



MIAMI

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Today, Miami is, unarguably, one of the nation's best-looking cities, with its sunlit skyline, its warm, inviting colors of the beaches and its exciting, diverse people. It belongs on a very short list of world-class cities that are as much a state of mind as an actual place.

1 MINUTE

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

1545 N. Bayshore Dr. • 305-374-3372

Founded in 1896, it's the oldest church within the city's limits. You can take in its magnificent Roman architecture, or peek inside at the mosaics (there's a depiction of the six days of creation) and the ornate stained glass windows.

Cape Florida Lighthouse

US 1 South

At the southwest tip of Key Biscayne, you'll find the oldest surviving lighthouse in the state of Florida. Retired during the Second Seminole War and Civil War, it was relit in 1978. Browse the museum and then scramble to the top for breathtaking tropical views.

1 HOUR

Bayfront Park

301 N. Biscayne Blvd. • 305-358-7550

Right on Biscayne Bay is where you'll find this all-in-one park. Relax among its 32 acres of greenery, with a small beach, rock garden, flowing fountains and monuments paying homage to historical events. Then you can mosey on to the open-air Bayside Marketplace with over 100 specialty shops.

Miami Beach Botanical Garden

2000 Convention Center Dr. • 305-673-7256

This virtually unknown oasis could be the area's best-kept secret. For 4-1/2 acres, you can enjoy a piece of serenity among subtropical plants and unusual flora. Plus, there's an "autograph tree," which has been signed by many celebrities who have enjoyed the tranquility here.

Bal Harbor Shops

9700 Collins Ave. • 305-866-0311

The elegant, European courtyard has some of fashion's biggest labels, like Chanel and Dior, plus world-renowned department stores like Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue. Once you shop up an appetite, there are both casual cafés and gourmet restaurants for a bite or a fine meal.

1 HOUR (CONT)

Art Deco Historic District

1001 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach (Welcome Ctr.) • 305-672-2014

Now revitalized to its former glory, the Art Deco District offers a glimpse of the streamlined, colorful architecture of the 20's and 30's. Visit the Welcome Center and take a tour of the historic pastel-tinged neighborhoods. Be sure to check out the vintage postcards and posters.

Tropical Park

7900 S.W. 40 St. • 305-226-8316

The headquarter site for the Miami Runners Club, the 3rd largest runner's organization in the U.S., Tropical Park offers miles of paved trails. Bike, walk or run the 8-1/2 mile South Bay path through Coconut Grove, shape up at the fitness court or boxing center or try your luck at the stocked fishing lake.

1 DAY

South Beach

1-800-283-2707 (Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau)

The "American Riviera" is where visitors, locals and celebs come for the Art Deco architecture, white beaches and shopping galore. Ocean Drive has Versace, Betsey Johnson and local shops, while Lincoln Road has boutiques and galleries. The nightlife never stops, with late-night clubs and restaurants.

Key Biscayne

305-361-5207 (Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce)

Pristine beaches and tropical surroundings make it a relaxing scene. There's Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park to swim, bike and kayak. For the truly adventurous, hike up to the 1825 lighthouse. And with rustic outdoor cafés and dolphin watching at the Miami Seaquarium, you'll see how easy it is to spend the day here.

Coral Gables

305-446-6800 (Coral Gables Visitors Center)

Known as "The City Beautiful," here you'll find parks, world-class golf courses, fine art and elegant restaurants. Miracle Mile has an array of specialty stores. There's also the 83-acre Fairchild Tropical Garden, with exotic blooms and hidden trails, and the Venetian Pool, a man-made oasis complete with fountains, waterfalls, coral caves and an artesian water pool where you can take a swim or bask in the scenery.



MIAMI

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

Nobu

Nobu is where locals and curious visitors come for top-notch raw specialties. The atmosphere is fairly stark, but the menu is full of delights, like black cod and rock shrimp tempura, served up with the chef's trademark Peruvian flair.

