

Local Attractions Guide

For Estero Beach & Tennis Club

Unit #1005C

Fort Myers Beach, Florida

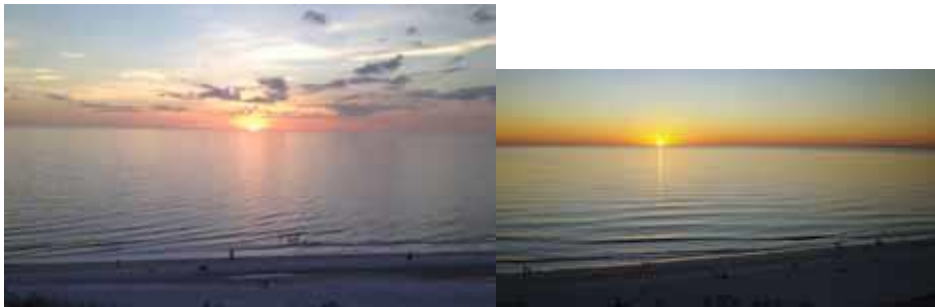
For more information and rental availability visit

www.FloridaCondoFun.com

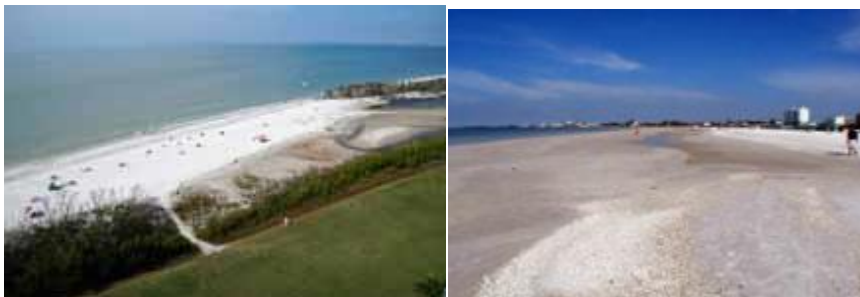
A short walk away...



An estuary adjacent to the grounds is the best aquatic bird sanctuary on the island, and is often visited by local Audubon photographers. You can bird watch from the balcony of our condo, and the species change throughout the day. Pelicans love to glide above the shoreline looking for dinner. And porpoises often surface right in front.



View relaxing sunsets (the above views are from our balcony), or watch them change colors while strolling along the soft sand. Seven miles of sugar sand beach awaits you. We love to stroll in the morning, often finding beautiful sea shells (Fort Myers Beach is one of the best shelling beaches in Florida.)





The first view above is from our 10th floor balcony. If you walk down to the beach, you'll see and feel how soft the white sand it.



We've seen people shore fishing in front of our condo with good results. Tackle can be rented inexpensively from the **Fish Tale Marina** (pictured above), which is right across the street from the condo grounds. You can also rent boats, pontoon boats, and buy a 3 or 5 day fishing license. They also have fishing guides, and can arrange ocean fishing trips.

For more excitement, you can rent WaveRunners and kayaks at **Mid Island Water Sports**, on the beach about a block north. They can also take you parasailing!

For tamer tastes, we recommend a sunset and sightseeing cruise with **Good Time Charters**. Their large pontoon boat leaves the pier in front of the Fish House Restaurant. Call 437-8773 for departure times.

If you are a tennis player, bring your rackets. Some of our guests especially love these tournament-quality clay tennis courts, which are available to you at no extra charge. (You'll have a security card for admission.)



There are 4 Estero Beach and Tennis Club clay courts

Santini's Marina Plaza is across the street next to the marina, with seven restaurants and several shops in and around it. We love to browse in The Beach Book Nook.



Santini's Marina Plaza

Local Restaurants

South Beach Grille is one of our top favorite restaurants, located at Santini's Marina Plaza across the street. It's somewhat upscale dining, but not unreasonably priced. It has a fabulous bar that gets busy around sundown. Their early-bird specials are tasty bargains.

For lunch we like grouper sandwiches at the **Fish House Restaurant**, located dockside behind the shopping plaza. The french fries are uncommonly good. Informal and friendly. Egrets sometimes pace the deck rail, hoping for handouts.

