

KEY WEST'S SPECIAL INGREDIENT

BEST FT. LAUDERDALE BEACHES

CHARLES BARKLEY'S PHOENIX

THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING YOU • FEBRUARY 2011

go

BUILDING TOMORROWLANDS

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COMPLIMENTARY COPY

A high-angle photograph of a person in a yellow kayak paddling down a narrow, lush creek. The water is dark blue and reflects the surrounding greenery. The banks are densely packed with various plants, including palm trees and flowering shrubs. The overall scene is vibrant and scenic.

go | LET'S GO

THE LIST

Ft. Myers

1 The Great Calusa Blueway
Oak-shaded creeks, crystalline waters, historic Calusa Indian sites and wildlife-filled back bays and estuaries are what you'll encounter on this 190-mile, all-levels paddling trail that winds through Lee County. 239-533-7474; calusablueway.com

THE LIST

2

Ft. Myers Beach Fishing Pier At its base, Times Square street performers spellbind the crowds while live music spills out of the adjacent beach bars. Stroll out to the end for breathtaking sunsets—or, if you're lucky, a dolphin-spotting. Lynn Hall Memorial Park next to Times Square, Ft. Myers Beach

3

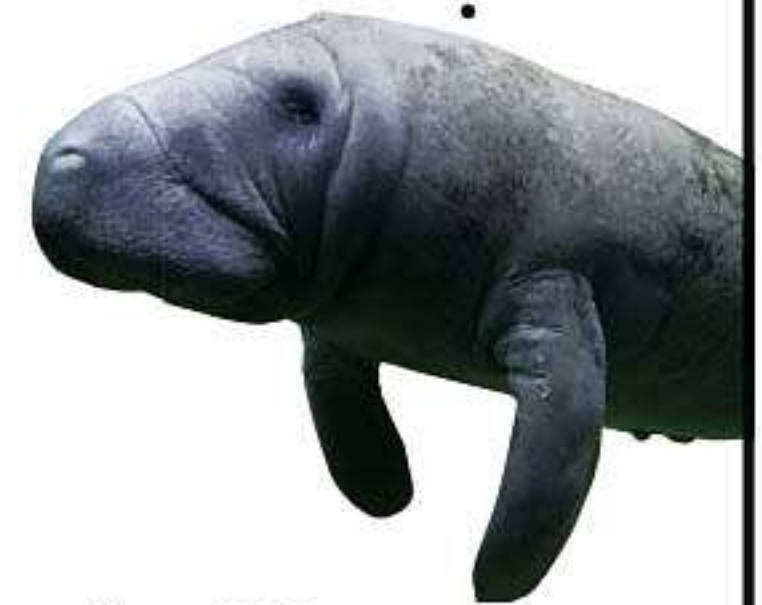
Ft. Myers Music Walk Downtown's River District buzzes all the time—but even more so the third Saturday of every month. Galleries, restaurants and bars bring in an army of live entertainment, playing everything from rockabilly to reggae to jazz. Feb. 26; fortmyersmusicwalk.com

4

Cabbage Key Early in his career, Jimmy Buffett liked to spend time on this serene Old Florida island in Pine Island Sound, reachable only by boat. If you eat at the restaurant, make sure to leave a signed dollar bill on the ceiling. (Your server will provide a marker and tape.) Depart from Captiva Island; cabbagekey.com

5

Manatee Park Warm water from a nearby power plant draws scores of endangered West Indian manatees (aka "sea cows") to this non-captive refuge, which has three observation areas. Prime viewing time ends in March, so check out these mammoth mammals before winter's end. 10901 State Road 80; 239-690-5030; leeparks.org



6

Norman Love Confections This chocolate salon is the home base of renowned artisan Norman Love—and a heady destination for lovers of artful, mouthwatering chocolates. 11380 Lindbergh Blvd; 239-561-7215; normanloveconfections.com

7

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge Part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the US, Sanibel Island's 6,400-plus-acre preserve offers a variety of guided tours, highlighting the birds, gators, crocs and other wildlife that call the area home. 1 Wildlife Dr, Sanibel Island; 239-472-1100; fws.gov/dingdarling

8

Edison-Ford Winter Estates After a few hours on the old stomping grounds of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford (including their homes, gardens and Edison's lab), you just might have a Very Big Idea of your own. Mull it over beneath the world's third-largest banyan tree. 2350 McGregor Blvd; 239-334-7419; efwefla.org

9

Cypress Square This mini shopping center offers just the right amount of restaurant options: Head to Lush, the latest from edgy chef Shannon Yates, for tapas (and steak); the ultra-hip Blu Sushi for sushi, cocktails and DJs; or The Prawnbroker, which specializes in seafood. 13451 McGregor Blvd

10

Roadhouse Café Locals crowd this elegant and inviting spot for the live jazz. Pop in for a killer happy hour; stay for veal and gorgonzola saute. 15660 San Carlos Blvd; 239-415-4375; roadhousecafe.fl.com — Libby McMillan