



Miami - City Business Guide

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Overview

A combination of U.S., Caribbean and Latin American influences makes Miami a sizzling destination. After Los Angeles and New York, Miami attracts more international visitors than any other U.S. center, with its explosive nightlife scene, subtropical climate and world-class beaches.

With the largest cruise ship port in the world, the main industry in this Capital of the Americas is definitely tourism but it is also an important center of trade, finance, culture, entertainment and transport. Sometimes referred to as

"America's Casablanca", Miami is best known for its party atmosphere and cosmopolitan outlook, which does not limit itself to Latin American culture but also encompasses European, Asian and Middle Eastern cultures.

Business Etiquette

* Formal dress is the norm for corporate executives and those working in the legal, consulting, accounting and banking industries. Dress is more casual in other sectors, particularly in the technology domain and particularly during hot summer weather.

* Appointments should be made and kept punctually.

* It is customary to open and end a meeting with a handshake.

* Casual conversation, lasting a few minutes, often starts a meeting.

* Business cards can be presented at the start or end of a meeting.

* Privacy should be respected in business contexts.

* An open and direct business style is the norm.

* Deals should be followed up and confirmed in writing as quickly as possible.

* Friendships in the business community should not be underestimated when it comes to getting things done.

* Ask where (and when) smoking is permitted.

* If invited to someone's house, it is customary to bring flowers or another hostess gift.

Chamber of Commerce

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Tel.: +1 305 350 7700

Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce Tel.: +1 305 579-9030

British American Chamber of Commerce Tel.: +1 305 377 0992

Italy America Chamber of Commerce Tel. +1 305 577 9868

Korean American Business Association Tel.: +1 305 576-1229

Latin Chamber Of Commerce Tel.: + 305 674-1231

Embassies and Consulates

British Consulate, 1001 Brickell Bay Drive, Suite 2800; Tel.: +1 305 374 1522
Brazilian Consulate, 2601 S. Bayshore Drive, Suite 800; Tel: +1 305 285 6200

French Consulate, One Biscayne Tower, 17th Floor South Biscayne Boulevard.; Tel.: +1 305 372 9798

German Consulate, 100 N. Biscayne Boulevard., Suite 2210; Tel.: +1 305 358 0290

Italian Consulate, 4000 Ponce de Leon, Suite 590; Tel.: +1 305 374 6322

Japanese Consulate, 80 SW 8th Street, Suite 320; Tel.: +1 305 530 9090

Mexican Consulate General, 5975 Sunset Drive Suite 101, Tel.: 786 268-7255

Business Centers

Business centers provide a range of services that include secretarial, translation/interpretation, and office services, including computer rentals, audio/visual equipment rentals, cellular phone rentals, copy and printing services, and temporary office space and staff.

World Trade Center Miami 777 N.W. 72nd Avenue, Suite 3BB65; Tel: +1 305 871 7910

Global Executive Services 444 Brickell Avenue; Tel.: +1 305 373 6053

Regus 201 South Biscayne Blvd 28th Floor, Miami 33131; Tel.: +1 305 913 1300 / +1 877 734 8787; Fax: +1 305 913 1301

Regus Business Centers 5201 Blue Lagoon Drive Suite 800; Tel.: +1 305-716-4000

Conference and Exhibition Centers

Coconut Grove Convention Center 2700 S. Bayshore Drive; Tel.: +1 305 579 3310

Miami Beach Convention Center 1901 Convention Center Drive; Tel.: +1 305 673 7311

Miami Convention Center 400 S.E. Second Avenue; Tel.: +1 305 579 6666

Translation Offices

Hold Translations Tel.: +1 305 373 4980

Professional Translating Services Tel.: +1 305 371 8366

Haard Translating Service Tel.: +1 305 358 2820

Courier/Messenger Services

B & H Worldwide Tel.: +1 305 471 0444

Panama Courier Tel.: +1 305 477-5977

Esquire Express Tel.: +1 305 530 9580

Flash Xpres Courier Tel.:+1 305 884-7993

DHL Tel.: +1 800 225 5345

FedEx Tel.: +1 800 463 3339

UPS Tel.: +1 800 742 5877

Universal Courier Service Tel.: +1 305 669-0018

Message Co Corporation Tel.: +1 305 639-2500

Internet Connection Place

All upper range and most medium priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:

