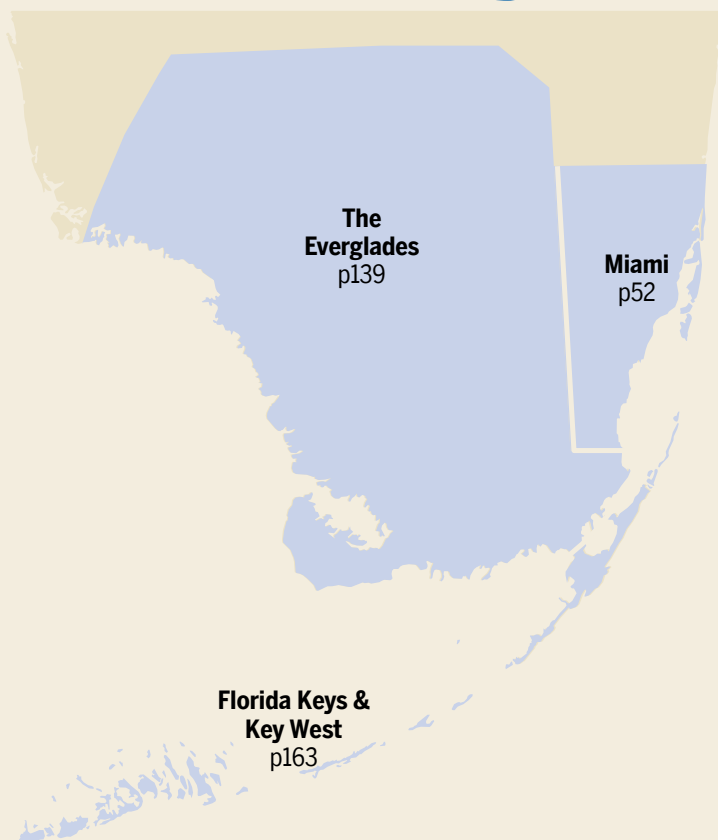




Miami & the Keys



Regis St Louis

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Miami & the Keys	4
Miami & the Keys' Top 15	8
Need to Know	16
If You Like	18
Month by Month	22
Itineraries	26
Activities	32
Eat & Drink Like a Local	38
Travel with Children	45
Regions at a Glance	50

ON THE ROAD

MIAMI	53	THE EVERGLADES	139
Neighbourhoods at a Glance	56	Everglades National Park	146
Sights	58	Tamiami Trail.....	146
Activities	92	Southern Everglades	155
Courses & Tours	96	Biscayne National Park	161
Festivals & Events	97		
Sleeping.....	100		
Eating	112	FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST	163
Drinking & Nightlife.....	125	Upper Keys	170
Entertainment.....	130	Key Largo & Tavernier ...	170
Shopping	133	Islamorada	173
Information	136	Middle Keys	176
Getting There & Away ...	137		
Getting Around.....	137		



EAT & DRINK LIKE A LOCAL
P38



MUSIC P217



Contents

UNDERSTAND

Grassy Key	176
Marathon	177
Lower Keys	180
Big Pine Key, Bahia	
Honda Key & Looe Key ..	181
Sugarloaf Key &	
Boca Chica Key.....	183
Key West	184
Dry Tortugas	
National Park	200

Miami & the Keys	
Today	202
History	204
Multiculturalism	
& the Arts	213
Environment	222
Art-Deco Architecture ..	231
Art-Deco Miami.....	235

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A-Z	242
Transportation	250



MIAMI BY NIGHT P53

SPECIAL FEATURES

Lazy Days Miami	104
Lazy Days Key West... ..	194
Driving tour: Overseas	
Hwy to Key West	166
Art-Deco Miami.....	235
Multiculturalism	
& the Arts	213

Itineraries



10
DAYS

Essential South Florida

On this trip you'll have a chance to explore Miami's beaches and back alleys, from white sand to classical architecture; a diverse range of neighborhoods that encapsulate the nationalities of Latin American and the Caribbean; and the unique wetland and mangrove ecosystems of the Everglades and the Florida Keys.

