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South Beach Sojourn

Miami, 3 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: South Beach is a unique place in America--- an eclectic mix of local Latin flavor, touristy spots, hip style, and a sun, sand, and surf culture. It's both laid back and New York glamour at the same time...which is what makes Miami great. You may be more likely to hear Spanish than English, but you'll know you're in America.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Miami

DAY NOTE: After a late afternoon arrival and a short jog down the beachside boardwalk, I found a nice little Italian cafe along the Lincoln Mall with outdoor seating.

Afterwards, it was off to the trendy Delano Hotel for a bit of "see and be seen" time at the Rose Bar. The interior spaces are gorgeous---and only matched by the people...if you like that sort of thing.

I stayed at the Fontainebleau, which has undergone a fantastic refurbishing. Back in the Rat Pack era of the 1960's it was the place to go, but then fell out of favor as it aged into the '80's and '90's. It "re-launched" in 2009 with a full facelift, including multiple trendy restaurants, bars, and clubs, stylish modern rooms (complete with Apple computers and an online concierge), and the best pool deck in Miami Beach, with cabanas, bars and chaise lounges surrounding 6 different pools plus several jacuzzis.

 **Fontainebleau Resorts**
Legendary hotel

headed back to South Beach for a few more hours of sand and surf before catching an evening flight home.

 **Miami Beach Botanical Garden**
Beach botanical garden

 **Florida Marlins**
South Florida's pro baseball team

Day 2 - Miami

DAY NOTE: It would be shame to come to southern Florida and not at least get a round of 18 holes in. Afterwards, some refreshments on the promenade at Mango's, followed by a world-class steak dinner at Prime 112.

 **Miami Beach Golf Club**
A gem

 **Prime One Twelve**
A sexy SoBe spot with stable staples

 **Tantra Restaurant & Lounge**
Aphrodisiac specialties

Day 3 - Miami

DAY NOTE: The Marlins may not be so good these days, but it's always fun to lounge in the sun and enjoy a few beers at the ballgame. After some time at the fantastic botanical gardens, I

Day 1 - Miami

QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 605 538 2000 / +1 800
548 8886

fax: 305/535-3286

<http://www.fontainebleau.com/>

location:

4441 Collins Avenue
Miami FL 33140

1 Fontainebleau Resorts

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1954, this world-famous hotel epitomizes the gracious ambience and prestige of its heyday. This 'crown jewel of Miami Beach' is situated by the Atlantic Ocean and is only two miles from the Art Deco District. With its award-winning service and facilities, excellent dining and all the lush greenery expected of a tropical paradise, this five-star hotel lives up to its reputation. The property is comprised of three separate buildings, located on 20 acres of prime real estate and appointed with all the modern amenities you could ever require. © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: +1 305 532 3350
fax: +1 305 532 3840
<http://www.teebone.com/courseprofile.cfm>

location:

2301 Alton Road
Miami FL 33140

1 Miami Beach Golf Club

DESCRIPTION: Formerly Bayshore, the course has undergone a comprehensive renovation under the direction of Arthur Hills. The club was transformed into a high-end daily fee facility that is adjacent to the most popular hotels on Miami Beach. A dazzling jewel in a city of gems. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Miami Beach Golf Club

contact:

tel: +1 305 532 8112
fax: +1 305 532 8778
<http://www.prime112.com>

location:

The Browns Hotel
Miami FL 33139

hours:

Lunch: Noon-3p. Dinner:
6:30p-Midnight

2 Prime One Twelve

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1915, this sexy SoBe spot is the perfect place to drink and dine with Miami's beautiful people. Small seafood appetizers are the way to go here: oysters rockefeller, pan seared scallops or escargot. Sit down (and carnivorous) diners should opt for their Prime One Twelve's namesake—Prime steaks, of which there are multiple choices and sides to accompany. Some standout side dishes include Serrano Ham and Manchego Cheese Gratin, Sweet Potato and Vanilla Bean Mash and the Sea Salt Baked Potatoes, served with Vermont butter, applewood smoked bacon bits and chive sour cream. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: 305 672 4765
<http://www.tantrarestaurant.com/>

location:

1445 Pennsylvania Avenue
Miami FL 33139

hours:

Mo from 07:00 PM to 02:00 AM, Tu to Th from 07:00 PM to 01:00 AM, Fr to Sa from 07:00 PM to 02:00 AM, Su from 07:00 PM to 01:00 AM

3 Tantra Restaurant & Lounge

DESCRIPTION: This restaurant-cum-lounge offers a diverse menu which features a host of dishes created from ingredients believed to possess aphrodisiacal properties. Try the Golden Tom Yum Thai Lobster Soup; entrees include Chilled Maine Lobster Napoleon, Moroccan Spiced Lamb with Mint and Mango, and Ginger Kissed Salmon. There is also live entertainment nightly, including a DJ, live jazz, and dance performances. © wcities.com



wcities

Day 3 - Miami

QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 305 673 7256 x205

fax: +1 305 535 8083

<http://www.mbgarden.org/>

location:

2000 Convention Center Drive
Miami FL 33139

hours:

9a-5p Tu-Su

1 Miami Beach Botanical Garden

DESCRIPTION: The 4.5-acre Miami Beach Botanical Garden showcases a wide variety of plant specimens. In order to attract visitors, it does not charge any admission fee. In addition, The Garden's Banyan Room and Terrace, Butterfly Room, Fountain Courtyard, Great Lawn, Palm Grove and Japanese Garden are available for reservations year round for weddings and other functions. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Miami Beach Botanical Garden

contact:

tel: +1 305 930 4487

<http://florida.marlins.mlb.com/index.jsp>

location:

2267 Northwest 199th Street
Miami FL 33056

2 Florida Marlins

DESCRIPTION: While the Florida Marlins have gone through a rough patch in past years, hopes are high that the team will improve through the seasons. The Marlins are a relatively new team, having played their first season in 1993. However, they already have one World Series under their collective belt, having beaten the Indians in the 7th game of the 1997 tournament. Pro Player Stadium is the official home of the Marlins. © wcities.com



Miami Snapshot

Local Info

Miami's cultural diversity is apparent from the moment you set foot on its soil and hear the rise and fall of a dozen different languages being spoken. It is an easygoing beach town, a refugee camp, and a 24-hour party all at once.

Miami Beach

When talking about Miami, the beach is the best place to start. In the 1940s, when vacationers began to arrive, Miami Beach was the center of the action. Although years have passed and times have changed, the beach remains a perennial hot spot. Enormous luxury resorts such as Fontainebleau and Eden Roc rise majestically against the skyline. Shops and restaurants line the streets, and who could forget the miles of white sand beach!

South Beach

Once home to a number of retired citizens and starving artists, South Beach has now risen to international fame as a popular vacation destination. Every block is packed with restaurants, bars, shops, and—of course—dance clubs, each trendier, more glamorous and cutting-edge than the last. One could spend days soaking in the sights and sounds of South Beach. Take a walking tour along Ocean Drive or down Lincoln Road, where the beautiful people come out to play. Whether it's three in the morning or three in the afternoon, there is bound to be plenty to do.

