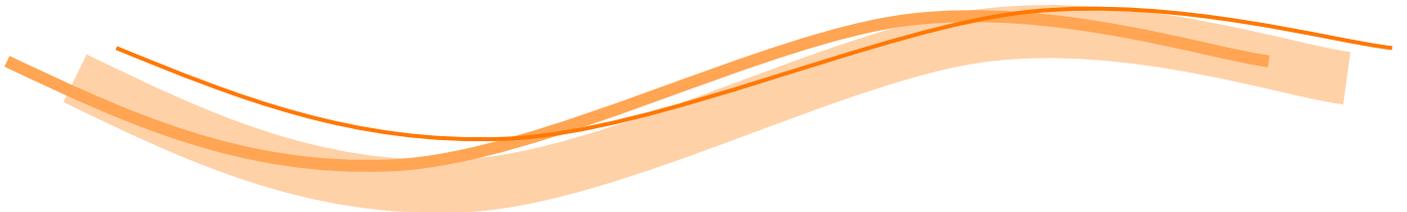




MIAMI





MIAMI

Miami and the Beaches - Hotter than Ever!

From charming romantic hideaways to comfortable family getaways – Miami has it all. Whether it's a get-away-from-it-all nature retreat one day, or a non-stop whirling party the next - there's something for everyone in Miami. Hotels, resorts, attractions and restaurants are currently all offering great deals - whether you are planning a family holiday, a honeymoon, or just a quick getaway. And there is always something new!

Famous for its **architecture** - from Art Deco to the Modern Miami style – Miami continues to erect some wonderful buildings. January 2011 sees the opening of the New World Symphony performance hall - designed by Frank Gehry, who also created Toronto's new Art Gallery of Ontario.

A new **Car Rental Centre** has opened at Miami International Airport, bringing all car rental outlets under one roof. This is the first phase of a major 1.7 billion dollar travel hub linking aircraft, cars and rail.

With Miami's warm tropical climate there is also year round, non-stop, activity. Miami boasts sophisticated arts & culture and a festival life second to none. New in November 2010 is “**Miami Live Music Month**”, coinciding with the Miami Music Festival. There's great live music in clubs and venues throughout Miami.

The Miami Music Festival (Nov 11-14, 2010) and its emerging artists' conference return this November with a new and expanded schedule, new venues and more new music than ever. The Miami Music festival will again feature acts in a wide variety of genres from Florida, around the U.S. and around the world, performing for the music industry, the press, the local community of music fans and visitors to Miami. In 2010, the festival will add shows in major theaters, two daytime, multi-stage sessions and use more clubs throughout the city.

For relaxation and pampering, the very latest **spa treatments** and fitness classes are available at day spas or the city's many luxurious spa resorts. Stroll the city's lush botanical gardens and take in the city's famous Art Deco architecture. Or simply enjoy Miami's stunning beaches, which regularly make the A-list with their soft sand, cool breezes and temperatures averaging 24C.

An **epicure's paradise** awaits you in Miami! Miami dishes up exotic ingredients and taste-tempting selections. You can dine alfresco or indoors, go casual or extravagant, savor International or Caribbean,

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	<p>"New World" or "Floribbean," which uses flavors and spices from the nearby Caribbean and Latin American countries. Miami also plays host to a year-round slate of prestigious wine and food events such as South Beach Wine and Food Festival, International Mango Festival, and Miami Spice Restaurant Month.</p> <p>And Miami's nightlife is as hot as the sunsets. Sultry nights, seductive rhythms, hot Latin tempos and sophisticated vibes guarantee a great time.</p>
What's New?	<p>Miami continues to evolve as the hottest destination in the world with its unique mix of natural tropical beauty and cosmopolitan sophistication. Check out the new hi definition webcam on South Beach which you can access on the home page of the Miami website (top right hand corner)</p> <p>New Hotels</p> <p>Anticipated to open in Fall 2010, Dream South Beach will inject a hit of avant-garde edge to the Miami landscape. A vanguard amongst fashion-forward hotel accommodations, Dream South Beach will occupy an ideal position at 11th Street and Collins Avenue, the epicenter of the renowned Miami nightlife and epicurean scenes. With distinctive architectural elements executed by internationally acclaimed designer Michael Czysz (principal of Architropolis), Dream South Beach will expose guests to progressive, fantastical elements while retaining a comfortable sense of personal, "in-your-dreams" sumptuousness. The hotel will also include Chopra Spa, a serene haven of holistic healing with signature ancient Indian Ayurvedic treatments. For more information, visit www.DreamSouthBeach.com .</p> <p>Hotel Beaux Arts Miami, a private, 44-room boutique property that fuses art and innovation, opens in October 2010 inside the new Metropolitan Miami development. The hotel is the first-ever to be entirely outfitted with Bang & Olufsen in-room entertainment systems including remote controlled video & sound systems, remote controlled drapery, HD-LCD flat screen TV and home theatre system. Replete with the finest in amenities, views, and art-infused accommodations, each room also features rich, Brazilian cherry dark hard wood floors; touch-controlled, illuminated bathroom faucets; an iPad; and luxurious bedding and pillow menu. The amenities at the JW Marriott Marquis are conveniently available to guests. www.hotelbeauxartsmiami.com</p> <p>The world's first JW Marriott Marquis Miami opens October 2010. The two-story, 50,000-sq-ft facility will feature a 10,000-sq-ft NBA-approved basketball arena, full-size tennis court, world-renowned Jim McLean</p>

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Golf School, Virtual Bowling Alley, 3-D media room, Rik Rak Spa & Salon as well as a world-class Fitness Center. Located in Miami's new Metropolitan Miami (The Met), the 313-room hotel will also feature Miami's first DB Bistro Moderne, a French/American restaurant by acclaimed chef-restaurateur and winner of three James Beard Foundation awards, Chef Daniel Boulud.

www.jwmarriottmarquismiami.com

Mandarin Oriental, Miami, recently completed a \$17 million renovation, completely redecorating its guest rooms and suites, the Oasis Beach Club, and M-Bar martini lounge. All enhanced guestrooms include a private balcony overlooking Biscayne Bay or the Miami skyline. The redesigned Oasis Beach Club offers a variety of choices for guests while lounging and enjoying sun, sand and sea and the private beach recently unveiled new luxury cabanas with flat-screen televisions and bespoke butler service and chaise lounges.

www.Mandarinoriental.com/Miami

The National Hotel, Miami Beach's premiere historic beachfront resort announces new lavish Poolside Cabana Rooms and Suites opened in August 2010. Each suite will have an oversized private terrace and refreshment/dining area, all overlooking the signature, one-of-a-kind, 205-foot-long swimming pool and surrounding tropical gardens.

www.nationalhotel.com .

The Newport Beachside Resort recently launched Seven Seas Salon, a new Aveda Concept beauty space with Dashing Diva Nail Bar. For the style conscious who covet beauty on a budget, the full-service salon and nail bar features affordable services and treatments starting at only \$10. Dashing Diva, New York's favorite nail salon chain, provides a state-of-the-art experience with the most innovative nail care products and services designed for all looking to be pampered. Three modern and unisex styling stations are also available offering professional Aveda cuts and blowouts at reasonable prices. For more information visit, www.NewportBeachsideResort.com .

Opening in Fall 2010, **Red South Beach Hotel**, located on historic Collins Avenue, across from the white sands of the beach, at the gateway to South Beach in iconic Miami Beach, offers casual luxury and great style in an upbeat and chic boutique hotel. After a multi-million dollar renovation, Red South Beach Hotel is truly a unique destination, only steps from the world class nightlife, dining and shopping of South Beach. Artfully blending classic baroque elements with contemporary finishes, Red South Beach Hotel exudes graceful elegance. The

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Hotel's hip design brings you back to an era of simple yet stylish beauty and sophistication. This is your new home away from home in Miami Beach. Your four legged friends are welcome too. Complimentary wi-fi throughout the hotel keeps you productive, even by the pool. From its splendid outdoor pool, a welcome drink upon arrival, luxurious bedding, and relaxing outdoor lounge, Red South Beach Hotel epitomizes the essence of a boutique hotel in America's Riviera, the sexiest playground in the world. 3010 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140, www.RedSouthBeach.com .

