

A vertical photograph of a tropical beach at sunset. Several palm trees are silhouetted against a sky that transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, and the sandy beach is in the foreground. The text 'INSIGHT GUIDES' is centered in the upper half of the image, with a circular logo containing a dot between the words. Below this, the word 'FLORIDA' is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font.

INSIGHT  GUIDES

# FLORIDA



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Inside front cover Florida  
Inside back cover theme parks

LEGEND

- 🔍 Insight on  
📍 Photo Story

# THE BEST OF FLORIDA: TOP ATTRACTIONS



△ **Theme parks.** Disney, Universal, SeaWorld, Legoland, and Busch Gardens operate no less than 10 theme parks in Florida. At the center of the theme-park galaxy is Orlando, home of Walt Disney World Resort, which claims more than 50 million visitors each year. See pages 209 and 231.

▽ **Everglades National Park.** Encompassing more than 1.5 million acres (607,028 hectares) of subtropical wilderness, this national park sustains hundreds of plant and animal species, including endangered Florida panthers and West Indian manatees. See page 129.



△ **Key West.** The Conch Republic, Margaritaville, Mañanaland – call it what you like, Key West is always up for a party. Perched at the end of the Florida Keys, the southernmost city is a hub of colorful nonconformity where free spirits find refuge from the mainstream and the rest of us can drop in for a couple of drinks. See page 153.



△ **The Panhandle.** Had enough of the crowds in central Florida? The Panhandle, aka Northwest Florida, has miles of undeveloped beaches and quiet seaside towns to explore at your leisure. See page 311.



△ **Daytona 500.** NASCAR's most prestigious race (and one of the country's biggest sporting events) this is a blistering, 500-mile (800km) contest of driving skill and mechanical prowess. See page 189.



▷ **The Dalí Museum.** Let your imagination run wild at this famous museum in St Petersburg, one of the country's finest museums dedicated to a single artist. See page 268.

◁ **Beautiful beaches.** White sugar sand and warm azure waters are the key ingredients of Florida's beaches. With miles and miles of coastline, there's a beach for every taste and occasion. See page 274.



△ **South Beach.** The buff, bronze, and beautiful people gather at the red-hot nightclubs and glorious Art Deco hotels of this exotic neighborhood. See page 117.



◁ **Kennedy Space Center.** History and science are brought vividly to life at this fascinating complex where you can explore the past, present, and future endeavors of space exploration. See page 183.

▷ **The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.** A palazzo packed with priceless European art, this art gallery is a tribute to the man known for creating the "Greatest Show on Earth." See page 280.



# THE BEST OF FLORIDA: EDITOR'S CHOICE



*Mako – Orlando's super-fast shark-themed roller coaster.*

## BEST BEACHES

**Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park.** Regularly rated as one of the best in the US, this pristine beach on Key Biscayne soothes the weary soul. See page 125.

**Bradenton Beach.** At the south end of Anna Maria Key, Bradenton has walkable streets and beaches that attract nesting sea turtles in summer. See page 277.

**Caladesi Island State Park.** Florida's No. 1 white-sand beach is a boat-in-only experience with a mangrove kayak trail. See page 265.

**Sanibel Island.** Do the "Sanibel Stoop" to collect lovely shells washed up on the shores of this beautifully preserved island. See page 283.

## BEST THRILL RIDES

**Cobra's Curse.** Busch Garden's popular roller coaster lifts you up 70ft (21 meters), only to hurl you toward snake fangs. See page 262.

**Mako.** Even sharks aren't scary compared to the fastest, longest, tallest ride in town. See page 236.

**Avatar Flight of Passage.** Soar through

magical landscapes on the back of a banshee in this immersive 3-D experience. See page 224

**Race Through New York Starring Jimmy Fallon.**

Why visit NYC when you can fly over its star attractions in this exciting ride? It's Manhattan like you've never seen it. See page 233.

*Caladesi Island State Park.*