Bal Harbour

Located on the northern end of Miami Beach, Bal Harbour is the most exclusive neighborhood in Greater Miami. Luxury resorts sit serenely amid the lush foliage and palatial homes. No visit to this district is complete—or even begun—without a visit to the Bal Harbour Shops. Versace, Louis Vuitton, Fendi and Prada are just a few of the fashion houses that have retail outlets in this shopping center. Plenty of fine dining can be found in Bal Harbour. (If you're on a budget, this isn't the place to dine or shop!)

Downtown Miami

Although primarily a business district, there's a lot to see and do downtown. Tour the design district between Northeast 36th and 41st Streets, or check out the

museums in the Metro-Dade Cultural Center. Shoppers will delight in the Bayside Marketplace with its retail shops, open-air crafts market, half-dozen restaurants and pier. The Port of Miami is next to Bayside, where you can easily find a boat to take you on a tour around the bay.

Coral Gables

Coral Gables is a gated enclave crisscrossed by canals, just a few minutes' drive from Downtown Miami. This small, tree-lined village is home to many of Miami's most famous attractions, including the Biltmore Hotel, Venetian Pool and Miracle Mile. Excellent shopping and dining can be found on the Miracle Mile as well as on the side streets surrounding it.

Coconut Grove

Although this bustling district is one of the oldest in Miami, it seems to just be hitting its prime. Full of energy and creativity, the Grove is as busy as South Beach, but in a different way. Instead of attracting models and body builders, it draws in artists, writers and patrons of the arts. There are hundreds of fabulous shops and restaurants crammed within this small area, most of them located on the CocoWalk or on the Streets of Mayfair. The Coconut Grove Playhouse is one of the best live theater venues in the southeastern United States.

Key Biscayne

Though located just over the Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne might as well be a thousand miles away. Things are different on this peaceful tropical island: the pace slows down, people are friendly and matter-of-fact. If the marvelous white sand beaches and varied leisure sports aren't enough reason to go, consider the prospect of kissing a dolphin at the Miami Seaquarium!

Little Havana

This area is located west of Brickell Avenue and runs along the thoroughfare known as Calle Ocho (Southwest 8th Street). Many immigrants and refugees from Cuba have settled here, along with natives of Colombia, Guatemala, Puerto Rico and other Latin American countries. It is in this district that you can enjoy authentic salsa music, indulge in a complete Cuban meal for under USD10, or try a steaming cup of

shockingly strongcafé cubano in an outdoor café.

West Miami

West Miami is a quieter, more residential area. It's spread out and almost impossible to sightsee without a car. Hialeah and Miami Lakes, two residential communities, are located in this area. Miami International Airport is also situated here along with Hialeah Park Racetrack.

North Miami/Aventura

While it may be slightly out of the way, Aventura is easy to reach even without a car, thanks to the shuttle buses that run regularly from the major downtown hotels to the Aventura Mall. The mall is well worth a day trip, as it boasts over 250 shops, restaurants and attractions. This district is also home to dozens of excellent restaurants, many of them specializing in "Floribbean" cuisine.

Fort Lauderdale: Once upon a time, one could look down the road along Fort Lauderdale beach and inland along U.S. 1 and see flat land and the occasional scrubby palmetto as far as the eye could see. Now villages meld into adjoining towns, towns into cities, suburbs into each other and the entire county has become one sprawling megalopolis that stretches from the sea to the Everglades and from the northern border of Miami to the southern border of Palm Beach and beyond.

South

South of Fort Lauderdale is Hollywood, which has a small but significantly entertaining downtown area built around one of the several big traffic circles that characterize the city. Thanks to a redevelopment project that beautified downtown streets with intriguing architectural touches, trees and flowers, downtown Hollywood has become a popular. Restaurants like and, and shops like Sigrid Olsen are popular among visitors.

Not far away, the tiny town of Dania, founded by tomato farmers, has left its farms behind and is best known for a street lined on both sides by dozens of antique shops brimming with an eclectic array of collectibles. Parimutuel fans flock here to, where talented handball players compete,

Miami Snapshot continued

slamming a wooden ball around at speeds up to 100mph and catching it in a hand-held basket.

Beach enthusiasts will find some of the region's most intriguing sands here, many of them tucked away behind forests of palms, pines and palmetto bushes. The standout is, where you'll find many a sea turtle.

North

Traveling north of Fort Lauderdale, one wanders through a series of small towns including Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, which pretty much describes this tiny town that is home to a cluster of small inns and a few seaside cafes. The 180-acre is filled with animals and tall, lovely trees. Beyond lies the city of Pompano, which gets its name from a coveted fish found in abundance here. Pompano is particularly proud of its sportfishing options and is home to a number of fishing competitions, a big fishing pier and a popular. Hillsboro Beach, home to some of the region's most imposing seaside manses, is one of the loveliest parts of the drive, with the road rolling beneath massive trees and vegetation that must look much as it did a century ago when the fabled Barefoot Mailman strode the sand, armed with mail for the region's earliest settlers. Hillsboro Inlet is home to a fishing fleet so you can always find a fishing trip here and fresh-from-the-sea seafood at the.

Continuing northward, you pass through Deerfield Beach, home to a few small resorts, before you reach Boca Raton. Boca's love and lure is its historic and elegant, a creation of architect Addison Mizner, whose pseudo-Mediterranean architecture is a wonder to behold.

West

To the west of Fort Lauderdale lies a host of smaller cities that are the bedroom communities of the region, their residents working in municipalities throughout the area or in Miami. Among those are Sunrise, Plantation, Tamarac, Miramar, Pembroke Pines, Coral Springs, Margate, Lauderdale Lakes, Davie—which is particularly proud of its farmland and celebrates it with Western-style architectural touches—and the newest town of them all, Weston, a developer's dream just minutes from the Everglades.

Broward County

While Broward County is not officially a part of Miami, it might as well be — it's less than a half hour away. The thriving art community of Hollywood, the outlets at Sawgrass Mills and, last but not least, the decadent little city of Fort Lauderdale are a few possible destinations in Broward. The pace is slightly more relaxed than in Miami, but people are here to have fun, make no mistake about it. Enjoy the shops on Las Olas or dine in a restaurant that has its own private boat dock for guests traveling by water.

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History

Miami: Driving down Highway 395 from Miami Beach, one can only gaze in wonder at the white skyline rising from the tropical waters and set upon the blue-pink-orange sky. It's amazing to think that not long ago, swampland vegetation and mosquitoes dominated the area. In a short period of time, the city has emerged as a major cosmopolitan center for international business, tourism, fashion and nightlife.

Long before the trendy street cafes of Coconut Grove or the pastel buildings of the Art Deco district, the Tequesta Indians made this region their home. The Spanish built a mission here in 1567, when the area was known as "Mayaimi," but it remained secluded and generally inactive until the U.S. acquisition of Florida in 1821. Hundreds of pioneers settled in the region around the Miami River, but growth was stymied by the lack of a speedy and efficient land route to the north.

Motivated by a vision of the region's potential, or simply because of a desire for "civilization," settler Julia Tuttle convinced magnate Henry Flagler to extend the route of the railroad he was building. In 1896, the completion of the Florida East Coast Railroad opened Miami to the rest of the United States, and marked the birth of a new city.

