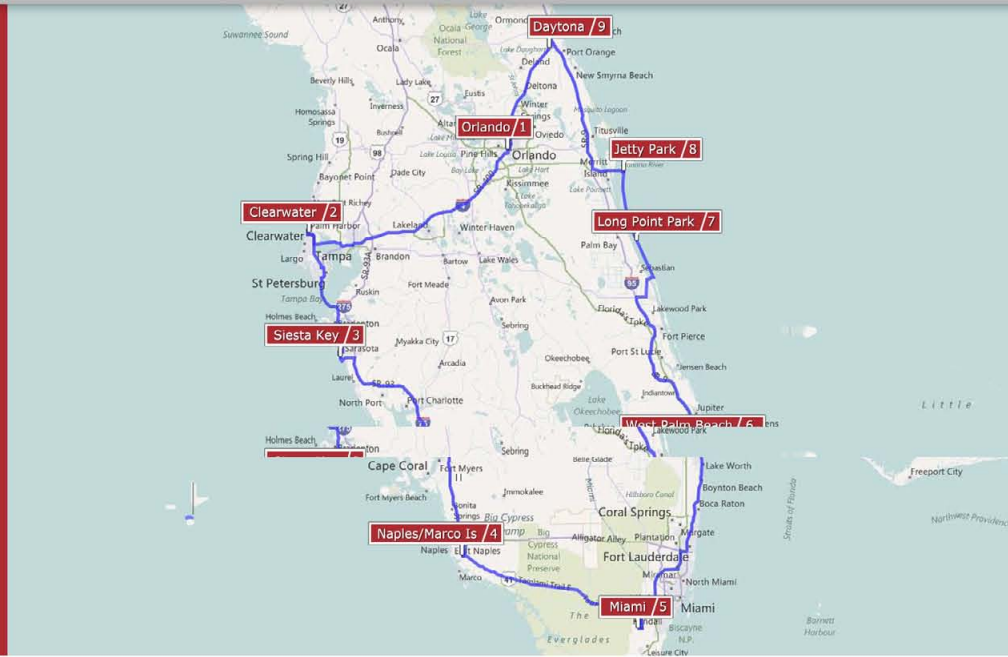


FLORIDA BEACHES

Summary

- 🕒 Timescale: 9 DAYS
- 🚐 Total Distance: 900 miles
- 🚩 Start: Orlando
- 🚩 End: Orlando

Visit the beach on the Gulf of Mexico, drive across the Everglades "Alligator Alley" to Miami and then up the East Coast. Visit a Safari Park, Kennedy Space Center and Daytona before returning to Orlando for Disney and much more!



Day 1 – Orlando to Dunedin 101 miles – 2 hours

We've picked up our motorhome and we're off to the beach! This time we're heading for Florida's west coast and the Dunedin RV Resort. It will take less than 2 hours to drive the 101 miles to the suggested campground resort (www.dunedinrvpark.com) situated in a beautiful wooded area minutes from the famous Clearwater Beaches. Plenty to do here including a visit to Caladesi State Park and Beaches (www.floridastateparks.org); quaint local shopping areas; famous Busch Gardens (www.buschgardens.com) and the Greek community at Tarpon Spring, famous for its sponge docks (www.spongedocks.net).



Day 2 – Dunedin to Siesta Key 80 miles - 1 ½ hours

South to the suggested campground, wonderful Turtle Beach Campground (www.scgov.net/turtlebeachcampground). You may prefer NOT to take the freeway but to slowly drive the coastal route passing through Bradenton Beach, Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key. Try the Beach House on Anna Maria Island.... never a disappointment! (www.beachhouse.grouper sandwich.com).

The detour will take a little longer but is worth the diversion. Turtle Beach Campground, located on Siesta Key, offers one of the few remaining opportunities to park a motorhome near to the Gulf of Mexico shores. Popular activities include relaxing on the beach, swimming, kayaking, canoeing and browsing through a variety of shops. Some of the finest restaurants on Florida's Gulf Coast are within walking distance.

