





## PLACES OF INTEREST

(1835– 1842). The war destroyed the urban development of Miami for the rest of the century.

Entrepreneurs moved to Miami in the late nineteenth century with a vision to create a new urban community. Julia Tuttle, often referred to as the “Mother of Miami,” bought the Fort Dallas site for her home and developed the area. William and Mary Brickell became well-known investors and traders in Miami. Henry M. Flagler, owner of Florida East Coast Railways, expanded the railroad to Miami after the Florida citrus freeze of 1895 that destroyed all but Miami’s crops. In 1896 the founders officially incorporated the city.

In the early 1900s, mansions and resorts popped up along Brickell Avenue, known as “Millionaires’ Row.” The state government drained parts of the Everglades to provide more functional land for the city. Developers also constructed a bridge across Biscayne Bay to create what would become Miami Beach. A vibrant real estate market inspired developers to create new communities built in Mediterranean styles including Coral Gables, Miami Shores, and Coconut Grove. In the midst of this growth Miami

became a haven for famous mafia men, including Al Capone who frequented the stately Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

During World War II, the United States Military used Miami as a base for naval and Army Air Corps flight training. Thousands of military men and women returned to make South Florida their home following the war. Population growth and tourism flourished in Miami. The city became the destination of choice for Cuban refugees fleeing Fidel Castro’s regime in 1959. Cuban immigrants and other refugees from across Latin America and the Caribbean transformed Miami into a city with an international political culture. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s, African Americans in Miami asserted their presence in new communities to make Miami more diverse and contested for political dominance of the city.

Today Miami is home to the largest number of international banks in the United States, and its skyline is ranked behind New York City and Chicago. The city serves as the backdrop for many American and Spanish-language television series and films.

## MIAMI PLACES OF INTEREST

**1 Ocean Drive** – Featured in almost every movie filmed in Miami, this famous strip is home to many of Miami Beach’s most famous nightclubs, restaurants and Art Deco hotels.

**2 Miami Seaquarium** – Opened in 1955, the Seaquarium is located on Virginia Key on Key Biscayne. Marine shows include dolphins and a Killer Whale. It was one of the first aquariums in the U.S. to combine marine research and public entertainment.

**3 Vizcaya** – Built in 1916, this famous villa became part of “Millionaire’s Row” during one of Miami’s earlier real estate booms. At one point, the building of this palatial residence employed over ten percent of the city’s labor force. Now the historic site is open for tours and private parties.

**4 Calle Ocho** – Between 12th and 27th Avenues, Southwest Eighth Street is the historic heart of Little Havana. Restaurants, shops and theaters crowd this district. It was first home to the predominately Cuban exile community that has now welcomed more recent immigrants from all over Latin America.

**5 The Biltmore Hotel** – Opened in 1926, for generations the Biltmore Hotel and Resort has been host to presidents, royalty and great stars of stage and screen. Selected to The National Trust of Historic Hotels of America, this beautifully classic hotel includes an 18-hole golf course, the largest hotel pool in the continental US, a spa and fitness facility, traditional afternoon tea served in the elegant main lobby and a famously extravagant Sunday Brunch.

**6 The Venetian Pool** – The only swimming pool listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this attraction was once a limestone quarry for the construction of Coral Gables in the 1920s. In 1924 it became the Venetian Casino and hosted dozens of bathing beauty pageants and Hollywood stars, like Esther Williams.

**7 The Fairchild Tropical Garden** – Named for David Fairchild, an agricultural researcher that brought countless plants to the U.S., this 83-acre botanical garden opened in 1938 as a research and cultivation facility for tropical exotic and endangered vegetation and animals.

### Beyond Miami

**Everglades National Park** – The third largest park in the United States, the Everglades is a World Heritage Site and home to many endangered and rare animals and plants. Mainly open during the winter, airboat rides and camping are two of the many ways to explore the park.

**The Seminole Tribe Okalee Indian Village** – This site in the city of Hollywood is one of several Seminole Tribe reservations in Florida. In Okalee, visitors can attend shows with alligators, panthers, and black bears as well as buy artisan Seminole products.

**Key West** – The capital of the “Conch Republic” is a crossroads of the past and present as seen at museums dedicated to Ernest Hemingway and Florida’s pirates. From Miami Key West is accessible by car, plane, bus and ferry.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Miami and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions and/or airport transfers. For more information, please consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Bargaining: Prices are usually fixed.

Tipping: 15% or more is customary at restaurants.

**Local Cuisine:** Miami offers a wide variety of local and international cuisine, including: Cuban sandwich – Classic pressed sandwich made with sweet ham, roast pork, Swiss cheese, pickles, and mustard on Cuban bread. Key lime pie – Using small, tart limes grown in the Florida Keys, this famous dessert is best savored in South Florida.

**Drink Specialties:** Café cubano – Often referred to as the “jet fuel” of coffees. Cuban coffee is strong espresso with a lot of sugar. Mojito – A classic Cuban drink made from light rum, crushed mint, sugar, and limes.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Outdoor and formal shopping facilities abound in Miami, catering to budget and luxury shoppers alike.

**Bal Harbour Shops** – Featuring designer brands, gourmet restaurants, and department stores, this is an upscale oasis away from Miami.

**Bayside Marketplace** – Located next to the Port of Miami, Bayside offers over 150 retail and souvenir shops, as well as restaurants.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** Though some say Miami is its own country, the unit of currency is the U.S. dollar (USD). ATM’s are widely available, especially in heavily trafficked tourist areas.

**Post Office and Telephone Facilities**

The closest U.S. Post Office to the Port of Miami is at 200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Ste. 600A.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card from a public phone:

AT&T: 1.800.225.5288

MCI: 1.800.888.8000

**TOURIST INFORMATION** Local tourist information can be found at 701 Brickell Avenue, Suite 2700.

**TRANSPORTATION** Taxis are widely available. All the major car rental companies are represented in Miami.

The Metro-mover is a free train that loops the downtown area. The Metro-mover connects with the Metrorail (to Miami In-