Experience the valiantly new **Shelborne South Beach**, reopening October 2010, in the heart of Miami Beach. Rejuvenated at a cost of US\$10M, visionary Jonathan Cardello who has bended the award-winning architectural designs of renowned Morris Lapidus and icon Igor Polevitsky. This new incarnation of one of the original and first luxury high-rise boutique hotels on Miami Beach draws its inspiration from the serene coastal beach and ocean landscapes background of Miami Beach and captures everything the South Beach stands for – excitement, invincibility, fashionable and glamour. The Shelborne South Beach will feature 200 brand new guestrooms; 1 & 2 bedroom townhouse apartments, suites, Jr. suites & Executive Penthouse suite; Two Whirlpools, Olympic Size Pool w/ Poolside Bar; a Rooftop Spa & Fitness Club; The New La Esquina, upscale NY Mexican including a Brasserie, Taqueria, Tequila & Wine Bar; Three Entertainment Lounges including the World Famous Studio Lounge; and 24 hour concierge service. For more information visit www.shelborne.com .

Soho Beach House Miami is due to open in Mid-Miami Beach in Fall 2010. Located on the site of the historic Sovereign hotel, their new private members club will offer 44 bedrooms, 6 tower suites, a screening snug, 2 pools, cabanas and a beach, as well as an expansive rooftop "Cowshed" spa with wooden cabins for private treatments and a Cecconi's restaurant open to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.sohobeachhouse.com>

Cuisine and Night life

8's taking over the breezeway in South Beach's Z Ocean Hotel, plating burgers like their house blend (a meaty conglomeration of sirloin, tri-tip, short rib, and chuck) and edible fun like the Suds & Slider Sampler: three 5oz beers with mini wild boar, lamb, and prime beef burgers. Study major beef accoutrements on the full menu at www.8OzBurgerBar.com .

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Michael Bloise, formerly exec chef of Wish at The Hotel, will be opening a neighborhood noodle shop in the Biscayne corridor in the Fall 2010, **American Noodle Shop**. For more information, contact Susan Brustman, (305) 573-0658, sbrustman@brustmancarrinopr.com

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts embarks on its fifth anniversary season with the new Bombay Sapphire Lounge. Opening October, 2010, the lounge will offer a variety of cocktails and tapas in an indoor/outdoor setting. It is located on the Arsht Center campus at the base of the restored Art Deco Tower, one of the oldest buildings in Miami. www.arshtcenter.org

The Viceroy has launched Bistro E, a new wallet-friendly lunch service in the Eos restaurant space, with items as low as \$5 and no more than \$22. Try the \$15 "bento" box, a three-courser with things like a grilled cheese BLT and key lime pie. Open daily 11am-4pm daily, Eos, 485 Brickell Ave, 305-503-0373.

http://www.viceroymiami.com/cuisine/bistro_e.html

La Fee Verte, Miami's first members-only burlesque and absinthe club, opened in June 2010 in North Miami Beach. French for "the green fairy," La Fee Verte is like a 1920s Paris bordello crossed with the Delano and a dash of The Shining. Everything is meant to arouse—from the vintage erotica on the bar's countertop to the women's bathroom walls clad with midcentury strippers to the swings suspended from the ceiling that double as lounge seating. You'll want to get here around 11pm—bring some friends or a date you want to seduce—and pile onto an oversized bed in the VIP area to catch the stripteases, aerial tricks and contortions that go on each hour. From there, you'll begin an absinthe-fueled journey fraught with old standbys (Pernod, Lucid) and novel varieties (a white version from Switzerland, absinthe chilled through an ice block). And if you get tired of taking it straight, barkeeps will be mixing up the green elixir with champagne or classic cocktails like Sazeracs. 912 71st St., Miami Beach, FL 33141, 305-865-5955,

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

Magic City Casino, Miami's first and only casino to feature over 7000 Las Vegas style slot machines is launching a new music hub, Secada's which will feature Jon Secada in performance and hosting musical guests. Bar food and specialty cocktails will be offered. The all-new Magic City Casino also features an 18-table Poker Room, outdoor concert amphitheater, live greyhound racing and multiple food and beverage outlets, among other state-of-the-art amenities.

<http://www.magiccitycasino.com>

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SAWA Restaurant & Lounge (which means “together”), has arrived to the upscale shopping venue of the Village of Merrick Park. In the heart of Coral Gables, SAWA is the suave and sexy Mediterranean restaurant, bar and lounge from charismatic restaurateur Ramzi Zahr. This reasonably priced eatery, which also offers an exciting list of cocktails, and a sidewalk cabana/hookah lounge, showcases executive chef Jouvens Jean, formerly of Atrio and Solea, who creates a melding of Mediterranean inspired spreads, kebabs, salads, entrees, and by popular demand, sushi. An intimate 2,500 square foot space that seats 60 indoors and up to 70 outdoors was designed with the harmonious balance of yin and yang in mind. The interior boasts dark wooden tables, bar and chairs with white leather upholstery and funky white chandeliers. Crisp white walls are tastefully dressed in the vibrant art by Chady Elias who will change his “interactive art” exhibits every few months. For more information, visit www.SawaRestaurant.com

Legendary NYC burger spot, **Shake Shack** set up shop in Miami in June 2010. This location, housed on the ground floor of the cutting-edge 1111 parking garage, differs from its NY siblings in that it's mostly an indoors affair. There'll be tables outside eventually, but for now the handsome interior, with its 30-foot ceilings and counters made from repurposed bowling alleys, is where you'll bring a date before catching a movie across the street, or after a long day of beach volleyball with a gaggle of Eastern Bloc women (Estonians prefer extra relish). As far as the retro-American snack grub, here's what you should expect: griddle-cooked burgers on the smallish side, made with fresh-ground, antibiotic- and hormone-free Black Angus beef. They're cooked to order, so while you're waiting for your ShackBurger (American cheese, lettuce, tomato and ShackSauce), you can sink a straw into one of the restaurant's trademark super-thick shakes made with vanilla custard. And because it's an indoors joint, you can also cut loose with an Abita, ShackMeister Ale or Brooklyn Lager. 111 Lincoln Rd Building on Lenox Ave; South Beach; 305.434.7787

EPIC Hotel & Residences celebrates the opening of **ZUMA**, London’s award-winning restaurant, making its U.S. debut. The brainchild of German chef Rainer Becker, ZUMA offers a sophisticated cuisine philosophy inspired by the informal Japanese dining style called Izakaya. www.zumarestaurant.com or www.epichotel.com .

Attraction Action and Special Events

Coral Gables Cinematheque – This much-anticipated art cinema located directly across the street from Books & Books on Aragon

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Avenue will offer international programming, opened in September 2010. www.cinematheque.org .

Coral Gables Museum – Opened in October, 2010, the Coral Gables Museum is located at the city’s historic fire and police station on Aragon Avenue. The museum showcases the civic arts of architecture, urban design, planning, and historic and environmental preservation. www.coralgablesmuseum.org .

DECObIKE, the official City of Miami Beach public bike sharing and rental program debuted in June 2010. The Green Transportation Revolution has begun and the City of Miami Beach and its world-famous South Beach Art Deco district is helping lead the way with green practices and sustainable transportation initiatives. DECObIKE Miami Beach is the new ZERO-pollution public transit system for residents and visitors alike that is also healthy, fast, and efficient. It requires no fossil fuels and has the efficiency equivalent of over 3,000 miles per gallon. The City of Miami Beach is helping lead the way with green practices and sustainable transportation initiatives. DECObIKES will include approximately 1,000 Custom Program Bicycles, 100+ Solar-Powered, DECOSTATIONS located in the Public Right of Way will include all major attractions, shops, hotels, condos, offices, beaches, parks and civic centers in South Beach, Mid Beach and North Beach and will have Automated Operation 24/365. www.decobike.com

Homestead-Miami Speedway will host both the IndyCar (October 1 through 2) and NASCAR (November 19-21) Championships in 2010. Construction has been completed on a \$3 million, state-of-the-art leader board as well as LED displays featuring high-resolution graphics and statistic information. The enhancement offers the finest technology available in motorsports, allowing fans to experience all of the on-track drama as superstars Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Gordon, Mark Martin, Tony Stewart, Jimmie Johnson, Danica Patrick, Dario Franchitti—and South Florida-residents Juan Pablo Montoya, Helio Castroneves, and Tony Kanaan—all race for Championship glory. www.THEChampionshipTrack.com .

