

All you ever wanted to know about South Florida



Welcome to the University of Miami and South Florida! Getting to know your new home can be fun and exciting, as well as frustrating. Hopefully, we can help you a little bit with the information we have compiled. This packet may answer some of your questions; however, don't hesitate to ask if you are unable to find an answer that you have been looking for. Here is a general link for what to do in Miami but below are some more specifics/Staff picks!:

[Miami - Search Results for Things to Do \(miamiandbeaches.com\)](http://miamiandbeaches.com)

First things first-essentials

CABLE TV - ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Cable television is provided in your apartment for you. This includes over 60 channels including HBO. You will also have access to Philo and HBO Max-just sign up with your single sign on credentials

PLACES OF WORSHIP

The Coral Gables area has many different denominations. In addition to the several religious organizations on campus (offices are located on Stanford Drive);

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Miami area has several branches of the public library. The two closest ones are located on Sunset and University. Both libraries are pretty nice and have a good selection of paperbacks, books on tape, and new releases. If you really want to experience a library, go to the main branch located in Government Center in downtown Miami. The easiest way to get there is to take the MetroRail and get off at Government Center. In addition to the thousands of books there are fabulous murals and very beautiful paintings all around.

PETS AND VETERINARIANS

Staff Picks:

Coral Gables Animal Clinic

Banfield

Go Pet Hospital-Dr. Eric Gutierrez

DOCTORS & DENTISTS

Staff Picks:

Dr. Sudha Lolayekar @ Lennar

Dentists of Coral Gables on Alhambra Circle

UHealth System Doctors

Dr. Bardisa-Primary Care

Dr. Jason James/Dr. Jila Senemar (OB/GYN)

Dr. Francisco Kerdel-Dermatology

Dr. Jose Lampreabe-Mount Sinai Primary Care

HAIR CARE

Staff Picks:

Annia's Latin Looks beauty LLC
Ugo Di Roma-Coconut Grove

SHOPPING

Shopping Centers

Sunset Place – Located right across the street at US1 and Red Road. A collection of entertainment venues (Gameworks, AMC Theatres, Splitsville), specialty shops and small restaurants. Venture out of the "Mall" to the shops on Sunset Drive housing many other restaurants, bars and specialty shops.

Dadeland - 7535 North Kendall Drive, Miami. Probably the most popular mall in the area and it has pretty much everything you'll need. Includes Macy's, JCPenny, Nordstrom and Cheesecake Factory to name a few.

Cocowalk – 3015 Grand Avenue, Coconut Grove. Coconut Grove's main retail district with sidewalk cafes, clothing and shoe stores, entertainment venues and a variety of specialty shops. Here you will find Chili's, Cheese Cake Factory and AMC Theatres to name a few.

The Falls – 8888 Southwest 136th Street, Miami. This mall has lots of boutiques and includes Macy's and Bloomingdales as its hubs plus many specialty shops like Crate and Barrel, Pottery Barn, Apple Store, TGIFriday's and a Movie Theatre. The atmosphere is great; they have little rivers and falls running through the outside mall area. It is quite nice for an evening stroll around the mall.

Southland Mall - 20505 South Dixie Highway, Cutler Bay. Includes Macy's, JCPenny, Sears, TJ Max and a 16 Stadium Movie Theater to name a few.

Dolphin Mall -11401 Northwest 12th Street, Miami. It is the largest outlet mall in Miami, including shopping, dining and entertainment.

Town and Country Mall -8232 Mills Drive, Miami.

Bayside – 401 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. This mall is downtown and right on the bay, hence the name. They have a lot of great outside shops with a lot of specialty items. They also have a Hard Rock, Hooters, live entertainment, boat cruises, and much more.

Sawgrass Mills - This is a huge outlet mall located at 12801 West Sunrise Blvd, Sunrise, FL. They have great sales and low prices. It's a little bit of a drive, but well worth the trip.

