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**SNAP THE PERFECT SHOT ALONG THE BEACHES
OF FORT MYERS & SANIBEL**

Destination Launches Photo Contest With \$12,500 in Cash Prizes for Multiple Winners

LEE COUNTY, FL – It's the season of giving, and [The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel](#) wants to give photographers, creative enthusiasts and visitors and locals alike up to \$12,500 in exchange for the perfect picture of this unspoiled island paradise. The Southwest Florida gem launched a photo contest today, running through Jan. 15, 2016, that allows entrants to submit images in six different categories, each capturing a wide variety of topics and subjects. The contest will award 10 winners cash prizes with \$5,000 for the grand prize, \$2,500 for second prize and \$1,000 for third and fourth prize, as well as \$500 for the top image in each category.

Known for its stunning natural beauty, the locale has long served as an inspiration to musicians, artists and writers. The impressive list includes the musical group Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young and acclaimed artist Robert Rauschenberg to iconic inventors Thomas Edison and Henry Ford to best-selling author Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who penned the book *Gift from the Sea*, based on her many visits to Captiva Island. Visitors and locals should stop by some of the destination's more popular attractions and locations within the six categories for their own inspiration and to snap the perfect photo. Categories include:

- **Bird's Eye View:** Grab aerial-specific shots from one of the area's many lighthouses, bridges and rooftops, such as the Boca Grande Lighthouse & Museum and isolated Cabbage Key Water Tower. For the adventurous soul, grab a waterproof camera to capture the perfect parasailing shot from 38 stories above the water.
- **Wild & Natural:** Get up close to natural environments, from beaches and preserves to mangroves and reefs, and the many animals that call them home. Walk along Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, a 3,500-acre wetland ecosystem filled with myriad animals, like otters, alligators, and turtles; bird watch at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge or learn about mollusks at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum.
- **From the Shore:** Snag candid shots of beach goers enjoying the destination's most popular activity of shell collecting and the uniqueness of shell shapes, varieties and colors. Or, capture the beauty of a palm tree, a vibrant sunset or iconic attractions such as the Sanibel or Boca Grande Lighthouses, Fort Myers Beach Pier or rustic setting of Cayo Costa.
- **Urban Flavor:** Showcase the array of local foods, chefs, breweries and distilleries in locations such as Cape Coral, Fort Myers River District and Greater Fort Myers. Foodies will certainly enjoy a visit to Doc Ford's Bar & Grille, Key Lime Bistro or The Bubble Room, which is nationally-recognized for its quirky menu items. Those with a sweet tooth can swing by Norman Love Confections as the hand-painted chocolates boast the perfect opportunity for a colorful shot.
- **Arts, Culture & Free Spirits:** Capture the local museums, galleries, boutiques, artisans and innovators at locations such as Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and Leoma Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens, whose colorful gallery and workspace is housed on a lush, verdant part of the back bay.
- **In & On The Water:** Spend time on the water to capture images of locals and visitors boating, fishing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, sailing, snorkeling and riding wave runners at locations

such as Boca Grande Pass, Pine Island Sound and the Caloosahatchee River. Or, check out Cayo Costa State Park, which boasts nine miles of white-sand beaches, pine forests, oak-palm hammocks and mangrove swamps.

For official rules and regulations, or to enter the contest, please visit www.fortmyers-sanibel.com.

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About The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel

The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel includes Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer Islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres. The southwest Florida destination goes beyond sun and sand, offering a variety of nature and outdoor, arts and cultural, as well as fun and educational experiences for visitors of all ages. It is a place to kick-back and relax; a place to rejuvenate the mind and body, whether by biking, birding, observing the bottlenose dolphin at play or shelling on Sanibel Island. Fishing enthusiasts will thrive on the miles of coastline and diversity of aquatic life, while history buffs and those who love innovation will enjoy a visit to attractions like the Edison & Ford Winter Estates. Combining history, nature, culture, beauty, culinary invention and unlimited outdoor activities, The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel beckon and inspire. For more information visit www.fortmyers-sanibel.com.