South Beach’s Lincoln Road celebrates its 50th anniversary since being redesigned by famed Miami Modern (MiMo) architect Morris Lapidus. Recent enhancements to this iconic Miami attraction include new luxury stores on its east end at Washington Avenue and recent block-long expansion west to Alton Road, which includes 4-3, MAC, Journelle, Osklen, Coltori, Swarovski, All Saints and Herve Leger. The

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promenade's captivating 1111 Building and its iconic new parking garage will become another mainstay for visitors of Lincoln Road, with its open-air design, black and white geometric stone paved plaza, and native Floridian landscaping, a tribute to the flora that once dominated the region in the early 20th century. And in January 2011, the Frank Gehry designed New World Symphony performance hall will also open.

The newly renamed **Zoo Miami** (formally Miami Metro Zoo) opened a new \$168,367 Indian Rhino Encounter Station in summer 2010 where zoo patrons have a unique opportunity for up-close and personal encounters with Indian rhinos. www.miamimetrozoo.com .

Transportation

Coastal Car Worldwide and the **Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino** have entered into an exclusive agreement to provide round-trip luxury shuttle transportation from 1665 Washington Avenue in South Beach to the Hard Rock Casino. The shuttle service will serve as the gateway for Miami Beach tourists and locals to visit the area's premier gaming facility. Upon arrival at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino, all passengers over 21 will receive \$25 in FREE casino play and a \$7.50 meal voucher thus covering the entire shuttle price.

www.CoastalCar.com/HardRock

A New **Car Rental Center** has opened at Miami International Airport, for the first time bringing under one roof all the major and many of the smaller car rental companies that offer vehicles at MIA. The opening of the rental car center will mark completion of the first major phase of the \$1.7-billion Miami Intermodal Center travel hub, which by 2015 will connect in one site virtually all county modes of transportation: aircraft, cars, Metrorail, Tri-Rail, Amtrak and perhaps in the future high-speed rail. The MIC, as the travel hub is known, is one of three major transportation projects underway in South Florida - along with the \$1.8-billion reconstruction of Interstate 595 in central Broward, and the \$1-billion construction of a tunnel under Biscayne Bay to the Port of Miami. The new system will replace the multiple rental car shuttle buses now operating at MIA, one of the key contributors to traffic congestion on the MIA road network. Reducing congestion at and around MIA and linking modes of transportation in one hub have been key concepts behind construction of the MIC, which includes the rental car center, the still-under-construction Miami central station and transit services and major upgrades on roads leading to the airport. The MIA Mover station will be housed at the Miami central station, which will also house new platforms for Metrorail, Tri-Rail, Amtrak and eventually perhaps a

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	high-speed rail to Orlando and Tampa.
Location	Miami is a major city in southeastern Florida, in the United States. Miami and the surrounding metropolitan area are situated on northern Biscayne Bay between the Everglades and the Atlantic Ocean
Geography	The City of Miami and its suburbs are located on a broad plain between the Florida Everglades and Biscayne Bay that also extends from Florida Bay north to Lake Okeechobee. The elevation of the area never rises above 15ft (4.5 m) and averages at around 3ft (0.91 m) above sea level in most neighborhoods, especially near the coast. The main portion of the city lies on the shores of Biscayne Bay which contains several hundred natural and artificially created barrier islands, the largest of which contains the city of Miami Beach and its famous South Beach district. The Gulf Stream, a warm ocean current, runs northward just 24km off the coast, allowing the city's climate to stay warm and mild all year
Name	After the Miami River on the banks of which the first settlement was founded.
Population	Miami was officially incorporated as a city on July 28, 1896, with a voting population of just over 300. In 1940, 172,172 people lived in the city. According to the 2000 census, the city proper had a population of 362,470, while the larger metropolitan area had a population over 5.4 million.
Language	English, Spanish Miami is home to 150+ ethnicities and 60+ languages
Currency	US Dollars; the current rate is 98 cents US to the Canadian Dollar as at 29 October 2010
Tipping	15%
Government	35 municipalities, including Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, City of Miami Beach and Bal Harbour Village.
Documentation	Passports are now required for Canadian visitors, whether arriving by air or by coach or car.
Time zone	EST same as Toronto and Montreal.
Health	Ensure you have travel insurance as emergency health costs in the US can be very expensive.
Safety tips	Miami, despite being heralded on TV as a centre of crime and drug smuggling, is relatively safe for the passing tourist. One should use the same precautions as when traveling anywhere - try not to travel alone and avoid deserted areas at night.

CLIMATE	
General climate	Miami has a humid subtropical climate, with warm, humid summers, and mild winters by most standards. The city does experience cold fronts from November through March, however most of the year is warm and humid, and the summers are reminiscent of a true tropical climate. In

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	addition, the city sees most of its rain in the summer (wet season) and is mainly dry in winter (dry season). The wet season, which is hot and humid, lasts from May to September, when it gives way to the dry season, which features mild temperatures with some invasions of colder air, which is when the little winter rainfall occurs — with the passing of a front. The hurricane season largely coincides with the wet season
Today's weather	Mostly sunny and 27 centigrade (30 October 2010)
Best time to visit	Peak season in South Florida runs from October to March. And while peak season is the most popular time to visit, pre- and post-season offer you a less congested, less expensive travel experience.

GETTING THERE	
Flying time	3 hours
Cities	Miami
Ferries	A ferry that goes from Miami to Key West : the PurrSeavearance is a luxury \$7.5 million catamaran. The 102-foot boat can hold up to 149 passengers and will make the 4-hour cruise (driving only takes 3 hr., but with traffic it can take up to 5) four times a week starting at \$69 each way. The main seaport, The Port of Miami, is the largest cruise ship port in the world , serving 3.5 million passengers per year
Trains	Metrorail is single-line elevated rail system serving Miami and surrounding areas and serves two areas of tourist interest directly, downtown Miami and the area around Dadeland Mall. Coconut Grove and downtown Coral Gables can be reached via short shuttle bus from various stations. Service to Miami Beach and other barrier islands can only be reached by bus. Downtown Miami is served by an elevated people mover system known as Metromover , which connects to Metrorail at two stations. Metromover is free of charge and is the most efficient way to move around Downtown Miami.
Car Rental	Car rentals are the most convenient for of transportation for visitors, with local companies offering better prices but national chains offering more convenience with return policies and times; rates are good value.
Buses	Miami has a large and elaborate public bus system which covers the entire county and connects, at northern points, to the bus system in Greater Fort Lauderdale
Passes	7-Day Visitor Passport : unlimited Miami Dade public transport for \$19 for one week

