

MIAMI



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1

Decadent Deco hotels

SoBe Deco-Dence

1 Tides This fully restored Art Deco landmark hotel, with its distinctive coral rock entrance, is in the heart of all SoBe attractions. The décor is epitomized by cool, white linen and overstuffed sofas and easy chairs in all rooms. Superb service.

► 1220 Ocean Drive • 1-800-688-7678 • \$\$\$\$



2 Delano A very trippy and ultra-luxurious Post-Modern wonder. The original, rather austere white exterior has been restored without any fuss. But inside, the divine madness of Philippe Starke, along with hilarious Dalí- and Gaudí-inspired designs have been given room to play. The very chi-chi and daring Blue Door restaurant is co-owned by Madonna.

► 1685 Collins Ave • 1-800-555-5001 •

www.ianschragherhotels.com • \$\$\$\$

3 Raleigh On the pricey side, to be sure, but nothing less than fabulous. The décor has endless style and panache, often with period pieces. The eye-popping swimming pool is immortalized in several Esther Williams movies.

► 1775 Collins Ave • 1-800-848-1775 • www.raleighhotel.com • \$\$\$

4 The Hotel “Tiffany,” as proclaimed by the neon tower, was The Hotel’s name until the famous jewelry company sued. It’s so long on style and comfort, designed by Todd Oldham, that it qualifies as a work of art in itself.

► 801 Collins Ave • 1-877-843-4683 • www.thehotelfsouthbeach.com • \$\$\$

5 Nash One of the more sober Deco edifices, built in 1938 and impeccably restored with every comfort. The rooms are done in a tastefully subdued Post-Modern style by noted designer Peter Page, who also restored other South Beach landmarks.

► 1120 Collins Ave • 305-674-7800 • www.hotelnash.com • \$\$

6 Avalon Actually two hotels on opposite corners of 7th Street, these perfectly located Deco bon-bons are excellent value. You’re in the middle of SoBe’s most popular stretch, and you get comfortable rooms and a complimentary continental breakfast.

► 700 Ocean Drive • 1-800-933-3306 • www.southbeachhotels.com • \$\$\$

7 Albion

Excellent value, considering the extreme chic that exudes from the cutting-edge restoration of this great Deco original. Check out the pool’s peek-a-boo portholes.

► 1650 James Ave at Lincoln Rd • 1-877-782-3557 • www.rubellhotels.com • \$\$

8 Abbey One of the most appealing of the Deco treasures. The décor is simple and comfortable, and rooms are quiet due to its location off the beaten path. Pluses include a remarkable restaurant and a fitness room.

► 300 21st St • 1-888-612-2239 • www.abbeyhotel.com • \$\$

9 Best Western South Beach You can’t say much for the name, but the property is actually four ‘30s Art Deco sugar cubes (the Kenmore, Taft, Bel Aire, and Davis) spread over the entire block between 10th and 11th Streets. All are freshly restored and set amid spacious gardens.

► 1050 Washington Ave • 305-674-1930 • www.bestwestern.com • \$\$

10 Breakwater Hotel This Art Deco gem is located in the heart of lively South Beach. Facilities include valet parking, business facilities, and a health and fitness center. Rooms are comfortable and the penthouse has a jacuzzi bath and private sundeck.

► 940 Ocean Dr, Miami Beach • 305-532-1220 • www.breakwater-hotel.com • \$\$\$

2

Shopping

Art Deco District Welcome Center

A treasure-trove of Deco kitsch to take home as your very own. Everything from cutesy salt-&pepper sets to really rather nice reproduction lamps.

► 1001 Ocean Drive, South Beach

Bal Harbour Shops

The ultimate in chichi, down to the English spelling of "Harbour" (see Bal Harbour). Here are Hermès, Gucci, Armani, Dior, Bulgari, Tiffany, Versace, and Louis Vuitton, not to mention Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, Prada, and Lalique. Need we say more? Well, okay, Nieman Marcus, and Saks Fifth Avenue.

► 9700 Collins Avenue • Map H2 • 954-760-4005 • www.balharbourshops.com

Boca Raton

Newly expanded, Boca's premier mall just took a quantum leap into even greater luxury. It now has a Nordstrom to go with its Saks, Cartier, Tiffany, Lord & Taylor, Bloomie's, and Williams-Sonoma. Set amid exotic foliage, skylights, handglazed tiles, and sculptural accents, there's also a fancy cuisine court – no fast-food chain joints here! If you venture into downtown Boca, be sure to stroll through pastel-pink Mizner Park, where you'll also find more chic shopping options.

