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Hopeless Romantic

Kindle the passion on aptly named **Lovers Key State Park**, a 1,700-acre paradise cuddled between Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Beach. Its pristine beaches are perfect for a private picnic, romantic stroll or a cozy kayak adventure. You can even wed or renew your vows there!

Get snugly in **Seaside**, nestled in the heart of northwest Florida. Couples will adore its simple style, cute cottages and sugar-sand beaches. Indulge in a romantic dinner, toast your honey at Crush wine bar, visit art galleries, or shop and stroll the streets hand in hand. 🍷



Lovers Key State Park



Seaside

GETTING THE PERFECT SHOT

By Amy Shepherd Nance

Taking great photographs of your Florida vacation is as easy as point and shoot with these tips from award-winning Florida nature photographer Clyde Butcher and Alan Maltz, the Official Fine Art Photographer for the State of Florida.

SET UP THE SUN

Most visitors want to score a perfect sunset shot, but shooting on the beach can be tricky to pull off. "Keep in mind the four major elements you're working with: sky, water, sand and landscape," Butcher advises. "At sunset it's easy to overexpose, so use a polarizer if you can." If not, go for a shot where the sun is covered two-thirds by clouds so there's not too much light jeopardizing your picture.

FRAME YOUR SHOT

Butcher suggests using a wide angle for the beach or positioning yourself far enough away to gain dramatic perspective. "Lead the eye from the foreground to the surrounding landscape," he notes, and don't overlook creative framing. "Looking on an angle down the beach can offer more interest than shooting straight on. When you look at it later, you'll feel as if you're walking down that beach."

THINK SMALL

With so much natural beauty in Florida, it's easy to ignore the key details in favor of the big picture. "If you're shooting the water, get down in it at the shore when the surf comes in. That way you'll catch the bubbles on the sand," Butcher recommends. Fill your memory card with a mix of expansive landscape shots, intimate portraits of family and small natural elements all on their own.

SCORED THE PERFECT SUNSET SHOT AND WANT A COMPANION SUNRISE?

"Start early," Maltz recommends. "Get there before dawn and shoot until about 9 a.m. Florida light is always best before midday, and then again at sunset." 🌅



Cape San Blas,
Clyde Butcher



Key West,
Alan Maltz



More Vacation Photography Tips

For more tips from Maltz and other renowned Florida photographers, snap this tag. (Find instructions for downloading the free app on page 11.)