

## FLORIDA | TRANSPORTATION

Brightline  
MiamiCentral station

# Sightsee, Traffic-Free

Brightline train makes quick work of  
Orlando-to-Boca Raton excursions



Boca Raton station



MiamiCentral station



West Palm Beach station

By Lisa A. Beach

**IMAGINE DITCHING THE SNARLED** traffic and the eyes-on-the-road focus when driving from Orlando to Miami. Instead, unwind on a comfortable train as you zip through Florida's tropical landscapes, making the journey in about three hours. The Brightline rail service, operating since 2018 in the Sunshine State, transforms the journey between Central and South Florida into an enjoyable experience in itself.

The Brightline Orlando station opened in late 2023, making it easy for Orlando visitors to explore two major Florida regions — minus the stress and logistics of driving. The rail service bills itself as high-speed travel, which may be true by typical U.S. standards but would disappoint visitors from Europe or Japan. Nevertheless, the trafficless experience away from car-clogged I-95 rates as comparatively fast. Spacious seating with ample legroom ensures a comfortable ride, and large windows allow you to soak in the ever-changing panorama whizzing by. Onboard amenities such as complimentary Wi-Fi, access to streaming services and a beverage-and-snack service keep you entertained and refreshed throughout the trip.

“At Brightline, we believe that your vacation begins the moment you step into our station,” says Brightline President Patrick Goddard. “Our service not only provides a seamless travel experience but also gives you back your most valuable asset: time. Spend it with family, catch up on work or simply relax and enjoy the scenic journey from Orlando to South Florida.”

Traveling at speeds up to 125 mph, the train whisks you to West Palm Beach in just two hours and Miami in about three hours, with stops in between at Boca Raton, Fort Lauderdale and Aventura. Whether planning a day trip, long weekend or full week, this high-speed train connects you seamlessly to a broad range of experiences.

## THEME PARKS AND BEYOND

Your Florida adventure begins in Orlando, a must-visit destination brimming with world-class theme parks, including **Walt Disney World**, **Universal Orlando** and **SeaWorld Orlando**. But if

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Kaya



BACÁN



Mills 50 District



Flûtes

Bonnet House  
Museum & Gardens

you want to see the real Orlando area, explore beyond the theme park gates.

Visit the **Orlando Science Center** to stargaze, explore hands-on exhibits and enjoy a larger-than-life film on an 8,000-square-foot screen. Swim with the dolphins at **Discovery Cove** for an interactive, memory-making experience. Stop by **Boxi Park**, a unique outdoor space built from repurposed shipping containers, boasting an outdoor food hall ambiance, live entertainment and special events. Experience the cozy jazz lounge vibe at **Judson's Live**, a new cabaret-style music venue at the **Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts** with just 150 seats, serving sophisticated light bites and cocktails. Dine at Michelin-designated restaurants, including **Kaya** (earning the Green Star, a sustainability rating), **Otto's High Dive** (a nod to its exceptional cocktails), and **BACÁN** (with fabulous bold flavors of the Americas). Explore the trendy **Mills 50 District**, where you can savor the explosion of Asian flavors at Vietnamese pho houses, Korean BBQ joints and ramen shops.

Orlando's tony Winter Park suburb beckons you for quiet exploration. Book the **Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour** through the Chain of Lakes, with a local guide narrating the area's history as the boat glides across lakes and winds its way through canals draped with Spanish moss. Explore the **Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art**, home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by stained glass artist Louis Comfort Tiffany. Nosh on Greek-inspired cuisine and craft cocktails in the stylish setting of **AVA MediterrAegean**. Cap off the night with a glass of bubbly at **Flûtes Champagne Bar**, a Parisian-style haven in Winter Park Village.

#### A FUSION OF NATURAL BEAUTY AND CULTURAL DELIGHTS

As your Brightline journey continues, take advantage of the multiple stops in South Florida. Use a ride-share service

or rent a car, depending on how long you want to explore the different areas.

First, disembark in West Palm Beach, where you can savor exquisite, in-house, dry-aged steaks at **Harry's**, the new Florida outpost of this iconic New York

City eatery. Soak in the local culture at **CityPlace** aka **Rosemary Square** and historic **Clematis Street**, lined with local shops, restaurants and museums and boasting picturesque waterfront views.

Head to Boca Raton, where art enthusiasts will find a treasure trove in **Mizner Park**. Explore the fascinating exhibits at the **Boca Raton Museum of Art**, then lose yourself amid the upscale boutiques that dot this cultural hub.

Nature lovers will find serenity at **Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens**, about halfway between West Palm Beach and Boca Raton in Delray Beach. Stroll along peaceful paths, visit the bonsai collection and unwind in the traditional Japanese tea house. Afterward, indulge in superb Vietnamese cuisine at **Le Colonial**, a stylish hotspot offering a delicious array of shareable

dishes amid old-world French glamour.

In Fort Lauderdale, mix your love of art and nature at the whimsical **Bonnet House Museum & Gardens**, a 1920s mansion with stunning tropical flora and an impressive orchid collection.

#### IMMERSE YOURSELF IN LUXURY

Anchor your South Florida stay at **The Boca Raton Resort**, a sprawling 200-acre property that puts you just a short drive from West Palm Beach, Delray Beach and Fort Lauderdale. This iconic resort boasts a storied history, impeccable service, stunning architecture and high-end amenities (think European-style spa, golf courses, pools, private beach and incredible restaurants). While the resort offers multiple accommodations (such as the **Beach Club**, **Bungalows** and **Yacht Club**), consider a stay in its recently refreshed **Tower**, offering luxurious suites with stunning ocean and intracoastal views.

