

UNITED STATES · BEACHES · WILDLIFE · ROAD TRIPS · DIVING · ISLANDS

 Florida

Florida is the UK's classic long-haul family holiday: Orlando's Disney and Universal parks, NASA's launch site on the Space Coast, soft white Gulf coast beaches and the drive down the Keys. Winter and spring bring dry, warm days in the mid-20s; summer is hot, humid and stormy, and hurricane season runs from June to November.

 Read the UK government's travel advice for United States and entry requirements before you go.

 COUNTRY United States	 BEST TIME Feb–Apr, Nov	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 9h 30m direct ~£500–£1,100 return	 DAILY BUDGET £90–£400 £££ Expensive
 WARMEST MONTH June (33°C)	 SEA TEMPERATURE 18–31°C coolest–warmest	 TIME ZONE New York -5h vs UK now	 CURRENCY US dollar £1 ≈ US\$1.34

Most UK visitors fly into Orlando and split a fortnight between the theme parks and a beach. Kissimmee and International Drive put you minutes from Disney, Universal and SeaWorld, often in a rented villa with a pool; Clearwater, St Pete Beach and Siesta Key on the Gulf coast are about two hours west, with calm water and sunsets over the sea. Fly-drive trips head south to Miami's Art Deco district, the Everglades and the Keys, ending at Key West. February to April and November give warm, mostly dry days; the summer holidays are busy and steamy, with near-daily afternoon thunderstorms and hurricane risk peaking from August to October.

Highlights

- 1** ADVENTURE

Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando

Disney's four theme parks and Universal's three, including Epic Universe, which opened in 2025, could fill a fortnight. Buy multi-day tickets in advance, arrive before opening, and consider the paid queue-skipping passes on the busiest days.
- 2** HISTORY

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

The Space Shuttle Atlantis, a Saturn V rocket and the Apollo story are displayed at NASA's Florida launch site, about an hour east of Orlando. Check the launch schedule: rockets lift off from Cape Canaveral regularly and can be watched from nearby beaches.
- 3** WILDLIFE

Everglades National Park

A vast, slow-moving river of sawgrass where alligators, anhingas and herons are almost guaranteed on the short Anhinga Trail boardwalk. Shark Valley's tram or bike loop is another easy option; go in the dry winter months, when wildlife gathers and mosquitoes ease.
- 4** NATURE

Florida Keys and Key West

The Overseas Highway hops 42 bridges, including the Seven Mile Bridge, on its way to Key West, closer to Cuba than to Miami. Snorkel the reef at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo and watch sunset at Mallory Square.

5

BEACH

Siesta Key

Siesta Beach is made of almost pure quartz sand that stays cool underfoot and squeaks as you walk. The water is shallow and usually calm, lifeguards cover the main beach, and the Sunday evening drum circle is a long-running local ritual.

Where to stay

WHERE TO STAY

Kissimmee

Families doing the parks: rented villas with private pools, big supermarkets and Disney within 15–20 minutes, though you'll need a hire car.

WHERE TO STAY

Clearwater Beach

Wide white sand, a lively pier and sunsets over the Gulf, two hours from Orlando; good for a relaxed second week after the parks.

WHERE TO STAY

Miami Beach

Couples and city lovers: South Beach's Art Deco hotels, Cuban food in nearby Little Havana and late nightlife, with the Everglades an easy day trip.

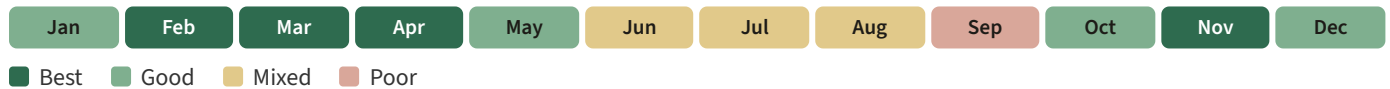
WHERE TO STAY

Key West

Adult-leaning island town of clapboard houses, bars and sunset sailings at the end of the Keys; expensive, so two or three nights is plenty.

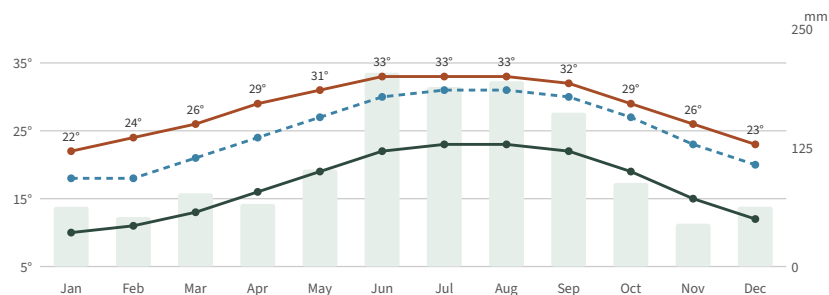
When to go to Florida

Best time: **Feb–Apr, Nov.**



Average climate in Orlando (sea: Clearwater, Gulf coast)

— High °C
 — Low °C
 — Sea °C
 ■ Rain (mm)



How much does Florida cost?

SHOESTRING

£90

per person / day
≈ US\$120

MID-RANGE

£200

per person / day
≈ US\$267

COMFORTABLE

£400

per person / day
≈ US\$535

Per person per day excluding flights. Return flights from London typically cost £500 off-peak and £1,100 in school holidays.

Visas & entry for Florida

Shown for a British passport.

Apply online before you go (travel authorisation)

To enter or transit through the US, you must have either an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) or a visa.

The US State Department has more information on visas.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations

See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Rabies

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in United States

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Wed 11 Nov 2026	Veterans Day
Thu 26 Nov 2026	Thanksgiving Day
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Mon 18 Jan 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Mon 15 Feb 2027	Washington's Birthday
Mon 31 May 2027	Memorial Day
Fri 18 Jun 2027	Juneteenth National Independence Day (observed)
Sat 19 Jun 2027	Juneteenth National Independence Day
Sun 4 Jul 2027	Independence Day
Mon 5 Jul 2027	Independence Day (observed)
Mon 6 Sep 2027	Labour Day

Mon 11 Oct 2027

Columbus Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Know before you go

Most Florida toll roads are now cashless. Hire companies bill tolls through their own plans, often with a daily admin charge, so compare the options at the desk before driving away.

Hurricane season runs from June to November, peaking August to October, so buy travel insurance when you book. Summer lightning storms also close rides, pools and beaches for an hour or so most afternoons.

Plugs, money, phrases, emergency numbers and more: see our [United States guide](#).

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.