

Lifestyle

Lee County offers a great lifestyle with an excellent climate, magnificent beaches, superb natural resources and abundant recreation opportunities.

Lee County's beaches span 50 miles from Gasparilla Island State Recreation Area to Barefoot Beach on Little Hickory Island. There are 18 miles of public parks on the beachfront and more than 100 public beach accesses.

Crime Rate Comparison

County	Crimes Per 100,000 People
Lee (Cape Coral - Fort Myers)	3,855.20
Leon (Tallahassee)	5,046.70
Hillsborough (Tampa)	4,694.30
Palm Beach (West Palm Beach)	4,853.90
Alachua (Gainesville)	4,986.80
Miami Dade (Miami)	6,178.70
Orange (Orlando)	6,514.50

Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2008 County Annual Report

Lee County has more than 97 parks, beaches and wildlife refuges, including J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge (federal) on Sanibel Island; Lover's Key/Black Island State Park (state), and Lakes Park and Six Mile Cypress Slough (local).

Seasonal Normals

Winter (Dec-Feb)	55-77° F
Spring (Mar-May)	63-84° F
Summer (Jun-Aug)	73-91° F
Autumn (Sep-Nov)	67-86° F

Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center, 2009

Area Attractions

Arts & Culture

Alliance for the Arts - Featuring local, regional and nationally known artists and craftspersons.

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall - Performing Arts Center offering Broadway touring theatre, dance and musical performances.

Cape Coral Arts Studio - Enjoy year-round fine arts, crafts classes, and workshops for all ages.

Cultural Park Theatre Co., Inc. - Live theatre with local talent.

Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade Theatre - Professional, live theatre in historic downtown Fort Myers presenting musical and dance performances.

Periwinkle Playhouse - Professional theatre offering a variety of entertaining plays with comedy, musical and dramatic performances year-round.

Old Schoolhouse Theater - Topnotch musicals and comedies.

Southwest Florida Symphony - Professional symphony orchestra, offering classical and pops series.

Historic Sites

Burroughs Home - A "Living History" tour by costumed guides of a historic, turn-of-the-century home on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Cabbage Key - At Channel Marker #60 on the Intracoastal Waterway lies a unique 100-acre Island reminiscent of days gone by. The original Inn and restaurant features the famous Dollar Bill Bar and Cheeseburgers in paradise.

Cape Coral Historical Museum - An extensive display of early pictures of how Cape Coral began and the lifestyle; displays of artifacts from the former rose garden. Seminole Indian display, lead soldiers.

Edison-Ford Winter Estates - One of the area's most popular attractions are the homes of these famous next-door neighbors, Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. Tour Edison's botanical gardens, his laboratory and the museum with the world's largest collection of Edison's inventions and memorabilia.

Fort Myers Historical Museum - A restored train depot with displays on the Calusa Indians, Spanish explorers and Seminole Indian civilizations.

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Koreshan State Historic Site - A nationally recognized historical site, the Koreshan Park was a utopian community settled in the late 1800's. Fishing, camping, nature study, picnicking, boat ramp and canoes for rent.

The Mound House - The oldest surviving home (1906) on Fort Myers Beach, situated on a Calusa Native American mound in Estero Bay. The house is part of a 2.77-acre learning environment that broadens insights into area history, ecology and culture.

Mound Key State Archaeological Site - Northeast of the southern tip of Fort Myers Beach, this island was constructed from shells by Calusa Indians 1,000+ years ago.

Sanibel Lighthouse Boardwalk - The most frequently photographed aspect of Sanibel Island. The lighthouse has been a landmark since 1884 when the entire island was a nature preserve.

Museums and Science Centers

Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum - The museum features thematic groupings of shells from around the world in ecological habitats highlighting Southwest Florida's barrier islands and the Everglades.

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium - Displays, aviaries and boardwalks show Southwest Florida's natural history. Planetarium with star and laser shows.

Children's Science Center - Hands-on exploration using exhibits on electricity, optical illusions, archaeology, paleontology, computers, mazes, puzzles, and space. Plus live reptiles on display. Telescope viewing January-April only.

Imaginarium Hands-on Museum & Aquarium - Interactive learning center; touch a baby alligator or get up close and personal with a giant Pacific octopus, honey bees, swans and dinosaurs.

Museum of the Islands - Exhibitions on Pine Island pioneers featuring artifacts from archaeological research on the island, plus Calusa Indian artifacts.

