

West Coast Wanderer

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tampa • Clearwater • Sarasota • Naples • Miami

ITINERARY

Tampa

Fly from the UK on one of our daily Virgin Atlantic direct services to Tampa. Here you can enjoy a brief stay before the start of your road trip, and we'd recommend the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay to do so. It's just steps from the airport but offers stunning waterfront views. Walk, cycle, or segway your way along the 2.4 mile riverwalk in the sunshine, and stop off at multiple restaurants, bars and attractions along the way. It's a great chilled out start to your break.

Be sure to check out what's on at Raymond James Stadium during your stay. Home to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, this is a great spot to enjoy some American football. But if sports not your thing, they also host some major music artists and other spectacular events. Once your stay in Tampa is complete, pick up your rental car and head out to the coast...

Clearwater

Less than half hours' drive from Tampa and you'll find yourself on the white sands of Clearwater Beach. If you're travelling with little ones, we'd recommend the Holiday Inn as it has a dedicated children's pool, and kids under 11 eat free with an accompanying adult! For an adults only trip, check out Opal Sands which offers luxury at every turn.

You can't visit Clearwater without checking out Pier 60 - It's the heart of the beachfront strip, with playgrounds, fishing and craft stalls by day, and live entertainment by night. The main evening activity is the Sunset festival, and the name speaks for itself. As well as relaxing on the sandy beaches, there's plenty of activities to try your hand at in the area, there's plenty of places to rent watersports equipment. Or you could organise a trip to the Weedon Island Preserve where you can paddleboard or kayak along the mangrove trails.

Sarasota

Just over an hours drive south of Clearwater, you'll find yourself at another of Florida's famous beaches – Sarasota. There's some great hotel options here for all ages and budgets, where you can enjoy up the sun, sea and sand, and some top notch facilities, to your hearts content.

Visit Siesta Key, which was ranked as the #1 beach in the US in 2020, and it's easy to see why. Aside from the powdery white sand and the sparkling waters, there's activities, restaurants, and shops to explore – with a free trolley to take you around. The official state art museum of Florida is also located in Sarasota. So take some time out of the sun and enjoy some major pieces of renaissance art.

Naples

Heading further South down the Gulf Coast of Florida, it's less than 2 hours drive to Naples. Naples Bay Resort is fantastic for families, with 5 swimming pools, a TopGolf swing suite, and a complimentary shuttle to Naples beach and Downtown Naples. If you're looking for something a bit more boutique, try the Inn on Fifth with its rooftop pool and award-winning restaurant.

Here in Naples you've got more stunning beaches to visit, but there's also 170 acres of botanical gardens to explore, featuring tropical plants in a world class garden paradise. When you get a bit peckish, Celebration Park Naples is the place to go. Rows of food trucks and a waterfront bar await you. Enjoy views of the gulf of Mexico, happy hour drinks, and mouth watering tastes alongside live music. Whatever your favourite cuisine, they're bound to have it!

Miami

A very direct drive from West to East, through the national parks and the Everglades, will bring you into Miami, known as the 'Magic City'. Hotel Ocean and Hotel Victor are great options to stay in the heart of Ocean Drive, amongst all the excitement. You'll also be positioned next door to the Versace Mansion, where you can enjoy a 3-course lunch deal for just \$34 (and get some memorable snaps for Instagram too!). Rollerskate down Ocean Drive, enjoy the Cuban cuisine, and party the night away in South Beach – there's so much fun to be had in Miami. There's some great shopping to be had too, head to Dolphin Mall before you leave some bargains in the outlets.

Depart Miami

Depart from MIA on our daily Virgin Atlantic direct service to the UK. Alternatively, why not fly onwards to another US city such as New York?

This itinerary is an example of one of our most popular Florida road trips. Dates, durations, hotels and activities are flexible and our experienced travel agents can build an itinerary perfectly suited to you.

Drive Times:

- Tampa to Clearwater = Less than 30 mins
- Clearwater to Sarasota = 90 mins
- Sarasota to Naples = 2 hours
- Naples to Miami = 2 hours 20 mins