Miami: A Sense of Place—Heritage Guide is published by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
INTRODUCTION 04
OUR TROPICAL PARADISE 10
VILLAGE BY THE BAY 26
THE MAGIC CITY 38
INSPIRED BY THE PAST 48
THOROUGHLY MODERN MIAMI 62
AN ENDURING SPIRIT 78
UNDENIABLY LATIN 92
THE NEW PIONEERS 102
For more than ten thousand years, South Florida has attracted people.

Lured by the warmth of the sun and the promise of a better day, they arrived from many places, forged a new way of living in our tropical paradise and left their mark.

against the bluest skies...
Discover our heritage and find a Miami you never knew existed. Immerse yourself in a world where the tree-lined roadways are draped in green and dressed in vibrant colors. Here, even the sun takes on a different hue. Explore nature in this tropical setting—our mangrove-fringed bay, our parks, gardens, forests and fields. Peel back the layers of time and uncover our variegated roots. Experience our past within the walls and gardens of our historic places. Our homes tell our story best—where we came from, what we brought and how we shaped what we found. Get to know us through our special places—our sun-drenched landscapes, simple pioneer dwellings, stately mansions, tourist-pleasing enclaves and colorful ethnic neighborhoods. You will be glad you did.

Welcome to Miami... our past awaits your presence.
Begin your journey as nature did in the vastness of the sea and swamp...

**OUR TROPICAL PARADISE:** “There is only one Everglades,” the legendary Marjory Stoneman Douglas reminded us. Next, beautiful Biscayne National Park and South Miami–Dade’s pioneer communities, encompassing tropical verdure and agricultural fields, offer a glimpse into another time and place.

**VILLAGE BY THE BAY:** Amid modern development, Coconut Grove, Miami’s oldest community, holds fast to the scattered remnants of its frontier “Era of the Bay.”

**THE MAGIC CITY:** Downtown Miami is known for its incredible collection of both historic and modern buildings, and a history of connecting people to place amid a whirlwind of change.

**INSPIRED BY THE PAST:** Long before Miami had a large Hispanic population, it looked to the Mediterranean for inspiration. This romantic style, so beautifully articulated in the 1920s Boomtime suburbs, continues to be re-defined in modern buildings.

**THOROUGHLY MODERN MIAMI:** Next, it is back to the future where one can be surrounded and thrilled with our singular collection of 1930s and 1940s Art Deco treasures and newly appreciated Miami Modern (MiMo) masterpieces.
colorful palette...
Glossary

**National Historic Landmark (NHL)**
A designation reserved for districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects of exceptional significance to the U.S. as a whole, rather than just a particular state or locality. Landmark designation is conferred by the Secretary of the Interior.

**The National Register of Historic Places (NR)**
A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects deemed significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture on a national, state or local level. The list is maintained by the National Park Service.

**AN ENDURING SPIRIT:** South Florida’s unique blend of Black neighborhoods—some more than 100 years old and some less than 30—reflect Caribbean, West African and old Southern roots.

**UNDENIABLY LATIN:** South Florida has always had a Latin presence but beginning with the arrival of the Cuban refugees in the early 1960s, the area has been transformed into an exciting multicultural city with a distinctly Latin flavor.

**THE NEW PIONEERS:** Old-time Miamians welcome the influx of new urban pioneers who are busily transforming once declining neighborhoods into arts oriented, trendy historic districts. Nearby, pioneers from the Caribbean have created a vibrant “Little Haiti” well worth a visit.

Explore Miami and celebrate time, place and people.
a compelling voice...
Our Tropical Paradise
by Georgia Tasker

Using a primal language, the Everglades calls in a powerful and compelling voice that speaks to all of South Florida. Find a solitary place and hear the wind tell the story of a stout, ancient cypress tree with tendrils of strangler fig roots encircling its tapered trunk; a vast golden marsh of winter-colored sawgrass that moves sinuously with the wind or is slowly parted by a black leather alligator. Overhead, against the bluest of skies, a circling of birds: scissor-tail kite, red-tailed hawk, and great blue heron. Then, through our great flat farmlands, enter our sprawling urban landscape. Here is another voice, lilting and tropical, sung in palms, from coconuts to majestic blue-gray Bismarcks, sky-bound vines, kaleidoscopic colors of crotons, and golden drops of sunlight spewing from orchids. These landscapes mix our once-wild places with those of the tropics. Unlike any other place, the blend is wonderfully harmonic.
Natural Wonders...

1. Tropical Everglades Visitor Association & Visitor Center (TEVA)
   160 U.S. Highway 1, Florida City • 305/245-9180, 800/388-9669 • tropicaleverglades.com
   The non-profit TEVA Visitor Center is the perfect place to begin your exploration of the southernmost
   reaches of South Miami-Dade. The association and visitor center provide information about lodgings,
   dining, special events, attractions and local parks including both Everglades National Park and
   Biscayne National Park. The center provides maps, brochures and discount coupons.

2. Everglades National Park
   40001 State Road 9336 • 305/242-7700 • nps.gov/ever
   Spanning the southern tip of the Florida peninsula and most of Florida Bay, Everglades National
   Park is the only subtropical preserve in North America. It contains both temperate and tropical
   plant communities, including sawgrass prairies, mangrove and cypress swamps, pinelands and
   hardwood hammocks, as well as marine and estuarine environments. The park is known for its
   rich bird life, particularly large wading birds, such as the roseate spoonbill, wood stork, great
   white heron, little blue heron, little green heron and a variety of egrets. It is also the only place
   in the world where alligators and crocodiles exist side by side. Make your first stop in the park at
   the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center located at the entrance to the park, just 10 miles west of Florida
   City. The staff there can help you plan the best use of your time and answer questions about park
   facilities and activities. The park contains nature trails, boardwalks, a full-service marina, boat
   launching ramps, boat rental facilities, and camping facilities. Activities include guided land and
   water tours, chartered fishing and extensive educational programs.
Turquoise waters, emerald islands and fish-bejeweled reefs make Biscayne National Park a paradise for wildlife watching, snorkeling, diving, boating, fishing and other activities. Within the park boundaries are the longest stretch of mangrove forest left on Florida’s east coast, the clear shallow waters of Biscayne Bay, more than 40 of the northernmost Florida Keys, and a spectacular living coral reef. Superimposed on all of this natural beauty is evidence of 10,000 years of human history, including stories of native peoples, shipwrecks, pirates, pioneers and presidents. Biscayne National Park is the largest marine park in the National Park System, with 95% of its 173,000 acres covered by water. The Dante Fascell Visitor Center is located less than 10 miles east of Homestead. Here visitors can picnic, fish, canoe, learn about the park, or take one of the boat tours offered by the park’s concessionaire, Biscayne National Underwater Park Inc. The concession offers gift sales, canoe rentals, glass bottom boat tours, snorkel trips and transportation to the island.

Experience how the Miccosukee Indian tribe existed and still exists in the heart of the Florida Everglades. Visit the Miccosukee Indian Village and let their guides take you on a tour through the past, present and future of their culture and lifestyle. See demonstrations and displays of woodcarving, patchwork, beadwork, basket weaving and doll making. Thrill to the world-famous Indian alligator shows. History and culture are reflected through the Indian museum. A short film and historical artifacts are highlighted, along with paintings by tribal artists and a photo exhibit depicting contemporary Miccosukee society. By airboat, you can take a ride through the vast Everglades and discover a typical hammock-type Indian-style camp that has been owned by the same Miccosukee family for more than 100 years. The Miccosukee Restaurant features such delights as fry bread, ‘gator and catfish, as well as standard American cuisine.
Touring South Miami-Dade  by Larry Wiggins

South Miami-Dade County is a green tropical paradise with its lush foliage and picturesque, endless acres of verdant crops contrasting with the rust-colored red soil of the Redland area. Located in the subtropics, its unique climate allows for a year-round growing season. The area is known as the “winter vegetable and summer tropical fruit capital” of the eastern U.S. During the prime vegetable growing season, November through March, the area is bursting with tomatoes, squash, corn, strawberries and beans. Summer and fall bring avocados, mangos, carambolas, lychees and longans. Ornamental nurseries, tree farms, orchid growers and elaborate roadside fruit and vegetable stands featuring the freshest local produce (sometimes even fronting the self-service “U-Pick” fields) are in abundance year-round. For locations and more information about what is in season, check with TEVA or the Cooperative Extension Service (a joint project of Miami-Dade County, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Florida). Visit the Florida City State Farmers’ Market or head north from Homestead on Krome Avenue to sample some of the most beautiful and delicious treats the area has to offer.

Florida City State Farmers’ Market
300 N. Krome Ave., Florida City • 305/246-6334
The market is busiest during packing season, from September to May. Open to the public year-round.

Cooperative Extension Service  18710 SW 288th St. • 305/248-3311 • miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/index.shtml
The CES provides information and publications supported by the University of Florida and consumer consultations in one of four office locations on home gardening, landscaping, tropical fruit, food safety and nutrition.

Fruit & Spice Park  24801 SW 187th Ave. • 305/247-5727 • fruitandspicepark.org
In 1944, the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department established this park on 32 acres of fertile farmland in the area known as the Redland. It is the only garden park of its kind in the U.S. It is internationally known for its more than 500 varieties of exotic and subtropical fruit, nut, spice and herb trees and shrubs. Visitors can sample and learn about many of these varieties and take daily guided tours and naturalist-led workshops.
Historic Homestead and Florida City  by Larry Wiggins

**Florida Pioneer Museum**  826 N. Krome Ave., Florida City • 305/246-9531

The museum is housed in an original railroad station agent’s house built in 1904. In that year, Henry Flagler extended his Florida East Coast Railway from Miami to Homestead as an initial phase of his plan to build the overseas railway to Key West. He platted the town of Homestead and constructed this house for the local station agent. The museum depicts the way of life a century ago; exhibits throughout the 10-room house give one an appreciation of the hardships endured by pioneering families. Other displays feature the cities of Florida City and Homestead, early tourist attractions, underwater archaeology of the upper Florida Keys and an authoritative Native American exhibit. The museum is open November-April, on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. and by appointment. [NR]

**The Gold Coast Railroad Museum**  12450 SW 152nd St. • 305/253-0063 • gcgm.org

Adjacent to Zoo Miami, this unique museum is one of the most unusual in the country. Actual historic railroad cars are on display on a half mile of real track. Its proudest acquisition is the National Historic Landmark Ferdinand Magellan, built for President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s and used by presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Reagan. The museum also displays Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway locomotive 153 and 113, and on Saturdays and Sundays the museum offers rides on the Edwin Link Children’s Railroad. The museum, as well as Zoo Miami, is on the former grounds of the Naval Air Station Richmond, noted for its blimps that were used to combat the Nazi submarine menace during World War II. Some of the pylons from the base’s three airship hangars remain. [NHL] [NR]

**Homestead Walking Tour**  homesteadmainst.org • chamberinaction.com

Prior to the arrival of Henry Flagler’s Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway in 1904, Homestead consisted of pine trees and palmetto scrubs. Soon thereafter, the FEC platted the town site and began selling lots, and nature gave way to a small frontier town that quickly grew up around the railroad with an agricultural-based economy derived from the nearby farms. Homestead incorporated as a town in 1913; today it is the second oldest municipality, behind Miami, in Miami-Dade County (Florida City, incorporated in 1914, is the third oldest).
Hurricane Andrew devastated the city on August 24, 1992. The following year, while still in the
depths of recovery, Homestead’s downtown section was named a Florida Main Street Community.
Downtown Homestead now looks better than it ever did and is home to seven properties listed on
the National Register of Historic Places, as well as unique shops, art galleries, authentic Mexican
and specialty restaurants and the Homestead Antique Federation. Downtown historic area
walking tour maps, and maps showing the locations of antique stores, are available at the Old
Town Hall Museum and Homestead Main Street located at 43 N. Krome Ave. and at the Greater
Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce offices located at 455 N. Flagler Ave., Homestead.

10 Old City Hall. 43 N. Krome Ave.
Old City Hall (also known as Old Town Hall Museum) was designed by Miami architect H.
Hastings Mundy and built in 1917. The building housed the city fire department and its two fire
engines, the police station and jail cells on the first floor. The second story held the city clerk’s
office, municipal offices, the mayor’s office and the city council chambers, which doubled as a
courtroom. The small one-story addition to the south, now used as an entrance, was added in
1924 as offices for the County Agent and Chamber of Commerce. A new city hall was built in
1975. This museum documents the history of the City of Homestead and nearby areas. (NR)

11 Redland Hotel. 5 S. Flagler Ave.
This landmark, opened in 1904, was Homestead’s first commercial building and a general supply
store and rooming house. The city’s first post office was also located in the building from 1905 to
1908. A fire severely damaged the structure in 1913, but it was rebuilt almost immediately. The
Woman’s Club of Homestead organized here and they opened the first public library at this site
in 1914. The hotel was successful until the U.S. 1 “bypass” was built in the late 1950s and the
road from Miami to Key West no longer ran in front of it. Closed by the state in 1995 for electrical
safety reasons, it remained vacant until undergoing an award-winning total renovation into a bed
& breakfast and restaurant in the late 1990s.
The Landmark Hotel  55 S. Flagler Ave.
This building dates back to the city’s pioneering days, and like most early pioneers, arrived in Homestead from Miami by train. In 1912, it was a storefront for Miami’s famous Big Fish, a huge preserved whale shark attraction. It was converted to an open-roof theater called the Airdome in 1913, where patrons watched silent films at night while sitting on benches. Later renamed the Colonial, it was disassembled in 1916 and brought to Homestead. It was known as the Seminole Theater until 1921. Remodeled in 1936 to include 26 bedrooms, it operated as a hotel in addition to a cafe. The wide eaves and high windows on the building’s sides are remnant of the early days of silent movie theaters before air-conditioning. They allowed the heat of the projectors to escape while blocking light. Today it is known as the Landmark Hotel and it operates as a rooming house.

Fuchs Bakery  102 S. Krome Ave.
This wooden building that served as a bakery and meat market was erected on this site about 1910. Charles Fuchs purchased it in 1913 because he thought the bread being made was “bitter” and that he could provide a better product. He promptly moved the wooden structure to the rear of the lot and built this concrete building. His bread must have been a big improvement because his business grew dramatically. In the early 1930s it moved to South Miami and became Holsum Bakery. (NR)

Seminole Theatre  18 N. Krome Ave. • 305/242-9320 • seminoletheatre.com
A silent movie theater was built on this site in 1921. It burned down in 1940 and the current structure replaced it. Noted national theater architect Roy A. Benjamin designed it and it remains the city’s only true Art Deco structure. Hurricane Andrew “unroofed” the theater in 1992, but it is currently undergoing renovation by a dedicated and diligent group into a small stage venue and concert hall. Note the majestic replica neon sign on the front of the building. (NR)

Lily Lawrence Bow Library  212 NW 1st Ave.
The Works Progress Administration (WPA) built this native coral rock and hand-hewn Dade County pine structure in 1939. It was named for an endeared librarian. Senator Claude Pepper gave the principal speech at its formal dedication on December 30, 1939. The building is owned by the city of Homestead and houses the city’s Community Redevelopment Department. (NR)
16 First Baptist Church 240 N. Krome Ave. • artsouthhomestead.org
This impressive building is the former home of the First Baptist Church of Homestead. It replaced the church that was built in 1914. The groundbreaking was held in June 1940 but it was not completed until January 1944 due to World War II. The former Sunday School building in the rear was built in 1926. Today it is the bustling home of ArtSouth, a not-for-profit art campus and performing arts center that offers living, teaching, exhibiting and sales space for juried and emerging artists.

17 Faust House 69 NW 4th St.
This Mission Revival house was built in the 1920s during the Florida real estate boom. It is now the home of Renaissance Antiques. (NR)

18 Neva King Cooper School 151 NW 5th St.
Built in 1914 as the Homestead Public School, this building was designed by prominent architect August Geiger in the shape of an “H” with an auditorium at the center. (NR)

19 First United Methodist Church 622 N. Krome Ave.
This beautiful Mediterranean-style building was built in 1949, but the congregation had its beginnings in 1909. The sanctuary was renovated in 1974 and included the placement of a round stained-glass window on the east wall that was salvaged from the 1761 North Street Chapel in Brighton, England—John Wesley’s home church.

20 Lindeman-Johnson House 906 N. Krome Ave.
The architect of this 1923 Mediterranean-style dwelling was H. George Fink, Coral Gables developer George Merrick’s first cousin. Fink is credited with being the most prolific designer of Mediterranean-style homes and buildings in Coral Gables. The house cost $10,900 to build and was originally the home of Frank Lindeman, who later sold it to Howard L. Johnson. Both men were prominent Homestead pharmacists. (NR)
21 Coral Castle Museum  28655 S. Dixie Highway • 305/248-6345 • coralcastle.com
Coral Castle is one man’s unique monument to his “sweet 16” girlfriend, who broke their engagement. Without any assistance, Ed Leedskalnin spent 20 years building the castle using more than 1,100 tons of coral rock. The nine-ton gate can be opened with a light touch of the hand. Other features include coral tables, chairs and an observatory. The Coral Castle has been featured in hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles including *Life* and *Readers Digest* and on TV programs *In Search Of* and *That’s Incredible*. [NR]

22 Cauley Square  22400 S. Dixie Highway • 305/258-3543 • cauleysquare.com
Cauley Square is located in the former railroad town of Goulds. It celebrated its 100th Birthday in 2004. It is a delightful combination of Old Florida shops, antique and arts and crafts stores, a famous tea room and a spa. It is the inspiration of the late Mary Anne Ballard, who took an old Goulds apartment building and a group of turn-of-the-20th-century dwellings and created a unique shopping and dining experience. Heavily damaged in 1992 by Hurricane Andrew, Cauley Square is now restored to its past glory.

23 Anderson’s Corner  15700 SW 232nd St.
William Anderson built this two-story wooden frame building in 1911 to operate as a general store. In the 1980s, it was restored and reopened as a restaurant. Although badly damaged by Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the building’s exterior can still be viewed. Across the street is the former Silver Palm School, one of the oldest in the area. It is now a private residence. [NR]

24 Redland Farm Life School  16001 SW 248th St.
Redland Farm Life School, with an agricultural-based curriculum, was the second largest “consolidated school” in the country when it opened in 1916. It replaced seven smaller Redland schools — some with only one room — and was a community hub until the 1950s. Damaged by Hurricane Andrew, it is currently being restored by the South Florida Pioneer Museum.
On the Wild Side...

25 Everglades Outpost Inc. Wildlife Refuge  35601 SW 192nd Ave.  • 305/247-8000 • evergladesoutpost.org
Located in Florida City, the not-for-profit Everglades Outpost is one of the only facilities of its kind dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wild and exotic wildlife. As a wildlife refuge, most of the animals residing at the Everglades Outpost have been confiscated by Wildlife Fish and Game officers due to illegal or abusive situations, or have been abandoned by their human owners. This rehabilitation facility provides medical care and treatment to the sick and injured. Whenever possible, the animals are released to their natural habitat. The animals that cannot be returned to the wild are placed in suitable homes or remain here under watchful care for the remainder of their lives. The goal of the Everglades Outpost is to educate the community about why wild animals should not be kept as pets, how to co-exist with wildlife, and broader environmental issues of animal endangerment and extinction. Animals at the refuge include monkeys, tigers, bison, crocodiles, alligators, cougars, grizzly bears, wolves, snakes and others.

