

# FLORIDA & CARIBBEAN ESCAPE

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# **FLORIDA** | PALM BEACH



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# Paradise on a Budget

These Palm Beach vacation options won't break the bank

By Lisa A. Beach

ROM JUPITER IN THE north to Boca Raton in the south, the Palm Beaches deliver a sun-kissed mix of natural beauty, foodie heaven, history, retail therapy and postcard-perfect beaches to explore.

Is it possible to see the sights and wine-and-dine without totally blowing your budget? Absolutely. And it all starts with choosing the right home base for your trip.

# **WHERE TO STAY**



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For affordable luxury, consider **The Colony Hotel** (thecolonypalmbeach.com). A stay in the lavish presidential suite might be a tad rich, but you can still feel pampered in a standard room, with rates starting around \$200 per night.



HYATT PLACE DELRAY BEACH

If a budget-friendly beach town is more your vibe, consider the **Hyatt Place Delray Beach** (*delraybeach.place.hyatt.com*). Large rooms, complimentary breakfast, a pet-friendly policy and rooftop pool make it an appealing option for families looking to stretch their dollars.

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# WHERE TO PLAY

These experiences won't drain your wallet, and several offer discounted rates for children and seniors:



# **DIG INTO HISTORY**

Get a glimpse into the life of the man who practically built Florida by touring the **Henry Morrison Flagler Museum** (flaglermuseum.us). Completed in 1902, Flagler's magnificent Whitehall estate sits on 8.5 acres bordering the picturesque intracoastal waterway. Built as a wedding present for his wife, Whitehall is now designated as a National Historic Landmark.





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# **PEEK INTO THE MILLIONAIRE LIFESTYLE**

Head north for some window shopping on Palm Beach's Worth **Avenue** (worth-avenue.com) — the Rodeo Drive of the East Coast. Or, from the comfort of an air-conditioned yacht, gaze at the mansions along the intracoastal waterway from Delray to Boca Raton during a **Delray Yacht Cruises** (delraybeachcruises.com) narrated tour.



### **PLAY BEACH BUM**

Cruise the scenic A1A highway for a mesmerizing, oceanside drive to find a perfect pit stop. When you're ready to plant your beach umbrella for a few hours, consider John D. **MacArthur Beach State Park** (macarthurbeach.org) on the north end of Singer Island. This spectacular, 438-acre state park gives you 2 miles of pristine beaches to explore.





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# **GET SOME RETAIL THERAPY**

When you're ready for some closer-to-your-budget shopping, stroll your way along Clematis Street and Antique Row (both in West Palm Beach), Atlantic Avenue in Delray's Pineapple Grove Arts District, artsy downtown **Lake Worth, PGA Commons** in Palm Beach Gardens and the luxurious Mizner Park in Boca Raton.



# **HAVE KID-SIZE FUN**

Monkey around the 23-acre Palm Beach Zoo (palmbeachzoo.org), home to more than 500 animals from around the world. Then investigate the nearby South Florida Science Center and **Aquarium** (sfsciencecenter.org) to interact with 100 hands-on exhibits, catch a show in the planetarium or play a round of mini golf.





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# **TAKE A FOOD TOUR**

Sign up for one of **Craft Food** Tour's (craftfoodtours.com) culinary experiences, such as the three-hour Delray Beach tour that includes eight tastings and three adult beverages. You will also have the opportunity to meet the restaurants' chefs, learn about locally sourced ingredients and historical tidbits and support the local community, one bite at a time.