Flagler opened one of Miami's first luxury hotels, the Royal Palm, and its success inspired others to follow suit. In the 1910s, John S. Collins and Carl F. Fisher collaborated on an ambitious real estate project that transformed a mangrove swamp into present-day Miami Beach. A decade later, George E. Merrick developed the well-planned residential area of Coral

Gables with its plazas, fountains, Spanish street names carved on white stones, broad boulevards and shady oak trees. To complement the residential developments, Merrick created the elegant Biltmore Hotel, with its elaborate Mediterranean-style design.

Other individuals decided to apply their investments to their personal estates. James Deering built his exquisite 16th century Italian Villa Vizcaya by the bay and filled the architectural masterpiece with a collection of art work.

The 1920s are widely associated with extravagant spending and ostentatious lifestyles. With the sudden property boom and influx of investment capital, Miami was in full swing in this era of abundance. Its population burgeoned, and the Art Deco movement brought a unique flavor to Miami Beach. But just as Miami began to enjoy this prosperity, the Depression and two devastating hurricanes temporarily halted progress.

In the 1940s, Miami became home to soldiers living in the city's military training camps. Known to attract a diverse blend of people, Miami also became the residence of the outlaw Al Capone. In the 1950s, the tourism industry continued to grow. The white sandy beaches and warm climate provided the perfect setting for winter vacations. But Miami was still mainly a tourist playground and had yet to reach its full potential as a metropolis.

Following Castro's 1959 revolution, the mass Cuban immigration has been greatly responsible for Miami's growth as an area of international business and commerce. The first wave of political exiles included several educated professionals with a desire to apply their knowledge and skills to the city's growth. The Cuban community developed its own economic and social enclave and fostered ties to the Latin American market. International business took Miami's downtown by storm as the city rapidly grew into more than just a tourist town.

As with any big city, Miami began to experience problems in its transitional growth. Crime rose tremendously in the 1980s. Race relations grew tense, riots broke out, and the historic Art Deco district in South Beach was left to deteriorate. Today, however, the crime rate is down and restoration projects abound.

Miami Snapshot continued

Miami has come a long way since the days of Julia Tuttle and Henry Flagler. As the gateway to Latin America, Miami serves as the headquarters for many international companies and is home to the leading Spanish-language media in the United States. South Beach has become one of the country's hottest hubs of style, fashion and nightlife. The ethnically diverse city continues to attract a multitude of cultures. Miami is truly unique — a tropical paradise with a rich history, a diverse population and a "not quite in the United States" feel.

Fort Lauderdale: Florida's Gold Coast, of which Fort Lauderdale is such an integral part, is proof that contemporary alchemy exists.

Seven decades ago, what is now seductive sands, swaying sea oats and glittering hotels and condominiums was palmetto scrub and swampland. Along these sands, only the occasional beached sailor and the fabled barefoot mailman strode.

Many generations ago, the Abaniki tribe of Native Americans lived beside the sea here, followed generations later by pirates who awaited an opportunity to attack Spanish galleons heading home from Central America, loaded with gold.

Some didn't just await an opportunity —they created it. Early entrepreneurs called 'wreckers' lured ships onto the spiky shoreline stones that gave Boca Raton, which translates loosely to 'rat's mouth', its unglamorous Spanish name, a salute to the rocks' resemblance to rat's teeth. Wreckers had a pretty easy job of it, however as hurricanes and inadequate navigational aids sent many a ship to a watery death. So often did this happen, in fact, that the locals often went to church to pray not only for booty, but for specific booty, designed to meet the need of the moment. So handsomely were some prayers answered that a massive party went on for days in Boca Raton when a Spanish shipwreck produced hundreds of barrels of sherry.

The wreckers were such a demanding crowd that, by the late 1800s, they were accusing shipowners of sending out worthless cargo to collect insurance money. Audacity like that is nothing new in these climes, where some of the nation's most flamboyant characters have made miracles and millions, trading on pride and sunny circumstances.

One of these characters was long-ailing architect Addison Mizner, who rode railroad entrepreneur Henry Flagler's train to Palm Beach to swim in healing sunshine. He ended up swimming in millions of dollars, happily paid by those who commissioned him to build massive homes along the Gold Coast. Palm Beach and Boca Raton soon became the stronghold of Addison's flashy 'Bastard-Spanish-Moorish-Romanesque-Gothic-Renaissance-Bull Market- Damn-the-Expense' architectural style.

In 1925, he created Boca's Cloisters Hotel, which stands still as part of a massive resort complex. He created the Breakers Hotel. He created Palm Beach's toney Worth Avenue. He created half of Palm Beach, at least, and what he didn't create, others created by copying his embellished style.

No shrinking violets when it came to promotion, he and his cronies lured the famed and infamous of the day, perfecting an enduring technique Mizner called, 'Get the big snobs, and the little ones will follow'.

Mizner's boom spread southward to Fort Lauderdale and environs, where canny characters salted the seaside with 'pirate gold' to lure buyers who already were pouring USD2 million a week into Mizner's sales coffers. So wildly farcical and often felonious did it all become that Boca Raton earned the nickname *Beaucoup Rotten*.

While this investors' feeding frenzy was luring wealth-seekers to the Gold Coast, down in Fort Lauderdale, a young man named Frank Stranahan was seeking his fortune in the sunshine along the city's New River. There he opened a general store and built a ferryboat to sail Miami-bound travelers across the river. To his humble home and store, which still stands, Seminoles paddled downstream from the marshes. They would sleep over on his porch before beginning the upstream return. Later, boarders of a more conventional nature slept in his extra rooms. When a young teacher named Ivy arrived, he married her, and the town of Fort Lauderdale, named for Maj. William Lauderdale, who had once commanded a fort on the site, was born.

All the bubbles burst when the Depression spread its depressing tentacles across the nation, but at least Addison Mizner

sunk into fiscal gloom with characteristic style. Mizner sold a barren plot of land to an entrepreneur, whose efforts to grow coconuts failed miserably. The buyer sued Mizner, claiming he had been told he could "grow nuts" on the land. 'Oh no', Mizner responded to the judge, 'I told him you could go nuts on the land'.

In the years that followed, some went nuts, some went broke, but as the decades passed, the lure of year-round sun, sparkling sea and swaying palms proved irresistible to buyers.

That boom continued—and continues—as Fort Lauderdale became Greater Fort Lauderdale, encompassing a host of smaller urban areas stretching from the southern border of Palm Beach to the northern edge of Miami, luring thousands to a golden coastline that has become one of the nation's best-loved sunspots.

© NileGuide

Hotel Insights

Miami Beach

Miami Beach is, in many ways, the quintessential vacation destination. This strip of land, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, offers miles of gorgeous beaches, a wide variety of lodging choices and plenty of shopping, dining and entertainment options. It is connected to the mainland by six causeways. Families and international travelers often frequent mid-range hotels such as the Golden Sands or the Dezerland Miami Beach Resort, while honeymooners, convention-goers and anyone wishing to splurge can wallow in luxury at resorts such as Loews Miami Beach Hotel or the Fontainebleau.