26 Everglades Alligator Farm  40351 SW 192nd Ave.  • 305/247-2628 • everglades.com
Just outside Everglades National Park is the Everglades Alligator Farm. This privately owned attraction is a real working alligator farm started in 1982 as an air boat ride attraction. In 1985, Florida permitted commercial farming of alligators and the attraction became the first such farm in Miami-Dade County. The Everglades Alligator Farm is currently home to about 3,000 alligators of all sizes. The smaller alligators are kept in “grow out pens” and the larger alligators are in natural settings called breeding ponds. With alligator shows, snake shows, alligator feedings and thrilling airboat rides, there is something going on every hour.

27 Jungle Island  1111 Parrot Jungle Trail (Watson Island)  • 305/258-6453 • jungleisland.com
Franz and Louise Scherr opened the original Parrot Jungle in a South Dade hammock in 1936. Through the years, it has entertained more than 15 million visitors including Winston Churchill. In 2003, it reopened on Watson Island with its world-famous parrot shows plus a Serpentarium, a Jungle Theater, an Everglades Habitat, open interactive aviaries, a petting zoo and more.
Monkey Jungle  
14805 SW 216th St. • 305/235-1611 • monkeyjungle.com

Monkey Jungle is a historic tourist attraction that opened in 1933. It is a place “where the humans are caged, and the monkeys run wild.” Escape on a jungle safari and explore the wilds of South America, Asia and Africa. Witness crab-eating monkeys diving for treats and delve into the lush, tropical Amazonian rain forest filled with hundreds of exotic monkeys. It also has one of the richest fossil deposits in South Florida, with more than 5,000 specimens. New exhibits include rare Amazon parrots, the Cameroon Jungle and the Lemurs of Madagascar.

Miami Seaquarium  
4400 Rickenbacker Causeway • 305/361-5705 • miamiseaquarium.com

Designed by Steward and Skinner with Petersen and Shuflin, the Miami Seawarium has been entertaining visitors since 1955. From 1964 to 1968, the popular NBC TV series “Flipper” was filmed here and the set remains. World-renowned architect Buckminster Fuller designed the landmark Golden Dome that houses the popular sea lion show. The 38 acres of shows and exhibits include the home of “Lolita the Killer Whale” and an exciting two-hour program that lets you slip into a wet suit and enter the world-famous Flipper Lagoon for an up-close encounter with dolphins.

Zoo Miami  
12400 SW 152nd St. • 305/251-0400 • zoomiami.org

One of the world’s great zoos, Zoo Miami houses more than 900 wild animals in a cageless setting that closely approximates the animals’ natural habitats and gives the visitor the feeling of embarking on an international safari. Large, open-air exhibits allow visitors to enjoy beautiful and endangered wildlife at a safe, yet remarkably close, range. With nearly 300 developed acres on a 740-acre parcel that once housed the Naval Air Station Richmond, Zoo Miami is the only zoo in the continental U.S. located in a subtropical climate. Zoo Miami offers guided tram tours, fascinating behind-the-scenes tours, a free elevated air-conditioned monorail tour, state-of-the-art playgrounds and water play areas for children. Don’t miss the Gold Coast Railroad Museum adjacent to Zoo Miami.
The Deering Estate at Cutler  16701 SW 72nd Ave.  •  305/235-1668  •  deeringestate.org
Industrialist Charles Deering bought the 420-acre property, which included most of the town of Cutler, in 1913 and remodeled the 1896 Richmond Inn into his private winter residence. Charles was the son of the founder of Deering Harvesting Machine Company and International Harvester, and the brother of James Deering, who built Vizcaya. He had a great interest in the natural environment and hired naturalist John Kunkle Small to help plan his estate by preserving the hammock and pinelands, as well as the archaeological features. In 1922, architect Phineas Paist designed an imposing Mediterranean-style "Stone House" next to the former Richmond Inn. The estate is part of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, a formation of oolitic limestone, which has been high above sea level for the last 100,000 years. Large animals, such as the now extinct mammoth, once roamed the area, as well as dog-sized horses, tapirs, jaguars, peccaries, sloths and bison—their bones and teeth uncovered from a fossil pit on the property. Human remains found at the site have been carbon dated to 10,000 years ago, suggesting that the Paleo-Indians, the earliest known people of North America, inhabited the area. The Tequesta Indians lived on the site from about 2,000 years ago to the late 1700s. In the 1800s it was the "hunting grounds" for the Seminole Indians. (NR)

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  10901 Old Cutler Road  •  305/667-1651  •  fairchildgarden.org
Robert H. Montgomery was a successful businessman with a passion for plant collecting. With the guidance of David Fairchild, famed plant explorer, he pursued the dream of creating a botanical garden in Miami, the one place in the continental U.S. where tropical plants can grow outdoors year-round. Opened to the public in 1938, the Garden was established on an 83-acre site purchased by Col. Montgomery and later deeded in large part to Miami-Dade County. Designed by renowned landscape architect William Lyman Phillips, the leading landscape designer in South Florida during the 1930s, the Garden is one of the world’s preeminent botanical gardens, with extensive collections of rare tropical plants, including palms, cycads, flowering trees and vines. It features a 13,000-square-foot visitor center, a conservatory, a museum of plant exploration, vine pergola, sunken garden, winding paths, 11 lakes, lily ponds, overlooks, vistas and an outdoor tropical rainforest. Narrated tram tours, self-guided tours and programs in environmental education, conservation and horticulture are available. Also visit The Kampong, the former home of David Fairchild, in Coconut Grove.
Matheson Hammock Park
9610 Old Cutler Road • 305/665-5475 • miamidade.gov/parks/parks/matheson_beach.asp
Matheson Hammock Park is a lovely, scenic park with an unusual feature—a man-made atoll pool, which is flushed naturally with the tidal action of nearby Biscayne Bay. Its tranquil breeze-swept beach is a haven for families who enjoy its warm, safe waters and beautiful waterside views. The park had its beginnings in 1930 when Miami-Dade County acquired 80-plus acres of virgin hammock land from civic-minded William J. Matheson. He wanted the land to be used as a park “to preserve the wild and natural beauty.” It became Matheson Hammock Park and grew by stages to its 630 acres. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) did extensive work on the park during the Depression under the federal government’s Economic Recovery Act. The CCC went to work in the park in 1936 and developed the park as it is today with its picturesque coral rock buildings, picnic pavilions, nature trails and fences. The park also has a full-service marina and a restaurant built into one of the historic coral rock structures.

Farther Afield...
Simpson Park 55 SW 17th Road
The native people called South Florida’s once vast sub-tropical forests, “hammocks.” Although the rapid development of the modern city felled most of these natural wonders, one remarkable hammock preserve remains amid glitzy new high-rise buildings. At Simpson Park, nature still reigns supreme. A tangle of magnificent oaks, gumbo-limbos, strangler figs and stoppers quiet the sounds of the city and transport the visitor back in time.
a state of mind...
If you think of Coconut Grove as only a trendy shopping and entertainment area you are missing its claim to fame as Miami’s oldest community. Long before there was a City of Miami, hardy, sea-loving people built a small village in the tropical wilderness. Its first settlers came from the Bahamas and were soon joined by a worldly group of individualists—sailors, intellectuals, naturalists, millionaires and artists—who gave the Grove its enduring identity and live-and-let live lifestyle. Although now part of the City of Miami and threatened with overdevelopment, its history endures in its numerous historic sites, tree-choked highways, rambling lanes and weathered stone walls. If you can join a pair of perceptive eyes with a rare type of historic tunnel vision, you can still get a glimpse of what Coconut Grove offered its pioneers more than a hundred years ago and discover what sets it apart from the rest of Miami.
A Sampling of Historic Coconut Grove...

1. **Peacock Park** 2820 McFarlane Road
   This public bayfront park honors Charles and Isabella Peacock, who built Miami’s first hotel, the Bay View House, here in 1883. They inaugurated the area’s first tourist season, and the small hotel became the gathering place for the nascent Coconut Grove community.

2. **Woman’s Club of Coconut Grove** 2985 S. Bayshore Drive
   In 1891, Flora McFarlane, South Florida’s first woman homesteader, organized the Housekeeper’s Club to bring the women of the community together. The present building, designed by Walter DeGarmo with native oolitic limestone (coral rock), opened in 1921. In 1957, the club changed its name to the Woman’s Club of Coconut Grove. (NR)

3. **The Coconut Grove Library** 2875 McFarlane Road • 305/442-8695
   In 1895, the “Pine Needles,” a club for young girls, founded the Coconut Grove Exchange Library upstairs in the Peacock Store. The men of the community built a library building in 1901. In 1963, T. Trip Russell designed a new building on the site and incorporated a replicated façade of the original building into his award-winning design.

4. **Eva Munroe’s Grave** 2875 McFarlane Road
   The iron fence to the left of the library entrance surrounds the grave of pioneer Ralph Munroe’s first wife, Eva Hewitt Munroe, who died in 1882. It is Miami’s oldest marked grave.

5. **The Coconut Grove School** 3351 Matilda St.
   This school is the ancestor of the first public school (1887) in what is now Miami-Dade County. The original H.H. Mundy-designed building of the present school, visible from Matilda Street, opened in 1911. A new high school addition, designed by Walter DeGarmo, visible from Grand Avenue, opened in 1922. The high school closed in 1926 and the elementary school took over the building.
The Old Bank of Coconut Grove  3430 Main Highway
Designed by Walter DeGarmo in 1923 for the Bank of Coconut Grove, it was later the home of the John C. Lilly Research Institute for interspecies communication between man and dolphin.

Peacock Plaza and Anthony Arcade  3436-3438 Main Highway
Although it has been altered, the building is one of the few remaining Mediterranean-style commercial structures in Coconut Grove that followed a 1920s town plan for the area by Philadelphia architect John Erwin Bright. Banker John R. Anthony built the arcade in 1925.

The Barnacle  3485 Main Highway  •  305/448-9445  •  floridastateparks.org/thebarnacle
This State of Florida historic site is Miami’s oldest home in its original location. The Barnacle, designed by owner Ralph M. Munroe in 1891, offers visitors the opportunity to almost re-enter the “Era of the Bay” before Henry Flagler’s railroad came to Miami in 1896 and sparked rapid development. Often called the “Father of Coconut Grove,” Munroe was a pioneer photographer, author, sailboat designer and environmentalist. [NR]

Coconut Grove Playhouse  3500 Main Highway
Designed by architects Kiehnel and Elliott for Coconut Grove’s first mayor, Irving J. Thomas, and his partner Fin L. Pierce, the former movie house opened on January 1, 1927 to rave reviews. Millionaire George Engle bought it in 1955 and after extensive renovations reopened it as a legitimate theater on January 3, 1956. Now closed, supporters hope for a re-opening after restoration.
Charles Avenue & the West Grove  by Arva Moore Parks

The first Black settlement on the South Florida mainland is in Coconut Grove. Its history began in the early 1880s when Bahamian immigrants and southern Blacks came to South Florida to farm the land and look for a better life. Charles Avenue, once known as Evangelist Street, was the main hub of the Black community that was called Kebo, after the famous African mountain. Sites included the first Black school, church, fraternal society, library and cemetery. In the 1970s The Grove became the site of Goombay, a festival held the first weekend in June to celebrate the independence of the Islands of the Bahamas from Britain and to commemorate the accomplishments of South Florida’s Bahamian pioneers.

10  The E.W.F. Stirrup House 3242 Charles Ave.
This two-story frame house, built of Dade County pine in 1897, was the residence of E.W.F. Stirrup, the first Black developer in Coconut Grove, who migrated from Harbour Island, Bahamas in 1888. Stirrup built more than 100 homes in the area from coral rock and Dade County pine. He also had holdings in other parts of South Florida.

11  Odd Fellows Hall/United Christian Church of Christ 3288 Charles Ave.
Although drastically altered with the second floor removed, this circa 1897 building housed the first Black library, literary and fraternal society in South Florida and for many years was the community gathering place.

12  Mariah Brown House 3298 Charles Ave.
Now under restoration, the Mariah Brown House was the first home on Evangelist Street/Charles Avenue. Ms. Brown, who came from Upper Bogue, Eleuthera, was the first permanent resident of the West Grove. She worked for the Peacock family, who built the Peacock Inn, Miami’s first hotel. She brought in other family members who comprised some of the earliest residents of the Coconut Grove community.

13  St. James Baptist Church 3500 Charles Ave.
This historic church was formerly the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (St. Agnes), which was founded by Rev. Samuel Sampson in 1896. Today it is the home of St. James Baptist Church.
14 Christ Episcopal Church 3481 Hibiscus St.
Founded in 1901, it was the church home of Father Theodore R. Gibson, priest, community activist, civil rights leader and former City of Miami commissioner. It is the oldest Coconut Grove church in its original location.

15 Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church 3515 Douglas Road
Originally known as St. Agnes Missionary Baptist Church, it is the oldest church in the Black Grove and the first Baptist Church in the Miami area. Its first home, built in 1896, was on Charles Avenue. The present edifice dates from 1948.

16 Coconut Grove Cemetery 3650 Charles Ave.
Originally, the Methodist, Baptist and Episcopal churches oversaw the cemetery. It adjoins the Charlotte Jane Memorial Cemetery, named in honor of the wife of E.W.F. Stirrup. It is the final resting place of many pioneers and reflects the area’s Bahamian heritage.

17 Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church 3680 Thomas Ave.
In 1896, 12 settlers gathered in the living room of Mariah Brown’s house to form St. Paul AME Church. The first AME Church on this site was built in 1934, although the congregation once had a building on Charles Avenue that, in 1900, housed the first school for Black children prior to the opening of the public school in 1901.

18 George Washington Carver Schools 4901 Lincoln Drive
The present George Washington Carver Elementary and Middle School once served the Coconut Grove Black community from grades K-12. George Merrick built the original Spanish-style school in 1924 in exchange for the former Black school property on LeJeune Road. Led by Principal Frances Tucker, who trained at Tuskegee, the school was renamed George Washington Carver in 1943. In 1951, Alfred Browning Parker designed a new high school and the original school became the elementary school. The high school was integrated and became a junior high school in 1966, and later a middle school.
McFarlane Homestead Historic District  

Between U.S. 1, Grand Avenue and Lincoln Drive

Although often considered part of Coconut Grove, this unique historic district is actually part of Coral Gables. In 1920, prior to the development of Coral Gables, founder George Merrick created this neighborhood for black residents because during the segregation era their traditional neighborhood had become overcrowded and white residents resisted expansion. Merrick was close to the community because many of the early residents worked with him in the grapefruit groves that later became Coral Gables. It was formerly the homestead of Flora McFarlane, a white woman. Before there was a public school, she taught both Black and white children at the Peacock Inn. [NR]

The Pagoda  
3575 Main Highway

New Yorker Paul Ransom opened “Pine Knot Camp” for boys on this site in 1896. The Pagoda, designed by Greene & Wicks, was erected in 1902. A year later it became the nucleus of the Florida-Adirondack School, the nation’s first two-campus boarding school. Fall and spring quarters were spent in the Adirondacks and the winter in Coconut Grove. The campus also includes the restored 1909 Paul C. Ransom Cottage that houses school memorabilia. The New York campus closed in 1949 and the Grove site became Ransom School for Boys. It merged with Everglades School for Girls in 1974 and continues today as Ransom Everglades School. [NR]

Plymouth Congregational Church  
3429 Devon Road

This church traces its roots to Isabella Peacock’s Sunday School that began in 1887. Four years later, the men in the community built the Union Chapel, which became Union Congregational Church in 1897. Through the financial commitment of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Curtiss James and the efforts of Rev. George Spalding and George E. Merrick, whose father had been the church’s second minister, the congregation moved into the beautiful Clinton McKenzie-designed mission-style “coral rock” church in 1917. The stonemason was Spaniard Felix Rabon, who used only a hatchet, trowel, T-square and plumb line. In 1928, Harriet James purchased a 300-year-old door from the Spanish monastery in the Pyrenees that now graces the church. The campus contains several other notable rock buildings, some of which date to the William J. Matheson Estate that once encompassed the property. [NR]
The First Coconut Grove School House 3429 Devon Road
Behind Plymouth Church sits present-day Miami-Dade County’s first public school. In 1889, two years after its founding, the school moved into this simple wooden building that had its origin as a community Sunday school. Originally located on Grand Avenue behind the Union Church, it was moved to this site in 1970.

Admirals Row Devon Road
In 1916, Plymouth Church sold off the southern part of its land as “Plymouth Court,” to finance the construction of the new church building. Three retired admirals—Albert H. Ross, C.J. Bousch and Robert M. Doyle—purchased the lots and built large homes, two of which still stand and are now part of Plymouth Church.

The Coconut Grove Public Utilities Company Devon Road
William Matheson and his son Hugh established this waterworks and telephone exchange in 1916. The well water stored in two ground level tanks was the Grove’s only waterworks until 1925. Likewise, the telephone exchange provided service to 300 Grove customers until taken over by Southern Bell that same year.

The Albert J. and Catherine Bigler House 3670 Hibiscus St.
Built for Mrs. Snowden, who later married Albert J. Bigler, this unique home designed by Kiehnel and Elliott is a Moorish fantasy.

Bryan Memorial Church/Bet-Ovadia Chabad of the Grove 3713 Main Highway
This church was dedicated on Easter Sunday, 1928. It was built on land donated by William Jennings Bryan, the famous three-time presidential candidate, theologian and orator. His former home, Marymount, sits behind the church. He participated in the design, which included an outdoor pulpit where he planned to conduct Bible classes. He died before it was completed, just weeks after the conclusion of the famous “Scopes Trial,” in which he participated in the prosecution. Designed by the renowned architectural firm of Kiehnel and Elliott, it is an outstanding example of masonry vernacular design with Byzantine detailing. It is now the home of the Bet-Ovadia Chabad of the Grove.
Kiehnel and Elliott designed the Tudor-style Cherokee Lodge, named after the Cherokee roses that once grew on the property, for Emalin McMillan, a sister of John Bindley, who owned El Jardin. It was built circa 1916.

