

# THE PINK PALM

WINTER 2019

The LGBTQ Travel Insider for Greater Miami and the Beaches



MIAMI™

GREATER MIAMI AND THE BEACHES

# WELCOME...

What sets Greater Miami and the Beaches apart from other great destinations? Just about everything. A little over a century ago, this seductive city was created as a pioneer trading post on the banks of the Miami River. Today, it's known as one of the most welcoming, progressive and exciting places in the world. Thanks to its amazing weather, thriving arts scene, diverse population and non-stop nightlife, Greater Miami has earned its spot as one of the preferred vacation destinations among the LGBTQ community. Its multifaceted appeal lets visitors enjoy second-to-none fun-in-the-sun partying, in addition to scoping out elite cultural happenings in a city that never sleeps.

The attractions lineup includes unique natural wonders like the Everglades, miles of sandy beaches, top sports teams and events, and world-class museums and festivals that you won't find anywhere else. With a wide range of gay-friendly events, accommodations and nightlife, Greater Miami is as inclusive as it is unique, as sophisticated as it is sexy. Get one step closer to the vacation of a lifetime!

Stop by and visit the LGBT Visitor Center for local and visitor information. Feel free to use the Michael Anthony Lucas Computer Center and our free Wi-Fi.

## LGBT Visitor Center

1130 Washington Ave., 1st Floor North  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
305/397-8914 • [GoGayMiami.com](http://GoGayMiami.com)

**Hours of Operation:**  
Mon-Fri: 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.  
Sat & Sun: 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.



305/673-4440  
[GayBizMiami.com](http://GayBizMiami.com)

The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC) is the largest not-for-profit corporation in the county for gay and lesbian businesses. MDGLCC offers the Pink Flamingo Hospitality Certification by training and certifying hospitality service professionals on issues related to gender and orientation, and giving them tools to respond appropriately to all people. This is essential for creating environments where all visitors and employees are welcome.

For a list of Pink Flamingo Certified Hotels and Businesses in Greater Miami and the Beaches, please visit [GayBizMiami.com](http://GayBizMiami.com)

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This publication was produced by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau with the support of the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.



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For information about Greater Miami and the Beaches, visit [MiamiandBeaches.com](http://MiamiandBeaches.com).



# WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE?

Whether it's for romance, business, family or a weekend getaway, Miami offers a wide variety of lodgings. You'll feel equally welcomed amid the hustle and bustle of South Beach and throughout all of Greater Miami.

Miami's incredibly diverse hotel scene comes in all styles. From historic Art Deco properties and charming bed-and-breakfast inns, to business hotels equipped with premier facilities and breathtaking oceanfront resorts, you decide. Business or pleasure, we aim to please.

South Beach features one of the most spectacular concentrations of 1930s architecture found anywhere in the world, and is a mecca for Art Deco enthusiasts. Staying at one of the iconic pastel-colored buildings on Ocean Drive or the surrounding streets is the perfect way to experience the historic glamour of Miami Beach.

Boutique & Lifestyle hotels are synonymous with Miami Beach's eclectic hotel choices — offering quiet spaces with designer touches and personalized service. Many are budget friendly and ideally located. Trendy and stylish, these hotels prove you don't have to break the bank to be where the action is!

Miami Beach Boutique & Lifestyle hotels are pleasing to the eye. From vibrant colors to soothing tones, soft sheets, free Wi-Fi and designer toiletries, you'll be well taken care of. Many Boutique & Lifestyle hotels have on-site spas with tropically inspired treatments and charming cafes where you can dine under the palms. Touches like complimentary afternoon iced tea, fresh flowers in your room and designer accents help add style to your experience.

If you're looking for star treatment, look no more. New upscale hotel brands are constantly raising the bar for Greater Miami's lodging options. Sophisticated travelers can relax and unwind at these luxury properties where pampering and attention to detail are the norm. To keep up with newcomers, established hotels and resorts are constantly reinventing their properties with designer makeovers of their own, which include spa additions and the latest in-room technology. Top-notch service, breathtaking views and gourmet dining are all hallmarks of Miami's finer hotels, which pride themselves on taking care of your every need.

