

# Travel

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## READERS' PICKS

MIAMI BEACH

Selected reader suggestions for visiting Miami Beach, compiled from user comments on the Travel section's Web site, [nytimes.com/travel](http://nytimes.com/travel).

### WHERE TO STAY

Here are a few suggestions. The **Delano** (1685 Collins Avenue; 305-672-2000; [www.delano-hotel.com](http://www.delano-hotel.com)): It is probably not as sizzling hot as it used to be, but the service has improved significantly (it's excellent these days) and it is still one of the coolest hotel lobbies in the universe. **Townhouse** (150 20th Street; 305-534-3800; [www.townhousehotel.com](http://www.townhousehotel.com)): A value-for-money-alternative. Great location. Pretty nice rooms. The **Pelican** (826 Ocean Drive; 305-673-3373; [www.pelicanhotel.com](http://www.pelicanhotel.com)): Looked a little jaded last time I was there. Still a place with a relaxed attitude and pretty good value for money (after all, it's Ocean Drive). The **Tides** (1220 Ocean Drive; 305-604-5070; [www.tidessouthbeach.com](http://www.tidessouthbeach.com)): Superb location. Superb service. Spacious rooms with a great view. Not cheap. The **Kent** (1131 Collins Avenue; 305-604-5068; [www.thekenthotel.com](http://www.thekenthotel.com)): An alternative for those on a budget. Location is OK. Rooms are better than expected but it doesn't make you feel like Sean Combs.

*Posted by Hakan Nyberg*

I have stayed at both the **Standard** (40 Island Avenue; 305-673-1717; [www.standardhotels.com](http://www.standardhotels.com)) and the **Raleigh** (1775 Collins Avenue; 305-534-6300; [www.raleighhotel.com](http://www.raleighhotel.com)) and my favorite is by far the Standard. The rates are great, the spa is amazing, not to mention the pool.

It is away from South Beach yet 10 minutes walking distance to Lincoln Road. Not as many "euro trash" as all the other hotels on South Beach like the Delano and Shore Club.

*Posted by Jonathan Ducrest, owner of onestopnyc.com*

The **Hotel of South Beach** (801 Collins Avenue; 305-531-2222; [www.thehotelofsouthbeach.com](http://www.thehotelofsouthbeach.com)) is by far the trendiest and coolest place to be.

*Posted by Amy Marie*

### WHERE TO EAT

I've traveled extensively in Italy

Ocean Drive (850 Ocean Drive; 305-532-0707) in South Beach is by far the best risotto I've found in the U.S. Their pasta dishes are also outstanding examples of authentic Italian cuisine. The place is on Ocean, so of course touristy, but the risotto: molto, molto buono! *Posted by Patrizia*

I recommend **Joe Allen** (1787 Purdy Avenue; 305-531-7007; [www.joeallenrestaurant.com](http://www.joeallenrestaurant.com)) in Miami Beach, between 17th and 18th. This is a restaurant for natives not tourists. **Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant** (11 Washington Ave; 305-673-0365; [www.joesstonecrab.com](http://www.joesstonecrab.com)) is terrific but quite a tourist scene and incredibly expensive, and besides it is not open year round. *Posted by Paul Perkins*

### WHAT TO DO

If you have kids (or are just a kid at heart) go to the **Jungle Island** (1111 Parrot Jungle Trail; 305-400-7000; [www.jungleisland.com](http://www.jungleisland.com)), right off MacArthur Causeway, minutes from Miami Beach. If you like nature and want to get away from the crowds, go to the **Key Biscayne Beach** ([www.key-biscayne.com/beach\\_park/](http://www.key-biscayne.com/beach_park/)).



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Cape Florida Lighthouse in Key Biscayne, Fla.

You need a car to get there, but it's very peaceful and beautiful.

*Posted by Carolyn Murray*

There is a great Web site, [www.freemiamievents.com](http://www.freemiamievents.com), that contains a calendar of hundreds of totally free things to do in the Greater Miami area, including Ft. Lauderdale and Broward County. It includes things like free days at area museums and art galleries. *Posted by Les Winters*

Nature lovers shouldn't miss Fair-