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	From ultra-luxury resorts to guest houses – it's all here in Miami. There are 460+ hotels and motels and nearly 50,000 rooms. And check out some of the Art Deco resorts along the beach for the ultimate in chic! Our show prize hotel is one of South Beach's most beautiful
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	<p>boutique properties: The Hotel. Experience the cozy mix of rich, cool colors and artisan detailing, the award-winning restaurant, Wish, and the rooftop pool with panoramic views. Find out more at www.thehotelofsouthbeach.com</p>
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	<p>Best hotel for families: the Sonesta Beach Resort Key Biscayne is known for its complimentary children's programs led by trained counselors who supervise kids, grouped by age, in pool and beach activities and on field trips including dinner, movie, and museum excursions.</p> <p>Best beach for Kids: Miami's Crandon Beach is extremely popular for families with kids because of the shallow water created by a neighboring sandbar. Convenient parking, picnic areas, a winding boardwalk, and a multi-ethnic mix of families grilling, dancing, and relaxing are the benchmarks of this beach.</p> <p>Miami Childrens' Museum: This brand new museum, located across the MacArthur Causeway from Parrot Jungle Island, is a modern, albeit odd looking, 56,500-square-foot facility that includes 12 galleries, classrooms, a parent/teacher resource center, a Kid Smart educational gift shop, a 200-seat auditorium, and Subway restaurant. The museum offers hundreds of bilingual, interactive exhibits as well as programs and classes and learning materials related to arts, culture, community, and communication. Kids-only activities and exhibitions, such as the miniature Bank of America and Publix Supermarket, and a re-creation of the NBC 6 television studio. There's also a re-creation of a Carnival Cruise ship and even a port stop in a re-created Brazil. The coolest thing of all is the World Music Studio in which aspiring Britneys, Justins, and Lenny Kravitzes can lay down a few tracks and play instruments.</p> <p>Jungle Island: Jungle Island is the home for 1,100 tropical birds, 2,000 varieties of plants and flowers, and the best trained bird show in the world. It is a place where exotic birds "fly free" everyday. www.jungleisland.com</p>
Teens	<p>Miami Duck Tours offer a decidedly unique way to explore Miami by land and sea. As you glide through downtown Miami and South Beach aboard "vesicles" that look like ducks on wheels, your guide quacks on about landmarks and encourages you to interact with the locals. Next thing you know you are cruising into Biscayne Bay, passing celebrity mansions from the water.</p> <p>Miami Seaquarium: you will want to arrive early to enjoy the effects of its mild splash. You'll need at least 3 hours to tour the 35-acre</p>

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	<p>oceanarium and see all four daily shows starring a number of showy ocean mammals. You can cut your visit to 2 hours if you limit your shows to the better, albeit corny, Flipper Show and Killer Whale Show. The highly regarded Water and Dolphin Exploration Program (WADE) allows visitors to touch and swim with dolphins in the Flipper Lagoon. The program costs \$140 per person participating.</p> <p>This Halloween, Miami Seaquarium unleashes Monster Splash Nighttime Bash 2010, the biggest, scariest, kid-friendly, nighttime Halloween extravaganza in Miami. The event features six nights of ghoulish fun, frights and trick-or-treating October 29th through October 31st. Enjoy Halloween themed shows, haunted houses, rides, slides, grand-finale fireworks and lots of spooky fun.</p> <p>https://www.miamiseaquarium.com/monstersplash</p>
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UNIQUES	Travel + Leisure magazine recently ranked Miami #1 city for most attractive people!
Surprising	In September 1998, during a routine archeological investigation on the mouth of the Miami River, several unusual and unique features were discovered cut into the bedrock: a prehistoric circular structure, 38 feet in diameter, with intentional markings of the cardinal directions as well as a 5-foot-long shark and two stone axes, suggesting the circle had ceremonial significance to Miami's earliest inhabitants - the Tequesta Indians. Radiocarbon tests confirm that the circle is about 2,000 years old.
History	<p>The earliest evidence of Native American settlement in the Miami region came from about 12,000 years ago. The first inhabitants settled on the banks of the Miami River, with the main villages on the northern banks. The inhabitants at the time of first European contact were the Tequesta people, who controlled much of southeastern Florida. The Tequesta Indians fished, hunted, and gathered the fruit and roots of plants for food, but did not practice any form of agriculture.</p> <p>Juan Ponce de León was the first European to visit the area in 1513 by sailing into Biscayne Bay. His journal records that he reached Chequescha, which was Miami's first recorded name. It is unknown whether he came ashore or made contact with the Indians. Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and his men made the first recorded landing when they visited the Tequesta settlement in 1566 while looking for Avilés' missing son, shipwrecked a year earlier. Spanish soldiers led by Father Francisco Villiareal built a Jesuit mission at the mouth of the Miami River a year later but it was short-lived.</p> <p>The first permanent European settlers arrived in the early 1800s. People came from the Bahamas to South Florida and the Keys to hunt for treasure from the ships that ran aground on the treacherous Great Florida reef. Some accepted Spanish land offers along the Miami River.</p>

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	<p>At about the same time, the Seminole Indians arrived, along with a group of runaway slaves. The area was affected by the Second Seminole War, during which Major William S. Harney led several raids against the Indians. Most non-Indian residents were soldiers stationed at Fort Dallas. It was the most devastating Indian war in American history, causing almost a total loss of population in the Miami area. After the Second Seminole War ended in 1842, William English, re-established a plantation started by his uncle on the Miami River. He charted the "Village of Miami" on the south bank of the Miami River and sold several plots of land. In 1844, Miami became the county seat, and six years later a census reported that there were ninety-six residents living in the area. The Third Seminole War (1855-1858) was not as destructive as the second one. Even so, it slowed down the settlement of southeast Florida. At the end of the war, a few of the soldiers stayed. Julia Tuttle - the "Mother of Miami" - convinced Standard Oil co-founder Henry Flagler to extend his railroad from central Florida to Miami, build a luxury hotel, and lay out a new town. She did so by sending him perfect Miami orange blossoms during a crop freeze north of Miami. The railroad arrived in 1896. The City of Miami was incorporated on July 28 that same year.</p>
<p>Books</p>	<p>Frommer's Florida 2011 To Have and Have Not by Ernest Hemingway - one of the many must-reads by Key West's most famous resident</p>
<p>1000 Places to see before you die</p>	<p>Everglades National Park The Delano Hotel, Miami Beach Joe's Stone Crab restaurant (Oct to May) South Beach, Miami – Art Deco Villa Vizcaya – Hearst Castle of the East (1916)</p>
<p>Must Sees</p>	<p>Art Deco architecture in South Beach - Miami Beach's Art Deco District contains the world's largest collection of Art Deco Architecture (800+ buildings) The district is roughly bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Alton Road on the west, 6th Street to the south, and Dade Boulevard (along the Collins Canal) to the north. Simply put, Art Deco is a style of architecture that, in its heyday of the 1920s and '30s, used to be considered ultramodern. Today, fans of the style think it's retro-fabulous. And while some people may not consider the style fabulous, it's undoubtedly retro. According to the experts, Art Deco made its debut in 1925 in an exposition in Paris in which it set a stylistic tone, with buildings based on early neoclassical styles with the application of exotic motifs like flora, fauna, and fountains based on geometric patterns. In Miami, Art Deco is marked by the pastel-hued buildings that line South Beach and Miami Beach. But it's a lot more than just color. If you look carefully, you will see the intricacies and</p>

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	<p>impressive craftsmanship that went into each building back in the day - which, in Miami's case, was the '20s, '30s, and '40s, and now, thanks to intensive restoration, today.</p> <p>Most of the finest examples of the whimsical Art Deco style are concentrated along three parallel streets - Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue, and Washington Avenue - from about 6th to 23rd streets.</p>
<p>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Miami has truly become a sports championship destination, hosting Super Bowl XLV, the Sony Ericsson Open tennis championship, the CA Golf Championship at Doral, the 2009 Acura Miami Grand Prix and five world-class motorsport championships in one year (IndyCar Series, Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series, NASCAR Sprint Cup, Nationwide and Camping World Truck Series Championships). Sports fans will also appreciate Miami's major league teams, which include football, baseball and basketball. Then there are the professional sports teams:</p> <p>Miami Dolphins, NFL Florida Panthers, NHL Florida Marlins, MLB Miami Heat, NBA</p>
<p>Golf</p>	<p>Miami is a terrific place to play golf! There are 23 public and many private golf courses and resorts throughout the city, where one can improve their handicap or just have fun with friends.</p> <p>Best Public Golf Course: Miami's Biltmore Golf Course, Biltmore Hotel. The sixth hole is notoriously difficult, with distracting water hazards among other difficulties. Nonetheless, it's an excellent course with picture-postcard setting.</p> <p>Known internationally for the infamous Blue Monster course, Doral Golf Resort & Spa, a Marriott Resort, is gearing up for the grand opening of another championship golf course: The Jim McLean Signature Course at Doral, which will debut in November. Formerly known as the Silver Course, The Jim McLean Signature Course at Doral is McLean's first full golf course design project. As an acclaimed golf instructor, he has operated the Jim McLean Golf School at Doral for the past 20 years. For details, visit www.DoralResort.com</p>
<p>Fishing</p>	<p>The Biscayne Bay area is prime tarpon fishing country and a pretty good spot for a lot of other trophy sportfish: snook, bonefish, dolphin fish, swordfish, and sailfish. For a fee, local guides are happy to show you the hot spots and make sure you reel one in. One such guide is Capt. David Parsons who owns a great 28-foot boat, Hakuna Matada. He knows where the fish are biting and will take you from Biscayne Bay to the Atlantic Ocean in search of the best catch of the day for \$550 for four people</p>

