

It's a few hours from Sarasota/Bradenton and a lot of two-lane roads, but when you arrive you'll find it was worth the drive!

Stay-cation in The Palm Beaches

We began our four days in The Palm Beaches with lunch at “Cafe Boulud” in the “Brazilian Court” boutique hotel near the famous upscale shopping strip “Worth Avenue.” General Manager Andrew Burns personally escorted my fiancé Erin and me to a nice outdoor table on their patio overlooking a lush green courtyard. I enjoyed a kale salad while Erin had a blackened mahi.

After lunch, we drove up and down iconic Worth Avenue—picture Sarasota’s Palm Avenue or 5th Avenue South in Naples, or better yet Beverly Hills. Erin looked at the shops while I looked at the wedge-like sports cars that lined the street. We couldn’t afford to do much more than just look!

Driving south on Ocean Boulevard, it felt like Robin Leach’s old show, “Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous.” A beautiful road lined with perfectly manicured high front hedges that offered brief glimpses of mansions that look more like museums. We slowed down to gawk at Donald Trump’s former “Mar A Lago” resort which is on the intracoastal side of the road.

Our first resort was a few miles south of Worth Avenue, the Tideline Ocean Resort & Spa. Pool in the front, ocean in the back! The hotel is decorated in a cutting-edge minimalist vibe, the rooms almost favor an Asian style. The website said “exotic” and that’s accurate. We decompressed by the pool, walked the beach and then treated ourselves to treatments in the spa. Erin had a facial while I enjoyed an athletic massage. First-class all the way.

We freshened up for dinner and chose to stay at the resort to eat at the outdoor restaurant with the ocean just a hundred yards away. A plexiglass barrier helped reduce the ocean breeze, but the reassuring sound of the waves were always nearby. We enjoyed a steak dinner with red wine. We had a nightcap in the bar and enjoyed meeting some other travelers who were there for a wedding reception that was held in the resort’s ball room.

The next morning, we returned to the outdoor section of the restaurant to enjoy a brunch buffet in a nicely shaded area just a few tables from where we dined the night before.

The resort offers two complimentary bikes but our timing was off—somebody else got to them first—so we went for a long walk instead. (The front desk clerk offered to call us when the bike were returned, which he did, but it was too late.) We walked across a bridge over the intracoastal to a quaint little village in Lake Worth. It’s always fun to see new shops, restaurants and bars.

The Palm Beaches market themselves as where “Culture has found it’s place in the sun,” so we went to a matinee at the Wick Theatre in Boca Raton. We saw a top-notch performance of “Man of La Mancha.” We were probably the youngest in the theater by 85 years, but that’s not unlikely at a matinee featuring a musical written in the 1950’s. We talked to some locals who raved about the renaissance of the Wick Theatre—which also features a costume museum that was unfortunately closed during our visit.

From Boca Raton we drove back north to West Palm Beach and found the beautiful and relatively new “CityPlace” section of downtown. (I wonder if not using a space in the name really increases sales?) A large parking garage that spills out to CityPlace made it easy to come and go.

We got back in the car and drove a few blocks for dinner at a restaurant called “Pistache.” We met some friends there who recently relocated from Sarasota and they helped us celebrate our recent engagement. Great service and great food! I had salmon and Erin had chicken.



The next morning back at the Tideline resort we were returning to our room after another tasty brunch buffet on the patio when a familiar face walked up to ride the elevator with us. It was tennis legend Jimmy Connors. We had a friendly but brief (2 floors) chat about his desire to find a home in The Palm Beaches. Unexpected surprise star-sighting!

(We were going to go to the popular Rapids Waterpark, but the weather was cloudy—and plus, after all these big meals, neither one of us wanted to get in a bathing suit!)

After two nights, we checked out of Tideline resort and drove down to Boca Raton to stay at the Waterstone Resort & Marina. We stayed in a room that overlooked the resort’s pool, dining area and intracoastal waterway.



We enjoyed a nice lunch on the outdoor deck and learned all about the active water sport rentals on the property. Jet skis, kayaks, standup paddle boards, scuba bubble makers and boat rentals. We chose the jet skis and took a lazy tour along the water, checking out the mansions. We heard actor Adam Sandler had a place nearby, but we weren’t sure which one was his.

We enjoyed a nice dinner at their in-house restaurant, “Boca Landing.” A friend was in the area and we enjoyed his company. Very good meal. We both enjoyed a seafood medley in a bowl.

We had breakfast out on the deck along the water and were sad our vacation was over. The Palm Beaches: A great place to feel like you’re across the country—when you’re actually just across the state!
RAY COLLINS

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