In the middle of the plaza, try **Francesco's Italian Deli and Pizzeria**. They have tasty hoagies, pizzas, and deli items. You can buy hot or "heat & eat" meals and bring them back to your condo. They also have gluten-free pasta and pizza. They are right across the street, and they also deliver (call 239-463-5634).

For a good breakfast visit, **Skye's Restaurant** right across the street. For lunch and dinner they feature a Mexican menu, but American favorites are also available.

The Sandbar and Grille has entrees that are moderately priced. Their pizzas are popular. TV monitors are everywhere, including in the booths (although you can turn yours off), broadcasting cable sports.

Also at the south end of the plaza, **Castaways** is another choice for casual dining. Their spaghetti is a long-time favorite of the local diners.

Another top favorite of ours is the **Parrot Key Caribbean Grill**. Pier-side dining, with a creative menu and drink list. Lunch, dinner, or Sunday breakfast. They don't take reservations, but you might want to call about their menu (463-3257). To get there cross back over the main bridge, turn right on Main Street (just on the other side) and go a few blocks until you see their big sign. You'll see other restaurants on the way, all featuring fresh-off-the-boat seafood.

Another restaurant across the bridge and next to Parrot Key is **Bootleggers Waterfront Barbeque**.

Home smoked chicken, ribs, pork, and brisket, with daily southern specials and local craft beers.

Another top favorite of ours across the bridge (just past Main Street, on the left) is **Fishmonger Restaurant**. It's an unpretentious local favorite (you'll probably see lots of cars in the gravel parking lot!), with off-the-boat fresh seafood. Reasonable prices, friendly staff, and attentive service.

It's worth a short drive or trolley ride (or one-mile walk) north to **Charley's Boat House Grill**. Over 55 items on their salad bar! Great place for steaks and ribs, as well as seafood.



A view from Charley's Boat House Grill

The **Bayfront Bistro** is one of the more upscale restaurants on the island, but we've heard waiting time and service can be iffy. It's located on the bayfront behind Publix grocery store. (239-463-3663)

You'll find fresh fish on the menu at **Fresh Catch Bistro**, located on the beach toward the north end of the island. Plan your reservation for sunset, and try to reserve a Gulf view window table. (Although you'll be spoiled by the view from our condo!)

If you like traditional Italian cooking, try **Terra Nostra Ristorante and Steak House**, which is toward the north end of the island. Open for dinner only, they feature lots of Italian favorites---including pizza---and steaks.

Heading south to Bonita Springs, our guests have enjoyed **Coconut Jack's**, voted one of the best waterfront restaurants in Bonita Springs. (239-676-7777)

For great ice cream and fountain treats, walk across the street to **Truly Scrumptious**. They also serve breakfast and lunch. We like to stop there for hot fudge sundaes after dinner.

Unique Shopping

Under the bridge at the north end of the island, you'll find **The Beach Farmers Market** every Friday

morning 7:30 am until 11:30. Local fresh fruit, breads, flowers, and seafood.

There is also a mobile **fruit and vegetable stand** that parks across the street from our condo in the Santini Plaza parking lot on most days. They usually have a good supply of delicious local oranges.

For **fresh shrimp**, the nearby go-to place is the **Trico Shrimp Company**, just across the bridge, and turn right onto Main Street. Their shrimp, crab, and fresh fish are caught wild and domestically. You'll probably see shrimp boats unloading in the back of their building. (Our favorite recipe is to chop onion, garlic, spinach, and tomatoes, and saute that with shrimp in olive oil. We bring some dried herbs from home, and sprinkle them in as well. Serve over rice or pasta, or with a baked potato)

And then there's the giant **Fleamaster's Fleamarket**, open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. 400,000 sq. feet under one roof, so wear comfortable shoes!



Fleamaster's Fleamarket

The premier shopping center in the area is Coconut Point, which has scores of famous retail stores, excellent restaurants and movie theaters. It's about 30 minutes away in moderate traffic. Drive south through Bonita Springs, turn left onto Highway 41.



Coconut Point Shopping Center

We like the **Tanger Factory Outlet**, located nearby on the way to Sanibel Island. Lots of name brand stores offering bargains.