“El Jardin” was the winter home of John Bindley, President of Pittsburgh Steel. It was typical of the bayfront estates comprising Coconut Grove’s “Millionaire’s Row.” Designed by Kiehnel and Elliott in 1917, El Jardin is considered one of the first true Mediterranean-style structures still remaining in Miami. Its beauty launched Richard Kiehnel’s South Florida career. He opened an office here in 1922, designed many memorable buildings and emerged as one of Miami’s most honored architects. Although the school grounds are not open to the public, the beautiful gatehouse evokes the spirit of the entire estate. (NR)

Internationally known plant explorer David Fairchild, “the Columbus of American horticulture,” and his wife Marian, daughter of Alexander Graham Bell, purchased the 10-acre Kampong property in 1916. In 1928, the Fairchilds built a new and unique dwelling they named the Kampong (a home in a garden). Designed by Charles Dean, the Kampong seems perfectly at home amid its lush tropical garden setting. Also on the property is a rock building that was the office of Eleanor Gault Simmons, Miami’s first woman doctor, and later an office for Alexander Graham Bell. In 1960 it was purchased by Catherine Hauberg, who donated it to the present owners, the National Tropical Botanical Garden, in 1984. The grounds and collections are open by appointment for guided tours. (NR)
In the Vicinity...

Vizcaya Museum & Gardens See pg. 50

Pan American Sea Plane Base and Terminal/Miami City Hall  3500 Pan American Drive
Opened in 1931, the former Pan American Airways facility was once the largest and most modern seaplane terminal in the world. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt departed from here on a flight to Casablanca. Designed by Delano and Aldrich, the Streamline Moderne building has been the Miami City Hall since 1954. Although many of the original features have been changed, the commission chambers have undergone an extensive restoration. (NR)

Pan American Hangars
At the same time as Pan American built the Terminal Building, it also built three large hangars that were maintenance facilities for their “Flying Clipper” fleet. Also included in the buildings were shops and storerooms for communication and other departments. When Pan American sold the property to the City of Miami, the city leased the maintenance hangars for marine use. Today, Fresh Market occupies one of the hangars. (NR)

Coast Guard Hangar
During World War I, Dinner Key was the site of one of the nation’s first Naval Air Stations. At the end of the war, the station closed but the key’s military presence did not end. In 1932, the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Miami was commissioned at Dinner Key and became one of the nation’s busiest search and rescue operations. It was particularly active during the early years of the Cuban exodus. The base moved to Opa-locka in 1965 and the City of Miami acquired the property. It was later known as the “Virrick Gym” because the late Elizabeth Virrick, founder of Coconut Grove Cares, organized a boxing program there for young men. (NR)

Cape Florida Lighthouse/Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park
Although located on Key Biscayne, the Cape Florida Lighthouse, South Florida’s oldest structure, has a close connection to Coconut Grove. Built in 1825, its first keeper, John Dubose, also had a home in Coconut Grove. Other early keepers, including members of the pioneering Pent and Frow families, did as well. The original lighthouse was destroyed by the Seminole Indians in 1836 and rebuilt in 1845. (NR)
theatrical splendor...
Downtown Miami is Southeast Florida’s most historic neighborhood. At the edge of its southern sector stands the north bank of the Miami River, which, in the course of several thousand years, has hosted a large Tequesta Indian settlement, Spanish missions, slave plantations, army forts, the home of Julia Tuttle, modern Miami’s “mother,” Henry M. Flagler’s magnificent Royal Palm Hotel, and today new, towering buildings hosting offices, residential facilities, hotels and retail institutions. Flagler, after accepting attractive offers of land from Tuttle and the Brickell family, who lived across the river, brought his Florida East Coast Railway to Miami in 1896, jump-starting the transformation of a tiny riverine community into an incorporated city. Downtown Miami witnessed Miami’s incorporation and virtually everything else occurring in the young city. With its history, breathtaking variety of architectural styles, and its vast archaeological heritage, Downtown Miami, now undergoing an exciting renaissance, offers a delightful venue for those interested in the stunning saga of Miami, The Magic City.
Downtown Tour...

1. **Miami News/Freedom Tower  600 Biscayne Blvd.**
   A Boom-era structure built in 1925, the building hosted The Miami News, the city’s first newspaper, for more than 32 years. Designed by Shultze and Weaver, a New York firm, the building, with its magnificent Giralda tower, is patterned after the great Medieval cathedral in Seville, Spain. From 1962 to 1974, nearly 300,000 Cuban refugees received a wide variety of federal assistance and stayed in this building thereby providing the structure with an additional name—the Freedom Tower. Owned today by Miami Dade College, the building has recently undergone a stunning restoration. Today it hosts art exhibitions and star-studded events, while its magnificent façade is illuminated nightly. [NHL] [NR]

2. **Central Baptist Church  500 NE 1st Ave.**
   Central Baptist Church is one of the city’s centennial churches, having been established on July 27, 1896, the day before Miami’s incorporation as a city. This structure is the third home for the church. Built in 1927, the building is a magnificent evocation of Neo-Classical style. [NR]

3. **United States Post Office and Federal Courthouse  300 NE 1st Ave.**
   Designed by Phineas Paist, Harold D. Stewart and Marion Manley, Florida’s first licensed woman architect, the courthouse reflects a marvelous fusion of the Mediterranean and Neo-Classical styles. Completed in 1934, the building is faced with oolitic limestone and contains a magnificent mural by Denman Fink in the central courtroom. It has been the venue for many major court cases, as well as Senator Estes Kefauver’s Select Committee on Crime hearings in the 1950s. [NR]

4. **Gesu Church  118 NE 2nd St.**
   Gesu Church is the oldest institution still standing on its original site, a nine-lot area provided by Henry M. Flagler, Miami’s “Godfather,” in 1896. The original wood frame church opened there in 1897. It was replaced in 1924 with the present structure designed by Owen Williams of Palm Beach and built at a cost of more than $450,000. Since the Jesuit priests who staff it are noted for their stirring oratory, the architect was instructed to design an interior without posts or pillars so that there would be nothing to obstruct the view of the congregation from the pulpit. The church’s singular stained-glass windows were made by Franz Mayer in Munich, Germany. [NR]
5 Security Building/Capital Building 117 NE 1st Ave. Known in recent times as the Capital Building, this structure was designed by New York architect Robert Greenfield. Erected in 1926 at an estimated cost of $300,000, the Capital Building represents the only French Second Empire-style structure in Downtown Miami. In recent years, the building's original façade has been restored, while the offices that once comprised it have been converted to residential facilities. [NR]

6 The Old Federal Building 100 NE 1st Ave. Designed under the supervision of James Knox Taylor and built in 1912, this beautiful Florentine-styled structure housed the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse until the early 1930s. Kiehnel and Elliott designed an addition to the building on the west. In the late 1930s, the building became the home of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Miami, the nation's first savings and loan.

7 The Ralston Building 40 NE 1st Ave. Completed in 1917, the Ralston Building was one of Miami's first skyscrapers, at eight stories. It was constructed by a prominent local businessman by that name. Before its completion, all 42 offices were filled.

8 McCrory's Rear Entrance 18-24 NE 1st St. Built in the early 1900s, this building served originally as the McCrory Hotel and later as McCrory's 5 and 10 Cent Store. In the late 1930s, the façade was significantly altered and the expanding 5 and 10 Cent Store took over the hotel, as well as the adjoining property to the rear. The building features an arcaded walkway, typical of early 1900s buildings in Downtown, as well as some Art Deco stylistic features.
Shoreland Arcade  120 NE 1st St.
Designed by Pfeiffer and O'Reilly in 1925, this building was erected by the Shoreland Company, developers of Miami Shores, as its main sales offices during the 1920s real estate boom. The developer’s original intent was to erect a “skyscraper” atop the arcade, but the collapse of the boom and of the Shoreland Company in the mid 1920s brought a halt to that plan. The building is an outstanding representation of masonry vernacular, along with Neo-Classical, Mediterranean and Art Deco details. Note the reliefs inside and outside of the building. Today, its ground floor and a portion of its ornate arcade host a popular Italian restaurant. (NR)

Burdines/Macy’s  22 E. Flagler St.
The first Burdines store opened on the west side of South Miami Avenue in 1898. By the early 1900s, William Burdine had moved the business to today’s East Flagler Street. The streamline façade, designed by Henry Lapointe, was completed in the late 1930s. The store received a two-phased Moderne makeover in 1936 and 1946, creating an elegant International Style presence at the prime intersection of Flagler Street and Miami Avenue. The explosive growth of Downtown in the years immediately after World War II included the construction of a Burdines’ west wing connected by a tri-level bridge across South Miami Avenue. In recent decades, Burdines became Florida’s largest department store chain. Owned for decades by Federated Stores, whose holdings include Macy’s department store, the store’s name changed to Macy’s in 2005.

Miami-Dade County Courthouse  73 W. Flagler St.
Designed by A. Ten Eyck Brown and August Geiger, the courthouse was built around the existing 1904 courthouse. Constructed at a cost of $4 million, it opened in 1928. At 28 stories, it was said to be the tallest building south of Baltimore. For the next 35 years, it dominated the city and county’s skyline and housed both county and city offices, along with the jails of both jurisdictions. Brown, the lead architect, also designed the Los Angeles City Hall, which bears a striking resemblance to this building. The beautiful mezzanine has undergone a sensitive restoration as has Courtroom 6-1, the venue for many high-profile trials. (NR)
Explore 10,000 years of Miami’s history and culture through the permanent exhibit entitled Tropical Dreams: A People’s History of South Florida. HistoryMiami, with its expansive museum, exhibition areas and research center, is located at the Philip Johnson-designed Cultural Plaza, which also is home to the Miami-Dade Library and the Miami Art Museum (which moves to the city’s bayfront in late 2013).

**Alfred I. Dupont Building 169 E. Flagler St.**
Designed by Marsh and Saxelbye in 1937, this structure is Miami’s only Art Deco skyscraper and a representation of Depression Moderne architecture. It resembles the buildings comprising Rockefeller Center in New York City, which were also created in the same era. The Dupont Building and the Rockefeller Center complex shared the same interior designer. Note the polished black granite base and enter the lavish lobby featuring bronze bas-relief elevator doors sporting egrets, herons and ibises. The grand escalator leads to the second-level banking hall, featuring scenes from Florida history adorning the high ceiling. During World War II, it served as headquarters for the Seventh Naval District, whose charge was to guard the waters and shorelines against Nazi submarine attacks. (NR)

**Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts 174 E. Flagler St.**
Designed by John Eberson as an atmospheric movie theater and vaudeville house, this magnificent cinema includes twinkling stars, rolling clouds and 12-foot-long chandeliers. The theater and the 10-story adjoining office building were Miami’s first air-conditioned buildings when they opened in early 1926. It was saved from demolition in the early 1970s, after businessman Maurice Gusman purchased it. Since then, the theater has undergone several restorations, the last a million-dollar effort, which has restored it to its original splendor. The theater has hosted the likes of Elvis Presley, Luciano Pavarotti, Desi Arnaz, Ella Fitzgerald, Sophie Tucker and Milton Berle. (NR)
Walgreen’s/La Epoca  200 E. Flagler St.
La Epoca, a venerable Downtown department store, occupies this great Streamline Moderne building, constructed in 1936 by Walgreen’s as one of its “superstores” of that era. An example of the International Style in Miami, the factory-like appearance was designed by Zimmerman and MacBride. The interior soars three stories high and in the rear there is a grand staircase with exquisite Deco railings. The structure is a good example of adaptive re-use. [NR]

Ingraham Building  25 SE 2nd Ave.
Designed by Schultze and Weaver in a style typical of the Chicago School, the Ingraham Building remains one of Downtown’s most elegant office buildings. It features polychromed Florentine eaves, bronze doors and a hand-painted lobby ceiling. Built by Florida East Coast Properties in 1927 at a cost of $2 million, it was named for James Ingraham, one of Henry M. Flagler’s top lieutenants. [NR]

Huntington Building  168 SE 1st St.
Designed by Louis Kamper along with Pfeiffer and O’Reilly, and built by Frederick Rand, who named it for his sister, this tall office building was completed in 1926. Rand was an accomplished developer who envisioned East 2nd Avenue, along which he owned numerous parcels of land, as the future “Fifth Avenue of the South.” Prior to the construction of the Huntington Building, a beautiful Queen Anne-style home occupied the site. The building’s most interesting features are the sculptured busts on the parapet. [NR]

Royal Palm Cottage  64 SE 4th St.
Built in 1897 as housing for residents of the new City of Miami, this cottage is the last of 30 similar houses built by Henry M. Flagler along Southeast 1st and 2nd streets, between 1st and 2nd avenues. Fashioned from Dade County pine and painted “Flagler Yellow,” the railroad magnate’s favorite color, the cottage and others like it rented for $15 to $22 a month. Moved to this location on the Miami River from Southeast 2nd Street in 1979, it is now part of a waterfront restaurant. [NR]
The Miami Circle  *South bank of the Miami River near the river’s mouth*

Discovered in the summer of 1998 during a routine archaeological survey prior to the construction of high-rise apartments, the now world-famous, 38-foot-diameter Miami Circle continues to mystify. It is believed to be part of a structure built by the Tequesta people who occupied the river banks more than 2,000 years ago. Now in public ownership, and managed by HistoryMiami as a park, it can be viewed from the Brickell Avenue Bridge under the shadow of the imposing statue of a Tequesta family, created by the renowned international artist Manuel Carbonell. Carbonell used the column relief to tell the story of Florida’s native people as portrayed by French artist Jacques Lemoyne, who came to Florida in 1564. (NHL) [NR]

The Brickell Avenue Bridge

The Brickell Bridge, designed by the firm of Portuondo, Perotti and Associates, is named in honor of the pioneer Brickell family that operated an Indian trading post on the south bank of the Miami River and owned vast amounts of land between the river and Coconut Grove. Besides the Tequesta statue, artist Manuel Carbonell also created the bas-reliefs on the bridge’s pillars honoring six people who left their imprint on the city—Julia Tuttle, Henry M. Flagler, William and Mary Brickell, D.A. Dorsey and Marjory Stoneman Douglas.
Lummus Park and the Surrounding Neighborhood

Historic Lummus Park, one of contemporary Miami’s best-kept secrets, was a popular, even alluring destination for residents and visitors in an earlier era. The seven-acre park—Miami’s oldest—is nestled between Northwest 2nd and 3rd streets and I-95 and NW North River Drive, near the Miami River. Carved out of a sub-tropical hammock, the park rests on an oolitic limestone ridge that was graded at the time of its creation in 1909. The park is named for James E. (J.E.) Lummus, the City of Miami’s second mayor, who lived immediately south of it. From the beginning, the park offered visitors a wide array of activities. It was most notable for its 28 shuffleboard courts. The park also contains two of Greater Miami’s most historic structures: the William English Slave Plantation House/Fort Dallas, which dates to the 1840s, and the Wagner Homestead House, built in the following decade by one of the area’s few settlers. In the early decades of the 20th century, the neighborhood surrounding the park was among the city’s finest addresses. It includes the stunning Scottish Rite Temple, the beautifully restored Temple Court Apartments, which are nearly 100 years of age, The Oaks rooming house on Northwest 3rd Street across from the park, as well as three beautifully restored houses on Northwest 4th Street. The portion of the neighborhood immediately north of the park is a local historic district.

In the Vicinity...

Spring Garden Historic District by Sarah Eaton

Between Northwest 11th Street and the Miami River from the Seybold Canal to 12th Avenue

Today’s Spring Garden first became known to the general public when a popular tourist attraction known as “Alligator Joe’s” opened in the late 1890s where the Miami River meets the Seybold Canal. Alligator Joe’s, however, was short-lived. Prominent Miami baker and businessman John Seybold purchased the property and advertised Spring Garden as “the most exclusive subdivision in Miami” when he offered the first lots for sale in 1919. Spring Garden remains today as the city’s oldest intact single-family neighborhood along the Miami River. The most notable house in Spring Garden was inspired by Hollywood and is known as the Hindu Temple. It is located at 870 NW 11th St., at the mouth of the Seybold Canal. An elaborate temple was among the temporary sets built for “The Jungle Trail,” one of the first movies filmed in Miami. The temple captured the imagination of the residents of the city, and John Seybold built a permanent version of the building on the site of the original movie set after filming ended in 1919. The “humpback” bridge over the Seybold Canal at Northwest 7th Street is another neighborhood landmark.
another time...
Inspired by the Past
by Beth Dunlop

In an era when most grand buildings had architecture borrowed from Europe, Mediterranean was an invented style, not an imported one. You might call it a pastiche, as it draws on elements of Italian, Spanish, French, Moorish and Arabian design. The idea was to conjure up images of the Old World in a tropical “New World.” Most architectural historians look to the beautiful El Jardin, designed by Richard Kiehnel in 1918 and now part of the Carrollton School, as the first true Mediterranean building, but others soon followed. The visionary developer George Merrick drew up plans for his near-utopian City of Coral Gables. It was in Coral Gables in the mid 1920s that Mediterranean style flourished with houses, buildings and fountains—all designed around another time and place. The wonder was that it became the emblematic architecture of an era in Miami, and indeed throughout Florida.
A Sampling of Mediterranean...

**Vizcaya Museum & Gardens**  *by Holly Blount*
3251 S. Miami Ave. • 305/250-9133 • vizcayamuseum.org

Vizcaya is an American realization of an Italian Renaissance Villa and an American industrialist’s dream. It is one of Miami’s most well-known historic sites; the legacy of James Deering and his Gilded Age. It launched a love affair with all things Mediterranean and remains a major influence on the region’s architecture. Completed in 1916 in the middle of a pristine sub-tropical hardwood forest along Biscayne Bay, Vizcaya has 34 rooms open to the public. The villa’s creators, architect F. Burrall Hoffman and interior designer Paul Chalfin, traveled to Italy with Deering to study Italian country villas that would serve as models for his magnificent winter estate. The final masterpiece represents the composite of several periods and styles. It incorporates a priceless and unparalleled collection of decorative arts that provides an uncommon glimpse into four past centuries. The 10-acre formal gardens with ancient statuary, pergolas, decorative urns, fountains and pools add to the ambience. The picturesque village, now under restoration, has a variety of outbuildings that include a dairy barn, blacksmith shop, garage, chicken coop, stable and superintendent’s quarters. (NHL) [NR]

**El Jardin/Carrollton School for Girls**  See pg. 36

**Coral Gables**  *by Dona Spain*

**Coral Gables Merrick House**  907 Coral Way • 305/460-5361

No tour of Coral Gables can be complete without a visit to the Merrick House, the original home of the Merrick family and the genesis of George Merrick’s vision for Coral Gables. Now a house museum owned and operated by the city, the imposing 1910 “coral rock” home is an elegant addition to a 1903 wood frame to addition to the original structure. Designed by Althea Fink Merrick, George Merrick’s mother, the family named their new home “Coral Gables.” It contains original furnishings and artwork by members of the talented Merrick and Fink families. (NR)
Entrances, Plazas and Fountains
The beauty and charm of Coral Gables is experienced in the city’s numerous plazas, entrances and fountains that set the original “Spanish” style of the carefully planned community. The entrances include the Douglas Entrance (Puerta del Sol), which also incorporated a planned Spanish village, the Granada Entrance, the Commercial Entrance and Country Club Prado. The plazas and fountains include Balboa Plaza, Columbus Plaza, De Soto Plaza and Fountain, Ponce de Leon Plaza and Granada Plaza. Denman Fink designed all the original entrances and plazas with nationally known landscape architect Frank Button. Walter DeGarmo also contributed to the Douglas Entrance. Charles Merrick, George Merrick’s brother, did much of the stone masonry. (NR)

Country Club of Coral Gables Historic District
The Country Club of Coral Gables Historic District is comprised of the Country Club Building, the Granada Golf Course and 85 adjacent residences. George Merrick built the Country Club in 1922 to serve an important role in entertaining prospective buyers for the germinating development. Designed by the nationally known firm of Langford and Moreau, the golf course opened on January 1, 1923. The residences that overlook the golf course are some of the finest in the city and include representative designs by such pioneering architects as H. George Fink, Martin Hampton, Kiehnel and Elliott, Phineas Paist, Walter DeGarmo and John and Coulter Skinner. A majority of the homes reflect the Mediterranean architectural character. Many of the original residents played an influential role in the developing city. Collectively they represented the fields of finance, medicine, politics, real estate and commerce. A great concentration of early Coral Gables-style residences can be seen in the neighborhoods between Tamiami Trail (8th Street) and Bird Road (40th Street).

