

MIA

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THE FLORIDA COAST

Greetings from MIAMI

48 hours, solo, at your own pace

POCKET EDITION · 2027

48-HOUR GUIDE · SAFETY GUIDE · PLANNING CALENDAR
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Welcome to Miami

Miami does not reward a rigid itinerary the way a colder city might — the heat sets its own pace, and the best days here leave room for an extra hour on the sand or a second cafecito you hadn't planned on drinking. Still, forty-eight hours goes further with a shape.

Traveling here alone works because Miami is a city of transplants and visitors — well over half its residents were born outside the United States, and nearly everyone you meet is, in some sense, also still figuring the place out. No one clocks a solo table at a ventanita counter or a lone beach chair on South Beach. It barely registers.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read through once before you arrive. Day One stays close to the water — South Beach, the Art Deco Mile, and the coastline south to the point. Day Two moves inland and west — Wynwood, Little Havana, and the bay gardens at Vizcaya before dinner in Coconut Grove. Rideshare covers the gaps between; nothing here is a fifteen-block walk.

ESSENTIAL QUICK FACTS

CURRENCY

US Dollar (contactless widely)

METRORAIL

\$2.25/ride · 5am–midnight

TIME ZONE

Eastern (UTC-5 / UTC-4 summer)

EMERGENCY

911 · Non-emergency 311

TIPPING

18–20% restaurants & bars

SALES TAX

7% + hotel resort tax

01 DAY ONE

South Beach · Art Deco Mile · South Pointe

South Beach is the easiest place in Miami to be alone with the sunrise. The sand at eight in the morning belongs to joggers, lifeguards opening their stands, and the tide — the crowds arrive by ten, and the day's first hour is quietly the best of it.

MORNING · 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

8:00 AM

South Beach at Sunrise

Walk the sand from 1st Street to 15th before the crowds arrive — the widest free public beach in the city, and the quietest it will be all day.

9:30 AM

Art Deco Historic District

Walk Ocean Drive between 5th and 15th — more than 800 preserved buildings, pastel facades, and the "eyebrows" shading every window. See the New for 2027 section for the full history.

11:30 AM

Lincoln Road Mall

A car-free pedestrian promenade of cafés, shops, and people-watching ten blocks north of Ocean Drive. Built by Morris Lapidus in 1960 and still the social spine of the beach.

AFTERNOON · 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

1:00 PM

Lunch — 11th Street Diner

A restored 1948 railcar diner on Washington Avenue. Counter stools, chrome trim, open around the clock — the classic Art Deco lunch counter.

3:00 PM

South Pointe Park

Walk to the southern tip of Miami Beach and climb the observation pier to watch cruise ships glide out of PortMiami, the world's busiest cruise port. Best light an hour before sunset.

No one asks where you're from in Miami — everyone here is, in some sense, also from somewhere else.

EVENING · 7:30 PM – LATE

7:30 PM

Dinner — Joe's Stone Crab

Since 1913, seasonal mid-October through mid-May. No reservations for solo diners — the walk-up takeaway counter is the move if the wait runs long. Order the mustard sauce on the side.

Late

Mac's Club Deuce

Miami's oldest bar, open since 1926. A well-worn horseshoe counter, cheap drinks, open until 5am — pick a stool and stay for the conversation.

02 DAY TWO

Wynwood · Little Havana · Vizcaya · Coconut Grove

The second day moves inland — from warehouse murals to a Cuban-exile main street to an Italian Renaissance villa on the bay. It is the widest cross-section of Miami you can cover on foot and rideshare in a single day.

MORNING · 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

8:00 AM

Wynwood Walls

Arrive at opening for the outdoor mural galleries without the tour groups — global street artists on rotating warehouse canvases, launched here in 2009.

9:30 AM

Wynwood Arts District & Panther Coffee

Wander the gallery blocks between NW 2nd and NW 29th, then coffee at Panther's original Wynwood roastery — communal tables make it an easy solo stop.

12:00 PM

Little Havana — Calle Ocho & Domino Park

Watch the domino games at Máximo Gómez Park, browse the cigar rollers, and order a cafecito at a walk-up ventanita window. Ask for a colada if you want enough for the whole afternoon.

AFTERNOON · 1:30 PM – 6:00 PM

1:30 PM

Lunch — Versailles Restaurant

The mirrored dining room is Little Havana's institution since 1971 — order a Cuban sandwich or ropa vieja, or eat faster at the ventanita counter out front.

3:30 PM

Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

James Deering's 1916 Italian Renaissance villa on Biscayne Bay. The Italian gardens are terraced toward the water and best walked slowly, alone.

6:00 PM

Coconut Grove at Dusk

Walk the bayfront paths at Peacock Park and browse the shops at CocoWalk before dinner — banyan trees overhead, the bay a block away.