For families, large resorts with imaginative children's programs are the perfect choice. Many are conveniently located near local

attractions and offer amazing pools for splashing around. Amenities like toy-filled welcome kits, cookies at turn-down time and active kids programs ensure the whole family will have a blast. Not staying at an oceanside resort? No worries, amazing public beaches are only minutes away.

Speaking of the whole family, Miami offers pet-friendly properties that welcome your furry friends with fresh water, tasty treats and a comfortable place to rest. Who wouldn't want to be treated like royalty? Don't hesitate to bring the whole family along! Find out more about pet-friendly accommodations at [GoGayMiami.com](http://GoGayMiami.com).

With the whole family in good hands, quality R&R time is back on the menu. For an up-close-and-personal feel of the royal

treatment, indulge in one of the many great spa resorts throughout Greater Miami and the Beaches. Vacationing at one of these rejuvenating palaces will leave you looking and feeling brand new. Ginger salt scrubs, after-sun facials and sunrise yoga on the beach... you'll be the envy of everyone back home. Be sure to call in advance and request a spa menu if you plan on visiting a resort spa, but are staying off-property. That way, you can book your preferred treatment ahead of time.

Wherever you choose to stay, you'll encounter genuinely friendly service, comfortable surroundings and stellar amenities. From Art Deco ambiance to state-of-the-art Downtown Miami properties, the variety of options for lodging throughout Greater Miami will help create lasting vacation memories! ✨



# #FOUNDINMIAMI

by DUANE WELLS

I arrived at Miami International Airport, where I hopped into a taxi and began to wind my way into the city. While the driver provided a soundtrack of Latin American pop music, I stared out the window at swaying palm trees through which appeared the city's twinkling skyline, staggered with a menagerie of ever-taller skyscrapers that appeared far more impressive than I had recalled.

In just under 20 minutes, I had arrived in downtown Miami and found myself standing in the lobby of the chic new ME Miami Hotel (MEmiami.com), one of only three Melia hotels in the United States. As a fan of the hotel's properties in Europe, I was curious to see how Melia translated their aesthetic to America, in general, and to Miami, in particular. In the final analysis, I discovered that the answer to my query was seamlessly sexy, modern, stylish, and sophisticated are trademark characteristics of the Melia brand, and my accommodations in one of the hotel's Style Suites ticked every one of those boxes. From the modern, minimalist décor and mood lighting to the walk-in closet, sumptuous bathroom and spacious terrace with views of Biscayne Bay, the ME Miami provided the first

indication that I was en route to discovering a new and different side of Miami.

On my first morning in the city, I met up with my long-time friend/partner-in-crime/occasional nemesis, YouTube digital storyteller, Davey Wavey for breakfast and together we set off to explore the Miami Design District (MiamiDesignDistrict.net), a burgeoning neighborhood just north of downtown, and less than 10 minutes away from South Beach, that has become a major hub of art, design, luxury retail, and fine dining. Fashionable upmarket brands including Gucci, Hermès, Dior, Tom Ford, Christian Louboutin, and Loewe commingle with high-end design showrooms and trendy restaurants in a swarm of fabulous that can quite easily consume a heady afternoon in this trendy hamlet so shiny and new that locals are only now experiencing it themselves for the first time.

The recently debuted Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (ICAmiami.org) features a stunning metallic façade and larger-than-life-size street-level logo that could be an art installation in and of itself. Chock full of significant works by renowned artists, the ICA collection is at once a

