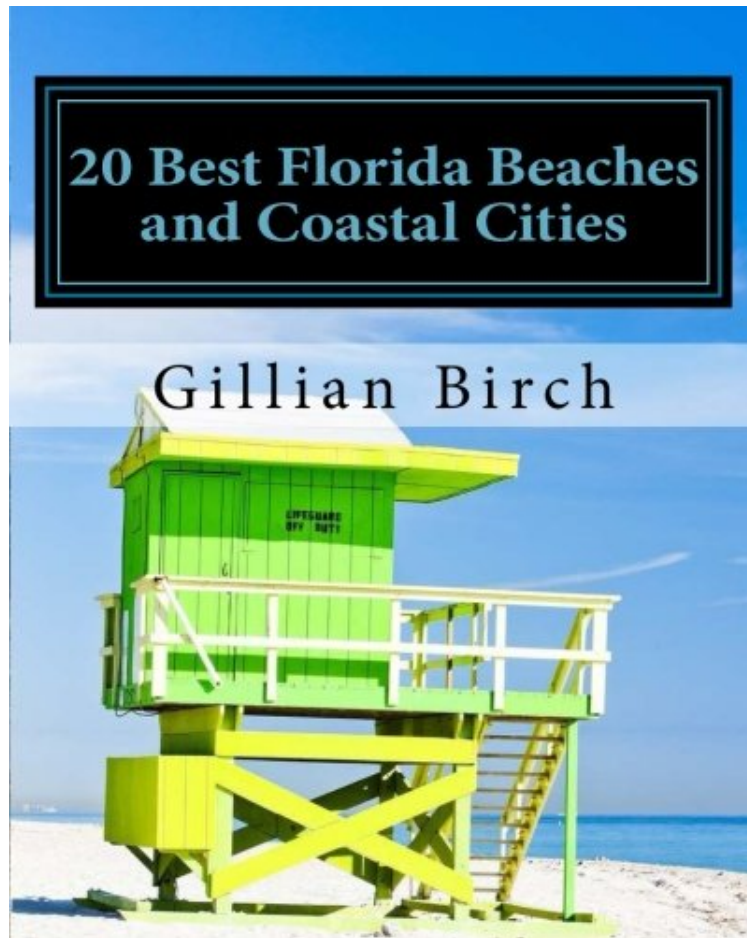


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20 Best Florida Beaches and Coastal Cities: A look at the history, highlights and things to do in some of Florida's best beaches and coastal cities (20 Best...in Florida) (Volume 1)

Gillian Birch

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Gillian Birch : 20 Best Florida Beaches and Coastal Cities: A look at the history, highlights and things to do in some of Florida's best beaches and coastal cities (20 Best...in Florida) (Volume 1) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 20 Best Florida Beaches and Coastal Cities: A look at the history, highlights and things to do in some of Florida's best beaches and coastal cities (20 Best...in Florida) (Volume 1):

(COLOR EDITION) 20 Best Florida Beaches and Coastal Cities is a comprehensive overview of some of the best beaches in Florida, although there are many more that could certainly have been included. Each chapter offers interesting and informative information about each of the highlighted Florida beaches and coastal cities making it easy to choose a great destination for your next Florida beach vacation. For those living in the area, or proposing to do so, this book offers a host of local information and photographs so that you can clearly picture each place in your mind before you visit. The book is written by a freelance travel writer who has lived and worked in Florida, and has authored several other popular travel books about Florida. Reading this book is like visiting the state with a local. It gives clear descriptions of each Florida beach and coastal city running around Florida's coastline from Amelia Island in the northeast to Pensacola in the far northwest, picking out some of the main highlights along the way. For example, did you know that Fort Myers Beach sand is perfect for sandsculpting and that is why the annual championships are held there each year? And did you know that Caspersen Beach near Venice is the Sharks' Tooth capital of the world, while Tarpon Springs still has sponge divers in this traditional Greek community? Each chosen destination comes vividly to life and offers a wealth of interest, history and things to do for any potential visitor. I hope that long before you have read about all 20 best beaches in Florida, you have added a few "must-do's" to your wish list. Also available as a black and white edition

