Florida's 15 Most Popular Beaches, Ranked

Florida does a lot of things wrong. We can't vote. We beat people with lizards. We have alligators in our swimming pools, politicians in our public bathrooms, and an extreme Twitter account devoted to stupid things our male citizens do. And yet we just passed New York to become the third-most populous state in America. Why?

Look out the window. If it's anything other than sunny and 80 degrees, you probably wish you were in Florida right now. Alligators and all. And what is there to do in Florida if you're not standing in line to vote or being beaten with reptiles? Go to the beach, of course. And in planning your next Florida fling, here are the 15 most popular beaches in Florida, ranked just for you.

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Daytona Beach

This once mighty Spring Break spot is now a biker bar haven, where needles and bottles are as common on the beach as the cars that still drive on it just north in Ormond. Scenic and relaxing? Sure. A place you don't want to be after the sun goes down? Absolutely.

The best thing about Daytona now is its proximity to St. Augustine and surfing at Crescent Beach.

Where you're staying: Hyatt Place at Daytona Beach, quite possibly the only hotel in Daytona where you can ensure used condoms won't be in your shower. At least it's on the ocean.
Clearwater Beach

That noted beach aficionado, Dr. Beach, rated this the no. 1 beach in the world a few years ago. Though he’s done that with a lot of beaches, so it’s kinda like having a stripper tell you “you’re sexy.” Either way the wide, powdery sand and turquoise waters are just the beginning of what makes Clearwater so special. The nearby Clearwater Marine Aquarium is home to Winter the Dolphin from Dolphin Tale, and Caladesi Island is an unspoiled gulf beach that’s only accessible by boat.

Where you’re staying: Sandpearl Resort. It’s the crown jewel of the strip in Clearwater, a LEED-certified luxury resort with the feel of a laid-back summer bungalow.