

# MIAMI BEACH

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2009/2010



The best places to eat, sleep and play  
in Miami Beach this fall and winter

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Think before you print. And if you do print, print double-sided.

# INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 35 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com).



You'll find reviews for more than 450,000 hotels, 90,000 attractions and 560,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



## PACKING TIPS

1. "You'll need **swimwear** and a **light cover-up** to take you off the beach and to a cafe for snacks and drinks. **Sunscreen** in a high-numbered SPF for protection even if it's cloudy, a **brimmed hat**, **scarf** or **bandana**, **flip flops** or **comfortable sandals**."—TripAdvisor Member, Miami
2. "Do not pack your too-tight jeans. Do not pack fantasy wear. Pack what makes you happy. **Dress for comfort**. The weather is hot and sticky here. Day and night. It's rainy sometimes, too. The fashion here varies a GREAT deal. The trick to looking good is feeling good."—TripAdvisor Member, Miami

## Inside

# MIAMI BEACH

Miami Beach sizzles—whatever your age (just as long as you're young at heart) and whatever you're into (sports, salsa, socializing or sunshine)!

This literal and figurative hot spot is located on Florida's southeastern coast. Year-round sunshine guarantees a steamy vacation in any season. Don't be deterred by occasional rainfall in the autumn—storms tend to pass quickly. Miami Beach's most talked-about locale is South Beach, or SoBe, the vibrant area known for its throngs of thongs, extensive celebrity guest list and tropical-fruit-colored buildings that house hip nightclubs, trendy shops and see-and-be-seen restaurants. But other sections of town are just as alluring, like Little Havana in nearby Miami, the Art Deco District and Haulover Beach (with a section for the city's only legal haven for nudists). And the Beach can be an affordable place depending on where you stay, eat and play.

Speaking of play, plan to spend some time in SoBe's cool bars. On the Beach, the day is just warming up when the sun goes down.

# Top VIEWS



## MIAMI BEACH'S BEST VIEWS

"I particularly like the view from **South Pointe Park**, where you can watch the cruise ships pass out to sea. There's a Smith & Wollensky restaurant in the park with a great view of passing boats."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

**South Pointe Park, 1 Washington Ave.**

"Walk the **boardwalk** behind the beachfront hotels at night. The original wooden part of the boardwalk is 20th to 44th Street, but it now connects to Lummus Park by concrete trails all the way to 5th Street. The view of the old hotels, lit up at night in their pastel glory, is stunning."—TripAdvisor Member

**Beachwalk, from 5th St. to 44th St.**

To view a large concentration of Art Deco buildings—more than 800 in one square mile—head over to **South Beach's Art Deco District**. "Take in the cool architecture and imagine yourself in a time when Frank, Sammy and Dino ruled the scene!"—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

**Art Deco Welcome Center, 1200 Ocean Dr., 305 531 3484.**

## Where to PLAY

### TOP 10 Attractions

1. Ocean Force Adventures, 300 Alton Road, Pier E, 305 372 3388
2. Haulover Beach Park, 10800 Collins Ave., 305 947 3525
3. Bodies Kneaded Massage Spa, 1451 Drexel Ave., 305 535 2424
4. Mac's Club Deuce, 222 14th St., 305 531 6200
5. Espanola Way, Between 14th and 15th streets, from Washington to Jefferson avenues
6. Holocaust Memorial, 1933-1945 Meridian Ave., 305 538 1663
7. Jazid, 1342 Washington Ave., 305 673 9372
8. Duck Tours Miami, 1665 Washington Ave., 786 276 8300
9. Wet Willie's, 760 Ocean Dr., 305 532 5650
10. Miami Design Preservation League, Art Deco Welcome Center, 1200 Ocean Dr., 305 531 3484



## FAMILIES

"The kids liked the large waves to play in at **Lummus Park**. Lots of restaurants line the road by the beach, so it's a great way to spend an afternoon: sunning, swimming, eating, drinking and just generally people watching!"—TripAdvisor Member