1901 Collins Ave., Miami Beach • 305-695-3232

Azul

The setting is modern elegance, with simple bronzes and silks, while the menu spans the globe. Entrées, a.k.a. "Plates of Resistance," include seared scallops as well as quail cordon bleu. Save room for the banana milk-chocolate bread pudding.

500 Brickell Key Dr. • 305-913-8254

Christy's

This legendary Coral Gables steakhouse comes with all the classic accents—the rich red walls, dark leather booths and traditional cuts of aged beef. Pick from the menu's array of steaks, ranging from prime rib to porterhouse.

3101 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables • 305-446-1400

Quattro Gastronomia Italiana

Quattro boasts Murano glass chandeliers, cognac leather seats and a custom-designed mirrored bar. Expect upscale, authentic Northern Italian fare from chefs who up the ante by sourcing ingredients—whether its salt, seafood or specialty cheeses—directly from Europe. Highlights include braised veal with cipollini onions melted in vermouth and lasagna featuring spinach pasta, beef ragout, mozzarella and just a touch of tomato sauce. The much-lauded cuisine and sophisticated digs make Quattro a magnet for celebrity patrons, so keep your eyes peeled.

1014 Lincoln Rd., Miami Beach • 305-531-4833

Chef Allen's

Famous for Palm Tree Cuisine, which draws heavily from tropical fruits and vegetables, Chef Allen's has been a culinary staple for 20+ years. A muted palette and vases of fresh flowers create a relaxed upscale atmosphere. Expect standards like ceviche, seared foie gras and soufflés with a tropical twist, and be sure to check out the extensive wine list.

19088 N.E. 29th Ave. (Biscayne Blvd.), Aventura • 305-935-2900

Table 8

Celebrity chef Govind Armstrong has brought his famous L.A. eatery and nestled it in the Regency South Beach. This oversized hotspot features a main dining room, private room, wine room and lounge, all with a hotspot vibe and access to Armstrong's renown salt-roasted porterhouse steak.

1458 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach • 305-695-4114

LOCAL FAVORITES

Crystal Café

A favorite among the locals, this warm, inviting spot, decked in soft colors and modern accents, offers up a contemporary menu with Eastern European flair. Starters include pistachio-encrusted goat cheese and escargot with mushrooms, while entrées range from Kiev-style chicken to pork tenderloin with caramelized green apples.

726 W. 41st St., Miami Beach • 305-673-8266

Blue Door

Feel like you've sailed right to the Caribbean in this chic hot spot in the Delano Hotel. Opt for the poolside grill or the softly lit modern dining room. Either way, the menu is French with a contemporary, and somewhat tropical, flair thanks to eclectic items like roasted Maine lobster with caramelized bananas.

1685 Collins Ave., Miami Beach • 305-674-6400

The News Café

It's a laid-back spot for people-watching and outdoor dining, 24/7. Expect a menu of café classics, like sandwiches and burgers, plus lighter bites like bagels and omelets.

800 Ocean Dr., South Beach • 305-538-6397

Sardinia

This unpretentious, intimate neighborhood favorite boasts Sardinian specialties cooked in a wood-fired oven. Chef Pietro Vardeu brings his talents from NYC (en route from Sardinia) and masterfully serves up delicacies like wild boar, roast quail and suckling pig.

1801 Purdy Ave., Miami Beach • 305-531-2228

Michy's

Helmed by local celeb chef Michelle Bernstein, Michy's features bold Mediterranean cuisine in a hip, vibrant 1970's retro setting. Entrées include peach-accented braised duck and handkerchief pasta with wild mushrooms. Half portions are available, so it's easy to explore the menu. Reservations strongly recommended.

6927 Biscayne Blvd. • 305-759-2001

B.E.D.

Eat, dance and mingle with the local nightlife at this hip nightspot where king-size beds double as tables and the menu's worth staying up for. Entrées include macadamia-crusting swordfish, and be sure to save room for a "Roll in the Sack": an apple cinnamon Swiss roll in a phyllo sack with vanilla ice cream. Call ahead for a reservation as beds go quickly!

929 Washington Ave., Miami Beach • 305-532-9070 / toll-free 305-532-7757