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<p>Jai alai</p>	<p>Jai alai, sort of a Spanish-style indoor lacrosse, was introduced to Miami in 1924 and is regularly played in two Miami-area frontons (the buildings in which jai alai is played). Although the sport has roots stemming from ancient Egypt, the game, as it's now played, was invented by Basque peasants in the Pyrenees Mountains during the 17th century.</p> <p>Players use woven baskets, called cestas, to hurl balls, called pelotas, at speeds that sometimes exceed 170 mph. Spectators, who are protected behind a wall of glass, place bets on the evening's players.</p>
<p>NASCAR 2010</p>	<p>Miami has "NASCAR Fever" in anticipation of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Ford 400 November 19-21, 2010. NASCAR Championship Drive features two days (November 18-19) of fan friendly events throughout the city. The Grand Arrival Parade on November 18 at 4 p.m. will feature NASCAR haulers and drivers, NASCAR stock cars and Homestead Miami Speedway pace cars driving across MacArthur Causeway from Miami Beach into Downtown Miami. On November 19-20, NASCAR Infield is a fan event held at Homestead Miami Speedway featuring interactive displays, contests and giveaways along with food and beverages. Coco-Cola Rocks Miami heats things up on South Beach November 18 from 7 to 10 p.m. with a live concert featuring Grammy-award winning Zac Brown Band and other hot musical artists on Miami Beach between 7th and 9th streets.</p>
<p>Hiking</p>	<p>The beaches stretch forever – check out the live web cam on South Beach on the home page of www.miamiandbeaches.com .</p>
<p>Cycling</p>	<p>Bikers can enjoy more than 250kms of paved paths throughout Miami. The beautiful and quiet streets of Coral Gables and Coconut Grove (several bike trails are spread throughout these neighborhoods) are great for bicyclists, where old trees form canopies over wide, flat roads lined with grand homes</p>
<p>Diving</p>	<p>Miami is the "Wreckreational" Diving Capital of the World, containing Miami over 50 diveable wreck sites - such as ships, oil platforms, army tanks and the Spirit of Miami Boeing 727 jet - sunken to provide artificial reefs for marine life.</p> <p>Scuba Diving off Jupiter Beach: In 1988, Jupiter Beach lifeguard Peter Leo spotted an anchor and cannon while on his routine morning swim. Turns out, they belonged to what is believed to be the shipwreck of a Spanish galleon dating back to the 16th or 17th century. Giving literal meaning to South Florida's Treasure and Gold coasts, this wreck is worth holding your breath for.</p> <p>Sunny Isles is a prime location, offering 'sightseeing adventures' for divers, such as the Concepcion, a 150' freighter, the C-One, a 120' tug boat, and the Tenneco Platform, which is the latest artificial reef on the east coast of the US, covering over 10,000 square feet of surface area.</p>

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<p>CULTURE</p>	<p>Moonlight Concerts at the Barnacle State Historic Site: Once a month, on or near the full moon (except during July and August), the Barnacle State Historic Site hosts a concert in the backyard of their charming 1908 Coconut Grove bungalow built on 5 acres of waterfront property. Listeners are welcome to picnic and bask in this sublime setting for a mere \$5.</p>
<p>Arts</p>	<p>The Bass Museum of Art: the museum's permanent collection includes European paintings from the 15th through the early 20th centuries with special emphasis on Northern European art of the Renaissance and baroque periods</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>Miami music is varied. Latin American Immigrants brought the conga and rumba to Miami from their homelands instantly popularizing it in American culture.</p> <p>In the early-1970s, the Miami disco sound came to life with TK Records, featuring the music of KC and the Sunshine Band, with such hits as "Get Down Tonight", "(Shake, Shake, Shake) Shake Your Booty" and "That's the Way (I Like It)"; and the Latin-American disco group, Foxy (band), with their hit singles "Get Off" and "Hot Number". Miami-area natives George McCrae and Teri DeSario were also popular music artists during the 1970s disco era.</p> <p>Miami-influenced, Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine, hit the popular music scene with their Cuban-oriented sound and had huge hits in the 1980s with "Conga" and "Bad Boys".</p> <p>Miami also had a huge place in hip-hop music since the mid-1980s, with its urban sound, rivaling that of New York City as the East Coast's prime hip-hop mecca. Miami's also the birthplace of Miami Bass and arguably the birthplace of Southern Rap. Notable hip-hop artists from Miami consist of 2 Live Crew, Dre, Luther Campbell, Poison Clan, Trick Daddy, Trina, Pitbull, Rick Ross, Smitty, and the late DJ Uncle Al. Producers include Cool & Dre, The Diaz Brothers, Red Spyda.</p>
<p>Miami Live Music Month Nov 2010</p>	<p>The live music scene in Miami is one of Miami's best kept secrets – but not for much longer! The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Office of Film and Entertainment and Film and Entertainment Advisory Board has teamed up on an initiative to promote Miami's live music venues and the great musicians that play in them. Modeled after successful programs such as Miami Spa Month, Miami Spice Restaurant Month, Miami Museum Month and Miami Attractions Month, the GMCVB created the Miami Live Music Month.</p> <p>www.MiamiLiveMusicMonth.com will include links to area venues and concerts; and featuring a calendar of live music events and special offers. November will celebrate the first ever Miami Live Music Month to coincide with Miami Music Festival on November 11-14, 2010. This Festival features over 400 live performances. After November, the</p>

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	promotion of the Miami live music scene will continue year-round.
Films	<p>Miami has acted as the backdrop for several movies, including There's Something About Mary, Ace Ventura: Pet Detective, 2 Fast 2 Furious, Bad Boys & Bad Boys II, The Birdcage, True Lies, Miami Vice, and most notably 1983's Scarface.</p> <p>Many TV series have been set in Miami and CSI Miami is still a top ranked current series that uses the glitz of Miami as a backdrop.</p> <p>And our guest on the radio shows from Miami CVB, Bill Talbert, had his Coconut Grove house exterior featured on a recent episode of "Burn Notice".</p>
Museums	<p>Vizcaya Museum and Gardens: Built in 1916, this Italian Renaissance-style manse on Biscayne Bay in Miami features 34 rooms of antiques, art, and tapestries; 10 acres of Italian gardens, statues, and fountains; a new orchid display; and a picture-perfect view of the skyline and Key Biscayne.</p> <p>Bass Museum of Art: The Bass Museum of Art has expanded and received a dramatically new look, rendering it Miami's most progressive art museum. World-renowned Japanese architect Arata Isozaki designed the magnificent new facility, which has triple the former exhibition space, and added an outdoor sculpture terrace, a museum cafe and courtyard, and a museum shop, among other improvements. In addition to providing space in which to show the permanent collection, exhibitions of a scale and quality not previously seen in Miami will now be featured at the Bass. The museum's permanent collection includes European paintings from the 15th through the early 20th centuries with special emphasis on Northern European art of the Renaissance and baroque periods, including Dutch and Flemish masters such as Bol, Flinck, Rubens, and Jordaens.</p> <p>The World Erotic Museum, South Beach: Opened in 2005 by 70-year-old grandmother Naomi Wilzig, the museum features Wilzig's collection of over 4,000 pieces of erotic art, including Kama Sutra temple carvings from India, peekaboo Victorian figurines that flash their booties, and a prop from the sexual thriller A Clockwork Orange. The 12,000-square-foot museum is located above Mansion, a club that's no stranger to erotic art - that is, performance art. This is a great place to spend an hour or two on a rainy day and more than anything, the stuff is amusing more than sexy or racy.</p>
Festivals	<p>The core of Miami's festival life is the kaleidoscopic celebrations hosted by the richly diverse ethnic groups eager to share their food, music, dance and crafts. These festivals, offered year-round in Miami's warm weather climate showcase the traditions of the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, Europe and more.</p> <p>Some of the "hot" happenings include Art Deco Weekend, Coconut Grove Arts Festival, South Beach Wine and Food Festival, Art Basel</p>