**Lummus Park, Ocean Drive and 6th Street**

The **Duck Tour** is "value for money and funny as hell! You get to see the rich and famous pads—like Crips! The tour guide was great, very entertaining. Quack! Quack!"—TripAdvisor Member, Blackpool, England

**Duck Tours Miami, 1665 Washington Ave., 786 276 8300**

**Flamingo Park** "has everything you could want in a park: basketball courts, tennis court, swimming pool (for a small fee, with water slides and rides), amazing playground, baseball and soccer fields. It also has those all-important public restrooms."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

**Flamingo Park, 999 11th St., 305 531 5636, ext. 26**

"A South Beach sanctuary!"

## ROMANCE

"Tucked on the corner of Drexel leading into quaint Espanola Way is a small piece of heaven. **Bodies Kneaded** is a boutique massage shop that will relax, rejuvenate and revive a tired soul. A South Beach sanctuary!"—TripAdvisor Member, Thailand

**Bodies Kneaded Massage Spa, 1451 Drexel Ave., 305 535 2424**

"**Jazid**, with its cool vibe and two floors of live music, is a pleasant departure from SoBe's velvet rope clubs. Awesome—no attitude, no line, free—a great place to take a break from the Miami scene."—TripAdvisor Member, North Andover, Mass.

**Jazid, 1342 Washington Ave., 305 673 9372**

You can't keep any secrets when you tan *au naturel* at **Haulover Beach**. Feeling modest? Just head south on the same beach. "This beach is the greatest. You will never want to swim in a wet swimsuit again."—TripAdvisor Member, Canton, Ohio

**Haulover Beach Park, 10800 Collins Ave., 305 947 3525**

# Where to PLAY



## BUDGET

Explore **downtown Miami**, which is “da place to be and da place to be seen. It’s like a piece of New York City, mixed with the Caribbean, mixed with a dash of Las Vegas.”—TripAdvisor Member, Miami

“...da place to be and da place to be seen”

“I noticed a side street with lots of lights and asked my friends to come check this out. It was beautiful! First, it was away from all the hustle and bustle of the main street. It was really nice and cozy, with street vendors. **Espanola Way** is definitely worth the trip!”—TripAdvisor Member, Huntsville, Ala.

**Espanola Way, Between 14th and 15th streets, from Washington to Jefferson avenues**

“**Ocean Drive** is all about seeing and being seen. One restaurant/bar follows the other. You can always find a place to sit down, eat and have a couple of drinks. Best place to enjoy life and have fun—nice looking people everywhere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 2,000,000 photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!



## ADVENTURE

“The instructors are the cream of the crop” at **Jim McLean Golf School at Doral**, a “superb golf school.”—TripAdvisor Member, Albany, N.Y.

**Jim McLean Golf School at Doral, 4400 N.W. 87th Ave., Miami, 305 591 6409**

“Crandon Park on Key Biscayne is one of several places which run **Eco-tours** around Miami. They offer snorkeling/eco tours of the area and on Biscayne Bay, where you may see stingrays, water birds and other wildlife.”—TripAdvisor Member, Miami

**Miami-Dade Park and Recreation, 275 N.W. 2nd St., 305 365 3018**

At **Oleta River State Recreation Area**, “you can kayak through mangroves or on the intercoastal, where you may see a dolphin or manatee in the wild. If you’re into biking, you can go on the park’s 14 miles of bike paths.”—TripAdvisor Member, Miami

**Oleta River State Recreation Area, 3400 N.E. 163rd St., North Miami Beach, 305 919 1846, 305 957 3040 (Kayak and bicycle rentals)**



## EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“Make sure to stop through **Little Havana** and have a frita (Cuban-style hamburger) or a Cuban sandwich. Check out Domino Park and watch the old timers while the day away at this seemingly simple game—or try your luck!”—TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Little Havana, 8th Street, Miami**

“...fascinating and weird collection of objects...”

