

## *Journey across The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel*

### *Group Itinerary Tour – spring 2017*

The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel are must see places to explore in sunny Southwest Florida. White sand beaches with subtropical wildlife and lush foliage can be found here, along with the heritage and homes of famed Americans Thomas Edison and Henry Ford.

#### **Day One**

Explore at the [Edison and Ford Winter Estates](#), the Fort Myers winter homes for inventor Thomas Edison and automobile industrialist Henry Ford.

Take a 90-minute guided tour of Edison’s 14-acre riverfront estate, laboratory and experimental gardens. The 3-acre winter home of Ford, nicknamed “the Mangroves,” features a display of Ford vehicles dating to 1914.



Minutes from the estates, groups can head into downtown [Fort Myers River District](#) for lunch. Enjoy outdoor cafes, shopping, art galleries or a guided historic tour of downtown with [True Tours](#).

Named for a Civil War-era army colonel, Fort Myers' history parallels that of Florida itself. Thanks to the preservation of many historic structures, it's easy to picture the River District's past. Buildings dating back to Fort Myers early 20<sup>th</sup>-century heyday are now home to colorful shops, galleries, restaurants and other local businesses.



## Day Two

Start the morning off at [Babcock Wilderness Adventures](#), where groups can take a 90-minute swamp buggy eco-tour with a trained naturalist through the Telegraph Cypress Swamp. Look for cougars, alligators, snakes and birds, along with natural fauna.

With more than 50 acres, [Buckingham Farms](#), a hydroponic farm and country store, takes farm-to-fork dining concept to the next level. Located on miles of scenic splendor, everything at Buckingham Farms is naturally grown by knowledgeable and experienced staff.

Florida is known for its citrus fruit, so squeeze in a little time south of Fort Myers to visit [Sun Harvest Citrus](#), whose roots date to 1940 in Vero Beach along the Indian River.

Have dinner at [Broadway Palm Dinner Theater](#). Its facility includes a 448-seat dinner theatre; a 98-seat black-box theatre, the Off Broadway Palm Theatre; the 120-seat dining room, Café Cabaret and The Art Café, a 30-seat space off the main lobby.

### **Day Three**

Start the morning off early, and head to Sanibel Island for a 90-minute tram tour of [J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge](#), located on the subtropical barrier island of Sanibel in the Gulf of Mexico.



The refuge is part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the United States. It is world-renowned for its migratory bird populations. Next on the visit to Sanibel Island, head to [Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum](#), and see its display of shells from around the world.

The best way to experience The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel is definitely by boat. Hop aboard [Captiva Cruises](#) for a sunset dolphin cruise, the perfect way to end the day.

### **Day Four**

Get away to Key West, Florida for the day aboard the [Key West Express](#), departing from Fort Myers Beach. Climb aboard the high-speed ferry before spending the day touring Key West before returning later that evening.

For more information, please visit [www.fortmyers-sanibel.com](http://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com)