



GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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HOT HAPPENINGS IN MIAMI JANUARY – JUNE 2008

This is a sample of events in Greater Miami. For a complete list of events, please visit our Web site at www.miamiandbeaches.com and click on Calendar of Events for an interactive calendar. This calendar was compiled in October 2007. All information is subject to change.

JANUARY 2008

FEDEX ORANGE BOWL 2008 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (Jan. 3) - Two of the top football teams in the country will compete for the Orange Bowl title. Game time is 8 p.m. (EST). Media contact: 305-341-4718. Dolphin Stadium, 2269 NW 199th St., Miami, FL 33056, 305-341-4700, www.orangebowl.org.

REDLAND FESTIVAL (Jan. 12 - 13) - A tradition since 1976, this annual festival features local arts and crafts, a large selection of tropical plants and great food. Children's activities include a petting zoo, pony rides, an interactive puppet & magic show, and a wild and wonderful Everglades reptile show. Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 33031, 305-247-5727, www.fruitandspicepark.org.

GREAT TASTE OF THE GROVE (Jan. 12 - 13) – A culinary and food tasting event showcasing Coconut Grove's fine dining and casual eating restaurants. Live jazz and children's activities entertain at this free event. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Peacock Park, 2820 McFarlane Rd., Coconut Grove, FL 33133, 305-444-7270, www.coconutgrove.com.

SOUTH BEACH COMEDY FESTIVAL (Jan. 16 - 19) – A star-studded lineup of talented comedians, including Jon Stewart, Roseanne, Bill Maher and Andrew Dice Clay. Jackie Gleason Theater, 1700 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139, 305-358-5885, www.southbeachcomedyfestival.com.

AFRICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL (Jan. 18 - 21) – Concert performances by various artists playing a variety of pulsating hip-shaking music from Afro-Beat, West African Highlife, Soukous, Makossa, Juju, Reggae, Salsa, Merengue and World Music. Also enjoy cultural displays, arts and crafts, food and beverage vendors in addition to special events including comedy shows and networking parties, all with an

African connection. James L. Knight Center, 400 SE Second St., Miami, FL 33132, 305-416-5970, <http://africanmusicfestival.net>

ART DECO WEEKEND (Jan. 18 – 20) - Step back in time and celebrate Art Deco style with live big bands and Art Deco artifacts and antiques. Features walking, bicycle and trolley tours, lectures, films from the 1930s, street theater and other unique events. Along Ocean Drive between 5th and 15th Street. Contact: Miami Design Preservation League, 305- 672- 2014, www.artdecoweekend.com, www.mdpl.org.

MIAMI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL (Jan. 19 – 27) - Enjoy a wide range of films centering on Jewish life and Jewish themes. Presented by the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education. Various locations throughout Miami and Miami Beach. 305-573-7304, www.caje-miami.org/filmfestival.

BEAUX ARTS FESTIVAL (Jan. 19 - 29) – Juried fine arts show that features art, crafts and a variety of media from more than 300 exhibitors. University of Miami Campus, 1301 Stanford Dr., Coral Gables, FL 33124, 305-284-3535, www.beauxartsmiami.org.

WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE (Jan. 23 – 27) – Held once every three years in a different international location, this world-class event includes lectures, workshops, parties and one of the largest orchid shows and sales on the planet. Sheraton Miami Mart, 711 NW 72nd Ave., Miami, FL 33126, 305-531-5720, www.19woc.com.

59th ANNUAL HOMESTEAD CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO (Jan. 25 – 27) - An exciting seven-event rodeo including: bull riding, saddle-bronc riding, bareback-bronc riding, calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling, and women's barrel racing. Doc Demilly Rodeo Arena, Harris Field, U.S. Highway 1 and SW 312th Street, 305-247-3515, www.homesteadrodeo.com.

SATURN TOTALHEALTH & FITNESS EXPO (Jan. 25 – 26) - An official event of the ING Miami Marathon weekend. The expo is free and open to the public. Miami Convention Center at the Hyatt, 400 SE 2nd Ave., Miami, FL 33131, 305-278-8668, www.ingmiamimarathon.com.