The **Wolfsonian** “features the most fascinating and weird collection of objects from the modern era? (Era seems like the right word here). The idea is to show how art and design shape and reflect human experience. The 100,000 artifacts range from fine art, graphic design and political propaganda to furniture, rare books, postcards and travel brochures.”—TripAdvisor Member, El Paso, Texas

**The Wolfsonian-FIU, 1001 Washington Ave., 305 531 1001**

“The rotating art exhibits at the **Bass Museum** will give you the requisite dose of culture and entertain the little ones with interesting sculptures and paintings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Miami

**Bass Museum of Art, 2121 Park Ave., 305 673 7530**



## RELAXATION

“I am reluctant to write this review, as **Sunny Isles** (north of Miami Beach) is one of Miami-Dade’s best kept secrets. The water was as clear and clean and the sand was as pure white as some of the beaches we have visited in the Bahamas!”—TripAdvisor Member, Virginia

Pamper yourself by getting a treatment with a view at the Delano’s world class **Agua Spa**. “The penthouse spa is beautiful and offers many types of massages and skin treatments.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sao Paulo, Brazil

**Agua Spa, Delano Hotel, 1685 Collins Ave., 305 674 6100**

**Fairchild Tropical Garden** is “an oasis of tranquility in bustling South Florida.”—TripAdvisor Member, Margate, Fla.

**Fairchild Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, 305 667 1651**

# What's the **TOUR**

## How to Get Around



"In North Miami Beach, a car or taxi is a necessity. The story is different in South Beach. One can **walk** along Collins Avenue, Ocean Drive and Washington Avenue. There's even Lincoln Road, a street designed to walk, which has been converted into an outdoor mall. It's home to many restaurants, several night clubs, stores and movie theaters within its ten block span."—TripAdvisor Member

If you plan to leave the Beach to venture into Greater Miami, definitely **rent a car**. "Miami is very big."—TripAdvisor Member, Miami

**Island Queen Cruises** is a 50-person double-decker ship that travels up the channel between the MacArthur Causeway and the Port of Miami.

**Island Queen Cruises, 305 379 5119, [www.islandqueencruises.com](http://www.islandqueencruises.com)**



**MIAMI BEACH**

# WHERE to eat



## FAMILIES

“We ordered quite a few different dishes at **Cerione’s Italian Café**: seafood pasta, pizza, salads, chicken and veal dishes. Everything tasted absolutely great!! We found out that the chef got a lot of recipes from his Italian grandmother. That is something you can taste: no ‘heavy’ or over-creamy food, but well-prepared, real authentic and rich Italian food with super ingredients!”—TripAdvisor Member, Netherlands

**Cerione’s Italian Café, 6606 Collins Ave., 305 861 4877**

“**Fratelli la Bufala** is the real deal. The pizza margherita is divine—nothing like it elsewhere in the U.S. Fresh cheese, Italian tomato sauce and perfect dough. Lots of cool youngsters and not-so-youngsters with their kiddos.”—TripAdvisor Member, West Palm Beach, Fla.

**Fratelli la Bufala, 437 Washington Ave., 305 532 0700**

“**Big Pink** serves burgers, breakfast, creative salads and wraps too! They have the best ever sweet potato french fries. The meals are huge and fairly inexpensive. You can dine outside or in and I can guarantee you will eat there every time you visit SoBe!”—TripAdvisor Member, Crofton, Md.

**Big Pink, 157 Collins Ave., 305 532 4700**

“The pizza is divine.”

Want more information on Miami Beach? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Miami Beach or any other destination you choose.

