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I've Lived in This Florida City for 14 Years—Here's Why Winter Is the Best Time to Visit



Aerial view of CityPlace in Palm Beach, Florida.
Credit: CityPlace

While the rest of the country is snowed in or shivering against bitter winds, Florida glimmers with endless sunshine and the promise of good times, even outside, any month of the year.

Nowhere is that more true than in [West Palm Beach](#), the urban companion city to tony Palm Beach island, which has been seasonal since its founding as a wintertime resort destination by railroad baron Henry Flagler.

It's part of the reason I've lived here enthusiastically since 2012—and why all my northerly friends and family love visiting. As much as I enjoy the quieter pace of our toasty summers, winter is undoubtedly the best time to visit West Palm Beach. There's bright sun on cool days, endless parties and events, and

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everyone who's anyone is here or at least passing through. It's also prime time for waterfront walks, bike rides, and beach days without instantly overheating.

That winter is the best time to visit West Palm Beach is especially true today, thanks to a smattering of exciting new openings and developments peppering the city with fresh energy, things to do, places to go, and people to see.

Read on for a winter travel guide to West Palm Beach, according to a local.

Why Winter Is High Season in West Palm Beach



Aerial view of boats docked for the Palm Beach International Boat Show.

Palm Beach International Boat Show

Paradise reaches its peak during winter in Palm Beach and, by proxy, West Palm Beach. The snowbirds descend in droves and events like the [Palm Beach International Boat Show](#) (March), as well as a circuit of charity galas and society benefit, keep professional and social calendars packed. It's a perfect storm of

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mild weather, global sport, and high society overlapping—plus the glorious ability to work out alfresco ([Christin Rutley Method](#) and [Tremble at the Lighthouse](#)).

It's also the epicenter of polo in the U.S. Drive 30 minutes west and you'll hit Wellington, one of the ritziest polo capitals of the world. From January to April, [Wellington International](#), [Grand Champions Polo Club](#), and the [National Polo Center](#)—home to the highest-goal matches in the U.S.—buzz with activity, especially on Sundays.

The international and equestrian crowd includes players, patrons, and spectators who treat Palm Beach County as a winter base for matches, show jumping, dressage, and more. Grab a stadium ticket or splurge on fieldside brunch.

Year-round Spots at Their Best During Winter



Interior views of Avenue Pottery.

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Avenue Pottery

Some of us live here year-round, and our local businesses are a big part of what makes this area special. Come winter, a seasonal influx of visitors brings fresh energy, but the community still retains its local character. Places like [Composition Coffee](#) and nearby [Zipitios](#) reflect that spirit—two down-to-earth spots run by locals, for locals.

Love [Buccan](#) in Palm Beach? Check out its West Palm Beach sibling restaurant, [Grato](#), for an equally amazing meal in a casual neighborhood environment. Or, head to everyone's new favorite sushi spot, [Lamarina](#), for tasty eats on the water—a surprisingly rare amenity in West Palm Beach. If you can't get in (a common problem here), the nearby [Crew Bar](#) is easygoing and packed with characters. All founded, owned, and operated by locals, these establishments embody the spirit of our growing West Palm Beach.

Want to meet even more locals? Rub elbows with our vibrant creative community and try your hand at a wheel throwing class at [Avenue Pottery](#), attend the [ArtiGras Fine Arts Festival](#) and [Lake Worth Street Painting Festival](#), or time your visit with Women's Art Week by [First, Female](#).

You can also plan a night at the [Norton Museum of Art](#) or the [Kravis Center](#), both of which hit their stride during the winter with regular programming and a lively Broadway season.

Unlike other cities, West Palm Beach doesn't shut down in the offseason. Wintertime or not, there's a lot going on in and around the city, but during the high season, it all comes together for a wider, more refined audience.

New Openings and Things to Do in West Palm Beach This Winter



Fireworks over a stage at the Palm Tree Festival.

