

The Best Beaches in Florida, From Miami Mainstays to Unsung Island Spots

Our favorite places for sun and sand along the 1,197-mile coastline.

BY PAUL RUBIO
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Between its Gulf shores and Atlantic coastlines, the best beaches in Florida have no shortage of powder-fine sand, national and state beach parks, marine biodiversity, and scenes that are both cocktail- and kid-friendly. From the siren song of South Beach and the unexpected surf town of New Smyrna to the natural wonders of Dry Tortugas National Park and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, here are our picks for the 21 best beaches in Florida—from the Panhandle to the Keys, each with its own distinct personality.

Prepare to throw down a towel, soak up the sun in South Florida, and explore the excitement surrounding both land and sea.



Charissa Fay

Mid-Beach, Miami

A raised boardwalk separates the beach from hotel-lined Collins Avenue between 23rd Street and 46th Street, an area collectively referred to as Mid-Beach. Home to Miami's most stylish hotels, like Freehand Miami, Faena Hotel Miami Beach and Nobu Hotel Miami Beach—which ranked, respectively, as the three top Miami hotels in the 2021 Readers' Choice Awards—this area caters to a cool crowd that considers South Beach passé. Anticipate a lounge-y vibe, both day and night, with plenty of beach and pool clubs to choose from, as well as Miami's most buzzed-about nightlife.