



GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

# **GMCVB Communications Activities and Press Clippings**

# **APRIL 2020**





The Official Accredited Destination Marketing Organization for Greater Miami and the Beaches

April 2020

Dear Reader,

It is our pleasure to present to you the GMCVB's Communications clipping report for the month of April 2020. Within these pages you will be given a firsthand look at the results garnered by the efforts of the Communications Team at The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Communications Activity report is constructed of four sections:

- **Key Performance Indicators:** Illustrates the circulation, media impressions, advertising equivalency, and social media mentions for Greater Miami and The Beaches. These results are presented both as year-to-date and monthly figures.
- **Activity Summary Report:** This section provides you an in-depth view at the activities for the month.
- **Clippings:** The results of the media team's efforts are captured in this section where you will find the all the press clippings resulting for the given month. Clippings are listed in order by the following markets: USA and Canada, Local/Corporate Communication. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GMCVB paused relationships with most of its global PR agencies. Therefore, this month's report includes only clippings from the US/Canada and Local/Corporate Communication markets.

It is an absolute privilege promoting Greater Miami and The Beaches to the world through our domestic and international public relations efforts. If you have any questions about this report please feel free to reach the Communications Team directly at 305.539.3084.

Sincerely,

William D. Talbert, III, CDME  
President & CEO

Jennifer Diaz  
Vice President of Communications

Note: The Key Performance Indicators (KPI) section provides you with a snapshot view of the results garnered by the efforts of the communications department during the month of April 2020.

Key Performance Indicators

	<u>April 2020</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Overall Total Circulation:	3303,085,614	4,602,484,350
Overall Total Media Impressions:	757,714,035	11,506,210,875
Overall Total Ad Equivalency:	\$724,655	\$17,212,307
General Circulation:	302,547,916	4,509,797,811
General Media Impressions:	756,369,790	11,274,494,527
General Ad Equivalency:	\$720,320	\$16,982,136
MICE Circulation:	537,698	92,686,539
MICE Media Impressions:	1,344,245	231,716,347
MICE Ad Equivalency:	\$4,345	\$230,171
Corporate Comm Circulation:	23,347,985	52,063,736
Corporate Comm Media Impressions:	58,369,962	130,159,340
Corporate Comm Ad Equivalency:	\$42,571	\$120,834
Number of FAMS:	0	14
Number of Media Visits:	0	74
Number of Media Missions:	0	11
Number of Promotions:	0	4

NOTE: This section contains descriptions of all activities involving the media relations & promotions team throughout the month.

**COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**  
**Activity Summary Report**  
*April 2020*

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

**Content / Digital Media /Website Contributions:**

**MIAMI GOOGLE POSTS (April 1-30, 2020):** GMCVB Staff assisted in writing 5-6 weekly Miami Google posts to be shared digitally. Calendar content includes themes such as Miami Eats, Arts/Culture Virtual Experiences, Neighborhood Webcams, Miami Virtual Fitness, and other topics that may be trending that month.

**EARTH DAY (April 22, 2020):** GMCVB Staff wrote a new article to be featured on the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau website regarding Earth Day. Article touches on all the virtual experiences to enjoy during Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**ARTICLE FACT CHECKING (April 22-30, 2020):** GMCVB Communication Team assisted in fact checking various articles to keep content on website up-to-date and fresh.

**THRESHOLD 360 VIRTUAL TOURS (April 8-30 2020):** GMCVB Communications Team assisted in writing location descriptions for themed virtual tours being rolled out on our website for the Miami Shines recovery campaign.

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH RESOURCE TEAM (April 30-May 7, 2020):** GMCVB Communications Team assisted the City of Miami Beach reaching out to the first round of restaurants & bars in order to survey their current business status and provide resources available to them.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS:

- **STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION FOR MIAMI SALUTES (U.S./Local) April 5, 2020:** GMCVB Communications Team provided messaging for stakeholder and corporate communications and media pitching regarding the GMCVB Miami Salutes program.
- **STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION FOR VIRTUAL MIAMI (U.S./Local) April 13, 2020:** GMCVB Communications Team issued a release that was distributed to GMCVB partners/stakeholders regarding the launch of the Virtual Miami web portal through MiamiandBeaches.com
- **FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (U.S./Local) April 14, 2020:** GMCVB Communications Team provided a summary with information on each of the Greater Miami and Convention and Visitors Bureau Covid-19 Mitigation Response Initiatives for a Florida Business Stepping Up feature on the Florida of Chamber Website.
- **PRESS RELEASE FOR MIAMI EATS / MEALS FOR HEROES, MIAMI PARTNERSHIP (U.S./Local) April 17, 2020:** GMCVB Communications Team wrote and issued a press release announcing the partnership with 'Meals for Heroes, Miami' and the GMCVB's 'Miami

Eats' initiative. The GMCVB will be marketing and promoting this program, which provides meals to frontline responders from restaurants that are currently participating in the 'Miami Eats' program.

- **TOURISM INDUSTRY VIRTUAL TOWN HALL** (U.S./Local) April 22, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team distributed stakeholder information regarding the Tourism Industry Virtual Town Hall
- **MIAMI HERALD COVID-19 BUSINESS STORY SURVEY** (U.S./Local) April 27, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team fielded a request from Jane Wooldrige, Business Editor for the *Miami Herald*, requesting we enlist our partners to participate in a Covid-19 Business Story Survey. The Team issued a stakeholder communication offering partners the opportunity to participate in the survey which will be used for a Business Monday cover story and a possible webinar.
- **PRESS RELEASE FOR MIAMI SHINES** (U.S./Local) April 30, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team wrote and issued a press release announcing the 'Miami Shines' campaign, a tourism recovery campaign created in preparation for the gradual reopening of Miami-Dade County's travel and hospitality industry. The release featured the introduction of the initial rollout of the campaign which is a pre-recovery phase including an inspirational video produced in English, Spanish and Creole targeting future leisure and business travelers, as well as meeting planners.
- **STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION FOR MIAMI SHINES** (U.S./Local) April 30, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team provided messaging for stakeholder and corporate communications announcing the 'Miami Shines' campaign, a tourism recovery campaign created in preparation for the gradual reopening of Miami-Dade County's travel and hospitality industry. The release featured the introduction of the initial rollout of the campaign which is a pre-recovery phase including an inspirational video produced in English, Spanish and Creole targeting future leisure and business travelers, as well as meeting planners.

#### MEDIA ASSISTANCE:

##### **Local Media:**

- **THE CW SOUTH FLORIDA/ WSFL-TV**(U.S./Local) April 1, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB CEO/President William Talbert, III, CDME and CW South Florida / WSFL-TV Producer Miriam Tapia which will be used for a dedicated segment on the GMCVB's recent initiatives to help support struggling businesses during COVID-19, specifically the Hotels for Essential Lodgers program. They also touched on the Miami Pandemic Response Fund, GMCVB Fee Waiver, and Miami Eats. WSFL is Miami-Fort Lauderdale's CW affiliate, programming a strong schedule of entertainment and public affairs programming. The CW South Florida signal reaches South Florida television households representing more than 4 million people. The station reaches cable households in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties, plus extends into nearly half of West Palm Beach cable households. The Team provided speaking points for the interview (Viewership: 1,697,840 households).
- **MIAMI HERALD** U.S./Local) April 2, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team provided a statement on behalf of GMCVB CEO/President William Talbert, III, CDME for a news story by reporter Rob Wile regarding COVID's impact to the local tourism industry and job numbers. The statement addressed the issue and the GMCVB initiatives/resources being offered to mitigate the impact including Miami Eats, Essential Lodgers, Miami Salutes and the Miami Tourism HELP (Daily Circulation: 733k, UMV: 11.7 million).

- **LEGACY MAGAZINE** (U.S./Local) April 3, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team arranged an interview with GMCVB Vice President, Multicultural Tourism & Development, Connie Kinnard and Russel Motley, editor-in-chief of *Legacy Magazine*, covering the Essential Lodging Program in their upcoming “Power Issue.” Legacy Miami is a business/news publication serving South Florida's Black community with insightful articles and information on business, careers, politics, education, culture and social commentary. Established in 2004, Legacy Miami has a distribution partnership with the *Miami Herald* newspaper and Legacy South Florida has a distribution partnership with the Sun-Sentinel newspaper.
- **MIAMI HERALD** (U.S./Local) April 6, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team arranged an interview with GMCVB CEO/President William Talbert, III, CDME and *Miami Herald* reporter Andres Vignuzzi for an article regarding budget and staffing cuts, marketing reductions and efforts the South Florida local DMO's are taking as a result of revenue drops from tourism taxes due to the Coronavirus virus (Daily Circulation: 733k, UMV: 11.7 million).
- **SOUTH FLORIDA'S FIRST NEWS WITH JIMMY CEFALO/WIOD** (U.S./Local) April 8, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB CEO, William Talbert, III, CDME and “*South Florida's First News*” host Jimmy Cefalo. Mr. Talbert joined the radio show for a live, phone interview during which he spoke about the GMCVB's current Covid-19 initiatives including Miami Eats and Miami Salutes programs. The Team provided a program briefing and speaking points for the interview.
- **NBC 6/WTVJ** (U.S./Local) April 8, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB CEO, Bill Talbert and reporter Sasha Jones for an on -air segment that featured the GMCVB initiatives Miami Eats and Essential Lodgers. The Team provided speaking points for the interview.
- **NBC 6/WTVJ** (U.S./Local) April 13, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted NBC 6/WTVJ reporter Steve Litz, working on a story about the impact of COVID-19 on tourism. The Communications Team arranged for GMCVB Chief Operating Officer, Rolando Aedo to speak with him and provide tourism figures and information about hotel bed taxes for the story.
- **BISCAYNE TIMES** (U.S./Canada) April 20, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team secured and provided the creative for a Miami Eats Ad that was provided complimentary by the publication.
- **SUN SENTINEL** (U.S./Canada) April 21, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted *Sun Sentinel* reporter Austen Erblat who was writing an article about hotels and motels in South Florida that are currently open. The Team provided him with information about the GMCVB Essential Lodgers program.
- **TRAVEL WEEKLY** (U.S./Local) April 21, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB CEO, William Talbert, III, CDME and *Travel Weekly* journalist, Eric Moya to discuss the state of the GMCVB as a result of Covid-19 and various recovery initiatives planned. The Communications Team provided speaking points for the interview.
- **MIAMI TODAY** (U.S./Local) April 24, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB COO, Rolando Aedo and *Miami Today* reporter Jesse Scheckner. Rolando will be featured in their "*Achiever*" feature as well as their annual "Book of Leaders".
- **MIAMI TODAY** (U.S./Local) April 24, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized interviews with GMCVB LGBTQ Tourism Director Dan Rios and Partnership Director, Ali Bibeau and *Miami Today* reporter Abraham Galvan regarding the LGBTQ Miami Begins with Me virtual training.

- **NBC NEWS/TODAY SHOW** (U.S./Local) April 27, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB COO, Rolando Aedo and NBC News/*Today Show* reporter, Sam Brock regarding Summer Recovery and Miami Shines campaign
- **“THE PAUL CASTRONOVO SHOW” - BIG 105.9 FM/iHeart Radio** (U.S./Local) April 27, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB COO Rolando Aedo and host Paul Castronovo from Big 105.9/iHeart Radio’s “*The Paul Castronovo Show*”. Rolando joined the radio show for a live, phone interview during which he spoke about the GMCVB’s partnership with Meals for Heroes, Miami and other current Covid-19 initiatives.
- **SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL / SFBJ** (U.S./Local) April 28, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB CEO, William Talbert, III, CDME and *SFBJ* reporter Matthew Arrojas regarding the future of the cruise industry post Covid-19.
- **MIAMI HERALD** (U.S./Local) April 29, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB COO Rolando Aedo and *Miami Herald* reporter Michelle Kaufman regarding the Miami Shines campaign.
- **WPLG/Local 10** (U.S./Local) April 30, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized and interview with GMCVB COO Rolando Aedo and Local 10/WPLG reporter Parker Branton regarding the Miami Shines campaign.
- **CBS4/WFOR** (U.S./Local) April 30, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team organized an interview with GMCVB COO Rolando Aedo and CBS 4 reporter Parker Branton regarding the Miami Shines campaign.

#### US/Canada

- **POLITICO** (U.S./Canada) April 1, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Betsy Woodruff Swan, a freelancer working on a story for *Politico* about convention centers being converted to hospital facilities (UMV: 26 million).
- **PASSPORT MAGAZINE** (U.S./Canada) April 2, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Mark Chestnut, a freelance writer working on a story for *Passport Magazine* about how LGBTQ travelers can start planning their next great vacation, once the current crisis ends. The Team provided information on various partner initiatives (Readership: 419,000).
- **EDGE MEDIA NETWORK** (U.S./Canada) April 3, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted a writer from the Edge Media Network working on a story about higher end restaurants that don’t normally offer delivery/pickup but had to adapt due to the pandemic. Interested in featuring examples from Miami, the Team pitched the Miami Eats program and provided information and imagery for various restaurants/chefs that were accepted. (Online Circulation: 77,159 UVM)
- **BUSINESS INSIDER** (U.S./Canada) April 9, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted a freelance writer working on an article for *Business Insider* about chefs who have adapted to delivery or takeout exclusively. The Team provided information about the GMCVB Miami Eats program and aided in securing an interview with the chef from Seaspice promoting their dock side deliver service (UVM: 22,990,384).
- **FREELANCER RAMSEY QUEBEIN** (U.S./Canada) April 13, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Ramsey Quebien, a freelance writer seeking creative and heartwarming stories for a story for a personal finance and travel website on what hotels are doing to assist first responders and patients with medical needs (COVID-19 related or not). The Team provided information about the GMCB First Responders program for the story and put out a media lead to partners soliciting submissions.
- **THE REAL DEAL** (U.S./Local) April 13, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted a reporter from *The Real Deal* for a round-up titled, “South Florida Developers and Brokers Give Back

During Coronavirus” in which the GMCVB/United Way/Miami Herald Miami Pandemic Relief Fund for hospitality workers and their families, was featured. *The Real Deal*, widely considered to be “the bible” for the real estate industry, reaches millions of real estate professionals nationally and is the go-to source for national real estate news coverage.