## TOP 10 Restaurants

1. Cerione’s Italian Café, 6606 Collins Ave., 305 861 4877
2. La Locanda, 413 Washington Ave., 305 538 6277
3. Grazie Italian Cuisine, 701 Washington Ave., 305 673 1312
4. Wish, 801 Collins Ave., 305 674 9474
5. Spiga, 1228 Collins Ave., 305 534 0079
6. Spris, 731 Lincoln Road, 305 673 2020
7. Red The Steakhouse, 119 Washinton Ave., 305 534 3688
8. Osteria del Teatro, 1443 Washington Ave., 305 538 7850
9. Front Porch Café, 1418 Ocean Dr., 305 531 8300
10. Scarpetta, Fontainebleau, 4441 Collins Ave., 305 538 2000

## ROMANCE

For a cozy Italian meal, head to **Spiga**. “The atmosphere was lovely. We sat on the porch outside, soft lights, candlelight while looking across to the palm trees on the beach. The food was delicious and the service was wonderful.”—TripAdvisor Member, West Caldwell, N.J.

**Spiga, 1228 Collins Ave., 305 534 0079**

“The food at **Wish** was to-die-for. It was so tasty and melt-in-your mouth good that you could not wait for all things to follow the appetizer. We had a beautiful, romantic outdoor table next to the fountain and the staff was extremely knowledgeable of the menu and very friendly.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hoboken, N. J.

**Wish, 801 Collins Ave., 305 674 9474**

“Wow, I’ve finally found a perfect date place! The atmosphere at **Doraku** is awesome. The lounge music is relaxing and the ambiance is mellow. Food was excellent. Halfway through our meal, I realized that there was this gigantic pulsating octopus hanging over our heads behind a bamboo screen! Very cool.”—TripAdvisor Member, Miami Beach

**Doraku, 1104 Lincoln Road, 305 695 8383**

## BUDGET

**The Front Porch’s** American menu offers “tons of great food for a decent price (especially by Miami standards). Don’t pass this up.”—TripAdvisor Member, Birmingham, Ala.

**The Front Porch Café, 1418 Ocean Dr., 305 531 8300**

A small Haitian restaurant that frequently has live music, **Tap Tap** receives kudos for its reasonable prices and exotic food. “The dessert, Pain Patat, was especially memorable. A boniato (sweet potato) pudding that was light and sweet and gingery. I still dream about it years later.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

**Tap Tap, 819 5th St., 305 672 2898**

**Puerto Sagua** “is a gem in South Beach. You want authentic Cuban cuisine, go here. The prices are great, and you’ll get more than what you pay for. Simple decor, real Cuban staff (learn some Spanish to enhance the experience).”—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

**Puerto Sagua, 700 Collins Ave., 305 673 1115**

# WHERE to eat



## HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

"You can never go wrong with **Lime**. The salads and burritos always hit the spot." They also offer low fat cheese for their quesadillas.—TripAdvisor Member

**Lime Fresh Mexican Grill, 1439 Alton Road, 305 532 5463**

**La Sandwicherie** is a "great little French sandwich shop in SoBe. Great prices, amazing smoothies. Very casual, you sit at the counter outside while the hoards of beachy people come to place their orders. It's next to a tattoo parlor—good for people watching!"—TripAdvisor Member, Boulder, Colo.

**La Sandwicherie, 229 14th St., 305 532 8934**

**Miami Juice** is an organic market with "a small cafe for health-foody salads, fresh juices and snacks."—TripAdvisor Member, Miami

**Miami Juice, 16210 Collins Ave., North Miami Beach, 305 945 0444**

"Expect the unexpected."

## HIDDEN GEMS

Need a jolt? Then head to **David's Cafe II** for "the best Cuban coffee ever! Also, their nice restaurant is great for a Cuban meal and mojito plus their diner on the other side is great for late-night *media noche* sandwiches and other greats."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

**David's Cafe II, 1654 Meridian Ave., 305 672 8707**

**Taverna Opa** "is SO fun! A belly dancer coaxed diners and wait staff to join her dancing on the tables. Everyone was so friendly, and we all had a great time dancing and drinking and shouting 'OPA!'"—TripAdvisor Member, Chevy Chase, Md.

**Taverna Opa, 36–40 Ocean Dr., 305 673 6730**

"Expect the unexpected" at **Barton G**. At this serious-splurge restaurant, "the food was excellent and the presentation was something unlike I had seen before. Very original and tasty. Make sure you leave room for dessert, which is meant to be shared. I personally recommend the 'Decorate Your Own Cupcakes.'"—TripAdvisor Member, Miami Beach, Fla.

