25 Best Family Beach Vacation Ideas in Florida

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Explore some of the nation's most beautiful beaches on your family trip to Florida. Choose from small secluded island destinations, quiet beach towns and city getaways with great beach parks just steps from famous museums, attractions and restaurants. Play in the water, relax in the sun, build sandcastles and have fun with your kids on these stunning beaches.

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Key Biscayne

A trip across the Rickenbacker Causeway across the beautiful Biscayne Bay is an adventure in itself, but after a short drive from the hustle and bustle of Miami, you will find yourself in true Florida in a tiny island town between two wonderful parks – Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park and Crandon Park.

Palm tree-lined streets, quaint shops, galleries, restaurants, and, of course, miles of golden sandy beaches make Key Biscayne a lovely escape destination. Go for a swim or rent a kayak at Bill Baggs Park, visit the historic Cape Florida Lighthouse, go swim with dolphins at the Miami Seaquarium, play golf at the renowned Crandon Golf Course, or watch turtle eggs hatch at the two-mile long Crandon Park beach.

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Sarasota

Sarasota's Siesta Key beach is one of the most beautiful beaches in the country. Glimmering white and made of pure quartz crystal, this
piece of paradise is hugged by crystal clean turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean. And that is just one of several Sarasota beaches to choose from. You might find it hard to leave your hammock or lounge chair on the beach in this lively Florida Gulf Coast town south of Tampa, but the kids might demand some action.

Take them paddling through Sarasota Bay and look for manatees and dolphins, let them compete in building sand castles at the Siesta Key Crystal Classic, charter a fishing boat, or go snorkeling, as there is as much under the water as there is above it. And if you can, convince them to go see the Ringling Museum of Art – it will be worth it.

Vacations for Couples: Best Romantic Getaways

Mexico Beach

Mexico Beach is a small seaside Florida town where time has stopped. Just 20 minutes from Panama City Beach, you will find no fancy resorts or enormous condo buildings blocking the spectacular view of the ocean. Just miles and miles of fine sand, emerald waters and quaint seaside restaurants and shops where you can go barefoot like everyone else.

It is the perfect place to try scuba diving, go for a boat ride, watch thousands of birds or try to catch some fish. There is also a spectacular sunset every day, so find a comfortable chair with a colorful drink in your hand and wait for the famous green flash.

Naples

Best known for its fantastic golf and high end shopping, Naples, located in southwest Florida on the Gulf of Mexico, is a perfect family vacation destination. The city has miles of powder-fine golden sand beaches and many wonderful parks where kids can spend hours building sand castles, swimming, or playing ball.

Take a free tram through the lush mangroves to the Clam Pass Park, go for a stroll along historic Naples Pier built in 1888 to watch the playful dolphins or try your hand at fishing, visit lovely old downtown with all the galleries and shops, or pick a colorful bayside café for a bite to eat. Kids would love an airboat ride through the Florida Everglades with so many birds and the occasional elusive alligator. It is not possible to be bored
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Clearwater Beach

Clearwater Beach is what we imagine a beach town in Florida to look like: 2.5 miles of fine sand beaches, picturesque boardwalks, funky beach shacks, a beach festival every single night just because the sun is setting, and, most importantly, numerous ice cream shops all along the beach. Clearwater Beach is located on a narrow barrier island just across the water from Clearwater, northwest of Tampa.

You can rent a cabana or a beach umbrella and spend a day under the sun, walk along the bustling, lively Pier 60 or Clearwater Marina, take the family on a Pirate Cruise, or visit dolphins and other animals at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where you can meet Winter, the star of the much loved movie Dolphin Tale.

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- Key Biscayne
- Sarasota
- Mexico Beach
- Naples
- Cedar Key
- St. Augustine
- Destin
- Fort Myers
- Islamorada
- Jacksonville
- Sanibel Island
- Miami Beach
- Fort Lauderdale
- Key West
- Clearwater Beach
- Pensacola Beach
- St. Petersburg
- Jupiter Island
- Anna Maria Island
- Marco Island
- Delray Beach
- Siesta Key
- Hollywood
- Amelia Island
- Cocoa Beach