



Southern Serenity FMB

Welcome Book

Welcome to our Home

We began coming to the island with our kids during Spring Break in 2005. We talked about buying here for years and in 2018 finally pulled the trigger. You should immediately notice upon your arrival that this is our home, not just a vacation rental. We've tried to think of everything we've enjoyed over the years and that our family enjoys when we come down, and included them all for your use. We wish you the best, most enjoyable time in Fort Myers Beach and hope we can be a part of helping you make lifelong memories.



Brad & Shelley Wethington
Southern Serenity Beach Vacation Rental, LLC

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Welcome

Thank you for choosing Southern Serenity for your beach vacation. We have tried to think of everything to make your stay enjoyable and memorable. If there's anything that we could do or could have done to make your experience better, please call or text us at (317) 490-4728; or email us at Shelley@SouthernSerenityFMB.com. Likewise, if you have any questions about our home that we've not answered in this welcome book please call, text or email so that we can answer your questions and include this information for our next guests.

Yale Assure Lock™ SL

We've equipped our house with a Yale Assure Lock™ SL Key Free Touchscreen Deadbolt. Prior to check-in we'll ask for a copy of your identification that matches the credit card you used to secure your reservation. Thereafter we'll issue you a code your guests and you will use during your stay. To enter the home simply touch the back of your hand to the lock, enter your lock code, then hit the check mark. To lock, simply touch the back of your hand to the lock.

Maximum Occupancy & Parking Restrictions

Southern Serenity is rated by the Town of Fort Myers Beach Fire Department for a maximum occupancy of 13. Our house rules limit occupancy to 12. Vehicles are limited to a maximum of three passenger cars or light utility vehicles. Trucks or vans exceeding 14,000 lbs and trailers are prohibited. Parking is limited to patio paver driveway and rock driveway on north side of house. Parking in landscaped areas is strictly prohibited.

Maintenance & Repairs

We take great pride in our home and do our best to ensure that everything is in good condition and in working order. We regularly and frequently visit to personally inspect the property, the work of our cleaning contractors, the work of our pool contractor, etc. We employ a team of contractors who regularly service the house, the HVAC, the grounds, and appliances. We have the house regularly and frequently treated for pests. Despite our best-efforts things break, things wear out, and things need to be replaced. Please email, call, or text with any maintenance issues you find upon your arrival or encounter during your stay so that we may address them as quickly as possible.

Short Term Rental Ordinance

The Town of Fort Myers Beach passed ordinance 18-01 (May 7, 2018) which requires that property owners tightly manage their properties and be available 24/7 to address issues (e.g., noise complaints, large parties, etc.). The ordinance imposes heavy fines for complaints regarding disturbances. We are on a quiet street just close enough to the nightlife of Town Square and just far enough to get away to rest and relaxation. Many of our neighbors are lifelong residents and many work during the week. Please be respectful of quiet hours of 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM.

Minut[®] Crowd & Noise Detection Monitor

Our house is equipped with a Minut[®] crowd and noise detection monitor. This device does not have the capability to listen to or record any conversation(s) – it only measures crowd and decibel levels. It is set at a very high decibel level, so you're very unlikely to set it off even if you tried. It is set to alert our property manager only if occupancy is exceeded or if there is a very loud party (in which case, our neighbors would likely have already reported it). The only other event

that will trigger an alert is if someone tampers with it. For more information on this device, visit [The sensor that protects your stay and your privacy \(minut.com\)](https://www.minut.com).

This is a non-smoking facility

We're happy to offer our home as a non-smoking facility. Smoking is permitted on the grounds, just not in the house. Please help us maintain this policy by strictly enforcing that your guests not smoke inside the house and by picking up and discarding all cigarette butts. There is a strict smoking cleaning charge of \$300 in addition to any damage caused.

Wi-Fi

Our home is equipped with complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi. We have two separate Wi-Fi signals – a 5GHz and a 2.4GHz. We recommend that you connect to the 5GHz signal first. If you have an older device and you're having trouble connecting, try connecting to the 2.4GHz channel. The channel names are:

- SouthernSerenity (2.4 GHz)
- SouthernSerentiy5GHz (5 GHz)

Both passwords are the same: Dolphins08

Beach Wheelchair

The Town of Fort Myers Beach has wheelchairs adapted to the beach environment available for loan. There is no charge other than a refundable deposit (credit card required). Wheelchairs are available from 9:00 AM to 4:45 PM. To reserve, contact the Beach and Street Enforcement (BASE) Team at 239-463-5888 at least an hour in advance.

Beach accesses with an accessible mat or wooden bridge includes (with parking): 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27; and (without parking): 18, 33, 34.

Baby Supplies

We've equipped the house with:

- 2 pack and plays with four sets of waterproof sheets. Pack and Play is Graco Pack and Play On the Go Playard, Includes Full-Size Infant Bassinet, Push Button Compact Fold, Pasadena. For more specific information, [click here](#).
- 2 bed rails
- 1 booster seat with tray
- 1 highchair
- 1 baby stroller
- Baby gate

If you need any additional cribs, pack and plays, high chairs, etc. they may be rented from Vacation Baby Rental at <http://www.vacationbabyrental.com> or by calling them at (941) 202-0730; or BabyQuip at <https://www.babyquip.com/annabell917> or (239) 200-5992 . As an alternative there are several thrift shops and secondhand stores near the island. If you're in the bargain hunting mood while you're here on vacation you might be able to pick up what you need, then resell it when you leave. A couple of suggestions:

- Once Upon a Child (<https://www.facebook.com/OnceUponAChildFortMyers/>) (239) 274-0039
- Beach Kiwanis Thrift Store Fort Myers Beach (239) 454-8090)

Pet Policy

We're happy to offer our home as a pet friendly facility for an additional fee of \$100 paid at the time of your booking. Pets are welcome, but we ask that you help us maintain this policy by picking up after them. There is an additional charge of \$150 if our cleaning service must pick up after your pet. Charge will be deducted from your deposit. This is in addition to any damage to the home caused by your pet.