South Beach

South Beach lies in the southernmost section of Miami Beach. If you're wondering where the best parties are, look no further—they're all here. The only question is, how close do you want to be? If you stay in a place like the National or the Clevelander, you won't even have to leave the hotel to find yourself in the center of the action. However, at some point amid the shopping, dining and general revelry that constitutes a stay in South Beach, you may want to sleep. If so, make sure you choose a hotel that allows for it. The Blue Moon Hotel and the lushly landscaped Hotel Impala offer

Miami Snapshot continued

pockets of serenity within the busy rush of central South Beach.

Bal Harbour

Bal Harbour is on the northern end of Miami Beach. It is the most exclusive district in South Florida, and offers only a few accommodation choices, all of them expensive. While some of the world's finest shopping can be found at the Bal Harbour Shops, the main appeal of the district is its stately seclusion. Luxury accommodations there, including the Alexander Hotel, offer every imaginable amenity, including the intangible but priceless one: privacy.

Central Miami

Central Miami is the home of some of the largest, most imposing hotels. Business or leisure travelers who wish to be in the center of the city will appreciate the convenience of the Hotel InterContinental or the Hyatt Regency Miami. Located only minutes from the Port of Miami, Bayside Marketplace and the Metro-Dade Cultural Center, these hotels can be found in the center of the Financial District, near the Design District.

Coral Gables

Coral Gables is a charming gated village crisscrossed by canals and covered in lush vegetation. Here you'll also find the The Venetian Pool, an enormous swimming pool shaped by a coral formation. Another attraction is the Biltmore Hotel, a good home base for visitors who like to combine sightseeing with other activities. Another venerable hotel is the Omni Colonnade, located a block away from the Miracle Mile shopping district.

Coconut Grove

Coconut Grove is a bustling little arts district, chock full of shopping, dining and entertainment destinations. The Grove is second only to South Beach in energy and activity. Accommodation choices are numerous, and most of them are pricey. The Mutiny Hotel offers great service in beautiful surroundings. The Mayfair Hotel & Spa, located just across the street from the Streets of Mayfair shopping center, is a study in stately elegance.

West Miami

West Miami offers safe, clean, budget-friendly lodgings, as well as more expensive ones. If people choose to stay

here, it's either to save money or to be close to the airport. If you're trying to save money, however, note that the only way to get into central Miami is by automobile — and a cab costs about USD20 each way. Most of the quality inexpensive hotels are recognized chains such as the Holiday Inn or the Days Inn. One of the most expensive hotels is the Miami International Airport Hotel, located inside the airport terminal. While the noise of planes flying overhead might be a distraction, this hotel is quite pleasant in all other respects. It's elegant, comfortable and ever so convenient.

The choices above are just a few of the best options in the most popular districts. There are hundreds of other accommodations to choose from, ranging from rock-bottom to five-star. Whatever you're looking for in a hotel, there is no doubt that if you look long and hard enough, you'll find it here.

Fort Lauderdale: Whether you want to view the ocean and hear early morning waves breaking along Fort Lauderdale's famous beach, relax in luxury amid serene Everglades preserves on its western borders, or anything in between, there's a wide variety of accommodations to fit every comfort, style and budget.

Port Everglades

Along the Intracoastal Waterway at Port Everglades where cruise ships abound, the, an established landmark since 1959, has a revolving lounge at the top and 142 boat slips at its marina. The, or the offer luxurious accommodations, all close to the Convention Center, shopping and restaurants near downtown Fort Lauderdale.

South

Just south of Fort Lauderdale proper is the landmark, a famed 1920's grand hotel, now a condominium located right on the beach. The boardwalk is filled with strollers and skaters as well as with many shops, cafes and restaurants with umbrella shaded tables. There's plenty of entertainment and nightlife right outside your door. Also on the south beach area close to local attractions, you'll find the Clarion Hotel Hollywood Beach.

North Beach Area

If you prefer apartment style lodging, there are many large, furnished units such as

the, , and the. Near the famous downtown shopping along famous Las Olas Blvd, one and two bedroom accommodations can also be found at the.

Many places to stay in the Fort Lauderdale area are comfortable but unpretentious, offering simple amenities, but are close to attractions and the beach, such as the and the. Just north of Fort Lauderdale on the beach is the, offering many conveniences such as coffeemaker, hair dryer, and data port. Also, the Best Inn Polynesian Hotel is a beautiful resort close to attractions, shopping and the beach. When a charming bed and breakfast is your desire near the downtown area, the and the.

For older and smaller beach accommodations near Fort Lauderdale Beach with only a few rooms, but the draw is a multilingual staff, stay at, , Jasmin Villa Motel or.

West

Along the western edge of the Everglades boundary about ten miles from the international airport, is the, or the with its championship golf courses and clay court tennis, not to mention a dazzling tropical garden complete with swans and waterfalls. They offer luxurious seclusion from the fast-paced world to the east, but with easy access to major highways to get right back in. The, a shopper's paradise and one of the largest outlets in the United States with over 250 stores, is only a few minutes away.

Airport

Accommodations just southwest of the downtown area near the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, you'll find the, adjacent to the Fashion Mall, a two-tiered enclosed shopping center, the, and the. Although they are chain hotels, they offer busy travelers convenient lodging with excellent amenities, close to main highways, attractions, shopping and restaurants.

Miami: When you're looking for accommodations in Miami, keep one thing in mind: the nature and cost of your stay will be determined by the location of your hotel. Within the hazy borders of Greater Miami, over a dozen smaller towns coexist, each with a distinct personality and pace. Visitors are sure to find the perfect vacation spot somewhere within the city; it's just a matter of knowing where to look.

Miami Snapshot continued

© NileGuide

Restaurants Insights

Miami takes its dining scene very seriously. People come from all over the world to drink and dine in this sunny city by the Atlantic Ocean. Restaurants range from South American to Continental to Caribbean, while the local fusion cuisine known as "Floribbean" borrows influences from all three regions.

Many of the city's restaurants specialize in fresh, local seafood. Swordfish, yellowtail, lobster and oysters have a place on most menus. In the autumn and winter, stone crab season takes over. At restaurants such as the legendary Joe's Stone Crab, people wait for hours to enjoy the delicious crustaceans.

Many of Miami's eateries represent countries and regions of Latin and South America. Brazilianrodizio, Argentinechurrasco and Peruvian seafood are just a few of the ethnic specialties local restaurants dish out. Dozens of Cuban eateries serve filling, tasty meals at a considerably low price.

Whether you're looking for a cheap and filling meal, a gourmet Italian feast or a night among the stars, you can find it in one of the districts of this splendidly diverse city.

South Beach and Miami Beach

South Beach is the epicenter of excitement and glamor. It is here, at restaurants like the China Grill that you're most likely to spot a celebrity at the next table. Many flock to Club Tropigala for their top-notch entertainment and Caribbean cuisine. Although many of the restaurants are very pricey, places such as the ever-popular Blue Door offer a pleasant atmosphere, low prices and great food. Grab an outside table and enjoy wine and cheese as you ogle the SoBe street scene.

Although central Miami Beach is not as jam-packed with restaurants as its southern neighbor, there are plenty of excellent dining options, many of them located within the luxury hotels. At Bleau View, located in the famed Fontainebleau, patrons can savor the delicious American fare while enjoying the tranquil view of the ocean nearby.