- ***TOURISM MARKETING TODAY/DESTINATIONS FLORIDA SPECIAL EDITION ‘NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK’*** (U.S./Local) May 14, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team prepared a submission to *Tourism Marketing Today*, the newsletter of Destinations Florida for a special edition of publication centered around National Travel and Tourism Week May 3-9. The submission featured information about the GMCVB’s participation in the U.S. Travel Association’s first-ever Virtual Roadtrip. These submissions are selected news items from DMOs in *Tourism Marketing Today*, the newsletter of Destinations Florida. *Tourism Marketing Today/Destinations Florida*
- ***TOURISM MARKETING TODAY/DESTINATIONS FLORIDA “QUICK TRIP”*** (U.S./Local) April 13, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team provided a submission to *Tourism Marketing Today*, featuring GMCVB activities in support of the launch of the GMCVB’s ‘Miami Eats, Order Out, Help Out’ pre-recovery campaign, a program conceived to help stimulate business for local restaurants, their owners, chefs and employees. “Quick Trips” are brief news items from DMOs in *Tourism Marketing Today*, the newsletter of Destinations Florida.
- ***FREELANCER CHARU SURI*** (U.S./Local) April 16, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Freelance writer Charu Suri, seeking examples of Covid-19 inspired street art for an article for a national publication (she normally contributes to *New York Times*, *Reader’s Digest*, *Architectural Digest* and others).
- ***TRAVEL WEEKLY*** (U.S./Canada) April 21, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team arranged an interview with GMCVB CEO/President William Talbert, III, CDME and Eric Moya, Destinations Editor at *Travel Weekly*, for a follow up story on a USTOA study about staffing issues and DMO marketing/messaging strategies post-COVID, in which he planned to include Miami.
- ***BUSINESS INSIDER*** (U.S./Canada) April 22, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted freelance journalist Jen Karetnick, doing research for a story about South Beach Hotels for *Business Insider*.
- ***FREELANCER RAMSEY QUEBEIN*** (U.S./Canada) April 22, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Ramsey Quebien, a freelance writer seeking submissions for a story about hotel amenities you can buy for your home (bed linens, pillows, decor, candles, toiletries, signature amenities, scents, etc.) to relive your favorite travel memories.
- ***FORBES*** (U.S./Canada) April 22, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Michele Herrmann, a writer from *Forbes* working on a roundup of cities that have new street art and/or murals popping up in response to COVID-19. The Team provided content from a variety of sources.
- ***FREELANCER RAMSEY QUEBEIN*** (U.S./Canada) April 22, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Ramsey Quebien, a freelance writer seeking assistance with submissions for a story about hotel-inspired ideas to recreate the festive Cinco de Mayo experience at home.
- ***WASHINGTON POST*** (U.S./Canada) April 24, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Christopher Elliott, a journalist working on a story about how travel destinations are staying visible through virtual programming for the *Washington Post*. The Team provided content and information on the GMCVB Virtual Miami program (UVM: 20,531,730 / Ad Value: \$18,992).
- ***BUDGET TRAVEL*** (U.S./Canada) April 27, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted Lola Mendez, a journalist working on a piece featuring virtual tours of street art around the world for

*Budget Travel.* The Team provided information on the Wynwood Art District as well as the Wynwood Walls Virtual Gallery Tour. In addition, the writer featured an image of the murals as headline of the story (UVM: 1,488,019 / Ad Value: \$3,441).

### **Meetings/Trade**

- **PREVUE MAGAZINE** – April 8, 2020 – GMCVB Communications assisted staff editor Barbara Scofidio with a request for Prevue Magazine. The magazine was seeking updates from DMO's and industry partners to include on their website prevuemeetings.com. The team provided Barabara with content for the #HospitalityStrong initiative: Destination/property news & inspiring stories of giving back. The information provided included details of our overall response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic: Hotels for Essential Lodgers, MiamiEats Restaurant Program, Miami Salutes, Miami Pandemic Response Fund, Help for the Tourism Industry, GMCVB Fee Waiver, and Virtual Miami offerings. (Circulation: 45,000)
- **NORTHSTAR** (U.S./Canada) April 13, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted a writer working on a story about service programs in which Miami Salutes was featured. The Team provided information about the program as well as images for the publication.
- **SKIFT** (U.S./Canada) April 20, 2020: GMCVB Communications Team assisted freelance writer Matt Striker, who was pitching a story to *Skift* about the resilience and “moxie” of DMOs across the country during the Covid-19 crises and their role in the recovery effort.

*Note: The following section contains a clip report spreadsheet with the quantitative results of the coverage secured by the Communications team for the month of April 2020. Following the clip report spreadsheet, you will find the clippings associated with the clip report, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us.*

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**MEDIA RELATIONS CLIPPING REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020**

PUBLICATION	DATE	AUTHOR'S NAME	KEY MESSAGES	CIRCULATION/ VISITS PER DAY	AD EQUIV	RESULT OF	PUBLICATION TYPE	
<b>Assisted Clips: US/CANADA</b>								
Travel + Leisure	March 20, 2020	Perri Ormont Blumberg	Community Resilience/Recovery	2,395,366	\$3,165	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
CNN	April 1, 2020	Stacey Lastoe	Destination Miami	419,283	\$788	Other	DIGITAL	
Smarter Travel	April 2, 2020	Patricia Magana	Community Resilience/Recovery	655,274	\$242	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Buzzfeed	April 2, 2020	Christina Vidal	Destination Miami	17,136	\$32	Other	DIGITAL	
TravelPulse	April 3, 2020	Mackenzie Cullen	Community Resilience/Recovery	16,497,686	\$3,391	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Miami New Times	April 3, 2020	Chelsea Olson	Destination Miami	249,475	\$2,308	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Purewow	April 4, 2020	Clarissa Buch	Community Resilience/Recovery	256,032	\$481	Other	DIGITAL	
Two bad tourists	April 6, 2020	Auston Matta	Arts & Culture/Multicultural & Heritage Neighborhoods	999,524	\$9,246	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
CNBC	April 7, 2020	Ramsey Oubein	Community Resilience/Recovery	1,832	\$3	Other	DIGITAL	
MSN	April 7, 2020	Ramsey Oubein	Community Resilience/Recovery	30,625,669	\$8,252	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
South Florida Caribbean News	April 7, 2020	N/A	Community Resilience/Recovery	82,905,364	\$45,110	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Brides	April 7, 2020	Anna Price Olson	Destination Miami	3,636	\$7	Other	BLOG	
Thrillist	April 7, 2020	Chris Malone	Destination Miami	836,938	\$1,573	Other	DIGITAL	
Front Office Sports	April 7, 2020	Rat Evans	Sports Tourism	3,826,525	\$35,395	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Points Guy	April 8, 2020	Katherine Fan	Community Resilience/Recovery	53,998	\$499	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Recommend	April 8, 2020	Paloma Villaverde de Rico	Culinary	2,402,960	\$4,618	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Washington Post	April 10, 2020	Hannah Sampson	Community Resilience/Recovery	85,002	\$786	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Artnet News	April 13, 2020	Sarah Cascone	Arts & Culture/Multicultural & Heritage Neighborhoods	20,531,730	\$18,992	Other	DIGITAL	
Travel Weekly	April 13, 2020	Tom Slieghorst	Community Resilience/Recovery	641,766	\$1,207	Other	DIGITAL	
Family Vacation Critic	April 16, 2020	Amanda Norcross	Community Resilience/Recovery	178,027	\$1,647	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Mommy Poppins	April 17, 2020	Christine Mooney	Community Resilience/Recovery	298,044	\$560	Other	DIGITAL	
PureWow	April 17, 2020	Clarissa Buch	Community Resilience/Recovery	270,918	\$47	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Thrillist	April 17, 2020	Kristen Adaway	Community Resilience/Recovery	999,524	\$9,246	Other	DIGITAL	
EDGE Media Network	April 17, 2020	April Stamm	Culinary	3,826,525	\$5,056	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Culture Trip	April 19, 2020	Jacquelyn Lumley	Community Resilience/Recovery	77,153	\$236	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Washington Post	April 19, 2020	Marian Lu	Community Resilience/Recovery	3,538,544	\$6,652	Other	BLOG	
Thrillist	April 20, 2020	Curt Hollingsworth	Community Resilience/Recovery	20,531,730	\$9,496	Other	DIGITAL	
McCool Travel	April 21, 2020	Charles McCool	Destination Miami	3,826,525	\$35,395	Other	DIGITAL	
We3travel	April 21, 2020	Tamara Gruber	Destination Miami	2,369	\$4	Other	DIGITAL	
The Washington Post	April 22, 2020	Christopher Elliott	Community Resilience/Recovery	34,204	\$8	Proactive Pitching	BLOG	
Eater	April 22, 2020	Olee Fowler	Culinary	20,531,730	\$21,102	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Our escape clause	April 22, 2020	Kate Storm	Destination Miami	18,452	\$35	Other	BLOG	
Paperblog	April 24, 2020	N/A	Arts & Culture/Multicultural & Heritage Neighborhoods	36,088	\$68	Other	DIGITAL	
Vacation Idea	April 25, 2020	N/A	Destination Miami	30,487	\$57	Other	BLOG	
Budget Travel	April 27, 2020	Lola Méndez	Arts & Culture/Multicultural & Heritage Neighborhoods	240,233	\$452	Other	DIGITAL	
Forbes	April 27, 2020	Brittany Anas	Community Resilience/Recovery	1,488,019	\$1,721	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Travel Weekly	April 28, 2020	Jeri Clausing	Community Resilience/Recovery	33,287,537	\$62,581	Other	DIGITAL	
The Infatuation	April 28, 2020	Ryan Pfeffer	Culinary	178,027	\$329	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Business Insider	April 29, 2020	Jen Karetnick	Destination Miami	266,098	\$500	Other	BLOG	
The Good Men Project	April 29, 2020	Shahbaz Ahmed	Destination Miami	35,370,424	\$327,176	Other	DIGITAL	
Travel + Leisure	April 29, 2020	Evie Carrick	Destination Miami	273,232	\$514	Other	DIGITAL	
Budget Travel	April 30, 2020	Michele Herrmann	Arts & Culture/Multicultural & Heritage Neighborhoods	2,395,366	\$3,693	Other	DIGITAL	
CBS Miami	April 30, 2020	Frances Wang	Community Resilience/Recovery	1,488,019	\$1,376	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
CBS Miami	April 30, 2020	Frances Wang	Community Resilience/Recovery	271,492	\$510	Other	DIGITAL	
Miami Herald	April 30, 2020	Michelle Kaufman	Community Resilience/Recovery	294,356	\$478	Other	DIGITAL	
Miami Herald	April 30, 2020	Michelle Kaufman	Community Resilience/Recovery	3,160,751	\$29,237	GMCVB	DIGITAL	
Recommend	April 30, 2020	Andrea Doyle	Community Resilience/Recovery	3,160,751	\$29,237	GMCVB	DIGITAL	
TravelPulse	April 30, 2020	Mackenzie Cullen	Community Resilience/Recovery	85,002	\$786	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Hamilton Spectator	March 21, 2020	Sherri Haigh	Community Resilience/Recovery	249,475	\$2,308	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Hamilton Spectator	March 21, 2020	Sherri Haigh	Community Resilience/Recovery	395,000	\$3,654	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Escapism Magazine	April 17, 2020	Meredith Hardie	Community Resilience/Recovery	295,000	\$9,950	Proactive Pitching	PRINT	
DRIFT Magazine	April 17, 2020	Steve Drake	Community Resilience/Recovery	60,000	\$555	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Vancouver.com	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	550,000	\$5,088	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
North Shore News	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	146,000	\$1,351	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Humboldt Journal	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	21,000	\$194	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Tri-City News	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	15,000	\$139	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Times Colonist	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	26,000	\$241	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Estevan Mercury	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	617,000	\$5,707	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Empire Advance	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	5,000	\$46	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Reminder	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	7,000	\$65	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Yorkton This Week	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	15,000	\$139	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
The Outlook	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	5,000	\$46	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Wayburn Review	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	5,000	\$46	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Kansack Times	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	34,870	\$323	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Prescoveille Progress	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	15,000	\$139	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Canora Courier	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	15,000	\$139	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Assiniboia Times	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	20,000	\$185	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Carlyle Observer	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	7,000	\$65	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Lilloet News	April 22, 2020	Sandra Thomas	Community Resilience/Recovery	15,000	\$139	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
PlanetWare	April 30, 2020	Shandley McMurray	Destination Miami	5,000	\$46	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL	
Going Awesome Places	April 30, 2020	Will Tang	Community Resilience/Recovery, Destination Miami	562,342	\$5,202	Reactive Pitch	DIGITAL	
				37,400	\$346	Proactive Pitching	BLOG	
<b>Local</b>								
Community Newspapers (print + online)	4/1/2020	Community Newspapers	Ran Miami Salutes Press Release	31,328	\$31	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL	PRINT
Miami Times (online)	4/1/2020	Eman Elshahawy	Included GMCVB Essential Lodgers program in larger COVID story	1,012	\$15	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL	
103.5 FM (Papa Keith)	4/3/2020	Papa Keith	Segment on Essential Lodgers program and larger GMCVB COVID-19 response efforts			PROACTIVE OUTREACH		BROADCAST
South Florida Business Journal (SFBJ)	4/6/2020	Matthew Arrojas	Titled "South Florida Hotels Face Tough Choices as Occupancy Falls to Historic Lows," that references Bill Talbert's interview and Essential Lodger Program	58,746	\$58	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL	
South Florida Business Journal (SFBJ)	4/6/2020	Mel Melendez	included the GMCVB's "Miami Salutes" program in their round-up titled, "South Florida Companies Step Up to Help Community with COVID-19 Fallout."	58,746	\$58	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL	
Miami Herald (online)	4/6/2020	Madeleine Marr	included the GMCVB's "Miami Salutes" program in their round-up for deals/special offers for coronavirus first responders.	73,222	\$73	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL	