Cafe & Internet of America Tel.: +1 305 412 0100

South Beach Internet Cafe Tel.: +1 305 532-4331

Kafka's Cyber Kafe +1 305 673 9669

Visas & Customs

Passports valid for at least six months after arrival are required for all. In general, travelers visiting the U.S. are required visas. However, under the Visa Waiver Program, citizens of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom are allowed to stay for 90 days without a visa. Citizens of Canada and Mexico do not need a visa but must carry proof of citizenship and identity.

Beginning October 26, 2004, all travelers, including children of any age, who want to travel visa free to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program must have a Machine readable passport.

Duty free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 2 kilograms of tobacco, 1 liter of alcohol, and gifts worth up to \$100. Meat products, seeds, plants, fruits, and hazardous goods are prohibited.

Phone Information

The area code for Greater Miami is 305. The area code for Fort Lauderdale and Broward County is 954.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Emergency police, fire, and ambulance 911

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

For local calls, dial the seven digit telephone number. For long distance calls within the U.S., dial 1, then the three digit area code, then the seven digit number. For long distance calls outside the U.S., first dial 011 and the country code. Four special prefixes, "800," "888," "877," and "900," are not area codes but indicators of special services. "800," "888," and "877" are toll free calls. The "900" numbers charge you for the call and are often expensive. For collect calls or operator assisted calls, dial "0" instead of "1". For local directory assistance, dial 411. For long distance information, dial 1, and then the appropriate area code followed by 555 1212.

The most common public phone is the coin operated type. Telephone card phones are becoming increasingly common.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

There are numerous cellular service providers in the U.S., including: Verizon Wireless, T Mobile, Cingular, AT&T Wireless, and Sprint PCS. Mobile phone numbers follow the regular telephone number convention, with the seven digit telephone number followed by the area code.

If you choose to bring your cellular phone into the U.S., be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

Foreign currency must be exchanged to U.S. dollars. Money can be exchanged at banks and various foreign exchange services. Most restaurants, shops, and hotels will take travelers' checks and major credit cards. Travelers can also withdraw cash from ATMs.

The basic unit of U.S. currency is the dollar, which equals 100 cents. Coins are the copper penny (1 cent) and four silver coins: the nickel (5 cents), the dime (10 cents), the quarter (25 cents), and the half dollar (50 cents). Silver \$1 coins and "golden" dollar coins also exist. Paper bills come in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100.

Tiping

- * **Restaurants** 15 to 20 percent of bill, none at fast food restaurants
- * **Bars** About US\$1 per drink or 10% to 15% of drink prices
- * **Airport Skycap/Porter** US\$1 per piece of luggage
- * **Taxis** 10 percent of fare
- * **Hotel Bell Desk** US\$1 per piece of luggage or per taxi summoned
- * **Hotel Housekeeping** US\$1 per person per day
- * **Hotel Room Service** 15 percent of bill
- * **Parking Attendant/Valet** 15 percent of parking rate
- * **Haircare/Personal Services** 20 percent of bill

Time Difference

Miami lies in the Eastern Time Zone (Greenwich Mean Time minus five hours). During the spring and summer months, Miami, like all of Florida, observes Daylight Savings Time.





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VAT & Taxes

Greater Miami's sales tax is currently 6.5%, but tourist taxes can raise the total to as much as 12.5% on accommodations and 8.5% on meals.

Voltage

110V AC, 60Hz. Plugs are of the flat, two pin type.

