TO DO AND SEE IN SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA

NATURE/SCIENCE

Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is devoted to shells in art and history, shell habitat, rare specimens, fossil shells and more. The learning lab features a hands-on area for children, displays, games, and a tank with indigenous mollusks. 239.395.2233 www.shellmuseum.org

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium This 105-acre site has nature trails, a museum, a Planetarium, butterfly and bird aviaries, a gift shop and picnic areas. 239.275.3435 www.calusanature.org

C.R.O.W. (Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife) is a hospital for sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife. 239.472.3644 www.crowclinic.org

J.N. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge Named for the 1920's Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist and pioneer environmentalist, this wildlife refuge is home to numerous exotic birds, alligators and other wildlife. 239.472.1100 www.fws.gov/dingdarling (Canoe, kayak, fishing boat and bicycle rentals available through Tarpon Bay Explorers 239.472.8900 www.tarponbayexplorers.com)

Twenty-five miles of multi-use paths function as sidewalks, bike paths and recreational trails beside buildings no taller than the tallest palm tree. Visitors enjoy great restaurants, theater and museums. Local marinas offer plenty of cruises and guided experiences on the water.

Edison & Ford Winter Estates Thomas Edison's 14-acre riverfront estate is home to the inventor's laboratory and experimental gardens as well as a collection of rare antique automobiles and Edison phonographs. Step next door to the 3-acre winter estate of automobile industrialist Henry Ford. See a 1914 Model T, a 1917 Ford truck and a 1929 Model A. 239.334.7419 www.edisonfordwinterestates.org

Old Town Sanibel encircles the east end of the island near the Sanibel Lighthouse. Historically, it was the center of much of the island’s activity; today, it is a place to stroll quaint village shops, inns and restaurants.

Sanibel Historical Museum and Village Pioneer family village includes "Uncle" Clarence Rutland’s home, Bailey’s General Store, the 1926 post office, Miss Charlotte’s Tea Room, Burnap Cottage, a pioneer garden, Model-T truck, 1890's surrey (fringe included) and replica packing house. 239.472.4648 www.sanibelmuseum.org

Shell Factory & Nature Park A Florida institution for 78 years and billed as the world's largest collection of rare shells, corals, sponges and fossils from the seven seas. Bumper boats, video arcade, railroad museum and the Soaring Eagle Zip Line! 239.995.2141 www.shellfactory.com

ADVENTURES

Adventures in Paradise Celebrating 30 years of the best fun-filled adventures! Backwater fishing, sea life encounter, sunset cruise, power boat rentals, shelling/snorkeling, trolley tours. 239.472.8443 adventureinparadiseinc.com

Everglades Wonder Gardens is one of Florida’s earliest wildlife attractions! Watch guides feed giant gators and playful otters perform. Dare to cross a swinging bridge over an alligator pit. Visit the crocodile beach or relax in the butterfly garden. 239.992.2591 evergladeswondergardens.com

Imaginarium A fun-filled interactive learning center for all ages. Stand in a thunderstorm without getting wet, get blown away by a hurricane, drive the Crash Car and broadcast the weather. Visit the lagoon. Take in a 3-D show. 239.243.0043 www.i-sci.org

Lee County Manatee Park Observe endangered Manatee in their natural habitat. Kayak rentals, picnicking, fishing and canoeing. 239.690.5030 www.leeparks.org or www.facebook.com/ManateePark

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation A wildlife preserve featuring a native plant nursery, estuarine research, observation tower, butterfly house, live marine touch tank, shoreline discovery walks and more. 239.472.2329 www.sccf.org

Bike Rentals Bicycles, fishing equipment, Segway tours and more at: Billy’s Rentals 239.472.5248 www.billysrentals.com; Bikes and a wide variety of bear gear at: Finnimore’s Cycle Shop 239.472.5577 www.finnimores.com

Captive Cruises Cruise to coastal islands; shelling, dolphin and wildlife adventures; sailboats and hiking. 239.472.5300 www.captivacruises.com

EVENTS

Butterfly Talk JAN 15 Join us in the new Butterfly Garden at Calusa Nature Center for a fun, informative talk about butterflies! You will learn all about the butterfly life cycle, which species are native to Florida, and how we all can protect butterflies and their habitat. This talk is free with your paid admission. Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium

Steve Martin & Martin Short JAN 18, 7:30 – 10:30 PM WHERE: Fort Myers, FL WHEN: 18 January, 2018 at 7:30 PM VENUE: Suncoast Credit Union Arena TICKETS: https://goo.gl/e4SKMP

More information about area attractions is available at www.fortmyers-sanibel.com and www.sanibel-captiva.org