South Florida Caribbean News	4/7/2020	N/A	Ran release regarding <i>Miami Solutes Program</i>		378	\$15	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
The Real Deal	4/7/2020	Katherine Kallergis	Included GMCVB/United Way/MH fund for hospitality workers in round-up		65,387	\$65	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
The Points Guy	4/7/2020	Katherine Fan	Ran release regarding <i>Miami Solutes Program</i>	11,340		\$15	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
EyeUrbanTV (online)	4/9/2020	Staff	Connie Kinnard participated in online talk program to discuss GMCVB initiatives related to small businesses in multicultural urban/heritage communities.				PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
WTVJ (NBC 6)- 6 pm	4/9/2020	N/A	MAIN: NBC 6's segment with Bill Talbert's interview on the recent GMCVB initiatives tied to COVID-19. The piece includes the on-air interview with Bill and covers the Essential Lodgers and Miami Eats program.	35,197		\$5,847	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	BROADCAST
WTVJ (NBC 6)- 5 pm	4/9/2020	N/A	NBC 6's segment with Bill Talbert's interview on the recent GMCVB initiatives tied to COVID-19. The piece includes the on-air interview with Bill and covers the Essential Lodgers and Miami Eats program.	35,197		\$5,847	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	BROADCAST
South Florida CW (on-air)	4/13/2020	Miriam Tapa	The 2-minute segment includes the interview with Bill and provides in-depth descriptions of the Essential Lodgers Program, Miami Eats, Miami Salutes and more	3,918		\$15	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	BROADCAST
MSN.com	4/14/2020	N/A	Syndicated Miami Herald article on GMCVB and Essential Lodgers	5,981,088		\$5,981	SYNDICATION	DIGITAL
South Florida CW (online)	4/14/2020	Miriam Tapa	Online segment tied to 2-minute segment includes the interview with Bill	571		\$15	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
Miami Herald (online and print)	4/14/2020	Howard Cohen	GMCVB virtual offerings included in online round-up of South Florida events online. Article also ran in print in Sunday's print issue	223,222		\$223	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL PRINT
Miami Today (Print)	4/15/2020	Staff	Virtual Miami Offerings included in "The Insider" Section	28,375			PROACTIVE OUTREACH	PRINT
Miami Herald (online and print)	4/20/2020	Christina Mayo	Miami Salutes included in front page article in Miami Herald's Neighbors section in the Tropical Life insert. Ran in print.	223,222		\$1,000	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL PRINT
Aventura Magazine	4/20/2020	Staff	Included GMCVB's virtual offerings in online round-ups of cultural organizations staying active throughout COVID-19	5,400			PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
World Red Eye	4/20/2020	Staff	Ran dedicated feature on <i>Miami Eats, Order Out Help Out</i> with an extensive photo gallery	18,840		\$50	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
El Nuevo Herald	4/21/2020	Staff	Miami Eats, Order Out Help Out included in round-up of daily COVID-19 News Recap				PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
Lifestyle Media Group	4/22/2020	Kevin Kaminski	Ran press release on <i>Miami Eats, Order Out Help Out</i> .	1,684		\$595	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
Miami Herald	4/23/2020	Christina Mayo	Included the Miami Eats, Order Out, Help Out, in a round-up detailing ways the public can help support first responders and healthcare workers.	79,684		\$223	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL PRINT
The New Tropic	4/23/2020	N/A	Included the Miami Eats, Order Out, Help Out in daily newsletter	40,000		\$400	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
Miami Herald (online and print)	4/29/2020	MICHELLE KAUFMAN	Ran a dedicated feature on Miami Shines programming.	79,684		\$223	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL PRINT
Florida Politics	4/30/2020	Peter Schorsch	Shared Miami Herald's feature on Miami Shines as part of its daily recap of issues affecting FL.	7,610			PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
Miami Herald (Newsletter)	4/30/2020	N/A	Included Miami Herald's feature of Miami Shines as part of its daily "5-Minute" daily Newsletter.	100,000		\$250	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
CBS 4 (on-air segment)	4/30/2020		Featured Miami Shines, highlighting video and campaign's goals.	10,140,060		\$10,140	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	BROADCAST
CBS 4 (online)	4/30/2020		Featured Miami Shines, highlighting video and campaign's goals. Posted segment online	74,326		\$5,451	PROACTIVE OUTREACH	DIGITAL
MSN.com	4/30/2020		Syndicated CBS 4's coverage of Miami Shines online	5,981,088		\$5,981	SYNDICATION	DIGITAL

### MICE Coverage

Connect	April 2, 2020	Stephanie Davis Smith	MICE		4,819	\$9	Other	DIGITAL
Hotel Executive	April 2, 2020	N/A	MICE		79,660	\$737	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Northstar Meetings Group	April 2, 2020	Elise Schoening	MICE		59,476	\$550	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
The Meetings Magazine	April 3, 2020	N/A	MICE		18,631	\$172	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Smart Meetings Facebook	April 9, 2020	Marin Bright	MICE		7,648	\$71	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Smart Meetings	April 9, 2020	Marin Bright	MICE		86,304	\$798	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA)	April 13, 2020	Curt Wagner	MICE		30,946	\$286	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Northstar Meetings Group	April 14, 2020	Lisa A. Grimaldi	MICE		59,476	\$550	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Prevue Meetings	April 14, 2020	Andrea Doyle	MICE		15,376	\$142	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Meeting News eNL	April 17, 2020	Susmita Baral	MICE		47,553	\$440	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA)	April 17, 2020	Curt Wagner	MICE		30,946	\$286	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
ConventionSouth Magazine	April 20, 2020	N/A	MICE		9,734	\$90	Other	DIGITAL
Meetings & Conventions Instagram	April 24, 2020	Susmita Baral	MICE		6,788	\$63	Proactive Pitching	DIGITAL
Hotel Management	April 28, 2020	Elaine Simon	MICE		80,341	\$151	Other	DIGITAL

# **U.S. & Canada**

# Spend some time on the sand watching these beach web cams

4/30/2020 — By Michele Herrmann



©loneroc/Shutterstock

### Klamath River Overlook, California

With beachside vacations being put on hold with coronavirus-related closures, there's an alternative way to access sand and surf – right from your screen. Across United States, the nation's beaches are being represented on screen from coast to coast. Embrace these picturesque views across the United States through these web cams.

Florida has their beaches covered and can be seen through the Visit Florida [website](#). However, their respective regions are also showing their sand off. Paradise Coast is experiencing cameras across [Naples and Marco Island](#), while The Palm Beaches have their eight beach cams collectively on one [website](#); [Florida Keys and Key West](#) have a wide variety of water and beach view [web cams](#).

Also in Florida, South Walton is streaming [Alys Beach](#) and [Grayton Beach](#) and [Grayton Dunes](#) in Grayton Beach State Park. Pensacola Beach can be screened with [east](#), [west](#) and [south](#) views. St. Pete/Clearwater through [four live beach webcams](#) of Clearwater Beach, Indian Rocks Beach and two different views of St. Pete Beach.

Or check out Miami's sand scene with these [beach cams](#).

## Budget Travel

# Take a virtual tour of street art around the world

9:59 AM — By Lola Méndez



©Torresigner/Getty Images

Traffic passes colourful street art in Miami's Wynwood District.

If life is looking a bit drab without travel, add some color into your life by setting off on a street art tour around the world—virtually. Google makes it easy to revisit some of your favorite murals that you've come across during your travels or to encounter outdoor public artwork you've always wanted to see. Use the human icon to take in the murals from the street level. Enjoy a private viewing of the art displays from the safety of your couch and let these street artists transport you to destinations near and far with this virtual street art tour.

## Miami, Florida

The largest collection of street art in the U.S can be enjoyed at the [Wynwood Arts District](#) in Miami with over 200 murals spanning 50 blocks. Shepard Fairey of [Obey Giant](#) painted one of the most well-known pieces in the [Wynwood Walls](#) open-air museum of street art. His mural features motifs about climate change, war, and more political issues. The [mural faces 2nd Avenue](#) and is visible from the street and the museum's main entrance. Check out more of the artwork in the area on the [Wynwood Walls Virtual Gallery Tour](#) featuring murals by internationally renowned artists like Futura, Os Gemeos, Swoon, and Miss Van.

# Still longing to travel? Now luxury hotels will come to you

PUBLISHED TUE, APR 7 2020 11:52 PM EDT | UPDATED WED, APR 8 2020 7:43 AM EDT

Ramsev Qubein, contributor

You used to have to be a paying guest to get the five-star hotel experience.

That rule — at least for the moment — has changed.

With millions of travelers confined to their homes due to the coronavirus pandemic, luxury hotels are reaching beyond their property walls to entertain from afar. If guests can't come to them, the hotels will have to go to the travelers instead.

## From cooking to craft cocktails

Silvia Grossi is the executive chef of [Il Salviatino](#), a 15th-century villa in Tuscany, Italy. While the hotel is closed, Grossi is teaching Italian [cooking lessons](#) twice a week from her home kitchen.



Il Salviatino, located 15 minutes outside of Florence.

*Courtesy of Il Salviatino*

Using easy-to-locate ingredients, Grossi creates short videos — many are under five minutes — on how to prepare dishes like gnocchi, chickpea velouté and homemade pizza. Some videos are in Italian and others are in English, but recipes are provided in both languages.

To master the art of the craft cocktail, The Artesian at The Langham London is teaching armchair travelers the tricks behind the staff’s favorite mixed drinks with [cocktail demos](#) from the hotel’s bar.

Those with young kids can watch how the pastry chef at The Langham Chicago makes [Lucky Charms cereal bars](#). You can also learn how to [shuck an oyster](#) or [prepare an Easter ham](#) from the chefs at Rhode Island’s Ocean House as part of the hotel’s new “how-to” video series.



## Learn a new skill

The Resort at Paws Up is helping at-home travelers [brush up on their wilderness skills](#) through its Instagram Live series entitled “Live from Big Sky Country.” The luxury Montana resort is sharing tips on fishing, how to forage for cooking ingredients in the wild and [how to make gourmet campfire s’mores](#).

The Four Seasons Washington, D.C., is also teaching life skills, though of a decidedly different variety. [Learn the 12 tips](#) to turn-down service to create “a soothing sleep haven” in your home, courtesy of the hotel’s learning and development team.



Learn how to turn down a bed Four Seasons-style.

*Don Riddle*

Mexico's Rosewood Mayakoba is sharing [videos](#) with informative guides from the staff, including exercise recommendations and upcoming tips from the resident biologist on how to create a home herb garden.

Rosewood CordeValle in Northern California is posting tutorials on everything from arranging charcuterie boards to [perfecting your golf game](#).

Playa Hotels & Resorts' spa director teaches those stuck at home how to make [natural skin scrubs](#) from coffee and coconut oil, reminding readers that self-care needn't be avoided or difficult during isolation.



The 16th-century Dromoland Castle.

*Courtesy of Dromoland Castle*

Dromoland Castle, a 16th-century [castle hotel](#) in County Clare, Ireland, seems like it's been plucked from a fairy tale. While you can't climb one its turrets or play with a resident falcon right now, you can learn to [build your own castle](#) out of everyday materials from home. It's a fun way to keep kids engaged, while fueling their curiosity at the same time.

Families will also find Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp and Resort's webcam in Thailand entertaining. The onsite Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation has daily livestreams of the [elephants roaming free](#) as they bathe, eat and play.

## Keep calm through music, self-care and sleep

Guatemala's Casa Palopó has created a regional playlist of songs for would-be guests to enjoy [via Spotify](#). Similarly, the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino and Wymara Resort and Villas Turks & Caicos are curating lists of island music.

Catch one of Bobby Hotel's [virtual concerts](#); the Nashville hotel features local musicians on its social platforms to “keep the music playing” despite local restrictions that prohibit gatherings.