TROPICAL 5K RUN (Jan. 26) - An official event of the ING Miami Marathon weekend, this 5K (3.1 miles) will run on the MacArthur Causeway. The event benefits the Community Partnership for Homeless. Race starts at 7:30 a.m. Miami Children's Museum, 940 MacArthur Cswy., Miami, FL 33131, 305-278-8668, www.Tropical5K.com.

2008 ING MIAMI MARATHON (Jan. 27) - A 26.2-mile marathon and 13.1-mile half-marathon in downtown Miami. The race starts at American Airlines Arena, winds its way through Miami Beach, downtown Miami, Coconut Grove and Brickell and finishes at Bayfront Park. American Airlines Arena, 601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132, 305-278-8668, www.ingmiamimarathon.com.

INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL (Jan. 26 - 27) – Enjoy everything chocolate! Learn about where chocolate comes from, taste different types of chocolate and experience so much more with the whole family. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables, FL 33156, 305-667-1651, www.fairchildgarden.org.

THE ORIGINAL MIAMI BEACH ANTIQUE SHOW (Jan. 31 – Feb. 4) - More than 1,000 national and international dealers provide shopping opportunities for antique lovers. Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33139, 239-732-6642, www.dmgantiqueshow.com.

FEBRUARY 2008

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK BEGINNING BIRD WALK (Feb. 2) - Jeff Weber of the Tropical Audubon Society will lead this trip. Meet in the parking lot of the Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National Park at 7:30 a.m. There is an entrance fee to the park. Bring lunch. 305-667-7337. www.tropicalaudubon.org.

GALA IN THE GARDEN (Feb. 2) - This year's gala begins with cocktails and a silent auction. Guests will proceed to a large lakeside pavilion for dining and dancing to the music of the Peter Duchin Orchestra. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables, FL 33156, 305-667-1651, www.fairchildgarden.org.

15TH ANNUAL MIAMI INTERNATIONAL MAP FAIR (Feb. 2 - 3) - Antique map dealers and map experts from all over the world participate in this event for hobbyists, collectors and dealers of antique maps. Browse through a marketplace of prominent dealers showing and selling their maps or bring your own map for an expert opinion. Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 W. Flagler St., Miami, FL 33130, 305-375-1492, www.hmsf.org.

OCEAN'S DRIVE 15TH ANNUAL VOLLEY PALOOZA (Feb. 7 - 8) – More than 20,000 spectators are expected to come watch teams compete from 22 of the world's top modeling agencies made up of 350 male and female models. Professional athletes and celebrities will play into exhibition matches. Lummus Park, Ocean Drive, between 8th and 9th Streets, Miami Beach, FL 33139, 305-532-2544, www.volleypalooza.com.

ROMANCE IN A CAN FILM FESTIVAL (Feb. 10 - 21) – The film festival presents a selection of romantic comedies from around the world - with special emphasis on European films. Thirteen romantic long features will be screened at theaters throughout Miami-Dade County. Call or visit the web site for tickets and information. 877-836-4849, www.romanceinacan.com.

THE GREAT ESSKATE 2008 (Feb. 8 – 10) - Join hundreds of skaters from around the country for three days of in-line skating and fun. Proceeds benefit Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (FSMA). Deauville Beach Resort, 6701 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139, 305-865-7097, www.skatemiami.com.

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW & STRICTLY SAIL (Feb. 14 – 18) - One of the largest new boat shows in the world showcasing more than 2,000 exhibitors. The latest powerboats, sailboats, engines, electronics and accessories are exhibited at three different locations — all connected via a courtesy shuttle bus. Media contact: 305-778-6062. Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33139, 954-441-3220, www.miamiboatshow.com.

COCONUT GROVE ARTS FESTIVAL (Feb. 16 – 18) - One of the largest and most prestigious outdoor fine arts festivals in the United States. Features more than 330 internationally renowned artists exhibiting in 12 categories. Along South Bayshore Drive in Downtown Coconut Grove, FL 33133, 305-447-0401, www.coconutgroveartsfest.com.

THE FOOD NETWORK SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL (Feb. 21 – 24) - Join your favorite Food Network hosts including Rachael Ray, Emeril Lagasse, Giada De Laurentiis, Bobby Flay, Tyler Florence, Paula Deen and many more for cooking demos and book signings at the Festival's Grand Tasting Village. Other events include the Amstel Light Burger Bash hosted by Rachel Ray; D'Vine Divas and Paula's Poker Party and Casino Night; and much more. Various locations throughout South Beach. 305-348-9463, www.sobewineandfoodfest.com.