Unwanted House Guests

We're officially in the Florida Everglades. We have a countless variety of pests, rodents, snakes, lizards, iguanas, and more that you don't want to join you in the house. We love our backyard lizards – we always get great guest feedback about how much the kids and grandkids enjoyed them – but they will come in the house and, if you let them in, they've been known to show up where you'd be least happy to find them. Please keep the exterior doors always closed. Furthermore, our electronic thermostats are programmed to turn off the HVAC system if doors are left open longer than 10 minutes.

Housekeeping Service

Our home was cleaned just prior to your arrival. We expect that you'll find our home to your satisfaction. Should you find anything out of order please contact us by text or phone at 317.490.4728; or by email at Shelley@SouthernSerenityFMB.com. The pool is serviced twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays. The pool technician should have no reason to interrupt your stay or to access the house for any reason.

Pool

The light for the pool is located on the south wall of the lower level. As you're walking in the house from the pool that's the wall to your right – on the right side of the patio/sliding glass doors.

Please be courteous of our neighbors and comply with the town ordinance by observing quiet hours from 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM. Children should not be in pool during quiet hours. Please reserve 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM for the adult guests in your party and please keep noise to a minimum. Children under the age of 16 should be accounted for always and should be closely monitored when in or around the pool area. Please, no glass in or near the pool. We've furnished our home with varieties of plastic dishes for use in and around the pool.

Pool House

The key for the pool house is located in the lock box on the East side of the pool house. The code for the lock box is 1992. Please replace key in lock box once you've unlocked the pool house door. Please be courteous to our neighbors by not playing music too loudly and please observe quiet hours of 10:00 PM to 8:00 AM. The light switches are inside the door to your right. One controls the interior pool house, the other controls the flood lights.

Pool Inflatables & Toys

We try to keep an ample supply of pool toys and pool inflatables in the pool house. Pool inflatables (e.g., rafts, beach balls, innertubes, etc.), we've found, just don't seem to last very long. We come down pretty frequently to remove inflatables that no longer hold air and broken toys. We have guests that find that a raft or other inflatable won't hold air or a broken toy and they're reluctant to discard them only to have the next guest unsuccessfully try to inflate them. Please feel free to discard no longer usable inflatables or toys.

Pool Water Level, Pool Service

The water line in the pool should be about halfway up the skimmer. During periods of extreme heat or drought water will need to be added. Our pool service tech services the pool twice weekly. If you notice that the water level is low, please add water or please call it to the attention of the pool tech. Our pool is serviced twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays.

Queen Air Mattress

Local fire code limits our occupancy to no more than 13 people. Our rental policy allows no more than 12. There are six beds in the bedrooms and a sofa sleeper on the lowest level. We also have a self-inflating Queen mattress in the master bedroom closet.

Gas Grill

There is a gas grill furnished for your enjoyment. Please clean grill and replace grill cover after use. Please turn off LP gas at the tank when not in use. Replacement LP tanks are located inside the garage.

Beach Towels

Beach towels are provided for your convenience. Please feel free to use these along with the other beach gear (e.g., chairs, umbrella, beach cart, coolers, etc.), but please leave them at the end of your stay. Lost or missing towels will be charged back to you at \$20 each.

Koozies

We have Southern Serenity drink Koozies available for your use on the lowest level near the beach towels. Please feel free to take one per each adult guest when you check out.

Trash, Recycling, Horticulture

Please place garbage in black trash receptacles. Please place recycling in blue recycling receptacles. Horticulture should be placed separately in the unlidded trash containers. All will be picked up at the 'curb' 1x weekly on Thursdays. Trash pickup occurs very early in the morning, so please place cans at the curb on Wednesday evening.

Central Air

There are three air conditioning units – one for each floor. Each unit is controlled by its own thermostat. Central air units can freeze up in Florida if set below 72°. Please conserve by setting thermostat to 74° when you're not using a floor for an extended period. If you're enjoying a day in the pool, you'll be in and out of the refrigerator and bathroom and will be opening & closing the patio door a lot. Please consider setting downstairs air at 78°. If you require HVAC service during your stay because of frozen unit, the service call charges may be withheld from your deposit. Please set all three thermostats to 78° when you depart.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of severe weather where evacuations are suggested we may ask you to lower the hurricane shutters and place outdoor furniture inside. If there is a

weather (or other) emergency in where mandatory evacuations are ordered we will ask you to lower shutters, place outdoor furniture indoors and vacate the property for prorated refund of unused stay. If you must vacate for any reason, please report this by calling or texting us at 317-490-4728.

Ironing Board & Iron

There are two ironing boards and an iron for your convenience. One of the ironing boards is in the main closet on main level, the other in the master bedroom on upper level. The iron is in the master bedroom closet.

Checkout

Checkout time is 10:00 AM Saturday (or on the day of your scheduled departure if you've made special arrangements for other than Saturday). Please use the following checklist to help facilitate readying our home for our next guest.

- Load dishwasher and start
- Leave sheets on bed; leave bed unmade
- Set thermostats at 78°
- Place all trash in outdoor receptacles (leave receptacles at side of house as trash doesn't come until Thursday)
- Leave be sure to replace key in pool house lock box and lock the box
- Please lock all doors upon your departure
- Please leave dirty towels in laundry room in front of the washer

Please leave only day of laundry (i.e., your towels from the morning of your departure). The cleaning crew struggles to get all the bedding and towels laundered during the brief period between your checkout and the 4:00 PM check-in. If you've left all your laundry for your entire stay including beach towels and days' worth of bath towels, cleaners will need to leave, take laundry to laundromat and there will be an additional cleaning fee assessed.