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Miami Beach, Miami Boat Show & Strictly Sail, Little Havana's Carnival Miami, film festivals galore (Black, Gay & Lesbian, Hispanic, Jewish and Miami Film Festival), the White Party, Sony Ericsson Open tennis championship, and the Ford Golf Championship at Doral. The city's myriad of festivals and events reflect the tapestry of life, culture, ethnicity, arts, sports and history of its people. Almost every weekend there is a festival to celebrate something, somewhere in the city.

OCTOBER 2010

MIAMI ATTRACTIONS MONTH (Oct. 1- 31) – Miami has attractions that offer countless choices — from historic to adventuresome, natural to man-made. Attractions so exotic they beckon to be explored. Just imagine swimming with dolphins, penguins in the sun and hand-feeding giraffes — just a few. During Miami Attractions Month visitors can access printable coupons to save even more on a Miami vacation with free admission deals, adults at children prices and other admission discounts. Various attractions throughout Miami-Dade County, 305-539-3000, www.EveryonesaKid.com .

METROBOO! (Oct. 30-31) – Trick-or-Treat at the zoo for ages 12 and under. Enjoy costume contests, music, fabulous prizes and safe and fun trick-or-treating. Even Metrozoo's very own animals will have animal treats for Halloween during scheduled keeper talks. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Miami Metrozoo, 12400 SW 152nd St., Miami, FL 33177, 305-255-5551, www.miamimetrozoo.com .

NOVEMBER 2010

MIAMI MUSIC FESTIVAL (Nov. 12-14) - The Miami Music Festival and its emerging artists' conference return this November with a new and expanded schedule, new venues and more new music than ever. The MMF will again feature acts in a wide variety of genres from Florida, around the U.S. and around the world, performing for the music industry, the press, the local community of music fans and visitors to Miami. In 2010, the festival will add shows in major theaters, two daytime, multi-stage sessions and use of more clubs throughout the city. www.miamimusicfestival.org .

SANTA'S ENCHANTED FOREST (Nov. 3- Jan. 1) – One of the world's largest Christmas theme park and carnival. Offers more than 100 rides, shows, displays, games and food for the family to enjoy. Be amazed by a 92-foot tall Christmas tree, hundreds of themed displays, pony rides, a petting zoo and more than 3,000,000 lights. All rides, shows and

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parking are free with paid admission. Tropical Park, 7900 SW 40 Street, Miami FL 33155, 305-893-0090, www.santasenchantedforest.com .

MIAMI BOOK FAIR INTERNATIONAL (Nov. 14-21) – One of the nation's largest outdoor book fairs. Thousands of book lovers attend readings and discussions featuring prize-winning, best-selling and emerging authors from the U.S. and around the world. Miami-Dade Community College, Wolfson Campus, 300 NE 2nd Ave. Miami, FL 33132, 305-237-3258, www.miamibookfair.com .

FORD CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND – NASCAR (Nov. 19-21) – Enjoy four days of racing excitement, with the Ford 200 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Finale (Nov. 20); Ford 300 NASCAR Busch Series Finale (Nov. 21); and Ford 400 Chase for the NASCAR Nextel Cup Finale (Nov. 22). Homestead-Miami Speedway, 1 Speedway Blvd., Homestead, FL 33035, Ticket Office: 866-409-RACE, www.homesteadmiamispeedway.com .

WHITE PARTY WEEK 2010 (Nov. 25-29) – An unparalleled week of fund-raising parties and events culminating with the legendary White Party. More than 15,000 party-goers enjoy six days and nights of nonstop entertainment in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Various locations throughout Miami-Dade County, 305-576-1234, Ext. 257, www.whiteparty.org .

DECEMBER 2010

ART MIAMI 2010 (Dec. 1-5) – This annual modern and contemporary art fair features approximately 90 galleries from Europe, Asia and the Americas. Art Miami – with an emphasis on galleries showing mid-career and established artists, in addition to spaces reserved for emerging, cutting-edge artists – provides unprecedented access to Miami's exciting art market. Covered tent located at corner of Northwest Second Avenue and 22nd Street, Wynwood, FL 33127, 888-772-8926, www.art-miami.com .

ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH (Dec. 2-5) – This international art show and American sister event of Art Basel in Switzerland is recognized as the most important annual art show of its kind in America. Two hundred leading art galleries will exhibit 20th- and 21st-century art works from more than 1,500 artists. In addition to Art Basel itself, there will be many ancillary events at art facilities and other public venues around the community. Miami Beach Convention Center, 1700 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33139, 305-674-1292, www.artbasel.com .

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	<p>29TH ANNUAL KING MANGO STRUT (Dec. 29) –This zany, wacky spoof of the former Orange Bowl Parade includes the "Little Miss Mangoes", the "Marching Freds" (anyone named Fred is invited to join in!), the "Roadkill Band" and other offbeat participants. All "musical" entries join forces at the finale for the combined "Musical Massacre" at Peacock Park, Coconut Grove. www.kingmangostrut.org .</p> <p>BAYFRONT PARK'S NEW YEAR'S EVE (Dec. 31) – Free annual New Year's Eve event featuring a concert performance and midnight fireworks display. Gates open at 7 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m., and the fireworks are at midnight. Bayfront Park Amphitheater, 401 N. Biscayne Blvd., downtown Miami. www.bayfrontparkmiami.com .</p> <p>BIG ORANGE NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION (Dec. 31) – A City of Miami tradition, the 35-foot neon Big Orange (one of the nation's official time balls) will rise 400 feet to the top of its home site, the Hotel InterContinental Miami. Fireworks and a laser show round out the festivities. The Big Orange will start its climb at 6 p.m. Hotel InterContinental Miami, 100 Chopin Plaza, Miami, FL 33131, 305-539-3000.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	<p>A main attraction is Miami's beaches - which regularly make the A-list with their soft sand, cool breezes and temperatures averaging 24C. South Beach, Key Biscayne, Miami Beach, Bal Harbour and Sunny Isles Beach are some of the popular local beaches. Sunbathe, swim, surf, fish or simply take a stroll, a relaxing yet energizing pastime on these stunning shores. When you're ready to get on the water, there are many options: deep sea and fresh water fishing; dining, sightseeing and gaming cruises; luxury yachts; speed boats; sailboat charters and more.</p> <p>Best beach for Tranquility: Matheson Hammock Park Beach in South Miami features an enclosed man-made lagoon that is flushed naturally by the tidal action of the adjacent Biscayne Bay. The serene beach is surrounded by the bay's warm, calm waters and a backdrop of tropical hardwood forest</p> <p>Best beach for watersports: Hobie Beach, located on the south side of Key Biscayne's Rickenbacker Causeway, is one of the most popular beaches for watersport enthusiasts, featuring jet-ski, sailboat, windsurfing, and sailboard rentals; shade, if necessary, from the Australian pine; and a sublime view of the picturesque downtown Miami</p>