Downtown Miami

Downtown Miami is popular with businesspeople and other locals. Nightlife is nonexistent, but there's a flourishing restaurant scene. The various steakhouses serve delicious food with a local twist. Monserrate has South American dishes on its menu, and specializes in steak, while Soyka has American classics like burgers and fries. For those looking for something out of the ordinary in Miami, try the German restaurant Edelweiss.

Coral Gables

Coral Gables, a quaint village within Greater Miami, boasts a culturally rich entertainment and dining scene. Sample Jamaican gourmet cuisine at Ortanique on the Mile, or go to the French Brasserie Les Halles, which also has a full event calendar for its guests. Greek rustic is the focus at Mylo's, and for classic Italian look no further than Mozart Stube.

Coconut Grove

Coconut Grove, another small, trendy community within Central Miami, boasts a number of excellent casual and gourmet dining choices. You'll find the best seafood around at Chart House and Monty's Stone Crab & Seafood Restaurant. Mambo is an energetic Cuban café where you can get a great meal for a reasonable amount of money.

Key Biscayne

Key Biscayne's restaurants have a different feel from any other part of Miami- or any other part of the world. The dining establishments are characteristically laid-back and informal; most of the time, they open and close when they choose and menus can change daily. Grab fish and fries at a local spot and then venture over to Sundays on the Bay for a frozen drink. The Rusty Pelican has classic American cuisine and a brunch on Sundays. For Italian, stop at Stefano's where traditional Italian dishes such as Quail can be found.

Little Havana

Little Havana, located in Central Miami, has the greatest number of excellent Cuban and South American eateries. Versailles, while slightly more expensive than others, is famous for its food. Another excellent choice is Casa Juancho, where diners can enjoy authentic Spanish cuisine in a comfortable and elegant atmosphere with

live flamenco music. The district can be somewhat unsafe after dark, so visitors are recommended to travel in groups.

Hialeah

Hialeah, a suburb of West Miami, caters to locals, and the prices tend to be more reasonable than in other parts of the city. Los Ranchos, a popular chain of South American steakhouses, is typical of the neighborhood's restaurants. The food is excellent, the decor is attractive, and social climbers are rarely in attendance.

Aventura

Aventura, best known for the gargantuan Aventura Mall, can claim its fair share of fusion restaurants, from expensive to reasonably priced. For inventive cuisine that doesn't stretch the budget, check out the Gourmet Diner.

Fort Lauderdale: Once billed as the home of more restaurants per capita than any city in the nation, Fort Lauderdale loves—and virtually lives in—its restaurants. Hardly a day goes by in the city where the discussion doesn't turn to the latest great restaurant find: a favorite seafood haven, the best spot for steak, a great waterside spot or a new romantic-dining discovery.

Port Everglades

It's easy to find amazing steak, at such renowned spots as and the casual or the woodsy, the later two as popular for their brimming salad bars and French onion soup as for their beef and seafood selections. Cool-chic can be had at, and trendy crowds also head for the seaside, where an intriguing menu is abetted by an equally diverting seaside location.

Downtown

Work does get done in Fort Lauderdale but much of it gets done over lunch at such popular downtown spots as, where street-side tables are packed by noon. At, where an award-winning chef and a sleekly sophisticated atmosphere cater to the wants of classy customers, the tables are full from midday to nearly midnight. When the flavors of France tempt, thundering herds head for, where chefs of considerable local renown have been presiding over their respective, and respected, kitchens for decades. Enjoy Southwestern fare at or have some pizazz and pizza at. Dine with a view, waterside, at.

Miami Snapshot continued

Those who want the sand almost between their toes as they dine head for the north end of the beach where Aruba, an on-the-beach—casual dining spot offers views of swimmers and suntan fans frolicking alongside a fishing pier, where determined anglers dangle a hook in hopes of snagging supper. Have some fish and chips on the river at Shirttail Charlie's. Those who delight in the combination of casual and gourmet may head for, where the menu is as intriguing as the green-striped exterior.

If the focus of discussion is seafood, you are likely to hear enraptured tales of dinner at, tucked away in a marina where impressive yachts provide entertainment, or, where much of the staff has been around long enough to recognize regular customers.

North Beach Area

Not far away on chic Las Olas Boulevard, lines form on weekends at the, where judges and lawyers, politicians and regular folks gather to gossip as they down a creative collection of egg selections—one even including a bottle of champagne—in the ultimate in casual surroundings, inside and out. Boulevardiers who aren't at the Floridian can likely be found at just down the way, or up on Federal Highway at, where French-speaking bakers create what the name suggests, along with baguettes, epis and a host of downright irresistible pastries, sandwiches and sweets.

Indulge in comfort foods at and enjoy the elegant Oriental options at. Picadillo and plantains can be had at, or try the bouillabaisse at the beach at. If steak is more your taste, bask in the kitsch in a den at. You can always have a yodel at, where the food is homemade and divine. If an evening that includes both fine food and enchanting entertainment is in order, no Fort Lauderdale devotee would fail to name the, one of the city's oldest restaurants and perhaps its most revered.

At, French touches are applied to contemporary cuisine. If you'd like to enjoy a bar atmosphere with your dinner, try, where the food is simple, and the people-watching is complex.

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Nightlife Insights

Miami: With such a diverse mix of people, it is no wonder that Miami has become a cultural mecca. From theater to music to dance, Miami delivers world-class entertainment. Beyond the stage and screen, the streets of South Beach offer some of the best nightclubs in the world. At night, in any given hotspot you can let loose to the sounds of salsa, jazz, hip-hop and techno. The different cultures that revolve around the arts and entertainment scenes blend to form Miami's unique flavor.

Cinema

Even with all the Blockbuster Video stores (the chain's billionaire founder lives in the Miami area), locals and visitors continue to flock to the closest cinema for the big screen experience. Catch mainstream films at multiplex theaters like the Mayfair Cinemas in Coconut Grove. For state-of-the-art facilities, visit the luxurious Regal Cinemas 18 in South Beach, or the spacious AMC Theatres 24 in the Aventura Mall. There are also several smaller theaters with a bit more history and an interesting selection of features.

Comedy

Good humor comes naturally in a city blessed with beautiful weather year-round. A few local clubs feature comedians that keep the visitors and locals laughing into the wee hours. One of the most popular laugh factories is the Improv Comedy Club in Coconut Grove. The club hosts a variety of acts and features talented line-ups of comics from all over the country.

Dance

From classical to modern to ethnic, Miami has a rich array of dance theater. Even the most classical repertoire is infused with a certain innovative quality. The Miami City Ballet is recognized as one of the top 10 companies in the nation. The company's impressive repertoire (over 80 productions and counting) delicately blends the classical and the contemporary. For the more traditionally inclined, Ballet Etudes of South Florida performs classical masterpieces, while the thrilling performances by Ballet Flamenco La Rosa capture the passion and spirit of flamenco.

Museums

Whatever your interest, Miami offers a museum related to it. Celebrate the city's intriguing past at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. Explore the mysteries of science and space at the Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium. Take a stroll through the exquisite 16th-century Italian Villa Vizcaya and gardens. For those who enjoy the visual arts, there are outstanding collections at the Miami Art Museum, the Bass Museum of Art, the Wolfsonian, the Lowe Art Museum and the Jewish Museum of Florida.