**Barton G, 1427 West Ave., 305 672 8881**

## SPECIAL EVENTS



The spirit of the season will bewitch you at **Santa's Enchanted Forest**, a veritable winter wonderland twinkling with millions of lights, vibrant displays and exuberant entertainment. Let the kids take a pony ride or go wild at the carnival, then visit Santa to make your Christmas wishes. (November 5 – January 3)

**Santa's Enchanted Forest, 7900 SW 40th St., 305 893 0090, <http://www.santasenchantedforest.com>**

Find that perfect book to read on your vacation at the **Miami Book Fair**, where hundreds of authors gather to give readings and sign books. The street fair boasts free concerts, children's activities and thousands of books to tempt your literary tastes. (November 8 – 15)

**Miami Book Fair, Miami-Dade Community College, Wolfson Campus, 305 237 3258, <http://www.miamibookfair.com>**

Wear your brightest whites and party for a good cause during **White Party Week**, seven days of dance parties, luncheons, leather nights, pool parties, comedy events and dancing, dancing, dancing to benefit women, men and children affected by AIDS. This year's theme is "Mount Olympus." (November 25 – 30)

**White Party Week, Various venues, 305 576 1234 x258, <http://www.whiteparty.org>**

Count down to 2010 with a free concert, fireworks and the dropping of the Big Orange at **Bayfront Park's New Year's Eve** celebration. (December 31)

**New Year's Eve, Bayfront Park, 301 North Biscayne Blvd., 305 358 7550, <http://bayfrontparkmiami.com>**

Relive the heyday of Art Deco in Miami with big band jazz performances, auctions, an antique car parade and street performers at the **Miami Art Deco Festival**. This year's celebration focuses on the automobile. (January 15 – 17)

**Miami Art Deco Festival, Ocean Drive, South Beach, 305 672 2014, <http://www.mdpl.org>**

Tickle your funny bone at the **South Beach Comedy Festival**, where past acts have included Kathy Griffin, Susie Essman, Dave Atell and many more. Grab some tickets or head to one of several free shows, sure to make you giggle, guffaw and laugh out loud. (January 20 – 23)

**South Beach Comedy Festival, Various venues, <http://www.southbeachcomedyfestival.com>**

Catch a flick at the **Miami International Film Festival**, showcasing shorts, features, narrative and documentary films. (March 4 – 15)

**Miami International Film Festival, Various venues, <http://www.miamifilmfestival.com>**

Dance in the streets at **Calle Ocho**, when Little Havana hosts Miami's annual Cuban carnival. (March 14)

**Calle Ocho, Little Havana, SW 8th St., 305 644 8888, <http://www.carnavalmiami.com/calle8>**

# Where to STAY



## FAMILIES

"It's always a pleasure to have breakfast outside on the terrace near the swimming pool at the **Courtyard**. You're just a few steps away from the beach and the boardwalk for your morning 'promenade' or jogging. You can relax in the garden or have a drink at the pool bar."—TripAdvisor Member, Belgium

**Courtyard Miami Beach Oceanfront, 3925 Collins Ave., 305 538 3373**

"The **Nassau** was an excellent hotel for a family with teens. Our girls spent an hour or so every day (or night) for free on the computers in the little business center, sitting in the coolest orange Jetsons-style chairs you could ever want."—TripAdvisor Member, Rhode Island

**Nassau Suite Hotel, 1414 Collins Ave., 305 532 0043**

"My four-year-old daughter was just as welcome as we were at **Loews**. We had an oceanview suite with balcony, and the room and view were fantastic. The pool is great, and the attendants, very helpful in getting you a bed in the sun!!"—TripAdvisor Member, St. Lucia

**Loews Miami Beach Hotel, 1601 Collins Ave., 305 604 1601**

Have questions about Miami Beach? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



