

Estero

Estero is sandwiched along Florida's Gulf Coast between Fort Myers to the North and Bonita Springs to the South. For many years, Estero was a citrus community. Today, it lays claim to Florida Gulf Coast University, Hertz Arena, Hertz Campus, famed Miromar Outlets, the newest Coconut Pointe Outdoor Shops, and serves as a relaxing destination. Visitors will be calmed by the nearby beaches and intrigued by Estero's Mound Key Archeological State Park. Rising more than 30 feet above the water, miles from shore, ancient shell mounds transform the landscape of Estero Bay. Made of bones, shells and pottery pieces, this is believed to have been the ceremonial center of the Calusa Indians. Access to the site is by boat only, but the journey is well worth it.



Bonita Springs

A welcoming beach community in Southwest Florida, between Fort Myers and Naples, Bonita Springs is the home to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Nature Center. Fishing and out-door activities are popular in Bonita Springs, as are the sparkling Gulf beaches that connect north to Fort Myers Beach.

Bonita also harbors Lovers Key State Park, a place so named because it once was an island, so remote only lovers went to the trouble to seek its privacy. Today, you don't need a boat to get to the beach. Its in easy reach, but still not as well known as many other state parks. The 2.5-mile beach is lined with natural vegetation, beach homes and is perfect for beachcombing and birding.



For some off-leash excitement there's the rightly named Dog Beach Park. It is one of Florida's only 6 no-leash beaches and a big hit for both locals and visitors with pets. The secluded shoreline and shallow waters make Dog Beach Park one of best pet-friendly beaches, and when you get the chance, there are even more spots to explore.