Transportation

Once you get to the island, following your trip to the Walmart for your weeks' food and adult beverages, there's literally no reason to drive a car (unless you want to enjoy some off-island attractions). There are more restaurants within walking distance than you could possibly visit in your one-week stay.

Fort Myers Beach offers a trolley system year-round, 7 days per week. Service runs from Lover's Key State Park at the South end of the island to Beach Park & Ride off-island (to the North). Stops for the trolley are indicated by the blue and white 'trolley' signs. The latest schedule can be found at <https://www.fortmyersbeach.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Fort-Myers-Beach-trolley-timetable-route-400.pdf>. Frequency varies by season, but in-season the trolleys run about every 10-15 minutes. In-season is free; off season is \$0.75 or \$0.35 for seniors, those with disabilities or full-time students. Children under 42" are free. All day and 3-day passes are available at additional discounts.

Area Attractions

We hope you enjoy your stay and that you'll consider making our home your home away from home for years to come. Please don't hesitate to call, text or email if you have any questions or would like any suggestions about the area, area restaurants and/or area attractions. Here are just a few we can suggest:

1. Check out the shops, restaurants, and bars in Downtown Fort Myers Beach. Paid parking is available or it's an easy 15-20 minute walk. Some of our favorites include [Yucatan Beachstand Bar & Grill](#), [Wahoo Willies Tiki Bar & Grill](#), [Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant](#), [Nervous Nellies Crazy Waterfront Eatery](#), [Lah De Dah Beach Bar & Grill](#), and [The World-Famous Tiki Bar & Grill](#).
2. Eat lots of ice cream. Try to hit all the ice cream shops on- and just-off the island to see which is your favorite. Some of ours include [Cold Stone Creamery](#), [Meli's](#), [Love Boat Home Made Ice Cream](#), and [2000 Flavors Homemade Ice Cream](#).
3. Take in some live music. Almost all of the beach bars and restaurants have live music – some daily, some multiple times daily. A quick search on Google or Facebook will give you tons of options. You can also visit our the [Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce website](#) for a list of who's playing where and when on the beach. Be sure to check out the Bayside Park Concert Series every Sunday from 4:00 to 7:00 for a free concert. You can check who's playing each week [here](#).
4. Salty Sam's Pirate Cruise ([\(239\) 765-7272](tel:(239)765-7272); <https://www.floridapiratecruise.com/>): 90 minute cruise, fun for adults (complete with full bar) and kids
5. Miniature Golf: there are five miniature golf venues nearby, but none within walking distance. The shortest drive and our favorite is [Smugglers Cove Adventure Golf](#). Take some quarters so kids can feed the live alligators (although they'll make change for you). (239) 466-5855. Open until 11:00 PM in season.
6. There are more than a dozen bike rental places on the island. The nearest (just at the end of our street; less than .2 mi) is Fun Rentals. They rent

bikes, scooters and motorcycles (including Harley Davidson). Pedal Less E Bike Rentals is located at 450 Old San Carlos Blvd. They offer electric fat tire bikes that you can ride on the island or the beach.

7. Shopping. There are too many shops to list, so a quick Google search is best. To name just a few, there's [SurfStyle](#) (one of our favorites), Santini Marina Plaza Shops, Shipwreck Treasures, [Tunaskin Aquatic Apparel](#), Ft Myers Beach Plaza, The Islander Gift Gallery & Boutique, Island Girl FMB, Santini Farmers Market, and many, many more. Our large nearby shopping centers include Bell Tower, Edison Mall, and [Miromar Outlets](#).
8. There are several kayak opportunities near the house. You can go out on your own or on a guided tour. The house is just 200' from the back bay. Watch carefully for the manatees and dolphins while you're out.
9. [Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve](#) is a long, narrow wetland with slowly flowing freshwater. The entire Preserve is eleven miles long, one-third of a mile wide and is over 3,500 acres of intermingled wetland and upland. The appearance of the Slough changes with the seasons from dry (October-May) to wet (June-September). The Slough catches and slowly filters rainwater on its way towards Estero Bay. Animals adapted to life in wetlands, like alligators, turtles, otters, and wading birds, live at the Slough year-round. Additionally, many types of migratory birds use the Slough as a rest stop and feeding area.
10. [Lakes Park](#) is a place for all of the southwest Florida community to enjoy. Visitors can relax, exercise, and explore. The park boasts several miles of paved and unpaved trails and boardwalks. Water activities include canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. Picnicking and bird watching are also popular activities. Visitors can make use of our outdoor fitness stations, enjoy our gardens, or reserve shelters for private parties. Enjoy tours throughout the park. Lakes Park hosts many community events such as the Lakes Park Farmers Market, the Fall Festival featuring Scarecrows In The Park, StoryTime in the Garden, and more.
11. There are also several opportunities for beach sports – from jet skis to parasailing to banana boats. The closest rental location is at the DiamondHead (about .3 mi) but once you get to the beach, you'll see them all up-and-down the beach. The closer you get to Time Square (West of DiamondHead) the more you'll see and generally the busier they are.

12. Lion Country Safari

Lion Country Safari was ranked No. 5 among the top 10 safari parks in the United States in June by USA Today's "10Best" Readers' Choice contest. It is the only park in Florida to be named among the top 10 and has earned a spot on the list five years in a row. It is a 600 acre drive-through nature preserve/safari. Preserve is divided into 7 main habitats where you will see a variety of iconic animals, including some of the largest herds of zebra, rhino, and giraffe on record in the country. Lion Country Safari is about 30 minutes' drive from Southern Serenity. Visit their website for more information at www.lioncountrysafari.com.