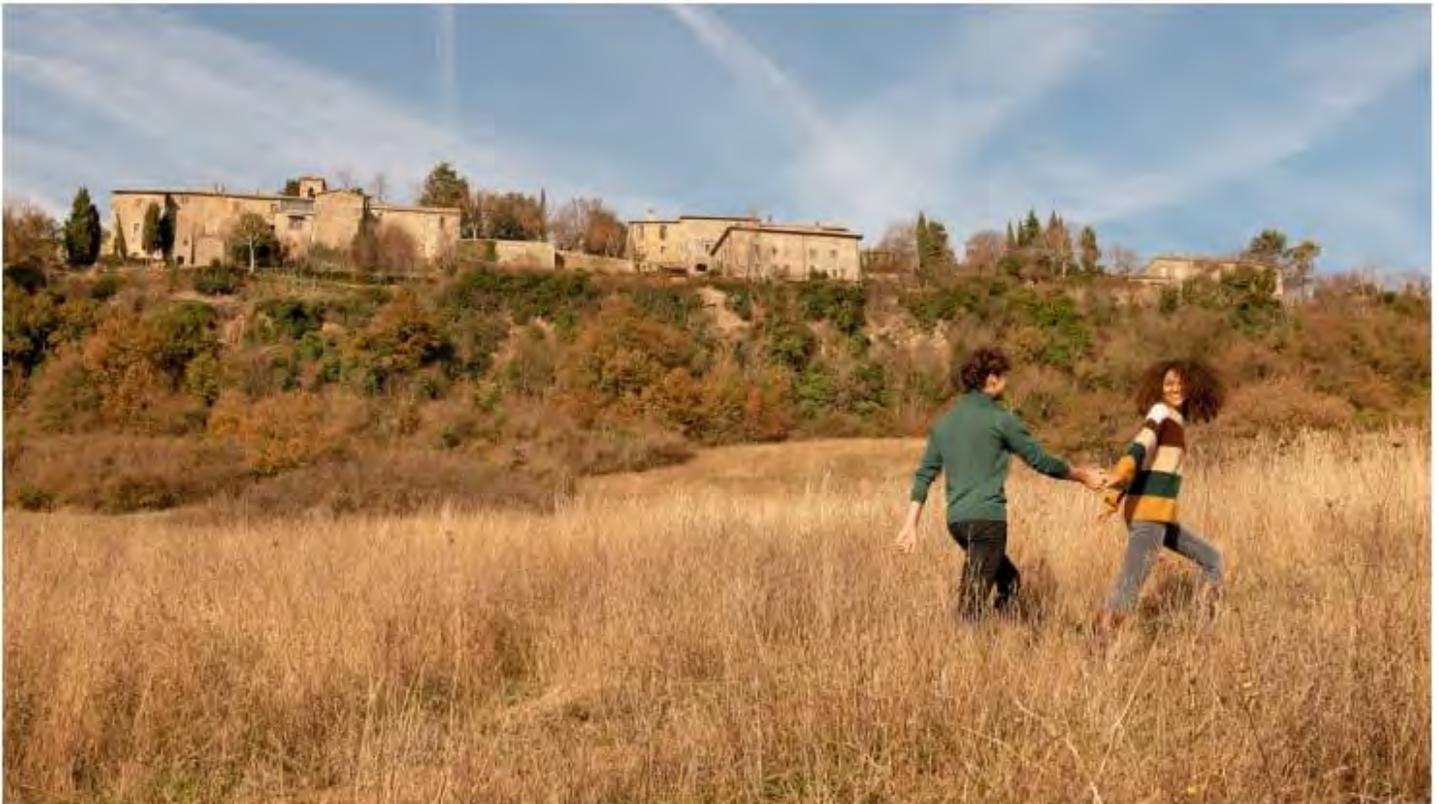


Bobby Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

*Courtesy of Bobby Hotel*

The stunning Monteverdi Tuscany hotel is supporting performers — many of whom have had shows canceled or postponed — who include opera singers and musicians performing remotely [from their homes](#).

The Estates at Acqualina in Miami is hosting a [Bedside Reading Virtual Book Club](#) with free, downloadable e-books.



Rather than canceling, Monteverdi Tuscany has moved its musical performances online.

*Courtesy of Monteverdi Tuscany*

Miraval Arizona and Miraval Austin have taken their well-being advice online by featuring tips about mindful grocery shopping and how to maintain [positive relationships while quarantined](#) with others.

The new Amrit Ocean Resort & Residences in Florida is getting a head start before its official opening in mid-2020 with a series on wellness experiences. [Follow along](#) for sessions on [sound bathing](#), breath work, and stress reduction.



Family yoga classes with Six Senses.

*Courtesy of Six Senses*

Six Senses Spas have a [new series](#) called “At Home with Six Senses.” Its bedtime breathing rituals and dream analysis talks are drawn from the [company’s sleep programs](#) offered at many properties. The series discusses forest bathing at home and yoga for the whole family to help everyone in your home de-stress during this time at home.

News

## Hotels Present Virtual Offerings, Charitable Initiatives and Messages of Hope

While their own businesses are struggling, hotels around the country are getting creative with ways to help their communities, medical personnel and their own staff.



By: [Stephanie Davis Smith](#)

April 03, 2020

🕒 6 mins read

For culture vultures who are missing gallery and museum strolls, [The Betsy-South Beach](#) in Miami is bringing its arts programming to the masses for free. The Ocean Drive beauty is opening up its iconic arts salon events online. The family-owned and -operated hotel wants to inspire those who are stuck at home and need an artistic reprieve from all the depressing coronavirus news. The hotel partnered with Florida International University of Miami Beach and John Stuart, executive director of Miami Beach Urban Studios/FIU to make this unique virtual experience come to fruition.



# Grand Hyatt Miami Beach set to open in 2023

April 20, 2020

MIAMI, Fla. – Miami Beach's new Convention Center hotel will be an 800-room property operated by Hyatt under the luxury Grand Hyatt brand.

The new hotel is scheduled to open to guests in 2023.

Grand Hyatt Miami Beach will create a new hospitality option for visitors attending events at the adjacent Miami Beach Convention Center, which underwent a \$600 million renovation completed in 2019.

The hotel development is being led by David Martin of Terra and Jackie Soffer of Turnberry, whose plans for the hotel was approved by Miami Beach voters in 2018.

The 17-story hotel will be situated at the intersection of 17th Street and Convention Center Drive, within walking distance of the beachfront, Lincoln Road Mall, New World Symphony, The Bass Museum, and The Fillmore Miami Beach.

"For years, Miami Beach has served as a global destination for arts, culture, shopping, dining, and entertainment, but the city has lacked a true headquarters hotel for top-tier conventions and meetings," said Martin and Soffer. "South Florida's first Grand Hyatt hotel will maximize Miami Beach's investment in its re-imagined convention center while bridging the physical gap that exists between the convention center district and surrounding neighborhoods."

The new hotel will be the second Grand Hyatt property in Florida, joining Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay. Grand Hyatt hotels are designed to connect guests with iconic experiences, landmarks, and cultural touchstones in captivating destinations around the world. Hallmarks of the brand include bold and vibrant design and architecture, elevated amenities, and welcoming service.

"At Hyatt, we believe in growing with intent and expanding our footprint in markets that matter most to our guests and World of Hyatt members," said David Tarr, senior vice president, development, Americas. "Hyatt is proud to play an integral role in this project as hotel operator, under the luxury Grand Hyatt brand, which will help guests and locals alike celebrate the iconic, captivating city of Miami Beach."

Grand Hyatt Miami Beach will be designed by internationally acclaimed architect Bernardo Fort-Brescia and his firm, Miami-based Arquitectonica.

Hotel features are expected to include 12 floors of guestrooms offering views of Miami Beach, two floors of meeting spaces and ballrooms, a resort-style pool deck with panoramic views, and limited retail space at street level. An elevated skybridge will enable event attendees to move freely between the hotel and convention center in a climate-controlled, art-filled corridor.

Plans also include landscaped pedestrian promenades on surrounding streets, bike sharing stations, connectivity with public transit routes, dedicated ridesharing pick-up and drop-off zones, and direct access between the convention center and Lincoln Road.

The project's resiliency and sustainability measures include storm water management and reuse, flood risk mitigation, and the use of solar power – all of which are designed to ensure operational continuity during weather events.

"The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) joins Terra, Turnberry, and The City of Miami Beach in welcoming the Grand Hyatt Miami Beach..." said William D. Talbert, III, president of the GMCVB. "Grand Hyatt Miami Beach makes it possible to better compete for citywide conventions which fuel jobs in our community and generates business for all of Greater Miami's hotels and merchants."

## From Their Table to Yours: 9 Celebrated Restaurants Now Offering Take-Out and Delivery

by April Stamm  
EDGE Media Network Contributor  
Friday Apr 17, 2020



Three Color Vegetables  
Dumplings (Source:Red Farm)

Takeout and delivery — often relegated to pizza, wings and other sharable favorites — is getting a five-star makeover thanks to high-end restaurants that are quickly pivoting to stay afloat, keep their employees on the payroll, and serve their communities.

EDGE unearthed our favorite picks in three of the U.S.'s most celebrated food cities: Chicago, New York City and **Miami**, and discovered that innovative chefs aren't letting COVID-19 stand in the way of a spectacular meal. It might seem like a splurge, but remember your order is a vital part of relaunching the economy — one decadent bite a time.

### NEW YORK CITY

#### Red Farm

Chinese fare gets a farm-to-table makeover thanks to Ed Schoenfeld and Chef Joe Ng's Upper West Side and West Village outposts of Red Farm. Most of their modern takes on dumplings, egg rolls, noodles and rice dishes (pastrami egg rolls or lamb dumplings, anyone?) are available for pick-up and delivery, including their signature whole Peking duck (in limited quantities), served with steamed buns and three sauces.

#### Dante

West Village centurion, **Dante**, has been an NYC staple in various incarnations since 1915, attracting neighborhood folks and celebrities alike. Its current menu celebrates classic Italian cuisine and the rich tradition of craft cocktails. In addition to rustic bites like kale and farro salad and wild boar pappardelle, Dante also offers individual and large-format cocktails such as a chamomile Sazerac and the classic Boulevardier.

 dantenewyorkcity  
West Village

[View Profile](#)



## Cote

Simon Kim's inspired mash-up merges Korean barbecue with the classic American steakhouse. Order the famous Korean bacon (house-smoked, crispy heritage pork belly with pickled jalapeno), a butcher's bowl (three USDA Prime cuts of beef over rice, pickles and kimchi), Wagyu paella, or opt to turn your kitchen into your own private steakhouse with the Cote Steak Care Package, which includes two one-pound, dry-aged ribeyes, banchan set, Cote salt blend and ssamjang — all ready for you to fire up the cast iron skillet and embrace your inner chef.



Acadia House Provisions  
Burger (Source:Anthony Tahlier)

## CHICAGO

### Acadia

Get your two Michelin star fare delivered directly to your car while also helping the hospitality community that's been walloped with closures and lay-offs. Chef Ryan McCaskey's **Acadia** is now offering some of its best bites from the Maine-inspired menu normally only available in their serene dining room.

Favorite picks include the Acadia House Provisions Burger, slathered with caramelized onions, Duke's mayo, American cheese and pickles on a buttered brioche roll; Stonington Maine lobster roll and Jonah crab fried rice. Wine and cocktail kits are also available. Paying it forward, McCaskey has launched a weekly free market for hospitality workers. Sharing his abundance and overflow, restaurant workers from all over the Chicago area can pick up, free of charge, produce, meat and seafood to bring home to their families.

### Alinea

Possibly the last place you'd think you'd be able to grab and go, chef Grant Achatz's bastion of modernity, **Alinea**, has always

Turning its culinary viewpoint on its ear, the three-star Michelin restaurant now offers a takeout experience packed with comfort and tradition. For pick-up and reheating at home for one to eight people, you can get a hearty multi-course meal. Recent offerings include a spring mix salad with goat cheese to start, Cassoulet (the legendary Toulosian casserole of confit duck, sausage and white beans), a side of green beans almondine and a banana cream tart for dessert.

thealinegroup  
Chicago, Illinois

[View Profile](#)



## Galit

Nestled in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, James Beard Award-winning chef Zachary Engel offers his unique spin on Middle Eastern dishes with unusual interpretations of hummus, mezze dishes, and sharable plates. Though typically not available for **take-out** (until now!), the dishes travel well and make for a decadent home feast. Consider tahina hummus finished with sumac and a generous glug of olive oil, Balkan stuffed cabbage (lamb, harissa and labneh) and chocolate chip halva cookies. Keep it local with a selection of Chicago beers such as the aptly named **Troublesome Gose**, a German-style blended beer from Off Color Brewing.



Surf Club Roast  
Chicken (Source:Deborah Jones)

## MIAMI

### The Surf Club Restaurant

One of the country's most celebrated chefs, Thomas Keller, helms this riff on the Continental cuisine of the 1950s. Three-course **pick-up menus** are accessibly priced and change daily. Recent menus have included a Golden Age of Hollywood-inspired garden vegetable salad with pickles and Russian dressing, flank steak ropa vieja with chimichurri and rice pudding.

### Fiola

One of Miami's most coveted tables can now be your kitchen table. Food and Wine's Best New Chef and James Beard Award-winner Fabio Trabocchi's Fiola Miami celebrates seasonal Italian cuisine with dishes like Gemelli primavera with eggplant,

asparagus and roasted cherry tomatoes, chargrilled octopus and Florida Snapper. **Cook at Home** kits (dried or fresh pasta packed with curated sauces and accompaniments) and steaks, Berkshire pork chops and fish provide the essentials for a delicious at-home meal with quality ingredients.

## The Grand Hyatt Brand Selected as Flag for New Miami Beach Convention Center Hotel

USA, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA. April 02, 2020

The development team behind Miami Beach's new Convention Center hotel announced today that an 800-room property will be operated by Hyatt under the luxury Grand Hyatt brand, when it opens to guests in 2023. Grand Hyatt Miami Beach will create a new hospitality option for visitors attending events at the adjacent Miami Beach Convention Center, which underwent a \$600 million renovation that was completed last year, and anchor the Convention Center District.

The hotel development is being led by David Martin of Terra and Jackie Soffer of Turnberry, whose plans for the hotel were overwhelmingly approved by Miami Beach voters in 2018. The 17-story hotel will be situated at the intersection of 17th Street and Convention Center Drive, within walking distance of the beachfront, Lincoln Road Mall, New World Symphony, The Bass Museum and The Fillmore Miami Beach.

"For years, Miami Beach has served as a global destination for arts, culture, shopping, dining and entertainment, but the City has lacked a true headquarters hotel for top-tier conventions and meetings," said Martin and Soffer. "South Florida's first Grand Hyatt hotel will maximize Miami Beach's investment in its reimagined Convention Center while bridging the physical gap that exists between the Convention Center District and surrounding neighborhoods."

