse remains one of the island's signature landmarks.

110 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
239-472-3700 | mysanibel.com

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

This 3,500-acre wetland preserve offers a 1.2-mile boardwalk through cypress swamp, upland hammock and marsh. Wildlife-viewing areas and interpretive displays provide opportunities to see alligators, turtles and a wide variety of birds. The boardwalk and butterfly garden are open dawn to dusk, and the Interpretive Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7751 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers
239-533-7556 | leegov.com/parks

COLLIER COUNTY

Barefoot Beach Preserve

One of Southwest Florida's most pristine beaches, Barefoot Beach Preserve protects roughly 345 acres of natural beach and barrier-island habitat. Boardwalks, wildlife viewing and accessible restrooms make the preserve easy to explore, and sea oats, dunes, shorebirds, nesting sea turtles and mangrove-lined estuaries provide a natural setting. For the 2026 season, volunteer docents are available in Parking Lot 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday

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through Friday. Beach-chair, umbrella and cabana rentals are available.

505 Barefoot Beach Blvd., Naples
239-252-4000 | collierparks.com

Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park

Set on 150 acres in Golden Gate Estates, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is a major family-recreation destination with an aquatic complex, lighted baseball and softball fields, basketball, tennis and pickleball courts, multipurpose fields, a playground, walking paths, picnic areas, an event lawn and a community center. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

810 39th Ave. N.E., Naples
239-252-4900 | collierparks.com

Big Cypress National Preserve

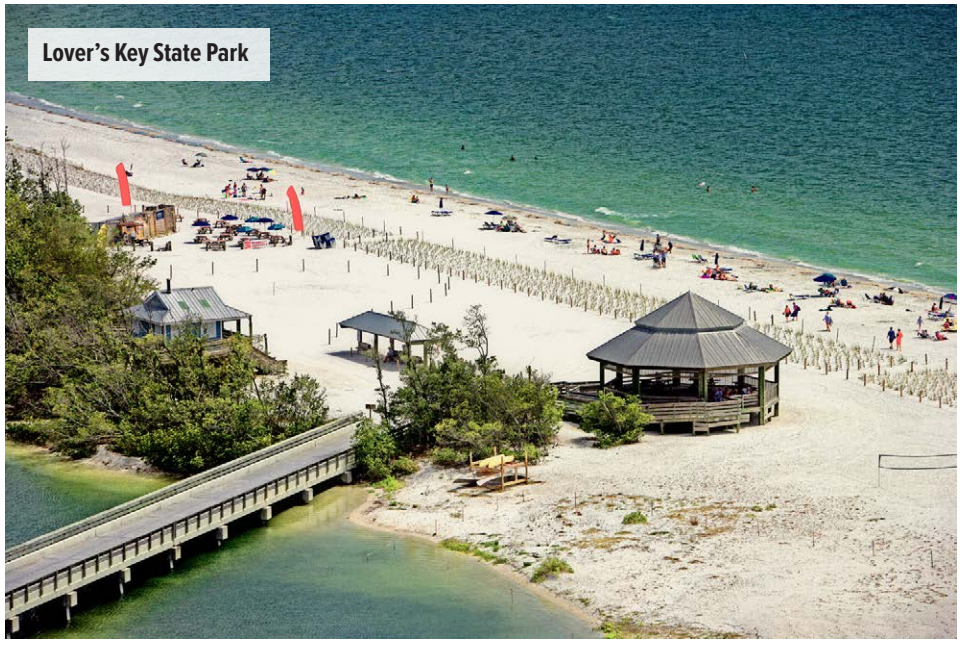
Big Cypress National Preserve, an International Dark Sky Park, protects more than 729,000 acres of freshwater wetlands, cypress swamps, pinelands, prairies and hardwood hammocks north of Everglades National Park. Established in 1974 as America's first national preserve, it protects important Florida panther habitat and offers scenic drives, boardwalks, hiking, camping, wildlife programs and seasonal ranger-led activities.

