

QUICK ESCAPES: great mini-vacation ideas

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A BEACH
GETAWAY!
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FLORIDA

TRAVEL + LIFE

15 hot new
beach
resorts

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An aerial photograph of a resort pool area. The pool is a vibrant blue, with several circular and curved sections. Palm trees are planted in circular islands within the pool. The surrounding deck is paved with light-colored tiles and features several lounge chairs with white cushions. A colorful beach umbrella is visible in the lower right. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a tropical or beach resort setting.

Butlers on call, luxurious cabanas, tranquil spas, and top-of-the-line golf courses. The following resorts — some shiny and new, others elegantly remodeled — prove that a day at the beach is much more than what it used to be.

15 hot new beach resorts

STORY COMPILED BY THE EDITORS PHOTOGRAPHY LARRY NIGHSWANDER



10 LONGBOAT KEY CLUB

Extras like a new spa, 45 holes of golf, and private golf lessons with skilled professionals like Jane Sirmons make a getaway here stand out. By late summer, each guest room will be revamped with a fresh and sophisticated Caribbean feel. 941.383.8821, longboatkeyclub.com

11 GANSEVOORT SOUTH

Like its sister property in New York City, the wow factor of this mega resort set to open this summer can be found on the rooftop: a 110-foot pool complete with underwater music, as well as a chic bar and lounge with views of downtown and the Atlantic. When night falls, the David Barton gym and spa will morph into one of South Beach's sexiest nightclubs. 305.604.6700; gansevoortsouth.com

12 SANDPEARL RESORT

Clearwater Beach's new luxury Sandpearl Resort, scheduled to open in July, is the first in this neck of the woods in a quarter century. A sea-inspired spa, sunrise yoga classes, and a ceviche and raw bar at Caretta on the Gulf, the resort's signature restaurant, give this resort island flavor. 727.441.2425, sandpearl.com

13 ST. REGIS FORT LAUDERDALE

Tucked between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, this exclusive resort takes its inspiration from the golden age of travel. When it opens July 1, indulgences will include butler service, the finest Pratesi bedding, a wine vault and the same impeccable service of the original St. Regis in New York where glamorous personalities like Salvador Dali and Gertrude Stein have stayed. 954.465.2300; starwoodhotels.com

14 TRUMP INTERNATIONAL SONESTA BEACH RESORT

Marble foyers, granite countertops and crown molding tell you this new resort is not only built by the Don, but fit for him too. The list of amenities — from a pool complex with waterfalls, fountains, hot tubs and lush tropical foliage to Jet Ski, catamaran and kayak rentals — is enough to keep the most active beachgoer busy for weeks. 800. SONESTA; sonesta.com/sunnyisles

15 SPLASH, PANAMA CITY

Two towers rocketing out of the Panama City sand mark this new luxury beach resort. A kid-friendly water park is the claim to fame, but adults can enjoy the simple pleasures at the poolside bar, surf shop and bowling alley. Don't overlook why you came to the Panhandle in the first place, though — miles of pristine coast on the Gulf of Mexico. 800.804.0417; sterlingresorts.com

From left: Casual dining and poolside libations are the beach-resort norm. A peek at one of the Regent's very swanky rooms.