



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 2020

239-338-3500

Celebrate nationally recognized annual festivals at The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel

LEE COUNTY, Fla. (U.S.A.) – In addition to great, year-round weather, shell-drenched beaches and the sparkling Gulf of Mexico, The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in Southwest Florida continues to provide new experiences for visitors to Florida’s unspoiled island destination. For the latest vacation information, visit FortMyers-Sanibel.com

PLAN AHEAD

Save the dates for the **7th Annual Island Hopper Songwriter Fest**. Returning Sept. 18-27, 2020, the award-winning, 10-day event will include star-studded performances by some of country music’s greatest singer-songwriters from Nashville and nationwide. It kicks off on Captiva Island Sept. 18-20 2020; moves to downtown Fort Myers Sept. 21-24; and ends at Fort Myers Beach Sept. 25-27.

Enjoy more than 80 artists and 100 shows. Most are free in small, intimate venues. Stay tuned for details at islandhopperfest.com or download the free Island Hopper Songwriter Fest app on iOS, Android and Google Play.

ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Spring training 2020

The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel is the spring training home of the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins. Get up close and see your favorite baseball players. What could be better than beautiful spring days and great baseball? For a complete listing of packages, special rates and information on a spring training vacation, visit FortMyersSanibel.com.

Boston Red Sox spring training

Through March 24, 2020

JetBlue Park, Fort Myers

redsox.com

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Minnesota Twins spring training

Through March 23, 2020

CenturyLink Sports Complex, Fort Myers
twinsbaseball.com

83rd Annual Sanibel Shell Fair & Show, Sanibel Island

March 5-7, 2020

Sanibel Community House
239-472-2155

sanibelcommunityhouse.net/p/84/shell-festival#.XT3cY_JKiiQ

Sanibel Island, named the best shelling beach in the U.S. and one of the best in the world, hosts shelling enthusiasts who gather each year for the shell fair that draws visitors from around the globe. One of the most unique events in the country, it began on a porch with just a few islanders and has evolved into today's fair.

21st Annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival

Fort Myers Regional Library Campus

March 7, 2020

readfest.org

Celebrate the power of reading at the 21st annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival at the Fort Myers Regional Library campus at 2450 First St., Fort Myers. The free, family-oriented festival is a chance to meet well-known authors and to focus on the importance of reading. There will also be books and authors for kids and teens.

62nd Annual Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival and Parade, Fort Myers Beach

March 14-15, 2020

fortmyersbeachshrimpfestival.com

The 62nd Annual Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival and Parade takes place at Lynn Hall Memorial Park on Fort Myers Beach. Both days are filled with fun, food and crafts as well as the world-famous Lions Club shrimp dinners. Shrimp are from our local fleets and are as fresh as you can get. Enjoy a 5K run, the Shrimp Festival Parade, crowning of the Shrimp Queen and a shrimp-eating competition.

ECHO Global Food & Farm Festival, North Fort Myers

March 13-14, 2020

echonet.org/food-and-farm-festival

For 29 years, ECHO (Educational Concern for Hunger Organization) has been host to Southwest Florida's premier festival focusing on sustainable living, agriculture and food. Partnering with local organizations and businesses, ECHO's Global Food and Farm Festival has provided thousands of attendees with the opportunity to taste exotic foods, experience life in a foreign country and explore the Global Farm, learning about food and culture in a new way.

Visitors will tour a tropical rainforest demonstration, a 300+ variety seed bank, take an educational tour of the fruit tree arboretum or learn about alternative energies. Kids of all ages can taste, touch and experience their way around the world as they learn about world hunger and ways they can make an impact.

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Brews on the River, Cape Coral

April 18, 2020

brewsontheriver.com/

This new craft beer fest will feature more than 20 breweries and takes place at Tarpon Point Marina along the Caloosahatchee River in Cape Coral.

14th annual Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival, Fort Myers Beach

April 22-26, 2020

fmbfilmfest.com

The Fort Myers Beach Film Festival invites independent film fans, filmmakers and distributors to spend four days to exchange ideas, make new contacts and enjoy some great films for all ages. Area accommodations offer special rates and packages to support this international celebration of independent filmmaking.

10th Annual Fort Myers Film Festival

May 6-10, 2020

fortmyersfilmfestival.com

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

The Fort Myers Film Festival is an intelligent independent filmmaker's preferred event to create, unite and showcase the finest artistic cinematic works. Known for its support of local filmmakers, the event is a must-attend for cineastes who love indie film and film festivals.

"Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tourney, Sanibel Island

May 22, 2020

239-472-1100

dingdarlingtarpontourney.org

To celebrate the history of the first documented tarpon caught on a rod-and-reel in "Ding" Darling's Tarpon Bay in 1885, Doc Ford's and the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge have partnered to host this 9th annual "catch, care and release" tournament. Proceeds support the wildlife and conservation efforts at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

25th Annual MangoMania Tropical Fruit Festival, Cape Coral

July 11-12, 2020

German-American Social Club

239-283-0888

mangomaniafl.net

The mango is the star attraction for two days each summer on Pine Island. Go wild for fruit as well as samples of locally grown delicacies at this annual affair, an unusual celebration of all the tropical fruit grown on the island. Fruit, exotic fruit trees and fruit-related products are available for purchase. This fun, family event celebrates Pine Island's mangoes and other tropical fruits. In addition to mango food and beverages, the event features live music, art and craft vendors, food and recipe contests, and activities area for kids and a chance to meet the Mango Queen.