33100 Tamiami Trail E., Ochopee
239-695-2000 | nps.gov/bicy

Clam Pass Park

Hidden from view and reached by foot or a complimentary tram along a three-quarter-mile boardwalk through mangroves, Clam Pass Park combines a natural Gulf beach with convenient amenities. The 35-acre park offers beach wheelchairs, bike racks, foot showers, restrooms, a life-jacket loaner program, guided nature walks and onsite dining. It is open year-round from 8 a.m. to sunset.

465 Seagate Drive, Naples
239-252-4000 | collierparks.com



THE LEE COUNTY VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU/COURTESY PHOTO

Collier-Seminole State Park

Collier-Seminole State Park preserves more than 7,000 acres of mangrove swamp, cypress, pine flatwoods and rare royal palm habitat along the historic Tamiami Trail. Visitors can camp, paddle, hike and explore the park's natural and cultural history, including one of Southwest Florida's distinctive landscapes at the edge of the Everglades.

20200 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-393-7306 | floridastateparks.org

CREW — Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

The 70,000-plus-acre Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed spans Lee and Collier counties and protects a major water recharge area while providing extensive public trails. Four trail systems — Corkscrew Marsh, Cypress Dome/Caracara Prairie, Bird Rookery Swamp and Flint Pen Strand — offer hiking, birding and wildlife viewing through pine flatwoods, marshes and cypress country.

Multiple trailheads in eastern Lee and Collier counties
239-637-2253 | crewtrust.org



SWFL **BEACHES, PARKS AND PRESERVES**

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park protects one of Naples' best-known stretches of Gulf shoreline, drawing swimmers, shell collectors, anglers, paddlers and birdwatchers. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset and is especially popular for its natural beach setting at Wiggins Pass.

11135 Gulfshore Drive, Naples
239-409-0637 | floridastateparks.org

Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park

This East Naples community park is a major family-recreation destination, with an aquatic complex, fitness and community centers, sports fields and courts, paved paths, picnic areas, a playground and a nature trail. Its mix of indoor, outdoor and aquatic facilities makes it one of the county's most versatile neighborhood recreation hubs.

11565 Tamiami Trail E., Naples
239-252-3527 | collierparks.com

Everglades National Park — Marjory Stoneman Douglas Visitor Center

Everglades National Park protects more than 1.5 million acres of subtropical wilderness and habitat for species including the Florida panther, American crocodile and West Indian manatee. The Everglades City entrance, now served by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Visitor Center, is the gateway to the Ten Thousand Islands. The visitor center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers a kayak launch, wildlife viewing and a picnic area. Concession boat tours depart nearby.

815 Oyster Bar Lane, Everglades City
786-758-0635 | nps.gov/ever



Collier-Seminole State Park

DAVID WISHTISCHIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge

The Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge protects nearly 27,000 acres of habitat important to the endangered Florida panther. Most of the refuge is





SWFL **BEACHES, PARKS AND PRESERVES**

intentionally closed to public access to protect wildlife, but two free hiking trails and a short boardwalk are open from sunrise to sunset near State Road 29 and I-75. Visitors may see deer, bobcats, black bears and numerous bird species, although panther sightings are rare.

Trails: State Road 29 just north of I-75, Immokalee
Headquarters: 12085 State Road 29 S., Immokalee
239-657-8001 | fws.gov/refuge/florida-panther

Fred W. Coyle Freedom Park

This approximately 50-acre urban preserve near Golden Gate Parkway features boardwalks, wetlands, native landscaping and wildlife-viewing opportunities. The park provides a quiet natural retreat in central Naples with free parking and restrooms.

