

# Facts About Florida and Collier County



## FACTS ABOUT FLORIDA

Nickname:	Sunshine State
Slogan:	In God We Trust
State Seal:	In the center is a view of sun's rays over a distant highland. A sabal palm is in the foreground, encircled by the words "Great Seal of the State of Florida – "In God We Trust"
State Flag:	The state seal is in the center of a white background. Red bars run from each corner to the outer rim of the seal.
State Capitol:	Tallahassee, which is located in the northwest section of Florida known as the "Panhandle".
State Mammal:	Manatee. The state <i>saltwater</i> mammal is the porpoise.
State Animal:	Florida Panther
State Bird:	Mockingbird
State Flower:	Orange Blossom
State Fish:	Largemouth Bass (freshwater) and Atlantic Saltfish (saltwater)
State Tree:	Sabal Palm
State Food:	Key Lime Pie
Geography:	Florida is a peninsula covering 58, 560 square miles. Its eastern boundary is the Atlantic Ocean; its western boundary is the Gulf of Mexico. Georgia and Alabama share Florida's northern boundary. Southern Florida basks in a subtropical climate, with summer temperatures topping 90°, and winter temperatures averaging 68.5°. Florida has more than 30,000 lakes, including Lake Okeechobee, the largest in the southern United States (700 square miles).

## **MORE ABOUT FLORIDA**

### **In The Beginning...**

Many thousands of years ago, mammoths roamed Florida's marshes. Some 6,000 years ago, Florida's earliest inhabitants were Indian tribes.

Juan Ponce De Leon, a Spanish explorer, landed near St. Augustine in 1513 and claimed the territory for Spain. He named it after Pascual Florida, a traditional Spanish "feast of flowers" which was held at Easter time.

The first permanent Spanish settlement (and the oldest European settlement anywhere in the United States) was established at St. Augustine in 1565. Spain sold Florida to the United States in 1821.

Florida became a state in 1845.

### **Now...**

National Surveys now consistently rank Southwest Florida among the fastest growing areas in the United States.

A flourishing business community supports a favorable job market. The most promising (and growing) job opportunities are in the services sector, health care, and hospitality.

Tourism is BIG in Florida! Nearly 1.6 million people from all over the world visit Southwest Florida's Gulf Coast every year.

## **COLLIER COUNTY**

Area:	2,119 square miles
Population:	197,400
County Seat:	Naples
Established:	1923
Named For:	Baron G. Collier, an early pioneer who financed the completion of the Tamiami Trail across the Everglades.

## **Major Attractions**

Philharmonic Center for the Arts  
Naples Fishing Pier  
Conservancy Nature Center  
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary  
Island Nature Cruise  
Naples Trolley Tours

## **Important Collier County Telephone Numbers – Area Code 239**

Bonita Daily News	992-3509	Marco Island Executive Airport	394-3355
Cleveland Clinic	348-4000	Macro Island Library	394-3272
Collier County Main Library	262-4130	Media One	432-9277
Collier County Schools	643-2700	Naples Airport Authority	643-0733
Collier County Sheriff	774-4434	Naples City Dock	434-4693
County Garbage Pick Up	403-2367	Naples Community Hospital	436-5000
County Recycle Info	732-2508	Naples Daily News	262-3161
East Naples Branch Library	775-5592	Naples Police Department	434-4844
Edison Community College	732-3700	North Collier Branch Library	597-8444
Highway Patrol	455-3133	North Collier Hospital	513-7000
Homestead Exemption Info.	774-8141	Naples Recycle/Refuse Hotline	434-4800
International College	513-1122	Social Security Admin.	(800) 772-1213
Marco Daily News	642-6566	Naples Solid Waste/Recycling	434-4747

**Fire • Police • Medical Emergencies**  
**Dial 911**

## **IMPORTANT RELOCATION INFORMATION**

### **Registering to Vote**

Florida has a closed primary system, which means you must register as either a Democrat or Republican in order to vote in primary elections. You are eligible to register if you are a citizen and are 18 years old by Election Day. You must be a Florida resident and, although proof of residency is not required, some kind of identification is. For specific information call:

Collier County – 774-8450

Lee County – 339-6300

### **Driving in Florida**

State law requires that you register your vehicle *within 10 days of starting a job or enrolling a child in school*. The person whose name appears on the title must take their **original title, proof of Florida insurance** (issued by a licensed Florida agent), and their **out-of-state driver's license** to the nearest registration office.