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<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>Airboat Ride Through the outskirts of the Everglades: unfettered by jet skis, cruise ships, and neon bikinis, the Everglades are Florida's outback, resplendent in their swampy nature. The Everglades are best explored either by slow-moving canoes that really get you acquainted with your surroundings or via an airboat that can quickly navigate its way through the most stubborn of saw grass while providing you with an up-close and personal (as well as fun) view of the land's inhabitants, from alligators and manatees to Florida panthers.</p> <p>Miami Seaquarium unveiled its new dolphin habitat, Dolphin Harbor, in July 2007. The new \$5 million habitat will be home to the park's expanded Swim with our Dolphins program. The program features a two hour up-close and personal dolphin interaction experience that includes an intimate swim with a dolphin, an interactive educational segment in a classroom environment and one day's admission to Miami Seaquarium. Home to eight Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins, the new habitat features a 12,000-square-foot, 700,000-gallon dolphin pool surrounded by an 8,000-square-foot meeting facility. For more information, visit www.MiamiSeaquarium.com</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>Miami has 800+ parks, including Crandon Beach county park and Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, consistently in Dr. Beach's top 10 Best Beaches in the U.S. Miami is also home to two unique national parks, Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park. Award-winning tennis and golf are popular here, as well as water sports, such as parasailing, windsurfing, wave-running and jet-skiing.</p> <p>Biscayne National Park A rarity among national parks, Biscayne National Park is primarily aquatic. Of its 173,000 acres, 95 percent are under water. Teeming with sea life and plants, the park encompasses the turquoise waters of Biscayne Bay, the longest stretch of mangrove forest left on Florida's east coast, living coral reefs and 40 of the northernmost Florida Keys. Getting out on the water is the key to discovering the wonders of Biscayne National Park. At the Dante Fascell Visitor Center, it is possible to join glass bottom boat tours, snorkeling and dive trips and island excursions or rent canoes and kayaks. Fishing is excellent, with snapper, snook and barracuda among the most common catch.</p> <p>Patch reefs provide a snorkeler's paradise. In shallow waters less than 10 feet deep, the living coral is home to a variety of sea life including tropical fish, sponges and the spiny lobster. Manatees, dolphins and five species of sea turtles call the waters of Biscayne Bay home, as do moray eels, stingrays, squid, starfish and hundreds of varieties of fish, large and small.</p>

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	<p>MacArthur Beach, in West Palm Beach, is considered by many nature enthusiasts to be the most beautiful nature park in South Florida, with a nice stretch of beach set against a lush and diverse background of foliage, plus a state-of-the-art nature center and renowned sea turtle awareness program.</p>
Gardens	<p>Fairchild Tropical Garden in Coral Gables is the largest of its kind in the continental United States. A veritable rainforest of both rare and exotic plants, as well as 11 lakes and countless meadows, are spread across 83 acres. Palmettos, vine pergola, palm glades, and other unique species create a scenic, lush environment. More than 100 species of birds have been spotted at the garden</p>
The Everglades	<p>Covering 1.5 million acres, Everglades National Park is the third largest in the U.S. National Parks system. Made up of sawgrass prairies, mangrove swamps, subtropical jungles and the warm waters of Florida Bay, the park is home to a rare community of plants and endangered animals that inhabit the seemingly endless grassy waters. Visitors to the park can enjoy self-guided and ranger-led tours and activities from the Main Visitor Center at the Park's entrance, or journey deeper into the Everglades for a more extensive experience in the Florida wilderness. Families may want to drive to the town of Flamingo, 60 kms from the park's main entrance and featuring many rare birds and exotic wildlife. Exciting sites along the drive include Anhinga Trail and the Pahayokee Overlook. World-class fishing is one of Flamingo's irresistible lures. The park's waters provide thousands of acres for fishing: shallow water flats channels and mangrove keys are home to snook, redfish, snapper, trout, largemouth bass and sea catfish. To the north, the Shark Valley entrance to the Park offers one of the best places to observe wildlife. Take a tram tour or rent a bike to traverse a 24km route. A 65-foot observation tower gives you a bird's eye view of the River of Grass.</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Upscale Specialty : For the intrepid shopper, Greater Miami and the Beaches is a global marketplace that offers a bounty of choices on par with those found in world-class cities. No matter what your taste, numerous specialty shops are here for the picking.</p> <p>Outlet Malls : Discover two major Greater Miami outlet malls, where the assortments are vast and the low prices are too-hard-to-resist. The Dolphin Mall is home to more than a dozen major anchor stores and more than 200 smaller shops and entertainment options. The other value center, Prime Outlets, has more than 30 unique shops.</p>

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	<p>Shopping Promenades : Shopping promenades are a common sight in Greater Miami, as the area's near-perfect weather affords. Imagine shopping as you stroll along open-aired walkways surrounded by lushly landscape gardens and the soothing sounds of gentle waterfalls. Some popular malls include: Dadeland Mall in South Miami, accessible via MetroRail Merrick Park in Coral Gables (exclusive and trendy stores), accessible via Metrorail and also by trolley (free in Coral Gables). Lincoln Road Mall Bal Harbor Shops has more exclusive and trendy stores Aventura Mall in Aventura. Dolphin Mall - Largest Mall in Miami Sawgrass Mills Mall - outlets in Broward County, north of Miami.</p>
<p>Spas</p>	<p>Exhale Spa, already a favorite relaxation mecca in cities from New York to Los Angeles, is now in preopening at Epic Hotel. While treatments won't be available for a few months when the impressive two-story space opens, the spa is now offering its famous core fusion classes in a temporary studio. The workout mixes Pilates, yoga, barre work (as in ballet) and stretching. For details, visit www.ExhaleSpa.com</p> <p>The spa at InterContinental Miami, mySpa, recently transformed its Blue Water Café into two private, luxurious, oceanfront suites featuring a captivating view overlooking Biscayne Bay. Expansive and richly appointed, both rooms offer privacy and serenity as a guest's own spa oasis. Each Ocean Suite is nestled in a secluded alcove and offers a full range of spa services. For details, visit www.ICMiamiHotel.com .</p>
<p>Nightlife</p>	<p>Miami's nightlife scene is as hot as their sunsets. Sultry nights, seductive rhythms, hot Latin tempos and sophisticated vibes guarantee a great time. Whether it's a get-away-from-it-all nature retreat one day and a non-stop whirling party the next -- there's something for everyone when the destination is Miami. This must be why Miami was recently named one of 'America's Most Entertaining Cities' by Forbes.com.</p> <p>South Beach: If you can handle it, you can boogie down until the sun comes up in cavernous, pulsating dance clubs, which are considered amongst the best in the world. Lounges aren't too shabby either. There's Rumi, a swank resto-lounge in which the likes of Jennifer Lopez and members of Mötley Crüe mix with a colorful crowd of local and international hipsters and then there's Skybar at The Shore Club, Mynt, Opium, and, well the list goes on. Where else can us ordinary folk brush elbows with Hollywood starlets, entertainment moguls, and living legends but in South Beach's hot clubs, bars, and restaurants, many of which don't get going until the crack of dawn</p>