1515 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples
239-252-4062 | collierparks.com

Gordon River Greenway

This 140-acre greenway creates an urban ecological corridor through Naples, with paved pathways, decorative bridges, wildlife-viewing stations, a canoe/kayak launch, picnic shelters, playground and access to Naples Dog Park. The greenway also provides rear access to Naples Zoo and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. It is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

1596 Goodlette-Frank Road, Naples
239-252-4000 | collierparks.com

Lowdermilk Park

Lowdermilk Park is one of Naples' premier beachfront parks, with sand volleyball courts, a children's playground, picnic tables, benches, restrooms and showers, two rental gazebos and ADA beach-access mats. The beachfront concession sells food and drinks and rents beach wheelchairs and other beach items. The park is open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Beach parking requires a resident permit or pay-by-space payment.

1301 Gulf Shore Blvd. N., Naples
239-213-3034 | naplesgov.com

Naples Municipal Beach

Naples Municipal Beach offers white sand, Gulf views and public access points along the city's shoreline. Visitors come to swim, stroll the water's edge and watch the sunset, with downtown shopping and dining nearby. Parking requires payment or a valid beach parking permit; some beach-end lots are reserved for permit holders.

Public beach accesses along Gulf Shore Boulevard, Naples
239-213-7120 | naplesgov.com

North Collier Regional Park

North Collier Regional Park is one of Collier County's largest recreation hubs, with athletic fields, walking areas, a fitness center, boardwalk, butterfly garden, picnic pavilions and aquatic facilities. Sun-N-Fun Lagoon operates seasonally inside the park, and the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples is also located on the grounds.

15000 Livingston Road, Naples
239-252-4000 | collierparks.com

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve protects 110,000 acres of mangrove forest, uplands and coastal waters and serves as a living laboratory for research, conservation and education. Visitors can explore interactive exhibits at the Environmental Learning Center, join programs and eco-tours, and paddle the reserve's waters. The Environmental Learning Center is generally open Tuesday through Saturday, with seasonal hours.

300 Tower Road, Naples
239-530-5972 | rookerybay.org

South Marco Beach Access

South Marco Beach is a public beach access on South Collier Boulevard with 70 parking spaces and restroom access. Parking is $10 at the master meter unless a beach-parking permit applies, and the parking area is open from sunrise to sundown. Street and swale parking in the South Beach area is prohibited.

930 S. Collier Blvd., Marco Island
239-389-5000 | cityofmarcoisland.com

Sugden Regional Park

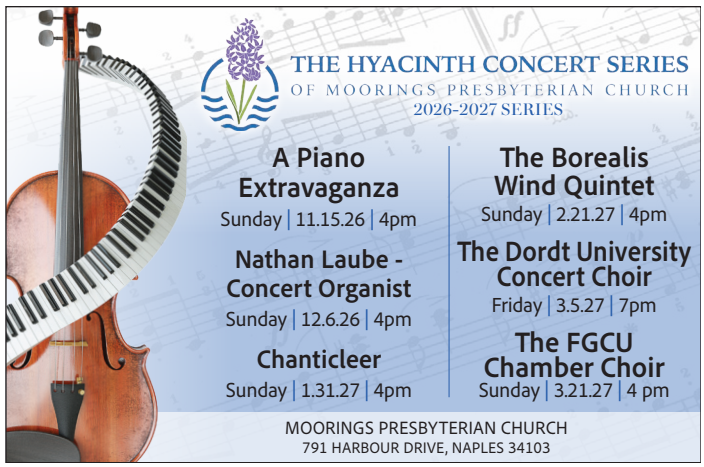
Centered on 60-acre Lake Avalon, Sugden Regional Park is one of Collier County's few freshwater beach destinations. Visitors can walk around the lake, enjoy the playground and picnic areas, and take part in sailing and water-skiing programs. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset.