Sanibel Historical Village and Museum - Displays and exhibits explaining the history of Sanibel Island from the days of the Calusa Indians.

Randell Research Center at Pineland - A walking tour of the Pineland site complex or a kayak trip to Josslyn Island. Learn about Florida Calusa Indian's history, constructed mounds, beliefs, livelihood, shell tools, diet and how they governed.

Useppa Museum - The museum tells the story of man on Useppa Island from the Ice Age to present. The signature piece is a forensic restoration of the "Useppa Man" taken from a skeleton unearthed during an archaeological dig in 1989. The Island is accessible only by boat.

Williams Academy Black History Museum - A 1942 addition to the original Williams Academy, the first government-funded school for black students. The museum features Lee County African-American Information, artifacts, memorabilia, history and pictures.

Ostego Bay Marine Science Center – Features touch tanks and aquarium.

Medical

Health care has been one of the area's strongest growth industries. Lee Memorial Health System is Florida's largest public health care system, and with about 6,800 employees it is Lee County's second largest employer.

Area Hospitals

Cape Coral Hospital
636 Del Prado Blvd.
Cape Coral, 33990
(239) 574-2323

Lee Memorial Hospital
2776 Cleveland Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 332-1111

Gulf Coast Medical Center
13681 Doctor's Way
Fort Myers, FL 33912
(239) 343-1000

Health Park Medical Center
9981 HealthPark Circle
Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 433-7799
www.leememorial.org

Lehigh Regional Medical Center
1500 Lee Blvd.
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
(239) 368-4510
www.LehighRegional.com

On March 8, 2009 the newest, most state-of-the-art hospital in Lee County, part of the Lee Memorial Health Systems, opened to patients. Built around the existing Gulf Coast Hospital, the new hospital features 436,000 square feet of new construction and is four times larger than the old hospital.

Gulf Coast Medical Center features a 43-bed Emergency Department with 28 exam rooms, 10 observation units and 33 treatment rooms. The ED also features a 40-slice CT scanner, which provides three dimensional images of the heart and vascular system to make diagnoses more accurate and efficient.

The new hospital also features a full service Cardiac and Vascular program with the very latest in technology, including the Allura Xper FD20, a sophisticated X-ray system that provides crisp, detailed images during minimally invasive endovascular surgery

Gulf Coast Medical Center also has one of the most advanced wireless networks of any hospital in the region. The network enables all of Lee Memorial Health System's computer systems to work together and allows physicians and nurses continuous access to patient information.

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Medical Specialties

Lee Memorial Health System

Physicians:	1,000	Beds:	
Employees:	6,800	Lee Memorial Hospital	367
		Health Park Medical Center	238
		Cape Coral Hospital	291
		The Rehabilitation Hospital	60
		The Children's Hospital	75
		HealthPark Care Center	112
		Gulf Coast Medical Center	349

Specialties: Cardiac Care, Children's Hospital, Orthopedic Surgery, Outpatient Rehabilitation, Woman's Breast Health Center, Older Adult Services, Regional Neonatal Intensive Care, Skilled Nursing Home Health, Trauma & Emergency Services, Midwifery Services, Convenient Care Walk-in Centers, Neurosciences services, Kidney Transplant Center, Cancer Center, Oncology Services, Wound Healing Center, hyperbaric oxygen treatment, Diabetes Center, complete diagnostic imaging services, Women's Care Center, pediatric emergency services, cardio and pulmonary rehabilitation, lymphedema therapy, company care.

Health Management Associates, Inc

Physicians:	50	Beds:	
Employees:	350	Lehigh Regional Medical Center	88

Specialties: Allergy, Asthma, Cardiology, Dermatology, Emergency Care, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Gynecology, Oncology, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Obstetrics, Ophthalmology, Oral Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology (E.N.T.), Pediatrics, Physical Therapy, Plastic, Reconstructive and Hand Surgery, Podiatry, Radiology – Diagnostics and Therapeutic, Urology.

Source: Economic Development Office of Lee County, 2009

Cost and Utilization

Availability	
Hospital Beds	1,688
Physicians	1,084
Dentists	261
Assisted Living	
Facilities	34
Beds	2,263
Nursing Homes	
Facilities	18
Beds	2,172
State Licensed Child	
Care Facilities / Day Care	180

Source: Florida Department of Health, Agency for Health Care Administration, 2009

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Notes