## ROMANCE

"If you like trendy, modern hotels that give great service without being overbearing, this hotel is for you. We dined in their restaurant and sunbathed in our private garden every morning. Thank you, **Angler's**, for making our second honeymoon unforgettable!"—TripAdvisor Member, Brussels

**The Angler's Boutique Resort, 660 Washington Ave., 305 534 9600**

"Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue are filled with tiny-roomed, funky motels, but none can compare to the fashion, flare and fun of the **Pelican**. If you have a love of design and love South Beach 'hipness,' this is the place to stay. Chic-a-rific!"—TripAdvisor Member

**Pelican Hotel, 826 Ocean Dr., 305 673 3373**

"Chic-a-rific!"

"Wow, the **Ritz-Carlton** is just so much fun. Life around the pool area was fantastic. Could 'people watch' for hours. Daily 'mermaid' routine in the pool and the tanning butler made the whole experience that bit more special. Just wait 'til you try the spa!"—TripAdvisor Member, Malaga, Spain

**Ritz-Carlton South Beach, 1 Lincoln Road, 786 276 4000**

## BUDGET

"**Villa Paradiso** is a funky little guest house in a great location at 14th Street on Collins Avenue, one block away from the beach and all the action on Ocean Drive. It's a bargain for South Beach."—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

**Villa Paradiso, 1415 Collins Ave., 305 532 0616**

The **Ocean Palm Motel** is "is the last mom-and-pop motel left in area. Not fancy, but clean, and it's the closest hotel to Haulover's clothing-optional beach. Visit the Ocean Market just down Collins, pack a cooler of beer and head down to the beach. You won't be disappointed!"—TripAdvisor Member, Raleigh, N.C.

**Ocean Palm Motel, 15795 Collins Ave., 305 947 5671**

The **Tropics Hotel and Hostel** is in a "perfect location. You cross a road, walk three minutes and you're on the beach! Overall clean room, cleaned daily—and being a group of 19- and 20-year-olds, we sure made a mess!"—TripAdvisor Member, Sheffield, U.K.

**The Tropics Hotel and Hostel, 1550 Collins Ave., 305 531 0361**

## LUXURY

"I was pretty blown away by the **Marriott South Beach**. It's in a great location (a short walk to all the fun around 8th, but nice and quiet), nice beach, well-decorated, clean rooms and good service."—TripAdvisor Member, Weehawken, N.J.

**Marriott South Beach, 161 Ocean Drive, 305 536 7700**

"The position of **The Hotel** is fantastic for staying in SoBe. All the attractions and shopping are close at hand. The hotel is well-kept, clean and glam. The rooftop pool and the colors that surround you inside the hotel are fantastic."—TripAdvisor Member, Milan, Italy

**The Hotel, 801 Collins Ave., 305 531 2222**

The **Betsy** "had the feel of a European luxury hotel. The lobby was upscale but cozy with a touch of the Caribbean in the '40s. We sipped mimosas on the verandah and waited for Clark Gable to enter the room."—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

**The Betsy Hotel, 1440 Ocean Dr., 305 531 6100**

# Where to **STAY**



## HIDDEN GEMS

**Crescent Resort on South Beach**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, "is located at the most beautiful beach around, and it's only a minute to reach the beach."—TripAdvisor Member, Dusseldorf, Germany

**Crescent Resort on South Beach**,  
1420 Ocean Dr., 305 531 5197

**SoBeYou Bed & Breakfast** is "one of the most beautiful art deco B&Bs in Miami Beach I've ever seen—a place to feel at home. It's not only beautiful—the service combined with charming help from the friendly staff is great!"—TripAdvisor Member, Cologne, Germany

**SoBe You Bed & Breakfast**, 1018 Jefferson Ave., 305 534 5247

**Sadigo Court** is "only a short walk from the beach and not on a busy street, so the noise was practically non-existent. What I appreciated most, though, was the service and friendship offered by both the owner and guest relations."—TripAdvisor Member, Lisbon, Portugal

**Sadigo Court**, 334 20th St., 305 672 9135

"...a place to feel at home"

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