Kurza

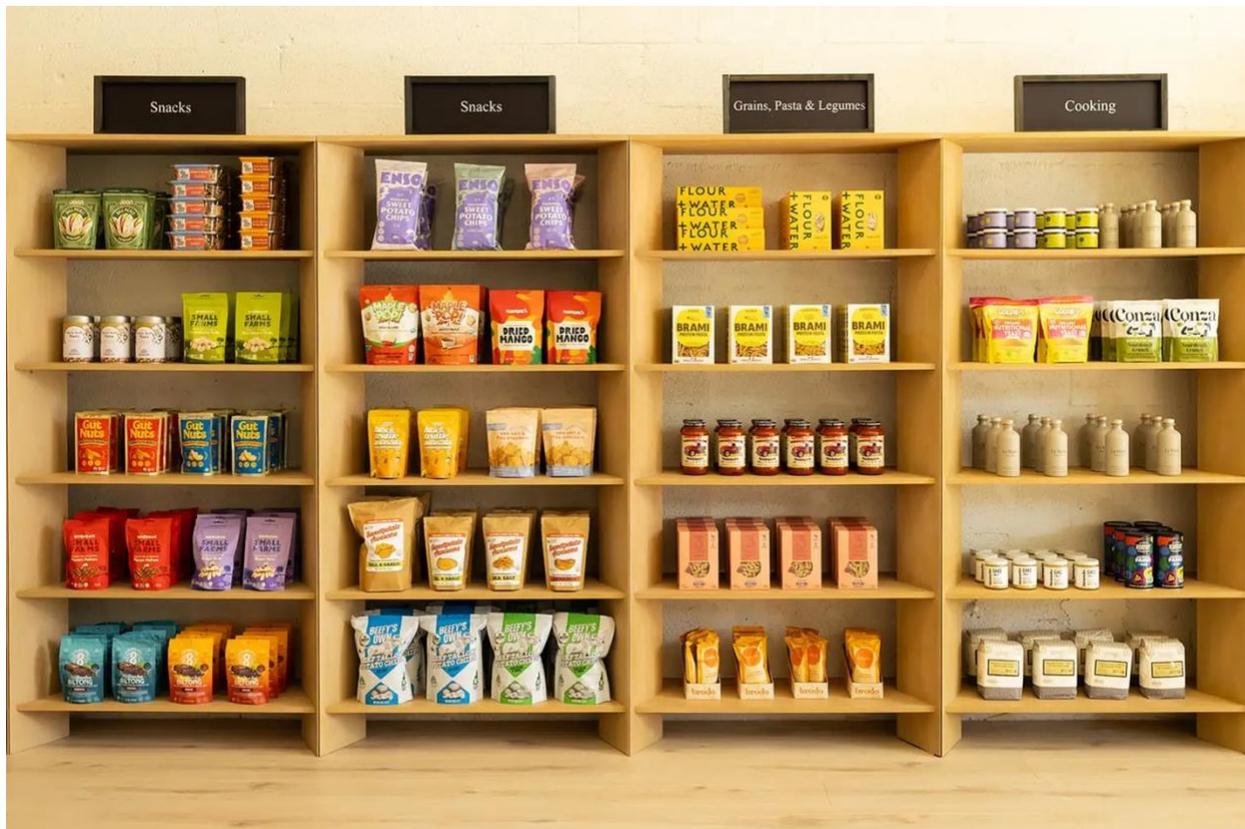
There's plenty to keep you busy between marquee moments like the boat show and Sunday polo. When Diplo-backed [West Palm Cowboy Club](#) opens its doors? You know where to find me.

The long-awaited [Sunset Lounge](#) in West Palm Beach's Historic Northwest district has also reopened and, lately, there are restaurant openings and even entirely new neighborhoods popping up. One such example is the [Nora District](#), a burgeoning billion-dollar development that's adaptive reuse at its finest. Already brimming with life, thanks to the presence of [Sunday Motor Co.](#) (a New Jersey transplant that has given me a newfound appreciation for automotive culture), [H&H Bagels](#), [Van Leeuwen](#), a new outpost of local staple [Celis Juice Bar](#), [ZenHippo](#), [Sana](#) skin studio, and more, it's become a regular stop in my weekly rotation. There are various other restaurants, shops, and even a hotel opening by year's end at Nora District, with residences on the horizon, too.

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Another worthy destination is [Caroline Station](#) and [WPB Exchange](#), an up-and-coming revamp of the once-bustling Grandview Public Market in West Palm Beach’s Warehouse District. Go for yoga at [Bindu](#), shopping at [Gypsy Life Surf Shop](#), vintage treasures at [Show Pony](#), a flat white from Australian-inspired [Isla & Co](#), and, eventually, live music.

The Flamingo Park Historic Residential District—my neighborhood—is another area coming into its own this season. The Hive empire paved the way a few years ago—I highly recommend shopping at [Hive Home, Gift & Garden](#) or grabbing a meal or pastry at [Hive Bakery & Cafe](#). But in recent months, we’ve seen the arrival of top-tier Pilates at [Maison Forme](#), body sculpting at [The Tox](#), an unparalleled wellness scene at [Higher Order](#), and tasty options at [Loot Grocery](#), [Steak Shop](#) by Rancher’s Reserve, and, Michelin-caliber dining concepts [Emelina](#), a 16-seat Cuban chef’s-counter experience, and soon, [Midorie](#) (opening summer 2026). You can entertain yourself for a day hopping between culinary, retail, wellness, and experiential offerings at any of these West Palm Beach hot spots.



Colorful stocked shelves in Loot Grocery.

Madelyne Dawson Photography/Loot Grocery

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Of course, there's always [CityPlace](#)—and even the longstanding heart of West Palm Beach is undergoing a renaissance. Recent and upcoming openings range from Equinox and Eataly to Rothy's, Reformation, Business & Pleasure Co., Perigold, PopUp Bagels, and a new spot by chef Pushkar Marathe, [Ela Curry & Cocktails](#).

Other fresh openings worth a look include [Kyma](#), an upscale modern Greek restaurant with a rooftop, and the waterfront [SeaHawk Prime](#) by David Burke, the award-winning chef's first foray into Florida.

Even Palm Beach International Airport is getting a culinary overhaul with the addition of new local eateries, so your wintertime visit will begin on a high note.

And if you leave West Palm Beach without paying a late-night visit to [Mary Lou's](#), you've done it all wrong. The eccentric supper-club-slash-nightlife-lounge opened inside the former Berto's Bait & Tackle corner store, which is, funkily enough, a round building with a totally plain exterior; they saw so much success in their first year that they've opened a Miami outpost.

It's this signature mix of polish and personality that makes winter in West Palm Beach unmatched.