



Miami Excursions

Idyllic beaches, snorkeling turquoise waters and rare wildlife



HIGHLIGHTS

Miami, in Florida's sunny southeast, is a vibrant city whose Cuban influence is reflected in the cafes and shops. The city's cultural and historical diversity offers something for everyone, including outdoor enthusiasts.

KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- Turquoise waters and miles of idyllic sandy beaches for relaxing, snorkeling, fishing and boating
- Scenic drives along the coastal ridge and among historic and cultural points of interest
- Canoe tours, butterfly walks, live music and festivals
- Home to manatees, exotic birds and alligators.

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Discover History, Art, Culture and Science – Miami Style

Tour the lush gardens and estate of the [Vizcaya Museum and Gardens National Historic Landmark](#), in the heart of Miami. Opening in the summer of 2016, the [Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science](#) (a [Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program](#)) will feature a Dinosaurium, a Hands-on Hall of Science and Ecolinks – a walk-through display depicting the Everglades, coral reefs and tropical rain forests.



Vizcaya Museum and Gardens National Historic Landmark
(National Historic Landmark)



Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science
(Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program)

Hiking and Touring along Biscayne Bay

[Deering Estate](#), on the edge of Biscayne Bay, is an environmental, archeological and historical preserve with unique opportunities to experience Florida's natural resources. Enjoy daily tours of historic homes, canoe tours, butterfly walks and view prehistoric fossils and tools. While in the area, stop in at [Biscayne National Park](#) to snorkel, kayak or canoe the beautiful blue waters.

Biscayne National Park
(Matt Johnson, NPS)



An Underwater Playground and Unique Wildlife

Enjoy hiking, paddle boarding or a glass bottom boat tour of [John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park](#). Families will enjoy the park's 30,000 gallon (113,562 l) saltwater aquarium! [Everglades National Park](#), the largest subtropical wilderness in the USA, protects important habitat for rare and endangered species like the manatee, American crocodile and Florida panther. Hiking trails, bird watching, canoeing and kayaking through lush waterways are a few of the exciting activities offered at Everglades National Park.



John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
(Florida State Parks)



Everglades National Park
(Luis Giberga, Share the Experience)

The Rare Key Deer, Barrier Reefs and Archeological Treasures

[National Key Deer Refuge](#) at Big Pine Key is home to the endangered Key deer, found only in the Florida Keys. The refuge includes pine rockland forests, tropical hardwood hammocks, freshwater wetlands, salt marsh wetlands and mangrove forests. Visitors can enjoy saltwater fishing, wildlife observation and photography, kayaking and bicycling. [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#) protects nationally significant marine resources, including the world's third largest barrier reef, extensive seagrass beds, mangrove-fringed islands and more than 6,000 species of marine life. Divers and snorkelers will enjoy the sanctuary's underwater treasures including historic shipwrecks.



National Key Deer Refuge
(Susan Lopez, Share the Experience)



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
(Mark Reinholdt, Share the Experience)