DOWNTOWN CORAL GABLES
Coral Gables City Hall  405 Biltmore Way
Phineas Paist and Denman Fink designed Coral Gables City Hall in 1927 and 1928. The cornerstone was laid on November 10, 1927. It is constructed of oolitic limestone, commonly called “coral rock.” Inside, in the bell tower, the multicolored mural painted by Denman Fink can be viewed. It depicts the four seasons. The faces of young women represent spring, summer and autumn while winter is recreated as an old man. (NR)
4. **John M. Stabile Building** 296 Aragon Ave.
   One of the earliest commercial structures in Coral Gables, it is characteristic of the Mediterranean style with its elaborately framed entrance and balcony overlooking Salzedo Street. Constructed in 1924, it was originally an ornamental concrete block shop.

5. **Coral Gables Art Cinema** 260 Aragon Ave.
   Opened in October 2010, the 144-seat Coral Gables Art Cinema presents high-quality American independent, foreign and classic films that are not generally available at other venues. It has live performances, and has become a cultural hub for filmmakers, other artists and the public.

6. **Old Police and Fire Station/Coral Gables Museum** 265 Aragon Ave. • 305/603-8067 • coralgablesmuseum.org
   Designed by Phineas Paist and Harold Steward in 1939, the Old Police and Fire Station was built during the Depression by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to provide a public safety headquarters, and jobs for local construction workers and artisans. Paist and Steward used the simple lines and mass of Depression architecture combined with Mediterranean details. The three-arched bays on the west side originally housed the fire trucks. Above these bays are sculptures by a female artist professionally known as Jon Keller, depicting two Coral Gables firemen and a typical family they protect. The recently restored building is home to the new Coral Gables Museum.

   The Museum’s mission is to celebrate, investigate and explore the civic arts of architecture and urban and environmental design, including fostering an appreciation for the history, vision and cultural landscape of Coral Gables; promoting beauty and planning as well as historic and environmental preservation for a broad audience, including children, families and community members, as well as local, regional, national and international visitors. The museum optimizes its mission by cultivating effective partnerships, and providing programming that includes exhibitions, collections, educational offerings, lectures, tours, publications and special events.
7. **Weiland Clinic/Books & Books 265 Aragon Ave.**
   This building, now a bookstore, was built as the Coral Gables Medical Center in 1927 and housed the offices of local physicians. Designed by Lee Wade, with a 1936 addition by Phineas Paist and Harold Steward, it consists of two wings connected by an arcade supported by four simplified columns. There is a courtyard within.

8. **Hotel Seville/Place St. Michel 162 Alcazar Ave.**
   Originally constructed in 1926 as an office building, it was soon converted into the Hotel Seville. The first floor included retail space. Now called the Hotel Place St. Michel, the interiors have interesting 1920s-style broken tile on the floor and on the vaulted ceilings. The St. Michel is the last of four beautiful small hotels that once characterized tourist facilities in the Downtown Coral Gables area.

9. **Coral Gables Elementary School 105 Minorca Ave.**
   In July 1923, George Merrick sold this site to the Miami-Dade County School Board for $10,000. Designed by Kiehnel and Elliott, this Mediterranean-style elementary school has classrooms with wide doors rimmed by arced loggias, two impressive central courtyards and a large auditorium. In 1983, George Merrick’s wife, Eunice P. Merrick, participated in the dedication of a courtyard to commemorate her role in its founding. [NR]

10. **Cla Reina Hotel/La Palma 116 Alhambra Circle**
    Now called La Palma, and converted into offices and a restaurant, it was one of the earliest hotels in the city. Designed in 1924 by H. George Fink, George Merrick’s first cousin, it has a large interior courtyard and interesting decorative ironwork.
Inspired by the Past | 55

Miracle Theater/Actors’ Playhouse 280 Miracle Mile • 305/444-9293 • actorsplayhouse.org
Designed by William H. Lee and built between 1947 and 1948, the Miracle Theater is a pre-eminent example of the Art Moderne style. Once a neighborhood movie house, the building reflects the streamlined design born of an industrial age. The interior detail is in the grand tradition of historic movie palaces. It has been the home of Actors’ Playhouse since 1995 and houses a 600-seat mainstage auditorium with a 300-seat second stage. It is a cultural and performing arts center for the community.

Colonnade Building 133-169 Miracle Mile
Designed by Phineas Paist in collaboration with Walter DeGarmo and Paul Chalfin, James Deering’s interior designer for Vizcaya, George Merrick built it in 1926 to house his growing sales operation. The structure is a mixture of Spanish Colonial and Baroque. Since the 1920s, the Colonnade has had many tenants including the Colonnade Movie Studios and a World War II parachute factory. Today, a hotel and office building designed by Spillis & Candela adjoins the original structure.

H. George Fink Studio 2506 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
This 1925 church-like building was the office of prominent architect H. George Fink, who is credited with coining the term Mediterranean to describe the unique Coral Gables-style buildings. It is an outstanding interpretation of this style and an excellent example of Mr. Fink’s prodigious talent. Of particular note are the Gothic arches surrounding the three leaded-glass windows and the row of carved eaves on the balcony’s arched pediment. Fink was one of Coral Gables’ earliest and most prolific architects.

Coral Gables Art Center Building 2901 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Situated in the heart of the Crafts Section, an area originally planned exclusively for craftsmen and artisans, the Art Center Building was built by George Merrick in 1925 to house the offices and studios of his architects and artists. The most noted among them were its designers Phineas Paist, Denman Fink and Paul Chalfin. Merrick’s brother Richard, an artist, also worked out of the building.
The Biltmore Hotel
Inspired by the Past

ENDURING LANDMARKS

15 The Biltmore Hotel 1200 Anastasia Ave.
Designed by internationally known architects Schultze and Weaver, this impressive National Landmark can be seen for miles. The 26-story tower is a replica of the Giralda Tower of the Cathedral of Seville, Spain. Schultze and Weaver also designed New York’s Pierre and Waldorf-Astoria Hotels, Palm Beach’s Breakers, Miami’s Ingraham Building and the Freedom Tower (Miami News Tower). The January 1926 grand opening included the arrival of two deluxe trains carrying 1,000 VIPs from New York. Venetian gondolas traveled from the hotel through the Coral Gables Waterway to Tahiti Beach (now Cocoplum). Guests also enjoyed a polo field, two golf courses, tennis courts, a bridle path, fox hunting and a gigantic pool. During World War II the hotel became an Army Air Force Hospital and later a Veterans Hospital. After a protracted preservation battle, the city acquired the building under Richard Nixon’s Legacy of Parks Program and the Historic Monument Act of 1972. In 1985, the city signed a 99-year lease for renovation and management of the structure as a 286-room luxury hotel and office complex. [NHL] [NR]

16 Coral Gables Congregational Church 3010 De Soto Blvd.
Designed by Kiehnel and Elliott and patterned after a cathedral in Mexico, it was the first church built in the city. It was dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1925 and included an outdoor pulpit. George Merrick, whose father was a Congregational minister, donated land for the church and dedicated the building to him. He and his wife also donated the Spanish sanctuary sconces. The church’s interior—with polychrome beams and massive chandeliers—is the best remaining example of pristine Coral Gables style. [NR]
17 **Venetian Pool**  2701 De Soto Blvd. • 305/460-5356 • venetianpool.com

Originally a rock quarry for the oolitic limestone used in many of Coral Gables’ earliest buildings, Denman Fink transformed it into what was dubbed “the world’s most beautiful swimming hole” in 1924. It resembles a Venetian lagoon featuring rock outcroppings and caves, a waterfall, Venetian posts and a small island connected to the casino by a bridge. In the early days, Merrick used the pool as his sales center and hired renowned orator, William Jennings Bryan, to extol the virtues of Coral Gables to willing customers. (NR)

18 **Coral Gables Water Tower**  Intersection of Alhambra Circle, Greenway Court and Ferdinand Street

Advertising his planned community as “a city without a scar,” in 1924 Merrick commissioned his cousin, architect H. George Fink, to hide a necessary, albeit unsightly, four-story water tower by transforming it into a beautiful lighthouse. It remained in use as a water tower until 1931.

**THE VILLAGES OF CORAL GABLES**

Although George Merrick’s original mandate for Coral Gables was strictly Spanish and later Mediterranean, his vision expanded to include several unique “villages” scattered throughout the city. Although many more were planned, including English, Moorish, Persian and Swedish, only seven were built.

**Pioneer Village**  Santa Maria Street

Designed by John and Coulton Skinner, the homes are inspired by the Greek period and have tall white pillars, two-story porticoes, wide verandas, slate roofs and white picket fences. All the homes back up to the Riviera Golf Course, which was originally part of the Biltmore Golf Course.

**French Normandy Village**  LeJeune Road and 400 block of Vizcaya Avenue

Designed by John and Coulton Skinner, these homes are in the French Normandy style found in 15th-century towns in England and France. The houses are constructed of hollow tile with stucco walls supported with timber beams. Now single-family residences, in the 1930s they were men’s dormitories and fraternity houses for the University of Miami. Soldiers lived here during World War II.
Chinese Village  5100 blocks of Riviera Drive and Menendez, Castanía, Maggiore and Sansovino avenues
The Chinese Village is made up of eight Chinese Compound-style residences designed by Henry Killam Murphy in 1926. They are brightly trimmed and roofed in red, yellow, blue and green. Decorative gates and walls provide security as well as a sense of communal living, typical of the Chinese style.

Italian Village  Monserrat, Palmarito and Altara avenues
These imposing residences can be identified by their street-fronting entrances, walled gardens and exterior stairways. Frank Wyatt Woods designed them in 1926 in a style typical of Italy’s 17th-century villas.

French City Village  1000 block of Hardee Road
These homes were modeled after 18th-century French town homes. They have enclosed courtyards and kitchen gardens, open-air porches, French doors and ornate moldings. Mott B. Schmidt designed the homes along the north side of Hardee Road and Philip Goodwin designed those on the south side.

French Country Village  500 block of Hardee Road
Designed by Phillip Goodwin, Frank Forster and Edgar Albright, the homes were inspired by country farmhouse estates and 18th-century chateaux. All were built country style with big back yards. Some distinctive qualities include round and square towers, carved wood and wrought iron balconies, red brick, keystone and tall ceilings.

Dutch South African Village  LeJeune Road, Riviera Drive, Maya Street
Designed by well-known Palm Beach architect Marion Syms Wyeth, these homes resemble the farmhouses of wealthy Dutch colonists. They are L-shaped and U-shaped. Exterior features include high-domed arches, walled gardens, scrollwork and steeply pitched roofs.
Miami Shores by Warren Bittner

On December 4, 1924, at the height of the Boom, Hugh Anderson, Roy C. Wright, Ellen Spears Harris and James B. Jeffries of the Shoreland Company set a Florida real estate sales record with the sale of $2,509,170 in lots from their development dubbed Miami Shores: “America’s Mediterranean.” Their grandiose Italian-style sales office at 125 E. Flagler St., the Shoreland Arcade (which can still be seen from its Northeast 1st Street side), was located in the midst of the offices for three other major Boom era developments—Boca Raton, Hollywood-by-the-Sea and Coral Gables. At the time, the Miami Shores development included parts of what are now North Miami, Bay Harbor Islands and Indian Creek Village. By the end of 1925, the Shoreland Company boasted more than $75 million in sales—second only to Coral Gables. Many Mediterranean-style homes remain, with an impressive group on Northeast 96th Street (then known as Shoreland Boulevard).

107 NE 96th St.
This two-story house was built in 1925 for Henry C. Nelson, Director of Operations of the Shoreland Company. [NR]

262 NE 96th St.
The firm of Kiehnel and Elliott designed this beautiful home for Shoreland Company executive Roy C. Wright in 1925. It is one of the few structures in Miami-Dade County retaining its original historic Cuban tile roof. [NR]

287 NE 96th St.
Ellen Spears Harris, a Vice President of the Shoreland Company and a leading South Florida businesswoman, built this residence in 1925. In the Harris family until 1985, much of its original contents remain. [NR]

Grand Concourse Apartments 421 Grand Concourse
The Shoreland Company planned many grandiose hotels and apartments in Miami Shores. This multi-story structure, designed by Robert Law Weed, was the first and only one completed before the collapse of the Boom in late 1926. [NR]
540 NE 96th St.
Built in 1925, and designed by Walter DeGarmo and Phineas Paist, this was the 101st home built by the Shoreland Company in Miami Shores. It is known for its well-detailed cast masonry balcony supported on masonry brackets, highlighting its street-facing front façade. (NR)

577 NE 96th St.
The Camp House was designed by Walter DeGarmo in 1925, and constructed by Godard and Sydow Inc. in 1926-1927. This two-story home remains as one of the most impressive of the original Miami Shores Mediterranean-style homes, known for its prominent two-and-a-half-story tower with hipped clay tile roof. (NR)

Hialeah and Miami Springs

Hialeah Park  East 4th Avenue between 22nd Avenue and 31st Street • 305/885-8000
World-famous aviator Glenn Curtiss and his partner James Bright launched Hialeah in 1921. It was known for its sports facilities including the nation’s first greyhound pari-mutuel track, a jai-alai fronton and the Miami Jockey Club (1925). Joseph E. Widener purchased the Jockey Club in 1930 and hired architect Lester W. Geisler to transform the small facility into beautiful Hialeah Park, which opened to rave reviews on January 14, 1932. (NR)

Fair Havens Center  201 Curtiss Parkway
Glenn Curtiss and James Bright also developed Country Club Estates, now Miami Springs, in Southwestern Pueblo style. Only a few buildings were constructed in this genre before the Boom ended. The most extravagant, the Pueblo Hotel, became Harvey Kellogg’s Battle Creek Sanitarium. Today, it is the Fair Havens Nursing Home.

Farther Afield...

Ancient Spanish Monastery  16711 W. Dixie Highway • 305/945-1461 • spanishmonastery.com
Built in Segovia, Spain in 1141 and reconstructed in North Miami Beach in 1952-1953, the Monastery Cloister is the oldest building in the Western Hemisphere. Purchased by William Randolph Hearst in 1925, it was reconstructed by Allen Carswell, who built the Cloisters in New York. (NR)
modern marvels...

Art Deco District
As America’s one and only 20th-century metropolis, Greater Miami is largely defined by its Modern architecture. While the bust of 1926 nearly halted construction in the city just as Art Deco came into fashion, by 1936 a building boom made up for lost time. South Beach quickly filled up with hostelries whimsically designed in a style we know today as Tropical Art Deco. Meanwhile, Flagler Street in Downtown Miami was transformed into a Modern main street. After World War II, with the arrival of air-conditioning and improved air travel, the metropolis grew by leaps and bounds. Palatial resort hotels, fantastic motels, and Modern apartment enclaves of every size and catering to every income level, lined the Beaches. Modern office buildings, uniquely adapted to the subtropical climate, sprang up Downtown, along Biscayne Boulevard and throughout the expanding suburbs. Our unique variation on Mid-century Modern architecture is referred to as Miami Modern or MiMo [my-moe].
A Sampling of The National Register Art Deco District

One of the world’s greatest concentrations of 1930s architecture is home to a vibrant and diverse community. The 800-plus buildings in the square mile bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, 23rd Street, Lenox Court and 6th Street make up the world’s first 20th-century historic district. The best way to see the District is on foot, bicycle or skates. Begin your tour at the Art Deco Welcome Center. (NR)

Art Deco Welcome Center 1001 Ocean Drive • 305/672-2014

The Art Deco Welcome Center is operated by the Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL), a citizen-based grass roots organization that has conducted a successful tour program since 1977. MDPL offers guided walking tours every day at 10:30 a.m., with an additional tour on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. In addition, self-guided audio tours of the Art Deco Historic District are offered seven days a week during the Welcome Center’s normal operating hours. Group tours are available by special arrangement. MiMo-on-the-Beach walking tours begin at the Southeast corner of Collins Avenue and 73rd Street in Miami Beach on the first Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m.

1. Park Central Hotel 640 Ocean Drive

Designed by Henry Hohauser in 1937, the Park Central features a terrazzo-patterned floor that catches your eye on the porch and leads you into the long, telescoping lobby, one of the grandest on Ocean Drive. The interior balances historic authenticity with contemporary flair.

2. Colony Hotel 736 Ocean Drive

Also designed by the prolific and imaginative Henry Hohauser, this 1935 hotel was one of the first in the Tropical Art Deco style. The lobby features a wealth of mint green Vitrolite and a Deco-style mural over the fireplace.

3. Winterhaven Hotel 1400 Ocean Drive

Get the true taste of the late 1930s in the accurately restored and authentically furnished lobby of this 1939 Nautical Deco fantasy by Albert Anis.
Dream South Beach  1111 Collins Ave.
The adjacent Tudor and Palmer hotels, both designed by L. Murray Dixon in 1939, have been meticulously
renovated and joined into the Dream Hotel. Along with the Kent Hotel, adjacent to the Palmer House on
the north, the three hotels form one of the strongest ensembles in the Art Deco District.

Essex House Hotel  1001 Collins Ave.
This 1938 Streamline Moderne gem by Henry Hohauser features a tour-de-force of Deco in the well-
maintained lobby, featuring a cinematic mural by a self-taught artist.

Sherbrooke Co-op  901 Collins Ave.
This 1947 apartment hotel is a defining example of the Nautical Moderne style by McKay & Gibbs. Note
the continuous horizontal lines sweeping around the rounded corner that rises like the prow of a ship.

The Hotel  801 Collins Ave.
Formerly The Tiffany, with its outsized porthole windows, glass block bands and balancing of
horizontal and vertical compositions all done in white, The Hotel, designed by L. Murray Dixon
in 1939, is quintessential Tropical Art Deco. The signage finial evokes the dirigible mooring mast
originally atop the Empire State Building. Note the porch, appointed in polished keystone, which
leads to the side yard garden.

The Seymour  945 Pennsylvania Ave.
Now the Art Deco District Building Museum, this 1936 B. Kingston Hall hotel-turned-community
center features original color schemes and an authentically restored lobby.