Music

Miami attracts a medley of sounds and talents. Whether it's a jazz festival, a symphony orchestra concert or the Latin beats of Miami's own Gloria Estefan, the city's musical offerings are never at a loss. The innovative New World Symphony showcases fresh talent at the Lincoln Theatre. Also of interest is the talented Miami Symphony Orchestra. There is also the Florida Grand Opera, which presents five productions annually.

Nightclubs

Some of the best nightclubs in the nation can be found in South Beach. The ever-popular dance clubs around the Beach include the always rocking Crobar. Salsa dancing can also be found all over the city. For a mellow alternative, spend the night listening to live jazz at the lively Jazid. South Beach generally carries the bulk of the dance clubs, while Coconut Grove offers a variety of live music venues. Miami's nightlife, however, is much too diverse and extensive for such generalizations. You can always find something going on somewhere.

Theatre

No matter what the season, the stage is always set in Miami. Whether it's a Broadway road show or a local production, the audience is sure to be dazzled. The nationally acclaimed Coconut Grove Playhouse is famous for premiering shows that go on to successful runs in New York. In the elegant Biltmore Hotel, GableStage offers an exciting season of Florida premieres and New York hits. The Actor's Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre also offers quality productions by a talented residential troupe. The Miami Light Project—a non-profit organization that produces music, dance and theater—has the freshest

Miami Snapshot continued

talent in town. Teatro Avante produces the annual International Festival of Hispanic Theatre and presents regular performances in Spanish. Miami's cultural venues are as intriguing for their appearance as for the performances on their stages. From the sophisticated setting of the Jackie Gleason Theater to the charming Art Deco design of the Colony Theatre, audiences have much to admire during intermission.

Fort Lauderdale: Fort Lauderdale is nothing if not entertaining. From—thankfully—long-gone days when an unremarkable film called *Where the Boys Are* skyrocketed the city to collegiate fame, to these simply sunny days when sophisticates have taken over the sands and ousted the undergrads, the city has learned many a lesson about entertainment.

Nature

Nature fans head to such spots as, where strange contraptions known as airboats skim across shallow waters for a look at that vast 'river of grass' heralded by authors and closely guarded by environmentalists. Here baby alligators play, deer seek refuge on high spots, birds swoop and squawk and visitors marvel at miles and miles and more miles of tropical trees, greenery and grasses as far as the eye can see. You can also explore the mangrove swamp at the or discover the sea turtles at the 56-acre.

For a man-made look at the creatures with whom we share the planet, a stop at is a not-to-be-missed diversion. Animals of the African veldt roam free while you stay caged in your car as they stare curiously at those strange creatures behind the glass—a nice twist on the zoo scene and an intriguing way to go nose-to-nose with a giraffe.

Museums

If history is your book, the city's small Himmarshee Village area focuses on the past. The city's first hotel sits serenely by the water, and some of its first homes are now on display, or in use as chic riverside restaurants. Star of the history scene is tiny, the antique, New River home of the city's founders: she a teacher, he operating the ferry that was once the only way to cross the river and make your way to Miami.

To learn a little about the Seminoles, whose flight from their own tribe ended in yet another flight from British, Spanish and American usurpers, visit, in the heart of

Big Cypress Reservation. One Seminole, a member of the Billie clan, created the Everglades'. You can paddle a dugout canoe, tune in to a Seminole storyteller or stay overnight in palm-thatched 'chickee' huts.

Art lovers will enjoy the displays at the and the.

Sports

If sports are the diversion of choice, Fort Lauderdale and environs present not dozens but hundreds of golf courses like and, and tennis courts like the, and plenty of oceanfront rollerblading and skateboarding space.

Performing Arts

Stage, ballet and opera performances take place at a variety of venues throughout the city, with touring Broadway plays going on stage at the showy waterfront. Just across the street, the offers its own kind of theater in a huge-screen, as well as in a variety of intriguing exhibits, even including a spot that's for children only, off-limits to adults. Theater productions also take place at cozy, the city's first full-fledged theater.

Nightlife

Finally, to unite history, water, nature—and to toss in a little dining, singing and comedy that's tame enough for any age or sensibility—a visit to Fort Lauderdale simply must include a lunch or dinner sail aboard the venerable, one of the state's oldest attractions. As you float by, homeowners come out on their lawns to wave, proving once again the joys of a small town that's small, but significant.

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Things to Do Insights

Miami: Whether you spend the day tanning on the beach or discovering the various shops and cultural attractions, there's plenty to do in Miami.

South Beach Ocean Drive is filled with shops, cafes, restaurants and views that epitomize Miami's beautiful natural surroundings. The Miami Beach Marina is a great place to spend the day. Dine at the nearby Balans. There are also many well-known museums in South Beach, such as the World Erotic Art Museum (WEAM), the R.J. Hohimer Signature Gallery and the

Kennedy Gallery. The Holocaust Memorial is also located in South Beach.

Bayside Marketplace The Bayside Marketplace begins to wake up around 10a, when the first sightseers depart for a two-hour breakfast cruise around Biscayne Bay and the Port of Miami. Grab a bite at the 11th Street Diner. Take a stroll in Bayfront Park, which is right next to the Marketplace. The Park also contains the Bayfront Park Amphitheater, where there are frequent concerts and other events.

Coral Gables Coral Gables is well-known for the Venetian Pool, which was formed from a coral rock quarry in 1923. Take a dip in the pool in the early afternoon, when the heat of the day is at its peak. Grab a bite to eat at the café, then dry off, clean up, and head over to Biltmore Hotel. The Biltmore is both a designated national historic landmark and a five-star luxury hotel. This neighborhood is also the site of the annual Festival Miami. Dine at La Palme d'Or.

Miracle Mile Wander down the Miracle Mile, where there is always a big event taking place. Jazz lovers should stop by the Satchmo Blues Bar & Grill, while theater fans can see what's playing at the Actors Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre. Ortanique is one of the most famous restaurants on this strip.

Florida Keys Just south of Miami are a string of islands called the Florida Keys, connected by one main highway. Waters are crystal clear and the sea life is amazing. Coral Castle is an incredible work of art that took 28 years to finish. Browse the different trees and buy some preserves at the nearby Fruit and Spice Park. Dine at the Main Street Cafe. Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park, located across the way on the mainland, are two of Florida's most unique. Not far from the Everglades is the Black Point Marina, popular among those that fish and sail.

There are many tour companies in Miami that offer a wide variety of options for seeing the city, from air boat tours to eco-adventure tours.

