



TED MASE/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

FLORIDA

AFTER THE DISASTER

In the last 18 months, natural disasters have devastated popular travel destinations around the world. Today, the Globe begins a series of occasional stories examining how these areas are coping with their new realities.

Captiva comes back

Dealt a roundhouse blow by Hurricane Charley, Sanibel and its sister isle battle to regain business

By Neece Regis
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

CAPTIVA ISLAND, Fla. — On Aug. 13, 2004, a Friday, Chris van der Baars sat in Fort Myers watching coverage of Hurricane Charley on television. He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

The storm, originally expected to hit the coast farther north in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, was passing near the islands of Sanibel and Captiva. To be precise, it was crossing directly over the 330-acre South Seas Resort on the northern tip of Captiva, where van der Baars is the general manager. As he watched, Charley did a little loop backward over the island be-

fore heading north again.

Two days earlier, van der Baars had evacuated 1,500 guests and staff from the resort.

"It's a simple decision. You think of the worst consequence and then try to avoid it," he said.

The worst, indeed. In only three hours, Charley had strengthened from a Category 2 storm, with 110-mile-per-hour winds, into a 150-mile-per-hour Category 4 monster, becoming the strongest hurricane to strike Florida since Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The resort, which in high winter season could accommodate 3,500 guests, was nearly destroyed.

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PHOTOS BY WILLIAM S. SPEER/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE



Bruce Bradley of York, Pa., had things in focus on Sanibel Island last week. On Captiva Island, Hurricane Charley cut a swath along Gulf Drive, and the damage to South Seas Resort, roofs and all, was huge.



ESSDRAS M SUAREZ/GLOBE STAFF

Dale Chihuly's "Glade Lake Walla Wallas" float at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Fla.

All that stuns is not sunlight: Tut and the garden of glass

By Tom Haines
GLOBE STAFF

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Consider first a quotation by archeologist Howard Carter that accompanies the exhibited riches of Egypt's boy king at the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale: "All that glitters is gold."

Now consider a second quotation, from poet Walter Savage Landor inscribed on a bench on the grounds of the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, temporary home to the creative colors of glass artist Dale Chihuly: "Nature I loved and, next to Nature, Art."

While the ongoing King Tut exhibit worships wealth, chronicling an ancient civiliza-

tion through praise of its ruler, Chihuly's art takes a viewer far from politics and power and into the synthesized intimacy of palm fronds and smooth, arcing glass.

For all their differences, though, the two exhibits share this: Each compellingly explores foreign worlds while drawing visitors into decidedly different sides of modern South Florida.

The Tut exhibit, set within windowless walls among the boulevards and boutiques of booming Fort Lauderdale, packs up April 23. Chihuly's glass, settled in ponds and tropical tracts south of Miami, leaves May 31, a day before the official start of hurricane season.

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Explore New England

Six tales of romance and great getaways with your sweetheart — or to mend your heart — for Valentine's Day or any time. **M9**

PHOTO GALLERY

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