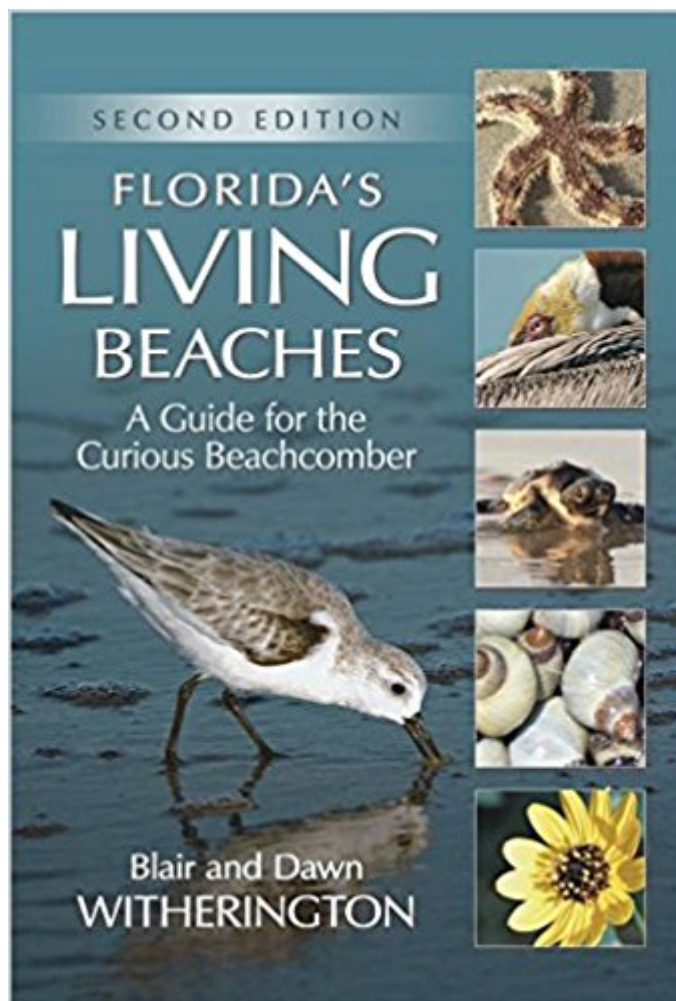


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Florida's Living Beaches: A Guide For The Curious Beachcomber



Synopsis

The first edition of Florida's Living Beaches (2007) was widely praised. Now, the second edition of this supremely comprehensive guide has even more to satisfy the curious beachcomber, including expanded content and additional accounts with more than 1800 full-color photographs, maps, and illustrations. It heralds the living things and metaphorical life along the state's 700 miles of sandy beaches. The expanded second edition now identifies and explains over 1400 curiosities, with lavishly illustrated accounts organized into Beach Features, Beach Animals, Beach Plants, Beach Minerals, and Hand of Man.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #28,101 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Seashells #3 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Ecosystems > Coastal #33 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas

Customer Reviews

Blair and Dawn Witherington are professional naturalists. Blair is a research scientist with the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in Florida. He has his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from the University of Central Florida and a doctorate in zoology from the University of Florida. He has contributed numerous scientific articles and book chapters on sea turtle biology, and his books include two volumes on sea turtles and their conservation. Dawn is a graphic design artist and scientific illustrator trained at the Art Institutes of Colorado and Fort Lauderdale. Her art and design are prominent in natural history books, posters, and museum exhibits. Blair and Dawn have merged their art, writing, photography, and design in a number of projects, including Florida's Living Beaches: A Beachcomber's Guide, Florida's Seashells, Living Beaches of Georgia and the Carolinas: A Beachcomber's Guide, and Seashells of Georgia and the Carolinas: A Beachcomber's Guide.

This is the perfect book for those who love exploring Florida's beaches and want to learn more about what they find. As a Wisconsin resident, I don't see the ocean much, so when I do I am inspired by the sand and water. I also enjoy immersing myself in nature to get a feel for life and all it has to offer. In addition, I research the heck out of a place before and after I visit to fully understand everything it has to offer. As a result, this book is perfect for the Florida beach comber that doesn't want to miss out on something special.

This is a wonderful, easy to use, guide for beachcombers. The pictures are excellent and the organization intuitive. One minor problem: paper is not waterproof and it would take a real beating if you used it right on the shoreline. I came to using it after beachcombing with either pictures (preferred) or specimens. We visit beaches in southwest Florida primarily and almost everything we observed on the beach was in this book.

Good gift for an adult or young beachcomber. Beautiful pictures and description of where you are most likely to find each object described. Plus, if you read the first 30 pages, you'll understand more about beach morphology (formation) than any 1st year college student

I had bought several field books, but none of them filled the bill like this one. It has clear, color pictures as well as descriptions of shells, birds and other things that you might see at the beach. It also shows which beaches each species is likely to be seen, and even the time of year and how common they are. It even shows shells in different stages of wear, from pristine to beach worn, so that the pictures in the book are more likely to resemble shells that you actually find. It has interesting info on different things, such as sea foam, currents, beach weather, tides and sand bars. It shows things that you might find on the beach, such as fishing gear (lobster floats, crab traps, etc.) and Spanish coins, to help identify objects that you might find. It is also a handy size. If you are at all interested in nature, don't go to the beach in Florida without this book.

I don't usually buy books like this, especially without physically looking through them first, but this was totally a good choice! It's really well done and full of illustrative photos. The text is informative enough to get you a basic understanding of what you are looking at, and gives you a starting place for research if you want more detail about something. I learned a lot about beaches and sand movement from the "Beach Features" section. I would definitely recommend for any beachcomber

or beach enthusiast.

I bought Florida's Living Beaches for my husband when we first moved down to Florida 4 years ago. He loved it so much he would take it with him to any beach combing excursions we went on so that we could identify all the cool shells that we found. We'd always get very excited when we would find a shell that was rare for our side of the coast (Gulf of Mexico) and we'd show these shells off to everyone. To this day (4 years later), we still bring this guide with us if we are going shell hunting!

I'll just be one more chiming in that this book is worth getting if you plan to spend any time on the coast of Florida and want to learn what you'll be seeing when you do. Since moving back to the Atlantic side of south Florida I've been spending a lot of time at the beach. I've developed a fondness for shell collecting and that's what led me to eventually find this book. I needed a good shell identification guide. I almost bought another book, but an reviewer recommend this book over the other I was about to buy, so out of curiosity I checked out the review page which was nothing but 5 star review after 5 star review. What impressed me was seeing that it covers the entire gambit of everything and anything a person may find at the beach, from shells to corals, sponges, jellyfish, land and water animals, plant/tree life, seabean and seeds and even drift item that commonly wash ashore. And more! The opening chapter is devoted to explaining the anatomy of a beach and all its components, which is very informative. I bought it for the shell identification guide primarily but it's been great for everything else. As others have mentioned it's full of photographs on every page, a corresponding map telling you where in Florida you'll tend to find each particular item and during what season, and is a well organized, easy and fun to read high quality book. It's a must-own resource if you visit Florida beaches and like to learn about what you're surrounded by. And as far as I can tell, every shell I've found so far was in the book. And it was nice to learn exactly *why* one of my fave beaches is always a milky seagreen color, versus others that tend to be a rich blue green. :D It's all in here.

If you live in Florida, this is a must. Awesome pictures. I have picked up shells for years and never really knew they each had a name and that there are so many along our beautiful beaches. I would buy again!!

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