

Sanibel - Captiva ... A Barrier Island

Sanibel is one of the unique barrier islands of the world, having an east-west orientation when most islands are north-south. Hence, the island is gifted with great sandy beaches and an abundance of shells, winning awards for being the best shelling beach and one of the best beaches in Florida. We take the quality of our beaches and water very serious. Our web site is full of information about our great beaches and shelling.



We have also compiled information about the waters surrounding our islands. Click [here](#) to review information from several respected organizations that monitor our water quality.

Turtle Season on Sanibel Island & Captiva Island

Sea turtle nesting season runs from May 1st to October 31st

Sanibel Island & Captiva Island's beaches provide the perfect subtropical nesting area for sea turtles, but please be sure to follow the *guidelines of Sanibel Island and Captiva Island and turn off all lights* that could draw attention away from the Gulf of Mexico to the land. By removing the light from the land and obstacles from the beach, baby sea turtles can find their way back to the water, where they need to be.

[More important information on guidelines and pictures of baby loggerhead turtles on Sanibel Island & Captiva Island.](#)

What to Pack . . .

Our easy-going, outdoor lifestyle translates to casual, informal attire, both day and night. Shorts and sandals are the norm. Restaurants range from simple outdoor cafes to elegant candlelit dining rooms; none requires jackets or ties. Retail establishments generally request shirts and shoes.

Plan for sunshine. Our winters are mild (average daytime temperatures in the 70s and 80s) and dry (it rains just enough to keep our islands lush). Summer temperatures, ranging from the high 80s to low 90s, are tempered by cooling sea breezes and brief afternoon showers, followed by more sunshine and glorious sunsets.

Pack hats to shade your face and head, shorts, swimsuits, sunglasses, cover-ups, a sundress or two, polo shirts and t-shirts. In winter, slacks and a light wrap will complete your vacation wardrobe.

Occasionally you will run into "no-see-ums" (midges). These infamous small flying creatures are no health hazard, but their bite can be very itchy and cause welts. They

are most active near water at sunrise and sunset. You would be well advised to pick up some 'No No-See-Um Repellent' sold locally by one of our Chamber members.

If there is something you end up missing you can find things while shopping on the islands.

Libraries on Sanibel Island and Captiva Island

The Sanibel Public Library features author talks, book discussions, children's programs and art exhibits. The library is owned and supported by island residents, and houses more than 50,000 books and 5,000 videotapes/ audiotapes/CDs, all accessible through an online card catalog. Membership is offered to both residents and visitors. High-speed Internet access available. Located at 770 Dunlop Road. Hours vary by season. For more information, call 239-472-2483 or visit Sanibel Public Library.

The Captiva Memorial Library is part of the Lee County Public Library System and offers residents and visitors access to the collection of the entire library system. Captiva's collections include an emphasis on local information, and the library itself is housed in a historical building dating back to 1928. Membership is open to both residents (with I.D.) and visitors (with fee). Internet access available. Located at 11580 Chapin Lane. Hours vary by season. For more information, call 239-472-2133 or visit Captiva Memorial Library.

WiFi Internet Access . . . Many island accommodations have Internet access. Check with yours to see if they have Internet access. For a list of other locations with WiFi Internet click here [WiFi Internet Access](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Where are the best beaches on Sanibel and Captiva? Are they open to the public?



A. Sanibel and Captiva have lovely public beaches. There are 5 accesses on Sanibel: The Lighthouse, Gulf side City Park, Tarpon Bay, Bowman's, and Blind pass. On Captiva there are 2 accesses, Blind Pass and Captiva Beach, located at the end of Captiva Dr. The fee for parking is \$5.00 an hour on Captiva and \$5.00 an hour on Sanibel. See pictures and more information here: [Sanibel Island and Captiva Island Beaches](#).

Q. What is there for children to do?

A. Beach, biking, canoeing, kayaking, and tennis. The Ding Darling wildlife sanctuary, the Conservation Foundation's walking trail, butterfly house and touch tank. A first run movie theatre and Zoomers Amusement Park, just off island. Visit our [Where To Play](#) section.

