



BEST BEACH

Cayo Costa

It's hard to top a beach you can only reach by boat. Cayo Costa State Park, on a barrier island due east of Cape Coral, has nine miles of beaches only accessible by ferry or private watercraft. No high-rise condominiums mar the beachfront on this stretch of paradise. And those T-shirt shops that junk up other seaside communities? Forget about it. Miles of pristine, sugared sand greet visitors who brave the trek across Pine Island Sound. These beaches are perfect for a day of fishing or sunning. For shelling, winter months are best, but good finds wash up all year long.



FLORIDA WEEKLY FILE PHOTO

The Beaches on Cayo Costa are considered some of the finest in the world.

BEST DRIVE IN A CONVERTIBLE

Boca Grande

OK, it's a ways up there. But you're in a convertible, for Pete's sake, with the wind blowing in your hair. And when you arrive, you can respectfully dodge local golf carts and make your way down Banyan Street, which might be the world's greatest three-block stretch for a convertible ride. As you cruise around in your topless state of bliss, soak up the laid-back vibe that has Barbara Bush packing her pearls for a stay at the Gasparilla Inn once a year. Even Kate Hepburn used to pedal around the island. And Palm Beach VIPs come in by seaplane to fish for silver kings (or at least they did until Bernie Madoff made off with their bait money).

BEST PLACE TO PEOPLE WATCH

The Lani Kai on Fort Myers Beach

Nowhere in Lee County draws as diverse a crowd as this quintessential beach bar. From biker babes to Bob Marley look-alikes, the Lani Kai has it all. Grab a rum-runner from the bar and watch the FMB locals mingle with the out-of-towners on the dance floor. Chances are a fight will break out

at some point and — if you're really paying attention — someone will slip out to the beach for a little late-night skinny-dipping. They installed floodlights to discourage that, but it doesn't seem to be stopping anyone. Be sure to stake out a spot on one of the swinging picnic tables.

The Best Pizza in Town

The Way Pizza Used to Be



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