13. For naturalists, [Lovers Key State Park](#) on the South/East end of the island offers 712 acres of Florida preserve. There are walking trails, kayak rentals, natural beaches and concessions. It's too far to walk (about 5 miles) but the trolley will take you there (free in season; \$0.75 off season). There's also a smaller, closer walking trail and preserve – Matanzas Pass Preserve – which is about 60 acres and includes a 1-mile trail. Matanzas Pass Preserve is just .9 miles from the house. Lover's Key has a small entrance fee; Matanzas Pass Preserve does not.

14. [Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens](#). Naples Zoo is a nationally accredited zoo and yet much more than a walk-through zoo. The nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable institution also features a full day of fun activities. The paved path winds nearly a mile past rare and beautiful animals residing within a historic tropical garden of exotic plants first planted in 1919 with a fascinating history. In this tropical setting, you can take delight at seeing many of your favorite animals like lions, giraffes, monkeys, pythons, and bears. In addition, you'll also discover feature habitats and an array of more rarely seen creatures like a giant anteater.

15. [Manatee Park](#) is a seasonal location for viewing non-captive Florida manatees in Lee County. Manatees visit the park in search of warm water during the cooler days in winter when the temperature in the Gulf of Mexico is below 68° F (20° C). The warm water in the Manatee Park canal comes from the Florida Power and Light Power Plant across the street and is created as a byproduct of cooling off their equipment.

16. [Shelling on Sanibel Island](#). The position of Sanibel Island off the coast of Florida provides the perfect conditions unique only to Sanibel Island

allowing beautiful seashells to wash up daily onto beaches of Sanibel which is why Sanibel Island earned its title, "Seashell Capital of the World". You can hunt for seashells on Sanibel Island beaches or hire a local captain to take you on a guided shelling trip to many of the secluded beaches accessible only by boat.

17. [Bowditch Point Park](#) is 17-acres that is located at the northern tip of Estero Island. Approximately seven acres are a developed park for passive recreational use and the remaining 10 acres are a restoration/preserve area. This serene location, which encompasses the entire end of the island, offers a choice of settings to fulfill your needs. The back bay offers quiet waters, peaceful surroundings and a close up look of vessels entering and exiting the bay. The park area features tables and grills, available on a first come first served basis, in a shaded tropical setting sure to please any picnicker. The gulf front is more active while still providing a relaxed atmosphere for walkers, swimmers, and sunbathers. Walking trails, through the restoration/preserve area, carry you through varied environments and offers an excellent opportunity for bird watching while being highlighted by panoramic views of Estero Bay.
18. We're told we have the largest private pool on the island. Nonetheless, if you're looking for a change of scenery there's a waterpark - Fort Myers Beach Pool – located at 2600 Oak St (.9 mi). This facility offers 7,000 square feet of water, a heated lap pool with a wheelchair accessible swim lift and a large water slide. Also, a shallow family pool with an interactive play structure, a floating obstacle course and plenty of shade under one of the 20ft wide Funbrellas! Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information visit them at <http://www.fmbgov.com/967/Fort-Myers-Beach-Community-Pool> or call (239) 463-5759.

If you'd care to venture off the island, Sun Splash Family Waterpark is located in Cape Coral (about 20 miles). This is Southwest Florida's largest waterpark where you can enjoy 14-acres of water slides, pools, attractions and a lazy river. Visit them at <http://sunsplashwaterpark.com/>. Sun Splash is only open seasonally – usually from mid-March through late-September. Be sure to call or visit their website to confirm they're open. It's a pretty

good haul from the house so I'd hate to see anyone travel there and find them closed.

19. [The Golisano Children's Museum of Naples](#) is a brain-building powerhouse and Southwest Florida's first museum devoted to children and families. This safe and wonderful place inspires children and families to have fun while learning together. CMON is a two-story, 38,000 sq. foot institution filled with interactive exhibits, classrooms, and more! Developed by experts in child psychology, this experimental play fosters creativity, curiosity, empathy, and self-esteem.
20. There are tons of different dolphin and sunset cruise opportunities in the area. Prices start at around \$20 per person. I'd recommend going to TripAdvisor where you can see several different options, compare prices and look for special offers and reviews.
21. Did you bring your dog? [Dog Beach Park](#) is located at the South end of the island. Visitors say you'll find lots of dolphins there and you don't need a dog to enjoy. Dogs may run free (can be off leash) and enjoy the water. There's a dog shower so you can rinse your dog before leaving the beach. Dog Beach is located at 8600 Estero Blvd - about 7.9 miles from the house. Dog Beach is open 7 days a week from 7:00 AM to dusk. Dog Park is part of Lee County Parks and Rec. There is no charge for use of this facility. Please pick up after your pet and obey the rules to preserve the use of this park for all area residents and their guests.
22. [The Seminole Casino Hotel](#) in Immokalee provides a great entertainment experience. This all-in-one venue is home to a Casino, Hotel, Dining, and Entertainment.
23. Airboat Rides & Everglades Tours. Enjoy an airboat tour and see the natural lay of the land as well as native wildlife! From alligators to birds, you can explore the everglades by boat, vehicle, or on a safari tour.
 - a. [Everglades Day Safari](#)
 - b. [Everglades Adventure](#)
24. Deep Sea Fishing. Fort Myers Beach offers some great fishing! Whether you're a fan of catch-and-release or you're looking to reel in your lunch, there are affordable and family-friendly fishing trips available for the whole day or half-day.

