



Heaping plates in Bradenton Beach

Mango-coconut waffle at Gulf Drive Cafe



Best Breakfasts in Florida

In search of morning glory, we left no hotcake unflipped, no egg unbroken. Here are our favorites.

BY **ANDY SCHRADER**

We already know Florida boasts the best OJ to start the day. This state offers the best breakfasts too—from north to south and in between. Come along as we sample great takes on familiar morning foods and new dishes you'll love. With opening acts like these, who needs lunch?

Gulf Drive Cafe Bradenton Beach

Give the regular menu a glance, and then ignore it. The daily breakfast specials scrawled on a dry erase board are your best bet. Whatever's freshest and on the minds of owners George and Wendy Kokolis appears there (every morning for nearly 30 years). Onion, pepperoni, and provolone omelets; mango-coconut waffles; and a corned beef hash-and-cheese wrap were the offerings on a recent Sunday morning. If it's after 10 a.m., go for the seasoned cottage fries with finely diced homemade salsa.

900 Gulf Drive; gulfdrivetiki.com or 941-778-1919



Tropical fruit at Sea Porch Café

Sea Porch Café At the Loews Don CeSar Beach Resort St. Pete Beach

Alfresco mornings here come with coffee from a table-side French press. Pancakes are topped with a delicate Key lime Chantilly cream, and the fruit is tropical and fresh. The black pastrami hash with poached eggs and Dijon cream is a must. Have your server validate your parking ticket—due to the high volume of condominiums, public parking lots in south St. Pete Beach are about as rare as a native Floridian.

3400 Gulf Blvd.; 727-360-1881

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