WINTER PARTY WEEK (Feb. 27 – Mar. 3) - Features an extraordinary lineup of celebrity DJs in a week filled with parties and events culminating with a beach dance party. Proceeds benefit the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and local Miami-Dade LGBT organizations. On the beach along Ocean Drive and 14th Street and other venues throughout Miami Beach, 305-571-1924, www.winterparty.com.

CARNAVAL MIAMI (Feb. 28 – Mar. 16) – Annual festival celebrating the Hispanic community. Features ten days of sports, concerts, food and music, and culminates with the Calle Ocho Festival, known as the world's largest block party. Various locations throughout Miami-Dade County. 305-644-8888, www.carnavalmiami.com.

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (Feb. 28 – Mar. 9) - Showcases a panoply of acclaimed films from a variety of genres and countries, including a diverse selection of artistic offerings. Various locations throughout Miami-Dade County. 305-237-3456, www.miamifilmfestival.com.

MARCH 2008

DADE HERITAGE DAYS (Mar. 1 – Apr. 30) - A six-week celebration of Miami-Dade County's architectural and cultural heritage with several events, including open houses, historic tours, lectures and performances. Various locations throughout Miami-Dade County, 305-358-9572, www.dadeheritagetrust.org.

SOUTH FLORIDA THEATRE FESTIVAL 2008 (Mar. 1- May 31) – Twenty seven of South Florida's premier performing arts organizations present an array of live theatre productions - including drama, comedy, musicals and family-friendly plays. Various theaters throughout Miami-Dade County. 954-557-0778, www.southfloridatheatre.com.

ASIAN CULTURE FESTIVAL (Mar. 1 - 2) - In its 19th year, this annual festival features Asian crafts, art, and exotic music and dance, highlighted by a tasty selection of authentic Far Eastern cuisine. Children can participate in the Asian passport activity, and receive a special gift upon completion. Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL 33031, 305-247-5727, www.fruitandspicepark.org.

TROPICAL BAROQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL OF CORAL GABLES (Mar. 1 – 8) - This week-long festival presents outstanding local musicians and renowned artists from the United States and abroad. Various locations in Coral Gables, 305-669-1376, www.miamibachsociety.org.

HERE & NOW: 2008 (Mar. 4-9) - Features several of South Florida's most provocative performing artists and emerging filmmakers for an acclaimed annual performance and film series. Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, Studio Theater, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132, 305-576-4350, www.miamilightproject.com.

ACURA MIAMI RACE WEEK 2008 (Mar. 6– 9) - This event is a major international regatta racing sailboats 24 to 70 feet in length. The public will be able to see the race both in Key Biscayne and Miami Beach. There will be post-event activities at the Miami Beach Marina, 300 Alton Road, Miami Beach, FL 33139, 781-639-9545, www.premiere-racing.com.

CARNAVAL ON THE MILE – 10TH ANNIVERSARY (Mar. 7 - 9) – Latin jazz festival featuring upscale art show with more than 100 local artists. Big name jazz greats perform continuously on three stages. Culinary and wine pavilions and kids activities round out the fun. Along Miracle Mile in downtown Coral Gables. 305-644-8888, www.carnavalmiami.com.

CALLE OCHO FESTIVAL (Mar. 16) - A celebration of Hispanic culture. Known as the world's largest street party, the festival spans 23 city blocks in Little Havana, filled with musical stages, youth sites, folkloric sites and food vendors. Between 4th Avenue and 27th Avenue on SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33135, 305-644-8888, www.carnavalmiami.com.

2008 WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP AT DORAL (Mar. 17 - 23) - Top golfers on the PGA Tour tackle the famed Blue Monster. Doral Golf Resort & Spa, 4400 NW 87th Ave., Miami, FL 33178, 305-477-4653, www.fordchampionship.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT (Mar. 21-23) - Enjoy the Miami Seaquarium's annual egg hunt and other fun activities including prizes and surprises. Miami Seaquarium, 4400 Rickenbacker Cswy. Key Biscayne, FL 33149, 305-361-5705, www.miamiseaquarium.com.

