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!

WHAT’S YOUR PLEASURE?

Whether it’s for romance, business or a weekend getaway, Miami offers a wide variety of lodging options.

#FOUNDINMIAMI

PASSPORT Magazine’s Duane Wells tells the tales of what he Found in Miami!

WINTER IN MIAMI

Making the most of your time in Miami this winter.

FOR WOMEN WHO LOVE WOMEN

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

MIAMI’S BEACHES

They are all that and more!
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.

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!
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 toiling 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...
LGBTQ Annual Events

For exact dates, websites and additional information, please go to VisitMiamiLGBTQ.com
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.

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 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, just 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. ♡
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

1/4-6
South Beach Jazz Festival
SouthBeachJazzFest.com

1/10-24
Miami Jewish Film Festival
MiamiJewishFilmFestival.org

1/12-13
Beaux Arts Festival
BeauxArtsMiami.org

1/18-20
Miami Antiques + Art + Design Show
MiamiAntiquesArtDesign.com

1/18-20
Miami Design Preservation League’s Art Deco Weekend
ArtDecoWeekend.com

1/21
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade

1/27
Fitbit Miami Marathon and Half Marathon
TheMiamiMarathon.com

1/27-30
The Original Miami Beach Antique Show
OriginalMiamiBeachAntiqueShow.com

FEBRUARY
2/1-3/31
Miami Health & Wellness Months
MiamiTemptations.com

1/28-10
GroundUp Music Festival
GroundUpMusicFestival.com

2/14-18
Art Wynwood
ArtWynwood.com

2/14-18
Miami Yacht Show
MiamiYachtShow.com

2/14-19
Progressive Miami International Boat Show
MiamiBoatShow.com

2/15-17
III Points Festival
iiiPoints.com

2/17
Gay8 Festival
Gay8Festival.com

2/20-24
Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival
SoBeWFF.org

2/27-3/5
Winter Party Festival
WinterParty.com

MARCH
2/1-3/31
Miami Health & Wellness Months
MiamiTemptations.com

2/27-31
Ultra Music Festival
UltraMusicFestival.com

For a full list of events in Greater Miami, please visit:
MiamiandBeaches.com/events

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