The **Miromar Outlets** are on the way to Naples. Allow plenty of time if you want to visit all 140 shops.

This is sandal country, and you'll find various brands of quality sandals at **Birkenstock**, just across the street at the Santini Marina Plaza.

This isn't a "unique" shopping experience, but we found the best grocery store on the island to be **Publix**, which is about 2 miles north of our condo on the bay side. You can also buy wine and beer.

Nearby Attractions

Lets start with the **Fort Myers Beach Public Library** (about halfway between our condo and the north bridge). If you didn't bring a computer, you can check your email there for free. You can call ahead for a free Internet reservation (239-765-8163) to check your email. If you want to check out books, DVDs, videos or music CDs, you can buy a 90-day library card for \$5 (picture ID required).

If you bring a computer or other wireless Internet device, you can use **our private secure wifi**, which is located in the condo.

By the way, we have a few DVDs in the condo, but you can rent DVDs at the laundry across the street in the shopping plaza. If your laptop streams videos, our TV set has an **HDMI connection** (please bring your own HDMI cord).

We recommend you drive north 12 miles to Fort Myers (about 20 minutes from the bridge) and visit the **Thomas Edison Winter Home & Museum**. The museum is a fascinating glimpse into Edison's family and work life. His good friend, Henry Ford built a house next to his, and it is also on display.

Drive a little farther north to visit the historic **Fort Myers Downtown River District**. You'll find interesting restaurants, art and craft galleries, and unique shops.



Historic Downtown Fort Myers

Lover's Key State Park (1616 acres) is small island south of us, connected with a bridge. It's an excellent place to learn more about local birds, plants, sea shells and life on the beach. You can hike or rent a bike for the trails, or rent a canoe or kayak for the waterways.

Old Town Naples is a fun place to shop and dine. We especially like Campiello's and Lurcat, both owned by an outstanding Minnesota restaurateur. Naples is about a 40 minute drive south.



Old Town Naples

The fastest way to Key West from Fort Myers Beach is via the high-speed **Key West Ferry**. Enjoy 5 full hours in Key West and avoid the 12 to 14 hours it would take to drive there. It departs and returns daily from Salty Sam's Marina, located under the bridge on the north end of the island.

If you want some gambling excitement, you might want to try the **Big "M" Gambling Cruise**. We've seen their "gaming yacht" leave the harbor early evening and return later at night.

A great day trip northeast of Naples would be a visit to the 11,000-acre **Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary**, where a 2.25-mile raised boardwalk takes visitors through several distinct habitats, including the largest remaining virgin bald cypress forest in North America. It's a great way to learn about Florida's unique flora and fauna.

Everglades City is 64 miles south, and would make another great day trip. You can visit the **Everglades National Park**, or see miles of pristine wilderness by taking a tour on an environment-friendly (not to mention exciting) air boat. Enjoy a fresh fish lunch in one of the casual restaurants located along the waterway (to the right as you drive into the city). Air boat companies are also located in that part of town.

Miami is 146 miles, and we're told takes about 2-3 hours to drive.

Key Largo (the first of the Keys) is an hour beyond Miami. World class scuba diving there. Jim dived with Horizon Divers there, and had a great scuba experience. You can also snorkel at the John **Pennkamp Coral Reef State Park**.

Distances to other Florida cities:

	Miles	Drive Time
Orlando	196	3 hours
Tampa	126	2 hours
Daytona	251	4 hours
Jacksonville	335	5 hours

The location of the nearest **ATM machine**: across the street at the bank.

For island news visit the local newspaper online: **Fort Myers Beach Observer**

For community activities and organizations visit the Fort Myers Beach Chamber's website: **The Catch**

Local Temperature Averages (Fahrenheit)



Month	High	Low	Gulf Water
JANUARY	74	53	66
FEBRUARY	74	53	66
MARCH	80	58	71
APRIL	85	62	77

MAY	89	67	82
JUNE	90	72	86
JULY	91	74	87
AUGUST	91	74	87
SEPTEMBER	90	74	86
OCTOBER	85	68	81
NOVEMBER	80	60	73
DECEMBER	76	54	68