

I Love Letter to Paradise

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When I sit and reminisce about my many visits to Florida, I remember the joys of each season and the peace I experienced when spending time in paradise...

My Fall Destination

I arrived in Venice on a beautiful October day, and the colors of fall were all around me. Looking up, tangerine hues filled the blue sky as the awesome sunset spread its colors brightly for all to see. Cheerful autumn flowers decorated the neighborhoods, and a trip to the beach brought the discovery of a cute little pumpkin nestled in the sand. I have fond memories of enjoying a kaleidoscope of Florida fall colors in my favorite town and always bringing back home a little bit of Venice. Maybe a shell, some sand, or a postcard, but definitely something to remind me of my autumn destination.



Winter Holiday

Memories flood my mind as I think about my holiday in Venice. I recall the laughter I heard and the joy I saw on people's faces as they walked the Main Street district, shopping and dining. During this season, the town was all wrapped up in a big red bow full of window decorations and giant palms swaying overhead with festive, shimmering holiday lights. Boats were all dressed up in their finest with glowing baubles, gliding along the Intracoastal Waterway. What a magical time in paradise it was and still is; I always look forward to my return to this little diamond on the Gulf!





Spring Break

Taking a little time off from work, my break took me to Florida and to my special destination, my favorite place to stay, a charming inn near the beach. I remember sitting by the pool and feeling a sea-salt breeze pass over me as I eyed elegant white feathered birds fly above. Spring mornings there were the best, and I especially loved the sweet sound of the whistling ducks that seem to greet me each morning as I sat comfortably, taking it all in.

I also enjoyed my trips to and from Nokomis Beach where I would walk to the North Jetty. There, I saw boats floating through the channel on their way to the great blue Gulf. I often visited the



Jetty snack bar that was originally a trolley car, but had been transformed into a hidden gem on the water. Thinking back, I recall exchanging smiles with the folks that made this unique spot their “regular” hangout, sharing stories of how they caught the big one!

During my time there, I also enjoyed the tropical scents after a spring rain as the sun reappeared and rainbows arched over the gulf, and the freedom I felt as I traveled down Tamiami Trail in my car with the top down, feeling the breeze through my hair and listening to my favorite music. I thought, this is truly paradise...

Summer Vacation

My vacation was filled with long walks along the water's edge. The soft white sand, turquoise water, and beautiful sails drifting by were a sight to see. I enjoyed collecting the iridescent shells that seem to glisten along the waterway. But my most cherished treasures were the few pieces of beach glass I found buried in the sand. Each time I visited, I continued to search for these rare beauties. Once discovered, I would make sure they were safe for my trip back home. Upon returning from Florida, I always take great pleasure in adding them to my collection.



It's nice to come home, but I always make time to reminisce about the joys of being in Florida and the wonder that I felt meeting all the friendly people who crossed my path in paradise and who, with love, inspired and encouraged me to visit often.

I have continued to make this journey through the seasons, gathering a collection of memories, taking photos and writing down all the wonderful times I had in this very special town.



Someday, I know I will return, plant my feet in the Gulf, look around and say, "Ahh...", and realize the journey has become the destination...I am home, I am happy, and here is where I will stay.