KEY BISCAYNE ART FESTIVAL (Mar. 22 - 23) – Artists from around the nation will exhibit their works, including paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, basketry, ceramics and more. Free admission. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Along the Village Green, Key Biscayne, FL 33149, 305-361-5207, www.artfestival.com.

SONY ERICSSON OPEN (Mar. 26 – Apr. 6) - Features the world's top-ranked professional tennis players. The event is an elite Tennis Masters Series event on the ATP circuit and top-tier event on the WTA Tour. Media contact: 305-446-2200. Tennis Center at Crandon Park, 7300 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne, FL 33149, 305-442-2367. www.sonyericssonopen.com.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FAIR & EXPOSITION (Mar. 27 – Apr. 13) - Ranked as one of the largest and most successful fairs in the nation this annual 18-day fair showcases South Florida agriculture and offers nearly 50,000 exhibits, concerts, a circus, strolling entertainment, food, games, shopping and a 100-ride midway. Fair Expo Center, located at 10901 Coral Way (SW 24th Street) and 112th Avenue in Southwest Miami. 305-223-7060, www.fairexpo.com.

MERRILL LYNCH ARTEAMERICAS 2008 (Mar. 28 - 31) - In its fifth year, Merrill Lynch arteaméricas has become the world's premier Latin American art fair, this year featuring 70 of the best galleries from 16 countries in the Americas and the world, and showcasing over 300 renowned to contemporary artists.. Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Drive, Miami, FL, 305-854-3050. www.arteamericasmiami.com.

DEERING SEAFOOD FESTIVAL (Mar. 30) - Great fun and delicious seafood at the Deering Estate Seafood Festival on the Bay, with ongoing musical performances, a Lil' Shrimp kid's zone, rock wall, nature walks, treasure hunts and canoeing. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Deering Estate at Cutler, 16701 SW 72nd Ave., Miami, FL 33157, 305-233-5858, www.deeringestate.com.

GREATER MIAMI MARDI GRAS 2008 (Mar. ?) - An annual festival with spectacular parades featuring highly decorated floats, pageants, elaborate costumes, food, music (including salsa, samba, merengue, reggae, soca and hip-hop) and dancing in the streets. Noon to midnight. Free. Biscayne Boulevard between NE 1st and 5th streets, Miami, FL 33132, 305-758-3338, www.greatermiamimardigras.org.

APRIL 2008

MIAMI WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL (Apr. 3 - 5) - Ranked as one of the top ten wine events in the nation, the festival features an array of culinary and wine events including wine tasting and seminars, live and silent auctions offering exotic travel packages, and some of the highest quality wine lots in South Florida. InterContinental Miami, 100 Chopin Plaza, Miami, FL 33131, 786-596-9463, www.miamiwinefestival.org.

YAMAHA CONTENDER MIAMI BILLFISH TOURNAMENT (Apr. 3 - 6) - Fishing tournament with daily dockside activities including live entertainment, auctions and more. Event is free and open to the public. Entry fee for competing anglers. Miami Beach Marina, 300 Alton Rd., Miami Beach, FL 33139, 305-598-2525, www.miamibillfish.com.

MIAMI BEACH DANCE FESTIVAL (Apr. 3 - 13) - Contemporary and traditional performances by South Florida's finest local dance companies, including Momentum Dance Company, Ballet Flamenco La Rosa and the Dance Now Ensemble. Byron-Carlyle Theatre, 500 71st St., Miami Beach, FL 33140, 305-858-7002, www.momentumdance.com.

FASHION WEEK MIAMI (Apr. 9 - 13) – This biannual fashion extravaganza showcases the work of renowned and new designers from Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. Highlights include fashion tents, designer shows, model castings and special events. Fashion tent on the beach at 21st Street and Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139, 954-476-5761, www.miamifashionweek.com.

MIAMI BEACH POLO WORLD CUP 2008 (Apr. 10 - 13) – This three day international polo tournament will bring eight teams from around the world to compete for La Martina Trophy as part of the Miami Beach Polo World Cup. Events include a player presentation/press conference, polo games Friday through Sunday, and social gatherings. On the beach between 20th and 22nd Streets, Miami Beach, FL 33139, 305-538-3809, ext. 22, www.miamipolo.com.