Collier County Motor Vehicle Tags & Titles – 774-8177

Lee County Tax Collector's Office (Plates & Registration)

2480 Thompson St., Fort Myers – 339-6000

Newcomers are also required to get a Florida driver's license *within 30 days of becoming residents*. Vision, road sign, operator road rules, and driving tests are given. Florida licenses are valid for six years.

Fort Myers – 11281 S. Cleveland Avenue – 278-7192

Cape Coral – 360 Santa Barbara Blvd. – 574-1991

Naples – 4532 Tamiami Trail E – 417-6385

Anyone in the front seat of a vehicle must use seat belts.

The fine for not wearing seat belts is \$29.

Children under four years old must be secured in a federally approved child restraint seat.

The fine for not restraining children under five in a seat or seat belt is \$157.

You must stop for school buses whenever their lights are flashing.

It is illegal to drive on Florida beaches!

### **Take Special Note...**

➔ State law requires that your headlights be on whenever your windshield wipers are on.

**“Black Ice” (Also known as “Florida Ice”)  
occurs when rain mixes with oil deposits on the roadway  
(a result of year-round warm temperatures).  
Use extreme caution when driving on wet roads.**



## **BOATING**

To register and title your boat, take proof of ownership and the Hull Identification Number to your county tax collector’s office. (Your HIN is on the transom on the starboard side, above the waterline, and also in a second, unexposed location).

State law requires that children under six wear personal flotation devices while aboard any vessel less than 26 feet. Also, under Florida’s “implied consent” law, when you operate a vessel, it is implied that you consent to chemical testing of your breath, blood, or urine.

**Observe all slow zones, and watch for manatees.  
It is against the law to bother manatees in any way.**

## **HUNTING AND FISHING**

Florida requires licenses for hunting, and for both freshwater and saltwater fishing. Licenses can be purchased at many area businesses—bait/tackle shops, Wal-Mart, etc. Deep sea fishing is excellent any time of the year. Many charters are available locally.



## **PET-CETERA**

Pets are also required to have licenses, which can be obtained from any veterinarian, and you must keep your pet’s shots up to date. It is illegal to have your pets on beaches.

## **SHELLING ON FLORIDA BEACHES**

The southwestern shores of the Florida Gulf Coast offer some of the world’s best shelling. While Sanibel Island is best known for shelling potential, other coastal islands in Lee County offer their own shelling specialties. Upper Captiva and Cayo Costa are noted for their starfish, conch, and sand dollars. Be aware that no shells can be taken from wildlife refuges, and there is no live shelling on Sanibel Island. Some charter boats specialize in shelling excursions to offshore islands.

➔ **A FLORIDA TIDBIT...**

**The “Sanibel Stoop”**  
**The posture taken by beachcombers**  
**Searching for the “perfect” sea shell on Sanibel Island**



**SPORTS**

From college to professional teams (and more), South Florida offers many options to excite the sports enthusiast.

For exciting college action, catch the **Miami Hurricanes** as they continue to be recognized as the best of college athletics!

NFL’s **Miami Dolphins** and major league baseball’s **Florida Marlins** play at Pro Player Stadium in Miami. NBA’s **Miami Heat** and NHL’s **Florida Panthers** are at the Miami Arena. Just a couple of hours north, watch footballs’ **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** at Tampa Stadium and NHL’s **Tampa Bay Lightning** at the Ice Palace. Baseball’s **Devil Rays** play at the Thunderdome in St. Petersburg.

Spring Training arrives in Southwest Florida every March with the **Chicago White Sox** practicing in Sarasota, the **Pittsburgh Pirates** in Bradenton, the **Minnesota Twins** and **Boston Red Sox** in Fort Myers, and the **Texas Rangers** in Port Charlotte. For class A action, catch the Miracle in Fort Myers, the **Charlotte Rangers** and the **Sarasota Red Sox**.

Locally, Teco Arena in Estero is home to two professional teams – the Florida Sea Dragons basketball team, and the Florida Everblades hockey team, with Arena Football coming soon. For something different, there’s the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track in Bonita Springs, and (bring your earplugs) the Charlotte County Speedway in Punta Gorda.

For booking information or questions, contact:

**Leonard Szwajkowski**  
**Chicago, Illinois, USA**  
**(773) 405-6112 - Phone**  
**(312) 663-3161 – Fax**

Email: [Owner@NaplesMarco.com](mailto:Owner@NaplesMarco.com)  
<http://www.NaplesMarco.com/>