4284 Avalon Drive, Naples
239-252-4052 | collierparks.com

Tigertail Beach Park

Tigertail Beach Park combines a developed beach park with a lagoon and a more natural shoreline beyond it, making the site popular for shelling, birding and wildlife watching. Restrooms, picnic areas and a playground support a day





SWFL **BEACHES, PARKS AND PRESERVES**

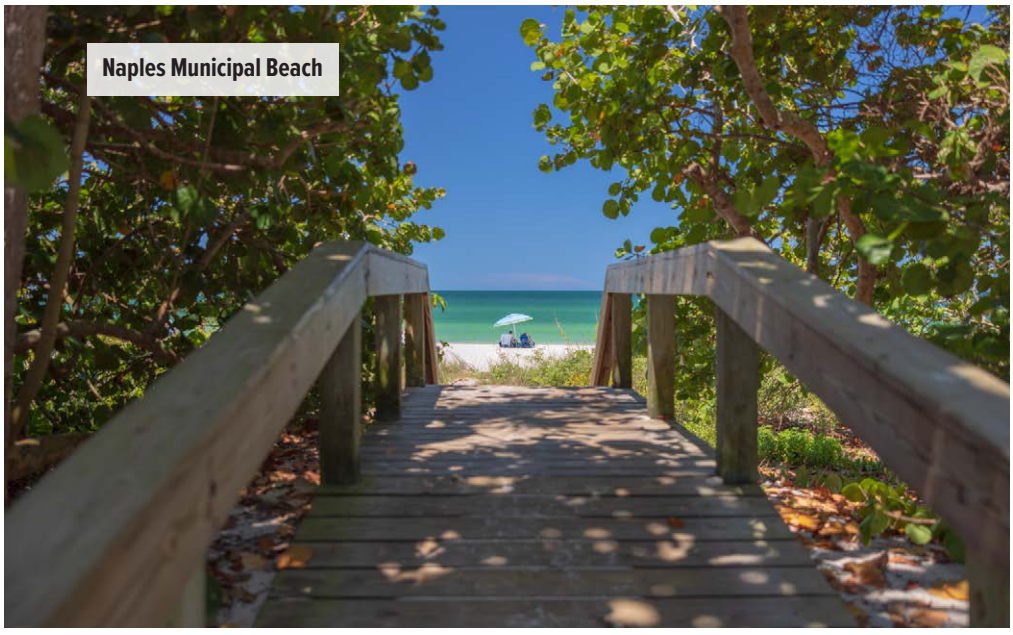
at the beach, while the lagoon and surrounding habitat give the park a distinctly different feel from many of Southwest Florida's Gulf-front beaches. Some concessions and rental services remain unavailable, so visitors who need equipment or food service should check current park information before going.

480 Hernando Drive, Marco Island
239-252-4000 | collierparks.com

Vanderbilt Beach Park

Vanderbilt Beach is one of North Naples' most popular public beach accesses, with wide sand, sea oats, restrooms, foot showers, a concession and a dedicated parking garage. From January to March, parking is best secured before 10 a.m. The park is open year-round from 8 a.m. to sunset.

100 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples
239-252-4000 | collierparks.com



NAPLES-PIER NAPLES, MARCO ISLAND, EVERGLADES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU / COURTESY PHOTO

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Amberjack Environmental Park

Amberjack protects 225 acres of rare scrub, scrubby flatwoods, wetlands and wet prairie on the Cape Haze peninsula. The preserve supports Florida scrub-jays, gopher tortoises and other protected wildlife and is a strong destination for birding and nature walks. Conditions can change with restoration work, so visitors may wish to check the county park page before setting out.

6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Rotonda
941-613-3220 | charlottecountyfl.gov

Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park

This 315-acre regional park in Englewood combines active recreation with more than 150 acres of environmental land. Amenities include nature and bike trails, a pool, recreation and fitness center, sports fields and courts, disc golf, BMX and skate facilities, playgrounds, a dog park and picnic areas. The Oyster Creek Waterfront Trail connects the park with nearby Cedar Point Environmental Park.

6961 San Casa Drive, Englewood
941-681-3760 | charlottecountyfl.gov

Bayshore Live Oak Park

This 10-acre linear waterfront park in the Charlotte Harbor Historic District offers sweeping harbor views, historical interpretive displays, a kayak launch, playground, promenades, picnic pavilions and fishing access. It is an appealing stop for a picnic, sunset or a walk along Charlotte Harbor.

