A Fan’s Guide To Spring Training In The Palm Beaches

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For baseball fans looking to catch as much Spring Training action as possible in one location, The Palm Beaches in Florida make it easy with four teams in two stadiums. The reigning World Series Champion Washington Nationals and Houston Astros make their home at FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches in West Palm Beach, while the St. Louis Cardinals and Miami Marlins play up the road in Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter. Plus, if you time it just right you can also hit The Honda Classic at PGA National Resort and Spa.

The Ballparks

FITTEAM Ballpark of The Palm Beaches is located a short distance from both Interstate 95 and Florida’s Turnpike. It seats approximately 7,700 and offers lawn seats as cheap as $10. The 360-degree concourse offers plenty of shade for fans, and amenities include the Craft Corner with 32 craft beers on tap.

Only 12 miles north sits Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium, making it easy to hit as many Spring Training games as possible during your visit to The Palm Beaches. A smaller venue than FITTEAM Ballpark with approximately 6,600 seats, plus room for another 200 fans on the grass berm, Roger Dean is home to four minor league teams outside of Spring Training for the Cardinals and Marlins. One fun feature of this stadium is the Corona Beach House, which gives fans all-inclusive tickets with four-top table seating and a drink rail.

The Beaches
One of the advantages the Grapefruit League has over the Cactus League is the proximity to beaches. The Palm Beaches are home to nearly 30 beach parks along 47 miles of coastline. From FITTEAM Ballpark, you can easily get to “Midtown Beach” and Phipps Ocean Park in Palm Beach, while Ocean Cap Park (dog-friendly) and Carlin Park in Jupiter are each less than 20 minutes from Roger Dean.

**The Outdoors**

If you’re bringing kids along, or simply want to enjoy some time outdoors before or after a game, the 12-acre Lincoln Park adjacent to FITTEAM Ballpark is open from sunrise to sunset. The park features a family playground, splash park, basketball courts and a 1.8-mile walking/jogging trail.

From Roger Dean, you can head a half-hour north to Riverbend Park in Jupiter and experience what locals call “Old Florida.” Here you can rent a canoe and paddle on the river, or you can hike and bike on trails that weave through natural area thick with cypress trees.

![The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse](image)

You can also head about 20 minutes north of Roger Dean to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum. You can stretch your legs with a hiking through history tour on the property or climb the 105 winding steps up to the top of the 1860 lighthouse for panoramic views of Jupiter.

**The Culture**

Looking to soak up some culture between games? The Palm Beaches have a plethora of options from performing arts to the visual arts. West Palm Beach can be a good central location to stay if you want to explore Palm Beach County beyond the ballparks. Culturally, you have The Norton Museum, the Ann Norton Sculpture Garden, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts and Mounts Botanical Garden.

The Norton Museum of Art was founded in 1941 by Ralph Hubbard Norton and his wife Elizabeth Calhoun Norton as a place to display their personal art collection. Since then,
collection which includes original works from Claude Monet, Paul Gauguin, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O’Keefe and more. The museum stays open until 10:00 p.m. on Fridays if your daytime itinerary is already full.

The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach, FL

Ralph Hubbard Norton’s second wife, Ann Weaver Norton, was a noted sculptor whose residence was transformed into the Ann Norton Sculpture Garden. A stunning property just steps from the water in West Palm Beach, Norton’s sculptures appear throughout the property along winding paths surrounded by towering palms and other flora from around the globe. Sculptures from other artists are also featured in exhibitions around the property, and the house and Norton’s studio are open to the public.

Another beautiful garden to explore in West Palm Beach is Mounts Botanical Garden, Palm Beach County’s oldest and largest botanical garden with more than 2,000 species of tropical and sub-tropical plants. If you’re flying in or out of Palm Beach International Airport, the gardens are just behind the airport and easily accessible.

The Food

For a unique experience, make reservations at Restoration Hardware. Yes, the furniture store. Its flagship West Palm Beach location has a rooftop restaurant that has become a local hot spot and offers great views of the area while serving up brunch and dinner daily.
If you forgot to make a reservation or need other options nearby, Rosemary Square next door is full of food and beverage options, as well as local boutiques and art displays. The options here range from brunch spots to family-friendly or fine dining.

Looking to try local brews? West Palm Brewery & Wine Vault features local craft beer, wood-fired brick oven pizza, wings and more. They even have their own wines if someone in your group prefers wine over beer.

If you find yourself on PGA Boulevard in the Palm Beach Gardens area, Scusi Trattoria serves homemade pasta, pizza and small plates in a space that feels like it belongs on the Italian coast. There's also a great outdoor bar and seating area.

Next door to Roger Dean, visitors can explore Downtown Abacoa’s shops and restaurants. If you’d rather be waterside, The Woods Jupiter, owned by Tiger Woods, is nearby in Harbourside Place.

Even more options for entertainment, dining and culture can be found further south in Palm Beach County in towns like Delray Beach and Boca Raton. So, if you’re planning a trip to The Palm Beaches for spring training, you might want to add on some extra days to soak up the rays and enjoy everything this area has to offer outside of the ballparks.

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