

Words

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A WEEKEND GETAWAY: TRAVELING TO MIAMI'S LATIN BEAT

Strewn against a backdrop of turquoise waters, sandy shores and technicolored streets, Miami is vibrant and multifaceted. Those of us who call it our hometown dare you to veer off the path and dance to the beat of The Magic City's Latin heart.

Below: Faena Hotel Miami Beach





Above Left: Faena Hotel Miami Beach
Above Right: Tierra Santa Healing House

DAY 1

9:30 a.m.

Set yourself on vacation mode with utter relaxation at Miami's first South American-inspired spa. The oceanfront **Tierra Santa Spa** derives its healing techniques and treatments from ancient, indigenous practices and ingredients. Home to Miami's largest hammam and occupying the entire third floor of the recently opened **Faena Miami Beach Hotel**, this retreat's immaculately curated details (think chandeliers, handmade soaps and a Damien Hirst sculpture) are as special as the treatments themselves. Opt for an Amazon white clay or maca scrub, with plant-based body oils ethically sourced from South America's tropical forests.

11 a.m.

Extend that blissful state with some leisure time beachside at **Faena Playa** – located just footsteps from the spa. Sun-worship to your heart's desire along the palm-lined pool at this 100,000-sq.ft. beach playground.

1 p.m.

Elevate your senses even further with a contemporary asado lunch experience at **Los Fuegos by Francis Mallmann**, where the acclaimed grill-master's traditional and rustic menu centers on live-fire cooking and an open-fire kitchen in his first (and only) U.S. restaurant. To provide an even more immersive South-American experience, the 792 lightbulbs on the restaurant's Alberto Garutti chandelier flash every time lightning strikes Argentina's Las Pampas (lowlands). How's that for a taste of place?

3:05 p.m.

It's Miami's official cafecito time, so fuel up with a strong cortadito (and a sweet pastelito) at **Enriqueta's**, a Cuban cuisine staple since 1942, before embarking on a colorful adventure to the heart of Miami's arts-and-culture district at **Wynwood**. Iconic for its provocative street art, murals and graffiti and home to **70 galleries and museums**, Wynwood is a living and evolving art exhibit in itself – but don't forget the shopping. Stop by **Wynwood Block**, housed in an old shoe warehouse, for the ultimate souvenirs, including a colorfully curated selection of South American designers at **Boho Hunter**.

6 p.m.

Wynwood becomes even more vibrant on the second Saturday of every month during the **Wynwood Art Walk**. Join the thousands of people who flood the district's streets to immerse themselves in Miami's best-of culture. You'll stroll feeling right at home among the locals.

11 p.m.

Wind down the day at **El Patio** for a laid-back and cozy lounge experience reminiscent of abuela's backyard. In fact, it's mementos from the owner's homeland of Colombia that help create this authentic vibe. A rotating playlist (and live performances) of salsa, cumbia and merengue, mixed with electronic music and classic Latin tracks, add even more to the ambiance.



Above: EAST, Miami

DAY 2

11 a.m.

Kick off the day in classic Latin style with brunch at **The Matador Room**, offering a fresh, sustainably sourced and reimagined menu of Caribbean, Spanish and South American cuisine. With an ambiance reminiscent of the glamorous supper clubs of the 40s and 50s, the restaurant, located at **The Miami Beach EDITION**, is helmed by world-renowned chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. Don't leave without trying the sweet pea empanadas. A carafe of red apple sangria is also a must.

1 p.m.

Before venturing into iconic **Ocean Drive** for a walking tour of the storied **Art Deco District**, stroll through **Española Way** – a two-block escape into the heart of Spain. Tucked away from the bustle of South Beach but just steps away, the pedestrian-friendly strip provides countless opportunities to shop for unique gifts, people-watch or sip on a tinto under the overhanging café lights, as you take in the romance of Spanish colonial architecture – and listen to the strumming of an acoustic guitar.

4 p.m.

