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# Florida Travel Tips & Deals

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Check this list often as new tips, events and deals around Florida come in:

## **Concerts at SeaWorld Orlando**

The Bands, Brew & BBQ Festival at SeaWorld Orlando, Saturdays and Sundays, Feb. 9–March 17 will have a lineup of bands that include the following: Feb. 9 – Chris Young with Jerrod Niemann; Feb. 10 – Merle Haggard; Feb. 16 – The Beach Boys; Feb. 17 – Styx; and Feb. 24 – Third Eye Blind. The event is included with park admission. Visit [www.SeaWorldOrlando.com](http://www.SeaWorldOrlando.com).

## **New shorter cruises**

Fort Lauderdale-based Silversea Cruises has announced a new collection of eight shorter cruises for 2013. These four- to seven-day voyages are designed for time-strapped working professionals, travelers who like to combine a cruise with a land program, and individuals who may be new to luxury cruising and would like a taste of Silversea's experience. Silversea's new shorter voyages for 2013 include a four-day Northern Europe Voyage aboard Silver Cloud on June 15-19 from Hamburg to Copenhagen, with calls in Warnemünde (Rostock) and Helsingborg. Silver Privilege fares start at \$1,830. Silver Privilege fares are cruise-only rates per guest, based on double occupancy for a Vista Suite. Silver Privilege is a capacity-controlled program and subject to change. Visit [www.silversea.com](http://www.silversea.com).

## **Home exchanges**

3RD HOME ([www.3RDHOME.com](http://www.3RDHOME.com)) is a private club for owners of luxury second homes. Featuring over 1,300 properties in more than 66 countries, with an average value of \$2.25 million, 3RD HOME enables second home owners to travel the world and stay in premier properties without the expense of renting. Unlike traditional home exchanges, 3RD HOME does not require a direct or simultaneous exchange with another member. By making available weeks of time in their own second home for other members' use, members earn 3RD HOME Keys that can be used as currency to reserve a stay at other 3RD HOME properties. Prospective members are pre-screened for home quality and members provide unbiased comprehensive ratings and feedback on their host and guest experiences in order to ensure the highest quality of both members and their residences. 3RD HOME facilitates the exchange process through an Internet platform. 3RD HOME's two-year membership fee is \$495. A reservation fee of \$495 per week is also required by a guest member when making a booking to use another property in the club. Visit [www.3RDHOME.com](http://www.3RDHOME.com).

## **Starting 2013 on the right foot in Panama City Beach**

Panama City Beach is presenting the inaugural The Biggest Loser Half Marathon and 5K RunWalk on Dec. 30. The destination has partnered with Dan and Jackie Evans, season five contestants on NBC's hit show "The Biggest Loser," to offer the RunWalk as a non-intimidating environment for participants, with longer course time limits to allow walkers to complete the race at their own pace. The Biggest Loser Half Marathon and 5K RunWalk is licensed through the NBCUniversal Television Consumer Products Group and Shine America. Participants will walk, jog and run the course with the Gulf of Mexico serving as a backdrop. Cost to participate varies depending the time people register: \$125 through Dec. 20; \$150 at packet pick-up registration (if available). Participants can celebrate the completion of the RunWalk at Panama City Beach's Fifth Annual Beach Ball Drop on New Year's Eve. This yearly tradition takes place in the 1.1 million-square-foot outdoor lifestyle center Pier Park, during which an 800-pound glowing beach ball descends to signify the New Year. Earlier in the evening a family ball drop, consisting of 10,000 inflatable beach balls dropped from the sky, and a fireworks display is held. Log on to [www.visitpanamacitybeach.com](http://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com).