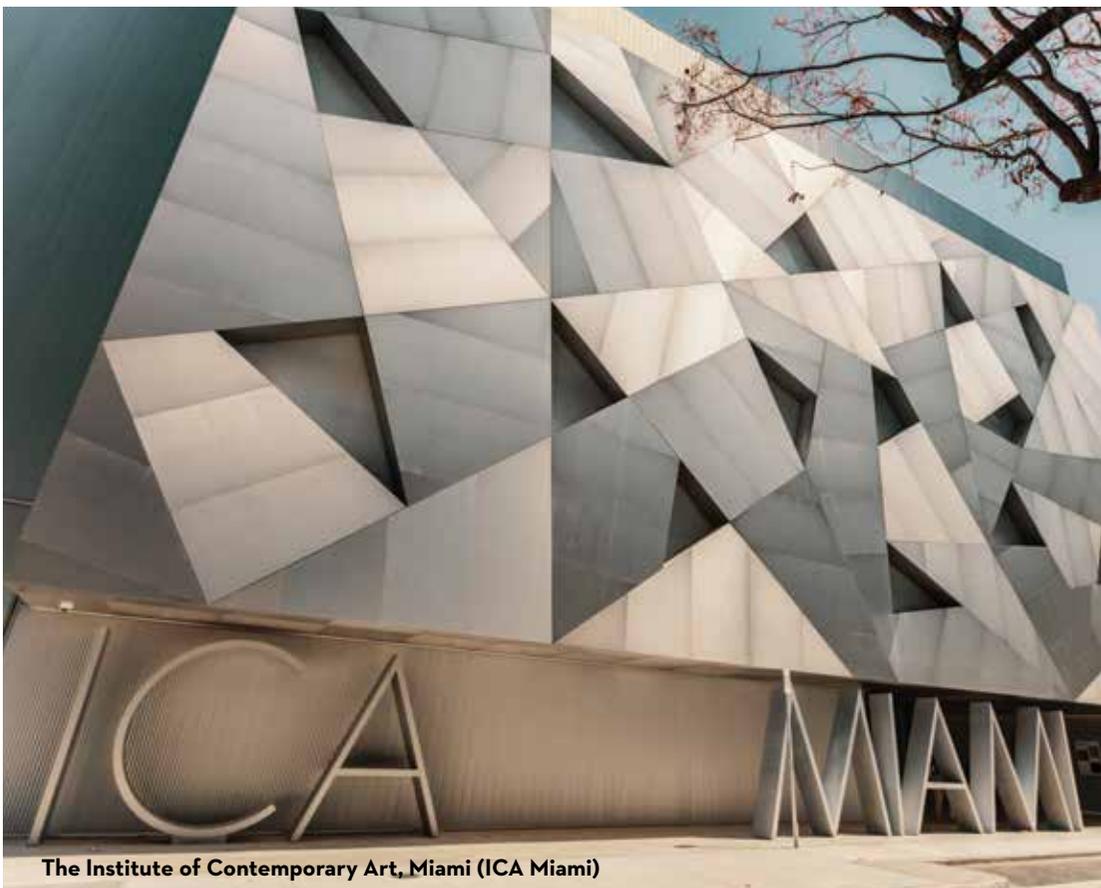


celebration of international contemporary art as well as a paean to the cultural life of Miami. We could quite easily have spent hours at the museum, but after taking in all three floors of the collection and spending more than our fair share of time tooling around the sculpture garden on a glorious Miami afternoon, it was time to get ready for dinner with friends at NaiYaRa (NaiYaRa.com), a buzzing bistro in Miami Beach specializing in tasty Thai street food and masterful cocktails.

The next day, Davey and I decided to explore the more historic side of Miami, starting with Little Havana. I, of course, had the hit Camila Cabello single, "Havana," playing in my head as we descended upon the legendary neighborhood, but I spared Davey the full extent of my enthusiasm by not singing the chorus out loud.

Our first stop was Calle Ocho, the main drag of Little Havana, which is dotted with cigar shops, art galleries, fruit stands, bars and cafés, and a Hollywood-style Walk of Fame with stars dedicated to Latin celebrities. A world unto itself, there is a noble air of nostalgia in Little Havana that has remained unaffected by blowback from its more cosmopolitan surroundings. It's quite intoxicating, really. Almost like stepping into a parallel Miami.

