

Suggested Itinerary:

Miami, Florida's East Coast and Orlando

From cosmopolitan Miami to surfing city Cocoa Beach, the Sunshine State's East Coast is brimming with beach towns. If you have time for a leisurely trip, visit them all via scenic State Road A1A, taking in the coast's best attractions along the way. Cap off your sun-drenched tour with a stop in Orlando, a theme-park paradise.

Miami

Suggested: 2-5 days

Step onto South Beach in the city's Art Deco District and see what the 'American Riviera' is all about. Enjoy a Caipirinha cocktail in an al fresco café while you people watch, then shop along upscale Collins Avenue one block from the beach and nosh on Cuban fare (food tours abound here) before dancing the night away in a Latin-themed club. Soak up the sunshine on Key Biscayne beach - just 40 minutes away, but so tranquil it feels like another world - or venture to North Miami Beach. Go exploring in Wynwood Art District and Little Havana for exciting culture, or catch a Marlins baseball or Dolphins football game.

Fort Lauderdale

Suggested: 2-4 days

Take A1A north to Fort Lauderdale, where a spotless beach and a relaxed, elegant community awaits. The area's many beaches are all worth your time, but Deerfield and Dania are likely to be quieter. Navigate the city by water taxi or take a boat tour past waterfront mansions on 'Millionaire's Row'. Make stops at the best local sites, including Los Olas Riverfront, with its world-class shopping and dining. Not far from the beach is The Galleria, a two-story mall offering luxury brands. Hunt for bargains at Sawgrass Mills outlet mall in Sunrise, eight miles (13 kilometres) north.

Delray Beach and West Palm Beach

Suggested: 2-3 days

Less than an hour north of Fort Lauderdale, discover Delray Beach, a peaceful seaside community with plenty of culture – and without any high-rise buildings blocking views of the Atlantic Ocean. While there, head to Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens and meander through six intricate green spaces inspired by famous gardens in Japan, or encounter wild Florida at Wakodahatchee Wetlands. Palm Beach, 20 minutes to the north, is a stylish counterpoint to Delray, offering high-end shopping along palm-lined Worth Avenue and culture at Flagler Museum, a Gilded Era estate showcasing period art and decor. Nearby, climb to the top of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.

Cocoa Beach

Suggested: 2 days

Nestled along Florida's Space Coast, Cocoa Beach is a sweet surf town with a nostalgic vibe and major attractions nearby. Take a surfing lesson on the beach, visiting famous Ron Jon Surf Shop for wave-riding supplies first. Tour Kennedy Space Center just up the coast in Titusville; dozens of immersive exhibits, NASA artifacts and unforgettable experiences are offered here. The centre shares Merritt Island with a national wildlife refuge, which is bordered to the north by the Canaveral National Seashore. Hike or boat through the refuge and the shore to experience unspoiled Florida and an abundance of wildlife.

Orlando

Suggested: 2-5 days

Head west on I-4 from the Cocoa Beach area toward Orlando, a sprawling city celebrated for its theme parks, resorts, shopping, dining and many other amusements. Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista offers four theme parks, two water parks and dozens of additional attractions, from themed hotels to downtown shopping plazas. For cinematic adventure, visit Universal Orlando, where The Wizarding World of Harry Potter enchants. Nearby SeaWorld entices fans of marine life. Children of all ages will find something to entertain them at LEGOLAND. Visitors will also find parks and nature preserves, miniature golf, bike trails and outlet shopping here.

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