Jewish Museum of Florida—Florida International University  
301 Washington Ave. • 305/672-5044 • jewishmuseum.com
In 1936, Henry Hohauser blended Neo-Classical and Tropical Art Deco motifs to create Miami Beach’s second
synagogue next to its first, dating from 1928. The 1936 synagogue was converted into the Jewish Museum of
Florida in 1993. The conversion retains many of the original features, including the balcony and the bema (altar),
while providing space for changing exhibits. Note the Star of David superimposed on the spandrel panels.
11 **The Wolfsonian—Florida International University**  
*1001 Washington Ave. • 305/531-1001 • wolfsonian.org*  
This former storage facility was designed by Robertson and Patterson in 1927, with two stories added in 1936 by Robert Little. It was converted to a museum between 1987 and 1993 by Mark Hampton. Although the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum of Decorative and Propaganda Arts is housed in a Mediterranean-style storage facility, its period (1885-1945) encompasses and illustrates the emergence of Modernity. The collection is epitomized by the 1929 Art Deco movie theater marquee from Norristown, Pennsylvania, at the rear of the entry hall.

12 **United States Post Office**  
*1300 Washington Ave.*  
South Beach’s Post Office, designed by Howard L. Cheney in 1937, reflects the austere, classically inspired institutional architecture popular in Europe in the late 1930s. The highlight of the interior is the mural by Charles Hardman depicting the meeting of the Spanish Conquistadors and the Native Americans, the two groups in battle, and the signing of a nominal treaty between the Native Americans and the U.S.

13 **Jerry’s Famous Deli**  
*1450 Collins Ave.*  
Take a break while taking in the spectacularly restored Art Deco interior of this historic deli designed by Henry Hohauser in 1940.

14 **Bancroft**  
*1501 Collins Ave.*  
Although Albert Anis’ 1939 Bancroft is now part of the Ocean Steps complex, the lobby has been retained and restored. Note the futuristic glass block cascade fountain by the entrance.

15 **St. Moritz Hotel**  
*1565 Collins Ave.*  
North of 15th Street, the scale of the hotels jumps to palatial. What were originally oceanfront mansion properties from the 1920s became hotel sites in the late 1930s. Architect Roy France followed the 1939 St. Moritz with a string of beachfront Deco hotels stretching as far north as the Sovereign at 44th Street. Today, the restored St. Moritz serves as part of the Loews Miami Beach Hotel.
Lincoln Road Mall

*Between 16th and 17th streets and running east-west from Washington to Lenox avenues*

Planned as the “5th Avenue of the South” by pioneer developer Carl Fisher, Lincoln Road features an exceptional collection of Deco commercial buildings as well as Morris Lapidus’ MiMo pedestrian mall of 1959, with its zigzagging and wiggle-woggling follies set amid lush exotic vegetation.

Lincoln Theatre 555 Lincoln Road

This high–style 1935 Tropical Art Deco theater, office and retail building by Collins and Lamb once housed one of five movie theaters on Lincoln Road. Today, the theater space is being converted into retail space. Note the luxuriant palm leaf reliefs and the interplay of Beaux Arts vertical details with the horizontal lines of Streamlining.

Lincoln Center Hotel and Shops 630 Lincoln Road

Igor Polevitsky’s urbane style is evident in this 1937 mixed-use building combining retail and a hotel around an elegant courtyard.

Sterling Building 927 Lincoln Road

This local landmark is a 1941 Deco-Streamline renovation by V.H. Nellenbogen of a 1920s Mediterranean-style building. At night the glass block façade glows with blue light. The passage to the courtyard is faced in dyed polished keystone and features a classic Tropical Art Deco terrazzo pattern.

Colony Theatre 1040 Lincoln Road

The Colony Theatre, designed by R.A. Benjamin in 1934, displays the transition between the Mediterranean style of the 1920s and the Tropical Art Deco of the 1930s. Pitched barrel tile roofs are combined with stylized decoration and modern materials such as Vitrolite. The Colony has been converted to a performance space.
NORTH OF 16TH STREET

21 National Hotel 1677 Collins Ave.
The lobby of the 1950 Roy France-designed National is a fine example of blending the old with the new. The interior was authentically restored, but a new reception area was added, while maintaining the period ambience.

22 Delano Hotel 1685 Collins Ave.
Robert Swartburg’s Delano was one of the first hotels built after World War II. It represents the transition from Deco to MiMo. The interior was radically transformed by Philippe Starck in 1994. The new interiors interpreted the Miami Beach tradition of dramatic hotel lobbies for the 1990s.

23 Ritz Plaza Hotel/SLS South Beach 1701 Collins Ave.
L. Murray Dixon’s 1940 mini Deco skyscraper pierces the sky with a fantasy smokestack. Following a complete renovation of the property, SLS South Beach hotel opened in 2011.

24 The Raleigh Hotel 1775 Collins Ave.
A Cubist façade arrangement, a luxuriant and impeccably maintained lobby, and a spectacular pool in the shape of Sir Walter Raleigh’s coat-of-arms, make this 1940 masterpiece the pinnacle of L. Murray Dixon’s body of work.

25 Bass Museum of Art 2100 Collins Ave. • 305/673-7530 • bassmuseum.org
Recognized as the first Tropical Art Deco edifice, the building opened in 1930 as the John Collins Memorial Library, designed by Collins’ grandson, Russell Pancoast. Note the triptych of Miami history in the three relief panels over the entry portals. When the library moved out in 1962, the structure became the Bass Museum. Clad entirely of keystone, the original building was restored while a new wing by Arata Isozaki was added in 2001.
MIDDLE BEACH
At 23rd Street, Collins Avenue crosses from South Beach to Middle Beach. The stretch from 23rd to 44th streets is the John S. Collins Waterfront Historic District, encompassing a plethora of Art Deco and MiMo hotels, including the Cadillac, the Seville and the Saxony. At 44th Street, the panorama becomes cinematic in scale as Indian Creek appears to the left and, on the right, majestic hotels and condominiums line up as far as the eye can see. This section, called the Morris Lapidus/Mid 20th Century Historic District, stretches north nine blocks to 53rd Street.

Fontainebleau Miami Beach 4441 Collins Ave.
Designed by Morris Lapidus in 1953, this iconic resort would influence hotel design around the world in the following decades. Though the Fontainebleau has been greatly altered since the 1950s, it’s a beehive of activity that’s worth a look both inside and out. The north wing was added in 1959, and the south wing was added 10 years later and torn down in 2003 to make way for a new tower. In 2008, the original building underwent a thorough renovation that restored many key features, while updating the 1950s “wow factor” to thrill a new generation of high rollers.

Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach 4525 Collins Ave.
Designed by Morris Lapidus one year after the Fontainebleau, the Eden Roc, in contrast, has been impeccably restored. Linger over a drink in the lobby bar to take in the magnificent Modern-Baroque space. In 2008 a new wing was completed. (NR)

NORTH BEACH
At 63rd Street, Middle Beach gives way to North Beach, combining the low scale of South Beach with big oceanfront hotels and condominiums like those of Middle Beach. Though not as concentrated as SoBe, NoBe offers similar quaint apartment districts filled with MiMo gems.

Deauville Beach Resort 6701 Collins Ave.
Another 1950s showstopper by Lapidus’ protégé Melvin Grossman, the 1957 Deauville grabs attention with a space age, telescoping porte-cochere. Inside, the lobby is a movie set fantasy. Listen for the echo of the Beatles’ first performance in Florida, when the Ed Sullivan Show was broadcast from here in February 1964.
BAL-BAY-SURF: THE THREE SISTERS
The northern boundary of Miami Beach proper is marked by 87th Terrace. Next comes the casual charm of Surfside and its sister communities of exclusive Bal Harbour and the island community of Bay Harbor Islands.

Surfside
The small-town charm of Surfside is best appreciated on the 9400-9500 blocks of Collins Avenue. The local main street is lined with charming one-of-a-kind shops, cafes and restaurants, all just two blocks from a family-friendly beach.

Town of Bay Harbor Islands  Take 96th Street west from Collins Avenue and go over the bridge
Anyone who is interested in Mid-century Modern Architecture should visit this island enclave. Situated on two man-made islands in Biscayne Bay, the town was founded in 1947 and built up during the 1950s and 1960s. As a cohesive, human-scaled collection of Modern architecture, it is unrivaled. Take a walk down Kane Concourse, the main street, and marvel at the elegant high style Modernism. Then hop in the car, or jump on a bike, and circle the east island on Bay Harbor Drive. MiMo delights await around every bend.

Bal Harbour Shops  9700 Collins Ave.
Herbert H. Johnson and Associates’ understated 1967 vintage Modern architecture showcases the nation’s most profitable shopping center in sales per square foot. It serves as a neutral backdrop for the luxurious stores. Award-winning landscaping is laced with water features and works of modern sculpture by renowned artists.

Small Apartment Buildings  West side of Collins Avenue
The west side of Collins Avenue is lined with an outstanding collection of high style Miami Modern apartment buildings from the 1940s through the 1960s.
The Miami Herald Building
Foremost Building  14 NE 1st Ave.
With Morris Lapidus’ inimitable touch, the 1952 Foremost Building, Downtown’s first Post-War skyscraper, marks the intersection of Flagler Street and Northeast 1st Avenue with a Modern sculptural flair. Note how the spare glass curtain wall on the 1st Avenue façade contrasts with the voluptuous sunshades facing Flagler.

Americas Center  150 SE 2nd Ave.
The exquisitely detailed metal sun grille system suspends like a second skin over the façade in this 1967 Morris Lapidus-designed building. Sun grilles protected glass curtain walls from the subtropical sun before the advent of thermal reflective glass in the 1960s.

Burdines/Macy’s  See pg. 42

Alfred I. Dupont Building  See pg. 44

Walgreen’s/La Epoca  See pg. 45

BISCAYNE BOULEVARD
Biscayne Boulevard was laid out in the 1920s to connect Downtown Miami with the planned community of Miami Shores. By the early 1930s, the Boulevard had become a prestigious suburban address for shopping and offices. After World War II, a dual identity emerged with smart Modern office buildings sharing the street with fantastic motels catering to northern motorists arriving in the Magic City on U.S. Highway 1.

The Miami Herald Building  1 Herald Plaza
Overlooking Biscayne Bay, this majestic Modern landmark, designed by Naess and Murphy in 1960, was modeled after the Chicago Sun-Times building on the banks of the Chicago River, designed by the same architects in 1957. The Herald building features luxurious materials such as white marble cladding and gold colored mosaic tile on the spandrel panels. Note the soaring aerodynamic canopy with round skylights. The future of the soon-to-be vacant building hangs in the balance at this writing, while local preservationists seek designation.
36 Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County 1300 Biscayne Blvd. The Art Deco tower from a 1929 Sears Roebuck store designed by Nimmons, Carr and Wright was incorporated into the new Cesar Pelli-designed performing arts center, which opened in 2006. Though considered part of the inner city today, in the 1930s the Sears tower marked Miami's first suburban shopping district.

37 Shrine Building/Boulevard Shops 1401 Biscayne Blvd. From the first heyday of the boulevard, one of Miami’s finest high-style Art Deco commercial buildings, it was designed by Robert Law Weed and Vladimir Virrick in 1930 for the Shrine. It features sculptures of Seminole Indians.

38 Bacardi Building 2100 Biscayne Blvd. Combining Miesian precision with Latin American exuberance, this 1963 Enrique Gutierrez-designed masterpiece brings together sophisticated structural devices, classic glass curtain walls and full-height tile “jewel box” mosaics to make a uniquely Miami Modern statement.

39 Pizzeria Andiamo 5600 Biscayne Blvd. Robert Law Weed designed this converted tire showroom made of glass and steel in 1954. They don’t make tire showrooms like this anymore. Stop for some refreshment, and take a break under the wraparound double-height roof, while traffic rushes by on the busy boulevard.

40 South Pacific 6300 Biscayne Blvd. Far ahead of its time, the 1953 South Pacific features a freeform façade that can only be described as a stone wall being toppled over. A sure way to grab the attention of weary motorists deciding on a place to stay.
New Yorker Motel  6500 Biscayne Blvd.
Starting with its big neon sign, this fine example of the Biscayne Boulevard MiMo motel has been lovingly restored and upgraded to serve the hip clientele that has come to embrace and animate this once forlorn stretch of Biscayne Boulevard.

Vagabond  7301 Biscayne Blvd.
An angled brick pylon carries the Vagabond sign, trailing a shower of stars that twinkles at night. The porte-cochere swoops upward, supported on Buck Rogers-like supports. A trio of topless mermaids and smiling dolphins beckon from a stone grotto at the northeast corner.

INS Building  7880 Biscayne Blvd.
Built for the Gulf American Corporation in 1962, the Miami home of the Immigration and Naturalization Service is still one of the most prominent office buildings in the city outside of the Downtown. The tower is a vestige of a second Downtown that grew up in the 1950s around the Boulevard’s intersection with the North Bay Causeway. Imagine the building in its prime, with its full-height banks of gold anodized aluminum sun grilles against a white façade, its double-height glass lobby animating the busy intersection and its rooftop digital news ticker flashing the headlines.

Biscayne Plaza Shopping Center  7900 Biscayne Blvd.
Designed in 1954 by Robert Fitch Smith, the first Dean of Architecture at the University of Miami, the Biscayne Plaza was the first major suburban shopping center in Miami. Its second-level bridges, floating stairways and double-height glass bank space are poignant reminders of what the future looked like in the 1950s.

Glasshaus Studios  8000 Biscayne Blvd.
Originally named the Admiral Vee motel, after a famous racehorse, this 1957 urban motel is evidence of the desirability of the 79th and Biscayne area in the 1950s. The motel was raised up over its parking in order to squeeze into the compact lot. Its double-height, canted glass lounge space seems to hover over the boulevard like a space ship.
Farther Afield...

**COCONUT GROVE**

Coconut Grove Bank  2701 S. Bayshore Drive
It’s easy to miss the folded plate pedestal parapet and brightly patterned sunshades of this exuberant MiMo landmark designed by Weed and Johnson in 1959. The bank is built into the bayside escarpment and has its main lobby on the second level, with access via pedestrian bridge from the parking lot.

Pan American Sea Plane Base and Terminal/Miami City Hall  See pg. 37

**CORAL GABLES/KENDALL**

Miracle Theatre/Actors’ Playhouse  See pg. 55

University of Miami Campus  Ponce de Leon Boulevard at Stanford Drive
What started out on paper in the 1920s as a Mediterranean-style fantasy took shape in 1945, under the hands of Marion Manley and Robert Law Weed, as the first Modern campus in the U.S. Besides encompassing a superb collection of Subtropical Modernist buildings, the campus serves as a fine botanical garden.

Miami Dade College—Kendall Campus  11011 SW 104th St.
It offers a defining example of Subtropical Modernist architecture by Pancoast, Ferendino, Grafton, Spillis and Candela beginning in 1967. Note the adaptations to climate such as covered walkways and materials such as glass mosaic tile, Miami oolite and exposed concrete. The vegetation is now an integral part of the architecture.
NORTH MIAMI-DADE
Archway, Sunshine State International Park  
_Palmetto Expressway at Northwest 13th Avenue_
This Modern industrial park still retains many of its Mid-century Modern buildings, but the star of the show is the enormous parabolic arch designed by Charles Giller and O.K. Houston in 1964.

NORTHWEST MIAMI
Miami Edison Middle School  
See pg. 108 and Miami Times Building  
See pg. 87

VIRGINIA KEY
Miami Marine Stadium  
_3501 Rickenbacker Causeway_
Though in a near ruinous state, the Marine Stadium, designed by Pancoast, Ferendino, Grafton, Skeels and Burnham in 1963, with its soaring cantilevered roof, is a marvel of modern engineering. Its exposed concrete surfaces reflect the popularity of the Brutalist Modern style in the 1960s. It received a Test of Time Award from the American Institute of Architects and appeared on the National Trust’s list of 10 Most Endangered Buildings. A grassroots movement has coalesced around the effort to reactivate this modern landmark.

Miami Seaquarium  
See pg. 23

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND LITTLE HAVANA
Former Pan Am Training Facility  
_4900 block of Northwest 36th Street_
Pan Am crew members from all over the world came to train at this facility, which was Steward and Skinner’s 1963 homage to Edward Durell Stone’s seminal U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

Tower Theater  
See pg. 95

Robert King High Towers  
_1403 NW 7th St._
Designed by Smith and Korach with Pancoast, Ferendino, Grafton, Spillis and Candela in 1963, this milestone in housing for the elderly sits on an idyllic riverside site.
faith and perseverance...

Prince of Peace

"Like anybody, I’d like to live a long life..."

"But it doesn’t matter now."

"I’ve been to the mountaintop."

"And I’ve seen the Promised Land."

"I may not get there with you."

"But... as a people, we’ll get to the Promised Land."
Miami’s historic Black neighborhoods reflect a blend of the ancestry of the Caribbean West Indies, West Africa and the Old South. Although sometimes in the midst of urban blight, important historic sites and impressive new buildings speak to the presence of Black people in Miami-Dade County for more than a century. With the Lyric Theater and churches as anchors — some as old as the City of Miami — people go about their daily lives in these special neighborhoods that have endured, enjoying “Mostly Sunny Days.”

An Enduring Spirit
by Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields
Overtown by Carole Ann Taylor

Black men who stood for incorporation of the City of Miami built this community across the railroad tracks in 1896. Known then as “Colored Town,” Overtown grew and developed into a vibrant community anchored by churches and retail and entertainment establishments. Over the years, Overtown lost its magic to desegregation and urban renewal, and many buildings fell into disrepair. Today, public and private partnerships are helping develop an “in-town” residential community with affordable housing adjacent to Downtown Miami. The Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida provided the research to place six Overtown buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and other sites designated by the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County.

1. The Historic Overtown Folklife Village  
   Northwest 2nd and 3rd avenues between 8th and 10th streets
   Traditionally Overtown’s cultural and entertainment area, the State of Florida designated it the Overtown Main Street Community. Its redevelopment includes a mixed-use marketplace with a retail component that is focused on the arts and humanities of the Harlem Renaissance, the Caribbean and West Africa. The African-themed Ninth Street Pedestrian Mall opens up to the adjacent Lyric Theater, creating a year-round destination for various events including family and class reunions and festivals.

2. The Ninth Street Pedestrian Mall  
   Northwest 9th Street and 2nd Avenue
   The mall was dedicated in December 1994 during the Summit of the Americas celebrations. It was designed by artist Gary Moore, who featured vibrant variations in color resembling African Kente cloth patterns. The mall presents a luscious landscape and ornate street fixtures. It is located next to The Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater Welcome Center Complex and is often alive with community festivals and celebrations that continue to make the Historic Overtown Folklife Village an exciting place to visit.

