

20 great summer getaways

THIS YEAR,
REDISCOVER
FLORIDA AND
ITS ISLAND
NEIGHBORS
WITH A
CLOSE-TO-HOME
VACATION.

BY BOCA RATON STAFF

Summer is here, and it's time to celebrate everything our home state has to offer, from nearby island adventures to luxury resorts (discounted!) and local attractions. We've put together 20 great destinations for you, so there's no excuse not to plan a little downtime and give yourself a real summer vacation. Go on. Live a little.

18 Boca Grande

bocagrandechamber.com

WHY GO: Try Florida's *other* Boca on for size. Covering most of Gasparilla Island, a barrier island off the Gulf Coast, Boca Grande is a taste of Old Florida, devoid of high-rises, chain stores and traffic lights. There's a quaint downtown and a handful of restaurants and bars, but Mother Nature is the main attraction. The island is in prime fishing territory, and anglers wait year-round for the tarpon run every spring.

LODGING: We recommend The Gasparilla Inn and Club (gasparillainn.com; from \$236/night), a 96-year-old resort on the National Register of Historic Places.

TRAVEL NOTES: The island is about 200 miles northwest of Boca (take I-75 across the state and up the coast).