Lincoln Road - Located in Miami Beach, this is a trendy pedestrian zone of sidewalk cafes, art galleries, fashionable clothing stores, and cultural venues. You never know what or who you are going to see.

Miracle Mile - covers the area of 24th street from Le Jeune Road to SW 12th Avenue and located in the heart of Coral Gables. It is a long street with many shops and restaurants. The Miracle Mile used to be THE place to go. It is reviving itself and is a very nice place to visit.

STORES

Staff Picks:

Target

Macys

Brickell City Center

Ikea!

West Elm

Anthropologie

Wal-Mart - 15885 Southwest 88th Street, Miami.

Target - 8350 South Dixie Highway, Miami.

CVS Pharmacy - 1160 South Dixie Highway, Coral Gables.

Walgreens - 5731 Bird Road, Miami.

Publix - 1401 Monza Ave, Coral Gables, most students shop here. 2270 Southwest 27th Ave is the larger store

Whole Foods - 6701 Red Road, Coral Gables. Specialize in Organic Food.

Trader Joe's- 9205 S Dixie hwy and 211 S. Dixie Hwy (closer to campus)

FedEx Office Print & Ship Center - 8603 South Dixie Highway, Miami. This place is open 24 - 7 and has a good reputation.

UPS Store - is located on campus, in Lakeside Village.

Tide Laundry- Laundry and dry cleaning service on campus. See Tyler or Bryan to set up an account

University Dry Cleaners – Located in the University Center. Accepts credit cards.

Service Garages

Every major car dealer is in the area somewhere, but there are also service garages that can repair minor things.

Staff Picks:

BMA Automotive on N Miam-Ask for Ron

Stoney's Garage

A.S. Automotive-14088 SW 139th Ct. Miami-Ask for Shabab or Abdi

Tire Kingdom on Dixie Hwy

RESTAURANTS

There are hundreds of restaurants in the Miami area and each has something different to offer. For various cuisines, here are but a few recommendations:

Staff Picks:

Caffe Abbracci @ Coral Gables

O Munaciello on Biscayne Blvd & 64th

Versailles

Taco Craft

Salty Donut

Zitz Sum (Gables)

Mandolin Aegean Bistro (Design District)

Two Brothers Italian-Kendall Lakes (Free wine Thursdays)

Flanigan's

Shibui Japanese

Sports Grill-Best wing spot!

Perricone's (Coral Way)

American Social (Brickell)

Luca Osteria (Gables)

Salumeria 104 (Gables)

Green Street Café (Coconut Grove)

Deli Lane

El Carajo

Casola's Pizza

The Rusty Pelican - 3201 Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne. This restaurant is out in the water and therefore has a great view. It's pretty good seafood, but it is a little pricey.

Bonefish Grill - 12520 SW 120th Street, Miami.

Texas Taco - 475 South Dixie Highway, Coral Gables.

Los Ranchos - 3015 Grand Avenue, Coconut Grove.

Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant - 8461 Southwest 132nd Street, Miami. Authentic Mexican food at it's best!

Samurai Japanese Steak & Seafood - 8717 Southwest 136th Street, Miami. Owned by Benihana. Fun place, they cook the food right in front of you, a little pricey. There is also a Benihana on Miracle Mile in Coral Gables.

Canton - 2624 Ponce De Leon, Coral Gables. They have eat-in or take-out options.

New China II - 9632 SW 77th Ave

Moon Thai & Japanese - 1118 South Dixie Highway, Coral Gables.

The Cheesecake Factory - 2 restaurants locally: Dadeland Mall and Cocowalk. Great pasta, lots on the menu to choose from, out of this world cheesecake, 30 different kinds.

Outback Steakhouse - 5829 SW 73rd street, a few streets away from Sunset Mall. This place is great for the steak and potatoes appetite.

Hillstone - 201 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables. Great burgers, steaks, homemade French fries and the best French dip around.

The Melting Pot - 11520 Sunset Drive, Miami. It is a fondue restaurant that has every conceivable sauce for dipping.