Speaking of which, for lunch, we ducked into Versailles (VersaillesRestaurant.com), a Little Havana staple, for an authentic Cuban lunch. Over chicken and steak topped with onions and tangy Cuban mojo, plates of rice and beans and grilled plantains, we settled into a booth and tucked in like locals at the institution that for more than four decades has been known as the meeting place for Cuban exiles. Though tempted to sample pastries from Versailles' celebrated bakery



The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (ICA Miami)



with modern farm-to-table American dishes to Miami's Wynwood neighborhood with unabashed gusto. Our menu choices for the evening included: spicy garlic gamberetti, pan-seared tiger prawns drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with chili flakes, parsley, and lemon; crispy sea cakes comprised of scallops, shrimp and lump crab meat served with a bright mustard aioli; and a fragrant, stew-like Brazilian moqueca filled with more locally sourced seafood accented by herbs, ginger, and coconut milk. Food aside, perhaps the most attractive asset of R House is that it lives up to its promise of seamlessly blending good food, local art, and lively music into a single hotspot that regularly attracts an artsy and attractive international crowd. And that is why it is the perfect jumping off point for exploring one of Miami's coolest neighborhoods.

for dessert, we opted instead to head back down Calle Ocho to sample the wildly popular ice cream at Azucar Ice Cream Company (AzucarIceCream.com), an artisanal ice cream and sorbet boutique notable for serving more than one hundred flavors. Take that Baskin Robbins! Davey ordered a scoop of Dulce de Leche and I had Almond, though we both agreed that the sweet shop's Birthday Cake flavor was pretty spectacular. In the end, we decided that both our choices were winners.

The following evening, we paid a visit to the Gaythering (Gaythering.com), which holds the distinction of being the only gay hotel in Miami Beach. Prominently located on a discreet corner just blocks away from the beach, the Gaythering boasts premium accommodations in multiple price categories, a clothing-optional, men-only sauna and steam room, as well as its own bar, appropriately called Bar Gaythering, in which guests and locals alike are invited to "gayther."

After drinks, we headed over to the hipster Wynwood arts district for an al fresco dinner at Chef Rocco Carulli's R House (RHouseWynwood.com), a combination restaurant, gallery, performance venue and meeting space that has become one of the up-and-coming area's most notable destinations. Formerly the owner and chef of Edwige at Night restaurant in Provincetown, MA for 13 years, Carulli has brought his flair for combining rustic Southern Italian plates

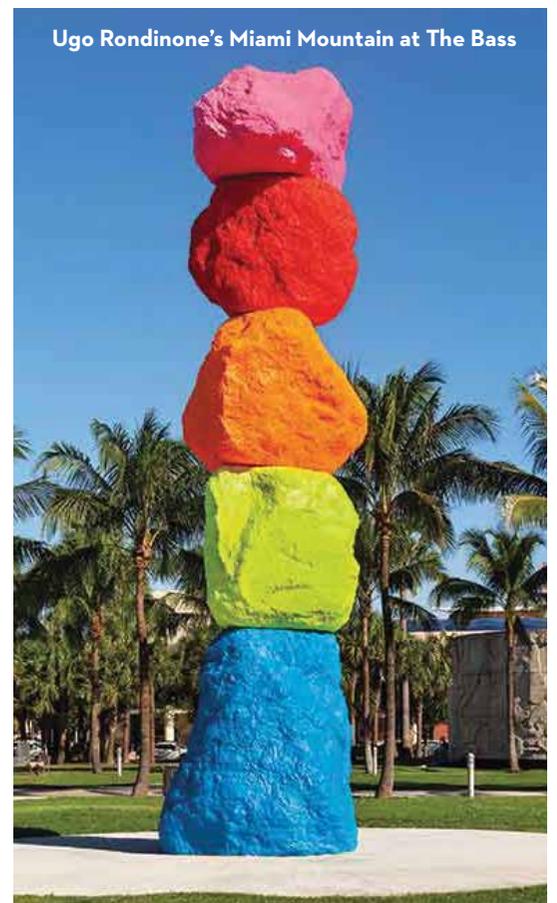
On our final day in Miami, we returned to Miami Beach to check out the recently reopened The Bass (TheBass.org) and the featured exhibition of mixed-media artist Ugo Rondinone. Ideally situated to take advantage of the best that South Beach has to offer, this fun, contemporary art museum resides at the crossroads of the sultry sands of the beach, the edgy Collins Avenue and Ocean Drive shopping district, and a lively bevy of restaurants and cafés, making it the perfect way to blend a little culture into a day at the beach, as we did.

