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The Best Things to Do in the Palm Beaches, Florida

From Gilded Age architecture and bustling restaurants to immersive spa treatments and relaxing on the beach, here's what to expect from the longtime getaway of the rich and famous.

By Lisa A. Beach



Lesley Unruh/The Colony Hotel

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Palm Royale is well into its second season, and I've been watching from a perspective shaped by 25 years of Florida residency. During that time, I've witnessed Palm Beach's

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remarkable transformation from the exclusive enclave depicted in the show to a more inclusive destination where anyone can enjoy themselves. Make no mistake, many positives remain from the city's original, opulent iteration—think pastel poolside and country club chic. But while Maxine has to fight desperately for access to that world, a luxury renaissance means the place is open to any traveler today.

Something to note: “The Palm Beaches” of today encompass far more than the exclusive barrier island of Palm Beach itself. This 47-mile coastal destination includes 39 distinct communities—from West Palm Beach's vibrant dining scene just across the Intracoastal Waterway to Boca Raton's resort luxury 20 miles south. Together, they've done away with the gatekeeping without sacrificing the glamor. Below, our picks for where to eat, stay, and play.

Where to eat

On Palm Beach proper, Buccan showcases James Beard Award nominee Clay Conley's inventive American cuisine. The warm, welcoming space serves signature small plates with big flavors. At The Breakers, Flagler Steakhouse offers the kind of refined elegance that defines Palm Beach dining. Named for the resort's founder, Henry Morrison Flagler, this upscale steakhouse delivers perfectly aged cuts and impeccable service in a setting worthy of the historic property. For three decades, Renato's has been a beloved Italian destination with romantic al fresco courtyard seating and homemade, authentic cuisine. The elegant old-world ambiance captures timeless Palm Beach sophistication.

Estiatorio Milos in West Palm Beach delivers Aegean sophistication with pristine fish flown in daily from Mediterranean waters—and attracts the kind of A-list clientele who value exceptional food and discretion in equal measure. In Delray Beach, Bourbon Steak at the Seagate Hotel claims Palm Beach County's first Michelin star. Book well ahead—this is the reservation everyone wants right now.