TGI Friday's - 1200 South Dixie Highway, Coral Gables! Convenient and cheap. It has become a common gathering place. (Be advised, student hangout)

Titanic Brewery and Pub - 5813 Ponce De Leon, Coral Gables. A favorite student hangout located on Ponce de Leon one block south of the Mark Light Baseball field. Titanic offers

various house brewed beers, live music from UM's school of music, karaoke and great steaks.

Five Guys - 1540 South Dixie Hwy, Coral Gables. Get an amazing burger the way you like it and cheap. Their homemade fries are second to none, and all food is served fast.

Big Cheese - 8080 Southwest 67th Avenue, Miami. They have good pizza and even better pasta. For around here it is good Italian food!

Shorty's - 9200 South Dixie Highway, Miami. This is a stuff yourself silly place. They have good food for a good price. Bring your bib.

Tony Roma's - 6601 South Dixie Highway, Miami. They are known for their ribs, but have a lot of other options too.

Denny's - 1150 South Dixie Highway, Coral Gables. The best thing about Denny's is that they are open 24 hours.

IHOP - 7376 Southwest 40th Street (Bird Road), Miami.

Dunkin Donuts - 2720 South Dixie Highway, Miami.

Bagel Emporium - 1238 South Dixie Highway, Coral Gables, located right across the street in the same plaza as Fridays.

Einstein's Bagels - 5946 South Dixie Highway, two blocks past Sunset Dr. on your left.

Burger King - 9201 South Dixie Highway, Miami.

McDonald's - 1148 South Dixie Highway, Coral Gables.

Taco Bell - 6310 South Dixie Highway, Miami.

Wendy's Hamburgers - 3600 South Dixie Highway, Miami.

Ben and Jerry's - 80 Aragon Ave, Coral Gables.

Dairy Queen - 8545 South Dixie Highway, Miami (on the left). They'll always have the best soft ice cream around.

Walls Ice Cream – 8075 Southwest 67th Avenue, Miami. Right across the street from Big Chesse. Homemade at it's best. Great UM Sponsor!

WHAT TO DO FOR FUN....

Staff Picks:

Pinecrest Farmer's Market
The Tea Room @ Cauley Square
Fairchile Botanical Gardens

Community Theatres

Jackie Gleason Theatre – 1700 Washington Ave, Miami. This is a great theatre that pulls in a lot of the Broadway shows.

Carnival Center for the Performing Arts – 1300 Biscayne Blvd. Right near Bayside. Downtown Miami's newest venue.

Broward Theatre for the Performing Arts - 201 Southwest 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale.

Coconut Grove Playhouse – 3500 Main Hwy, Coconut Grove.

Actors Playhouse 280 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables.

University of Miami Jerry Herman Ring Theatre – located on-campus at 1312 Miller Drive, Coral Gables. Visit to see some of the best plays in town!

Movie theatres

Movie theatres are in abundance in this area. Shops at Sunset Place; Coconut Grove, The Falls; Southland Mall; and in Kendall as well.

Bowling

There are only two bowling alleys in this area. Splitsville in the Shops of Sunset Place (5701 Sunset Drive, Miami) and Bird Bowl (9275 Southwest 40th Street, Miami).

Recreation/ Exercise

UM's commitment to a well-rounded educational environment is reflected in the Patti and Allen Herbert Wellness Center, one of the finest facilities of its kind in the nation for fitness, recreational sports and wellness education programs. Its programs include everything from weight training to racquetball, swimming and aerobics to martial arts. The facility features a gymnasium with an elevated jogging track, four basketball/volleyball

courts, a human performance lab, and an instructional kitchen for nutrition classes and an outdoor courtyard for relaxing in the sun. For more information visit <http://www.miami.edu/wellness/>

The Miami area has all the normal gyms like, Golds Gym, LA Fitness, Paradise, Body Works, etc. However, your best bet might be to remain on campus.