From there it was off to a command royal engagement to experience a different kind of culture (drag culture to be precise) at the new location of the world-famous Palace Bar (PalaceSouthBeach.com). This iconic Ocean Drive institution, known for its nightly drag shows and wild Sunday drag brunch, lights up South Beach days and nights with a never-ending parade of sequins, wigs, hot men, and strong cocktails.

Though we would like to have spent more time paying homage to the fab queens at the Palace, we had one final stop to make at a party on the rooftop of W Miami (WMiamiHotel.com). Perched high atop the 50-story hotel in downtown Miami, the Wet Deck Lounge is a splashy, see-and-be-seen party destination showcasing stunning views and a rotating crew of hot DJs that keep the party pumping well into the night.

After mixing it up at the party, we began the walk back to our hotel and unexpectedly discovered a narrow alley behind SE 1st Avenue that revealed the final treasure of our visit. Occupied by a string of cozy restaurants of all varieties, this charming alley evoked memories of similarly tightly knit constellations of eateries in far-flung destinations ranging from Nice and Mallorca to Mykonos and Ibiza. We stopped in at Meraki Greek Bistro (MerakiBistro.com), grabbed a table outside under twinkling lights and noshed on salads, hummus and tzatziki in an atmosphere redolent with the joie de vivre of Mamma Mia. What a pleasant surprise.

A starry night, fresh, deliciously authentic food, and a spirited crowd — this was the perfect finale to our Miami trip, where a plethora of exciting experiences await visitors to this brilliantly colorful, world-class destination of dazzling art and culture, seductive nightlife, and fine dining. ✨



## LGBTQ Annual Events

For exact dates, websites and additional information, please go to [VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com](http://VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com)



**Winter Party Festival**  
Feb/Mar



**OUTshine Film Festival**  
Apr



**Out in the Tropics**  
May/Jun



**Celebrate Orgullo**  
Oct



**White Party**  
Nov



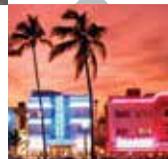
**Gay8 Festival**  
Feb



**Miami Beach Pride**  
Apr



**Sizzle Miami**  
May



**Aqua Girl**  
Sep/Oct



**Hialeah Pride**  
Oct



# FOR WOMEN WHO **LOVE** WOMEN

Miami offers something to make you glad you are here, any and every day of the year.

by **A.M. DE LA TORRE**

Thanks to online, digital, and social media, a city's lesbian or gay bar is no longer the sole resource for meeting like-minded locals and visitors. Lesbian fun can be found every day, in expected and unexpected places, and here's your insider guide to live it like a local.

## **CARE TO DANCE?**

Miami is legendary for its energetic dance parties. Icandee and Pandora, organizers of lesbian events, have a successful history of making merry for the ladies in Miami. Each organizes separate bimonthly events for gay women at cool locations throughout the city. They are also the dynamos behind lesbian-focused soirees held during annual special events such as Miami Beach Pride, the OUTshine Film Festival, the White Party, Gay8 Festival, and the legendary Aqua Girl.

Newer event promoters have added dimension, diversity and buzz to the Miami lesbian social scene. A Different Kind of Ladies Night and LesConnect organize "takeover" parties with varying frequency and a variety of formats such as Happy Hour events, a sunset cruise, live music concert or a karaoke night. 2Sis, another organization, attracts a largely Hispanic/Latina lesbian crowd to a weekly Saturday night gathering, where they "shake what their mamas gave them" to merengue, bachata, vallenato and salsa. Interested in something more low-key or sporty? Check MeetUp or Facebook to find gay-oriented nature outings or sporting activities, or see what the non-profit Aqua Foundation for Women has planned. Check online to see what's coming up, who's attending and maybe even find an online pal while researching.

