

# Ready to Hit the Beach

OK, it's beach time and you're short a few necessities. We headed to a place with firsthand knowledge of such items, namely Fort Myers Beach, and discovered some real treasures beyond the surf and sand. —by Julie Clay



## Surf's Up

Ben at **West Coast Surf Shop** showed us the latest in dual-use flip-flops from Reef. The women's version has a slide out flat holder for a room key, ID, and other small items. A Velcro strap keeps it tucked firmly in place while walking. Other styles have a bottle opener encased in an indentation underneath the arch, available in both men's and women's versions. Additional men's styles contain an actual flask in which to carry a few ounces of beverage beneath the heel. Some come with a fin key to tighten the cap, which doubles for surfboard fin use. These flip-flops come in many different colors. Venice-based Zap skimboards are also available at the shop. *West Coast Surf Shop, 1035 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, 239-463-1989*

## Bookin' >

Can't forget entertainment while lazing beachside. **Local Color** features a nice selection of paperback novels set in Southwest Florida, most of which are by local authors. Choose from W.

C. Highfield's *In Sun Down Far*; a couple by Sanibel resident Christine Lemmon, *Sanibel Scribbles* and *Portion of the Sea*; as well as a compilation of teatimes excerpted from vintage and modern literature entitled *And Then It Was Teatime* by Laurie Nienhaus. The store also carries beach totes covered with reprints of famous works of art. Among the richly colored prints you'll find Monet, Renoir, and Van Gogh. *Local Color, 1021 B Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, 239-463-9199, www.localcolorfmb.com*



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BLASE

## It's a Wrap >

A real find was revealed at **Times Square Bazaar**. Here in this unassuming store we uncovered a truly unique beach wrap by India Boutique. This 100 percent silk sarong features two different yet complementary patterns of fabric sewn together. It can be worn doubled around the waist, or separately to form a dress. There are so many ways to wear it, in fact, that instructions are included. Store owner Umi informed us that Hollywood celebrities are now wearing this beach wrap, which is available in several colors and prints. *Times Square Bazaar, 1010 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, 239-265-2085*



## < The Eyes Have it

Protect your eyes the stylish way with Maui Jim sunglasses found at **Totes/Isotoner**. Featuring PolarizedPlus2 advanced polarization technology, these sunglasses promise to cut glare like no others. Several up-to-date styles are found here, including plastic frames, wire-rimmed, and "rimless." Maui Jim has recently expanded its line to include reader sunglasses with power up to +2.50 strength. We also found Solar Shields, polarized slip-on sunglasses to go over regular specs. Available in both brown lenses and black, they fit so snugly you can't even see the glasses beneath. Nice, says this glasses-wearer! *Totes/Isotoner, Tanger Factory Outlet, 20350 Summerlin Rd., Unit 255, Fort Myers, Ph/Fax: 238-466-7225*

## On the Beach >

For watersports lovers and those who just like the look, swimsuits combined with the water-repellent technology of Body Glove are offered at **Planet Beachwear**. From bikinis and tankinis for the girls to boardshorts for everyone, they offer several colors, patterns, and styles. Lido and Basix men's beach shirts feature comfort netting and button-down, lightweight styles. And for what's not covered, the store offers Amazing Maui Babe Browning Lotion with Hawaiian ingredients plus antioxidants for a great, safe tan. And if you overdo it, pick up some Panama Jack aloe and lidocaine sunburn relief. *Planet Beachwear, 1801 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, 239-765-5551, [www.planetbonline.com](http://www.planetbonline.com)*