Animal Types of Things

Miami MetroZoo – 12400 Southwest 152nd Street, Miami. Advertised as “one of the world’s great zoo’s”. Best enjoyed when the weather is cool.

Jungle Island – 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami. Was once Parrot Jungle but now has more than just Parrots and also a new home between downtown and South Beach. Also best enjoyed when the weather is cool.

Monkey Jungle – 14805 SW 216th Street, Miami. It is home to nearly 400 primates; most running free on a 30 acre reserve. It is one of the few protected habitats for endangered primates in the United States.

Miami Seaquarium – 4400 Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne. A great aquarium located on Key Biscayne next to our marine school.

Various Museums/Neighborhoods

Staff Picks:

Viscaya

Deering Estates

Wynwood Walls

Little Havana

Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens @ Delray Beach

Key West

Marco Island

Naples

Florida Keys

Islamorada

West Palm Beach (City place)-take the brightline for a daytrip

Bass Museum of Art – 2121 Park Ave, Miami. Offers an overview of major European paintings, sculptures and textiles. The newly expanded and renovated museum, designed by internationally renowned architect Arata Isozaki, provides additional amenities, including a media center, café and terrace, and a beautiful museum shop.

Historical Museum of Southern Florida -101 W. Flager St., Miami. Part of the Miami Dade Cultural Center, One of the largest private, regional history museums in the country.

Lowe Art Museum - located on campus at 1301 Stanford Drive, Coral Gables. 8,000 works including American paintings. Latin American art, Navajo and Pueblo Indian textiles.

Miami Art Museum - (MAM) 101 W. Flagler St., Miami. Part of the Miami-Dade Cultural Center, MAM is an eclectic mix of modern and contemporary works by such artists as Eric Fischl, Max Beckmann, Jim Dine and Stewart Davis.

Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium -3280 S. Miami Ave, Coconut Grove.

Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum -301 Washington Ave., Miami. Presents a fascinating look at religion and culture through films, lectures and exhibits such as "Passages: An Immigrant's Journey"

Beaches

Staff Picks:

Matheson Hammock Park

Mid Beach near Broken Shaker

Hollywood Beach

Bill Baggs State Park on Key Biscayne

Hallendale Beach

South of 5th

Hobie Beach - South end, Key Biscayne. This is the first beachy area that you will come to when you arrive on the island. This is the beach where you should go if you want to para-sail or learn to do other boating type of activities.

Crandon Park - 4000 Crandon Blvd, Key Biscayne. If you continue further on the island you will come to Crandon Park on your left. This beach has a lot of great sand and places to BBQ. It costs about \$3.00 to park, but this beach is worth it.

South Beach - It refers to the areas of Ocean Dr & 5th street to Collins Ave & 21st street. Ocean Drive has lots of shops and cafes too.

Boat Cruises

The Port of Miami or Bayside Mall are the best places to go if you want to go on a boat cruise. The Port of Miami is home to a lot of the huge ocean cruise liners. Bayside Mall offers smaller cruises that can be enjoyed in an evening or on the weekend. A popular boat cruise is the tour of famous homes on Star and surrounding islands. These boats leave out of Bayside daily.

Bars / Pubs

South Beach really has the market on drinking and night club action, but the Coral Gables/Coconut Grove area has a few options for those of you that don't want to venture into the city.

Staff Picks:

Coconut Grove
Dolphin Mall
Top Golf
Brickell
South Beach
MiMo District (50th st to 77th st along Biscayne Blvd)
Rosa Sky Rooftop
Lagniappe
The Grammercy

Flannigan's - 11415 South Dixie Highway, Miami. The place is a lot bigger inside than it appears. They have a good Friday happy hour.

Ale House - 11625 North Kendall Drive, Miami.

GETTING TO KNOW THE MIAMI AREA...

MetroRail Information- The Metro Rail is an easy and convenient way to travel into downtown Miami. The closest MetroRail station is across from the University on Ponce de Leon Blvd.