Make a new gay friend at the Miami Beach LGBT Visitor Center. Miami Beach has historically been the epicenter of gay life in Miami. So, it's no surprise that the city



offers one of the country's first LGBT visitor centers. Open seven days a week, the center — situated in the historic Old City Hall building (an attraction in itself) — provides information to thousands of tourists each year and hosts weekly activities for locals and visitors. Stop in and learn what's going on during the days you're in town. Insider tip: they can also inform you of discounts at member establishments throughout the city.

After your official welcome, walk a few blocks east and grab an ocean-view seat at the official LGBT beach (the rainbow flags give the location away.) Nothing will get you in the Miami spirit like a little sunbathing and a splash in our turquoise Atlantic waters. And speaking of spirits, the Palace Bar, two blocks south, is the gay go-to for cocktails, nibbles and outrageous drag shows, any day — and especially during the weekend.

## **BEYOND THE BEACH: HIP, BOHEMIAN AND ARTSY HANGOUTS YOU'LL WANT TO CHECK OUT.**

The Wynwood and Coconut Grove neighborhoods of Miami possess a richly diverse population and an "anything goes" vibe. In hipster-haven Wynwood, an outdoor art district that was once only warehouses, Gramps is a bar with a no-judgements policy, potent cocktails and a calendar of gay-friendly events. Laid-back and gritty-in-a-good-way, Wood Tavern features a big outdoor yard with music and dancing, where the friendly conversation flows as freely

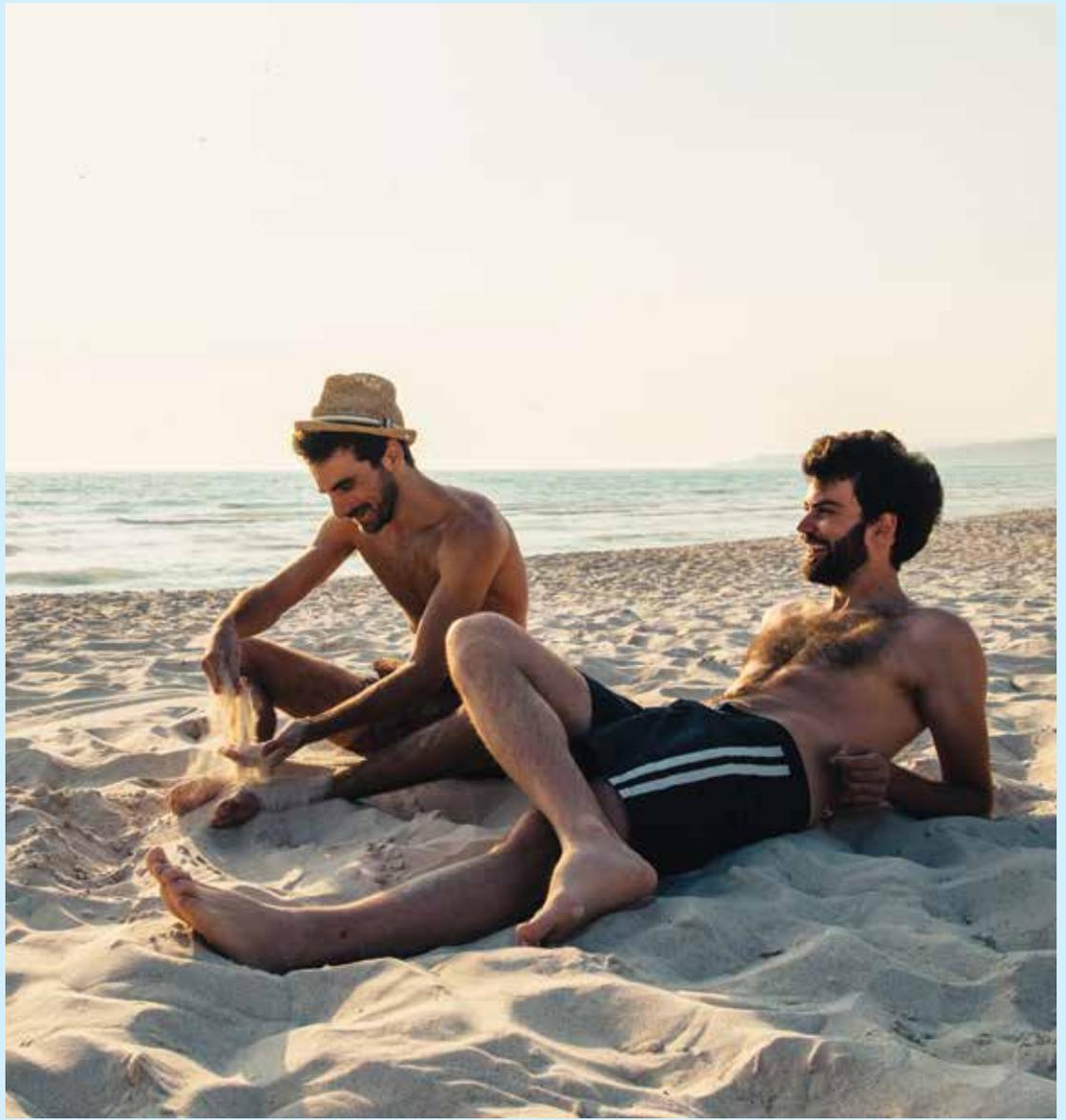
as the craft beers. A little farther north, along Biscayne Boulevard, you'll find the MiMo District (Miami Modern), and Vagabond Sushi Bar. Located inside a chic, retro motel from Miami's mid-century, the Sushi Bar attracts a diverse crowd for happy hours, dinners, music nights and Sunday poolside parties. Heading south and delving into Miami's past, Coconut Grove is a lush neighborhood along Biscayne Bay that's always been a home to originals. Bahamians and bohemians, hippies and artists created a vibrant area tolerant of all kinds of lifestyles and viewpoints. Sidewalk cafes, bayfront bars and grills, and unique boutiques attract LGBTQ locals and visitors, who come to "the Grove" for brunch, happy hours, romantic al fresco dining or the yearly arts festival.

