

## *West Coast of Florida*

*With unspoiled barrier islands, wildlife preserves, white sand beaches piled high with shells and dazzling sunsets this cruise is truly paradise for the nature lover! Each night you can choose to stay either in a laid back anchorage off an isolated beach or at a marina in a sophisticated, five-star resort. The west coast of Florida offers plenty of both. Like all Lady Catherine Trumpy Charters we'll work together to develop a customized cruise tailored to your personal taste and interests.*

### *Arrival:*

Our cruise departs from Ft Myers, easily accessible thru Southwest Florida International Airport. Arrive early afternoon and settle into your luxurious stateroom suite aboard Lady Catherine. Then spend a little time exploring this jewel of a city, known as the "City of Palms".



you can see right to the white sand bottom. The water is teeming with wildlife. Schools of dolphin dance in Lady Catherine's bow wake. At anchor we may be visited by a curious family of manatees. The surrounding shallows are host to a multitude of birds- ibis, storks, spoonbills, herons and egrets.

### *Cruising Grounds:*

The 120 square miles of protected waters near Ft Myers - Pine Island Sound and Charlotte Harbor- offer spectacular cruising. This area is acclaimed as one of the top 10 best cruising spots in the world by Sail Magazine! In the shallow, crystal clear waters



Enjoy the spectacular views from Lady Catherine's luxurious aft deck as we leisurely cruise the coast, islands and Intracoastal Waterway. Hop in Lady Catherine's inflatable dinghy or into a kayak to explore the mangroves keys. Or grab some snorkeling gear for a memorable encounter with a leopard ray and schools of tropical fish. Prefer fishing? The area's shallow grassy flats are perfect for hooking trout, snook, snapper and tarpon.

*Choose from the following ports of call:*

### **Sanibel Island**

A morning cruise from Ft Myers brings us to Sanibel Island. This sub-tropical barrier island is known as one of the best shelling spots in the world. Surrounded by dazzling blue-green waters, Sanibel offers a wondrous underwater world for snorkelers, scuba divers or fishermen to explore. With miles and miles of white sand beach you'll be sure to find your own secluded spot.



The J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge located on Sanibel is part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the United States. It is world famous for its spectacular migratory bird populations. Take a guided tram tour with a park ranger or hike one of many nature trails.

Looking for a bit of civilization after all that nature? Stroll thru the shops and galleries of Old Sanibel, visit the Sanibel Historic Village or let us make you an appointment at the spa.



### **Captiva Island**

Sanibel's little sister is Captiva Island. The island's five miles of white sand beach are lined with an abundance of shells. We'll spend the night in a quiet anchorage or stay in one of Captiva's very posh resort-style marinas.

### **Cabbage Key**

This "Old Florida" style island hideaway is a must see for all cruisers. The secluded little jungle island is home to the famed Dollar Bill Bar, every inch of its walls covered with autographed dollar bills left by visitors. With Jimmy Buffet a many time visitor it is rumored that this bar is the inspiration for the song "Cheeseburger in Paradise".



### **Useppa Island**

Across the waterway is the gentrified, private island of Useppa. The island was developed in the 1920s by publishing magnate Barron Collier who built a large home to accommodate his millionaire friends for tarpon fishing trips to the area. The island was regularly visit by Rockefellers, Duponts, Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. Today the island is home to the modern day elite via a private membership club. Access to the private island is available only to those visiting by private yacht, staying in one of the island's upscale marinas.



### **Cayo Costa**

With nine miles of perfect beaches, acres of pine forests, palm hammocks and mangrove swamps, this barrier island park is a Gulf Coast gem. Except for the birds the powdery beaches are nearly deserted. This nature sanctuary is home to magnificent frigate birds with their 7 foot wingspan, ospreys and bald eagles. We'll anchor off the bay side of

Cayo Costa, riddled with coves waiting for you to explore by dinghy or kayak, some containing remnants of old fish houses. Be sure to visit the "Tunnel of Love", a narrow watery tunnel through the mangroves that cuts the island nearly in two then empties onto the back side of a gulf beach. There you



can pick shells until you can't hold any more, or cast a line into the surf in these world renowned fishing grounds.

Back on Lady Catherine at anchor off the beach we'll cook up the catch of the day. Our nighttime anchorage is blanketed by a sky studded with stars, far from the city lights.



### **Boca Grande**

Boca Grande is a charming spot. The Gasparilla Inn dates back into the twenties. Spend the afternoon on its Pete Dye golf course. Or rent bikes or a golf cart to tour this laid back and pretty little community with homes draped in bougainvillea.

### **Intracoastal Waterway**

If you've always wanted to cruise the ICW now is your chance. Known as "The Ditch" this man-made watery highway is anything but. We'll head north on this protected inland waterway passing thru pretty Lemon Bay, dolphins leading the way to the friendly waterfront town of Venice.



### **Sarasota**

With its rich cultural history a visit to sophisticated Sarasota is a must. The city has a dozen theaters, 30 art galleries and is home to several artist communities. Visit the zoological gardens, one of its many

museums. Shop in upscale St Armands Circle, or Palm Avenue with its strolling minstrels. Golfers are in heaven in Sarasota with over 50 golf courses to choose from!



*Note: The recommended time for a cruise that includes visiting all these suggested ports of call is 10 days. If your schedule does not permit this much time choose the ports that interest you the most or offer suggestions of your own for places you would like to visit.*

*There are many other possibilities on Florida's West Coast including extended cruises to the Florida Keys. Departures may be arranged from ports other than Ft Myers such as Sarasota, Naples or Marco Island.*

*Each cruise is customized to your taste and interest. Please contact us at 401-222-0778 to share your ideas for the perfect Florida cruise.*