

Fort Myers Beach, Florida, USA

Seven miles of powdery quartz sand, a vibrant fishing fleet, and one of Florida's most resilient communities — Fort Myers Beach punches well above its size for a small-ship port day.

Small-ship dock (Salty Sam's / Moss Marina)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

USD

English

Famous for Gulf shrimp

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Small ships dock at Salty Sam's Marina or Moss Marina, San Carlos Island — no tendering required

Best For: Beach relaxation, wildlife cruises, seafood, shelling at Lovers Key

Walk to center: ~1.2 miles to Times Square / main beach (steep bridge crossing — take the LeeTran trolley, \$0.75)

Don't Miss: Gulf shrimp right off the boat at Dixie Fish Company and the Mound House archaeological site

Getting around: Taxi \$50–\$75 for 2-3 passengers · Rideshare Uber, Lyft

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Dolphin & Wildlife Eco-Cruise** — Board a two-hour narrated boat tour from Salty Sam's Marina into Estero Bay and the Gulf to spot wild bottlenose dolphins, manatees, and native...
- Mound House Archaeological Site** — Explore the oldest standing structure on Estero Island, built atop a 2,000-year-old Calusa shell mound.
- Lovers Key State Park Beach Day** — Take the trolley south to this pristine barrier island park with two miles of undeveloped Gulf beach, excellent shelling, kayak rentals, and abundant...
- Gulf Shrimp & Seafood at the Docks** — San Carlos Island hosts one of the largest commercial shrimp fleets in the U.S.
- Matanzas Pass Preserve Walk** — A free 60-acre sanctuary on the bayside of the island with a boardwalk trail through mangroves and oak hammocks.

BEST WALKS

- Marina to Times Square Beach Walk** 1.2 mi • 25 min • Flat then bridge climb — Walk from Salty Sam's Marina across the Matanzas Pass Bridge to Times Square — the pedestrian heart of Fort Myers Beach.
- Bowditch Point Park Nature Loop** 1.5 mi loop • 35 min • Easy trails — At the northern tip of Estero Island, this 17-acre park offers walking trails where the bay meets the Gulf.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		83°	68°	9d
Jun		86°	75°	23d
Aug		88°	77°	24d
Sep		86°	76°	22d
Oct		84°	72°	12d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 7:04AM–7:51PM · Jun 6:34AM–8:22PM · Aug 7:00AM–8:03PM · Sep 7:13AM–7:31PM · Oct 7:27AM–6:59PM