Start your trip in Miami's **South Beach**, which encapsulates the best of what South Florida has to offer. Exclusive hotels such as the Delano, Tides and the Shore Club capture the sheer aesthetic innovation of the South Beach experience. Enjoy people-watching on Lincoln Rd and a tour of the Art Deco Historic District.

Using South Beach as a base, spend the next four or five days exploring the neighborhoods of **Miami**, including the Latin flavor of Little Havana, the Euro-style cafes and mansions of Coral Gables, and the art galleries, excellent food and bumping nightlife around Wynwood and the Design District. Next head to the Everglades, either west along the Tamiami Trail or through Florida City and visit the **Royal Palm Visitor Center** in the Everglades. **Homestead** is the jumping-off point from Miami to the Florida Keys. Spend at least a day and a night in **Key West**.

5
DAYS

Downtown to South Miami

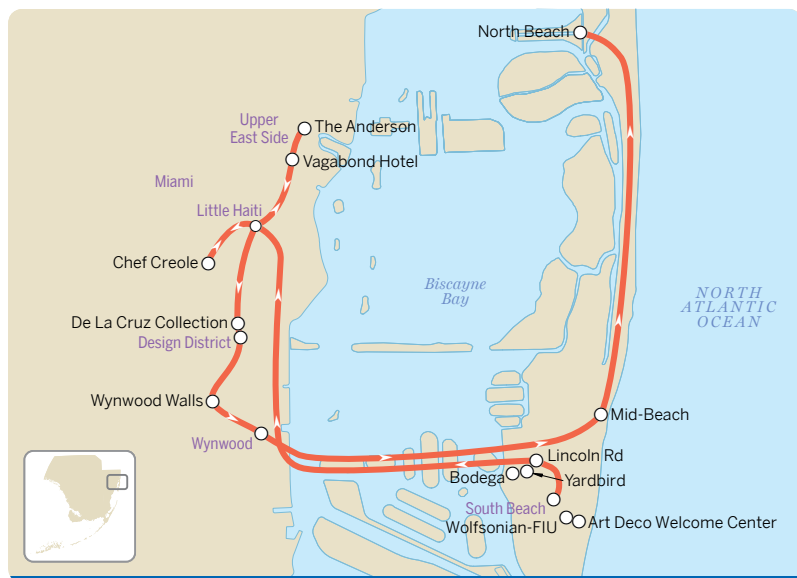
On this trip you'll experience some of the best of Miami's ethnic enclaves, hobnob in some of its wealthiest neighborhoods and witness firsthand the opulence that gives this city the nickname 'The Magic City.'

Start in Downtown, a glittering fist of steel and glass that shadows rough alleyways and cheap international flea markets. Take a long ride on the free **Metromover**, hopping on and off to see downtown sites such as the gorgeous **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts**. Have a stroll along the **Miami River**, and stop for lunch at a waterfront spot like Casablanca. At night, catch a bit of live music over drinks at **Blackbird Ordinary** before ending the day over late-night Colombian snacks at **La Moon**.

The next day, head to Coral Gables, making sure not to miss the **Venetian Pool** (possibly the loveliest public pool in the USA), the **Biltmore Hotel** and a shopping stroll down Miracle Mile. If that isn't opulent enough, see what happens when Mediterranean Revival, Baroque stylings and money get mashed together at the **Vizcaya Museum & Gardens**. Afterward, top off a visit to these elegant manses with dinner at one of the best restaurants in Miami in - no kidding - a gas station at **El Carajo**.

On the third day, head to Little Havana and have a stroll down **Calle Ocho**, making sure to watch the dominoes at Máximo Gómez Park. Have a Cuban lunch, browse the local cigar and souvenir shops, then pop over to Coconut Grove, which retains its village-like charm amid the banyan trees. Stop in stores like **Polished Coconut**, and grab a bite and a craft brew at **The Spillover**. End the night with a live concert back in Little Havana at **Cuba Ocho**.

Spend your last day exploring Key Biscayne, enjoying beaches, sunbathing and bliss in areas such as **Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park**. Before you leave, head to **Crandon Park** and stroll along the sand, or have an afternoon siesta. Is there a quiet, serene beach in manic Miami? You just found it.