- a. [Pontoon Boat Tours](#)
- b. [Pure Florida](#)
- c. [Day 5 Charters](#)
- d. [Excursions Marina, Inc.](#)
- e. [Salty Sam's Marina](#)
- f. [Salt N Light Charters](#)
- g. [Adventures in Paradise Sanibel](#)
- h. [EPC Charters, LLC](#)
- i. [Just Livin The Dream Charters](#)
- j. [Tarpon Bay Explorers](#)
- k. [Snook Bight Marina](#)
- l. [Sunset Dolphin Cruise with Sanibel Lighthouse Views by Pelican Bay Charters, LLC.](#)

25. Rainy Day Activities for Fort Myers Beach Visitors

- a. [Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre](#)
- b. [Cape Coral Art League](#)
- c. [Cape Coral Museum of History](#)
- d. [Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife \(CROW\)](#). The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) is a teaching hospital and visitor education center dedicated to saving wildlife through state-of-the-art veterinary care, research, education, and conservation medicine. CROW's Visitor Education Center (VEC) offers a behind-the-scenes look into CROW's animal care through live camera feeds, interactive displays, and daily presentations by students, staff and volunteers. Each year, CROW cares for more than 6,000 wildlife patients including more than 200 different species of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in its veterinary hospital, which is one of the nation's leading rehabilitation facilities for native and migratory wildlife. CROW offers educational fellowships and externship programs for undergraduate students, and internship programs for veterinarian graduates. Volunteers are the cornerstone of CROW and each year more than 200 volunteers dedicate thousands of hours helping rescue, rehabilitate, and release wildlife.
- e. [Edison & Ford Winter Estates](#). The Edison and Ford families left an incredible legacy in the small town of Fort Myers, Florida, where the

two celebrated innovators spent their winters. Learn about the people and places that put Fort Myers on the map.

26. [Mound House](#). Mound House's mission is to preserve, share, and interpret 2,000 years of cultural and environmental history of Fort Myers Beach and Southwest Florida.

- i. Museum
- ii. Kayak Tours
- iii. Guided Tours
- iv. Underground Exhibit

27. [The Railroad Museum of South Florida](#). The Railroad Museum of South Florida, Inc., a Florida 501c(3) Not for Profit Corporation, operates an Interpretive Center housed in a Railroad Depot-style building in Lakes Regional Park in Fort Myers, Florida. The Outdoor exhibits include a cosmetically restored 1905 Atlantic Coastline Railroad 0-6-0 Baldwin Locomotive and Tender, and a cosmetically restored 1953 Seaboard Airline Railroad Caboose. In addition to the Interpretative Center it operates a one-mile miniature train ride which takes visitors on a 15 minute scenic tour, that winds through miniature villages, depicting local Southwest Florida communities, circa 1950. It travels through a 100-foot tunnel, over a trestle bridge and between lakes and wooded areas with views of local birds and wildlife. The Railroad Museum and Train Village make a great destination for a family outing!

28. [Key West Express](#). Get away to Key West, America's Caribbean Paradise, aboard Key West Express, where getting there is half the fun! What are you waiting for? Climb aboard our sleek, clean, modern, air-conditioned high-speed ferries - Features sundecks, snack bar, cocktails, and big-screen TVs - and we'll have you there in just a few hours!

29. [Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center](#). Welcome to the Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center located at 718 Fisherman's Wharf on San Carlos Island in Fort Myers Beach, Fl. For 30 years, the Center provides a Marine Science Experience through interactive exhibits, aquariums, touch tank, one of kind collections and unique displays. Open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. with both guided and self-guided tours. A donation of \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children over 6 years of age is suggested. Always FREE for Foundation Members. Call for feeding times, it's an

opportunity to see many of our reclusive marine specimens that come out of hiding for lunch. Touch a starfish, put your head in the mouth of a shark, see how sea turtles hatch, and much more.

30. [Naples Botanical Garden](#). A wonderland awaits the moment you step onto our entryway boardwalk. Naples Botanical Garden is among a handful of tropical gardens in the United States, a place to experience everything from rainforests to succulent displays to waterlily-laden pools to flowering trees whose bold colors enliven lush green backdrops.
31. [Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary](#). A visit to Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is a journey into the heart of the Everglades ecosystem. Discover the rugged beauty of this natural area on the Sanctuary's famous boardwalk—a 2.25-mile adventure through an enchanting wilderness and the largest old-growth bald cypress forest in North America.
32. [IMAG History & Science Center](#). The IMAG History & Science Center is one of the most fun things to do in Fort Myers, especially for those who love science and practical, hands-on activities! Interactive exhibits totaling more than 60 provide plenty of opportunities for you to learn about space science, the earth, technology, culture, the natural world, marine life, and even Florida's own history. Among the exciting exhibits at the IMAG History & Science Center is the Living Lab, where frogs, snakes, and turtles can be watched and ogled. The LIVE! Animal Encounter lets you get up close and personal with animals and even touch or feed them. A virtual reality experience lets you visit a 3D rendition of the original city of Fort Myers back in the day. A Mini Museum is ideal for kids and a 3,200-gallon aquarium built by Animal Planet's Tanked provides glimpses of native and exotic fish. Despite its relatively small size, the IMAG History & Science Center is an awesome spot for kids, especially those aged 12 and below! Address: 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916, United States.
33. Fort Myers River District. The Fort Myers River District is the chief historical spot for sightseeing in downtown Fort Myers. It is packed with a mix of tourist attractions and local hotspots, ranging from boutiques to theaters and from restaurants to 1920s Art Deco buildings. There are lots of opportunities for shopping, excitement, nightlife, and art viewing, and you can see all sorts of sculptures and performances taking place here alongside regular events and markets. The Fort Myers River District is essential

viewing for any trip to the city, and it's ideal for when you have time to thoroughly explore this weekend. The streets, paved with brick, offer whimsical, historic, artistic, and fascinating things to peruse along the way. Address: 2180 W First St #510, Fort Myers, FL 33901, United States.

