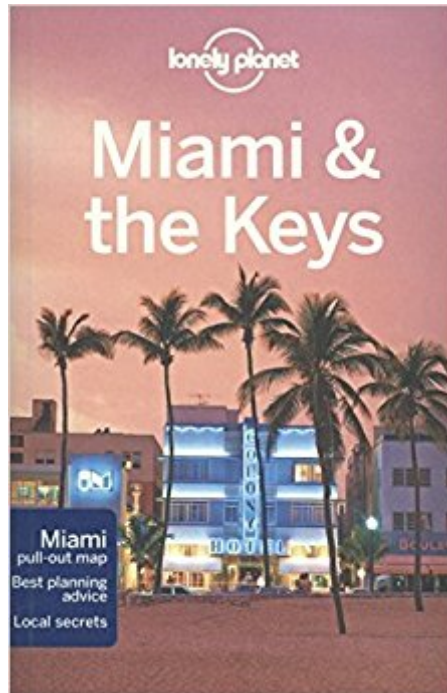




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Lonely Planet Miami & The Keys (Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher Lonely Planet Miami & the Keys is your passport to the most relevant, up-to-date advice on what to see and skip, and what hidden discoveries await you. Explore the art-deco streets of South Beach, spot alligators amongst the Everglades' mangroves, or party all night in Key West; all with your trusted travel companion. Get to the heart of Miami & the Keys and begin your journey now! Inside Lonely Planet's Miami & the Keys Travel Guide: Color maps and images throughout Highlights and itineraries help you tailor your trip to your personal needs and interests Insider tips to save time and money and get around like a local, avoiding crowds and trouble spots Essential info at your fingertips - hours of operation, phone numbers, websites, transit tips, prices Honest reviews for all budgets - eating, sleeping, sight-seeing, going out, shopping, hidden gems that most guidebooks miss Cultural insights give you a richer, more rewarding travel experience - history, multicultural Miami, cuisine, drink, art-deco architecture, environment Free, convenient pull-out Miami map (included in print version), plus over 15 color maps Covers South Beach, Downtown Miami, Wynwood, Design District, Little Haiti, Northern Miami Beach, Coral Gables, Little Havana, Coconut Grove, Key Biscayne, Everglades, Florida Keys, Key West and more The Perfect Choice: Lonely Planet Miami & the Keys, our most comprehensive guide to Miami & the Keys, is perfect for both exploring top sights and taking roads less traveled. Looking for more extensive coverage? Check out Lonely Planet's Florida guide for a comprehensive look at all the region has to offer, or Discover Florida guide, a photo-rich guide focused on the state's most popular sights. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet and Adam Karlin. About Lonely Planet: Since 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel media company with guidebooks to every destination, an award-winning website, mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveler community. Lonely Planet covers must-see spots but also enables curious travelers to get off beaten paths to understand more of the culture of the places in which they find themselves.

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Customer Reviews

Went to Miami and the Keys and this was our go-to book. Compact, with just enough details and good restaurant recommendations (though we did rely on Yelp to provide those). Gave us a good feel for what to see and what to skip of all the attractions. We really appreciated to have a book that seemed tailored exactly to our trip. The only cons are my usual problems with Lonely Planet guides - one, the graphic design is not very attractive, and two, I use online reviews for accommodation and restaurants as they are the most up-to-date, so these pages in Lonely Planet are a waste for me; would rather have more descriptions of actual attractions instead. But I guess this is very individual.

This book is so horribly organized!! Hotel and restaurant information is not grouped together by area. You have to search through different areas of the book to get info on activities, hotels, and restaurants, which are all in different areas of the book. - Table of Contents is incorrect! - No pictures - Overpriced

Poorly designed, it's difficult to browse sights, restaurants, etc in one area for Miami given that they lump all options together in the respective sections and not by neighborhood. I feel that the author didn't capture a lot of what's available in other Miami neighborhoods. We abandoned this early (on the plane) and stuck to Google and word of mouth. Very surprised, lonely planet is usually outstanding.

Turns out Miami isn't really a city you need a guidebook for. Unless you don't ever use the internet. A fine book - just unnecessary.

It is exactly what I expected from Lonely Planet

Excellent.

