

The Grand Floridian

21 days



If you've got time on your hands, why not really see all the state has to offer with this grand tour! Make the most of Orlando's theme parks before spending the day at Kennedy Space Centre and visiting historic West Palm Beach. If shopping's your thing, you'll love Sawgrass Mills and South Beach and as you head for Key West across the Overseas Scenic Highway, you'll be amazed at the stunning views and spectacular scenery. The grand finale of this itinerary is a visit to Clearwater Beach and the Everglades National Park.

Day 1

Orlando

Fly into Orlando, pick up your car and head to your hotel before deciding what to do next. You'll need to spend several days here to really make the most of all the attractions on offer, including Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando® Resort and SeaWorld® Orlando.

Stay here:

Recommended: Residence Inn SeaWorld 3.5*, Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin, 4.5*

Family Friendly Hotels: Nickelodeon Family Suites, 4*, Private Homes with Pools

Prestige Collection: The Ritz-Carlton, Orlando Grande Lakes, 5*

Day 5 (Orlando – Cape Canaveral 54 miles)

Driving east to Cape Canaveral, spend the day at the Kennedy Space Centre before driving down Highway 1 to West Palm Beach and Singer Island - your base for the night.

Stay here:

Family Friendly Hotels: Marriott, Delray Beach, 3*

Please note: to search for your Delray Beach hotel, use West Palm Beach as your search destination.

Day 6 (Cape Canaveral – Fort Lauderdale 190 miles)

The Gold Coast

Explore West Palm Beach and drive south passing through Boca Raton. Downtown West Palm Beach may be one of the places to be but it also possesses a significant history as well, with numerous old buildings taking you on a journey through South Floridian history. Beautifully restored historic structures house the many fine restaurants, cafes, shops, galleries and clubs. Clematis Street provides the main attractions and activity in Palm Beach. And in West Palm Beach, serious shoppers will love the stores lining Worth Avenue.

Stay here:

Prestige Collection: Boca Raton Resort & Club, 5*

Day 7

Fort Lauderdale

Head to Fort Lauderdale and take advantage of the largest outlet shopping mall in America, Sawgrass Mills. It's also a great place to relax with its picturesque inter-coastal waterways, 23 miles of beautiful beaches and a newly renovated brick-lined promenade.

Stay here:

Value for Money Hotels: Bahia Mar Beach Resort, 3*

Family Friendly Hotels: Sheraton Yankee Trader, 3*

Beach and Resort Hotels: Hyatt Regency Pier 66, 4*

Day 10 (Fort Lauderdale – Miami 22 miles)

Miami

Head into Miami and enjoy both the nightlife and shopping of South Beach, the atmosphere of Little Havana or relax around Key Biscayne.

Stay here:

Value for Money Hotels: Ocean Five, 3*

Family Friendly Hotels: Trump International Sonesta Beach, 4*

Prestige Collection: The Ritz-Carlton, Key Biscayne, 5*

Designer Hotels: Hotel Victor, 5*

Spa Hotels: The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach, 5*

Day 12 (Miami – Key West 155 miles)

The Overseas Scenic Highway

Get back in the car and drive along the Florida Keys Overseas Scenic Highway US-1, over the Seven Mile Bridge, located at Mile Marker 47. It's more than 35,000 feet in length and travels the length of the Keys, to Key West right at the very end on Mile Marker 0. Stop at any of the islands along the route, Marathon, Longboat Key or Key Largo before reaching your Key West destination.

Key West

Kick off your time in the Keys with a relaxing stay in the southernmost city of Continental US. Key West has the hottest nightlife, the tiniest beaches, the most sights to see, and easiest access to The Tortugas, a remote group of islets 70 miles to the west. You can park the car once you're in Key West and use the Conch Tour Train, the Old Town Trolley, or a bicycle to get around. If you can, make sure you get there in time to watch the sun set at Mallory Square along with the musicians and street performers.

Stay here:

Spa Hotels: Ocean Key Resort and Spa, 4*

Day 15 (Key West – Marco Island 235 miles)

Marco Island

Drive back up Highway 1 and head east towards the Gulf Coast. Drive through the Everglades and arrive at your new Marco Island base. Marco Island is the largest of the Ten Thousand Islands and is also blessed with a wide coving beach and fishing. Enjoy the Florida wildlife and explore the eco-system with a visit to the Everglades National Park which encompasses a chain of wetlands, salt and freshwater marshes, and tangled mangrove islands..

Stay here:

Recommended: Hilton Marco Island, 4*

Day 16 (Marco Island – Naples 20 miles)

Naples and surrounding areas

Drive slightly north and into Naples. A selection of great golf courses and elegant resorts can be found in the area and Naples treasures its late nineteenth century architecture, trendy boutiques and busy beach bars.

From here you can also explore Fort Myers and the Sanibel and Captiva Islands. In Fort Myers, visit the homes of two of its famous residents, Henry Ford and Thomas A. Edison, before enjoying the natural beauty of this area. Perfect the 'Sanibel Stoop' and the 'Captiva Crouch' as you search for shells on one of the fantastic beaches.

Stay here:

Boutique Hotels: Trianon Old Naples 3*

Beach and Resort Hotels: Pink Shell Beach Resort and Spa, Fort Myers, 4* (Minimum 3 night stay) or Sanibel Harbour Resort, Sanibel, 4.5*

Prestige Collection: The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, 5* or La Playa Beach & Gulf Resort, Naples, 4*

Day 19 (Naples – Clearwater 159 miles)

Clearwater

Heading due north you'll pass through Sarasota and Longboat Key into Clearwater. Spend some time and explore these coastal towns or relax on your choice of beach.

Sarasota is often considered the cultural capital of Florida with several world-class museums. Sarasota is also home to the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, an orchid research centre, the Florida West Coast Symphony Orchestra and the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail.

Clearwater is fantastic for water sports, fishing, boat trips and harbour cruises. So why not get out on the water? St Petersburg beach is a great place for families, or just for a bit of relaxation, with its white sands sprawling for 7.5 miles. Or, take a trip to Ybor City, the Cuban quarter and one of only three Landmark Historic Districts in Florida, and stroll along its quaint old streets.

Stay here:

Recommended: Sheraton Sandkey, Clearwater, 4*

Family Friendly Hotels: Tradewinds Island Grand, St Pete Beach, 4*

Value for Money Hotels: Helmsley Sandcastle, Sarasota, 3*

Golf Hotels: Resort at Longboat Key, 4*

Prestige Collection: The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota, 5*

Day 21 (Clearwater – Tampa 22 miles)

Continue to explore and then head to Tampa to drop off your car and board your flight home.