



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS: Ray Sarracino, Jackie Parker, Miriam Dotson 239-338-3500

What's New from Fort Myers - Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods

LEE COUNTY, Florida (U.S.A.) – Dreaming about a winter visit to our islands, beaches and neighborhoods? Check out our 2024 Visitor Guide for help planning your vacation.

tinyurl.com/VisitorGuide2024

Don't miss this month!

39th Annual Cape Coral Art Festival and Market Place

Jan. 13-14

capecoralartfestival.com

Bonita Springs National Art Festival

Jan. 13-14

artcenterbonita.org/artfest

Bacon Jam

Jan. 13

Caloosa Sound Amphitheater, downtown Fort Myers

bscevent.com/bacon-jam-fort-myers

Wellness in Nature at "Ding" Darling, Sanibel Island

Jan. 18-21

dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/wellness

Sunrise Shell and Mollusk Stroll, Lighthouse Beach, Sanibel Island

Jan. 26

With a marine biologist from the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium.

shellmuseum.org/sunrise-stroll

Accommodations news

Margaritaville Beach Resort on Fort Myers Beach has opened. With swaying palm trees, pristine sandy beaches and a relaxed, island atmosphere, the 254-room sits on 7.25 acres and has direct beach access and views of the Gulf of Mexico. The property includes six restaurants and the 43,000-square-foot Sunset Terrace that are open to the public. For all of the details:

margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-beach-resort-fort-myers-beach

Sundial Beach Resort & Spa on Sanibel Island begins taking reservations on Jan. 8 for stays beginning Aug. 3, 2024. Pickleball and tennis are open with and day passes available. sundialresort.com

The Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa in Fort Myers has reopened its 40,000-square-foot, full-service spa following a renovation. marriott.com/en-us/hotels/rswsb-marriott-sanibel-harbour-resort-and-spa

Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) news

New air service at RSW

JetBlue Airways:

Worcester (ORH), weekly starting Jan. 4

For more information, visit flyrsw.com

Attractions news

Sun Saver Passport: Dine, Play, Shop, Sip

This popular, digital savings pass provides instant access to a variety of deals and experiences from area attractions, restaurants and more across four categories – Dine, Play, Shop and Sip. Sign-up is simple and free. Passports are instantly delivered to phones via text and email. And there is an option for users to save the pass on their home screen for one-tap access. Sign up now to start saving.

visitfortmyers.com/sun-saver-passport

Sanibel Historic Museum & Village has reopened with hours from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The story of Sanibel is told from the Calusa and Spanish eras to the early pioneer families who settled on the island in the 1800s. sanibelmuseum.org

She Sells Sea Shells on Sanibel Island has reopened its popular family-owned business that has been a must-stop for locals and visitors since 1976. The familiar pink-and-green sign with a tongue-twister of a name, has supplied generations with seashells, jewelry, books, craft supplies, novelties, and treasured Christmas ornaments. sanibelshellcrafts.com

J.N. “Ding” Darling Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island is offering free winter programs Jan. 8 through March 30. Beach walks, Wildlife Drive caravan tours birding for beginners, medicinal plants of the

refuge and alligators and crocodiles are just a few of the topics. Each program is limited to 20 people and participants may find registration information and details at dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/free-refuge-programs

Lovers Key State Park presents free programming with parking Jan. 3 through 19. Learn about sharks, take a fishing clinic, join a beach and estuary walk. Check schedule and details at friendsofroverskey.org/events

Golf news

The Dunes Golf and Tennis Club on Sanibel Island has reopened a section of its course to the public. dunesgolfsanibel.com

Restaurants/dining news

Popular **Sunshine Seafood Café and Wine Bar** has reopened on Andy Rosse Lane on Captiva Island. captivaislandinn.com/captiva-island-restaurants/sunshine-seafood

Annual festivals and events

39th Annual Cape Coral Art Festival and Market Place

Jan. 13-14

capecoralartfestival.com

Bonita Springs National Art Festival

Jan. 13-14, Feb. 10-11, March 2-3

artcenterbonita.org/artfest

Bacon Jam

Jan. 13

Caloosa Sound Amphitheater, downtown Fort Myers

bscevent.com/bacon-jam-fort-myers

Wellness in Nature at “Ding” Darling, Sanibel Island

Jan. 18-21

dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/wellness

"Ding" Darling Lecture Series, Sanibel Island

Jan. 18 and 25, Feb. 1, March 7, 14 and 21

dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-series

Sunrise Shell and Mollusk Stroll, Sanibel Island

Lighthouse Beach

Jan. 26, Feb. 8 and March 10

With a marine biologist from the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum & Aquarium
shellmuseum.org/sunrise-stroll

ArtFest Fort Myers, Downtown River District

Feb. 2-4

artfestfortmyers.com

Edison and Fort Winter Estates Antique Ford Car Show, Fort Myers

Feb. 3

edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/annual-antique-car-show

21st annual Burrowing Owl Festival, Cape Coral

Feb. 24

Rotary Park

ccfriendsofwildlife.org/burrowing-owl-festival-2

Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade, Fort Myers

Feb. 17

edisonfestival.org

“Ding” Wild Days of Wellness

March 23-24

dingwellness.com

Spring training

Boston Red Sox

Feb. 23-March 26

mlb.com/redsox/schedule/2024-02

JetBlue Park, Fort Myers

Minnesota Twins

Feb. 23-March 26

mlb.com/twins/schedule/2024-02

Lee Health Sports Complex/Hammond Stadium, Fort Myers

25th Annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival, Fort Myers

March 2

Fort Myers Regional Library, downtown Fort Myers

readfest.org

88th Annual Sanibel Shell Festival, Sanibel Island

March 7-9

Community House

sanibelcommunityhouse.net/event/87th-annual-sanibel-shell-festival/2024-03-08

Sanibel Shell Show, Fort Myers

March 8-9

Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort

sanibelshellclub.com/6306-2

ECHO Global Food and Farm Festival, North Fort Myers

March 12-16

echonet.org/events/global-food-and-towardwardl

Sounds of the Sand, Bell Tower, Fort Myers

March 23-23

To support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Refuge education efforts

dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/sounds-of-the-sand

34th Annual “Ding” Darling Day Conservation Carnival

April 20

dingdarlingday.com

14th Annual Fort Myers Film Festival

May 22-26

fortmyersfilmfestival.com

12th Annual “Ding” Darling and Doc Ford’s Tarpon Tournament

May 10

dingdarlingtarpontourney.com

Fringe Fort Myers

June 6-9

artinlee.org/experience/fringe

National Seashell Day

June 21

visitfortmyers.com/national-seashell-day

MangoMania

July TBA

Pine Island

pineislandchamber.org/chamber-events/mangomania

FITMIX FEST, downtown Fort Myers

Sept. 27-29

fitmixfest.com

Island Hopper Songwriter Fest

Sept. 20-29

island-hopperfest.visitfortmyers.com

J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge “Art in the Wild”

October TBA

dingartinthewild.com

Cape Coral Oktoberfest

October TBA

capecoraloktoberfest.com

Sanibel Island Writers Conference

November TBA

fgcu.edu/siwc

Holiday Luminary and kick-off to Sanibel Island 50th anniversary

Dec. 6-7

Sanibel and Captiva islands

13-month celebration of Sanibel’s 50th anniversary.

sanibel-island.sanibel-captiva.org

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EDITOR’S NOTE: *Fort Myers - Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Matlacha, Boca Grande & Outer Islands, North Fort Myers, Alva, Buckingham and Lehigh Acres. For more information, go to visitfortmyers.com*