

A Well-traveled City



Slake your thirst for travel by visiting the four corners of the globe, right here in Miami.

By Charley Larcombe

Photography courtesy of The Setai, Ritz-Carlton, South Beach and provided by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau www.gmcvb.com.



COVID-19 has taken much from all of us this past year, spreading fear and loneliness and curtailing our freedom. It has grounded us in more ways than one and has held us back from travelling to places both familiar and unknown.

Yet here in Miami, a city long known for its heady mix of Mediterranean architecture and Caribbean flavour, you don't need your passport to feel the rush that only travel brings. From the Renaissance facades of Italy, to the raras of Haiti, take a trip around the world through Miami's many districts.

Naturally, the Cuban and wider Caribbean influence on Miami is well-documented and so get your travel juices flowing with a drive to Little Havana. Amble up Calle Ocho and pop your head into any of the ventanitas (windows) serving up sweet, hot coffee. Order a cortadito and a savoury pastelito to go and vie for space watching the hotly-contested domino games in Maximo Park. To ease into rara rhythms, check out Little Haiti – in particular to muse over Haitian art and sculpture at the Cultural Copmlex; to talk vinyl at, Sweat records; to linger in the Libreria Mapou bookstore; and to sample what's coming out the Chef Creole kitchen.



Missing the pastas, patisseries, and promenades of Europe? Indulge in Miami's astounding restaurant scene and roam the city's Renaissance-style attractions.

Why not book a table in the lantern lit garden of Casa Tua and order a primi piatti of linguine alla Nerano or gather friends at Villa Azur for a touch of the French Riviera? Hankingering for tarte tatin at Flore de Café in Paris? Order crumbling croissants, a heavy-on-the-cheese croque-monsieur, and small cups of café au lait over a copy of the morning Herald at A La Foile Cafe or even head to the French Normandy Village neighbourhood in Coral Gables for a feeling of lazy afternoons spent road-tripping through Biarritz.



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Craving tapas in San Sebastian or the cloisters of Madrid? Then promenade down Española Way off Miami Beach or visit St. Bernard de Clairvaux, an 11th century monastery painstakingly bought over from Northern Spain brick by brick.

Dreaming of days on the Amalfi or exploring the palaces of Venice? Enjoy a morning at the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Coconut Grove, wandering through the landscaped courtyards, wistfully looking out from the sprawling bay-front terrace, and rejoicing in the grandeur of the antiques, art, and even the sweeping staircases of the villa.

Missing the urban scenes of London’s Shoreditch and Soho? Then enjoy the vast murals and graffiti of Wynwood Walls. How about the city scraper sky line of New York? Then head Downtown for towers touching the sky, hotels sporting infinity pools, and cocktail bars serving a robust martini. Desperate to catch a long-haul flight to Asia? Head to The Setai and experience the menu at Jaya where you can salivate over dishes from Japan and Korea. Or how about a credit-card busting shopping trip? Give Dubai a run for its money by working your way through the designer haul at Bal Harbour or down Lincoln.



But with its white sand beaches, candy-hued Art Deco edifices hugging Ocean Drive, iconic hotels such as the Morris Lapidus-designed Ritz-Carlton, South Beach, and an explosion of designed boroughs housing installations, galleries, and museums, Miami is a landmark destination that others can only dream of travelling to. In this time when the rest of the world is just out of reach, revel in a city that draws on its influences but is unapologetically its own. ■

In these unprecedented times, please adhere to the relevant rules and restrictions, and check directly with each restaurant and/or attraction.