

3 day / 2 night mini road trip florida beach edition

fort de soto / sarasota / anna maria island



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3 day / 2 night mini road trip

fort de soto • anna maria island • sarasota

* home base: fort de soto campground *

day 1

- arrive at fort de soto
- set up camp + settle in
- bike ride, beach walk, sunset, campfire



fun idea:
take your
first polaroid
around camp!

day 2

- slow morning at camp
- drive to anna maria island
- walk pine avenue + browse shops
- hang at coquina beach
- then head to sarasota

challenge:
each person
picks a silly
souvenir!

night 2

- option 1:
dinner at columbia
restaurant
- option 2:
grab a publix picnic +
eat at the beach
- finish with ice cream
at st. armands circle

bonus:
catch sunset
before driving
back to camp!

day 3

one last slow morning
at fort de soto
coffee, beach walk,
pack up, head home

legend

- camp
- beach
- food
- shopping
- scenic stop



lido beach
picnic option

venice



Florida Van Life Co.

day one

check into fort de soto park

park the van, unpack slowly and make your campsite feel like home. the campground has water and electric hookups, picnic tables, grills, restrooms and showers, so you can settle in without needing to leave again. then put the keys away and sit for a while.

your only job: explore.

walk or run part of fort de soto's 7-mile paved trail, wander through the historic fort, hit the beach, look for dolphins and birds, or simply take a chair somewhere pretty and do absolutely nothing. if you rented paddle boards, take them out on the water.

little adventure challenge:

take your first polaroid somewhere around camp — no posing required.

sunset:

grab snacks, blankets and head toward east beach. this is the exact location where we take our branded florida van life co. shots.



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night one

back at camp →

make dinner

light up the campsite

play cards

journal

listen to the mixtape

enjoy your first night sleeping in the van

you can do this.



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day two

morning — slow start at camp. coffee outside. easy breakfast. no rushing.

then pack a little day bag with: ***sunscreen • swimsuit • towel • water • polaroid • snacks • something to sit on.*** and hit the road.

stop 1 — anna maria island. instead of trying to “see everything,” embrace the island pace. walk pine avenue, poke around little shops, find a ridiculous souvenir, walk toward the pier and take photos of anything that feels wonderfully florida.

challenge: everyone gets \$5 to find the weirdest/best souvenir they can.

then head down the island toward coquina beach. swim. lay in the sand. walk along the water. read. throw a frisbee. do whatever you normally tell yourself you “don’t have time for.”

polaroid #2: something that makes you laugh.

afternoon — cruise into sarasota. for something completely different from the beach, make an optional stop at the john and mable ringling museum of art. or put on the road-trip playlist and keep wandering.



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evening two

polaroid #3: sunset dinner

choose your dinner:

option a — make it a night out. eat at the columbia restaurant at st. armands circle. it's been in sarasota since 1959 and serves spanish/cuban food just a short walk from lido beach. get dressed up just slightly more than camping requires.

option b — the florida van life co. dinner

stop at publix. everyone picks one thing. grab pub subs, fruit, chips, drinks and dessert and turn it into a publix picnic on the beach. no table. no reservation. bare feet encouraged.

head toward st. armands circle.

walk around the circle,
explore the shops and
grab ice cream.

then put on some good
tunes for the nighttime
drive back to fort de
soto.

**or be brave and try
boondocking!** more info
on boondocking in the
yellow binder :)



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morning three:

one last slow morning ☀️

wake up back at fort de soto.

don't immediately start packing. make coffee first. walk outside. take one last look at camp.

maybe go for a short beach walk or morning run before packing everything back into the van.

final challenge:

find one tiny thing you want to remember from the trip — a shell, funny story, photo, song, smell, moment or realization.

then pack up camp and start the drive back to florida van life co.

fort de soto campground
checkout is currently 11
a.m., so guests should plan
their morning around that.

also plan your morning
based on required time to
return the van to fvl hq.



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unofficial rules of itinerary:

you are completely allowed to ignore it.

see something interesting?

pull over.

want another hour at the beach?

stay.

want to skip sarasota entirely and float in the gulf all afternoon?

do it.

the point isn't to complete the itinerary.

the point is to remember what it feels like to wander.

stay wild.

live free.



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stay wild. live free.



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