Day 3 – Siesta Key to Naples/Marco Island 143 miles - 4-5 hours

Take the coastal road through beach resorts such as Venice and Port Charlotte. At Fort Myers head out on State Road 867 for Sanibel and Captiva Islands (www.sanibelcaptivaonline.com) Visit the JN Darling National Wildlife Reserve along the way and stop at the Mucky Duck for a beer on the beach! Return to the 'mainland' and on to Naples/Marco Island KOA (www.koa.com). You will probably take the day for the drive – let it be leisurely.

Day 4 – Naples/Marco Island to Miami 100 miles - 3 hours

Drive on Route 41, the old Tamiami Trail, through Big Cypress National Preserve (www.nps.gov/bicy) and Everglades National Park (www.nps.gov/ever). Tonight's campground, Miami Everglades Resort

(www.miamicamp.com), offers 34 acres of tropical camping paradise among avocado, mango and palm trees and surrounded by tropical floral nurseries and farms. The beautiful round swimming pool, hot tub, bike rentals, Gators Groveside Grill, and playground make this the ideal spot for the family.

Day 5 – Miami to West Palm Beach area 96 miles - 1 ½ hours

Drive mainly on the Florida Turnpike, to Lion Country KOA, inland from West Palm Beach. (www.lioncountrysafari.com). Your camping Safari Adventure combines a unique drive-through wildlife preserve and the fun of an entertainment park with its giraffe feeding exhibit, giant Ferris wheel, petting zoo, paddle boats,



, carousel, mini-golf, dinosaur exhibit, animal theatre, restaurants, gift shops and more! (www.lioncountrysafari.com).

Day 6 – West Palm Beach area to Long Point Park

106 miles - 3 hours

You will probably want to meander and stop along the way today! About 40 'freeway' miles then turn on to local roads before reaching the beach road. This will take you through Stuart, Fort Pierce and Vero Beach to our suggested destination, Long Point Park Campground.

(www.campingspacecoast.com/longpoint). This delightful location features shoreline campsites, a swimming lake, playground and picnic pavilions. The campground is located across Highway A1A from ocean beaches. Connected to the campsite by a bridge, Scout Island offers more than a mile of nature trails.

Day 7 – Long Point Park to Jetty Park, south of Cape Canaveral

40 miles - time dependent on stop at Cocoa Beach

It's about 40 miles, straight up coastal A1A and via Cocoa Beach (www.cocoabeach.com), to the suggested location for Kennedy Space Centre – Jetty Park Campground (www.jettypark.org). Do stop at Cocoa Beach and take a walk along the pier. Jetty Park has a 4.5 acre beach, 1,200 foot fishing pier, 150



campsites, pavilions and picnic tables - everything to entertain you and your family. Watch the giant cruise ships come in with dolphins leading the way.

Day 8 – Jetty Park to Daytona

80 miles - 1 ½ hours

Just 20 miles and you will be at Cape Canaveral/Kennedy Space Center (www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy) so you'll want to stop here for a few hours to explore NASA Kennedy Space Center launch headquarters, located on a wildlife refuge eight times the size of Manhattan. Later, we suggest you overnight at KOA Daytona Speedway (www.koa.com).

Day 9 – Daytona to Orlando

70 miles - just over an hour

Today is special because you are heading for Mickey Mouse and there is no better way to camp than at Fort Wilderness, Disney's own campground (www.disneyworld.disney.go.com/resorts), where you benefit from all the amenities and free services guests at a Disney Resort Hotel enjoy. This includes complimentary transportation to all the Disney parks available from 1 hour prior to the parks' opening to up to 3 hours after closing time. Additionally, buses operate from the Downtown Disney dining and entertainment area. You'll probably have bought your Disney tickets before leaving home but, if not, they're available at Fort Wilderness. Don't forget Orlando's other big Parks; visiting Harry Potter at Universal Studios

(www.universalorlando.com) is a must and you cannot miss Shamu and his friends at SeaWorld to learn everything they are doing for conservation (www.seaworld.com/orlando), and sister park Discovery Cove where you can swim with the dolphins (www.discoverycove.com). You will really want more than just the one night at Fort Wilderness!



Day 10 – Fort Wilderness to Orlando Depot

17 miles - 30 minutes

Just 17 miles, less than 30 minutes, back the depot to return your vehicle by 11am with a full tank of petrol please.