Travel tip - Streets run E/W and Avenues run N/S. Another helpful tip is when you travel E/W every 10 Avenues is 1 mile. This will help if you need to determine how far you've gone, or have to go to get to your destination. When it comes to the Gables all the streets have names so it's best to use GPS or an online mapping tool to find where you are going.

MAJOR STREETS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

LeJeune Road/also 37th Avenue

US 1/also South Dixie Highway

Sunset Drive/also 72nd Street

Bird Road/also 40th Street

Tamiami Trail/also 8th Street

Miracle Mile/also 24th Street

Ponce de Leon Blvd. - is confusing because sometimes it runs E/W and sometimes it runs N/S.

Red Road/also 57th Avenue

Kendall Drive/also 88th Street

Miller Road/Also 56th Street

Coral Way/also 24th Street

OK....SO YOU KNOW CORAL GABLES ...NOW YOU CAN VENTURE OFF TO BIGGER PLACES....

South Miami - (About 5 minutes South on US 1) Lots of shops and restaurants.

Coconut Grove - (About 10 minutes North on US 1) Home to a bunch of celebrities, Cocowalk, Cheesecake Factory, lots of night clubs and restaurants.

Vizcaya - (About 15 minutes North on US 1) Many beautiful gardens and plantations to visit and tour.

Key Biscayne - (About 10 minutes North on US 1) Hobie Beach, Crandon Park, Cape Florida State Park at the tip of the key, Rusty Pelican Restaurant.

Downtown Miami - (About 15 minutes North on US 1 and then 95) Home of Bayside

South Beach - Art Deco District, Lincoln Road, Ocean Drive

Kendall - (About 10 minutes South on US 1) Home to Wal-Mart, and lots of malls and shopping centers.

The Everglades - (About 40 minutes West of Coral Gables) Shark Valley Tram Tours, Indian Reservations and restaurants, Everglades City, Airboat tours, Big Cypress Tours.

Homestead - (About 20 minutes South on US 1) Local farmers, a Winery with wines made from local tropical fruits, and a Cracker Barrel and Outlet Mall

Key Largo - (About 1 hour south on US 1) John Pennycamp Park for snorkeling and scuba diving.

Key West - (About 3 and a half hours South on US 1) Home of the Sunset Celebration every night on the Pier, Ernest Hemmingway's home, Southern most tip in the United States, aquariums, Sloppy Joe's Bar to name just a few. Be sure to stop at the Tiki Bar in Islamorada on the way down.

Ft. Lauderdale - (About 45 minutes North on 95) Museum of Science and the IMAX Theatre, Riverwalk, beaches, lots of trendy shops and restaurants, Butterfly World, Trolley Tours of the city, river boats and dinner cruises.

Orlando - (About 4 hours North on the Florida Turnpike) All the Disney World parks, Universal Studios, Wet n' Wild, GatorLand, Sea World.

Tampa - (About 5 hours Northwest of Miami) Busch Gardens, beaches.

WHAT YOU MIGHT ENCOUNTER WHILE YOU'RE HERE (IF YOU'RE LUCKY)...

Fire Ants- Most people have encountered ants at some point in their life. Well, there is a type of ant in Florida known as the fire ant. This ant is red, very tiny, and travels in groups. Fire ants are found everywhere, especially in the grass. The problem with these creatures is that they bite. They are highly intelligent creatures because they wait until lots of tiny friends climb on you and then all start biting at once! Don't worry, the bite is not poisonous and will probably only sting for a while and leave a little red bump. Just be careful not to stand on one of their ant hills or you will be in trouble!!

Cockroaches- Florida cockroaches come in various colors, shapes, and sizes. Most resemble large beetles with pointy antennae. Some roaches have wings and fly but most just creep around in the dark. All of the halls on campus are exterminated regularly for these creatures and if you are having a problem with them, contact the facilities for spraying. Some roach traps, spray, or boric acid can be used to get rid of the roaches if the situation hasn't developed into a big problem.