3. The Purvis Young Murals  
   Northwest 11th Street and 3rd Avenue on the Metrorail Overpass
   The murals are replications of Purvis Young’s art, honoring the internationally celebrated artist. Purvis Young (1943-2010) was a self-taught artist who lived in the severely blighted Goodbread Alley area, and painted thousands of art pieces and murals as a form of social expression reflecting the changes and trials of his Overtown community. He used the very fabric of Overtown, such as discarded plywood boards, metals and debris, as materials for his paintings.
The Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater and Welcome Center Complex
819 NW 2nd Ave. • 305/636-2390 • theblackarchives.org
Built in 1913 by Black businessman Geder Walker, the theater showcased stage and film performances, gospel, jazz, vaudeville and literary arts of the Harlem Renaissance. In 1999 the theater was restored as Overtown’s premier performance facility, and in 2005 it was expanded to include a welcome center, concession stands and dressing rooms. The third phase of the expansion is scheduled to be completed in 2012. The expansion will house The Black Archives’ research center, repository and headquarters. It will also increase the theater’s stage capacity in order to include rigging and more backstage theater support, a gift shop and exhibition hall.

New Providence Lodge #365 941 NW 3rd Ave.
Built in 1947, it is the second oldest masonic temple in Miami-Dade County. Like many of the original structures in Colored Town/Overtown, the temple was built by its members who would meet in the evenings after work to help with construction. Lodge #365 became officially recognized in 1917, many years after its members petitioned the Grand Lodge of the State of Florida in 1901 to establish a Lodge in Colored Town/Overtown.

International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) Local #1416 Union Hall, 816 NW 2nd Ave.
The ILA received its charter in 1936. This building is the headquarters for longshore laborers who load and unload ships from all over the world and handle cruise ships with high passenger counts. The building housed the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and hosted other events for members and the Overtown neighborhood.

The Ward Rooming House 249 NW 9th St.
This symbol of Colored Town/Overtown’s lively, tight-knit community was built in 1925. The rooming house was owned by Shadrack “Shaddy” and Victoria Ward. It was a resting place for both Blacks and Seminole Indians, who were banned from staying in lodges and hotels in Downtown Miami. Seminole Indians who came to the city to barter and sell goods would take rest on the porch and enjoy a glass of Victoria’s sweet tea before making the long journey back to the Everglades on the Tamiami Trail. The rooming house is now a historic landmark, and it is owned and operated by the City of Miami’s Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) as an artists’ residence and gallery.
D.A. Dorsey House  250 NW 9th St.
Built for his bride in 1915 by the area’s first black millionaire, real estate magnate D.A. Dorsey, the Dorsey House boasted electricity throughout. Now it is a rental property owned by the Black Archives. [NR]

Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  245 NW 8th St.
Founded in March 1896, several months before the city was incorporated, it is one of the oldest churches in Miami. The first structure was simple, with a dirt floor. The present edifice is in Mediterranean style. Its scale, façade and stained-glass windows make it one of the most imposing structures in Overtown. [NR]

Historic Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  301 NW 9th St.
Founded on September 18, 1896, D.A. Dorsey served as one of its founders. Mt. Zion was one of the first meeting places for the Boy and Girl Scouts, as well as for Dr. Martin Luther King and others involved in the Civil Rights Movement. [NR]

Black Police Precinct & Courthouse Museum  1009 NW 5th Ave.
In the 1940s, during segregation, Black police officers were only allowed to patrol the Central Negro District, now known as Overtown. This building was the headquarters for the Black patrols and the municipal court where Black defendants were tried, usually before a Black judge. Now the building is a museum.

St. John’s Baptist Church — The New St. John Institutional Missionary Baptist Church 1328 NW 3rd Ave.
This popular church was organized by a small group at the turn of the 20th century. In 1940, the congregation built the existing structure. A rare example of the Art Deco Moderne architectural style with Gothic massing, it was designed by McKissack and McKissack, a Black architectural firm from Nashville, Tennessee. [NR]
Historic St. Agnes Episcopal Church  1750 NW 3rd Ave.
Organized in 1898 by a group of mostly Black Bahamian Anglicans searching for a place to worship, it has served the religious and humanitarian needs of Miami’s Black community for more than 100 years. Built in the 1940s, the church is an eclectic blend of architectural styles, including elements of Gothic Revival and Mission.

A.M. Cohen Temple  1747 NW 3rd Ave.
A.M. Cohen, a Black native of South Carolina who relocated to Miami to work on the railroad, organized the church in 1918. He stood for the incorporation of the City of Miami. His descendants continue his service.

Chapman House  1200 NW 6th Ave.
Built in 1923 by Dr. William A. Chapman, Miami’s first Black medical doctor hired by the State of Florida, this Colonial-style residence now houses Miami-Dade County Public School programs.

Booker T. Washington Senior High School  1200 NW 6th Ave.
The original masonry building opened in 1927 and was the first public school in South Florida to provide recognized 12th grade education for Black children. It was integrated in 1966 and became a middle school. The original building was torn down and a new school designed by Robert Bradford Browne was constructed, preserving the original entrance. In 2001, Booker T. Washington once again became a senior high school.

The Overtown Youth Center  450 NW 14th St.
This colorful, modern community facility is fully equipped with a gym, recreation center and computer lab. Built by businessman Martin Margulies, the center’s programming is provided by former Miami Heat star Alonzo Mourning’s foundation.
City of Miami Cemetery 1800 NE 2nd Ave.
The City of Miami purchased the 11-acre cemetery tract in June 1897. Whites were buried in the eastern portion and Blacks in a section to the west. The graves of local Black leaders include: Rev. Theodore Gibson, NAACP leader and community activist, and the City of Miami’s first Black commissioner; Judge L.E. Thomas, the first Black judge; and A.C. Lightburn, one of the Black incorporators of the City of Miami. Local white leaders include Julia Tuttle, Miami’s founder, as well as many pioneer families. Also of note are graves from the Spanish-American War and Miami’s 1899 yellow fever epidemic. [NR]

Liberty City...
The first large migration of Blacks to Liberty City began in 1937 when many families moved to the Liberty Square Housing Project, the second Federal housing project built in the U.S. The second major migration came in the late 1950s and early 1960s as a result of the Black displacement caused by the expressway construction that devastated Overtown. Today, Liberty City, which was the site of the 1980 riots, is on the verge of economic revival.

Martin Luther King Boulevard 62nd Street from Biscayne Boulevard to Hialeah
Named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this largely commercial street runs east and west through several communities including Little Haiti, Liberty City, Brownsville and Hialeah. In the Brownsville section, a statue of Dr. King is in the park.

62nd Street Mural Northwest 62nd Street and 7th Avenue
Painted by the late artist Oscar Thomas, this colorful mural depicting the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of several in the area designed to represent the pride and heritage of the Liberty City community.
21 The Wall  
**Northwest 12th Avenue from 62nd to 71st streets**

Liberty City’s Wall was established in the 1930s as a result of the construction of the Liberty Square housing development. “The Wall” was built as a barrier to separate the new Black neighborhood on the west side of Northwest 12th Avenue from the already established white neighborhood on the east side. This concrete barrier remained for many years as a symbol of the Jim Crow era, which haunted American history over the years. The seven-foot wall was eventually demolished, and today the remnants of the structure run along a median that separates Northwest 12th Avenue from Northwest 12th Parkway.

22 Miami Northwestern High School  
**1100 NW 71st St.**

During segregation and after the phasing out of Dorsey Senior High in 1956, Black citizens petitioned the school board to build a new comprehensive senior high school in Liberty City. Northwestern was the first Black high school to win a state football championship. It was integrated with other county schools and now includes a medical and arts magnet program.

23 Gwen Cherry Park  
**7090 NW 22nd Ave. • 305/694-4889**

This park honors the late State Rep. Gwen Cherry, the first Black woman elected to the Florida Legislature. She was the daughter of Miami’s first Black physician, Dr. William A. Sawyer.

24 Liberty Square  
**Northwest 12th to 15th avenues between 62nd and 67th streets**

The first public housing project erected in the State of Florida, Liberty Square opened on February 6, 1937. It was designed as a complete community for Black residents to relieve the congestion and inadequate housing in Overtown. Besides 900 housing units, the complex also included a nursery school, a cooperative store, a Federal Credit Union and a central community building. Many Black middle-income professionals resided here prior to purchasing their own homes.

25 African Heritage Cultural Arts Center  
**6161 NW 22nd Ave. • 305/638-6771**

Colorfully designed with the vision of being a center for Liberty City’s artists and youth to display their work and enhance their talents, it opened in 1974. The center has an auditorium, art and dance classrooms and an exhibit area that can be utilized by the community and after-school arts programs.
26 Joseph Caleb Community Center  5400 NW 22nd Ave.  •  305/636-2350
A product of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society,” the center was designed to alleviate poverty by providing decentralized neighborhood services. It is now a hub of activity with political forums and performing arts. It houses a library, child care programs, county and state services and the Black Archives, which collects, archives and interprets information about the Black experience in Miami.

27 Georgette’s Tea Room  2540 NW 51st St.
Georgette’s Tea Room is a historic structure located in Brownsville and built by Georgette Campbell. The 13-room English Tudor-style home was an elegant and lavish guest house that offered a secluded retreat to dine and sleep for famous Black celebrities and entertainers such as Billie Holiday, Nat “King” Cole and the Ink Spots. It also served as a meeting place for Black socialites for many years.

28 Miami Times Building  900 NW 54th St.
Founded in 1923 by Henry E.S. Reeves, Miami Times is the oldest Black-owned and operated newspaper in the City of Miami. Originally located in Overtown, the newspaper moved to Liberty City and then to its present site designed by Alfred Browning Parker.

29 Masjid Al-Ansar — Muslim Mosque  5245 NW 7th Ave.
This Mosque has been in Liberty City for more than 30 years and also includes the Sister Clara’s school. Its presence demonstrates the diversity in religion in one of Miami’s predominantly Black residential communities.

30 Brownsville  Northwest 27th to 32nd avenues between 41st and 54th streets
This pioneer neighborhood was platted by a Black man, Rev. W.L. Brown, in 1920 and became known as Brown Subdivision and later Brownsville. Historic sites include Georgette’s Tea Room [2540 NW 51st St.], which was a guest house for celebrities such as Billie Holiday, who maintained a permanent room there.
Designated as a historic site in 1991, this was one of two cemeteries where Blacks could be buried with dignity. Before that, Blacks were buried at the back of white cemeteries. Though records of the first people buried here were lost to fire, the cemetery remains a treasure paying homage to the past.

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery 3001 NW 46th St.
One of the oldest cemeteries in Miami-Dade County, it consists of 538 mostly above-ground vaults. This manner of burial is used in areas with a high water table like Key West and New Orleans. Black pioneers buried here include: Dr. William A. Sawyer, the first Black physician in Miami-Dade County and founder of Christian Hospital; Arthur and Polly Mays, who opened a school for rural Black children in South Dade; and Florence Gaskins, who formed the first local Red Cross chapter for Blacks.

Hampton House 4200-4240 NW 27th Ave.
This 54-room hotel was once promoted as the “Social Center of the South.” Opened in 1954, the hotel also operated a popular nightclub. CORE (The Congress of Racial Equality) held their weekly meetings here and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a frequent guest. It is said that he gave an early version of his “I have a Dream” speech here. Notables such as Muhammad Ali maintained a permanent room in the hotel. In 2001, the Hampton House Community Trust was formed to gain historic designation for the site, save the abandoned hotel from demolition and plan its restoration and use.
Farther Afield...

**Historic Virginia Key Beach Park  4020 Virginia Beach Drive**
Located on Key Biscayne, Virginia Key Beach was the first public beach available to Blacks south of West Palm Beach. It was secured through the efforts of a group of clergymen led by the late Judge Lawson E. Thomas. The beach officially opened on August 1, 1945, although the only access was by water until 1947. The beach included a boat ramp, mini-train ride, carousel, bath houses and cottages. In 1982, the City of Miami closed the beach. After the community learned that the city proposed a private campground on the property, they organized the Virginia Key Park Civil Rights Task Force to address issues affecting the development of the park and funding to develop a future Civil Rights Park and Museum. The beachfront park re-opened in 2008 after undergoing a multimillion dollar effort to restore the pristine shoreline and the historic buildings. [NR]

**Florida Memorial University  15800 NW 42nd Ave.**
The birthplace of the Negro national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” the University opened in 1879 as the Florida Baptist Institute in Live Oak, Florida. Another Black institution, the Florida Baptist Academy, was founded in 1892 in Jacksonville and moved to St. Augustine in 1918. The two institutions merged in 1941 and changed the institution’s name to Florida Normal and Industrial College the following year. The college was renamed Florida Memorial College in 1962, relocated to Miami in 1968 and achieved university status in 2006.
Opa-locka is one of the most unique cities in America. Founded by internationally known aviator Glenn Curtiss in 1926, it has one of the largest if not the largest collection of “Moorish Revival” architecture in America and includes 20 buildings that are listed on the National Register. Curtiss hired architect Bernhardt Muller to design the buildings and Clinton McKenzie to do the town plan. Although many of the original buildings have been altered, several outstanding structures have been recently restored. The city also has an adjacent area settled by Black World War II veterans called Bunche Park, named in honor of Ralph Bunche. Today, Opa-locka is predominantly a Black municipality, with mainly Black political leadership and city administration. Each year, the city celebrates its roots with an Arabian Nights Festival.

**Opa-locka City Hall** 777 Sharazad Blvd.
This incredible building is the “pinnacle” of architect Muller’s work. Completed in 1926, it appears as a mirage at the end of Opa-locka Boulevard. Restored to its former grandeur in 1987, the building housed city government and serves as the backdrop for the Arabian Nights Festival. (NR)

**The Hurt Building/Logan Executive Center** 490 Opa-locka Blvd.
The Hurt Building was originally a hotel and real estate office. After an extensive restoration in 1991, it became the offices of the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation. (NR)

**Opa-locka Train Station** 490 Ali-Baba Ave.
In January 1927, the opening of the Opa-locka train station made headlines when what was billed as “the grand Vizier of the Sheikdom of Opa-locka” welcomed the inaugural run of the Seaboard Airline Railroad’s famous “Orange Blossom Special” from New York. It was reopened in June 2003 by the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation for office and retail uses. It also serves as a Tri-Rail station. (NR)
preserving traditions...
Little Havana offers the complete life. Here, a vibrant Hispanic culture permeates everything—colorful murals, monuments to heroes past and present, elderly men playing dominoes as they discuss politics, and cigar rollers deeply at work amid the ever-present aroma of Cuban coffee. These scenes of daily life play out against a dynamic backdrop of pulsating music, vibrant storefronts, unique art galleries and quaint restaurants. Sample the fresh seafood from Spain, as well as tasty Cuban sandwiches accompanied by rice and beans, and delicacies from almost every country in Latin America. But listen closely beyond the music and the cars and people passing by. For here, everyone has a story — a story of both tribulation and joy — a story of struggle and endurance but ultimately success. Experience both nostalgia and the sense of beginning again in a corner of paradise far from the homeland, yet close enough to call home.


¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to Little Havana...

Close to Downtown Miami, Little Havana, formerly known as Riverside/Shenandoah, became home to Cuban refugees in the 1960s. As Miami expanded, the neighborhood’s original Anglo and Jewish residents moved to the suburbs, making affordable housing close to work sites available for the Cubans who created a complete infrastructure. Today, history repeats itself as Cuban Americans live in every neighborhood in South Florida and other immigrants from throughout Latin America have moved into Little Havana and added to its flavor. The unique aroma of cigar factories dots the area, with skilled workers making the handmade premium “puros.” Supermarkets, fruit stands and bodegas (neighborhood markets) offer products from all over the Hispanic world. Flower shops mix with botánicas to offer Afro-Cuban Santería religious items. Of course there is ¡musica! (notice we use two exclamation points in Spanish) with stores and restaurants blaring the sounds of Cuban music from the golden oldies to Gloria Estefan. Books and magazines, from the classics to Popular Mechanics, are available in Spanish area bookstores.

The last Friday night of each month is Viernes Culturales/Cultural Fridays, an event that offers art, music and street performers on Calle Ocho (Southwest 8th Street between 14th and 17th avenues). To enjoy Little Havana you do not need to speak Spanish or English, you just need a good pair of shoes. Don’t miss other Latin enclaves such as the neighborhoods of Allapattah and Wynwood and the cities of Sweetwater and Hialeah.

Calle Ocho  Southwest 8th Street (also known as Tamiami Trail)

Calle Ocho is the heart of Little Havana and home of the world’s largest street festival every March. Soon after Fidel Castro took over Cuba in January 1959, thousands and then hundreds of thousands of Cubans came to Miami and first settled in this area that became a sort of “Plymouth Rock” for the new arrivees. By 1962, more than 28 businesses between Southwest 5th and 15th avenues had already switched ownership from Anglo to Cuban. By 1966, the Cuban transformation was for the most part complete. From this Little Havana launching pad, Miami’s Cubans not only transformed a neighborhood, they transformed an entire city.
Little Havana’s Walk of Fame **Southwest 8th Street between 12th and 17th avenues**
This segment of Calle Ocho has star-shaped plaques along the sidewalk to honor Hispanic artists such as Gloria Estefan and the late Celia Cruz.

Cuban Memorial Boulevard and Bay of Pigs Monument  
**Southwest 13th Avenue between 8th and 12th streets**
This four-block boulevard off Calle Ocho has various monuments dedicated to Cuban freedom fighters. One of the most poignant is the Eternal Torch of Brigade 2506, a memorial to the soldiers who gave their lives in the 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba. Also featured is a bronze statue of Nestor “Tony” Izquierdo, a Cuban revolutionary hero; a bronze map of Cuba; a statue of the Virgin Mary; and a bronze bust of General Antonio Maceo, an Afro-Cuban general who died fighting for the independence of Cuba. Also along the boulevard is the Plaza de Los Periodistas Cubanos, a memorial dedicated to Cuban journalists who devoted their writing and lives to speaking out against Castro’s regime. Also note the large Ceiba tree with its roots filled with candles. It has religious significance to those who practice Santería.

Domino Park  **Southwest 8th Street and 14th Avenue**
If you are in the mood to walk, you can get a good taste of Little Havana by starting at Domino Park. Named for Dominican-born General Máximo Gómez, who was Chief of the Cuban Liberation Army during the wars of independence against Spain, this mini-park is crowded with retirees playing the ever-popular game.

Tower Theater  **1508 SW 8th St.**
This historic theater, built in 1926 and transformed into an Art Deco gem by architect Robert Law Weed in 1931 for the Wometco Theater chain, was a popular neighborhood theater with its Saturday morning matinees and special events. The theater’s shiny steel spire greeted the Cuban refugees when they first landed on the streets of Little Havana in 1959. In early 1960, the theater was the first in Miami to add Spanish sub-titles. Now owned and beautifully restored by the City of Miami, Miami Dade College operates the theater and provides dance and theater performances, as well as film and art exhibitions.
6. **Home of Miami’s First Mayor/Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church** 1411 SW 11th St.
Mayor John Bernard Reilly and his wife Marie built this stately home in 1927. Reilly died a year later but his wife lived in the house until her death in 1935. In 1954, the building was converted into Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church. A statue of the Virgin Mary that Marie Reilly, a devout Catholic, put over the front door remains today—a symbol of enduring faith.

