

WELCOME TO THE MAGIC CITY

The name of Florida's second-largest city came from some of its original inhabitants: the Tequesta Native Americans. They called the area *Mayaimi*, which meant "big water," referring to nearby Lake Okeechobee. You can see signs of this ancient tribe all over the city, from the sacred site at Miami Circle Park to various statues and sculptures honoring their culture.

You will find what *Forbes* magazine once called "America's Cleanest City" on the Miami River, between the Everglades and the Atlantic Ocean. As well as its glamorous beach life and vibrant Cuban influence, Miami is famous for its sports teams: the Miami Dolphins (football), the Miami Heat (basketball), the Miami Marlins (baseball), and the Florida Panthers (ice hockey). Soon, Miami may have its own pro soccer team, too!

Favorite books set in and around Miami include *Starring Sally J. Freedman As Herself* by Judy Blume, *90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis, and *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen.

MICCOSUKEE INDIAN VILLAGE

Watch stomp dancers, alligator wrestling, and a fashion show at the annual Arts & Crafts Festival.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

This famous national park is home to threatened species such as the Florida panther, the American crocodile, and the West Indian manatee.

DWAYNE JOHNSON

b.1972
This champion wrestler and action-movie star, also known as "The Rock," once played for the Miami Hurricanes football team.

THE BILTMORE HOTEL

has the largest hotel pool in the country, was used as a hospital during WWII, and is rumored to be haunted by a mobster!

FRUIT & SPICE PARK

This tropical garden grows 150 varieties of mango, 75 types of banana, and many other exotic treats.

VENETIAN POOL

Swimmers can explore grotto caves in this former quarry that is refilled every day with fresh spring water.

COCONUT GROVE

HOOT

Carl Hiaasen's award-winning book about kids saving a colony of burrowing owls is set in Coconut Grove.

GOLD COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM

See a California Zephyr Silver Crescent passenger car, which gave out silver and orange orchids from Hawaii on its first run in 1949.

MAXIMO GOMEZ PARK

At this Little Havana landmark you'll see guayabera-clad Cuban grandpas battling over games of dominos.

BILL HAAST
1910–2011
During his career, this Miami-based snake expert was bitten 173 times!

JULIA TUTTLE

1849–1898
The "Mother of Miami" is the only woman to have founded a U.S. city ... so far!

SERENA WILLIAMS

b.1981
The top-ranked women's tennis player lives in Palm Beach and has spent much of her career in Miami.

LITTLE HAITI

LITTLE HAITI CULTURAL CENTER
Dance and music lovers flock here for the monthly "Big Night in Little Haiti" party.

FIREMAN DEREK'S WORLD FAMOUS PIES

Grab a slice of the state pie—key lime—made by an off-duty firefighter.

JUNGLE ISLAND

is home to rare animals like an albino alligator and a liger (lion and tiger mix), as well as lots of tropical birds.

THE WYNWOOD WALLS

are a collection of old warehouses transformed into artworks by the graffiti artists like Sonni.

FLAG FUNNIES

What did the city flag say to the state flag? Nothing—it just waved!

THE MIAMI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

hosts sensory days for autistic children. Black light painting, anyone?

MONKEY JUNGLE

Stroll under covered walkways to watch squirrel monkeys, howlers, orangutans, and even a gorilla as they roam this tropical forest.

MIAMI CIRCLE AT BRICKELL POINT

Conch shells, axe-heads, and human teeth are among the artifacts found at this historic site of the ancient Tequesta tribe.

THE BRICKELL AVENUE BRIDGE

A 53-foot bronze statue here tells the story of the Tequesta tribe, some of the first inhabitants of Florida.

PORT OF MIAMI

In 2014 the "Cruise Capital of the World" saw some 4.8 million passengers head out on a sea vacation!

BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

Here you'll find a large mangrove forest: these trees are unusual because they can grow in salty water.

MIAMI

A DAY IN MIAMI

9 AM Wake up singing, "Party in the city where the heat is on," from Will Smith's song "Miami," followed by a whole string of Miami songs by Bette Midler, Billy Joel, and DJ Laz.

10 AM Try the miracle fruit, a West African berry grown here, which causes sour foods to taste sweet!

11 AM Borrow a ride from the community bike share and pedal to Crandon Park to whizz round the roller rink and ride the antique carousel.

12 PM Handle a tiger shark jaw, a turtle shell and tons of other specimens at the Kendall Campus Earth Science Museum and Demonstration Center.

1 PM Lunch on some spicy, crispy, Bahamian-style conch fritters—YUM!

2 PM Meander through the lagoon-side gardens of the Italian-Renaissance-style Villa Vizcaya. Parts of *Iron Man 3* were filmed here.

3 PM Go fishing for sea urchins, sea horses, and starfish at the Biscayne Nature Center—just don't forget to throw them back!

4 PM Head to South Beach for yoga and soccer in the sand. Snap a pic of the iconic multi-colored lifeguard stands.

5 PM Join a Mystery, Mayhem, and Vice Crime Bus Tour to hear stories of some notorious Miami bad guys.

6 PM Dine at the famous Versailles Restaurant to try some Cuban favorites like fish ceviche with lime, or anything made with plantains.

7 PM Sway in the moonlight to a jazz concert at the Barnacle Historic State Park, where you can also see the oldest house in town.

8 PM Read some of Lois Lenski's Florida-based book, *Strawberry Girl*, then hit the sack—you have a big day in Key West tomorrow ...

KEY FACTS

STATE	FLORIDA
NAMED FOR	A Tequesta word, <i>Mayaimi</i> , which may have meant "big water"
FOUNDED IN	1896
STATE POPULATION	20,271,272
CITY POPULATION	441,003
CITY AREA	55 square miles
TALLEST BUILDING	Four Seasons Hotel: 789 feet (70 stories)
NICKNAMES	• The Magic City • Little Cuba
BEST PLACE TO ...	Ride a vintage carousel: Crandon Park
Bragging Rights	Miami was the first U.S. city founded by a woman: Julia Tuttle
LOCAL LINGO	Casa yuca (Very far away)
CAN YOU FIND?	5 fedora hats