Interested in something intellectual? O Cinema's two locations feature art film screenings, and films for LGBTQ audiences are very well represented. Don't forget to visit the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) — and not just for the art — the building and its bayfront location are enough to make you swoon. It's a perfect place for a first date — or a marriage proposal(!) — because Miami does cast its magical spell, after all.

Besides enjoying the larger annual LGBTQ events and happenings that Miami offers, know that the rainbow-colored carpet is always rolled out for you and plenty of fun is here to be had every extraordinary, ordinary Miami day. 🌸

# MIAMI'S BEACHES... ALL THAT AND MORE!

by LIZ CEPEDA



All of Miami's amazing beaches are LGBTQ friendly, but as you walk up 12th Street Beach off of Ocean Drive, you know you are at a place where you will be right at home. You may recognize the Art Deco District scenery from television and film and there is always such a happy and upbeat feeling with plenty of restaurants and bars to choose from. I guarantee you're going to want to stop by every single one that you pass.

Crossing the street to the beach you'll walk through Lummus Park. This park is a must see for anyone visiting the area. There are walking and bike trails throughout the park that lead you to the beach and when you are done with the sun and sand, Lummus Park is right by Ocean Drive's famous restaurants, bars and stores.

12th Street Beach is the most popular gay beach in Miami, along with Haulover Beach up north between Bal Harbour and Sunny Isles.

Don't forget to look out for the Miami Beach Pride parade and festival during the spring as it brings the street to life even more. You absolutely must attend this extraordinary event on Ocean Drive at least once (but hopefully more). Each year the number of attendees grows by the thousands!

Haulover Beach, a private 1.5 mile strip along the Miami coast, also has a .4 mile clothing optional area located on the northern end of the beach. You will know you are there from the posted signs. If you're looking to relax "au naturel" and catch some sun without getting tan lines, this is the place for you. The soft sand between your toes and crystal clear waters will let you know you're in paradise.

You'll feel very comfortable and no one will judge you for your age, sexual orientation, or body shape and size. Many gay couples enjoy coming to this beach because they are free to be themselves without any limitations. You

can even bring your fur baby, Fido, here for some fun in the sun on "Dog Beach Days" — Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Haulover Park has bicycle and beach wheelchair rentals available, Skyward Kite Shop, Food Truck Tuesdays from 5 to 9:30 p.m. (weather permitting), and a Fresh Market in the fall. Bring your picnic basket to enjoy a seaside picnic with your friends or stop by the Grand Beach Hotel restaurant, just a hop over the bridge in Surfside for some al fresco dining of light bites and tasty cocktails as you listen to the soothing sound of the waves breaking over the shore.