MIAMI HIP-HOP ARTS FESTIVAL (Apr. 10 - 13) – The hottest local and national hip-hop artists in theater, spoken word, dance, visual arts and music are featured in this high energy celebration of hip hop. Joseph Caleb Auditorium, 5400 NW 22nd Ave., Liberty City, FL 33142, 305-636-2350, www.miamiartsandculture.org.

MIAMI SUPER BOAT GRAND PRIX (Apr. 11 - 13) – This race is part of the Super Boat International/APBA Offshore National race circuit. Powerboats in all classes will compete making several laps on the rectangular race course off Miami Beach. Race Course: from the Clock Tower to 57th Street. There is excellent viewing from the beach which is free to the public or by boat. The race starts at 1 p.m. on April 13. Viewing of the race boats is at Watson Island on April 11 and 12. 305-296-6166, www.superboat.com.

AIDS WALK MIAMI 2008 (Apr. 20) - Run, walk or rollerblade at this annual fundraiser benefiting Care Resource, South Florida's largest and oldest HIV-AIDS organization. The course is 3.1 miles (5K) starting and ending outside the Miami Beach Convention Center. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Miami Beach Convention Center, 1700 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33139, 305-751-9255, www.aidswalkmiami.net.

MIAMI GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL (Apr. 25 – May 4)- The festival aims to enrich, entertain and educate the public, encourage a sense of community through international and culturally diverse film, video and other media presentations in the greater Miami area that offer historical and contemporary perspectives on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered experience. Various locations throughout Miami Beach. 305-534-9924, www.mglff.com.

FLORIDA GRAND OPERA: JULIUS CAESAR (Apr. 26 – May 11) – A world torn by greed and lust! In Rome, Julius Caesar and Pompey the Great are fighting a civil war, while in Egypt, Ptolemy and his sister Cleopatra fight for the throne. *Julius Caesar* is an explosive tale of power and passion as this historic couple unites in Handel's quintessential Baroque tour de force. Featuring American soprano Leah Partridge as Cleopatra and acclaimed countertenor John Gaston in the title role. Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132, 800-741-1010, www.fgo.org.

May 2008

MIAMI HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL (May 3) – Chinese cultural event for all featuring Hong Kong-style Dragon Boat Racing and folkloric Chinese and Japanese performances. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Brickell Key Island, Miami, FL 33131, 305-636-0904. www.miamidragon.com.

REDLAND INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL (May 16-18) - One of America's largest annual orchid events with more than 50 world-class professional growers. Features orchid show, lectures by orchid experts from around the world, food, crafts and supplies. Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Miami, FL 33031, 305-247-5727, www.fruitandspicepark.org.

CUBA NOSTALGIA (May 17 - 18) - Annual expo and festival of Cuban culture, memorabilia and collectibles. Features a fine art show, exhibits, books, food and music. Fair Expo Center, 10901 SW 24th St., Miami, FL 33133, 305-856-7595, www.cubanostalgia.org.

June 2008

MIAMI-BAHAMAS GOOMBAY FESTIVAL 2008 (Jun. 1-2) – One of the largest Black heritage festivals in the United States. Enjoy colorful costumed junkanoo groups dancing to Caribbean rhythms, with rake 'n scrape instruments. Features entertainment on three stages and more than 300 vendors selling a variety of arts, crafts and food. Along South Bayshore Drive and McFarlane Road, Coconut Grove, FL 33133. 800-891-7811, www.goombayfestival.org.

REDLAND SUMMER FRUIT FESTIVAL (Jun. 21-22) - Exhibition of local agriculture featuring tropical fruit plants for sale. Sample fresh lychee and mango and enjoy a tour of the Park. Co-sponsored by the Fruit and Spice Park and Tropical Fruit Growers. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 S.W. 187th Ave., Miami, FL 33031, 305-247-5727, www.fruitandspicepark.org.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is an independent not-for-profit sales and marketing organization whose mission is to attract visitors to Greater Miami and the Beaches for leisure, business and conventions. For a vacation guide, visit www.MiamiAndBeaches.com or call 1-888-76-Miami (US/Canada only) or 305-447-7777. To reach the GMCVB offices, dial 305-539-3000. Meeting planners may call 1-800-933-8448 (US/Canada only) or 305-539-3071 or visit www.MiamiMeetings.com.

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