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Roar Offshore, Fort Myers Beach

Oct. 8-10, 2020

fortmyersbeach.org/events/roar-offshore

Get ready to celebrate the return of Offshore Powerboat Racing to Fort Myers Beach with this National Championship Race. The entire race will be visible anywhere on the beach from the pier to mid-island and on the water in the spectator anchoring area.

34th Annual Oktoberfest, Cape Coral

Oct. 16-18 and 23-25, 2020

German-American Social Club

239-283-1400

capecoraloktoberfest.com

Hosted by the German-American Social Club, this huge celebration brings organizers from Munich to Cape Coral. The Cape Coral Oktoberfest is the largest party of the year in the community and is the event for fun, good food, freshly poured domestic and German beer, live music on several stages, laughter, dancing.

32nd Annual “Ding” Darling Day, Sanibel Island

Oct. 18, 2020

239-472-1100

dingdarlingdays.com

Check website for a list of free events throughout the day.

Sanibel Island Writers Conference, Sanibel Island

Nov. 5-8, 2020

BIG ARTS

900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel

239-590-7421

fgcu.edu/siwc

Participants at all stages of development – from notebook scribblers to published novelists – are invited to attend a variety of workshops in fiction, poetry, songwriting, children’s literature, journalism, screenwriting, and creative nonfiction; panels on publishing and editing; and readings, keynote addresses and concerts.

Cape Coral CoCoNut Festival, Cape Coral

Nov. 12-15, 2020

239-573-3121

cocofest.com

Sun Splash Family Water Park

Cape Coral CoCoNut Festival celebrates Cape Coral’s reputation for coconuts, multi-cultural food, boating, fishing and wildlife. The festival will feature a national musical act, gymnastic entertainment, carnival rides, water-ski shows, tropical food, contests, coconut crafts and fireworks.

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34th Annual American Sand Sculpting Championships, Fort Myers Beach

Nov. 20-30, 2020

In front of Wyndham Garden Hotel

239-454-7500

fmbsandsculpting.com

Join the fun on Fort Myers Beach for the Annual American Sand Sculpting Championship.

Sponsored by the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce, *USA Today* and *CNN Travel* have named a “must-see” and one of the 10 best sand-sculpting competitions in the world.

Fort Myers Tip-Off, Fort Myers

Nov. 23 and 25, 2020

Suncoast Credit Union Arena

Fortmyerstipoff.com

Come see who will #OwnTheFort Thanksgiving week as the nation’s top college basketball programs compete in the third annual Fort Myers Tip-Off. The campus of Florida SouthWestern State College is home to this four-team tournament which has quickly become a staple of the Southwest Florida sports calendar.

45th Annual Holiday Nights at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers

December 2020

239-334-7419

edisonfordwinterestates.org

A not-to-be-missed holiday tradition, the historic buildings and more than 20 acres of gardens are decorated with lights and traditional decorations. The event offers a special holiday tour, Children’s Tree Trail, Santa visits on select nights, refreshments and shopping in the Ford Cottage Shoppe, museum store and garden shoppe. edisonfordwinterestates.org/calendar Edison Ford Holiday Nights reflect the many contributions of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and their families to the local community. It was chosen by the editors of *USA Today* as one of the *10 Best Historic Homes for the Holidays*. In addition, The American Bus Association (ABA) designated the event as one of the *Top 100 Events in North America for 2016*.

14th Annual Festival of Trees presented by Goodwill Industries, downtown Fort Myers

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

December 2020

goodwilltrees.com

Get into the holiday spirit with a stroll through a showcase of festive trees in the historic Fort Myers River District.

36th Annual Christmas Luminary Trail and Open House, Sanibel and Captiva islands

Dec. 4 on Sanibel Island and Dec. 5 on Captiva Island, 2020

sanibel-captiva.org

This event draws visitors from all over the world as they join local residents to celebrate the season with 3 miles of luminary candles and events.

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8th Annual Holiday Stroll on South Seas Island Resort

December 2020

southseas.com

South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island hosts its 8th annual Holiday Stroll every Friday and Saturday night during the holiday season.

River District Holidays, downtown Fort Myers

Dec. 1, 2020-Jan. 2, 2021

fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com/holidays

The calendar is packed with holiday events to get you in the spirit of the season. Festival of Trees, Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting, Burroughs's Home & Gardens Holiday House, Music Walk, holiday concert and a New Year's Eve celebration to welcome 2021.

Annual Port Boca Grande Lighthouse and Museum Lighting, Boca Grande

Dec. 12, 2020

barrierislandparkssociety.org

Celebrate the annual lighting of the Gasparilla Lighthouse at 6 p.m. with music and refreshments. Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Third annual Fort Myers Seafood & Music Festival, Fort Myers

River District

Jan. 8-10, 2021

seafoodfestivals.com/S-62-Ft.+Myers+Seafood+%26+Music+Festival

Enjoy great food, live music and a marketplace.

36th Annual Cape Coral Arts & Music Festival

Jan. 9-10, 2021

capecoralfestival.com

239-699-7942

This annual event draws hundreds of artists and more than 100,000 visitors.

ArtFest Fort Myers, downtown historic district

Feb. 6-7, 2021

239-768-3602

artfestfortmyers.com

On the waterfront in downtown Fort Myers, visitors enjoy made-in-USA original art by more than 200 artists. Enjoy food, music and fun for the whole family.

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Editor's note: The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in Southwest Florida includes Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer Islands, North Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres. For media assistance, visit fortmyers-sanibel.com/media-central/