► Town Center 6000 W Glades Road • 561-368-6000

Conch Republic Cigar Factory

"Savor the flavor of paradise" is their motto, and this old factory probably does, in fact, turn out the next best thing to a genuine Cuban stogie. Prices range from \$3 to \$10.75 for a single cigar.

► 512 Greene Street, Key West • www.conch-cigars.com

Grand Vin

Great wines from around the world at good prices, and the chance to try many of them by the glass. Sit out on the porch and watch the life on the street.

► 1107 Duval Street, Key West

The Falls

Semi-open-air arcades with waterfalls and tropical vegetation form the backdrop to over 100 shops. Mostly upscale, they include Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Banana Republic, the Pottery Barn, and the Discovery Channel Store for kids. In addition, there are 12 movie screens

and some 13 restaurants and cafés, including the inevitable Haagen Däzs and Mrs. Field's Cookies.

► 8888 SW 136th St. • 305-255-4570 • www.shopthefalls.com

Lincoln Road Markets



This lively pedestrian area, graced with attractive fountains and upscale restaurants and shops, also offers various markets. On Sunday, there's one selling fruit and flowers, plus regional products, and specialties. Every other Sunday from October to May, there's also a collectors' market, and on the second Tuesday of the month "Arts on the Road" features all sorts of work.

► Lincoln Road, between Washington Ave and Alton Rd • Map Q-R2

The Gallery at Kona Kai Resort

Impressive selection of international artwork, including painting (Sobran and Magni), sculpture (Pollès bronzes), and stunning Keys nature photography.

► MM 97.8 bayside, 97802 Overseas Highway (US 1) • www.konakairesort.com

3

Wining and dining

Baleen

Fresh oysters shucked at your table, the best lobster bisque on Biscayne Bay, oaksmoked diver scallops, and Asian bouillabaisse are some of the treats.

► 4 Grove Isle Drive, Coconut Grove • 305-857-5007 • \$\$\$\$

A & B Lobster House

Located in the heart of Key West in a renovated historic building. Maine lobster, fresh shrimp, and waterfront views. There are two dining rooms – the more expensive one is upstairs.

► 700 Front St, Key West • 305-295-5880 • \$\$\$

Alice's at La-Te-Da, Key West



Alice Weingarten creates culinary magic, with her signature fusion cuisine, all set in a romantic garden atmosphere.

► 1125 Duval St, Key West • Map A6 • 305-296-6706 • \$\$\$

Mangoes

A meal here is not to be missed, not only for the exciting food – such as their signature wild mushroom and truffle “martini” – but also because the place is so central to Key West life.

► 700 Duval St., Key West • 305-292-4606 • \$\$\$

Mark's South Beach

Master-chef Mark Militello offers a wonderful fusion dining experience. Culinary stunners may include tenderloin of beef with roasted garlic purée on a polenta crouton. Desserts are extraordinary, too, and the wine selection perfect (see Mark's South Beach, South Beach).

► Hotel Nash, 1120 Collins Ave, South Beach • 305-604-9050 • \$\$\$\$

Norman's, Coral Gables



Haute-nouvelle-evolved fusion cuisine at its peak of foodie perfection. Norman has gained a much-deserved national and international reputation for his subtle inventiveness, and he's published a number of books revealing some, but not all, of his secrets (see Norman's).

Rick's Blue Heaven

You'll never forget the charm and delicious food at this wonderful place (see Key West).

Berlin's Cigar and Cocktail Bar

Paneled walls, thick carpet, and soft lights give this place its oldworld charm. Enjoy a cigar and a cocktail while enjoying the view of the yachts at Key West Bight.

► 700 Front St, Key West • 305-294-5880

Front Porch Café

Many consider the breakfast here to be the best in South Beach. The atmosphere's homey, and the food's definitely worth the wait.

► Penguin Hotel, 424 Ocean Drive, South Beach • \$

Mynt

Go – even if it's just to sample a tippie or two from the cocktail menu. This stylish, sophisticated nightclub is for a hip South Beach crowd in the know.

