

CONTENTS

List of Maps vii

1 THE BEST OF FLORIDA 1

- The Best Beaches 2
- The Best Snorkeling & Diving 3
- The Best Golf Courses 6
- The Best Luxury Resorts 8
- The Best Romantic Hideaways 10
- The Best Family Attractions 11
- The Best Offbeat Travel Experiences 13
- The Best Spas 15
- The Best Local Dining Experiences 16
- The Best Bars & Nightspots 18

2 FLORIDA IN DEPTH 21

- The Land & Its People 21
- A Look at the Past 22
- MODERN FLORIDA* 22

3 PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO FLORIDA 32

- When to Go 33
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS* 34
- Entry Requirements 38
- Getting There & Getting Around 40
- Money & Costs 43
- WHAT THINGS COST IN FLORIDA* 43
- Staying Healthy 44
- Specialized Travel Resources 44
- Responsible Tourism 46
- SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TIPS* 46
- Special Interest & Escorted Trips 47
- Staying Connected 53

4 SUGGESTED FLORIDA ITINERARIES 55

- The Regions in Brief 56
- South Florida in 2 Weeks 58
- Florida's Gulf Coast in 1 Week:
 - Relaxing Florida 63
- A Week in Florida, Family Style 64
- 5 Days in Old Historic Florida 65
- Beachy Keen Florida in 1 Week 66
- SOUTH FLORIDA LITERARY TOUR* 69

5 WHERE TO STAY & DINE IN MIAMI 70

Orientation 71

THE NEIGHBORHOODS IN BRIEF 74

Getting Around 77

FAST FACTS: MIAMI 80

Where to Stay in Miami 83

THE BEST HOTEL SPAS 90

Where to Dine in Miami 113

6 WHAT TO SEE & DO IN MIAMI 150

Miami's Beaches 151

The Art Deco District (South Beach) 152

WALKING BY DESIGN 154

Miami's Museum & Art Scene 156

Historic Homes & Sites 160

Nature Preserves, Parks & Gardens 162

Organized Tours 165

Watersports 167

More Ways to Play, Indoors & Out 170

Spectator Sports 174

Animal Parks 177

Shopping 179

Miami After Dark 182

WINTER MUSIC CONFERENCE 189

THE RHYTHM IS GONNA GET YOU 193

7 THE KEYS & THE DRY TORTUGAS 198

The Upper & Middle Keys 201

THE 10 "KEYMANDMENTS" 208

The Lower Keys 223

Key West 228

The Dry Tortugas 259

8 THE EVERGLADES & BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK 262

A Glimpse of Everglades National Park 262

Biscayne National Park 275

9 THE GOLD COAST: HALLANDALE TO THE PALM BEACHES 279

Broward County 280

ONE IF BY LAND, TAXI IF BY SEA 287

Boca Raton & Delray Beach 306

Palm Beach & West Palm Beach 318

THE SPORT OF KINGS 321

PALM BEACH NIGHTLIFE IS NOT AN OXYMORON 335

10 THE TREASURE COAST: STUART TO SEBASTIAN 336

Hobe Sound, Stuart (North Hutchinson Island) & Jensen Beach 339

WILDLIFE EXPLORATION: FROM GATORS TO MANATEES TO TURTLES 340

Vero Beach & Sebastian 346

A Side Trip Inland: Fishing at Lake Okeechobee 352

GOING AFTER THE BIG ONE 353

11 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA 355

Fort Myers Beach 356

Sanibel & Captiva Islands 365

BOKEELI-HUH? 385

Naples 385

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT: FISHING DOS AND DON'TS 389

Marco Island 403

12 THE TAMPA BAY AREA 409

Tampa 410

St. Petersburg 432

ANCIENT BURIAL MOUNDS & MANATEES 439

St. Pete & Clearwater Beaches 444

Sarasota 458

13 WALT DISNEY WORLD & ORLANDO 479

Essentials 480

NEIGHBORHOODS IN BRIEF 482

Getting Around 483

FAST FACTS: WALT DISNEY WORLD & ORLANDO 484

Where to Stay 486

Where to Dine 501

Tips for Visiting Walt Disney World Attractions 513

The Magic Kingdom 515

FASTPASS 518

Epcot 519

Disney's Hollywood Studios 522

Animal Kingdom 525

Other WDW Attractions 527

What to See & Do Beyond Disney: Universal Orlando & SeaWorld 529

OTHER AREA ATTRACTIONS 539

Walt Disney World & Orlando After Dark 540

14 **NORTHEAST FLORIDA** 542

The Space Coast 543

Daytona Beach 553

CROSSING OVER INTO CASSADAGA 560

SIDE TRIP TO OCALA 566

PAYNES PRAIRIE PRESERVE 567

St. Augustine: America's
First City 568

WHERE GOLF IS KING 576

A SWASHBUCKLING HOSTEL 581

Jacksonville 586

Amelia Island 601

15 **NORTHWEST FLORIDA: THE PANHANDLE** 611

Pensacola 612

FLORIDA'S CANOE CAPITAL 617

PENSACOLA'S OTHER FORT 620

Destin & Fort Walton Beach 628

HOW TO FIND A STREET ADDRESS 630

*LUXURIOUS COTTAGES, VILLAS,
FORTIFIED HOMES & LUSCIOUS
SURROUNDINGS* 639

Panama City Beach 651

Apalachicola 660

Tallahassee 665

SIDE TRIP TO THE SCALLOP CAPITAL 670

FAST FACTS: FLORIDA 676

INDEX 680

LIST OF MAPS

- Florida 4
- Suggested Florida Itineraries 60
- Miami at a Glance 73
- Greater Miami Accommodations & Dining 85
- South Beach Accommodations & Dining 89
- Miami Beach Accommodations & Dining 102
- Downtown Miami Accommodations & Dining 105
- North Dade Accommodations & Dining 111
- Downtown, Design District, Wynwood & Upper East Side Dining 135
- Coconut Grove Accommodations & Dining 145
- Coral Gables Accommodations & Dining 147
- Miami Area Attractions & Beaches 153
- South Beach Attractions 155
- The Florida Keys 200
- Key West 230
- The Gold Coast 281
- Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood & Pompano Beach Area 283
- Boca Raton & Delray Beach 307
- Palm Beach & West Palm Beach 319
- The Treasure Coast 337
- Southwest Florida 357
- Fort Myers Beach 359
- Sanibel & Captiva Islands 367
- Naples 387
- Tampa & St. Petersburg 412
- Tampa 416
- Downtown St. Petersburg 433
- St. Pete & Clearwater Beaches 445
- Sarasota Area 459
- Orlando 481
- Walt Disney World & Buena Vista Accommodations 488
- Northeast Florida 545
- Cape Canaveral 547
- Daytona Beach 555
- St. Augustine 571
- Jacksonville 589
- Amelia Island 603
- The Panhandle 613
- Downtown Pensacola 615
- Downtown Tallahassee 667