23157 Bayshore Road, Port Charlotte
941-627-1628 | charlottecountyfl.gov

Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Park

Built along the former Charlotte Harbor & Northern Railroad corridor, the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail extends about 8.5 miles along the Cape Haze peninsula. The paved multi-use trail is popular with cyclists, runners and walkers and provides a long, largely off-road route through the peninsula's residential and natural landscape.

1688 Gasparilla Road, Rotonda
941-681-3742 | charlottecountyfl.gov

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) — Cedar Point Environmental Park

CHEC also operates Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood, where trails, a small museum and environmental programs introduce visitors to Lemon Bay's coastal habitats. The preserve is a good choice for an easy nature walk, environmental programming and a closer look at the estuary. Waterfront features may be affected by ongoing restoration, so visitors interested in pier access should check current conditions.

2300 Placida Road, Englewood
941-475-0769 | checflorida.org

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center — Alligator Creek Preserve

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's Alligator Creek Preserve offers miles of marked trails through pine flatwoods, coastal hammock, wetlands and marsh, along with interpretive programs, guided hikes and environmental education. Trails are open seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda
941-575-5435 | checflorida.org

Don Pedro Island State Park

Don Pedro Island State Park is part of a chain of barrier islands along the Gulf Coast, with natural beaches, shelling, swimming, fishing and wildlife watching. The island is currently accessible only by private boat, an important consideration for visitors planning a trip. Dock and visitor-facility availability may change as hurricane recovery continues, so boaters should check the state park page before departure.

8450 Placida Road, Cape Haze
941-759-2007 | floridastateparks.org

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Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park

Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park is a full-service public beach with a playground, basketball and volleyball courts, picnic shelters, restrooms and beach wheelchairs. Its location on Manasota Key makes it a popular choice for swimming, shelling, sunsets and family beach days. The fishing pier remains unavailable during hurricane restoration; visitors coming specifically to fish should check current county updates.

2100 N. Beach Road, Englewood
941-681-3742 | charlottecountyfl.gov

Gasparilla Island State Park

At the southern end of Gasparilla Island, this state park offers Gulf beaches, shelling, swimming, snorkeling and fishing. Its centerpiece is the restored Port Boca Grande Lighthouse, built in 1890, which houses a museum open to the public.

880 Belcher Road, Boca Grande
941-759-2007 | floridastateparks.org

Oyster Creek Environmental Park

More than 250 acres of environmental lands protect old-growth pines, scrub, mature pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe along Oyster Creek. A boardwalk crosses the creek, and the park offers nature trails, paddling, fishing, picnic tables and wildlife viewing, including habitats used by wading birds, ospreys, bald eagles, gopher tortoises and scrub jays.

2333 Placida Road, Englewood
941-681-3742 | charlottecountyfl.gov

Port Charlotte Beach Park

This 16-acre Charlotte Harbor waterfront park offers a small beach, fishing and boat access, courts, playgrounds and picnic areas. Major recreation facilities, including the recreation center and pool, are undergoing reconstruction, so visitors interested in those amenities should check current availability.

4500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte
941-627-1628 | charlottecountyfl.gov

Stump Pass Beach State Park

At the southern end of Manasota Key, Stump Pass Beach State Park offers a mile of Gulf beach, shelling, shark-tooth hunting, fishing, swimming and access for paddlers. Visitors may see manatees, gopher tortoises and shorebirds along the beach and nature trail. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset.

900 Gulf Blvd., Englewood
941-759-2007 | floridastateparks.org

Tippecanoe Environmental Park

This large environmental park protects scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh and wetland habitat and contains shell middens dating back as far as 2,500 years. Visitors can hike, bird and paddle in a landscape tied directly to the Charlotte Harbor watershed. Boardwalk conditions may change as hurricane-restoration work is completed, so visitors who require boardwalk access should check current park information before going.