34. [Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium](#). The Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium is a must-see in Fort Myers. It is situated on Ortiz Avenue and is a gorgeous and breathtaking attraction covering 105 acres. Packed with all sorts of exhibits, events, and programs, it is a delightful location to learn about Southwest Florida's natural history, see animals up close, and fill your head with new knowledge about the natural world. The Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium boasts three nature trails, a planetarium, aviaries for butterflies and birds, and even a museum. Three shows featuring live animals and educational material are held every day at the center's planetarium, which can host about 100 people at a time. Solar observation sessions also occur weekly. As well as being a nice spot to visit, the Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium is also a home for injured wildlife, often those that can't be released again into the wild. Among the animals that you may be able to see are hawks, bald eagles, owls, and alligators. There are also fossils to peruse, touch tanks to try out, and plenty of demonstrations. With a mix of artificial habitats, you'll be able to experience wetland ecosystems and more. Address: 3450 Ortiz Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33905, United States.
35. Baseball Spring Training. Baseball Spring Training is one of the fun things to see while you're at Fort Myers. Apart from the many fun things to do in Florida, we all know that Florida is a haven for baseball fans, and that's for good reason! In the spring, baseball teams begin preparing and training for the bigger leagues, and you'll be able to watch them in action! There are two main stadiums where you can watch the state's Baseball Spring Training. The first is [JetBlue Park at Fenway South](#), which is home to the famous [Boston Red Sox](#). The second is the [CenturyLink Sports Complex-Hammond Stadium](#), which is where the [Minnesota Twins](#) train during the spring. Both teams train for Major League Baseball, and the spring training "league" is known as the state's [Grapefruit League](#).

Some of the other teams you'll find in Florida's Grapefruit League:

- [The Atlanta Braves](#) – North Port

- [The Baltimore Orioles](#) - Sarasota
 - [Detroit Tigers](#) – Lakeland
 - [Houston Astros](#) – West Palm Beach
 - [Miami Marlins](#) – Jupiter
 - [New York Mets](#) – Port St. Lucie
 - [New York Yankees](#) – Tampa
 - [Philadelphia Phillies](#) – Clearwater
 - [Pittsburgh Pirates](#) – Bradenton
 - [St. Louis Cardinals](#) – Jupiter
 - [Tampa Bay Rays](#) – Port Charlotte
 - [Toronto Blue Jays](#) – Dunedin
 - [Washington Nationals](#) – West Palm Beach
36. [Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge](#). The Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge is situated on the state’s southwest coast. Though not specifically in the city, it is very near to Fort Myers and is often considered one of its tourist attractions. According to many biologists, the refuge may be home to the very last colony of viable breeding Florida panthers on America’s eastern side. For over three decades, the Panther National Wildlife Refuge has been a wonderful place to visit to explore and learn about these large felines. It is worth noting that, given their elusive nature, you aren’t guaranteed to spot a panther as you go around the refuge grounds – though you can see them in the special panther habitat exhibit. Still, taking a hike is worth it, and signing up for a guided tour will give you a great glimpse into the world of these wildcats. Address: 12085 SR 29 South, Immokalee, FL 34142, United States.
37. [Florida Repertory Theatre](#). Looking for things to do in downtown Fort Myers for some fun entertainment? Check out the Florida Repertory Theatre, which boasts 21 years of experience and multiple award-winning and world-class performances in one historic location! Each of its productions is delightful and has drawn more than 87,000 visitors yearly. Known affectionately by locals as The Rep, the Florida Repertory Theatre offers a wide range of genres in its productions. Comedies, dramas, musicals, classics, and modern acts of all kinds color the delightful experience, which has earned them praise from the likes of the American

Theatre Magazine and the New York Times. One of the main sections of this theatre is the Arcade Theatre, which was a Vaudeville house built back in 1908. Its historic structure continues to host the bulk of The Rep's shows, providing an added elegance and grace to what is already a widely lauded and much-revered repertory company! Address: 2268 Bay St, Fort Myers, FL 33901, United States.

38. McGregor Boulevard. McGregor Boulevard is among the quintessential Fort Myers attractions, with an extra twist of opulence. It is a roadway lined with palm trees – all imported by Thomas and Mina Edison – totaling more than 1800, as well as some other trees. The road is a true representation of the wealthy, rich, and old of Fort Myers, a slice of luxurious Florida tinged with history and taste. At McGregor Boulevard, you'll see restored buildings, botanical gardens, quirky and trendy eateries, and lots of pavement to drive, jog, and walk on. Each portion of the boulevard tells another part of the city's story, and its 14-mile length is a sight for sore eyes. Address: Fort Myers, FL, United States

39. Defy Fort Myers. [Defy Fort Myers](#) is one-of-a-kind spots for recreation across America. It is a fun and exciting center for people of all ages to enjoy a trampoline park complete with additional features like dodgeball courts, foam pits, trapezes, and more. Their parkour pit is especially renowned for being heart-pumping and engaging. A great indoor activity, Defy Fort Myers provides something for you to enjoy in an active way when it's too cold, hot, or rainy in Florida weather. Exhilarating experiences, numerous programs, and trained staff at an element of safety and further thrill and adrenaline to those who come by! Address: 9370 Dynasty Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905, United States.

