

4 Days in Miami: How to Spend the Perfect Long Weekend in the City

Wander diverse neighborhoods, sample excellent Cuban cuisine, and spot abundant marine life in and around the perennial coastal favorite.

There was a time, and not long ago, when Miami was all about the debauchery and pastel-hued visuals of Miami Beach's southernmost stretch. But the most seductive city in the Southeast—and the country's definitive base for contemporary and historical Latin American and Caribbean culture—has grown into a global hub for art, creativity, and design that stretches far beyond South Beach's sandy confines.

“Miami has finally become a city where the ideas can mature in their own neighborhoods and not everything has to gravitate to South Beach,” says Mike del Marmol of independent Miami creative studio, [Sun&Sons](#). “People are finding their neighborhood pride and developing their own neighborhoods.” He adds that social media has helped pop-up events flourish in neighborhoods like West Kendall and Little River. “There's the realization that something doesn't have to be happening in [Wynwood](#) or on the beach to make it worth doing.”

Day 4: Head to Coconut Grove, two national parks, and a secret spot for sunset

Nature creeps in everywhere in these subtropical parts. Start your day in Coconut Grove, about four miles south of downtown Miami and Brickell, with breakfast at [Chug's](#), an upscale Cuban diner serving plates including cast-iron pancakes and short rib *boliche* (pot roast). Right across the street, [Barracuda Taphouse & Grill](#) is “one of the last remaining places to go to feel like you're in a nautical weirdo Florida zone,” says Burnard, who swears by the snapper or mahi sandwich. Get out on the water during tours with [Biscayne National Park Institute](#), which runs boat trips from Dinner Key Marina in Coconut Grove to tour historic [Biscayne National Park](#) sites like the lighthouse at Boca Chita Key and Stiltsville, where a collection of wooden shacks originally built in the 1930s hover above crystal-clear waters you can kayak through.