

The Captain's Top 100 List

The top 100 things to do in Southwest Florida

by Capt. Fred Rossiter

www.SWCharters.com

Everybody has a list. Letterman has his "Top 10" every night. Jack Nicholson had his "Bucket List". Well, if you're staying on Sanibel, Captiva, Upper Captiva, Gasparilla or Pine Island, I've got my own special list of 100 things for you to do.

Here we go:



1. Walk the beach, wade in the surf
2. Celebrate & toast the setting sun
3. Fish the Matlacha bridge or pier
4. Parrot Heads - Eat a "Cheeseburger in Paradise" at Cabbage Key
5. Catch a trophy tarpon!
6. Book a fishing charter
7. Go parasailing – take your camera
8. Take a ride on the Sanibel Thriller
9. Propose on the beach at sunset
10. Hire a "water limo" (a water taxi)
11. Try an Eco Tour or Sightseeing trip
12. Visit the cool shops in Boca Grande
13. Lunch at Barnacle Phils, RB & rice!
14. Lunch at Lazy Flamingo, peel & eat
15. Go shelling on the beach
16. Dinner and Rum at Doc Fords
17. Build a sandcastle, find a crab
18. Fish the surf for snook
19. Drink beer on the beach
20. Visit the Gasparilla Inn & Club in Boca Grande – Croquet anyone?
21. Buy a Tommy Bahama shirt
22. Jog on the beach – swim in the sea
23. Windsurfing at Sanibel Lighthouse
24. Drink a Hurricane, then another
25. The Loose Caboose in Boca Grande
26. Catch some snapper for dinner
27. Visit the art galleries in Matlacha
28. Cruise the flats in the Gulf for rays
29. Eat LOTS of fresh Gulf shrimp
30. Lunch & boats at Gramma Dots
31. Lunch at the Tarpon Inn in Pineland
32. Play golf at Alden Pines
33. Bikes/Segways at Billy's Rentals
34. Build a world class tan – sunscreen!
35. Eat a dozen oysters on the half shell
36. Dinner at the Bubble Room
37. Cruise the Caloosahatchee River - Stop at Tarpon Point or Rum Runners for lunch or dinner
38. Eat at The Joint or Cafe Pignoli's (ribs on Friday!) at Cape Harbour
39. Meet a manatee – find an alligator
40. Photograph the shore birds
41. Andy's Island Seafood – Fresh!
42. Camp out on Cayo Costa
43. Wear an "IBTWYPD" bikini
44. Water taxi - tour Pine Island Sound
45. See the Sanibel Lighthouse
46. Eat ice cream at Boca Grande
47. Try Boca Grande Cart Rentals!
48. Crossed Palms Gallery - Bokeelia
49. Lunch - Waterfront in St. James City
50. Fishing guide – teach the kids to fish
51. Walk the beach at sunrise
52. Eat smelt/drink beer at Bert's Bar
53. Visit the Edison Ford estate
54. Rent a golf cart and visit the lighthouse/museum on Boca Grande
55. Dinner at Sandy Hook – Matlacha
56. Become a "snow bird"
57. Eat our stone crabs, blue crab and Pine Island clams
58. Hunt for Pirate Jose Gaspar's treasure – SWCharters.com
59. Eat a grouper sandwich; blackened!
60. Lunch at the Mucky Duck
61. Visit Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel
62. Curl up with Randy Wayne White's two novels Sanibel Flats & Captiva
63. Go kayaking at Ding Darling
64. Bowman Beach is one of the best
65. Rent a home at the North Captiva Island Club or Safety Harbor Club
66. Rental boats at Four Winds Marina
67. Stay at South Seas Island Resort
68. Buy fresh fruit at a Fruit Stand
69. Calusa Indian Mounds at Pineland
70. Rent a jet ski on the beach
71. Get married barefoot on the beach
72. Sail the Sound in your sloop
73. Cruise the Intercoastal, the Gulf or Charlotte Harbor in your yacht
74. Pilot a plane over the barrier islands. T & G at Page Field
75. Take a fly fishing lesson
76. Learn how to throw a cast net
77. Go snorkeling - beyond the surf
78. See a movie at Island Cinema
79. Buy your supplies at Bailey's
80. Photographers – take Wildlife Drive – Ding Darling
81. Try the Fishing Pier on Sanibel
82. Follow your bliss – retire!
83. The VERY best weather info available at capeweather.com
84. Take the Dinner Cruise from the Marriott
85. Don't worry, be happy! Drink!
86. Hit the DQ – Sanibel/Pine Island
87. Eat some Key Lime pie!
88. Buy a cool fishing shirt
89. Visit She Sells Sea Shells and say it 3 times as fast as you can
90. Breakfast/Brunch at the Lighthouse Café
91. Tommy Bahama clothes at Sporty Seahorse Shop - Sanibel
92. Kingfisher Aerial Tours from Pine Island
93. Change your Latitude. Buy a winter home at a bargain price!
94. Hire a water taxi - see Dolphin
95. Eat a Pine Island mango
96. Take Tropic Star to Cayo Costa
97. Hold a "pretend" business meeting on one of the islands
98. Call your boss and quit your job
99. Read the Calusan by C. Lebuff
100. Make lots of new friends – wear a thong or Speedos on the beach