The new hotel will become only the second Grand Hyatt property in Florida, joining Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay. Grand Hyatt hotels are designed to connect guests with iconic experiences, landmarks and cultural touchstones in captivating destinations around the world. Hallmarks of the brand include bold and vibrant design and architecture, elevated amenities and welcoming service that creates moments of more.

"At Hyatt, we believe in growing with intent and expanding our footprint in markets that matter most to our guests and World of Hyatt members," said David Tarr, senior vice president, development, Americas, Hyatt. "Hyatt is proud to play an integral role in this project as hotel operator, under the luxury Grand Hyatt brand, which will help guests and locals alike celebrate the iconic, captivating city of Miami Beach."

Grand Hyatt Miami Beach will be designed by internationally acclaimed architect Bernardo Fort-Brescia and his firm, Miami-based Arquitectonica. The team also includes partner Craig Robins of Dacra, who is the visionary behind the Miami Design District and helped revive Miami Beach's Art Deco District in the 1990s; Stonehill Taylor, which is designing the hotel's interior lobby and lounges, ballroom and meeting rooms, hotel rooms and all common areas; EOA, which is designing the pool deck hospitality features of the hotel; and Arquitectonica GEO, which is creating lush pedestrian promenades and landscapes.

Hotel features are expected to include 12 floors of guest rooms offering views of Miami Beach, two floors of meeting spaces and ballrooms that will complement the Convention Center, a resort-style pool deck with panoramic views, and limited retail space that will activate the district at street level. An elevated skybridge will enable event attendees to move freely between the hotel and Convention Center in a climate-controlled, art-filled corridor.

Plans also include landscaped pedestrian promenades on surrounding streets, bike sharing stations, connectivity with public transit routes, dedicated ridesharing pick-up and drop-off zones, and direct access between the Convention Center and Lincoln Road. The project's resiliency and sustainability measures include storm water management and reuse, flood risk mitigation, and the use of solar power - all of which are designed to ensure operational continuity during weather events.

"The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) joins Terra, Turnberry and The City of Miami Beach in welcoming the Grand Hyatt Miami Beach as the newly named brand for the 800-room headquarter hotel connected to the Miami Beach Convention Center," said William D. Talbert, III, CDME, President of the GMCVB. "Grand Hyatt Miami Beach makes it possible to better compete for citywide conventions which fuel jobs in our community and generates business for all of Greater Miami's hotels and merchants. We look forward to the hotel ground-breaking which once completed will finalize the Miami Beach Convention Center District."

# New GM takes over at Miami Beach hotel

by Elaine Simon | Apr 28, 2020 8:22am



*The Shelborne South Beach in Miami Beach, Fla., offers 200 guestrooms, including 19 suites, and more than 30,000 square feet of expanded event space. Photo credit: Menin Hospitality*



Menin Hospitality, a collection of upscale lodging, lifestyle restaurants and nightlife venues, announced that Steven Hiblum has been appointed GM of the Shelborne South Beach in Miami Beach, Fla.

“Menin Hospitality is committed to maintaining the utmost standards across our eclectic portfolio of properties,” said Jared Galbut, the company’s managing principal. “Steven has a proven track record of results and operational excellence. We are confident that his invaluable knowledge and practical experience will be a great asset to our team.”

Hiblum will oversee all day-to-day operations for the 200-room Shelborne South Beach. Hiblum will ensure that all hotel operations are carried out to Menin Hospitality brand standards.



Steven Hiblum. Photo credit: Menin Hospitality

Hiblum brings almost two decades worth of hospitality experience to the table, having worked at numerous hotel groups across the country. After graduating from Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, Israel, with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management, Hiblum went on to hold positions at properties within Morgans Hotel Group, including three Miami Beach properties, Delano South Beach, Shore Club South Beach and Mondrian South Beach, and Cliff Hotel in San Francisco. Hiblum also served as general manager of Nautilus - a Sixty Hotel in Miami Beach for five years, where he oversaw operations for the beachfront hotel's 250 guestrooms and 160 employees. Most recently, Hiblum served as VP of operations at Highgate Hotels, where he was responsible for managing hotel experiences and programming for three Miami properties.

# How DMOs are Helping Their Local Communities During the Coronavirus Pandemic

CVBs in Miami, Tampa, Fla., and Little Rock, Ark., are going above and beyond to assist first responders, businesses in need and more.



by Lisa A. Grimaldi

April 14, 2020



The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau's Miami Salutes program aims to assist essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite facing [unprecedented pressures](#) of their own, destination marketing organizations continue to be a source of strength, knowledge and support to their communities during the coronavirus pandemic. A number of CVBs, including the three profiled below, have gone a step further to show gratitude and ease the pain of their local cities and citizens.

# Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau has launched Miami Salutes, a program that calls on hotels, restaurants and retailers to extend special offers to hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and National Guard members during the pandemic. From free pizza, doughnuts and coffee, to deep discounts on meals and wireless services, the program provides a regularly updated list of special offers on a dedicated [GMCVB web page](#).

"We know that our front-line and first responders are working tirelessly to help and protect all of us, and their efforts are likely to escalate in the coming days and weeks," said [William D. Talbert, III](#), president and CEO of the GMCVB. "We are proud to bring together Greater Miami's hospitality industry to support these public servants and show our appreciation in any way possible."

Miami Salutes is just one of the programs put together by the GMCVB in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Other initiatives include the Miami Pandemic Response Fund, a partnership between the GMCVB, [United Way of Miami-Dade](#) and other local organizations that supports hospitality workers and their families with emergency needs including food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and microgrants.

## Visit Tampa Bay

With food insecurity becoming a growing issue due to the pandemic, [Visit Tampa Bay](#) partnered with [Feeding Tampa Bay](#), and pledged 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of its twin culinary journals – *Tampa's Table* and *Tampa With A Twist* – to assist local families in need of food aid. The limited-time bundle, priced at \$20, is currently available at [Visit Tampa Bay's online store](#).

To help navigate the many issues COVID-19 brings to their respective communities, the bureau spearheaded a group of regional tourism bodies ([Visit St. Pete/Clearwater](#); [Florida's Sports Coast](#); [Visit Sarasota County](#); [Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau](#); [Paradise Coast](#); [The Beaches of Ft. Myers and Sanibel](#), and [Adventure Coast](#)) for weekly discussions. During these sessions, the DMOs brainstorm and share best practices for handling the crisis.

Additionally, with hundreds of Bay-area businesses facing economic hardship, the bureau has pledged to waive any outstanding partner dues until the end of its fiscal year, October 2020.

"These initiatives are just the beginning for Visit Tampa Bay, because the fight for tourism is far from over," said Visit Tampa Bay president & CEO [Santiago T. Corrada](#). "The unprecedented effects on the industry have rippled into every corner of the global economy and there is much more work to get done. Through all the uncertainty, one thing remains crystal clear – Tampa Bay will rebound as one family and one community, and when the crisis is over, the tourism industry will be at the forefront of its recovery."

## **Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau**

The [Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) has taken a lead role in the Arkansas capital by providing support, comfort and relief to its partners, its community and its residents. "At our core, we are here to serve and support our community," said [Gretchen Hall](#), LRCVB president and CEO. "During these times of hardship for us all, LRCVB has worked to be resourceful and creative in developing ways to continue to support our local industry partners, promote our statewide businesses and nonprofit organizations, and provide some respite while people are home with their families."

One way the CVB is helping out: The net proceeds of its "Big on Little Rock" t-shirts (\$20) goes directly to the city's [Little Rock Cares COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund](#) to help provide daily meals for city students while schools are closed and to assist with the purchase of personal protective equipment for local hospitals and first responders.

Along with local charities, LRCVB employees are volunteering to prepare meals for local students, elderly residents and families in need. The DMO also has donated the use of its company van for meal deliveries throughout Little Rock. To date, more than 100,000 meals have been prepared and delivered.

## front office sports

# Cities on Lockdown Waiting and Hoping for Major Sports Events Windfall

general / april 7th, 2020

BY PAT EVANS



Photo Credit: Steve Mitchell-USA TODAY Sports

Major sports events have a way of helping cushion the blow for cities during tough economic times.

While most of the nation is completely shut down during the coronavirus outbreak, Miami's hospitality industry escaped just in time with its Super Bowl LIV gains intact.

Meanwhile, cities like Tampa and Indianapolis, hosts to Super Bowl LV and the 2021 Final Four, respectively, have beacons of hope in their future.

"Early on, because we know how much [a Super Bowl] can mean to the community, we created this mantra or belief that our community's fifth Super Bowl could push us forward forever," Rob Higgins, Tampa Bay Sports Commission executive director, said. "Based on the unprecedented times we're in, the forward forever mantra is taking on a really heightened meaning."

The Super Bowl has enormous economic impact projections, but it also brings a social aspect and marketing visibility, unlike most other opportunities, Higgins said.

This year's Super Bowl came a little more than a month before the coronavirus made its presence felt in the U.S, and as a result, Miami was among the last significant beneficiaries before the hospitality industry came to screeching halt.

"We soon recognized the value of having it then as opposed to April 2, thank goodness," Bill Talbert, CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, said. "The hotels were full. The beach was full. The week was great."

Talbert said in his 30 years of helping Miami host Super Bowls, this year's was far and away the most active in terms of parties – so many "no one could track them all." With nearly 200,000 people in the city for the event, the temporary boost in spending could help some businesses weather the lack of activity now.

The estimated economic impact of the Super Bowl was north of \$500 million, according to some projections, while other [economists are unsure of the potentially inflated](#) numbers.

Inflated or not, cities see the events as marketing assets and ways to help bring in a large number of spenders.

**READ MORE:** [A Huge Gap in Economic Impact Numbers Begg the Question: Are Bowl Games Worth It?](#)

With no March Madness this year, Indianapolis could be poised to welcome an increased crowd of eager basketball fans next year for its eighth Final Four.

"We're looking to salvage the second half of this year, but next year is looking so strong," Nate Swick, Visit Indy communications manager, said.

Along with the Final Four, the city is also hosting the 2021 NBA All-Star Game and the College Football Playoff Championship in 2022. Those three events are expected to contribute \$225 million, \$100 million, and \$150 million, respectively, to the local economy while attracting more than 300,000 visitors. Indianapolis will also host its annual staple events such as the Big Ten Football and Basketball Championships and the Indy 500.

Each time the city hosts an event, it likes to help other cities look at hosting a new way.

"We were built to host them," Swick said. "We're charged with being innovative in how we capitalize and activate. We're a community for volunteers to be creative, and it should be really cool after weathering this to see what ideas can we start."

Higgins said this year would be the third Super Bowl hosted by Tampa during a trying time. He recalls the game in 1991 starting its halftime show with a World News Tonight update about the Gulf War, while the 2009 game arrived in the midst of the Great Recession.

“It’s unfortunate timing, but from our standpoint, it’s an incredible catalyst on our calendar,” Higgins said. “The timing couldn’t be better for everything it can do for our hometown.”

**READ MORE:** [Kentucky Derby Delay Sees Louisville Holding Out for September](#)

As people begin to emerge from their homes and return to life, Talbert said Miami would be one of the first destinations to be out, urging people to visit. He said 28 days after 9/11, Miami and Las Vegas were the first destinations with advertisements in USA Today.

“When the light switch is turned on, we’ll be back out, and the customer will be traveling,” Talbert said. “For destinations, we’re the last to go down and the first to come up.”

# MEETING NEWS

KNOW IT ALL

April 24, 2020

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## #INSTAGOOD



The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau is helping the Miami community in many ways. The CVB created the Hotels for Essential Lodgers program to assist displaced residents and visitors; its Help for Tourism aids those in the industry; and the Miami Pandemic Response Fund — a partnership between the GMCVB, United Way of Miami-Dade, the Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, the Health Foundation of South Florida and the Miami Foundation — is providing food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and microgrants to hospitality workers and their families.

Learn more about the GMCVB [here](#).

// photo by [@successfulmeetings](#)

# MEETING NEWS

KNOW IT ALL

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May 15, 2020

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## JUST IN

### **U.K. Events Industry Suppliers Facing Collapse Within Three Months**

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## STORY OF THE DAY

### **How DMOs are Helping Their Local Communities During the Pandemic**

Northstar Meetings Group

#### **WHY IT MATTERS**

CVBs in Miami, Tampa, Fla., and Little Rock, Ark., are going above and beyond to assist first responders, businesses in need and more. [Read more.](#)



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**meetings.conventions** The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau is helping the Miami community in many ways. The CVB created the Hotels for Essential Lodgers program to assist displaced residents and visitors; its Help for Tourism aids those in the industry; and the Miami Pandemic Response Fund — a partnership between the GMCVB, United Way of Miami-Dade, the Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, the Health Foundation of South Florida and the Miami Foundation — is providing food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and microgrants to hospitality workers and their families.



# Greater Miami's Travel And Hospitality Industry Unites To Support Heroic Work Of First-Responders During The COVID-19 Crisis

APRIL 3, 2020



## The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) Launches Miami Salutes Program and Shares Dozens of Special Offers for First and Front-Line Responders

As hospitals and public agencies ramp up their efforts to treat COVID-19 patients and keep residents safe, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is launching an initiative to show support for the heroic work front-line and first responders are undertaking on the community's behalf. Dubbed **Miami Salutes**, the program has called on hotels, restaurants and retailers to extend special offers to hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and National Guard who are putting others before themselves during this critical time. From free pizza, donuts and coffee, to deep discounts on meals and wireless services, **Miami Salutes** provides a compiled, updated list of special offers on the GMCVB's website at <https://www.GMCVB.com/MiamiSalutes>.

"We know that our front-line and first responders are working tirelessly to help and protect all of us, and their efforts are likely to escalate in the coming days and weeks," says William D. Talbert, III, C.D.M.E., President and CEO of the GMCVB. "We are proud to bring together Greater Miami's hospitality industry to support these public servants and show our appreciation in any way possible."

