



Miami Cruise Departure Guide

Everything You Need to Know Before You Sail

Known as the "**Cruise Capital of the World**," Miami is the busiest cruise port on the planet, welcoming millions of passengers each year. With dozens of ships departing weekly, beautiful beaches, world-class dining, vibrant nightlife, and endless attractions, Miami is much more than a place to board a cruise—it's a vacation destination in its own right.

Whether you're sailing to the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Mexico, or beyond, arriving a day or two early allows you to experience everything Miami has to offer while ensuring a stress-free embarkation day.



About Port Miami



Located on **Dodge Island**, just minutes from downtown Miami, **Port Miami** is one of the world's most advanced cruise ports.

Passengers enjoy:

- Modern cruise terminals
- Easy access from downtown
- Nearby hotels
- Beautiful skyline views
- Quick airport access
- Wide variety of cruise lines
- Convenient transportation options

Recent investments have made PortMiami one of the most technologically advanced cruise ports in the world, with several terminals designed specifically for the newest mega-ships.



Cruise Lines Sailing from Miami

Miami offers more cruise choices than any other port in the world.

Cruise lines include:

- Royal Caribbean International
- Carnival Cruise Line
- Norwegian Cruise Line
- MSC Cruises
- Virgin Voyages
- Celebrity Cruises
- Oceania Cruises
- Regent Seven Seas Cruises
- Silversea Cruises
- Explora Journeys
- Disney Cruise Line (select sailings)

Popular itineraries include:

- Bahamas
- Eastern Caribbean
- Western Caribbean
- Southern Caribbean
- Panama Canal
- Transatlantic Cruises
- South America (select sailings)

Common ports of call include:

- Nassau
 - Perfect Day at CocoCay
 - Celebration Key
 - Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve
 - Cozumel
 - Costa Maya
 - Grand Cayman
 - Roatán
 - Aruba
 - Curaçao
 - St. Thomas
 - Puerto Plata
 - San Juan
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Getting to Miami

Driving

Miami is easily accessible via:

- I-95
- Florida's Turnpike
- I-75
- US-1

Approximate driving times:

- Fort Lauderdale – 40 minutes
 - West Palm Beach – 1½ hours
 - Orlando – 3½ to 4 hours
 - Tampa – 4½ hours
 - Jacksonville – 5½ hours
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Flying

Most travelers arrive through:

Miami International Airport (MIA)

Approximately **8–10 miles** from PortMiami.

Travel time:

15–20 minutes (depending on traffic)

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)

Approximately **30 miles** away.

Travel time:

35–45 minutes

Many travelers choose FLL because it often offers lower airfare.



Transportation

Getting to the port is easy.

Options include:

- Uber
- Lyft
- Taxi
- Cruise line transfers
- Hotel shuttles (select hotels)
- Private transportation

Traffic can be heavy, especially on weekends, so allow extra travel time.

Parking

PortMiami offers several parking garages directly adjacent to the cruise terminals.

Features include:

- Covered parking
- Accessible parking
- Security
- Short walk to terminal
- Easy luggage unloading

Parking fills quickly during busy weekends, so plan accordingly.



Hotels Near the Cruise Port

Popular cruise hotels include:

Downtown Miami

- InterContinental Miami
- YVE Hotel Miami
- Hyatt Regency Miami
- Hilton Miami Downtown
- Holiday Inn Port of Miami

Brickell

- EAST Miami
- Hampton Inn Brickell
- Novotel Miami Brickell

Miami Beach

- Loews Miami Beach
- Fontainebleau Miami Beach
- Eden Roc Miami Beach

Many hotels offer:

- Cruise packages
 - Shuttle transportation
 - Pre-cruise specials
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Where to Eat Before Your Cruise

Miami is one of America's premier food cities.

Don't miss:

- Cuban sandwiches
- Stone crab (seasonal)
- Fresh seafood
- Key Lime Pie
- Empanadas
- Latin American cuisine
- Authentic Cuban coffee

Popular restaurants include:

- Versailles Restaurant
 - Joe's Stone Crab
 - CVI.CHE 105
 - Bayside Marketplace restaurants
 - Havana 1957
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Things to Do Before Your Cruise



Bayside Marketplace

Located just minutes from PortMiami.

Enjoy:

- Waterfront dining
 - Shopping
 - Live entertainment
 - Boat tours
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South Beach

Relax on one of the world's most famous beaches.

Explore:

- Ocean Drive
 - Art Deco District
 - Beachfront cafés
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Little Havana

Experience:

- Cuban culture
 - Live music
 - Authentic food
 - Domino Park
 - Calle Ocho
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Wynwood Walls

One of the world's most famous outdoor street art museums.

Perfect for photos.

Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

A spectacular European-style estate overlooking Biscayne Bay.

Everglades Airboat Tours

Only a short drive from downtown.

See:

- Alligators
 - Birds
 - Native wildlife
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Weather Throughout the Year

Winter (Dec–Feb)

- Highs: 74–80°F
- Low humidity
- Excellent weather

Spring (Mar–May)

- Highs: 78–86°F
- Warm and sunny
- Great beach conditions

Summer (Jun–Aug)

- Highs: 88–92°F
- Hot and humid
- Afternoon thunderstorms

Fall (Sep–Nov)

- Highs: 80–88°F
- Warm temperatures

- Lower humidity later in the season
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Hurricane Season

Official season:

June 1 – November 30

Peak activity:

- August
- September
- October

Cruise lines closely monitor tropical weather and frequently adjust itineraries rather than cancel cruises.

Travel insurance is strongly recommended.

Embarkation Day Tips

Before leaving your hotel, make sure you have:

- ✓ Passport or approved identification
- ✓ Boarding documents
- ✓ Cruise luggage tags
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Carry-on essentials
- ✓ Travel insurance information

Plan to arrive during your assigned arrival window, and allow extra travel time due to Miami traffic.

Premium Travel Group Tip

Miami isn't just a cruise port—it's one of the world's great vacation cities. We highly recommend arriving at least one day early to enjoy the beaches, incredible food, vibrant neighborhoods, and unique culture. Starting your vacation early means less stress and more time to experience everything Miami has to offer before stepping onboard.



Continue Planning Your Cruise

Continue preparing for your vacation with our helpful guides:

- [Vacation Packing Guide](#)
 - [Caribbean Vacation Planning Guide](#)
 - [When to Visit the Caribbean](#)
 - [Cruise Port Guides](#)
 - [Cruise Departure Guides](#)
 - [Shore Excursion Planning Guide](#) (*Coming Soon*)
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Why Sail from Miami?

Miami offers more cruise choices than any other departure port, with itineraries ranging from quick weekend getaways to luxury voyages and transatlantic adventures. Combined with easy access, outstanding hotels, and endless pre-cruise activities, it's easy to see why millions of travelers begin their cruise vacations here every year.