

"Live the Florida Dream"

A Free eBook Provided By: The Aubuchon Team of Companies

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Are you looking to enjoy the Florida lifestyle, and make the most of the beautiful, sunny weather as well?

We're very proud to present you with 28 Hidden Treasures of Cape Coral, please let us know if you have any treasures you've found, we'd love to hear from you!

<u>Cape Coral</u> is located in beautiful Southwest Florida. Can you believe we've been helping people <u>rent</u>, <u>remodel</u>, <u>build</u>, <u>design</u>, <u>buy</u>, and <u>sell</u> their homes in the Southwest Florida area for over 15 years? Our 28 Hidden Treasures is available on <u>iTunes</u>, and in our Blog - <u>www.YourFloridaHome.us</u>.

1. Explore the weekly farmer's market.

Every Saturday, from October thru May, Cape Coral welcomes farmers and vendors from across the state to share their latest harvest with the residents of the city. Whether indulging in a delectable baked good or cutting into a freshly-caught grouper right out of the Gulf, you are guaranteed some of the freshest food and unique gifts in SW Florida. Held in Club Square, the market also boasts the soothing sounds of local musicians, cooking demonstrations by local chefs, and specially-made, hand-crafted jewelry.

2. Attend one of the city's 112 schools.

The city is home to 93 "traditional" schools and 19 charter schools. From the International Baccalaureate Program, to award-winning teachers and staff, to first-rate athletic organizations, Cape Coral schools are some of the most respected in the region. Plus, with six higher-educational institutions just a few miles away, both parents and children can earn a degree from home. With more than 100 schools to choose from, you're sure to find the perfect one for you or your child.

3. Drive a go-cart at Mike Greenwell's Family Fun Park.

Battle a friend in a round of mini-golf, take a hit in the batting cages, or go head-to-head on the paintball field, because no matter what you do at Mike Greenwell's, you're guaranteed a great time. Complete with an arcade, a fish-feeding dock and a children's playground, this family fun park has something for everyone, at any age.

4. Dive into the waters at Sun Splash.

Sun Splash Family WaterPark is a great way to cool down during Florida's hot summers. With ten water slides and a specialized kid zone, it's fun for the entire family – right in the heart of Cape Coral. If you're a daredevil try the X-celerator and free fall up to 40 feet per second on the park's fastest and most extreme slide. Those looking for a more relaxing journey can try the lazy river with a peaceful float down stream on a river tube. The park also features a family pool, sand volleyball, arcade games, a gift shop, changing rooms, and snack shops.

5. Wade through the waters of the Caloosahatchee.

Named after the Calusa Indians, the Caloosahatchee River flows 75-miles from Lake Okeechobee down to the Gulf of Mexico. Home to an abundance of sea creatures, you can frequently spot dolphins, otters, sting rays and manatees playing in the waters. Residents are known to take advantage of the river's warm temperatures by spending afternoons boating, jetskiing, or simply just taking a dip.

6. Dance at Oktoberfest.

For 24 years the German America Social Club has brought Munich to Cape Coral. The six-day long celebration is a much anticipated event among Cape Coral residents. Complete with laughter, singing and dancing, delicious food and beverages, games and entertainment, Oktoberfest is fun for the whole family and a true tribute to the German culture.

7. Dine at some of the local's favorite restaurants.

Cape Coral is home to some of the tastiest restaurants around. Nestled away in different corners of the city, there is a local favorite for everyone. Whether you want to sip margaritas at Iguana Mia or order a round of appetizers at The Joint, eat fresh sushi at the Pearl Lounge, you simply can't go wrong. Plus, since canals meander throughout the city, many residents choose to boat right up to their restaurant on a clear night out!

8. Volunteer at Relay for Life.

Relay for Life is an event that truly brings the community together. Each year thousands of Cape Coral residents gather at a local high school to walk and raise money for cancer. With food, games and music, teams of people have fun while raising funds to fight cancer and increase awareness of cancer prevention and treatment. In 2009 alone, Cape Coral raised \$129,000 during the 24-hour event – just one example of the generosity in the Cape Coral community.

