



What you must know when Traveling to Miami, Florida, USA

Passports & Visas:

To enter the United States of America, a valid passport is required as well as a tourist visa for visitors from most countries. You may find information specific to your country or region by contacting your nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Or, you may get visa information and check for embassy and consulate locations on this U.S. Department of State website: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/visit/visitor.html>.

If you require an invitation to the 9th World Congress for Hair Research on official letterhead for the purpose of obtaining a visa, you may contact the NAHRS Headquarters Office at 1-630-578-3991 or info@nahrs.org.

Medical and Other Insurance:

Check with your personal medical insurance plan before leaving your home country to ensure you have adequate traveling insurance. Visitors are urged to take out insurance to cover loss incurred in the case of cancellation, medical expenses and damage to or loss of personal effects whenever traveling outside of their own country.

Other General Information

Language:

English, with Spanish also widely spoken.

Currency:

U.S. Dollar

Population:

The Greater Miami area has a population of 5.5 million people.

Time Zone:

Miami is in the Eastern Standard Time (EST) zone. So when it's 12:00PM (noon) in Miami, it is 12:00PM (noon) in New York City, 9:00AM in Los Angeles, and 5:00PM the same day in London.

Weather:

November marks the beginning of the onset of winter in Miami, but a warm winter it is. Compared to the sizzling heat of the summer months, many find this the best time of year to visit Miami for pleasant weather. The temperature will vary between a high of 79°F and a low of 66°F (26°C to 19°C). It is recommended that you pack a light jacket or sweater for evenings and air-conditioned meeting rooms. There is a lower expectation of rain in the month of November compared to preceding months, and there will be approximately 7 hours of daylight at this time of year. For those planning to take a dip in the ocean, the sea temperature is approximately 79°F in November.

Local Taxes:

The sales tax is 7%.

Credit Cards:

Visa, MasterCard and American Express are widely accepted.

Taxicabs:

Airport- A taxi will take 15-20 minutes between Miami International Airport (MIA) and Downtown Miami, the location of the InterContinental Hotel Miami. The estimated taxi fare is \$25 each way, plus tip. Note that not all taxis in Miami take credits cards, so check with the driver when boarding if you need to pay by credit card.

Around the City- For getting around the city, it is allowed and easy to hail taxis. Water taxis are also available and a fun way to see the sights. Again, not all taxis take credit card payments, so be sure to check with the driver if you need to pay by credit card.

Getting around Downtown using the Metromover:

Everybody rides free on Metromover! This 4.4-mile electrically-powered, fully automated monorail people mover system connects with Metrorail at Government Center and Brickell stations and with Metrobus at various locations throughout downtown. Major destinations of the Metromover system include the American Airlines Arena, Bayside Market Place, Miami-Dade College and the Miami-Dade County School Board. The stop nearest the InterContinental Hotel Miami is Bayfront Park. For more information on the Metromover, go to: <http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/metromover.asp>.

Tipping: (suggested tipping levels from U.S. News & World Report Tipping Guide)

Restaurants- Most restaurants in Miami automatically add a gratuity to the check of 15%-20%. Be sure you check carefully so that you are not over tipping. The standard U.S. tipping range is 10-20%, based on service satisfaction.

Hotel- Current suggested hotel tipping levels are bellman/\$1-2 per bag, maid/\$2-3 per night, and valet/\$3-5 at car pick-up.

Taxi- It is customary to tip taxi drivers anywhere between 10%-20%, depending on service and if they assisted in handling your luggage.

Electricity:

Electrical power is standardized in all states across the USA. It is set at 110 Volts and 60 cycles. 220 Volt power is used in homes only for large appliances like stoves, water heaters and clothes dryers. It is not normally available for personal appliances.

Standard electric plugs, as illustrated below, have two flat blades. The plugs on some newer appliances have a third round grounding pin. Almost all buildings are equipped with electrical receptacles that can accommodate either type of plug.



Tourism Information:

For information about Miami, visit: www.miamiandbeaches.com/places-to-see.

Other Questions:

Visit www.hair2015.org for more specific information on the program, hotel and reservations.