7. **Coral Way Elementary School** 1950 SW 13th Ave.
In 1936, during the Great Depression, the Public Works Administration (PWA) built this beautiful school with its expansive central courtyard. Artists working in the PWA art program created the exquisite tile work on the front of the building and the fountain in the courtyard. In 1962, this award-winning school became the first bilingual school in modern times to offer studies half-day in English and half-day in Spanish.

8. **Bay of Pigs Museum** 1821 SW 9th St. • 305/649-4719
This unique museum preserves and displays pictures, flags, uniforms and other items of Cuban soldiers of the Assault Brigade 2506 that invaded Cuba on April 17, 1961, and fought and died at the Bay of Pigs.

9. **Plaza de la Cubanidad (Plaza of Cuban Patriots)** West Flagler Street and 17th Avenue
This fountain plaza honors Cuban patriots and the balseros (rafters), and bears a quotation from José Martí.

10. **José Martí Park** 351 SW 4th St.
Located along the Miami River in Little Havana, the park features a bust of Cuba’s most prominent poet and hero, José Martí.
Miami River Inn  118 SW South River Drive
This frame vernacular building and its surrounding cottages, now a bed and breakfast, was built between 1906 and 1910 and is the oldest hostelry south of St. Augustine. It typifies the early structures in Riverside—coral rock and wood shingle bungalows, vernacular frame, masonry and Mission-style buildings that can still be found in Little Havana.

Warner Place  111 SW 5th Ave.
In 1912, J.W. Warner built this beautiful Antebellum-style home that was considered one of the finest in the neighborhood. The Warner family operated Miami’s first floral business from the first floor. The home has been restored and today houses the City of Miami East Little Havana Net Office and the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy.

Bungalows of Little Havana
Little Havana has Miami’s largest collection of bungalows, a popular residential style of the 1910s-1930s. The largest, most elaborate models are called Belvedere or Airplane bungalows.

THE CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS OF LITTLE HAVANA
Little Havana’s historic churches and public schools capture Miami’s ever-changing history and culture. Beginning in the second decade of the 20th century, when Miami was expanding its borders, several Downtown churches launched “missions” in the new subdivision of Riverside and later in Shenandoah. Although they now serve Spanish-speaking congregations, most of these historic institutions continue to serve the community.

Manuel Artime Theater  900 SW 1st St.
The Theater was formerly Riverside Baptist Church, which was organized in 1921. The current building was completed in 1959. When the church moved to Kendall in 1975, the City of Miami acquired the property. The theater is named for the late Manuel Artime, who fought with the group that overthrew Fulgencio Batista. When he discovered that Fidel Castro was a Communist, he became one of the key leaders in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion.
14 **Riverside United Methodist Church** 985 NW 1st St.
In 1938, renowned architects Kiehnel and Elliot designed a beautiful addition to the original mid-1920s church. Today, the services are conducted in Spanish and the church houses several social service agencies.

15 **Calvary Baptist Church** 226 SW 17th Ave.
Calvary Baptist Church organized in 1922 and the present sanctuary was built in 1925. In 1959, when the first Cuban refugees arrived, Calvary became one of Miami’s first churches to offer services in Spanish. In 1967, the congregation switched to the Spanish language, making it the first of Little Havana’s historic churches to do so.

16 **Shenandoah Presbyterian Church** 2150 SW 8th St.
The original 1930 barn-like church burned down in 1948 and the present building, designed by Robert Fitch Smith, rose from its ashes in 1949. Shenandoah Presbyterian closed its doors in 1997 but allowed the Iglesia Evangelica de la Calle Ocho to take over the building.

17 **Iglesia Baptista Renacer** 1101 SW 12th Ave.
This church was originally a synagogue built in the 1940s for the Miami Hebrew Congregation, later known as Beth-Kodesh. It merged with Beth David after the neighborhood’s demographics changed. The former synagogue then became a Spanish-language Baptist church.

18 **Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and School** Southwest 12th Avenue and 26th Road
This parish was established in 1939 and the school opened in 1941 with 300 students. The arrival of the Cuban refugees in the 1960s transformed the school into a major institution serving Miami’s Latin community.

19 **Tamiami Temple United Methodist** 1401 SW 8th St.
Tamiami Temple was organized in 1925 and the present Mission-style building was built in 1928. Although the church has been altered, it continues as a presence on Calle Ocho.
Shenandoah Middle School  1950 SW 19th St.
Designed by well-known Miami architect August Geiger, the school was built by the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1940.

Miami Senior High School  2450 SW 1st St.
Miami High School, the city’s first high school, opened in Downtown Miami in 1903. The present school, designed by the renowned firm of Kiehnel and Elliot, opened in February 1928. With the arrival of the Cuban exiles in the early 1960s, the school population changed from predominantly Anglo and Jewish to predominantly Cuban. Today, the transformation continues, with the majority of students coming from Central America. The building has recently been restored to its former grandeur. [NR]

Ada Merritt Elementary School  660 SW 3rd St.
Ada Merritt Elementary High is named after a pioneer Miami educator and designed by H.H. Mundy. It opened in 1923 as the city’s first junior high school. The original school was demolished and replaced with a new structure in 2003. Architect Max Wolfe Sturman carefully replicated the original school and incorporated it into the new design.

Farther Afield...

Woodlawn Park Cemetery  3260 SW 8th St.
One of Miami’s oldest cemeteries, the Gothic-inspired Woodlawn Park opened in 1913. Its graves mirror the changing history of Miami, from pioneer Miamians to notable Cuban refugees including Cuban presidents Geraldo Machado and Carlos Prio. It also has a moving memorial to the victims of the devastating 1935 hurricane, as well as a black marble tribute wall to “Unknown Cuban Freedom Fighters.”

Miami News/Freedom Tower  See pg. 40

Bacardi Building  See pg. 74
generation of visionaries...
Once the thriving pioneer communities of Lemon City and Buena Vista, this section of Miami boasts three historic districts — Morningside, Buena Vista East and Bayside — encompassing the internationally acclaimed Design District and a vibrant quarter known as “Little Haiti.” It has two main thoroughfares — Northeast 2nd Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard. For many years, 2nd Avenue was better known as Dixie Highway, the first road that linked Miami with the rest of America. Then came Biscayne Boulevard, which was carved out of the pine forest in the late 1920s, spurring new neighborhoods as it inched its way northward. Today, this historic and formerly trendy part of town is being rediscovered and redefined by a new generation of visionaries and urban pioneers who are bringing back its past glories and nurturing and revitalizing its eclectic residential and commercial buildings.

The New Pioneers
by Arva Moore Parks
In 1893, the *Tropical Sun* noted the creation of a new town called Buena Vista, which was located between Lemon City and Miami. In the early days, it was known for its avocado groves, pineapple fields and packing houses. The 1915 opening of the Dixie Highway (now Northeast 2nd Avenue), and the arrival of the trolley three years later, spurred its transformation from agriculture to suburban development. During the 1920s, Buena Vista, like the rest of Miami, underwent a major building boom that created new neighborhoods and commercial districts.

**Buena Vista East Historic District**

by Sarah Eaton

between 42nd and 48th streets and 2nd and Miami avenues

During the Boom of the early 1920s, the area was developed as the Biltmore and Shadowlawn subdivisions. Originally home to “cracker” immigrants from Georgia, North Carolina and points farther north, it soon became the mecca of businessmen who traded in the nearby commercial establishments on Northeast 40th Street, the same area that has developed into Miami’s well-known Design District. Today, Buena Vista East is attracting artists and young people who are seeking unique houses with character. The architecture in Buena Vista East reflects the original owners’ rising social status, as well as the eclecticism that dominated American residential architecture in the early 20th century. Scattered throughout the district are fine examples of Mediterranean, Mission, Craftsman and Art Deco-style residences. Do not miss the 1920s-era Spanish Consulate at 30 NE 44th St., which exhibits an outstanding use of decorative tile. The home of “Pineapple King” T.V. Moore, who developed the neighborhood and built the 1922 Moore Furniture Company in the Design District, is a wonderful example of Mediterranean-style architecture. It can be seen at 4514 NE 1st Ave.

**The Design District**

Miami’s famous Design District encompasses the commercial area of Buena Vista. “Pineapple King,” T.V. Moore, developed the business district and built his imposing three-story furniture store on Northeast 40th Street around the small corner building that was then the Buena Vista Post Office. Many of Buena Vista’s historic commercial buildings are now designer showrooms, luxury retailers, art galleries and restaurants.
The Legacy of Lemon City/The Magic of Little Haiti  

by Timothy A. Barber, adapted from Gepsie M. Metellus

Lemon City was a community on the shores of Biscayne Bay, predating the incorporation of the City of Miami, that was home to white and Black pioneers. Most of the Blacks in this area were of Bahamian descent and established flourishing communities and businesses including the only U.S. Post Office in the area, a library, churches, “a colored school” and a cemetery. There were at least three identifiable Black communities in Lemon City—Nazarine, Knightsville and Boles Town—all dating from about 1900. After the area underwent a drastic demographic shift in the 1920s, Lemon City became a distant memory in the minds of many of Miami’s Black pioneers.

Today, over a relatively short period of time, Haitians have moved into the area and changed the character of the neighborhood that was once known as Lemon City. The culturally vibrant Haitian community has enriched Miami-Dade’s multi-ethnic character. Little Haiti, bounded by I-95 and the Florida East Coast Railway, spans from 54th to 87th streets. Its business district, along Northeast 2nd Avenue, is of great social and cultural significance to the Haitian Diaspora because it is the only area in the history of Haitian immigration primarily inhabited by Haitians. It bustles with Haitian-owned and operated business, where the aroma of Creole cooking, multi-hued artwork, the rhythm of Haitian compas, and the expressive tone of Haitian Creole greet residents and visitors alike.

The name of a cultural icon graces this major thoroughfare in the heart of Little Haiti — Northeast 2nd Avenue is now known as “Avenue Felix Morisseau Leroy,” and it leads to Toussaint L’ouverture Elementary School. One of the neighborhood’s distinguishing characteristics is the colorful and distinctive Caribbean signage along the business corridors. Miami’s Little Haiti has earned a national and international reputation and now boasts the iconic Little Haiti Cultural Arts Center and the Little Haiti Soccer Park.

While the name Lemon City has vanished from the map and the area is now known as Little Haiti, through the recent discovery of the Historic Lemon City Cemetery, significant facts and tangible evidence of this once vibrant pioneer community are being uncovered.
Little Haiti Cultural Center  212 NE 59th Terrace  
This comprehensive cultural facility features classrooms, an exhibit hall, a state-of-the-art theater and a beautiful outdoor plaza featuring a mural by the celebrated Haitian artist, Ralph Allen.

The Caribbean Marketplace  5925-5927 NE 2nd Ave.  
A modern replica of Haiti’s famous iron market, the building is an architectural marvel designed by famed architect Charles Pawley. Plans are currently underway to restore the splendor of this popular tourist destination and cultural attraction.

Libreri Mapou/Sant Kiltirel Mapou  5919 NE 2nd Ave.  
This quaint bookstore and cultural center is a popular gathering place for Haitian-Americans and regularly provides high-caliber cultural and literary events.

Atelier Duval-Carrie/Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance  225 NE 59th St.  
This is the studio and workshop of Edouard Duval-Carrié, a talented artist who is rooted in Haitian culture and history, while still very well-versed in art history and artistic styles. His works of art are intellectually stimulating.

Lemon City Post Office  6045 NE 2nd Ave.  
This historic 1902 drug store and post office is one of the few remaining buildings from the pioneer community of Lemon City. When it was constructed by Dr. John DuPuis, who was fondly called the “Lemon Doctor,” it was the only concrete building north of Downtown Miami. DuPuis was also the father of the 1915 Dade County Agricultural High School, later renamed Miami Edison.

Notre Dame D’Haiti — Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center  
Northeast 2nd Avenue and 62nd Street  
This church and neighborhood social service center bears the name of a recently canonized Haitian saint. It was formerly known as Notre Dame Academy, a Catholic high school for girls. Today, it is a place of worship for Haitian Catholics and is a significant religious, social and cultural focus point for Miami-Dade County’s Haitian-American community.
9. **Toussaint L’ouverture Elementary School** 120 NE 59th St.
In 1986, Bernard Zyscovich designed this unique, award-winning school that captures the quality and character of Haitian and Caribbean architecture. It honors Toussaint L’ouverture, the legendary Haitian leader who helped lead the nation toward independence from France in 1804.

10. **Grace United Haitian Methodist Church** 6501 N. Miami Ave.
Grace United Methodist Church, formerly Lemon City Methodist, was organized in 1893 and is one of the oldest churches in continuous service in Miami-Dade County. The present sanctuary, built in 1959, is the church’s third building. The second, built in 1905, still stands at 6311 NE 2nd Ave. Both Grace Methodist and the Bethany Baptist Mission, which occupies the former Grace Methodist church building on 2nd Avenue, serve the Haitian community with services in Creole.

11. **Miami Edison Middle School.** Northwest 2nd Avenue and 62nd Street
This beautifully restored, award-winning 1928 Prairie-style school designed by H.H. Mundy, which was formerly Miami Edison Senior High, is now home to a largely Haitian student body. The 1915 Lemon City Agricultural High School, the second high school in Miami-Dade County, was previously located at the site. The ornate auditorium interior, designed by Pfeiffer and Robertson in 1931, is one of the finest high-style Art Deco interior spaces in Greater Miami. Richard Heisenbottle was the restoration architect. (NR)

12. **The Little Haiti Soccer Park and Cultural Complex** 301 NE 62nd St.
This state-of-the-art facility opened in 2008. The park features both a practice field and a playing field, covered seating for 580 people, a tot lot complete with a jungle gym under a canopy, and a children’s water splash park. The City of Miami acknowledged Haiti’s cultural ties to football (soccer) and named the $37 million, 15-acre soccer park after the late Emmanuel Sanon, Haitian Athlete of the Century. Unveiled was a large sign that carries the inscription, “Emmanuel Sanon Soccer Park, Little Haiti, City of Miami.” In addition, a 5,000-square-foot Cultural Center was built adjacent to the park and named after the late Miami Commissioner Arthur Teele Jr. It features an art gallery, a black-box theater and several studios.
Edison Courts  

cite Location: Between Northwest 62nd and 67th streets from 2nd to 4th avenues

During the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) hired many local architects, contractors, and workers to construct public works projects in Miami. The 345-unit Edison Courts, completed in 1941 and designed by the firm of Paist and Steward with associate architects Robert Law Weed, Vladimir Virrick, and E.L. Robertson, provided public housing for white people. It was similar in scale and design to Liberty Square for Blacks, designed by the same firm in 1936. Both projects were integrated in the 1960s. Edison Courts has maintained most of its historic ambience and is a wonderful example of WPA craftsmanship and design.

Villa Paula/Lucien Albert MD Medical Clinic  

cite Location: 5811 N. Miami Ave.

This medical clinic is housed in a majestic house called “Villa Paula” that was built in 1926 as the Cuban Consulate. Surviving periods of vacancy and vandalism, the Villa has been beautifully restored, from the white columned gazebo and statuary outside to the stained-glass windows.

St. Mary’s Cathedral  

cite Location: 7525 NW 2nd Ave.

With its beginnings traced to a simple wooden church built for the St. Mary’s parish in the late 1920s, today’s St. Mary’s is the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Miami and home to 1.2 million Catholics in 110 parishes. The main portion of the cathedral was designed by the Chicago firm of Barry & Kay in 1957 as St. Mary’s parish church. After the Diocese of Miami was created in 1958, the church became a cathedral and underwent a major renovation in 1965 that included the addition of the bell tower and the beautiful “Blessed Sacrament Chapel.”
Bayside Historic District  by Sarah Eaton

68th to 72nd streets between Biscayne Boulevard and Biscayne Bay
Developed over a period of more than 40 years, the houses in the Bayside Historic District reflect Miami’s growth from a pioneer settlement to a significant metropolitan area. Comprised of several distinct subdivisions, Bayside mimics the diversity and taste of its early residents. Bayside contains one of Miami’s oldest intact residential subdivisions, located on Northeast 68th Street. Named Elmira in honor of Elmira, New York, the hometown of its founders and first residents, this subdivision was created in 1909 and still contains an excellent collection of frame buildings, many of which were inspired by Northern architectural styles. The most noteworthy is located at 659-661 NE 68th St., and is Miami’s best example of residential Greek Revival-style architecture. Enter the neighborhood at Northeast 69th Street to discover the other subdivisions. George Merrick, who developed Coral Gables, platted the Acadia subdivision along Northeast 70th Street in 1915, and the houses developed here are distinctly Mediterranean in style. Samuel J. Prescott of Washington, D.C. developed Washington Place starting in 1925 after he had constructed his own winter home on Biscayne Bay at 7101 NE 10th Ave. The Bayside Historic District contains a diverse group of buildings that utilize a variety of local materials and decorative tropical motifs. Prevalent motifs that appear in wrought iron screen doors and pre-cast concrete vents include stylized floral and wave designs, palm trees, egrets and sunbursts. Several houses feature elaborate garage doors exhibiting flamingo, cactus and bullseye designs.
Morningside Historic District  

by Gail Meadows

55th to 60th streets between Biscayne Boulevard and Biscayne Bay  
Enter the neighborhood at Northeast 58th Street.

Morningside, Miami’s first historic district, is a wonderful collection of homes situated on wide, tree-lined streets. Launched in 1922 by Atlanta candy baron James H. Nunnally, it quickly attracted many of Miami’s most prominent citizens. A virtual Who’s Who of early architects designed the beautiful homes in mostly Mediterranean style. In the 1960s and 1970s, the neighborhood fell on hard times as new suburban subdivisions lured people away from the city. A few scrappy residents refused to let the neighborhood go and fought every attempt to “down-zone” the formerly luxurious residences into rooming houses and day care centers. Their efforts paid off when Morningside became Miami’s first historic district in 1984. Eight years later, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A ride through this highly desirable neighborhood is not only a journey through time, but also a testament to the value of civic activism.

16 714 NE 59th St.
This Spanish Mediterranean-style house was built in 1924 and remodeled in 1936 by the Kiehnel and Elliott architectural firm. Word has it that it was home to the mistress of James Nunnally, the earliest developer of Morningside. It’s the only house in the neighborhood with two interior staircases (the better to escape when trouble arises).

17 5991 NE 6th Court
This Spanish Mediterranean-style home was built in 1926 but lasted only a few months until the 1926 Hurricane almost destroyed it. Later, it was transformed into a rooming house, the Bougainvillea Lodge. It took years for the house to return to a single-family dwelling.
695 NE 59th St.
This Art Deco jewel, designed by architect E.L. Robertson and built in 1937 for Col. William A. Jones, was pictured that same year in *Florida Art and Architecture*. In August 2003 it was featured on Home and Garden TV. It had only two owners before 1998. Note the ornate frieze over the front door and the newly created screen door. Its new owners [from 1998] unearthed an original book of specifications for the design (a rare find, indeed), plus blueprints and a 1936 watercolor by the architect. From all those documents, they had a new screen door created. It was installed in 2003.