9. Bike in the Tour de Cape.

This year bikers from across the city participated in the 18th annual Tour de Cape. The bike tour offers a 15, 30, 60, and 100-mile course throughout the north and west sections of Cape Coral. The event features one of the largest bike rides of its kind in the state of Florida. Since Cape Coral is the second largest city in the state in land area, there is very little backtracking. Breakfast, rest stations, and refreshments are also included as a part of the tour.

10. Fish in more than 400-miles of waterways.

With 295-miles of freshwater and 105-miles of Gulf-access (brackish) water, the fishing opportunities in Cape Coral are endless. The city is home to eight boating marinas and five official boating ramps, allowing easy access for all boaters, no matter where you live. Keep an eye out for snook, trout, and grouper – local favorites! – throughout the year.

11. Play at one of the city's 35 parks.

Averaging about 335 days of bright sunshine each year, almost everyday in Cape Coral is a great day for the park. Four Freedoms is just one of the 35 offering a variety of activities. Overlooking the Bimini Basin, this 3.2-acre park features a fenced in playground, a multipurpose facility that offers recreational programs for all ages, and a specially designed 2,000 square foot addition to accommodate the popular preschool programs.

12. Join one of Cape Coral's more than 250 clubs and organizations.

With clubs offering something for every walk of life, it's easy to feel instantly engaged in the Cape Coral community. From the Rotary Club to the New Residents Club to the Social Club, this city has it all. And, with different outings and events held all across the city, meeting new people becomes effortless and a thing of the past.

13. Sail in the annual boat parade.

It's Christmas – Florida style. For more than 30 years boaters have joined in on Cape Coral's annual holiday boat parade. A procession of about 100 boats, decorated in a festive holiday fashion with lights, costumes, elves, and whatever else their captains can think of, sails along the canals of South Cape Coral. And even if you don't live on one of the canals and are lucky enough to see the parade, Four Freedoms Park provides an ideal seat to watch the illuminated vessels. The park features live holiday music, decorated trees, Christmas crafts, food and beverages.

14. Gaze at the fireworks at Red, White, and Boom.

This special Fourth of July event is held every year at the foot of the Cape Coral Bridge. Families and friends come together to celebrate this day of independence by viewing national music acts, playing a variety of games, enjoying food and drink, and, of course, watching the incredible fireworks show at the end of the night. The event shuts down traffic to-and-from the bridge, to make room for the biggest fireworks show in Southwest Florida.

15. See a play at Cultural Park Theater.

Take a visit to the longest running community theater in Southwest Florida. This non-profit organization puts on a new series of plays every season. From Kiss Me Kate to Steel Magnolias to Disney's Aladdin, there is something for everyone. So if you're in the mood for an inexpensive night out, check out the latest show playing at Cultural Park this season.

16. Lose yourself on a nature trail in Four Mile Cove.

Stretched across 365-acres of land, Four Mile Cove is one of the largest preserved green-spaces in Cape Coral. While you're there, rent a kayak and paddle through unspoiled wetlands and tropical mangroves, or walk through the preserve and spot local wildlife, like the southern bald eagle or the great American alligator. Each journey is sure to be an adventure.

17. Stroll through the streets at the annual Art Fair.

Every year artists and craftsmen line the streets of downtown Cape Coral showcasing their latest creations. Last year over 100,000 people attended the festival, truly emphasizing the popularity and success of the event. Everything from paintings and sculptures to jewelry and clothes are available for purchase. But if you come just to look, food and drinks are available by a variety of vendors.

18. Catch a movie at Marquee Cinemas.

See the latest blockbuster hit at Cape Coral's newly remodeled movie theater. Located in the heart of the Coralwood Shopping Mall, Marquee Cinemas has ten different screens and premium stadium seating, ensuring the best theater experience while watching your favorite films. The theater also has a wide range of concession snacks and special matinee pricing, so you won't have to spend a lot, to get a lot.

19. Watch the sunset on Cape Coral's beach.

Every Wednesday come out to the Cape Coral Yacht Club Beach for a celebration and a toast to the sunset. With music, drinks, and vendors selling a variety of fun goodies, it's a great break for the middle of the week. The Yacht Club also features a grand ballroom, beach pavilions, a fishing pier, and community pool. So have a picnic on the beach, watch the sun disappear into the sky, and listen to the band play.

