

TRANSPORTATION

Miami is a major international airline hub, particularly for American Airlines, and it's the first port of call for many flights from Latin America. Most flights come into Miami International Airport (MIA), although many are also directed to Fort Lauderdale–Hollywood International Airport (FLL). Seeing as it is located at the tip of the USA, Greater Miami is more of a termination of highways and rail lines, rather than a major land-transit interchange area. Fort Lauderdale attracts pleasure boaters from around the world, while the Port of Miami is the largest cruise port in the world; Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Norwegian, Discovery and Oceania, among others, all set out from here. Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR Airport

Miami is served by all major carriers via two main airports: Miami International Airport (MIA) and the Fort Lauderdale–Hollywood International Airport (FLL), half an hour north. **MIA** (Map pp44–5; ☎ 305-876-7000; www.miami-mia.com) is the third busiest airport (after JFK and LaGuardia in New York City) in the country. Just 6 miles west of Downtown, the airport is open 24 hours and is laid out in a horseshoe design. There are left-luggage facilities on two concourses at MIA, between B and C and on G; prices vary according to bag size.

The **Fort Lauderdale–Hollywood International Airport** (off Map pp44–5; ☎ 954-359-1200; www.broward.org/airport; 320 Terminal Dr), about 30 miles north of Miami just off I-95, often serves as a lower-

AIRPORT SECURITY

It's tighter than ever. X-ray machines scan all carry-on baggage; more bags than ever are hand-searched. Sharp objects such as nail files, forks and Swiss Army knives will be confiscated from your carry-on baggage; pack everything sharp in your checked baggage. If you are carrying high-speed film (1600 ASA and above), take the film out of the canisters and pack them in a clear plastic bag or container. Ask the X-ray inspector to visually check your film.

cost alternative to MIA, especially because it's serviced by popular, cut-rate flyers including Southwest Airlines and JetBlue.

BICYCLE

Miami may be flat as a pancake, but it's also plagued by traffic backups and speedy thoroughfares, so judge the bike-ability of your desired route carefully. It's a perfectly sensible option in South Beach, though, as well as through most Miami Beach 'hoods and, of course, on Key Biscayne. Use a sturdy U-type bike lock, as mere chains and padlocks do not deter people in these parts.

Bicycles are allowed only on specific Metro-rail and Tri-Rail routes; you can also bike across the causeways.

Rental

There are several places in South Beach and on Key Biscayne to rent bicycles for a fee of about \$20 a day.

BOAT

Though it's doubtful you'll be catching a steamer to make a trans-Atlantic journey, it is quite possible that you'll arrive in Miami via a cruise ship, as the **Port of Miami** (Map pp44–5; ☎ 305-371-7678; www.miamidade.gov/portofmiami), which received nearly four million passengers in 2003, is known as the 'cruise capital of the world.' Arriving in the port will put you on the edge of Downtown Miami; taxis and public buses to other local points are available from nearby Biscayne Blvd.

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

GETTING INTO TOWN

Miami International Airport

It's a quick cinch to get there from just about anyplace in Miami, especially from Mid-Beach. If you're driving, just follow the Julia Tuttle Causeway, or I-195, west until you hit Rte 112, which goes directly to the airport. Other options include the free shuttles offered by most hotels, a taxi (\$26.50 flat rate to South Beach; metered, from South Beach, is only about \$10), the Airport Owl night-only public bus, or the **SuperShuttle** (☎ 800-874-8885; www.supershuttle.com) shared-van service, which will cost about \$14 to South Beach. Be sure to reserve a seat the day before.

Fort Lauderdale–Hollywood International Airport

Put the money you save toward getting to Miami once you land; either rent a car at one of the many Fort Lauderdale agencies (p242), or take the free shuttle from terminals 1 and 3 to the airport's **Tri-Rail** (☎ 800-874-7245; www.tri-rail.com) station; you can ride this commuter train into Miami. The schedule is infrequent, though, so you may want to opt for the **Bahama Link** (☎ 800-854-2182; 1-2 people \$45-60) shared-van service or the cheaper **SuperShuttle** (☎ 954-764-1700; www.supershuttle.com), which will cost about \$25 to South Beach.

BUS

Greyhound (☎ 800-231-2222; www.greyhound.com) is the major carrier in and out of town. There are four major terminals: **Airport terminal** (☎ 305-871-1810; 4111 NW 27th St); **Main Downtown terminal** (Map pp66–7; ☎ 305-374-6160; 1012 NW 1st Ave); **North Miami terminal** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 305-945-0801; 16560 NE 6th Ave); and the **Southern Miami terminal** (Map pp44–5; ☎ 305-296-9072; Cutler Ridge Mall, 20,505 S Dixie Hwy). There are several buses daily to New York City (\$115 one-way, 27 to 30 hours) and Washington, DC (\$109, 23 to 25 hours); five to New Orleans (\$95, 20 to 22 hours); and 10 daily to Atlanta (\$95, 16 to 18 hours).

The local bus system is called **Metrobus** (☎ 305-770-3131; www.miamidade.gov/transit) and, though it has an extensive route system, know that you may very well spend more time waiting for a bus than you will riding on one. Each bus route has a different schedule and routes generally run from about 5:30am to about 11pm, though some are 24 hours. Rides cost \$1.25 and must be paid in exact change with a token, coins or a combination of a dollar bill and coins (most locals use the monthly **Metropass**). An easy-to-read route map is available online.

In South Beach, an excellent option is the **South Beach Local Circulator** (☎ 305-770-3131), a looping shuttle bus with disabled-rider access that operates along Washington between South Pointe Dr and 17th St and loops back around on Alton Rd on the west side of the beach. Rides cost only 25¢ and come along every 10 to 15 minutes between 7:45am and 1am Monday to Saturday and 10am to 1am Sunday and holidays. Look for official bus stops,

every couple of blocks, marked by posts with colorful Electrowave signs.

Coral Gables has its own new shuttle in the form of a hybrid-electric bus disguised as a Trolley. It's free, but good for getting around Gables only (also, you often have to put up with some cutesy barbershop quartet). Its north–south route runs along Ponce de León Blvd from the Douglas Metrorail Station to SW 8th St (between 6:30am and 8pm Monday to Thursday, and 6:30am and 11pm Friday), while the east–west twilight route runs along Miracle Mile from Anderson Rd to Douglas Rd (between 3pm and 7pm Monday to Thursday, and 3pm and 10pm Friday). Trolleys run about every 10 to 15 minutes.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Finding your way here from other points in the USA is not hard; follow any other major Interstate to I-95 south, which will eventually take you directly into Downtown Miami. Be aware that gasoline prices are not so cheap these days: in early 2008 they averaged \$3.20 a gallon (a bit less than 4L) in Miami. From New York, expect a 19-hour trip without stops. And remember that speed limits change from state to state.

The urban sprawl of metro Miami means most visitors, unless staying in one neighborhood, will end up driving. Though getting around is quite easy to figure out, expect serious rush hour traffic from 7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm weekdays, as well as constant snarls along Collins Ave and Ocean Dr during high season, especially on weekends. Dixie