40. Bunche Beach Preserve. Looking for more sunny things to do in Fort Myers? [Bunche Beach](#) is one of your top choices, especially if you'd like a bit of relaxation away from noisy crowds. A serene and tranquil environment, it's one of the city's impressive hidden gems and contains 718 acres of beautiful, natural, and unspoiled land. Salt flats, beaches, mangrove forests, and land of all sorts look out over the rest of the city. Bunche Beach is a safe swimming location, and paddleboards, kayaks, and other watercraft can be rented for use out on the cobalt waves. You'll even get to spot wildlife, such as flamingos – one of which posed for pictures here in 2016 –

and other birds. Don't forget to go shell hunting, too! Address: 18201 John Morris Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33908, United States

41. Murder Mystery Dinner Train. The [Murder Mystery Dinner Train](#) is one of the best and most unique must-do activities in Fort Myers. It is a one-of-a-kind, unorthodox dining experience that involves you taking a 40-mile ride on a train and becoming part of a staged murder mystery! You'll get to step into your detective shoes in the vein of Sherlock Holmes, Miss Marple, or Hercule Poirot, taking note of all the clues you find and trying to decipher them with other guests in order to figure out who is guilty. The exact mystery and culprit changes, rotates, and shifts all the time, so if you've gone for one dinner, chances are it'll be different now! The Murder Mystery Dinner Train also offers a wide range of seasonal events. The holidays are a fantastic time to try out the experience, but all of the train's themes are great, adding even more variety to ensure that every trip is different. And, of course, one can't forget the five-course meal you'll enjoy during the ride, made scrumptious by qualified chefs! Address: 2805 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966, United States.

42. J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Among the absolute best places to visit near Fort Myers is the [J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge](#), especially if you're interested in nature, Florida's ecosystems and wildlife, and a generally good time! It is situated on Sanibel Island and spans close to a whopping 8,000 acres – or half of the whole island. You can pop by the visitor center to learn more about the habitats and wildlife, as well as to get some information on Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling himself. The refuge was named after its founder, a political activist, and conservationist, and provides open-air tram tours, each one taking up 90 minutes and led by a certified naturalist. At the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, you'll get to see all sorts of diverse flora and fauna native to the mangrove environment. This includes alligators, bobcats, otters, ospreys, numerous wading birds, and tons of different crustacean and fish species. There are four hiking trails to explore as well as plenty of options of things to enjoy, such as canoeing, paddleboarding, fishing, bird-watching, and kayaking. Address: 1 Wildlife Dr, Sanibel, FL 33957, United States.

43. Fort Myers Brewing Company. The [Fort Myers Brewing Company](#) was opened in 2011 by Rob and Jen Whyte. Rob, who had brewing experience

from the 90s, and his wife spent two years researching and planning the company's opening in the city. It has since become known as the greatest large brewery in all of Florida. The Fort Myers Brewing Company has won multiple awards in the state and still comes with a lot of local whimsy and charm. Their local brews are delicious and just the ticket after a long day of exploration. Special events, like food truck nights, game nights, and trivia nights, further liven the experience. If you're looking for what to do in the city for a good drink and a fun time, the brewing company is a great choice! Address: 12811 Commerce Lakes Dr #28, Fort Myers, FL 33913, United States.

If you've found a hidden treasure that you'd care to share with future SSFMB guests, please email us at brad@southernserenityfmb.com.

Visit our website at <https://SouthernSerenityFMB.com/area-attractions> for more.

Local Dining and Shopping

Fort Myers Beach shopping and dining won't be what it was for years, but there is progress being made every day. Our What's Open page celebrates all island businesses that have resumed operations and welcomes what's sure to be the many new ones that come.

There are enough businesses opening at a rapid enough pace that I'm sure we're overlooking several. If you know of someone who's open that we've failed to include, please send us a message at brad@southernserenityfmb.com.

On Estero Island/Fort Myers Beach Dining

- * 239 Cafe (Times Square - New)
- * 2000 Flavors Homemade Ice Cream & Yogurt
- * 5 O'Clock Somewhere Bar & Grill
- * **The Beach Bar**
- * Bella Mozzarella
- * Bob's Beach Bar (located inside Pink Shell)
- * Bongo's Beach Bar & Grill (located inside Pink Shell)

- * Buffalo Grill
- * Cold Stone Creamery
- * **Cabañas Beach Bar & Grille**
- * Coconut Telegraph Coffee Shop
- * **Coste Island Cuisine**
- * **Eats at the Beach**
- * Fresh Catch Bistro
- * Flippers On The Bay
- * Heavenly Biscuit on Wheels
- * Jack's Restaurant (located at Pink Shell)
- * Junkanoo Below Deck
- * JWB Grill
- * La Ola Surfside Restaurant
- * Lah De Dah Beach Bar & Grill
- * License to Chill Bar & Grill
- * Lighthouse Waterfront Restaurant
- * Lighthouse Tiki Bar
- * Mantanzas on the Bay
- * Meli's Ice Cream (Times Square)
- * **MoJoe's Coffee Cafe**
- * Mom's Home Cooking (food truck; famous for biscuits & gravy & cinnamon rolls)
- * Mr. Waves Island Bar
- * Nervous Nellies (opening Sat., 1/20/2024)
- * Petey's Upper Deck Bar at Matanzas on the Bay
- * Pink's Ice Cream
- * Rae's Real Italian (located at Pink Shell)
- * The Rude Shrimp Company
- * Salty Rim Bar
- * Sandy Bottoms (NEW)
- * Smokin' Oyster Brewery (SOBs), open 12/20/2024 (NEW!!!)
See their announcement [here](#).
- * Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant
- * Sunset Bar & Grill (Food Truck, Times Square)
- * Suzie Q's Tiki Bar & Treasures (new), 163 Old Sand Carlos
- * The Island Pancake House

- * Tiki Bar at The Lighthouse Island Resort
- * Tuckaway Cafe (food truck)
- * Wahoo Willies
- * **Yo Taco**
- * Yucatan Beach Stand Bar & Grill