USD

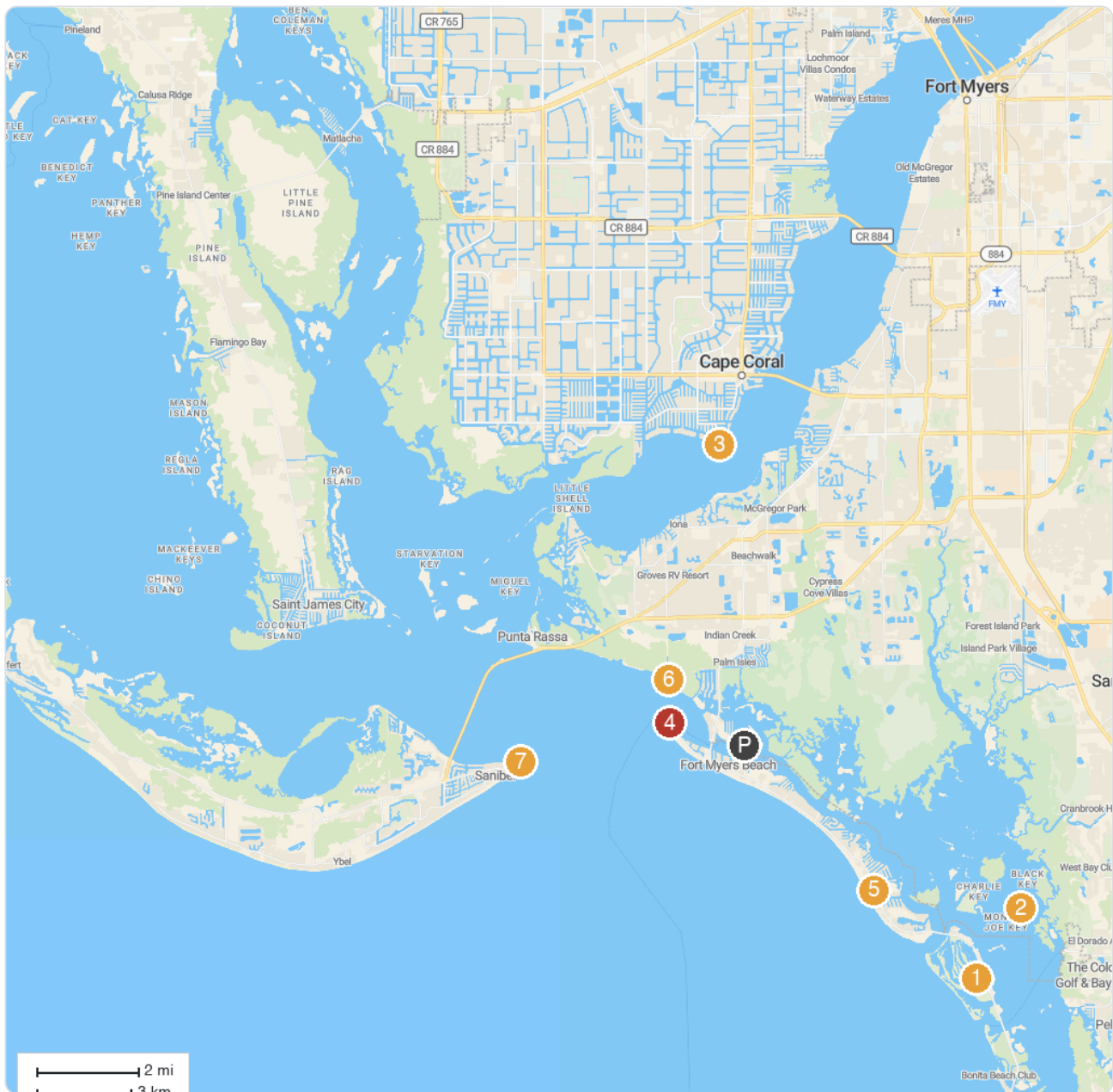
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bridge warning:** The Matanzas Pass Bridge between the marina and the main beach has a steep pedestrian incline. In summer heat it's taxing — the LeeTran trolley (\$0.75) is the smarter move for most passengers.
- Eat the pink shrimp:** Fort Myers Beach is home to one of the largest Gulf shrimping fleets in the US. Fresh Gulf pink shrimp at Dixie Fish Company or Doc Ford's is a genuine local experience — don't skip it.
- Post-lan recovery:** Hurricane Ian (2022) devastated the island. It's rebuilding strongly, but expect some construction, missing landmarks, and a mix of new venues. Check ahead for specific restaurant and attraction status.
- Shelling rules:** It's illegal to collect live shells in Florida — including sand dollars, starfish, or anything with a living creature inside. Only take empty shells. Lovers Key State Park is the best shelling spot.
- Southwest Florida sun is intense:** Reef-safe sunscreen, a hat, and water are non-negotiable even in cooler months. The quartz sand reflects heat — sandals or flip-flops are essential.
- Use the trolley:** LeeTran Route 410 runs along Estero Blvd for \$0.75 per ride and is the cheapest, easiest way to cover the island from the marina to Lovers Key State Park.

Fort Myers Beach, Florida, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Lovers Key State Park | Beautiful barrier island park for beaches, kayaking, and nature trails. | 2 Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve | Protected bay for kayaking, paddleboarding, and diverse marine wildlife. |
| 3 Yacht Club Community Park | Community park with beach, pier, pool, and recreational facilities. | 4 Bowditch Point Park | Beachfront park with nature trails and Gulf of Mexico views. |
| 5 Mid Island Water Sports at The Wyndham | Rent jet skis, kayaks, and paddleboards right from the beach. | 6 San Carlos Bay - Bunche Beach Preserve | Natural beach preserve for birdwatching, kayaking, and shelling. |
| 7 Sanibel Lighthouse | Historic lighthouse on Sanibel Island, offering scenic Gulf views. | P Cruise port / terminal | |