

## Island Inn Sanibel

Sanibel Island is growing in popularity. Every year, more and more people discover this "new" natural playground in southwestern Florida. However, there is nothing "new" about Sanibel Island, and the Island Inn Sanibel Resort is testament to this fact.

Founded in 1895, the Island Inn Sanibel beachfront resort was built as a home for Will and Harriet Matthews and their four children. The Matthews family had left their home in the harsher northern climate behind, choosing instead to live their lives in the more temperate, year round weather of Sanibel Island. Of course, when friends and family from the north came to visit the Matthews, they fell in love with Sanibel and wanted to come back again and again. Eventually, the Matthews' family transformed their home into a boarding house in order to accommodate their many guests. Eventually, the home evolved into its present form, Island Inn Sanibel, now hosting friends and family from around the world.

Guests of the Island Inn Sanibel resort have access to miles of pristine beaches. The Inn itself has 550 feet of unspoiled beach frontage, plus 10 acres of property, forming a horseshoe shape that seems to embrace visitors with a sense of community. Island Inn Sanibel offers a variety of accommodations with traditional amenities to meet the needs of every individual, family or group.

More than just a wonderful place to relax, this historic beachfront resort is becoming a favorite gathering point for guests searching for sunny beaches, beautiful birds, stunning sunsets and fine dining. In fact, many guests are inclined to remain at the resort, as the Island Inn Sanibel has the birds and beaches that have made the island famous, plus great dining and privacy. Special holidays are cause for celebration at the Island Inn Sanibel resort, and the place comes alive with occasions to mingle, socialize and become better acquainted with other guests. On special occasions, guests of the Island Inn Sanibel resort can take part in shuffleboard, tennis and croquet.

Those who do choose to leave the resort will not be disappointed, for there is no shortage of fun and excitement on Sanibel Island. There is direct access to miles of white, sandy beaches just waiting to be explored. Along these beaches, visitors are delighted to find thousands of seashells in as many as two hundred different varieties, making Sanibel Island the seashell capital. Beyond the beaches are endless meandering bicycle paths, exciting nature trails, challenging canoe routes, photographing birds and blooms and neighboring islands to visit and explore. Organized sports and outings are also available. Ask your Island Inn Sanibel resort desk clerk for information and guides about sailing, golfing, kayaking and other nearby sports and activities.

If you'd like to learn more about Sanibel Island, consider taking a guided tour. The Island Inn Sanibel resort has information available about local tour guides and island historians who will be happy to take you on a tour of local beaches or natural reserves. This is a great way to fully understand the natural habitat and unusual qualities of this unique barrier island. Your tour guide will relate fascinating stories and interesting historical tidbits about Sanibel Island as well as its little sister, Captiva Island.

When you've explored the countryside and are ready for a little city life, the nearby towns have fun in store as well. Sanibel Island offers wonderful live theatre, art galleries, museums, boutiques, shops, cafes and bistros. With parties and festive events for all ages and interests, life is certainly never boring on Sanibel Island.

The Island Inn Sanibel resort is a grand old piece of island history. It really is a wonderful place to visit with your family, but be careful; the island and climate are just as beautiful as they were over 100 years ago and like the Williams family, you might just be tempted to stay.