Car Tours Go Car Tours(+1 888 462 2755/http://www.gocartours.com)

Boat Tours Island Queen Cruises(+1 305 379 5119/http://www.islandqueencruises.com) Discovery Cruise Line(+1 888 213 8253/http://

Miami Snapshot continued

www.discoverycruise.com) Boca Chica Key & Lighthouse Tour(+1 305 230 1100) Blackbeard's Cruises(+1 954 734 7111/ +1 800 327 9600/http://www.blackbeard-cruises.com) Urban Tour Host(+1 305 416 6868/http://www.miamiculturaltours.com/index.php) Miami Duck Tours(+1 786 276 8300/http://www.ducktoursmiami.com) Thriller Powerboat Tours(+1 305 373 7001) Heritage Tours(+1 305 442 9697/http://www.heritageschooner.com/heritage.html)

Airboat Tours Everglade Airboat Tours(+1 305 221 9888) Air Boat USA(+1 305 219 1200/http://www.airboatusa.com) Gator Park(+1 800 559 2205/+1 305 559 2255/http://www.gatorpark.com) Coopertown Airboat Tours(+1 305 226 6048/http://www.coopertownairboats.com)

Eco-Adventure Tours Miami Dade Eco-Adventure Tours(+1 305 365 3018/http://www.miamidade.gov/parks/ecoadventures.asp) Everglades Day Safari(+1 239 472 1559/ http://www.ecosafari.com/boat.cfm) Wild Dolphin Adventures(+1 305 296 3737/+1 866 296 3737/http://www.wilddolphinadventures.com) Miami River Historical Jungle Tours(+1 305 755 9055) Urban Tour Host(+1 305 416 6868/http://www.miamiculturaltours.com/index.php)

Fort Lauderdale: From the historic to the serene, Fort Lauderdale offers many attractions for visitors.

Museum of Discovery and Science Downtown Fort Lauderdale is home to the, the and the. Browse the offerings at, then have dinner at.

Stranahan House Explore the many fine galleries located downtown. The, the and the are three of the best. Tour, the city's oldest home, then dine at.

Old Fort Lauderdale Village & Museum Stroll through the historic, then picnic at and visit. Have dinner at or.

Old Dillard Art and Cultural Museum In North Fort Lauderdale, visit the, the and. Grab lunch at, then go to in Tradewinds Park.

Sunshine Cathedral Tour the, cool off at Paradise Cove Water Playground or hit the links at. When you're through, dine at or.

Go snorkeling, take a deep sea fishing trip or take a ride in a helicopter; there are many ways to see Fort Lauderdale.

Bus Tours Crestline Coach Tours(+1 954 200 6970) Sovereign Coach & Tours(+1 954 792 8068/http://corporateconnectionlines.com/) Charter Ride USA(+1 877 729 0956/http://www.charterrideusa.com/)

Snorkeling Tours (+1 954 657 6000/http://www.seaxp.com/) (+1 954 776 3483/http://www.prodiveusa.com/)

Boat Tours (+1 954 776 3483/http://www.prodiveusa.com/) (+1 954 764 7742/http://www.sacksyachts.com) (+1 954 728 8454) (+1 954 524 1234/http://www.waterfantaseas.com) (+1 954 463 3440)

Helicopter Tours (+1 561 799 3636/http://cloud9helicopters.com)

Fishing Tours (+1 954 763 4020/http://kitesurfusa.com/kitesurfwsu.HTML) (+1 954 462 9194/http://www.flamingofishing.com/)

Trolley Tours (+1 954 492 3100/http://www.trolleyenterprises.com/company.htm)

Segway Tours (+1 954 235 5082/http://www.macruzrentals.com/)

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Travel Tips

Miami: **Getting There**

Air

Miami International Airport(MIA)(+1 305 876 7000/ http://www.miami-airport.com/) is located seven miles west of downtown and services the following airlines:

Aero Mexico(+1 800 237 6639/ http://www.aeromexico.com/) Air Canada(+1 888 712 7786/ http://www.aircanada.ca/) Air France(+1 800 992 3932/ http://www.airfrance.com/) Alaskan Airlines(+1 800 654 5669/ http://www.alaskaair.com/) American Airline(+1 800 222 2377/ http://www.aa.com/) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/ http://www.british-airways.com/) Continental(+1 800 932 2732/ http://www.continental.com/) Delta(+1 800 335 8241/ http://www.delta.com/) El Al(+1 800 522 2435/ http://www.elal.co.il/) Iberia(+1 800 772 4642/ http://www.iberia.com/) Lufthansa(+1 800 645 3880/ http://www.lufthansa.com/) Mexicana(+1 800

531 7921/ http://www.mexicana.com/) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/ http://www.nwa.com/) United(+1 800 538 2929/ http://www.united.com/) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ http://www.usairways.com/) Virgin Atlantic(+1 800 821 5438/ http://www.virgin-atlantic.com/)

From the Airport

Taxi: Taxis can be found at Arrival(ground) level, just outside the baggage claim area. Metro Taxi(+1 305 888 8888) and Central Taxicab Service(+1 305 532 5555) are good options.

Shuttle: Supershuttle(+1 305 871 2000/ http://www.supershuttle.com/) van service operates around the clock and provides door-to-door access to most hotels.

Car Rental: Alamo(+1 305 935 5140/ http://www.alamo.com/) Avis(+1 305 379 1317/ http://www.avis.com/) Budget(+1 305 871 2722/ http://www.budget.com/) Dollar(+1 866 434 2226/ http://www.dollar.com/) Enterprise(+1 305 668 3374/ http://www.enterprise.com/) Hertz(+1 305 626 4683/ http://www.hertz.com/) National(+1 305 638 1026/ http://www.nationalcar.com/) Thrifty(+1 877 283 0898/ http://www.thrifty.com/)

Public Transit: Metrobus(+1 305 770 3131/ http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/transit/) offers a cheap alternative, but is painstakingly slow. It does, however, connect with the more expeditious Metrorail transit system.

TriRail(+1 800 874 7245/ http://www.tri-rail.com/) is the perfect choice for anyone traveling to Miami's outlying counties such as Broward or Palm Beach or if you decide to fly into Ft. Lauderdale Airport(FLL).

Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/ http://www.amtrak.com/) comes through Miami on a daily basis. The appropriately named Silver Meteor arrives daily from New York via Charleston, South Carolina, while the Silver Star also chugs in daily from New York but via Columbia, South Carolina. The Sunset Limited wanders into Miami three times a week from Los Angeles via New Orleans. The train station(+1 800 872 7245) is at 8303 Northwest 37th Avenue.

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/ http://www.greyhound.com/) services Miami

Miami Snapshot continued

from all points north, west and south. The downtown station is located at 100 NW Sixth Street.

Highway

Interstate 95, the most direct route into the city, slices through the heart of Miami in a north/south direction. Gridlock is common during morning and afternoon rush hours. Highway 41 scenically shoots into Miami from the west, crossing the famed Everglades in the process. Services along this stretch are limited, especially for east coast driving standards, so plan accordingly with the car's fuel.

Getting Around

Public Transit

The Miami-Dade Transit System(+1 305 770 3131/ <http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/transit/>) stands as the 16th largest public transit offering in the United States, providing passengers with a slew of options starting with its popular fleet of Metrobuses. More than 1031 buses service 107 routes, providing easy access to all of Miami's attractions.

Metromover offers free shuttle service on an automated people mover in the downtown area only, with stops at popular destinations such as American Airlines Arena, Miami-Dade College, and the Bayside Marketplace. It consists of two loops, the inner loop and the outer loop, which run daily from 5a to midnight. Twenty one stations are stretched between the Omni and Brickell districts. Buses pass each stop every 90 seconds during rush hours, and every three minutes during off-peak.

Metrorail, an elevated rapid-transit rail system, is the perfect alternative for maneuvering around the surrounding area. With 22 miles of track it offers 22 stations(most about one mile apart), making stops in heavy traffic areas including downtown and the University of Miami. It operates daily from 5a to midnight. During peak hours each stop is serviced every six minutes and every 15 minutes during weekday midday hours.