Local Transportation

Since distances in Greater Miami tend to be significant, cab fares are often extremely high. It is best to rent a car to explore the area. The taxi meter starts at US\$1.10, and increases US\$1.75 for each mile and 25 cents for every waiting minute.

The affordable and immaculate Metrorail runs from downtown Miami to Kendall (near Dadeland Mall), making stops along South Dixie Highway. The Metrorail also runs north to Hialeah. Although the Metrorail is a practical alternative to driving, it only reaches a limited number of destinations. The Metromover has two loops that circle downtown Miami, linking most major hotels, businesses, and shopping areas. Miami Metrobus operates a comprehensive bus service. Fares are US\$1.25 each way. A transfer from bus to bus, or from bus to Metrorail, costs US\$0.25. A monthly Metropass, costing US\$60, allows for unlimited travel on the Metrobus, Metrorail and Metromover.

Health Info

No specific immunizations are needed to enter the United States. For more information, contact the Center for Disease Control at 800 342 2437.

Climate

Miami enjoys warm temperatures year-round due to its subtropical climate. The rainy season is summer, which can experience thunderstorms on an almost daily basis and extremes of humidity. Hurricanes can also strike during this period. Average temperatures are in the mid-70s to mid-80s Fahrenheit. Winters are generally sunny and dry, with temperatures averaging between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Public Holidays

- * **New Year's Day** January 1
- * **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** Third Monday in January
- * **Presidents' Day** Third Monday in February
- * **Memorial Day** Last Monday in May
- * **Independence Day** July 4
- * **Labor Day** First Monday in September
- * **Columbus Day** Second Monday in October
- * **Veterans' Day** November 11
- * **Thanksgiving** Fourth Thursday in November
- * **Christmas** December 25

Where to Eat

Astor Place Bar and Grill has a homey feel and specializes in Southwestern dishes made with fresh Florida produce. For divine seafood, visit **Joe's Stone Crab**, Miami Beach's oldest eating establishment, which opens only from October through May, and does not take reservations. For priceless views of the Miami River and downtown skyline, **Big Fish** is the place to go. **Blue Door** serves some of South Beach's most inventive American fusion cuisine. At **190 Restaurant**, hipsters from all around the city meet for an arty meal without chichi. Restaurant-nightclub **China Grill** is one of South Beach's hottest spots. And for an unforgettable Miami experience, go to **Versailles**, another of Miami's culinary landmarks not without its own brand of Cuban kitsch.

Local Gift Ideas

Miami offers fabulous designer-fashion shopping. Caribbean and Latin American crafts and goods also make excellent gifts. Coral Gable's Miracle Mile has a solid concentration of boutiques, department stores and galleries. Artisan shops and traditional retail boutiques can be found at downtown's Bayside Marketplace. The boutiques in South Beach and Coconut Grove stock unusual items. Miami is also home to the world's largest outlet mall Sawgrass Mills offers discount shopping in more than 270 stores.

Leisure Time

Miami has many distinct neighborhoods. The Art Deco Historic District has more than 800 structures exemplifying this architectural style. The residential area of Coral Gables is fashioned in the Mediterranean style. Ocean Drive, in South Beach, is Miami's nightlife hub, offering a wide variety of bars, clubs and restaurants.

Miami's cultural offerings include the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and The Wolfsonian museum. The Miami Seaquarium puts the spotlight on marine animals, while a visit to the Dolphin Research Center allows you to explore the world of these fascinating creatures. Meanwhile, the cageless Miami Metrozoo is home to over 700 animals. Physics, sound and astronomy are some of the subjects you can learn about at the Miami Museum of Science & Space Transit Planetarium.

Fairchild Tropical Gardens offers beauty and calm, while Mallory Square in Key West is a good viewpoint to watch a sunset from. The view of South Florida from the Bill Baggs Florida State Recreation Area is spectacular in scope. Other popular Miami leisure activities are scuba diving and lounging by the Delano's pool.

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