4
DAYS

Miami Beach and North Miami

See some of Miami's glitziest addresses, then immerse yourself in some of the city's most fascinating ethnic enclaves, as well as hipster gentrification zones that balance art galleries with artisanal bakeries.

Start your trip in **South Beach** and use this region and its excellent hotels as your base. Make sure you visit the **Wolfsonian-FIU** design museum to get background on the surrounding art deco buildings. Head for **Lincoln Rd** to people-watch and browse the trendy shops; afterward, you'd be remiss to not take a tour with the lovely folks at the **Art Deco Welcome Center**. For a nice dinner try **Yardbird**, then take the secret entrance through a faux urinal room for late-night debaucherie at **Bodega**.

The next day, check out **Little Haiti**. This is one of the most colorful, recognizably 'foreign' neighborhoods in Miami, and it can be edgy at night, but by day you're fine to explore. Feast on ox-tail and other Haitian treats at **Chef Creole**. Next head to the Upper East Side, which is dotted with eye-catching Miami Modern architecture. Have poolside drinks at the **Vagabond**, then join the free-spirited party people at **The Anderson**.

The next morning spend the day visiting the galleries and shops of **Wynwood** and the **Design District**. Start off with a visit to the **Wynwood Walls**, an ever-changing art installation of vibrant wall-sized murals. Next explore the Margulies Collection at the Warehouse where the beautifully executed artwork is always thought-provoking. Stop for an espresso at Panther Coffee and tacos at Coyo Taco, then head up to the Design District for more art-gazing. Visit public installations like the Living Room and the Fly's Eye Dome, then stop by the **De La Cruz Collection**, one of Miami's best private collections. At night, Lagniape is a great spot for drinks and a bit of live music in a charming backyard setting.

On your last day in town, head north along Collins Ave to **Mid-Beach** and **North Beach**. To get here you'll pass through the Condo Canyons - rows and rows of glittering residential skyscrapers, all testament to the power of real estate in Miami. In Mid-Beach, near the north end of South Beach, you'll find an excellent boardwalk where you can stroll near the sand.

3
DAYS

Overseas Highway Road Trip

The Overseas Highway (Hwy 1) runs from the tip of the Florida mainland all the way to the famed Mile 0: Key West, the end of the road and the end of America. As you tick the mile markers down, you'll be treated to some of Florida's oddest attractions and the ever-inspiring view of Florida Bay on one side and the Gulf of Mexico on the other.

Well, OK, you'll get to that view, but first you have to go through the Upper Keys: larger islands that block the view of the water via big fields of scrub pine and mangroves. On northerly Key Largo, check out the diving options at **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park**, then have lunch at a classic Keys waterfront shack like Shipwreck's Bar & Grill. Afterwards visit the injured birds at the **Laura Quinn Wild Bird Sanctuary**. End the day with a seafood feast and ocean views at Lazy Days in Islamorada.

Sleep in **Islamorada** on your first day in the Keys. Wake up the next morning and feed the enormous tarpon at Robbie's Marina, and if you're feeling fit, hire a kayak for a paddle through mangroves or out to **Indian Key**. Afterward, recharge over coffee at the excellent Midway Cafe.

The next stop is **Marathon**, geographic center of the Keys. If you're curious about the unique ecological background of the Keys and fancy a walk in the woods, head to the Crane Point Museum. Then learn about the Keys' best-loved endangered species at the Turtle Hospital. Eat dinner over the water at Keys Fisheries, then grab a beer at Hurricane.

