



## **The Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce - Fact Sheet**

The lush, sub-tropical islands of Sanibel and Captiva are located on the Gulf of Mexico in Lee County, Southwest Florida.

### **Your first stop**

Make the Visitor Center of the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce your first stop when you arrive on our islands. It is your one-stop shop for information on everything that Sanibel and Captiva can offer. You can find it on the right, immediately after you drive onto the island. It is open 365 days a year, 9am – 5pm. If you can't make it to the Center, visit us 24 hours a day at [www.sanibel-captiva.org](http://www.sanibel-captiva.org) to find out where to stay, play, and dine.

### **Information on the Islands**

- Beaches: 15 miles of unspoiled Sanibel & Captiva beaches
- Bike paths: 25 miles of bike paths
- Species of fish: 50 species of fish
- Types of birds: 230 types of birds
- Types of shells: 250 types of shells
- Number of stop lights: 0

### **Population:**

- Sanibel: 6,500 permanent residents and approx. 30,000 permanent and temporary during season (December through May)
- Captiva: Approx. 600 permanent residents and approx. 4,000 permanent and temporary during season

### **Area:**

- Sanibel - 17.5 sq. miles long
- Captiva – 10.5 sq. miles long

**Time Zone:** Eastern (EST) (UTC-5) and summer (DST) EDT (TCT-4)

### **Nature and Wildlife**

Over two-thirds of the land area of Sanibel is permanently dedicated as a nature reserve. The J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge covers more than 5,000-acres and is home to many species of birds, otters, alligators, armadillos, gopher tortoises and other wildlife.

### **Shelling**

The abundance and variety of shells have made Sanibel and Captiva Islands the "Shell Capital of the World". Visitors from around the world come here to go shelling.

### **Fishing**

The warm waters of the Gulf provide great breeding grounds for more than 50 species of fish including redfish, speckled trout, snook and tarpon.

### **Beaches**

With more than 15 miles of beautiful, unspoiled beaches, Sanibel and Captive Islands are one of the top beach vacation destinations in the world. TripAdvisor announced their Choice Best Beaches

list, and both the beaches of Sanibel and Captiva were ranked in the top 10 beaches within the U.S. – with Sanibel ranked number five and Captiva ranked number eight in the whole of the U.S. Additionally, Sanibel was ranked 18<sup>th</sup> best beach in the world.

### **Dining**

Internationally renowned chefs add their creative genius to the islands' many restaurants: offering some of the most delightfully inventive cuisine to be found anywhere.

### **Shopping**

With a broad array of locally owned retail businesses on the islands, we are sure to have what you need. Looking for a pharmacy, book store, new swim suit or sunglasses? Check out our online directory to find the retailer just for you.

### **Weather**

Sanibel and Captiva winters are mild (average daytime temperatures in the high 70s and low 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.

## **The Islands of Sanibel and Captiva - Naturally You'll Love It Here**

### **For Further Information:**

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