Loney Planet is my default, but not only, guidebook for most trips outside the US, so when I was looking to go to Miami I naturally also considered LP. This was by far the best book I found for a casual traveler to the area who is not a spring-breaker. I say that because as with most LP books, there is a club section, and advice on maimi nightlight which is very helpful - but it's a broad and well-balanced book covering the neighborhoods in and around the city of Miami, as I'd expect and wanted. That said, I did have two issues with the book: 1. Miami is NOT Miami Beach, but the (independent city) Miami Beach is covered in this book. That said, most of the information is focused on SOUTH Miami Beach, and then has a fairly skimpy section on North Maimi Beach, Bal Harbor, etc, before picking up again with a ton of info on Fort Lauderdale. I get that, because they're focusing on where most people go - but given that the towns north of South Beach and south of Fort Lauderdale offer exceptional value and today with Uber and the extremely cheap rates for rental cars in Miami (\$206 during spring break for 8 days for a Corolla that seats 4), I was surprised there wasn't more focus on those areas as an excellent value. They also are home to Little Argentina and some of the best homestyle Peruvian, Argentine, Venezuelan, Columbian, and Brasilian food I've found in the US. 2. My first day in town, I took a culinary+history walking tour of Little Havana to kill time before I could check into the hotel, since it's en route from the airport to the barrier island that we call the city of Miami Beach. I didn't even have time to read the section on Little Havana in the book before the tour, but I fully expected to find many of the places we visited in the book. Nope! Hardly any, in fact! That surprised me, because not only did we have a great experience, and the food was delicious, but the tour group was lead by a first-generation Cuban-American guy who had a very close connection to the community and a lot of insider knowledge... and it was clear from our experience we weren't simply being taken to places that were just the ones willing to pay the tour company to stop there. So why were these places not in Lonely Planet? I have no idea. But I'd have been very sad to miss them, if I'd done a self-guided tour only with the book. Considering Little Havana was our favorite part of the trip, I can only suggest to find an independent tour group to take you through Little Havana the first time you go, and then continue the exploration on your own. Tips:- apartment hotels have full kitchens or kitchenettes and often have more charm than regular hotels at the same price- if you book independently through HomeAway, Air B&B, FLipkey, etc. - do your homework and check multiple reviews on the property before booking, not only on the main listing website- there's a free shuttle that runs 08:00-midnight every day of the week up and down the main drag of Collins Avenue - I did not find this listed anywhere!- North Beach, around 62nd street and above, have great prices, great inexpensive eateries, and are just 20 minutes from South Beach

and Little Havana- RENTAL CAR SUNPASS CHARGES: DON'T be strong-armed into buying a Sunpass at \$8/day extra from a rental agency if you plan to primarily stay on the island of Miami Beach. At every drugstore or grocery store, you can spend \$5 to buy an Express Toll Lane pass, and you can use your smartphone or call to add a minimum of \$10 to the pass (I recommend \$11, because the highest toll we saw was \$10.50), which even if you don't use it for the whole week, will be cheaper by far than paying for a pass you're not likely to use. Then, change your Waze app or Google Maps app settings to "Avoid toll roads" and you're going to be fine. Just peel it off when you turn in the rental car.- SPRING BREAK: the four weeks preceding Easter are Spring Break time, and prices can quickly double during that time. But more importantly, do your research on what Spring Break is really like by checking local Miami news websites, before you decide where to stay and when to go.... February is cooler, and the water is cooler, but you'll pay much less and the beaches will be fairly empty. By mid-march, trash is everywhere, vomit, beer cans, and parties and noise will keep you wide awake even if you're a solid sleeper.... think about staying a few blocks off the beach, or north of South Beach proper.- Little Havana recommendations:---- Ball and Chain jazz bar and eatery for live music 12pm-10pm every day, including live Cuban jazz 12pm-6pm and the best true mojito in the city---- El Exquisito restaurant - really, a tiny 10-seat cafe across from Ball and Chain - for Cuban coffee and Cuban pressed sandwiches---- Cuba Tobacco Cigar Co. - the one with the wooden Indian and 3rd-generation owner Don Bello sitting outside the door.... incredible quality even we, as novice smokers, could tell the difference from others we tried, and it's a true family-run, family-owned business - please support them!---- Tinto Y Cafe - technically slightly outside the border of Little Havana in Bricknell, this Cuban family-run coffee shop and cafe had hands-down the best pastries in the city, incredible coffee and wine, and while the seating is limited and the space a bit dark, you feel from the first visit like you want to hang out there all day and just talk to people and the owners. Really fantastic.---- Los Pinarenos Fruteria -- at the Eastern end of Little Havana, in a stand-alone, bright yellow building, is the family-owned fruit stand and juice bar that will defy your expectations, make you thumb your nose at the over-priced, over-hyped commercial juicebars, and will serve you the absolute best guaraba juice in Miami (so say the locals, the local media, and my taste buds). Like the Cuba Tobacco Cigar Co., the founders are Cuban exiles who came to the US in the 60's and have raised their families here and kept their businesses running for over 40 years. With an encyclopediac knowledge of tropical fruits and a passion for quality, we went out of our way to stop here even on the way to the airport, just for one last juice... The sugarcane juice (guaraba) is astonishingly green and citrusy, far better than the flat version you get at many places or on the street... I asked why. The answer? Their cane is cut fresh each day in nearby West Palm,

and they run the canes through the machine 3-4 times, rather than just once, extracting much more flavor. With 1/4 of the sugar of a can of soda - and, I would add, that's unrefined, unprocessed sugar, so it's not metabolized the same way - it's an incredible treat that will leave you incredibly sad that due to the extreme perishability of sugarcane juice, cannot be bottled or processed for sale. It can only be made fresh. That's reason enough to go back again....

Great resource for a week-long stay in Miami. We were visiting a family member and left the book with them so they could use it for more exploring.

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