EVENING · 8:00 PM – LATE

8:00 PM

Dinner — Ariete

Chef Giorgio Rapicavoli's bayside kitchen in Coconut Grove. Counter seats look directly into the pass — no reservation required for one.

03 ART DECO

The real history, and when to go

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know Miami Beach holds the largest concentration of Art Deco architecture in the world?

More than 800 buildings sit inside the Art Deco Historic District, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 — the first 20th-century district in the country to earn that designation. The boundaries run roughly between 5th and 23rd Streets along Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue, and Washington Avenue.

A SHORT HISTORY

Most of these buildings faced the wrecking ball after World War II, until preservationist Barbara Baer Capitman spent the late 1970s and early 1980s fighting to save them. She co-founded the Miami Design Preservation League, which still runs walking tours of the district today.

Miami's own take on the style earned a nickname — Tropical Deco — for its pastel palette, nautical motifs, and "eyebrows," the shelf-like ledges over windows that shade the glass and cut the glare.

BEST TIME TO GO

Art Deco Weekend takes over Ocean Drive every January — free walking tours, a vintage car show, and live music along the strip, run by the Miami Design Preservation League since 1978.

Any evening works for the neon: the signs come on at dusk. Arrive an hour earlier for the pastel facades in gold-hour light before the lit-up strip takes over.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- The "eyebrows" — cantilevered ledges over windows, built to shade the glass before air conditioning.
- Porthole windows and rounded corners, borrowed from ocean-liner design.
- Terrazzo floors and etched glass in hotel lobbies along Ocean Drive.
- Neon-outlined signage, largely restored rather than original — most tubing dates to 1980s preservation work.

Only three streets over from the ocean, and the whole district still reads like a postcard from 1936.

04 WHERE TO EAT

Counters, windows, and bar seats

Every place here has a counter, a bar, or a walk-up window that takes solo diners without a wait. Prices are per person, excluding drinks.

BREAKFAST & COFFEE

11th Street Diner

SOUTH BEACH · \$12–20

A restored 1948 railcar diner. Counter stools, open around the clock.

Panther Coffee

WYNWOOD & CITYWIDE · \$4–8

Miami's original craft roaster. Communal tables, an easy solo stop between galleries.

LUNCH

Enriqueta's Sandwich Shop

WYNWOOD · \$8–14

A 60-year-old cash-only Cuban diner. The medianoche and a cortadito, at the counter.

Versailles Restaurant

LITTLE HAVANA · \$10–20

The mirrored dining room is Little Havana's institution since 1971 — or beat the wait at the ventanita window.

DINNER

Joe's Stone Crab

SOUTH BEACH, SINCE 1913 · \$50–90

Seasonal mid-October through mid-May. Book ahead, or use the walk-up takeaway counter.

Ariete

COCONUT GROVE · \$40–65

Counter seats face the open kitchen — modern Miami cooking from a James Beard–nominated chef.

Uchi Miami

WYNWOOD · \$50–80

Walk in and sit at the sushi bar. Casual enough for a t-shirt, precise enough for a special night.

LATE NIGHT

Mac's Club Deuce

SOUTH BEACH, SINCE 1926 · \$6–12

Miami's oldest bar. A well-worn horseshoe counter, cheap drinks, open until 5am.

05 GETTING AROUND

Navigating Miami

Miami is not a walking city the way New York is — the neighborhoods run miles apart, not blocks — but Downtown, Brickell, and South Beach each reward walking once you're inside them. Rideshare and the free transit below cover everything in between.

Metrorail	\$2.25	Elevated line linking MIA, Downtown, Brickell & Coconut Grove. 5am–midnight.
Metromover	Free	Automated loop through Downtown & Brickell, runs continuously.
Trolleys	Free	Miami Beach, Coral Gables & neighborhood routes, frequent daytime service.
MIA Airport	\$2.25	Metrorail Orange Line to Downtown/Brickell, ~35 min.
Rideshare (MIA)	~\$25–40	20–30 minutes to South Beach or Downtown without traffic.

Brightline high-speed rail connects Miami's downtown station to Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Orlando — a car-free day trip if your 48 hours stretch to 72.

06 BACKUP PLANS

Miami on a rainy afternoon

Wet-season storms arrive fast and leave just as quickly, usually by early evening. These stay open and dry, whatever the sky is doing.

DOWNTOWN**PAMM**

Pérez Art Museum Miami — contemporary art on the bay, with a shaded veranda for when it clears.

DOWNTOWN**Frost Science**

The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science — planetarium and aquarium under one roof.

SOUTH BEACH**The Bass**

Contemporary art museum inside a 1930 Art Deco building on Collins Park.

