



GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



## STAYCATIONS

# Southbound TRAIN

## Hop on the Brightline for a delightful day trip to FORT LAUDERDALE

By Skye Sherman

Day trips are the ideal antidote when you're desperate for a break but don't have the time or mental energy to invest in a full-on vacation. With this year's advent of Brightline ([gobrightline.com](http://gobrightline.com)), it's easier than ever to explore South Florida sans I-95 traffic. Much like its ultra-modern stations, the Brightline itself is on par with Japanese commuter trains: sleek, bright, and geared toward a savvy set of travelers. Upgrade to Select class to enjoy a private, fully stocked lounge at the station plus a roomy seat and continued cart service on the journey south. With all these amenities, the 35-minute trek to Fort Lauderdale will seem all too brief.

Upon arrival, catch the Sun Trolley ([suntrolley.com](http://suntrolley.com)) on its loop past the station for easy access to three popular regions of Fort



Lauderdale: Las Olas Boulevard, Riverwalk, and the beach. For those who'd prefer to begin with a short, scenic stroll for coffee, the mural-filled FATVillage arts district ([fatvillage.com](http://fatvillage.com)) and funky Brew Urban Café ([brewurbancafe.com](http://brewurbancafe.com)) are within a half-mile of the station.

After a dose of culture, head riverward for a Water Taxi tour ([watertaxi.com](http://watertaxi.com)). Connecting different parts of the city by boat, the trip provides background on the area plus an up-close look at the gleaming ships that make Fort Lauderdale the yachting capital of the world. Disembark at Las Olas for shopping, sidewalk cafés, and galleries. Then, make your way to the beach. A day pass to Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach's Sky Deck ([conradfortlauderdale.com](http://conradfortlauderdale.com)) overlooking the Atlantic includes 20,000 square feet of poolside bliss.



AFTER TRAVELING TO FORT LAUDERDALE VIA THE BRIGHTLINE, YOU CAN STROLL LAS OLAS BOULEVARD, RELAX AT THE CONRAD'S SKY DECK, EXPLORE FATVILLAGE ARTS DISTRICT, OR TOUR THE CITY BY WATER TAXI.



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Munch on an Avocado Smash topped with crab from the Spinnaker Pool Grill or an icy *paleta* made with fresh, seasonal fruit.

In need of deeper relaxation? A visit to the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa ([marriott.com](http://marriott.com)) should do the trick. The full-service day spa features a private pool perfect for lounging between treatments. Round out your experience with dinner at the Marriott's 3030 Ocean, or venture off-property to dine at the esteemed steak house Jackson's Prime ([jacksonsprime.com](http://jacksonsprime.com)) before returning north. A complimentary cocktail awaits on the Brightline for a toast to a day well spent. ◀