Throw it back retro style in the heart of Miami Beach's famed **Shelborne South Beach**, a luxurious 1940s art deco landmark. Sip on a handcrafted cocktail at a poolside cabana, or head inside for a vintage retreat in **The Drawing Room**, where "liquid artists" mix up

local herbs and botanicals with techniques from the kitchen and the apothecary. Try the "Cultura del Mezcal," a floral and citrusy palate-pleaser that's sure to transport you to Oaxaca, if only for a few sips.

7 p.m.

Venture deeper into Miami to tap into its rich Cuban heritage in **Little Havana**. Anchored by SW 8th Street (Calle Ocho, for the locals), the neighborhood houses colorful murals of Cuban cultural icons alongside corner bakeries, music shops, jazz clubs, rum bars, a cigar factory and **Domino Park**. On the last Friday of the month, experience the **Viernes Culturales** arts-and-music festival and free walking tours to fully immerse yourself and hang with the locals.

8:30 p.m.

Toast to your day at a Little Havana landmark, **Versailles Restaurant**. Sip on an authentic Cuban mojito before biting into the boliche, eye-of-round roast beef stuffed with Spanish sausage, garlic, onions, bell peppers, spices and wine and served with moros rice and sweet platanos – my absolute favorite!

11 p.m.

Heat up the night with Latin music and live jazz at **Ball & Chain**, a revived historic tavern that once hosted the likes of Billie Holiday. Keep it classy with a Cuban Old Fashioned, fittingly topped with a tobacco leaf.

DETAILS

Where to Stay

FAENA HOTEL MIAMI BEACH

Miami Beach

Argentinian developer Alan Faena's first U.S. property is, by all stretch of the imagination, a utopian escape for art-and-culture lovers. This luxury development in the heart of the city's Mid-Beach neighborhood has been recognized by the city as a district, complete with its own zip code – one worth exploring.

www.faena.com/miami-beach

THE SHELBORNE MIAMI BEACH

Art Deco District

Following a \$150-million renovation, the iconic art deco hotel, which was first embellished in the 1950s, has reestablished itself as a must-experience destination for luxury and impeccable service. Its vintage elegance, modern sophistication and state-of-the-art offerings make it a must for staying, dining, indulging and revitalizing.

www.shelborne.com



The Shelbourne Miami Beach

Where to Eat & Drink

LOS FUEGOS BY FRANCIS MALLMANN

Miami Beach

As if Francis Mallmann's name wasn't enough, the restaurant's "Sunday Asado" brings authentic Argentinian wood-fired cuisine to the forefront, complete with a rustic multi-course menu and front-seat access to one of the world's most acclaimed chefs, set against the stunning \$1 billion backdrop of the Faena District.

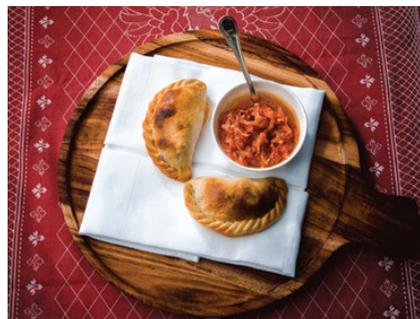
www.faena.com

QUINTO LA HUELLA

Downtown Miami

Extending the allure of the South American parrilla tradition, the first North American restaurant by the team behind Uruguay's Parador La Huella is cooking up Uruguayan recipes over an open flame in its wood-flanked kitchen on the fifth floor of the EAST Miami hotel, the first U.S. location for the Hong Kong-based brand. Sweetbreads with chimichurri are in order!

www.quintolahuella.com



Los Fuegos - Wood Oven Empanadas

What to Do & See

CALLE OCHO

Little Havana

As the anchor of this historically rich neighborhood, SW 8th Street is the unofficial "Capital of Miami's Cuban Community." With ample of opportunities to experience the culture first-hand, you'll get lost in the street's liveliness – and may even find yourself joining the locals for a game of dominoes.

www.miamiandbeaches.com

BLAKEHOUSE ART COMPLEX

Wynwood

Housed in a former bakery company's headquarters, this nonprofit cultural hub provides a diverse group of emerging and mid-career artists with studio and exhibition spaces with the mission of inspiring diversity and critical thought. Open to the public, it provides visitors with a glimpse into the artists' working studios and galleries.

www.miamiandbeaches.com



Faena Spa Waiting Area