The **Miami Salutes** site include numerous local restaurants, including Bulla Gastrobar, Divino Ceviche, and Pollo Tropical—all offering 50% off to front-line and first responders. National brands are featured as well including Krispy Kreme providing free donuts, Starbucks offering free coffee, Sweetgreen delivering free salads to local hospitals, and Crocs donating a free pair of shoes to healthcare workers. As more businesses extend offers, the GMCVB will continue to add new deals to the site.

"Our community is indebted to the heroic medical professionals, police officers, firefighters, military personnel and essential workers fighting to keep our communities safe from COVID-19," says Miami-Dade County Commissioner and Chair of Miami-Dade County's Military Affairs Board Jose "Pepe" Diaz. "It is wonderful to see businesses show their appreciation to these workers for their service and loyal dedication, even though many may be going through their own difficult times right now. This program is a testament to the spirit of Miami-Dade County's community, which will help us all get through this."

**Miami Salutes** adds to the series of programs put together by the GMCVB in response to the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 on hospitality and tourism in Greater Miami and the Beaches. Additional initiatives include: **Miami Eats**, which promotes delivery and/or take-out menus available for Miamians to enjoy at home; **Hotels for Essential Lodgers**, a comprehensive list of hotels open for Essential Lodgers during the crisis; **Help for Tourism**, a web page providing the industry and other GMCVB partners a look at how to secure assistance; and the **Miami Pandemic Response Fund**, a partnership between the GMCVB, United Way of Miami-Dade, Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation to create a fund to support hospitality workers and their families with emergency needs including food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and micro-grants.



360 VR experience in Venice with Geneeo

## Giant List of Virtual Tours, Field Trips, and Museums with Free Educational Programming Online

4/17/20 - By Christine Mooney

Cultural attractions may be shuttered due to coronavirus, but when one door closes, a (browser) window opens. World-famous museums, zoos, theaters, historic sites, and natural wonders are offering amazing virtual tours, free online educational programs, and web-based STEM and art projects. So if you feel like your kids could use a boost of excitement while learning from home, why not let them tour Buckingham Palace, "walk" the Great Wall of China, or see Everest up close? They may have to skip field trips right now, but that doesn't mean they have to miss out on the fun!

For more ideas, info, and activities for kids during the health crisis, check out our [Stuck-at-Home Guide for Parents](#) and our [Realistic Guide to Homeschooling](#).

### 49. Jungle Island

Take a trip to Miami's [Jungle Island](#) for fun at-home projects. Kids can make elephant toothpaste, design their own animals, and create a primate exhibit.

# Still longing to travel? Now luxury hotels will come to you

PUBLISHED TUE, APR 7 2020-11:52 PM EDT | UPDATED WED, APR 8 2020-7:43 AM EDT

Ramsev Qubein. contributor

You used to have to be a paying guest to get the five-star hotel experience.

That rule — at least for the moment — has changed.

With millions of travelers confined to their homes due to the coronavirus pandemic, luxury hotels are reaching beyond their property walls to entertain from afar. If guests can't come to them, the hotels will have to go to the travelers instead.

## From cooking to craft cocktails

Silvia Grossi is the executive chef of [Il Salviatino](#), a 15th-century villa in Tuscany, Italy. While the hotel is closed, Grossi is teaching Italian [cooking lessons](#) twice a week from her home kitchen.



Il Salviatino, located 15 minutes outside of Florence.

*Courtesy of Il Salviatino*

Using easy-to-locate ingredients, Grossi creates short videos — many are under five minutes — on how to prepare dishes like gnocchi, chickpea velouté and homemade pizza. Some videos are in Italian and others are in English, but recipes are provided in both languages.

To master the art of the craft cocktail, The Artesian at The Langham London is teaching armchair travelers the tricks behind the staff’s favorite mixed drinks with [cocktail demos](#) from the hotel’s bar.

Those with young kids can watch how the pastry chef at The Langham Chicago makes [Lucky Charms cereal bars](#). You can also learn how to [shuck an oyster](#) or [prepare an Easter ham](#) from the chefs at Rhode Island’s Ocean House as part of the hotel’s new “how-to” video series.



## Learn a new skill

The Resort at Paws Up is helping at-home travelers [brush up on their wilderness skills](#) through its Instagram Live series entitled “Live from Big Sky Country.” The luxury Montana resort is sharing tips on fishing, how to forage for cooking ingredients in the wild and [how to make gourmet campfire s’mores](#).

The Four Seasons Washington, D.C., is also teaching life skills, though of a decidedly different variety. [Learn the 12 tips](#) to turn-down service to create “a soothing sleep haven” in your home, courtesy of the hotel’s learning and development team.



Learn how to turn down a bed Four Seasons-style.

*Don Riddle*

Mexico's Rosewood Mayakoba is sharing [videos](#) with informative guides from the staff, including exercise recommendations and upcoming tips from the resident biologist on how to create a home herb garden.

Rosewood CordeValle in Northern California is posting tutorials on everything from arranging charcuterie boards to [perfecting your golf game](#).

Playa Hotels & Resorts' spa director teaches those stuck at home how to make [natural skin scrubs](#) from coffee and coconut oil, reminding readers that self-care needn't be avoided or difficult during isolation.



The 16th-century Dromoland Castle.

*Courtesy of Dromoland Castle*

Dromoland Castle, a 16th-century [castle hotel](#) in County Clare, Ireland, seems like it's been plucked from a fairy tale. While you can't climb one its turrets or play with a resident falcon right now, you can learn to [build your own castle](#) out of everyday materials from home. It's a fun way to keep kids engaged, while fueling their curiosity at the same time.

Families will also find Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp and Resort's webcam in Thailand entertaining. The onsite Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation has daily livestreams of the [elephants roaming free](#) as they bathe, eat and play.

## Keep calm through music, self-care and sleep

Guatemala's Casa Palopó has created a regional playlist of songs for would-be guests to enjoy [via Spotify](#). Similarly, the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino and Wymara Resort and Villas Turks & Caicos are curating lists of island music.

Catch one of Bobby Hotel's [virtual concerts](#); the Nashville hotel features local musicians on its social platforms to “keep the music playing” despite local restrictions that prohibit gatherings.



Bobby Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

*Courtesy of Bobby Hotel*

The stunning Monteverdi Tuscany hotel is supporting performers — many of whom have had shows canceled or postponed — who include opera singers and musicians performing remotely [from their homes](#).

The Estates at Acqualina in Miami is hosting a [Bedside Reading Virtual Book Club](#) with free, downloadable e-books.



Rather than canceling, Monteverdi Tuscany has moved its musical performances online.

*Courtesy of Monteverdi Tuscany*

Miraval Arizona and Miraval Austin have taken their well-being advice online by featuring tips about mindful grocery shopping and how to maintain [positive relationships while quarantined](#) with others.

The new Amrit Ocean Resort & Residences in Florida is getting a head start before its official opening in mid-2020 with a series on wellness experiences. [Follow along](#) for sessions on [sound bathing](#), breath work, and stress reduction.



Family yoga classes with Six Senses.

*Courtesy of Six Senses*

Six Senses Spas have a [new series](#) called “At Home with Six Senses.” Its bedtime breathing rituals and dream analysis talks are drawn from the [company’s sleep programs](#) offered at many properties. The series discusses forest bathing at home and yoga for the whole family to help everyone in your home de-stress during this time at home.



## A World of Good: Destinations Respond to COVID-19

Author: Convene Editors

The COVID-19 crisis is bringing out the best in destinations — and the people in them. As the global fight to contain the pandemic continues, companies are shifting production priorities to make personal protective equipment (PPE), cities are propping up local businesses and the people who work for them, and CVBs are creating moving videos about how unity will keep us strong until we can meet again. As Hawaii says in its Share Aloha video above, "Now is the time to pull together, even if it's from afar." Here are examples of how that's being done.



- **Australian** supermarket company Coles is donating \$1 million worth of food to vulnerable Australians amid the coronavirus outbreak, [local media](#) reported.
- The **Miami Pandemic Response Fund**, which is supported by the **Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau** and the **Greater Miami and The Beaches Hotel Association**, is helping hospitality workers and their families with food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance, and microgrants.
- In **Anaheim**, efforts to help those in need range from the Honda Center's drive-thru food bank to local restaurants' distributing meals to children, [Visit Anaheim](#) reports.
- Ad agency Doner, which has its headquarters in **Detroit**, captures what it's like when the motor stops in "the city built on four wheels" and promises a return "with all eight cylinders."



# COVID-19 Response: Getting Food to the People Who Need It

Author: Convene Editors



Food donations from Caesars Entertainment Las Vegas Resorts are loaded up to be donated. Caesars Entertainment has donated more than 250,000 pounds of food in response to the COVID-19 crisis. (Courtesy Caesars)

- After the Miami City Ballet gala at **The Miami Beach Convention Center** was postponed, the center gave more than 1,000 pounds of food to Food Rescue US for local missions and shelters, [local media reported](#).
- **The Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center** in Dallas donated nearly 5,000 pounds of food in March benefitting The Stewpot, which assists Dallas residents experiencing homelessness and poverty; the City of Dallas Emergency Management Office; and first responders, convention center food-service provider Centerplate said.
- Centerplate also said it donated more than 1,000 pounds of food to local organizations as a result of canceled events at the **Orange County Convention Center** in Orlando. And the convention center in March had an Employee Meal-Packing Event, providing pre-packaged meal kits — up to \$400 worth of groceries — for full-time hourly employees.

# Greater Miami's COVID-19 Help

By **Andrea Doyle** - April 14, 2020



*Provided by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau [www.gmcvb.com](http://www.gmcvb.com)*

As the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic continues, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) and the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association have teamed up to support the hundreds of thousands of airline, cruise line and travel and tourism employees that are the lifeblood of Miami's hospitality industry.

Initiatives in Miami include hotels open for only Essential Lodgers which include health care professionals, first responders and patients' families, among many others. To support hotels that choose to remain open under this order and the workers they employ, the GMCVB has put together a comprehensive list of those hotels open for [Essential Lodgers](#).

As hospitals and public agencies ramp up their efforts to treat COVID-19 patients and keep residents safe, the GMCVB has launched an initiative to show support for the work of front-line and first responders. Miami Salutes calls on hotels, restaurants and retailers to extend special offers to hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and military, and is providing an updated list of all those special offers on the GMCVB's [website](#).

Hospitality industry workers are among the hardest hit in terms of business impact and job losses as a result of low demand related to COVID-19. Thanks to a partnership between the GMCVB, United Way, Miami Herald/el Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation, a \$500,000 fund has been created to support struggling families with emergency needs including food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and micro-grants. Those wishing to apply or donate to the fund can do so [here](#).

In addition, in response to increasing need, the GMCVB launched a webpage listing all the resources and charitable opportunities available for the travel and hospitality industry. The [Help for Tourism](#) page provides the industry and other GMCVB partners a look at how to secure assistance or even offer help should they be in the position to do so.

Many of Miami's museums and other attractions have quickly responded to closures due to the Coronavirus pandemic with [virtual programming](#). To support these establishments, the GMCVB has gathered links to online/social media offerings and is promoting nationally as a way to keep the Miami brand top-of-mind.

Effective immediately, the GMCVB will continue to provide services and support to its more than 1,000 members without charging membership fees. This will lessen the burden on businesses, so they can invest those dollars in their people and future recovery efforts. The fee waiver will continue until further notice.

# 6 Ways You Can Support Health Care Workers & the Whole Miami Community Right Now

By: [Clarissa Buch](#) Apr. 3, 2020



DIANA ROBINSON PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

Miami has been taking strong measures to contain COVID-19, which has resulted in the standstill of almost all major businesses across town. As you practice social distancing and self-quarantining, consider giving back to the people and places who put the “magic” in the Magic City. Check out these six targeted funds for health care workers, restaurant employees, artists and others in need.

## 1. Support Children and Families with United Way Miami's Operation Helping Hands

Support Miami families with emergency needs (including rent/mortgage assistance, food, supplies and medications) through Operation Helping Hands. In addition, Operation Helping Hands' Miami Pandemic Response Fund will issue micro-grants to small businesses. Donations can be made online via United Way, PayPal or Venmo as well as by phone.

## 2. Support Chefs and Restaurants with SOBEWFF & FIU Chaplin School of Hospitality's Industry Relief Fund

Florida International University and the South Beach Wine and Food Festival are giving back in a major way through the launch of an industry relief fund that provides immediate financial support to independently owned and operated restaurants and bars impacted by COVID-19 in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. The goal is to help restaurant owners and chefs provide compensation and other benefits to employees who have been furloughed or laid off or whose incomes have been significantly reduced.

## 3. Support Artists and Galleries with Oolite Arts' Relief Fund for COVID-19

Miami Beach's Oolite Arts has created a fund to specifically help artists who have been affected by the closing of exhibitions and galleries as well as layoffs within Miami's arts community. The fund will begin with \$25,000 in seed funding by repurposing funds saved from canceled Oolite Arts events. Artists who apply for grants will be eligible for up to \$500 to cover lost income.

## 4. Support Hospitality Workers with the Miami Restaurant Employee Relief Fund

Pastry chef extraordinaire Soraya Kilgore of the Design District's MadLab Creamery has helped launch the Miami Restaurant Employee Relief Fund, which has raised more than \$65,000 in just over two weeks. Every donation will go toward providing \$250 grants to as many qualifying grantees as possible, with 100 percent of the donations (minus GoFundMe's standard fees) supporting the cause.

## 5. Support Miami Hospital Workers with Tropical Chinese's Feed Fund

Miami's go-to Chinese spot Tropical Chinese is [supporting the city's health care workers](#) through customized bento boxes. With a goal to feed a different hospital every day, starting with Baptist, South Miami and Jackson, Tropical Chinese will deliver bento box lunches packed with a selection of the restaurant's best-selling items. Every dollar raised will be matched by the restaurant, so a \$12 donation will pay for not one but two meals.

