

## Highway 41, Tampa to Miami

The Gulf Coast Beaches  
14 days



Known as the Tamiami Trail, this highway has grown from two lanes on completion in 1928 to a bustling six lane highway today and there's plenty to see along the way! A favourite for shell collectors, this region of Florida is sheltered from the Atlantic by the Florida peninsula, so the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico deposit their exotic shells along this beach-rimmed coast. Annual averages of 361 days of sun and 24° sea temperature make almost every day ideal for basking and swimming.

### Day 1

#### Tampa

If you've got kids with you – why not take them to Busch Gardens® Tampa Bay. Also, around Tampa are St Petersburg and Clearwater. Clearwater is fantastic for water sports, fishing, boat trips and harbour cruises. So why not get out on the water? The beach in St Petersburg 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 its quaint old streets.

#### Stay here:

Recommended: Sheraton Sandkey, Clearwater, 4\*

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

---

### Day 5 (Tampa - Sarasota 53 miles)

#### Sarasota

Travel slightly further south, passing through Longboat Key, Lido Beach and into Sarasota. 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.

Stay here:

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

Golf Hotels: Resort at Longboat Key, 4\*

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

---

## Day 8 (Sarasota – Fort Myers 77 miles and to Sanibel 91 miles)

### Lee County

Get back in the car and drive along the coast to Lee County, home to Fort Myers, Sanibel and Captiva. 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:

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

---

## Day 10 (Fort Myers – Naples 43 miles)

### Naples and surrounding areas

Still on the Gulf Coast, drive to Naples and Marco Island. 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. 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:

Boutique Hotels: Trianon Old Naples, 3\*

Recommended: Hilton Marco Island, 4\*

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

---

## Day 14 (Naples – Miami 107 miles)

### Miami

Drive on to Miami to pick up your return flight. Highway 41, also known as the Tamiami Trail, enters Miami on Eighth Street, known locally as Calle Ocho and home to Miami's Cuban community.

If you choose to extend your stay in Miami before heading home, we've a wide selection of hotels to suit every taste and budget. So you can just chill out on the beach or take in the shops and nightlife that the famous South Beach has to offer.

## 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\*