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<p>Casinos</p>	<p>Although gambling is technically illegal in Miami, there are plenty of loopholes that allow all kinds of wagering. Gamblers can try their luck at offshore casinos or on shore at bingo, jai alai, card rooms, horse tracks, dog races, and Native-American reservations.</p> <p>The classiest gambling cruise is the Casino Princesa, which docks behind the Hard Rock Cafe in Bayside Marketplace. This 200-foot \$15 million yacht has more than 200 slot machines, 32 tables, a restaurant, and four lounges in 10,000 square feet of gaming space on two decks. It's also a major bargain at \$10 per person. Ships sail for 5 hours from 12:30 to 5:30pm and 7:30pm to 12:30am daily</p>
<p>CUISINE</p>	<p>When it comes to cuisine, Miami dishes up exotic ingredients and taste-tempting selections. You can dine alfresco or indoors, go casual or extravagant, savor International or Caribbean, "New World" or "Floribbean," which uses flavors and spices from the nearby Caribbean and Latin American countries. Miami also plays host to a year-round slate of prestigious wine and food events such as South Beach Wine and Food Festival, International Mango Festival, and Miami Spice Restaurant Month. An epicure's paradise awaits you in Miami.</p>
<p>Food</p>	<p>Many international cuisines are to be found, with a heavy leaning towards Latin foods, particularly Cuban cuisine. Cuban cuisine to try: a sandwich cubano (Cuban sandwich), and a cafecito (literally: little coffee, but compares to a strong, sweet espresso.)</p>
<p>Wine</p>	<p>"Cuba Libre" is a popular drink, known to the rest of the world as plain old "rum and Coke".</p>
<p>Restaurants</p>	<p>Wish: Within "The Hotel", the interior décor by fashion designer Todd Oldham is both exotic and cozy, while the exterior boasts a magical tropical garden setting. The restaurant serves classic American cooking with accents from contemporary Asian cuisine http://www.wishrestaurant.com</p> <p>Opened in 2009, the Bancroft Supper Club, a glamorous new restaurant and lounge located at 1501 Collins Avenue, differentiates itself from other South Beach hot spots by virtue of its serious approach to the culinary element in the equation. Award-winning chef Tim Andriola, who has been packing them in at Timo since 2003, expands his culinary horizons with a dazzling organic American menu. Boasting 6,000 square feet, the beautifully renovated Art Deco showcase is notable for its alluring design. For details, visit www.BancroftSupperClub.com .</p> <p>Botequim Carioca, the first upscale Brazilian appetizer restaurant in the U.S., opened in August 2009 on Biscayne Boulevard in downtown</p>

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	<p>Miami. Nestled on the ground floor of a new condo building across from the AA Arena, the authentic Brazilian tavern is quickly becoming a favorite for sports fans to go after a Heat game to catch the night's best plays on a giant flat-screen, sip a few glasses of Brazilian beer and make their way through a parade of Portuguese tapas. For details, visit http://Botequim-Carioca.de/</p> <p>Charlotte Bistro, which some people are calling the restaurant version of “Sex in the City” recently opened in Coral Gables. The “girly” restaurant features small vases of flowers, cute little tables salvaged from flea markets and fun, vintage wallpaper. The chef/owner worked at Michelin-starred restaurants in Lyon, and specializes in French fusion dishes like grilled langoustines wrapped in bacon. For details, call 305-443-3003.</p> <p>Joe's Stone Crab, on South Beach. Famous for - not surprisingly - its stone crabs, but the restaurant is seasonal.</p> <p>China Grill on South Beach is also trendy. The food is good but the portions are small, and the price is mainly for the atmosphere. A full dinner for three-four people will run \$250-\$300.</p> <p>Nobu & Ago Restaurant, 1901 Collins Avenue, +1 800 697 1791, Serving cutting-edge Japanese cuisine, Nobu Matsuhisa and Robert DeNiro's renowned NOBU comes to Miami Beach.</p> <p>Blue Sea Restaurant, 1685 Collins Avenue (located in an alcove off the main lobby of the Delano Hotel), +1 800 697 1791 The obvious choice for a casual meal served in a cozy setting.</p> <p>Blue Door Restaurant, 1685 Collins Avenue (located in the Delano Hotel), +1 800 697 1791 Refined modern French cuisine with Brazilian and global influences.</p>
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MORE INFO	<p>Now that the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is on both Facebook and Twitter, as well instituted a new online concierge called “Ask MIA,” it’s easier than ever before for travelers to keep au courant with what’s new in Greater Miami and the Beaches. You can also visit Miami and Beaches dot com for a free vacation planner. Follow the news at:</p> <p>Twitter: http://twitter.com/MiamiandBeaches Myspace: www.myspace.com/miamiandbeaches Facebook: www.facebook.com</p>
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Brochures	For the Greater Miami and the Beaches Vacation Planner, phone 1888-76-MIAMI
Website	www.miamiandbeaches.com

HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER	<p>Sole On The Ocean Hotel Solé on the Ocean 17315 Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles Beach, FL, USA 33160 Phone: (786) 923 9300 Fax: (786) 923 9301 Website: http://www.soleontheocean.com</p> <p>High Style on Sunny Isles Beach. Overlooking the shimmering sands and turquoise waters of the “Florida Riviera,” the ultra-contemporary Solé on the Ocean is located just north of Miami Beach, Florida, in the picturesque enclave of Sunny Isles Beach. Towering 24 stories over Sunny Isles Beach, the hip Solé resort maintains a private beachfront and ocean-side swimming pool to keep guests cool. Each of the resort’s 249 guest rooms and suites feature modern decor, a private terrace with glass railings, floor to ceiling windows providing spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean or Intracoastal Waterway. Solé on the Ocean is lavish without the attitude; guests have full access to the hotel’s amenities, including a state-of-the-art full-service health club with spa services, business centre, and a knowledgeable and attentive concierge staff. Centrally located within the popular communities of Golden Beach, Bal Harbour, and Aventura, and only minutes from the culture and night life of South Beach and the Art Deco District, Solé is conveniently located a short distance from the South Beach dance clubs, pulsing with Latin rhythms and world-renowned shopping.</p>
Location	Solé on the Ocean is located just north of Miami Beach, Florida, in exclusive Sunny Isles and nearby to South Beach and the communities of Golden Beach, Bal Harbour, and Aventura. Solé Resort and Spa enjoys pleasant tropical weather year-round and some of the warmest winter climates anywhere in the US.
Facilities	Shimmering sands, turquoise waters, a private beachfront, an ocean side swimming pool — it’s all here. Guests of the hotel have full access to a full-service health club, spa services, business centre services, and a knowledgeable concierge staff. The hotel has a gym and a men’s and women’s sauna. There’s also waiter service to the beach!

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	<p>Sports available include:</p> <p>Golf: Guests can play at one of the resort's affiliated private courses and the resort will arrange tee times and transfers.</p> <p>Professional Sports: baseball, basketball, football and hockey are easily accessible, with Pro Player Stadium, Office Depot Center and American Airlines Arena nearby. See the Miami Dolphins, Miami Heat and Florida Marlins in person!</p> <p>The International Swimming Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex serves as the primary training facility for many past and future Olympians.</p> <p>IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum offers a vast exhibit, including the Catch Gallery, a virtual-reality fishing experience, and the Discovery Room, designed for kids to participate in a broad selection of sport-fishing activities.</p> <p>Boomers at Dania Beach: Offers go carts, bumper cars, miniature golf and batting cages, a great time for the entire family.</p> <p>Scuba Diving: Sunny Isles is a prime location, offering 'sightseeing adventures' for divers, such as the Concepcion, a 150' freighter, the C-One, a 120' tug boat, and the Tenneco Platform, which is the latest artificial reef on the east coast of the US, covering over 10,000 square feet of surface area.</p>
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>Relaxed luxury characterizes Solé's 249 guest rooms and suites. Taking full advantage of Sole's oceanfront location, each room features a private terrace with glass railings and floor-to-ceiling windows with spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean or Florida's Intracoastal Waterway.</p> <p>Inside the rooms, pillow top mattresses and state of the art in room amenities provide a relaxing stay with all the modern conveniences. To ensure a restful and luxurious sleep, the pillow-top mattresses are made up with fine linens and a hypo-allergenic lightweight European Duvets. Every room is equipped with coffee maker, MP3/clock radio, LCD TV, wireless high-speed direct Internet access, dual-line telephone, voice mail, and writing desk with task lighting. The over sized bathrooms feature a rain-head showerhead and upgraded bath amenities. All suites have full kitchens and washer dryers for long stays.</p>
<p>Restaurants</p>	<p>There's no restaurant at Solé on the Ocean, but there are many fine restaurants within easy walking distance.</p> <p>ALBA is an onsite, ultra trendy club, with floor-to-ceiling windows affording a sweeping view of the Atlantic, and orange decor providing a warm setting for sipping cocktails and lounging with friends. Club music sometimes gives way to rock and Latin, depending on the night.</p>

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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	Delano Hotel, South Beach, Key West, Florida Keys Coconut Grove; jet-skiing
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