CORAL GABLES**Books & Books**

An independent bookshop built for a long afternoon, with a café courtyard under cover.

07 NEIGHBORHOODS

Know your neighborhoods

THE ART DECO COASTLINE**South Beach**

Ocean Drive's pastel hotels and the widest free beach in the city — all of Day One sits here.

THE MURAL DISTRICT**Wynwood**

Warehouses turned street-art canvases at Wynwood Walls, plus the city's best coffee.

CUBAN MIAMI**Little Havana**

Calle Ocho's domino games, cigar shops, and ventanita windows.

THE FINANCIAL SKYLINE**Brickell**

Glass towers over Biscayne Bay and Miami's most walkable nightlife strip.

BOHEMIAN & GREEN**Coconut Grove**

Banyan-shaded streets and Vizcaya's Italian gardens.

THE ISLAND ESCAPE**Key Biscayne**

A causeway drive to a quieter beach at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park.

08 GOOD TO KNOW

What nobody tells you

- Dinner starts late — 8–9pm reservations are normal. Arrive at 6pm and the dining room may still be empty.
- Cover up off the sand. Bikinis and boardshorts stay at the beach; restaurants and shops expect a shirt and shoes.
- Valet is often the only parking option — budget \$10–20 plus tip, even at a casual restaurant.
- The beach is free and public up to the mean high-tide line, no matter which hotel is behind it.
- Spanish goes a long way, especially in Little Havana — a few phrases, or just ordering in Spanish, is appreciated.
- Reef-safe sunscreen, water, and a midday shade break — the UV index here outruns most first-time visitors' expectations.

09 SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY

Is Miami safe?

Safe, with standard urban and beach awareness. Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Key Biscayne, and Brickell are residential and heavily used at all hours. South Beach's tourist core is well-lit and well-patrolled; Miami is spread out, so rideshare is the norm after dark rather than walking between neighborhoods.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

Coconut Grove / Coral Gables	
Key Biscayne / Brickell	
South Beach (5th–25th)	
Wynwood	
Little Havana (Calle Ocho)	
Downtown Miami	
Overtown / Liberty City	

COMMON SCAMS

Promoters on Ocean Drive and Lincoln Road hand out "free" club passes that end in an inflated bar tab — decline firmly. Unlicensed airport taxis quote flat "special" fares well above the metered rate — use the metered taxi stand or a pre-booked rideshare. Timeshare pitches disguised as "attraction tickets" target tourists near the beach.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Dial 911 for all emergencies. Tap water is safe citywide. CVS and Walgreens pharmacies are on nearly every major corridor. Travel health and trip-cancellation insurance are worth the cost if your visit falls within hurricane season.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Miami's tourist corridor is active and well-lit at all hours. Stick to South Beach, Brickell, and Coconut Grove after dark, prioritize rideshare over walking between neighborhoods, and keep an eye on drinks at bars as anywhere.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police / Fire / Medical	911
Miami-Dade Non-Emergency	311
Florida Poison Control	1-800-222-1222

10 PLANNING CALENDAR

Miami, month by month

Exact dates shift annually — confirm before booking.

January DECO & DISTANCE

- Art Deco Weekend — walking tours, vintage cars, Ocean Drive.
- South Beach Jazz Festival — clubs across the beach.
- Life Time Miami Marathon & Half.

February FOOD & BOATS

- South Beach Wine & Food Festival.
- Miami International Boat Show.
- Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

March MUSIC WEEK

- Calle Ocho Music Festival — Little Havana's biggest street party.
- Miami Open Tennis.
- Ultra Music Festival & Miami Music Week.

April PRIDE & FILM

- Miami Beach Pride.
- Miami Film Festival.

May SWIM WEEK

- Miami Swim Week — resortwear shows citywide.
- American Black Film Festival.

June STORMS BEGIN

- Wynwood Pride.
- Hurricane season opens (through November).

July – August QUIET & HOT

- International Ballet Festival of Miami.
- Lowest hotel rates of the year — pack for humidity.

September PEAK SEASON

- Miami International Auto Show.
- Peak hurricane-season risk (through October) — watch the NOAA outlook.

October SOUND & SEASON'S END

- III Points Music Festival.
- Hurricane season risk tapers through the month.

November PAGES & POLO

- Miami Book Fair.
- Miami Beach Polo World Cup.
- Hurricane season closes; dry season begins.

December ART & LIGHTS

- Art Basel Miami Beach & Untitled Art Fair — the city's biggest week.
- Boat parades and holiday lights along the bay.
- New Year's Eve fireworks over Biscayne Bay.

MIA

Every Stop, Mapped

Scan the code to open the free interactive Miami map — every stop in this guide, filterable by day, food, and transport.



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TRAVEL ALONE. LIVE FULLY.

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