5911 NE 6th Ave.
Designed by architect Robert Little and built by W. Lee Martin, its first owner, this Art Deco gem was erected in 1936 and is the only house in Morningside with porthole windows. Original oolite frames the front entry and also covers the foyer floor. A second-floor “sleeping porch”—a very popular portion of households in the 1920s and 1930s—faces 59th Street.

5928 NE 6th Court
Designed by Harold Steward, this Mediterranean-style home was built in 1928. In the 1940s, Miami Mayor Perrine Palmer owned it. He had the vision to create Morningside Park along the bayfront. In the 1980s, the house became the site of several *Miami Vice* episodes.

759 NE 57th St.
Designed by Kiehnel and Elliot, this Italian Mediterranean-style house was built in 1927 by developer James Nunnally, who founded the Bay Shore Development Company and platted the Morningside neighborhood in the early 1920s.

589 NE 57th St.
This Italian Mediterranean-style home was built in 1925 by an Iowa couple whose daughter, Laura Cushman, founded the nearby Cushman School [592 NE 60th St.] in 1924 and occupied the house until her death in 1987 at age 99.
5600 NE 6th Ave.
Built in 1925, this Italian Mediterranean-style house became the home of Sidney Meyer, co-founder of the Wometco movie theater and television empire in the early 1930s with his brother-in-law, Col. Mitchell Wolfson.

598 NE 56th St.
Marion Manley, Florida’s first female architect, designed this French Mediterranean-style home for Paul Scott in 1926. He was president of the Biscayne Boulevard Company and New Miami Shores Corporation. Manley was noted for her work with prominent Miami architects Walter DeGarmo and Robert Law Weed, and designed the post-war dormitories at the University of Miami in Coral Gables.

527 NE 56th St.
Built in 1934, this Mediterranean-Deco gem was designed by Richard Kiehnel. This house was pictured in Florida Architecture and Allied Arts in 1935 and 1936 and also rated the frontispiece of a monograph on the Florida works of Kiehnel and his partner, John Elliott, in 1938.

Farther Afield...

Wynwood by Karen Barofsky
Referred to as “Little San Juan” for the large Puerto Rican community that began immigrating to the area in the 1950s, Wynwood, the Miami neighborhood between 20th and 36th streets and North Miami Avenue west to I-95 was, until recently, primarily a warehouse and factory district in central Miami. That has changed greatly, thanks to an influx of arts-related endeavors that gave birth to the Wynwood Arts District, home to more than 70 galleries, museums and art collections as well as a growing number of new restaurants and cafes, bars, event and performance spaces, and retail stores. Now it is a growing arts epicenter, known for the hundreds of commissioned street murals that help designate it as one of the biggest street arts districts in the world.
Wynwood is home to Wynwood Walls, Goldman Properties’ “museum of the streets,” which features expansive murals by some of the world’s most renowned street artists in a beautiful and singular art park setting. The neighborhood’s revival has also led to the arrival of the Wynwood Building, a 45,000-square-foot building blending vibrant design and practicality, and bringing small and mid-sized office space to the district.

On the second Saturday night of every month, art galleries and studios open their doors to the public for viewing during “Art Walk.” The event draws thousands of visitors, lending credence to Miami’s emergence as a year round arts and cultural destination.

**The Bakehouse Art Complex** 561 NW 32nd St. • 305/576-2828 • bakehouseartcomplex.org
Housed in a historic 1920s baking facility, the Bakehouse Art Complex is a thriving not-for-profit arts and educational organization that provides low-rent studios and exhibition galleries for professional and emerging artists. It is the largest “working artist” colony in South Florida and is a great place to discover new artists.

**Miami Light Box at Goldman Warehouse** 404 NW 26th St. • 305/576-4350 • lightboxmiami.org
The Light Box is home to some of Miami’s leading cultural organizations: Arts for Learning, The M Ensemble Theater Project and Miami Light Project (along with MLP’s two resident theater companies, Teo Castellanos/D-Projects and Mad Cat Theatre Company). Founded in 1989, Miami Light Project is a not-for-profit cultural organization that presents live performances by innovative dance, music and theater artists from around the world.

**Wynwood Walls** Northwest 2nd Avenue between 25th and 26th streets • thewynwoodwalls.com
Miami’s epicenter for cutting-edge, museum-quality urban murals debuted in conjunction with Art Basel in 2009 with murals by renowned artists on the walls of six separate warehouse buildings. Envisioned by Goldman Properties’ Tony Goldman, a renowned community revitalizer, the project expanded in 2010 with the adjacent Wynwood Doors, when 176 feet of roll-up storefront gates were added. New murals and doors are added annually; the world-class murals and the spirit of the project attract thousands of people to Wynwood Walls each year.
The phrase “Tony was here” embodies a well-known character trait of Tony Goldman, the founder and owner of Goldman Properties, who passed away in September 2012. “Tony was here” refers to the unique imprint Goldman gave to every historic building or place that attracted his interest. Once Tony became passionate about something, there was a special alchemy that took place.

Mr. Goldman was a true champion of historic preservation. Over the past several decades, he devoted his time and passion to transforming tired urban spaces in Miami and elsewhere. He was one of a handful of visionaries who saw what the Art Deco District could become. When he arrived in the mid-Eighties, South Beach was a faded, economically depressed area. Mr. Goldman bought property on Ocean Drive and slowly began to transform South Beach. The Park Central Hotel became one of the dazzling, newly restored Art Deco gems that breathed life back into the neighborhood.

One by one, Tony Goldman rescued other crumbling pastel treasures. He opened restaurants and hotels and encouraged other businesses to take a chance on the revitalization of Miami Beach. In New York’s Wall Street Financial District and SoHo, and in Philadelphia’s Midtown Village, he did the same.

In 2004, Goldman saw potential in the Wynwood area north of Downtown Miami. Envisioning an arts and entertainment hub in the quiet warehouse district, he began buying property and opened the Wynwood Kitchen & Bar and Joey’s. Now, Wynwood is being called one of the nation’s hippest neighborhoods.

Goldman’s many professional affiliations included serving as founder and chairman of Miami Beach’s Ocean Drive Association. He was a member of the National Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and a past two-term chairman of both the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) and the Historic Hotels of America. Mr. Goldman won the Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2010 for lifetime achievement.

Tony was instrumental in creating the first edition of this book. Like many things in Miami, it would not exist without him. We would like to dedicate this second edition to his memory.
tropical splendor...

Native Vanilla Orchid
Acknowledgments

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**Dorothy Jenkins Fields, Ph.D.**  Dorothy Jenkins Fields, Ph.D. is a historian and a native Miamian whose family settled in Miami more than 100 years ago. She is the founder of the Black Archives of South Florida and a highly acclaimed preservationist.
beacon of light...
Acknowledgments

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strong foundation...
Acknowledgments

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Special thanks to the authors for their contributions and insights, without which this publication would not have been possible.

The GMCVB would like to thank all the communities and the wonderful people who have transformed Greater Miami into a vibrant tapestry of cultures that help define our unique sense of place.

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— Arva Moore Parks
classic detail...
# Our Special Places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of Interest</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62nd Street Mural</td>
<td>Alan S. Maltz</td>
<td>78, 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ada Merritt Elementary School</td>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admirals Row</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>34, 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Heritage Cultural Arts Center</td>
<td>The Black Archives</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Albert J. and Catherine Bigler House</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred I. DuPont Building</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.M. Cohen Temple</td>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Spanish Monastery</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson’s Corner</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archway, Sunshine State International Park</td>
<td>Robin Hill</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Deco Welcome Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atelier Duval-Carrie/Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance</td>
<td></td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacardi Building</td>
<td>Robin Hill</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bakehouse Art Complex</td>
<td></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bal Harbour Shops</td>
<td></td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bancroft</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Barnacle</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>26, 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Museum of Art</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay of Pigs Museum</td>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayside Historic District</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Biltmore Hotel</td>
<td>Kiko Ricote</td>
<td>56, 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscayne National Park</td>
<td>Neil Montanus</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscayne Plaza Shopping Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater</td>
<td>The Black Archives</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Police Precinct &amp; Courthouse Museum</td>
<td></td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booker T. Washington High School</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Brickell Avenue Bridge/Tequesta Statue</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownsville</td>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Memorial Church/Bet-Ovadia Chabad of the Grove</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buena Vista East Historic District</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>104, 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalows of Little Havana</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burdine’s/Macy’s</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calle Ocho</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Baptist Church</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>98, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Fla. Lighthouse/Bill Baggs Cape Fl. State Park</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>37, 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Caribbean Marketplace</td>
<td>The Black Archives</td>
<td>105, 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauley Square</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Baptist Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapman House</td>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Lodge</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Village</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ Episcopal Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Miami Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cla Reina Hotel/La Palma</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>54, 55</td>
</tr>
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<td>Coast Guard Hangar</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut Grove Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut Grove Cemetery</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coconut Grove Library</td>
<td>Cris Ascunce</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut Grove Playhouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coconut Grove Public Utilities Company</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coconut Grove School</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonnade Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colony Hotel</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colony Theatre</td>
<td>Cris Ascunce</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
luminescent backdrop...
# Our Special Places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of Interest</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Extension Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Castle Museum</td>
<td>Sam Notarbartolo</td>
<td>20, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Gables Art Center Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Gables Art Cinema</td>
<td>Coral Gables Art Cinema</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Gables City Hall</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
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<td>Coral Gables Congregational Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
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<td>Coral Gables Elementary School</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Gables Merrick House</td>
<td>Al Diaz</td>
<td>50, 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Gables Water Tower</td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Way Elementary School</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Club of Coral Gables Historic District</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban Memorial Boulevard and Bay of Pigs Monument</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>95, 130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.A. Dorsey House</td>
<td></td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deauville Beach Resort</td>
<td>Robin Hill</td>
<td>70, 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Deering Estate at Cutler</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delano Hotel</td>
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<td>The Design District</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
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<td>Domino Park</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>92, 95, 100</td>
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<td>Dream South Beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
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<td>Dutch South African Village</td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
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<td>Eden Roc Renaissance Miami Beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edison Courts</td>
<td></td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Jardin/Carrollton School for Girls</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrances, Plazas and Fountains</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex House Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eva Munroe’s Grave</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everglades Alligator Farm</td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
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<td>Everglades National Park</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Point of Interest</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>The E.W.F. Stirrup House</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Havens Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>24, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faust House</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Baptist Church</td>
<td>Larry Wiggins</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The First Coconut Grove School House</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida City State Farmers’ Market</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
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<td>Florida Memorial University</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Pioneer Museum</td>
<td>Larry Wiggins</td>
<td>16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fontainebleau Miami Beach</td>
<td>Fontainebleau Miami Beach</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foremost Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Pan Am Training Facility</td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French City/Country Villages</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Normandy Village</td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit &amp; Spice Park</td>
<td>Lex-Leszek Zujwoda</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuchs Bakery</td>
<td>Larry Wiggins</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Washington Carver Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgette’s Tea Room</td>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gesu Church</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>40, 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasshaus Studios</td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gold Coast Railroad Museum</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace United Haitian Methodist Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Concourse Apartments</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
inspiring leaders...

Liberty City Mural
## Our Special Places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of Interest</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lemon City Post Office</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Square</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libreri Mapou/Sant Kittirel Mapou</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily Lawrence Bow Library</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Center Hotel and Shops</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Road Mall</td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindeman—Johnson House</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Haiti Cultural Center</td>
<td>The Black Archives</td>
<td>102, 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Little Haiti Soccer Park</td>
<td>The Black Archives</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Havana’s Walk of Fame</td>
<td></td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lummus Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manul Arttime Theater</td>
<td>Robin Hill</td>
<td>98, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariah Brown House</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Boulevard</td>
<td></td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masjid Al-Ansar—Muslim Mosque</td>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matheson Hammock Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCrory’s Rear Entrance</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McFarlane Homestead Historic District</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>32, 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Miami Circle</td>
<td></td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Dade College—Kendall Campus</td>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade County Courthouse</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Edison Middle School</td>
<td></td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Miami Herald Building</td>
<td>Thomas Delbeck</td>
<td>72, 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Light Box at Goldman Warehouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Marine Stadium</td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
eternal hope...
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami News/Freedom Tower</td>
<td>Kiko Ricote</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Northwestern High School</td>
<td></td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami River Inn</td>
<td></td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Seaquarium</td>
<td>Miami Seaquarium</td>
<td>23, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Senior High School</td>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Shores Homes</td>
<td></td>
<td>60, 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Times Building</td>
<td>Robin Hill</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miccosukee Indian Village and Airboat Tours</td>
<td>Miccosukee Indian Village</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miracle Theatre/Actor’s Playhouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monkey Jungle</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>22, 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morningside Historic District Homes</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>111, 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Hotel</td>
<td>National Hotel</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neva King Cooper School</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
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<td>New Providence Lodge #365</td>
<td></td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
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<td>New Yorker Motel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ninth Street Pedestrian Mall</td>
<td></td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>Notre Dame D’Haiti/Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odd Fellows Hall/United Christian Church of Christ</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Old Bank of Coconut Grove</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old City Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Old Federal Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Police and Fire Station/Coral Gables Museum</td>
<td></td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia/Gusman Theater</td>
<td>Dan Forer</td>
<td>38, 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opa-locka City Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opa-locka Train Station</td>
<td></td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Overtown Youth Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pagoda</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pan American Hangars</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of Interest</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pan American Sea Plane Base and Terminal/Miami City Hall</td>
<td>Dan Forer</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Central Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacock Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacock Plaza and Anthony Arcade</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Village</td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizzeria Andiamo</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plaza de la Cubanidad (Plaza of Cuban Patriots)</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth Congregational Church</td>
<td>Art in Public Places</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Purvis Young Murals</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Raleigh Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ralston Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redland Farm Life School</td>
<td>Larry Wiggins</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritz Plaza Hotel/SLS South Beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside United Methodist Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert King High Towers</td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Palm Cottage</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Building/Capital Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole Theatre</td>
<td>Larry Wiggins</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Seymour</td>
<td></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shenandoah Middle School</td>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shenandoah Presbyterian Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sherbrooke Co-op</td>
<td></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreland Arcade</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrine Building/Boulevard Shops</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpson Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Apartment Buildings</td>
<td></td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Pacific</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
through the ages......
# Our Special Places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of Interest</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James Baptist Church</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
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<td>St. John’s Baptist Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s Cathedral</td>
<td>Albert Carrillo</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Moritz Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Building</td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and School</td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfside</td>
<td></td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamiami Temple United Methodist</td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toussaint L’ouverture Elementary School</td>
<td>Steven Brooke</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Theater</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Bay Harbor Islands</td>
<td></td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Everglades Visitor Association &amp; Visitor Center (TEVA)</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Post Office</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Post Office and Federal Courthouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
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<td>University of Miami Campus</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagabond</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venetian Pool</td>
<td>Kiko Ricote</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villa Paula/Lucien Albert MD Medical Clinic</td>
<td></td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vizcaya Museum &amp; Gardens</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walgreen’s/La Epoca</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ward Rooming House</td>
<td></td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warner Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weiland Clinic/Books &amp; Books</td>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterhaven Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wolfsonian–Florida International University</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman’s Club of Coconut Grove</td>
<td>Cris Ascunce</td>
<td>28, 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlawn Park Cemetery</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyndwood Walls</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoo Miami</td>
<td>Ron Magill</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
enduring magic...
### Additional Photography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alhambra Plaza</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Deco District</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>62, 126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Deco Gems</td>
<td>GMCVB</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bougainvillea</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Homestead</td>
<td>Larry Wiggins</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Miami Skyline</td>
<td>Cris Ascunce</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Everglades</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingraham Building</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty City Mural</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Park</td>
<td>The Black Archives</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MiMo Detail</td>
<td>Robin Hill</td>
<td>2, 136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Vanilla Orchid</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Rite Temple</td>
<td>Arva Moore Parks</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strangler Fig</td>
<td>George Kemper</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vizcaya Museum &amp; Gardens</td>
<td>Vizcaya Museum &amp; Gardens</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Visitor Resources

- **Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida Inc.**
  5400 NW 22nd Ave., Building C, Suite 101
  Miami, FL 33142
  305/636-2390 • theblackarchives.org

- **Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center**
  2820 McFarlane Road
  Coconut Grove, FL 33133
  305/444-7270 • coconutfrovecornerchamber.com

- **Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce**
  224 Catalonia Ave.
  Coral Gables, FL 33134
  305/446-1657 • coralgableschamber.org

- **Coral Gables Museum**
  285 Aragon Ave.
  Coral Gables, FL 33134
  305/603-8067 • coralgablesmuseum.org

- **Dade Heritage Trust**
  190 SE 12th Terrace
  Miami, FL 33131
  305/358-9572 • dadeheritagetrust.org

- **Downtown Miami Residents & Visitors Center**
  900 S. Miami Ave., Suite 183
  Miami, FL 33130
  305/379-7070 • downtownmiami.com

- **Downtown Miami Welcome Center**
  25 SE 2nd Ave., Suite 240
  Miami, FL 33130
  305/379-7070 • downtownmiami.com

- **Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau**
  701 Brickell Ave., Suite 2700
  Miami, FL 33131
  305/539-3000, 800/933-8448
  miamiandbeaches.com

- **HistoryMiami**
  101 W. Flagler St.
  Miami, FL 33130
  305/375-1492 • historymiami.org

- **Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center**
  88 W. McIntyre St., Suite 100
  Key Biscayne, FL 33149
  keybiscay necheamber.org

- **Little Havana Merchants Association**
  1442 SW 8th St.
  Miami, FL 33135
  305/857-0078, 888/428-2620

- **MDGLCC LGBT Visitor Center**
  1130 Washington Ave., 1st Floor North
  Miami Beach, FL 33139
  305/397-8914 • gogaymiami.com

- **Miami Beach Latin Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center**
  510 Lincoln Road
  Miami Beach, FL 33139
  305/674-1414 • miamibeach.org

- **Miami Design Preservation League/Art Deco Welcome Center**
  1001 Ocean Drive
  Miami Beach, FL 33139
  305/672-2014 • mdpl.org

- **Sunny Isles Beach Tourism and Marketing Council**
  18070 Collins Ave.
  Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
  305/792-1952 • sunnyislesbeachmi.com

- **Surfside Tourist Bureau**
  9301 Collins Ave.
  Surfside, FL 33154
  305/864-0722 • visitsurfsidefl.com

- **Tropical Everglades Visitor Association (TEVA)**
  160 U.S. Highway 1
  Florida City, FL 33034
  305/245-9180 • tropicaleverglades.com

- **Visit Miami Beach - Visitors Center**
  Miami Beach Convention Center
  1901 Convention Center Drive
  Miami Beach, FL 33139
  786/276-2763 • miamibeachguest.com
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