2400 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte
941-613-3220 | charlottecountyfl.gov



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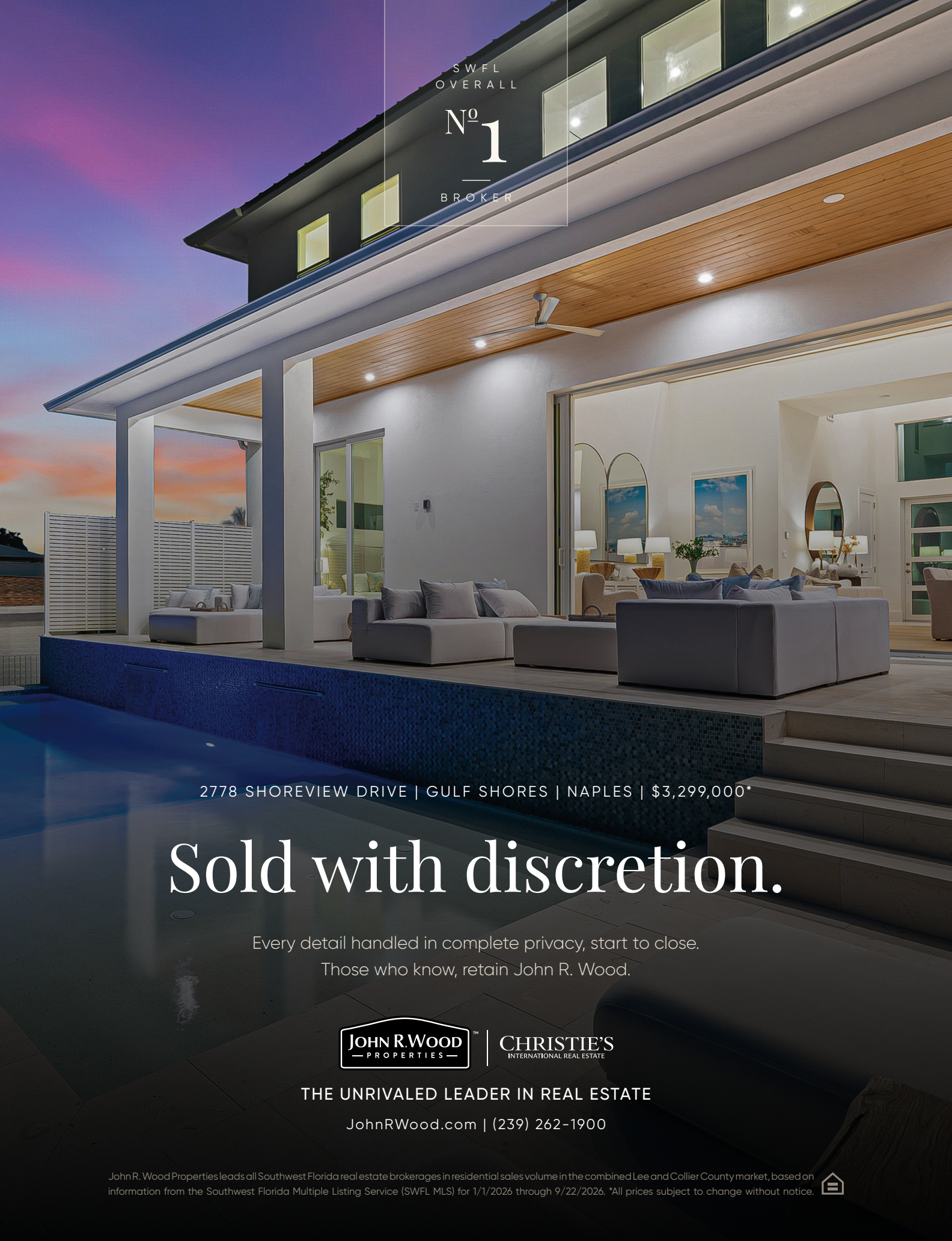
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