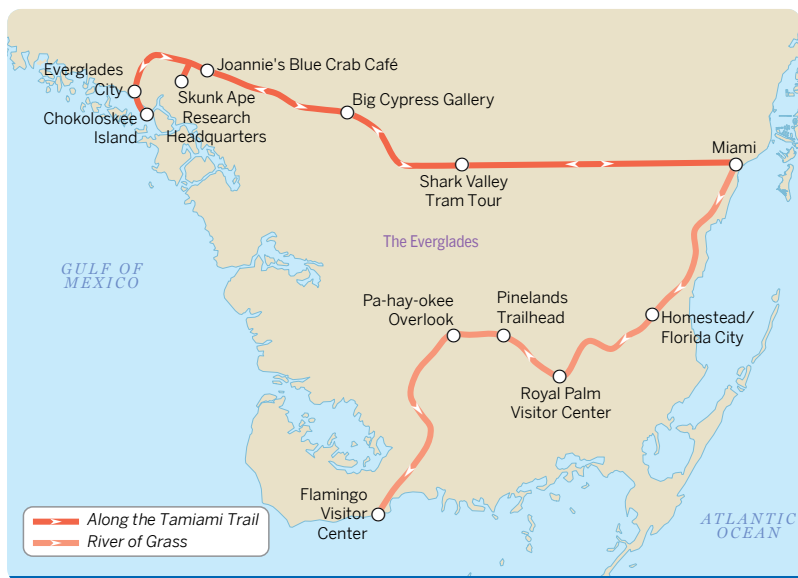
Wake up and cross the Seven-Mile Bridge onto **Big Pine Key**, where tiny Key deer prance alongside the road. Stop for a meal at Square Grouper, one of the best restaurants south of Miami.

Another hour's drive south and you're in **Key West**. Truly, this island deserves its own itinerary – just make sure you don't miss the sunset show in Mallory Sq, the six-toed cats at the Hemingway House and a night out at the infamous Green Parrot, the mother of all Keys bars.



Top: Cocktail bar,
Mallory Square (p184)

Bottom: Crandon
Park Beach (p91), Key
Biscayne

3
DAYS

Along the Tamiami Trail

This route takes you into the heart of the stereotypical Everglades: airboat tours through waterlogged wetlands and cypress swamps crawling with gators; with a stay in a fishing village.

From **Miami**, go west on Tamiami Trail (US 41) past the airboat tours to the Shark Valley entrance. Take the **Shark Valley Tram Tour** or rent a bicycle from the front kiosk and ride back on an asphalt path (the same one used by the tram) that curves into the swamp. You're almost guaranteed a glimpse of alligators and wading birds.

Go on to **Everglades City**, a warm hamlet and fine spot for an overnight, especially after dining on stone crabs at Camellia Street Grill. Take a morning boat tour into the 10,000 Islands, then go to **Chokoloskee Island** to visit the Smallwood Store. Lunch at Havana Cafe. Heading back northward, peek into the Museum of the Everglades.

The next day head back toward Miami. Stop in the delightfully weird **Skunk Ape Research Headquarters**, have lunch at **Joannie's Blue Crab Café**, and visit the **Big Cypress Gallery**, which contains some of the finest photos of the Glades.

2
DAYS

River of Grass

This route into the Everglades takes in vistas of long prairies and cypress domes.

Drive south from **Miami** to the adjoining towns of **Homestead** and **Florida City**, and pull over by the Coral Castle, a maudlin monument to unrequited love. You're now just outside Everglades National Park, where you'll find Robert Is Here, a fantastic farmers market and petting zoo. Continue to the Everglades Outpost, an animal hospital for exotic critters.

Push west to see the most impressive points in the park, including the **Royal Palm Visitor Center**, where walkways lead over waterways propped by alligators; the **Pinelands Trail**, which takes you through a grove of skeleton-thin swamp pine; and **Pa-hay-o-kee Overlook**, with views over the Zen quiet of the greater Glades.

Spend the night back in Florida City at the fantastic Everglades International Hostel. The next morning head back into the Glades for a canoeing adventure or a slough slog – a wet walk into a Cypress dome led by park rangers. End the day with sunset views (and perhaps glimpses of manatees) at the **Flamingo Visitor Center**.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- BART station
- Border crossing
- Boston T station
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/Muni station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/SkyTrain station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITER



Regis St Louis

Regis grew up in a small town in the American Midwest – the kind of place that fuels big dreams of travel – and he developed an early fascination with foreign dialects and world cultures. He spent his formative years learning Russian and a handful of Romance languages, which served him well on journeys across much of the globe. Regis has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, covering destinations across six continents. His travels

have taken him from the mountains of Kamchatka to remote island villages in Melanesia, and to many grand urban landscapes. When not on the road, he lives in New Orleans.

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

8th edition – Jan 2018

ISBN 978 1 78657 254 7

© Lonely Planet 2018 Photographs © as indicated 2018

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/tp.

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'