Please be aware that you may not bring any sort of flotation devices, in order to protect our natural areas along the beach, according to a Miami-Dade County ordinance. 🌺

# WINTER IN MIAMI

Making the most of your time in Miami this winter

## JANUARY

12/1/18-1/31/19

**Miami Arts & Heritage Months**

[MiamiTemptations.com](http://MiamiTemptations.com)

1/4-6

**South Beach Jazz Festival**

[SouthBeachJazzFest.com](http://SouthBeachJazzFest.com)

1/10-24

**Miami Jewish Film Festival**

[MiamiJewishFilmFestival.org](http://MiamiJewishFilmFestival.org)

1/12-13

**Beaux Arts Festival**

[BeauxArtsMiami.org](http://BeauxArtsMiami.org)

1/18-20

**Miami Antiques + Art + Design Show**

[MiamiAntiquesArtDesign.com](http://MiamiAntiquesArtDesign.com)



1/18-20

**Miami Design Preservation League's Art Deco Weekend**

[ArtDecoWeekend.com](http://ArtDecoWeekend.com)

1/21

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade**



1/27

**Fitbit Miami Marathon and Half Marathon**

[TheMiamiMarathon.com](http://TheMiamiMarathon.com)

1/27-30

**The Original Miami Beach Antique Show**

[OriginalMiamiBeachAntiqueShow.com](http://OriginalMiamiBeachAntiqueShow.com)

## FEBRUARY

2/1-3/31

**Miami Health & Wellness Months**

[MiamiTemptations.com](http://MiamiTemptations.com)

2/8-10

**GroundUp Music Festival**

[GroundUpMusicFestival.com](http://GroundUpMusicFestival.com)



2/14-18

**Art Wynwood**

[ArtWynwood.com](http://ArtWynwood.com)

2/14-18

**Miami Yacht Show**

[MiamiYachtShow.com](http://MiamiYachtShow.com)



2/14-19

**Progressive Miami International Boat Show**

[MiamiBoatShow.com](http://MiamiBoatShow.com)

2/15-17

**III Points Festival**

[iiiPoints.com](http://iiiPoints.com)



2/16-18

**Coconut Grove Arts Festival**

[CGAF.com](http://CGAF.com)



2/17

**Gay8 Festival**

[Gay8Festival.com](http://Gay8Festival.com)



2/20-24

**Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival**

[SoBeWFF.org](http://SoBeWFF.org)



2/27-3/5

**Winter Party Festival**

[WinterParty.com](http://WinterParty.com)

## MARCH

2/1-3/31

**Miami Health & Wellness Months**

[MiamiTemptations.com](http://MiamiTemptations.com)



3/1-10

**Miami Film Festival**

[MiamiFilmFestival.com](http://MiamiFilmFestival.com)

3/2-3

**Carnaval on the Mile**

[CarnavalMiami.com](http://CarnavalMiami.com)

3/4-10

**Miami Sailing Week**

[MiamiSailingWeek.com](http://MiamiSailingWeek.com)

3/9-10

**Jazz in the Gardens Music Festival**

[JazzInTheGardens.com](http://JazzInTheGardens.com)

3/10

**Calle Ocho Festival**

[CarnavalMiami.com/events/calle-ocho](http://CarnavalMiami.com/events/calle-ocho)

3/18-31

**Miami Open**

[MiamiOpen.com](http://MiamiOpen.com)

3/25-28

**Winter Music Conference**

[WinterMusicConference.com](http://WinterMusicConference.com)



3/29-31

**Ultra Music Festival**

[UltraMusicFestival.com](http://UltraMusicFestival.com)

For a full list of events in Greater Miami, please visit:

[MiamiandBeaches.com/events](http://MiamiandBeaches.com/events)