► 1921 Collins Ave, Miami Beach • 786-276-6132

News Café

Numero uno on Ocean Drive, it's spacious and bustling, perfect for a drink, snack, or meal, and avid people-watching.

► 800 Ocean Drive, at 8th St • \$

4

Top 10 beaches

Beaches

1 Lummus Park Beach

This broad, long, and well-maintained stretch of sand is, for many, the epitome of South Beach. In season, bronzed bodies line up row after row, some with boom boxes blasting, others just catching the rays. The more active play volleyball, do gymnastics, and, of course, take to the waves. From 5th to 11th Streets, women can go topless.

► **Map S3**



2 Haulover Park Beach

Haulover has been spared the sight of high-rise development. The dune-backed beach lies along the eastern side of the park, and to the north it has become the only nude beach

in the county, part of it gay.

► **Map H2** • Just north of Bal Harbour



3 South Pointe Park Beach

Though not well known for its beaches, the park's northern part is popular with surfers, and you can watch cruise ships gliding in and out of the Port of Miami. It's

also great for walks, and there's a fitness course, an observation tower, charcoal grills, picnic spots, and playgrounds.

► **Map S6**

4 Sunny Isles Beach

More noteworthy for its 1950s' tourist-resort kitsch than for its rocky sand, this strip is popular with older tourists, as well as surfers and sailors. Souvenir shops and hotels indulge in campy architectural fancies, featuring exotic themes along Collins (A1A) between 160th & 185th Streets.

► **Map H3**

5 Hobie Island Beach and Virginia Key Beach

windsurfers, Virginia Key – neighbor to Key Biscayne and similarly shrouded in Australian pines – has no residents and few visitors. Under Old South segregation, it was the only Miami beach African-Americans were allowed to use. Once you walk through the vegetation, the 2-mile (3-km) beach here is fine and relatively empty. Both are excellent for children due to the warm bay waters, but Virginia Key has deep waters and possible undertow.

► **Map H3**

6 Crandon Beach

One of several South Florida beaches that are rated among the top ten in the entire US, this one is on upper Key Biscayne (see Crandon Park).

► **Map H3-4**

7 Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area

Also rated as one of the top ten beaches in the US, located at the pristine southern tip of Key Biscayne.

► **Map H4**



8 Matheson Hammock Park Beach

Considerably battered by 1992's Hurricane Andrew, this 100-acre (40-ha) park is making a comeback. Developed in the 1930s by Commodore J. W.

Matheson, it features the manmade Atoll Pool, a salt-water swimming pool encircled by sand and palm trees right alongside Biscayne Bay. The tranquil beach is popular with families and enjoys warm, safe waters surrounded by tropical hardwood forests. Other attractions include walking trails through the mangrove swamp.

► **Map G4** • N of Fairchild Tropical Garden

9 Bahia Honda State Park

Frequently voted the best beach in the US, Bahia Honda is noted for its perfect sands, great watersports, and exotic tropical forests.

► **Map B6**



10 Key West Beaches

Key West's relatively modest beaches are lined up along the southern side of the island, stretching from Fort Zachary Taylor State Park in the west to Smathers Beach in the east. The latter

is the largest and most popular, but locals favor the former because it's less crowded. For convenience, the beach at the bottom of Duval Street, at the Southernmost Point in the US, is fine, friendly, and full of refreshment options.

► **Map A6**

















Downtown and Little Havana













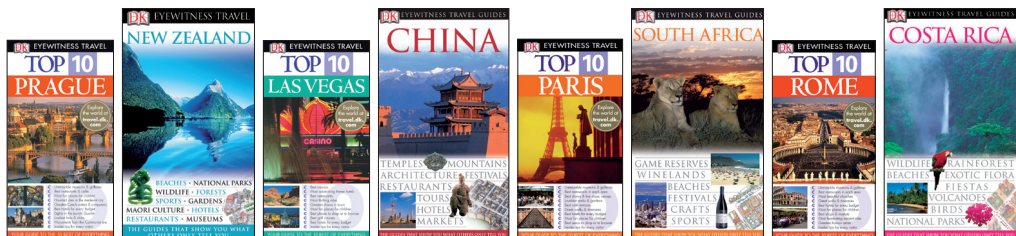


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