Restaurants in **BOLD** FONT are less than 1,700 feet from Southern Serenity

Off Island Dining (Includes Islands of San Carlos, Sanibel, and Captiva)

- * Bayside Grill
- * Bonita Bill's Waterfront Cafe
- * The Bubble Room Restaurant (Captiva)
- * Captiva Spirits
- * Coconut Jack's Waterfront Grille
- * Cristof's on McGregor
- * Dixie Fish Company
- * Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille
- * Five Guys
- * NEW - Kava Culture Kava Bar, 17979 San Carlos Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
- * Iguana Mia Fine Mexican Food
- * La Ola Bell Tower
- * Liki Tiki BBQ
- * Lin's House (our favorite Chinese takeout)
- * Love Boat Ice Cream
- * Mango Rita's Rhythm House
- * McDonalds
- * The Mucky Duck (Captiva Island)
- * Millennial Brewing Company
- * Parrot Key Caribbean Grill
- * Pinchers
- * Rib City
- * Ruby Tuesday's
- * RonDao's Pizzeria & Sports Bar

- * Schnitzel House
- * Smokin' Oyster Brewery (SOBs; food truck. Check their Facebook page for location schedule)
- * Summerlin Cafe
- * Sunflower Cafe
- * TaKote Mexican Restaurant
- * Valerie's Lounge & Liquors
- * Wicked Dolphin

Shopping, Entertainment & Services

- * 3 Escargots
- * Adventures in Paradise Fort Myers Beach
- * Bayshore Cart Rentals
- * Beach Pottery Etc.
- * Big Dick's Salty Seaman
- * Broadway Palm Dinner Theater
- * Cape Cabaret Dinner Theater
- * Cape Coral Museum of History
- * Captain Bubby's IsLAND Tours
- * Captiva Cruises
- * Captiva Spirits
- * The Cigar Hut
- * Copacetic Sailing
- * Cruisin' Tikis
- * CVS (on Estero Island)
- * Day 5 Charters
- * Edison and Ford Winter Estates
- * Emoceen Beach Wear
- * Estero Island Parasail (located at Pink Shell and Diamonhead)
- * Everglades Day Safari
- * Florida Native Butterfly Society
- * Fort Myers Beach Haunted Pub Crawl
- * Fort Myers Beach Sea & Sun Rental
- * Friendly Waves Boat Charters

- * Fun'N'Sun Beach & Bike Rentals
- * Gator Mike's Family Fun Park
- * Gavin's Ace Hardware
- * The Goodz (trailer across from their old location)
- * Gulf Coast Tiki Tours & Yacht Charters
- * Gulf Star Marina
- * H2O Women's Clothing Store (Times Square)
- * Harbor House at the Inn
- * Holiday Water Sports
- * Island Carts FMB (golf cart & bike rentals)
- * Island Runner Tours
- * Island Time Shelling & Dolphin Cruises, Inc. (<https://tinyurl.com/2s44v9c9>)
- * The Islander, Gift Gallery & Boutique (Santini Plaza)
- * Just Livin' the Dream Charters
- * Kave Kulture
- * Kayak Excursions
- * Key West Express
- * Lagerhead Cycleboats (www.lagerheadcycleboats.com)
- * Lakes Park
- * Lei'd Back Tiki Tours
- * Love Boat Ice Cream
- * Magic Wind Adventure Sailing
- * Mango Vegetable Cart, 2301 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach
- * Margaritaville
- * The Mound House
- * Nauti Hooker Watersports
- * Nautical Tiki Cruises
- * Norm's Beach Parking
- * Paradise Coast Media
- * Paradise Parasail (<https://tinyurl.com/yhh5epba>)
- * Pelican's SnoBalls - Fort Myers Beach (food truck)
- * Pottery Express/Bamboo Farm
- * Publix (Estero Blvd)
- * Reel Tales FMB
- * Salty Sam's Pirate Cruise

- * Seminole Casino Hotel
- * Shaded Rentals
- * Shipwreck
- * Sight Sea-R Cruises
- * Smuggler's Cove Adventure Golf
- * Snook Bright Marina
- * Southwest Florida Dolphin & Eco Tours
- * Sunmed - Your CBD Store Fort Myers
- * Sun-N-Fun Tours & Charters
- * Surf Style (Times Square)
- * SWFL Party Pontoon
- * Tarpon Bay Explorers
- * Tipsi Tiki FMB
- * Tunaskin (retail trailer outside of their retail store)
- * Your Day on the Water (boat tour agency)
- * Walmart #4063
- * Wicked Dolphin Handcrafted Florida Spirits
- * Wild Ace Entertainment & Productions, LLC

Visit our website at <https://SouthernSerenityFMB.com/Whats-Open> for more.

Like and Follow Us on Social Media

We invite you to follow us on Facebook at

[www.Facebook.com/SouthernSerenityFMB](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernSerenityFMB). We're constantly adding, updating and renovating so check back often for updates, updates on area attractions, special events and discounted rates. Please consider checking in on Facebook, uploading your favorite pictures from your trip to Fort Myers Beach and tagging @SouthernSerenityFMB or on other social media at #SouthernSerenityFMB. Have a great stay and please come back to see us the next time you visit the island.

Come Back Soon

Be sure to book your return stay early. We fill up quickly, particularly for Spring Break and peak times such as Fall Break, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. You can book direct on at www.SouthernSerenityFMB.com. Direct bookings, especially for returning guests, will almost always be offered at a discount off our published vacation rental sites.

Disclaimer

We do our best to keep this Welcome Book up to date, but we're constantly adding, upgrading, replacing, etc. If you see something missing from the Welcome Book, or something in the Welcome Book that's missing from the house, please email us at brad@southernserenityfmb.com. Southern Serenity is providing this information as a courtesy and will not be liable for any errors or omissions.