## 6. Support Miami's Seniors with Meals on Wheels

In partnership with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County and the Department of Elder Affairs, [Meals on Wheels](#) provides South Florida's seniors with weekly healthy meal deliveries. Beyond food, volunteers offer friendship and companionship, as they are often the only person a senior may see that week. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, the organization is still operational, ensuring all meals are delivered. Donating to the fund will ensure seniors receive meals and volunteers are given proper supplies to complete deliveries in a safe way.

# Miami Beach's Culinary Prowess

By Paloma Villaverde de Rico - April 8, 2020



*Cocktail at Kimpton Angler's South Beach's Minnow Bar.*

Hotels in Miami Beach set the stage for a gastronomy feast. We've gathered up a handful of head-turning venues.

## **So Ritzy**

Paying homage to a bygone era, the newly renovated 376-room and -suite **Ritz-Carlton, South Beach** is home to the Lapidus Bar, a cocktail lounge featuring live music and vintage cocktails, as well as the Fuego y Mar restaurant, with communal seating that looks out over the pool and ocean and where dishes draw from Mexican, Cuban, Venezuelan and Colombian cuisines. At the Dilido Beach Club, with views of the ocean's turquoise hues for as far as the eye can see, guests can choose from dishes that highlight Spanish, French and Greek cuisines, as well as cocktails that incorporate herbs and healthy ingredients. [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)

## Let Us Entertain You



*The Drawing Room at Shelborne South Beach.*

Exuding a 1940s vibe, The Drawing Room at **Shelborne South Beach** has been updated with new decor and furnishings, and features a refreshed menu and new cocktails. It showcases geometric statement chandeliers complemented by eccentric, zebra print seating and wooden stacked shelves behind the bar. Steps away the bar's lounge features walls lined with books and red leather seating where guests can watch live performances that range from Latin and pop to soul and jazz.

[shelborne.com](http://shelborne.com)

## Intimate Surroundings

At the 71-room **Palihouse Miami Beach**, whose setting is a restored Art Deco building, there's a vintage feel where Eastern seaboard meets boho-Mediterranean. Here, the creek-front patio—the hotel is located along Indian Creek Waterway—lobby lounge, liquor bar, and outdoor pool area are all designed to bring hotel guests together for cocktails and dining, with Greenbrier Swim & Social offering all-day food & drinks at these gathering spots.

[palisociety.com/hotels/miami-beach](http://palisociety.com/hotels/miami-beach)



*1 Beach Club at 1 Hotel South Beach.*

## Barefoot Indulgence

**1 Hotel South Beach** a Tulum-inspired open-air venue that features an outdoor beachfront club and Wave, a sea-to-table restaurant. The beachfront Wave, serving local Latin flavors, has an iconic center bar, as well as a *mercado* selling local food, all complemented by sprawling day beds. A weekly *Barefoot Brunch* showcases diverse cuisine and endless rosé. [1hotels.com/south-beach](http://1hotels.com/south-beach)

## Palate Pleasers

The 132-room **Kimpton Angler's South Beach** has debuted new F&B programming at both its Minnow Bar—a reimagined gin house—and Seawell Fish N' Oyster restaurant. These include new seasonal cocktails, Lobster Night Tuesdays and 'Throw It Back' Thursdays. At Minnow Bar, guests can partake in cocktails with buzzy names like Mermaids Dream and Kaishi—their take on the lychee martini—while at Seawell, the rum-based Adventure Gallery cocktail serves up a sweet surprise. [anglershotelmiami.com](http://anglershotelmiami.com)

# recommend



The **Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB)** has unveiled **Miami Shines**, a tourism recovery campaign created in preparation for the gradual reopening of Miami-Dade County’s travel and hospitality industry. The GMCVB adds Miami Shines to a growing list of pre-recovery efforts designed to help drive business back to hotels, restaurants, museums and attractions. The campaign rolls out initially with a pre-recovery phase including a video produced in English, Spanish and Creole targeting future travelers.

The program includes a Miami local-pride initiative and offers residents a Miami Shines Toolkit encouraging locals to share their **#MiamiShines** moments on social media. With its message of hope, Miami Shines will serve as the foundation for a full recovery campaign supported by advertising, social media and public relations once hotels are open for leisure and business travelers.

The program is designed to ensure that the destination is positioned to recover as quickly as possible, offering relief in due time to Greater Miami's tourism and hospitality industry, which accounts for the economic backbone of the community. The campaign centers around what makes Greater Miami and the Beaches such a special place: its diverse community, people, places, neighborhoods, experiences and, naturally, its weather and sunshine. Creative assets will showcase the serenity of the destination's outdoors, nature and beaches while reflecting the community's energy, which draws visitors, conventioners, businesses, entrepreneurs and others from around the globe.

"The GMCVB is focused on creating programming aimed at helping businesses and workers who depend on tourism for their livelihood. We see this as an integral part of what we do to support the local economy," says William D. Talbert III, CDME, president and CEO of the GMCVB, in a statement. "As a destination marketing organization, the GMCVB has helped Greater Miami's community navigate challenging crises in the past, including the Gulf Oil Spill, 9/11, Zika and countless hurricanes. We are resilient, and with the support of our community partners we will soon shine brighter than ever."

Miami Shines will include local, regional and national components to help drive business back to hotels, restaurants, museums and attractions. Miami Shines is part of a series of programs designed by the GMCVB to educate guests and industry, mitigate effects from the coronavirus pandemic and at the appropriate time stimulate demand for the hospitality industry.

More information about the GMCVB's response efforts and updates related to COVID-19 are available [here](#).

For more inspirational stories about future travel, go to [#AmazingDaysAhead](#).

# Some Good News with Marin Bright

Despite the craziness we're living in, there's always good news to be found. Marin Bright, founder and CEO of Smart Meetings, shares some nuggets of positivity in what seems to be a sea of bad news.



By Smart Meetings

April 9, 2020



Smart Meetings · Follow

April 9 · 🌐



### Some Good News with Marin Bright Ep. 1

We are proud to present our version of John Krasinski's "#SomeGoodNews." Join founder... See More



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# 25 Vacations You Can Take from Home



THE EDITORS

Vacations are going virtual ... for now. So dust off your empty suitcase, pour a drink of choice, and virtually travel with us to your dream destination.

## Asheville, NC



*Sean Pavane/Shutterstock*

An arts and culture haven in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville is sharing food, music, and outdoor activities you can experience in your home.

Recipes to make at home include this quick and classic vodka martini from the Martini Workshop Lounge at [The Foundry Hotel](#): A twist on the classic vodka martini, Workshop Lounge's Martini features floral notes from the aromatic mixture of Hendrick's Gin. In a shaker, add ice, 3/4 oz. dry vermouth, and 3 oz. Hendrick's Gin. Mix well, strain, and pour the drink into a martini glass. Garnish with an olive.

Music and outdoor activities include an [Asheville playlist on Spotify](#) and Asheville experiences featuring [20+ virtual hikes](#), virtual tours of the iconic [Biltmore Estate](#), a [virtual walking tour of Blue Ridge Parkway](#), and [virtual outdoor yoga classes](#).

Imagine yourself in Charleston by checking out [live Facebook](#)

## Charlotte, NC

Check out the tourism board's complete roundup of virtual activities in the Queen City, [here](#). Highlights include online classes by the NASCAR Hall of Fame's [SPARK! program](#), [virtual concerts](#) with local talent, and online videos and tours at [Discovery Place Science](#).

## Florida



*Maridav/Shutterstock*

Head to the Sunshine State, virtually that is. Visit Florida has compiled a range of [virtual vacations](#), from aerial views of the beach to underwater videos.

Bring the magic of Orlando to your home with [dozens of virtual experiences](#) hosted by the city's tourism board. Online experiences range from streaming IMAX films, virtual go-karting, and floating down a lazy river.

[St. Pete](#) is also joining in on the travel-from-home fun by sharing local recipes, live beach webcams, [music](#), and an augmented reality virtual art tour from the Salvador Dali Museum.

You can also check out the Miami region's [live webcams](#), which include sweeping beach views as well as an underwater coral reef cam and a feed of frolicking meerkats from Zoo Miami. You can add an audio soundtrack with [this Spotify playlist](#) from local restaurant Zuma Miami or [this playlist](#) from [1 Hotel South Beach](#).

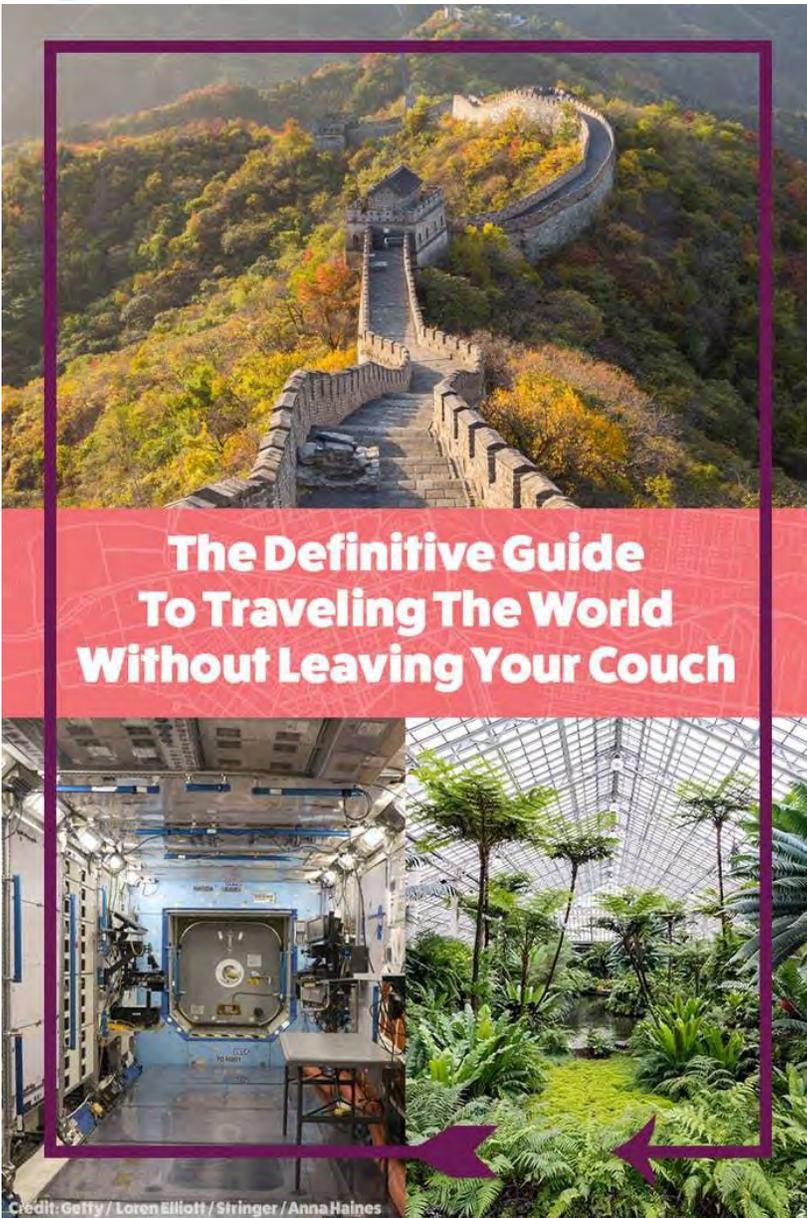
# These Virtual Travel Experiences Are Going To Be What Gets You Through Quarantine, I Promise

Staycations have never been so thrilling.

Posted on April 3, 2020, at 4:50 p.m.



**Anna Haines**  
BuzzFeed Staff



**The Definitive Guide  
To Traveling The World  
Without Leaving Your Couch**

Credit: Getty / Loren Elliott / Stringer / Anna Haines

Hannah Wong / Getty / Loren Elliott / Stringer / Anna Haines

Let's face it, traveling is an irreplaceable experience, and while [stay at home orders](#) mean we can't go exploring just yet, we *can* bring the world to our homes in the meantime.