From the Author The state of Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States, stretching for 1,350 miles or 2,170 km. This gives visitors an endless number of beaches to choose from along both the Atlantic Ocean seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico. 20 Best Florida Beaches and Coastal Cities covers the entire state, highlighting the best beaches to help visitors and residents find the most ideal beach to suit their requirements. Each chapter highlights a specific coastal city and gives a brief historic note along with a colorful description, gorgeous photographs and a comprehensive list of things to do. Low lying and marshy, Florida was only significantly developed with the arrival of the first railroad from Fernandina Beach to Cedar Key in the 1860s, hence most cities are less than 150 years old. The majority were primarily developed around the coastline. After the Civil War and the building of the Florida East Coast Railroad by Henry Flagler in 1885, the benefits of developing Florida as a winter haven quickly became apparent. With a tropical climate, Florida continues to be popular all year round for visitors, but especially in the winter months when it is pleasantly warm and dry. Visitors from the northern states, Canada and northern Europe flock to Florida's beaches and coastal cities for a reprieve from the icy blasts and winter storms that prevail elsewhere. From Amelia Island to the Florida Keys, Florida offers some wonderful beaches and the state's history is closely entwined with its coastal geology. Some beaches have powder-soft white sand such as Fort Myers Beach, which is absolutely perfect for building sandcastles, and that's official, as it hosts the World Championships of Sandsculpting every year. On the opposite coast, the firm sand at Daytona Beach packed by the relentless Atlantic breakers led to the developing of the unofficial racetrack for early motor racing. 20 Best Florida Beaches and Coastal Cities circumnavigates the Sunshine State, starting in the far northeastern tip, running down the Atlantic coast, around the Straits of Florida and up the Gulf Coast before heading west along the Panhandle where yet more beautiful beaches lie in store. Along the way, discover the history, development and unique features that make each coastal city what it is today. Learn about St Augustine, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the U.S. with its fortified castle, and Tarpon Springs, a transplanted Greek community that still has a sponge-diving industry. The coastal city of Tarpon Springs continues to delight visitors with its delicious baklava bakeries, colorful waterfront and a Greek Orthodox Church modeled on St Sophia Church in Istanbul. Whether you are looking for a Florida city to relocate to, researching your next vacation destination in Florida or simply want an informative read from your armchair, 20 Best Florida Beaches and Coastal Cities presents interesting and informative facts with eyewitness detail about some of Florida's most charming destinations. Of course, there were many more worthy contenders that will have to wait for another volume! Written in an informative style by a resident Florida travel writer, this book sets out to entertain, inform and inspire visitors to travel to Florida and take their pick of these delightfully unspoiled places. Happy Trails!

From the Back Cover Gillian Birch is a freelance travel writer and published author of several travel books. As the wife of a Master Mariner, she has traveled extensively and lived in some exotic locations all over the world including the Far East and the Republic of Panama. Describing herself as having "endless itchy feet and an insatiable wanderlust", she continues to explore Florida and further afield, writing about her experiences with wonderful clarity and attention to detail. Gillian has a Diploma from the British College of Journalism and is proud to be a member of the International Travel Writers' Alliance and the Florida Writers' Association.

About the Author Gillian Birch is a freelance travel writer and, whenever possible between trips, she enjoys life in Florida. As the wife of a Master Mariner, she has traveled extensively and lived in some exotic locations all over the world, including the Far East and the Republic of Panama. Her love of writing meant she kept detailed journals which are a valuable source of eye-witness information for her many published magazine articles and destination reviews. Describing herself as having endless itchy feet and an insatiable wanderlust, she continues to explore Florida and further afield, writing about her experiences with wonderful clarity and attention to detail. She has a Diploma from the British College of Journalism and is proud to be a member of the International Travel Writers Alliance and the Florida Writers Association. View her other books on .com and learn more about her writing as