The Tri-Rail(Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority;+1 800 874 7245/ <http://www.tri-rail.com/>), a double-decker train, wanders through Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties while making stops at such popular attractions as the Metrozoo, the

Miami Seaquarium and the Art Deco District. Tickets must be purchased before boarding.

Electric buses offer a novel alternative in negotiating the Miami Beach area.

Car

If you are planning on limiting your movement to in and around the South Beach area, you can easily do without a car. Otherwise, a rental car is a must since most of Miami's attractions are generously spaced. Driving through Miami is relatively easy compared to most major metropolises. The numerous drawbridges, however, can slow down movement. Most drawbridge openings last five to ten minutes.

Bicycle

If you plan to bicycle you will be gravely disappointed. Outside of Miami Beach's boardwalk the greater Miami area woefully lacks in bike paths.

Limo

Limo Miami serves up limousine rides(+1 305 742 5900/ <http://www.limomiami.us/>).

Traffic Information

To find out city traffic information go to <http://www.traffic.com/>.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/>, and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>.

Fort Lauderdale: **Getting There**

Air

Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport(FLL)+1 954 359 1200 <http://www.fll.net/>

FLL is located just minutes from downtown and services the following airlines:

Air Canada(+1 888 247-2262/<http://www.aircanada.com/en/home.html>)
Air Jamaica(+1 800 523 5585/<http://www.airjamaica.com/>)
Air Tran(+1 800 AIR TRAN/<http://www.airtran.com/>)
Air Transat(+1 800 388 5836/<http://www.airtransat.com/>)
American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>)
ATA(+1 800 435 9282/<http://www.ata.com/>)
Avianca(+1 800 284 2622/<http://www.avianca.com/>)
Bahamasair(+1 800

222 4262/<http://www.bahamasair.com/>)
Cayman Airways(1 800 441 3003/<http://www.caymanairways.com/>)
Continental(+1 800 525 0280/<http://www.continental.com/>)
Delta(+1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com/>)
Frontier(+1 800 432 1359/<http://www.flyfrontier.com/>)
Jet Blue(+1 800 538 2583/<http://www.jetblue.com/>)
Laker Airways(Bahamas)(+1 866 525 3712/<http://www.lakerbahamas.com/>)
Lynx Airways International(+1 888 LYNX AIR/<http://www.lynxair.com/>)
Midwest Airlines(+1 800 425 2022/<http://www.midwestairlines.com/>)
Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/<http://www.nwa.com/>)
Song Delta Air(+1 800 359 7664/<http://www.flysong.com/>)
Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/<http://www.southwest.com/>)
Spirit(+1 800 772 7117/<http://www.spiritair.com/>)
TED(+1 800 225 5833/<http://www.flyted.com/>)
Trans Meridian(+1 866 435 9862/<http://www.transmeridian.com/>)
United(+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.united.com/>)
US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usair.com/>)
USA 3000(+1 800 USA 3000/<http://www.usa3000.com/>)

Airport Parking:

Park N' Fly(+1 800 763 6895/<http://www.pnfnetwork.com/>)

From the Airport

Shuttle: Tri County Airport Express(+1 954 561 8888/ +1 800 244 8252)

Bus: Bct Rider(+1 954 357 8400 or+1 954 357 8320) Tri Rail(+1 800 874 7245)

Taxi: Yellow Cab(+1 954 565 2800) Atlantic Cab(+1 954 565 8900) Checker Cab(+1 954 777 7777)

Rental Car: Alamo(+1 800 462 5266/<http://www.alamo.com/>)
Avis(+1 800 831 2847/<http://www.avis.com/>)
Budget(+1 800 527 0700/<http://www.budget.com/>)
Dollar(+1 800 365 5271/<http://www.dollar.com/>)
Enterprise(+1 800 736 8227/<http://www.enterprise.com/>)
E-Z Rent A Car(+1 800 277 5171/<http://www.e-zrentacar.com/>)
Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/<http://www.hertz.com/>)
National(+1 800 227 7368/<http://www.nationalcar.com/>)
Royal(+1 800 314 8616/<http://www.royalrac.com/>)
Thrifty(+1 800 847 4389/<http://www.thrifty.com/>)

Limo: A1 Luxury Limo& Limousine of South Florida(+1 954 771 2339) Carriage Limousines(+1 954 491 7305) Stylyn

Miami Snapshot continued

Limousines(+1 954 565 4575) A Family Limousines(+1 954 522 7455) Limo Max(+1 954 527 5466) Costa Limousines(+1 954 255 5515) Coastal Limousines(+1 954 761 1003) Luxury Limousines(+1 954 485 7901) Chariot Limousines(+1 954 785 2060) White Knight Limousines(+1 954 359 0373)

Train

Amtrak(+1 800-USA-RAIL/http://www.amtrakcalifornia.com/), The Palmetto, and Silver Service trains(the Silver Meteor and the Silver Star) offer service between New York City, Georgia and Florida.

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/http://www.greyhound.com). See the website for schedules and details. Station in Fort Lauderdale located at 515 North East Third Street.

Car

Routes into Fort Lauderdale: I-95, I-75, US 441, US 27, US 1.

Getting Around

Ferry

Water Taxi 651 Seabreeze Blvd.(+1 954 467 6677) Makes 20 stops along the New River which flows through downtown, as well as the Intracoastal Waterway which runs north and south along the length of the city.

City Cruiser(+1 954 761 3543)

Travel Information

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>

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Fun Facts

Miami: **Miami State:** Florida **Country:** United States

Miami By The Numbers:

Population: 409,000(city); 5.4 million(metropolitan)

Elevation: 11 ft/ 3 m

Average Winter Temperatures: 60-75°F/ 15-24°C

Average Summer Temperatures: 80-90°F/ 29-32°C

Average Annual Rainfall: 56 in/ 142 cm

Average days of sunshine: 250

Amount of golf courses in Florida: over 1,200

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Tourism, International Trade, Software

Electricity: 110 volts

Time Zone: GMT-5

Country dialing code:+1

Area Codes: 305 and 786

Did You Know?

Miami is the only United States city to be planned by a woman, Julia Tuttle.

Benjamin Green, a Miami Beach pharmacist, invented the first suntan lotion by cooking cocoa butter on a stove in 1944.

It is also the only city bordering two national parks: Everglades and Biscayne.

Fort Lauderdale: **Fort Lauderdale**

State: Florida

Country: United States

Fort Lauderdale by the Numbers:

Population: 160,097

Elevation: 8 ft.

Average Annual Rainfall: 57.55 in

Average January Temperature: High 76 degrees F, Low 59 degrees F

Average July Temperature: High 90 degrees F, Low 75 degrees F

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: The economy is strong for tourism, high-tech manufacturing, marine industry, construction, and distribution.

Electricity: 110/115 volts, 60-cycle current

Time Zone: Eastern Time Zone

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 954

Did You Know?

There are 23 miles of beach in Fort Lauderdale. There are also 25 miles of Intercoastal waterways and 165 miles of navigable canals. Fort Lauderdale is renowned as a spring break headquarters for hundreds of thousands of party hearty refugees from colleges across the country.

Orientation:

Fort Lauderdale is located in the center of South Florida's Gold Coast between Palm Beach and Miami.

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