

# The New York Times

## Where to Stay, and What to Eat, in Miami

Beyond the umbrella-lined beaches and Art Deco architecture of South Beach, Miami is cementing its reputation as Florida's cultural and culinary capital.



By Evan Benn

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For those who haven't visited in a minute, some of the recent changes Miami has undergone may come as a surprise. The Design District, which for years was a maze of traffic cones and construction dust, is now brimming with fashion boutiques and places to stop and grab a cup of coffee, a taco or a scoop of local soft-serve ice cream. A \$500-million investment to get ahead of rising sea levels has left the roadways of Miami Beach repaved and less prone to flooding — an especially welcome change in South Beach's buzzy Sunset Harbour neighborhood, where the tables of locally beloved restaurants like Pubblely Sushi and Stiltsville Fish Bar spill out onto the sidewalks.

Meanwhile, cultural capital has poured into the region, bringing with it new museums like Frost Science downtown and the Institute of Contemporary Art in the Design District, complementing the annual Art Basel Miami Beach fair that arrives each December. Then there is Brightline, a new high-speed rail service, which zips passengers from Miami to Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach in less time — and with less aggravation — than it takes to drive those routes on Interstate 95. The project's next phase will extend the line all the way to Orlando.

Of course, Miami's postcard-perfect beaches, Art Deco hotels and world-class restaurants — now run by a new generation of talented and diverse chefs — are all still here to enjoy. You might just find that there's more to fill the hours between meals and spa treatments than ever before.

## Stay

### **Faena Hotel Miami Beach**

Accented everywhere with gold and its own lush signature shade of red, [the Faena](#) is over-the-top luxurious in all the right ways. There's the oft-Instagrammed gilded woolly mammoth sculpture by Damien Hirst ("Gone But Not Forgotten") that cost a reported \$15 million and stands guard by the hotel's beach path. There's the lavish Sunday brunch at Los Fuegos, a restaurant from the acclaimed Argentine chef Francis Mallmann, with its seemingly endless array of salt-crusted salmon, hand-cut beef empanadas and smoky eggplant salad. And there are the 169 atmospheric guest rooms, designed with South American flair, where large turquoise-tiled bathrooms and ornate custom Catherine Martin rugs amplify the hotel's updated Art Deco vibe.