



SOUTH BEACH: THE COAST WITH THE MOST

CHEAP THRILLS

SOUTH BEACH



STAY at the **Whitelaw Hotel & Lounge** (whitelawhotel.com). This cheap'n chic spot offers boutique-hotel amenities on a motel budget. Expect eclectic decor combining French chandeliers with graffiti-emblazoned walls. Be sure to pack your sense of humour as this hotel promises "clean sheets, hot water and stiff drinks." Speaking of which, don't miss the complimentary cocktails for guests nightly between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.



SEE a basketball game. With the new dream team of James, Bosh and Wade, the **Miami Heat** know how to set the courts on fire. Watch these ballers bring their NBA game at the world-class American Airlines Arena. Order tickets online at nba.com/heat.



SHOP at **Aventura Mall** (aventuramall.com). You'll find six major department stores and more than 280 specialty stores, including Anthropologie, Apple and Barney's New York Co-Op. The multi-level indoor mall recently completed a \$22-million expansion that added a new wing of upscale boutiques and restaurants. If you're serious about shopping, plan to spend a full day here.



EAT at **Puerto Sagua**. It's Cuban comfort food at its best! Think roasted chicken, rice and beans, and fried plantains served up in a friendly, frill-free resto. Another hot spot for lunch or dinner is **The Pelican Café** (pelicanhotel.com). Those in the know flock to savour their light plates, such as tuna tartare with guacamole and crispy wonton, and a variety of mains ranging from lobster linguine to Kobe beef burgers.

Miami Vices

By Sara Graham

NOTHING SAYS SEXY WEEKEND LIKE South Beach! Start by choosing A-list accommodations. The haute hotels that line Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue boast multi-sensory restaurants and high-energy clubs. But just north of the SoBe strip, life gets a little more serene at the elegant **Acqualina Resort** (acqualinaresort.com). Located on acres of tranquil coastline, the luxe suites feature private terraces and even beach butlers to serve up the perfect midday mojito while you bask in the sun.

To ease into your South Beach surroundings, stroll along **Ocean Drive**, **Lincoln Road** and **Collins Avenue**. Soak up the area's Art Deco stylings, a design aesthetic that made its impression on more than 800 hotels, apartments and other buildings erected here circa 1930.

In graceful contrast stands **The Betsy** (thebetsyhotel.com), a landmark hotel that has preserved its traditional colonial façade. Be sure to try The Betsy's **Bistro Laurent Tourondel Steak** (or BLT), a chic urbane boîte offering prime American and Japanese Kobe beef, fish and an extensive Raw Bar.

A short walk south on Ocean Drive is **The Villa by Barton G.** (thevillabybartong.com). After a multi-million-dollar makeover, the

former residence of Gianni Versace reopened as an ultra-exclusive boutique hotel that's as storied as it is extravagant. If you want to have a look, reserve a table at the intimate 30-seat resto—you'll feel like you just walked into Versailles!

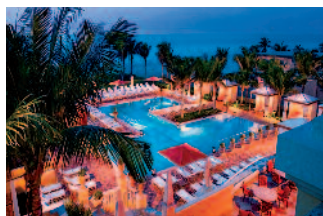
SoBe nightlife is second to none. Scope out outdoor options, such as the W Hotel's swanky **Wall Lounge** (wsouthbeach.com) or the seductive rooftop pool and lounge at the **Gansevoort** (gansevoortmiamibeach.com). You can't go wrong starting the night out with a dinner on Ocean Drive and hotel hopping all the way up Collins Avenue.

When shopping South Beach, there's always Lincoln Road where you will find anything and everything among its myriad shops and casual cafés. For something that is decidedly more boutique, look for labels like Céline, Balmain and Lanvin at **The Webster** (webstermiami.com). If vintage is your thing, hit **C. Madeleine's** (cmadeleines.com).

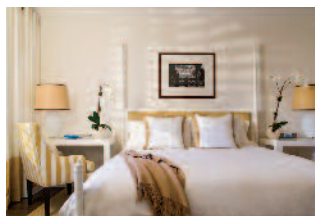
To cap off your indulgent weekend, make a reservation for a champagne-fueled Sunday Jazz Brunch at **The Setai** (setai.com). Award-winning chef Jonathan Wright oversees chefs from Thailand, China, Malaysia, India and Singapore as they artfully prepare modern interpretations of native dishes.



ART DECO ON OCEAN DRIVE



ACQUALINA RESORT



THE BETSY HOTEL

MORIS MORENO (THE BETSY HOTEL), ISTOCKPHOTO (SOUTH BEACH AND OCEAN DRIVE)