Geckos and other Misc. Lizards - Be careful because almost everywhere you step you have the chance of squishing a reptile of some kind. The chance is pretty slim because these guys are so fast, but none-the-less they may startle you as they make a mad dash to get out of the way. They won't hurt you because they are probably more scared of you than you are of them.

Alligators - Yes, alligators are all over the state of Florida. However, the chances of you seeing one crawling down the street is pretty slim so don't lose any sleep over it. Alligators have been known to get a little lost and wind up in the campus lake and river ways. Animal control usually takes care of that pretty quickly and sends them on their way. We even had a campus Crocodile for awhile.

Snakes - Various snakes are found in Florida but most are in wilderness areas. Many of these snakes are poisonous and should be left alone if you meet up with one. They usually are scared of you and will move away rapidly. You probably won't see too many of these creatures so don't lose any sleep over it!

Allergies - If you have allergies or hay fever, they could be a problem while you're in Florida. The pollen count gets very high in the spring and with this comes hay fever across campus. The pine and oak pollen are especially bad. Of course, along with these allergies, all the regular allergies exist here as well.

Parking Under Specific Trees - Be careful which trees you park underneath while you're here in Florida. Several trees around campus will make a mess of your car. Some trees will drop sap, large seeds, pollen, or worse yet, coconuts that will leave a nasty dent.

WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE?

Average Temperatures - Depending on who you are talking to you might get these various responses to describe the temperatures in South Florida: pleasant, mild, warm, hot, like a sauna, miserable. After you've been here a year, you can decide your own classification. According to past temperatures, these are the averages for various months of the year:

| | <i>High / Low</i> | | <i>High / Low</i> |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| January | 72 / 50 | July | 95 / 75 |
| February | 72 / 50 | August | 95 / 75 |
| March | 75 / 54 | September | 89 / 71 |
| April | 78 / 61 | October | 82 / 63 |
| May | 85 / 67 | November | 75 / 58 |
| June | 90 / 74 | December | 73 / 47 |

Heat Stroke - The Florida sun is very powerful and you should take some precautions to prevent any harm to yourself. Unless you are careful, heat stroke can strike. To prevent problems, be sure to drink lots of liquids!! Dehydration is quite common so your liquid intake should be increased year round (especially during summer months). If you are planning on being outdoors, drink beverages before you go or bring something with you. It is also suggested that people wear a hat to protect their scalp and cut down the risk of heat stroke.

The Florida Sun - The powerful sun can also be harmful to your skin. As you all know, you should not be exposed to the sun for an extended length of time without a sunscreen of some type on your skin. SPF 15 and higher is recommended no matter how easily you tan. Your skin, no matter what the type, will burn very easily in the hot Florida sun.

Heat Index - Several of the nightly news weather reports give us information on the daily heat index. This will let you know the intensity of the sun and the UV rays. This index is very helpful for planning a day with or without sunscreen.

Humidity - Even though you know the average temperatures, there's something in this area that can have a big impact on what the temperature actually feels like:

HUMIDITY. During the cooler months, this humidity can cause a damp, cold chill in the air; however humidity does the opposite during the warmest months; hot, muggy, and sticky air. It's not a pleasant part of the weather but you will learn how to adjust to it!!

Mildew - Because of the high level of humidity in South Florida, mildew can be a big problem. Bathrooms without exhaust systems will turn green after a while without regular cleaning.

Rain - You will have days and even weeks of rain and intermittent sun. The summer months tend to be the rainiest, but showers will hit at any time. If the weather forecaster predicts anything above a 25% chance of showers, be prepared.

Hurricanes - Living close to the Gulf and the ocean can create some interesting weather situations in South Florida. Tropical storms and hurricanes occur frequently in the gulf and ocean. If these storms move inland, they cause lots of wind, rain, flooding, and tornadoes. The peak season for hurricanes is June 1 through November 30.

This is all we could think of, however I am sure you will encounter something that none of us could think of. If you have any problems or question, just call anyone and we will be happy to help you!