20. Hit a homerun at one of the city's sports complexes.

The Cape Coral Sports Complex is the city's largest athletic facility. The 52-acre park boasts five soccer fields, five softball fields, and four regulation-sized baseball fields – all of which are well lit for evening games and practices. The complex also includes three concession stands, restroom facilities, picnic shelters and playground equipment for young children.

21. Search for wildlife.

Cape Coral is home to an abundance of native wildlife. From the Southern bald eagle to the gopher tortoise, you're sure to see an array of creatures on any given day. Moreover, in honor of the city's official bird, Cape Coral holds the Burrowing Owl Festival each February, where visitors get an up close look at wild animals, walk through a butterfly tent, watch demonstrations on how to dig owl burrows and much, much more.

22. Run with your dog through Rotary Park.

Set on 97 acres of land, Cape Coral's Rotary Park is found just off Rose Garden Road in Tarpon Point. With amenities like an environmental center used for gardening and nature-related classes, and a 9-acre dog park, you're sure to find many locals who frequent the park on a regular basis. The grounds also offer a variety of exercise classes, an observation tower, a boardwalk nature trail and a summer camp for children.

23. Feel secure in one of the safest cities in Florida.

Cape Coral's population just surpassed 170,000 and yet it consistently ranks among the safest cities in Florida. With ten fire stations spread across 114-sq miles, and a hospital that has the largest Emergency Department in the county, it's easy to see why Cape Coral is continually recognized for its safety and security. In fact, just this year Allstate released a report citing Cape Coral drivers as the best in the state. So whether you're in your home, or on the road, you're sure to feel at ease knowing that you and your family are safe.

24. Ride the city trolley.

Ready to shop, dine and experience South Cape? No need to drive from one place to the other. Simply park your car, relax and let the air conditioned trolley take you to your destinations! Not sure where to go? Most of the trolley drivers have been living in the Cape for many years and would be happy to assist you in learning more about the city. Just ask and you're guaranteed friendly and helpful information.

25. Golf with family and friends.

Try Palmetto Pines, Royal Tee Golf Club, a Gordon Lewis design, or Coral Oaks, with 8 beautiful lakes and 37 bunkers. Just minutes from the Cape, take a swing at The Golf Club at Magnolia Landing, with fine dining and many other amenities. Whether you're looking for a 9, 18, or 27-hole course, you'll find a challenge, no matter your skill level.

26. Visit many unique islands.

All within a short boating or driving distance, you can enjoy Florida just like the local islanders. From the charming islands of Matlacha to Pine Island, where you can boat to your favorite waterfront restaurant for some fresh seafood, or visit artsy shops for one of a kind crafts, to Cayo Costa where you can camp overnight, you're sure to have the ultimate Florida experience.

27. *Live the Florida lifestyle.*

When you're ready to make that move to Southwest Florida, you'll want to check out the waterfront communities of Cape Harbour and Tarpon Point. Nestled in Southwest Cape Coral, these neighborhoods have it all from incredible dining experiences at Rumrunners and The Joint, to Tarpon's charming café, to retail shops, homemade bakery foods, live entertainment and much more. Walk along the dock and take in the sunset, or take a hike through Tarpon's nature trails. Whatever you choose you're sure to find warm Florida sunshine, soft tropical breezes, and deep blue waters.

28. Build your dream home in Cape Coral, the city of hidden treasures.

The Aubuchon Team of Companies makes it easy. Whether you're looking to build, remodel, design, rent, buy or sell, you can count on Team Aubuchon to make it happen. With award-winning homes and designs, they can help make your dream become a reality.

The Aubuchon Team Of Companies help you "live the Florida dream":

Buy or sell your home with Miloff-Aubuchon Realty.

Rent vacation, or annual, rentals with Miloff-Aubuchon Realty Rentals.

Remodel your home, or build a luxury home with Aubuchon Homes.

Build your affordable custom home with the **Sterling Collection**.

Decorate your dream home with interior designs by **Evaluations**.

Visit <u>www.TeamAubuchon.com</u>, or call us at (877) 542-1075 to learn more.

Have a great day!