

PRESENTED BY



Instant Guide to Miami South Beach

4 hours on the go

Fodor's



The hub of Miami Beach is South Beach (SoBe, but you'll never hear locals calling it that), with its energetic Ocean Drive. Here, life unfolds 24 hours a day. Beautiful people pose in hotel lounges and sidewalk cafés, tanned cyclists zoom past palm trees, and visitors flock to see the action. On Lincoln Road, café crowds spill onto the sidewalks, weekend markets draw all kinds of visitors and their dogs, and thanks to a few lounges the scene is just as alive at night. Our top picks will give you the best South Beach experience.

GET HERE FAST

Unless you're parking south of 3rd Street, metered spaces near the waterfront are rarely empty. Instead, opt for a public garage and walk.

DON'T MISS

■ **Ocean Drive:** The stretch of beach along Ocean Drive—primarily the 10 blocks from 5th to 15th streets—is one of the most talked-about beachfronts in America. There's palm-fringed Lummus Park, with its volleyball nets, chickee huts (huts made of palmetto thatch over a cypress frame) for shade, and funky life-guard stands.

■ **The Art Deco District:** The iconic, candy-colored hotels here are among the more than 800 historical buildings in South Beach's Art Deco district. Load up on literature at the Art Deco Welcome Center and get a highlight of the classics along four blocks of Ocean Drive: the *Clevelander* (1020), the *Tides* (1220), the *Leslie* (1244), the *Carlyle* (1250), the *Cardozo* (1300), the *Cavalier* (1320), and the *Winterhaven* (1400).

■ **Lincoln Road Mall:** A 1990s redesign spruced up this open-air pedestrian mall, and remnants of tired old Lincoln Road—beauty-supply and discount-electronics stores on the Collins end of the strip—somehow fit into the mix. Come for the Sunday-morning farmers' markets and on

weekend evenings for gallery shows and street performers.

QUICK HITS

■ **Española Way:** There's a bohemian feeling to this street lined with Mediterranean-revival buildings constructed in 1925. Al Capone's gambling syndicate ran its operations upstairs at what is now the *Clay Hotel*. At a nightclub here in the 1930s, future bandleader Desi Arnaz strapped on a conga drum and started beating out a rumba rhythm. The best time to pop over is on a weekend afternoon, when merchants and craftspeople set up shop to sell everything from hand-crafted bongo drums to fresh flowers.

■ **Bass Museum of Art:** The Bass, in historic Collins Park, is part of the Miami Beach Cultural Park. Special exhibitions join a diverse collection of European art. Works on permanent display include *The Holy Family*, a painting by Peter Paul Rubens; *The Tournament*, one of several 16th-century Flemish tapestries; and works by Albrecht Dürer and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

SHOPPING BLITZ

■ **Collins Avenue:** Give your plastic a workout on this densely packed stretch between 5th and 10th streets, where you'll find a mix of good chains, local boutiques, spas, and salons. Head one street



east and west to catch the shopping on Ocean Drive and Washington Avenue.

■ **Senzatempo:** Buyers can stop into the offices of this Lincoln Road shop to place orders for great vintage home accessories

including electric fans, klieg lights, and chrome furniture by European and American designers of the 1930s through the 1970s.

IN-THE-KNOW

After shopping at Lincoln Road, take a fast, mini architectural tour. Stop at the **Lincoln Theatre** (Nos. 541–545), to see a classical four-story Art Deco gem with friezes. A bit farther west, a fabulous **Cadillac dealership** sign was discovered underneath the facade of the **Lincoln Road Millennium Building**. At No. 1040, there's an old black-and-white Art Deco movie house with a Mediterranean barrel-tile roof.