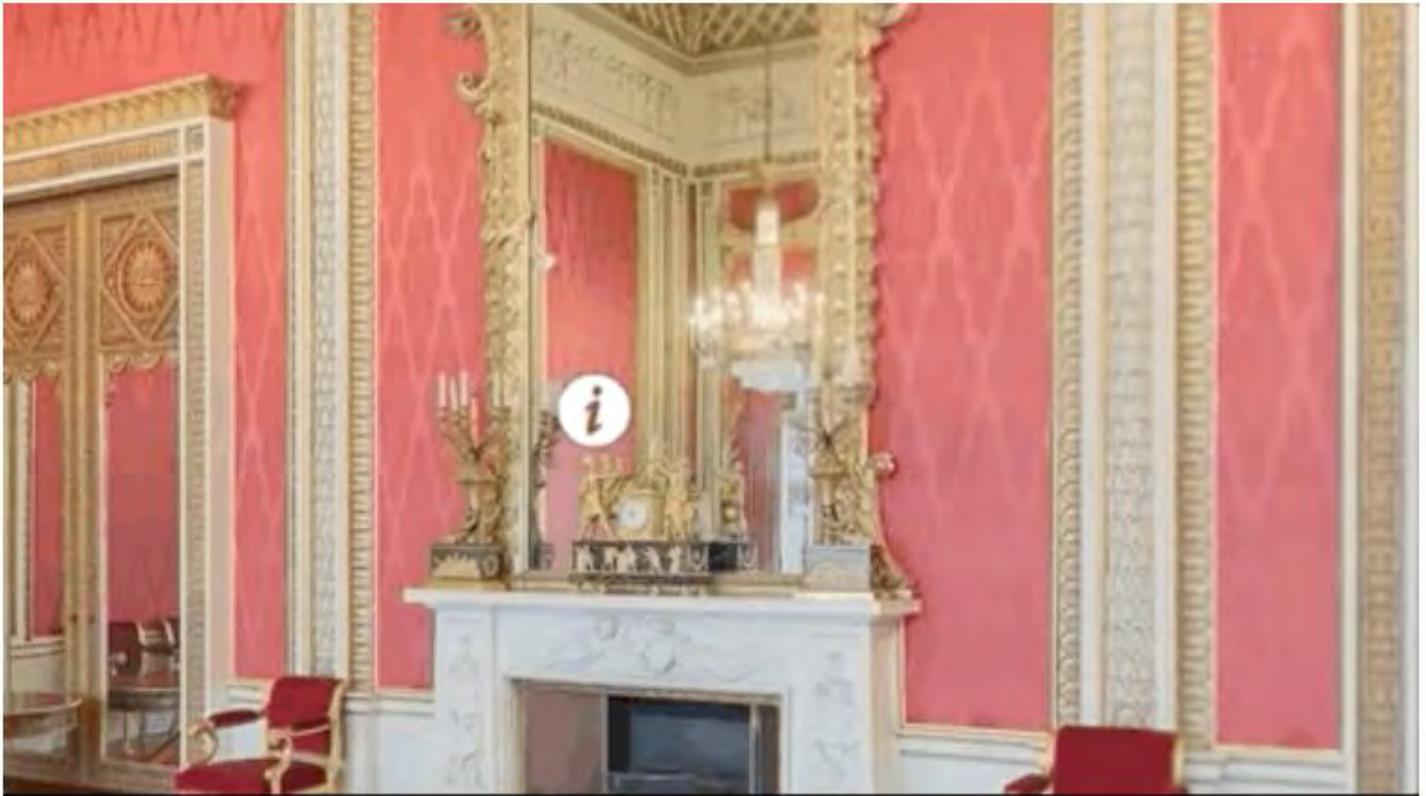
Netflix

From celebrity chef-led cooking classes on Instagram to live streams of concerts to virtual tours of museums — the world has responded quickly to ["social distancing" orders](#), making it easier than ever to ["travel" without leaving your home](#). So add these virtual experiences to your quarantine bucket list for the ultimate staycation.

## FAMOUS LANDMARKS

BuzzFeed

From China to Peru, you can experience the world's most [epic landmarks](#) *without* the epic crowds, thanks to livestreams, virtual tours, and 360-degree videos.



Buckingham Palace

**Great Wall of China:** Mentally climb one of the seven wonders of the world with a virtual tour.

**Wonders of the World:** While you're at it, why not cross *all* the new seven wonders off your bucket list (like Machu Picchu, Petra, and the Taj Mahal) with these 360-degree tours.

**Sistine Chapel:** Marvel at the intricate ceilings of this treasured religious landmark in Vatican City with seven virtual tours.

**CN Tower:** Peer over Downtown Toronto with a live stream from the top of this 1,815 foot (553 meter) architectural wonder.

**Buckingham Palace:** You'll have four rooms of the Queen's official residence all to yourself with these virtual tours.

**Jerusalem's Old City:** Learn about this holy pilgrimage site with a 360-degree tour that packs a full day of exploring into a few minutes.



BuzzFeed

Museums around the world are offering [virtual tours](#), online collections, and interactive experiences, aka endless entertainment for history buffs and art lovers.



*The National Palace Museum*

**The Louvre:** Journey from ancient Egypt to the Victorian era with four virtual tours at this Parisian museum.

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art:** The Met Gala may be canceled but you can still get your costume fix with the online collection at [The Costume Institute](#). They've got 26 other [online exhibits](#) for you to explore too.

**The British Museum:** Take a virtual tour of the Oceania or Prints and Drawings galleries, or browse their online collection, home to over one million objects.

**Grammy Museum:** Take a music education lesson or listen to a curated [Spotify playlist](#) while browsing the newly released archival content — the Museum at Home program has you covered.

**Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History:** Current and permanent exhibitions, research stations, the Smithsonian Castle... You can cover a lot of ground at this museum with their virtual tours.

**International Center of Photography:** The Visual History of Hip-Hop exhibit at this newly opened museum is a must for hip-hop fans. Thankfully you can sneak a peek via their virtual tour; check out their [audio guide](#) and [Spotify playlist](#) to complete the experience.

**The Dalí Museum:** Browse the four online exhibits, or for something more interactive download the [Dreams of Dalí](#) virtual reality experience.

**The National Palace Museum:** Go treasure hunting for Chinese artefacts that date back as far as the Neolithic age through their 720-degree virtual tour, complete with audio and animated stories.

# OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

*BuzzFeed*

[virtually exploring the great outdoors](#) instead — many of our planet's best national parks, hiking trails, and natural wonders can be ~experienced~ online.



*Google Arts & Culture*

**Yosemite National Park:** From the epic views atop the Diving Board to the jaw-dropping Nevada Fall, the 360-footage of California's Sierra Nevada mountains is breathtaking.

**Inca Trail:** The long trek to Peru's iconic Machu Picchu can be condensed into one hour with this virtual journey (best part — you won't be sore after!).

**Northern lights:** Tune into a live stream from Northern Canada and you might just be able to cross this natural phenomenon off your bucket list.

**Carlsbad Caverns:** Carlsbad Caverns National Park's 119 caves are yours to explore with a park ranger on this virtual tour. Don't miss The Big Room, it's the largest single cave chamber in North America.

**Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park:** Escape to Australia's Northern Territory with [this virtual tour](#) that includes stories and songs from Anangu, the traditional owners of the land.

# SHOWS

BuzzFeed

If your idea of the ideal evening on vacation is a night out on the town, you're in luck — comedy clubs, Broadway, and even local bars are bringing the entertainment to you.



victorevasecret  
50.2k followers

[View Profile](#)



[View More on Instagram](#)



4,614 likes



**BroadwayHD:** From Broadway to Shakespeare, this streaming service has upwards of 300 theater productions for you to binge during your free seven-day trial.

**Virtual comedy shows:** Laugh away your quarantine stress with a live stream of a [comedy show in New York City](#) or by following [one of these comedians](#) on social media.

**Marie's Crisis Café:** Belt out your favorite show tunes at a virtual sing-a-long — this historic piano bar in New York City is live-streaming piano sets in their Facebook group every day



*BuzzFeed*

Cuddling with [furry friends at home](#) not making up for forgone safari or diving plans? Thankfully you can be a fly on the wall at top-notch zoos and aquariums via live stream cameras.



*Monterey Bay Aquarium*

**San Diego Zoo:** Peek inside the enclosures at this world-famous zoo via one of their 10 live-streaming cameras. Heartwarming pandas and koalas? Yes please.

**Houston Zoo:** Six live camera streams lets you watch gorillas, giraffes, and even leafcutter ants in their habitats.

**Cincinnati Zoo:** Check out this zoo's Facebook page for their educational "Home Safari" live stream that highlights one animal each day and includes an activity to do at home (perfect for the kids!). Don't miss the [heartwarming video series](#) about Fiona, a prematurely born baby hippopotamus.

**Beekman 1802's farm:** The super adorable [baby goats](#) at this farm are perfect if you just need a quick hit of visual comfort.

**Monterey Bay Aquarium:** Watch waddling [African penguins](#) or get up close and personal with [sharks](#) — this world-renowned aquarium has 10 live streams for you to choose from. Don't miss the [Moon Jelly Cam](#) — it's exactly the kind of ASMR video we need right now.

**Great Barrier Reef:** Whether you're an avid or aspirational diver, this virtual tour with David Attenborough will cure any deep-sea wanderlust.



*BuzzFeed*

If there's one silver lining to all the [music festival cancellations](#), it's that you can now have that intimate one-on-one concert you've always dreamed of — musicians around the world are offering [free live online performances](#) to encourage people to stay home.



johnlegend

From IGTV · 12.3m followers

View Channel



Watch on Instagram



481,483 likes

**Virtual concerts:** The number of [free online concerts](#) is continuously growing — you could easily fill your day with an at-home festival circuit. We're especially loving the [Together at Home Campaign](#), where big-name artists offer free intimate performances on social media promote social distancing. Fans can make requests and preview new songs, plus there's even been fun cameos, like when [Chrissy Teigen](#) and her son joined John Legend on the piano.

**The Metropolitan Opera:** If you're craving a night at the opera, you'll love that this New York institution is sharing a performance every night for free.

**Seattle Symphony:** Into classical music? This esteemed symphony is posting free broadcasts on social media.

# GARDENS

BuzzFeed

Tired of staring at your houseplants? Get your nature fix with a virtual visit to some of the country's top greenhouses.



Anna Haines / Via [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com)

**Garfield Park Conservatory:** Chicago's stunning indoor green oasis offers digital tours that are as pretty as they are educational.

**Volunteer Park Conservatory:** This historic Seattle landmark went live every day for a week to support Washington's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order — check out the recordings on their Facebook page for a quick hit of relaxation.

**National Cherry Blossom Festival:** Catch the cherry blossoms before they're gone with the [live bloom cam](#) and a virtual tour of the Tidal Basin.

**Vizcaya Museum and Gardens:** Take a relaxing tour of this European-inspired estate overlooking Miami's Biscayne Bay.

## FOODIE EXPERIENCES

BuzzFeed

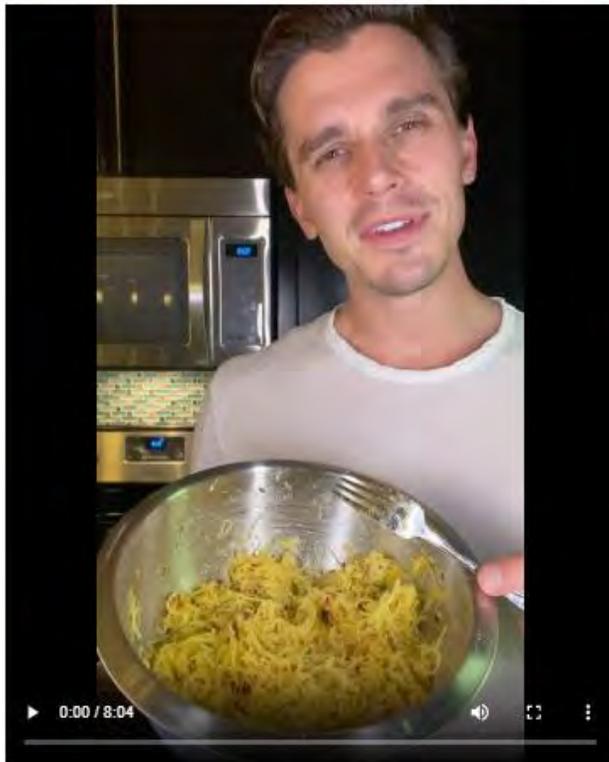
With several food and wine experts dishing out their tips and tricks online (for free!), now's your chance to take that once-in-a-lifetime cooking class you've always dreamed of.



antoni

From IGTV · 4.4m followers

[View Channel](#)



[Watch on Instagram](#)



57,102 likes



**Cooking tutorials with celebrity chefs:** Join Michelin-starred chef Massimo Bottura's "Kitchen Quarantine" class on [Instagram](#) or Iron Chef Michael Symon on the [Food Network Kitchen Facebook page](#) every day. You'll also find Antoni Porowski cooking up pantry staples for his "Quar Eye: Cooking Lessons in Quarantine" series on [Instagram](#).

**Borough Market cooking classes:** Join a cooking class live streamed on this beloved London market's [Instagram](#). They've also set up the [Borough Market Community](#) on Facebook for foodies to share recipes and cooking tips.

**Pasta-making with Nonna Neria:** This 84-year-old Italian grandma is combating a decline in business by live-streaming her cooking classes direct from Italy.

**Virtual winery experiences:** Upgrade your virtual happy hour with an online wine tasting and tour of California's [Tolosa Winery](#).

## WELLNESS

BuzzFeed

Just because you swapped your spring break wellness retreat for a socially distanced "retreat" home, doesn't mean you can't recreate the R&R vacay vibe.



Corepower Yoga



**Virtual yoga:** If you had to cancel a yoga retreat, you'll love that [Corepower Yoga](#) recently made their online classes free. They're just one of countless fitness studios that are offering [free virtual classes](#).

**The Dojo Upstate Sound Bath:** Grab that eye mask and find a cozy resting spot for the ultimate sensory escape — a sound bath live streamed from this listening room in New York's Hudson Valley.

**Well-being workshops:** If you've ever been curious about breath work, now's your chance — wellness guru Maryam Ajayi will be leading several [sliding-scale sessions](#) this Spring. Or sign up for one of Holisticism's [virtual well-being workshops](#) to dive into topics like chakra healing.

# OUTER SPACE

BuzzFeed

And if our planet just isn't that appealing to you right now, take your social distancing to a whole new level by traveling to outer space.



Gizmodo

**NASA offices:** Before blasting off, you'll want to know what you're getting yourself into. To train like an astronaut, take an online tour of the [Johnson Space Center](#) in Houston, and check out the [Kennedy Space Center's](#) educational live streams on Facebook.

**The Houston Space Center:** Download their special app to Journey into space via their Location-Aware Audio Tour (with fun facts along the way). If you have a VR headset, you'll love their virtual reality experience of the Moon.

**Access Mars:** Round out your space expedition with a 360-degree virtual tour of the red planet with Google.



# Miami gives back: Front-line and health care workers get free salad, coffee and discounted hotel rooms



[Katherine Fan](#)

Apr 8, 2020

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The coronavirus pandemic has impacted every corner of the globe, with many nations on complete lockdown in an effort to contain or eliminate the spread of the contagious disease. During these difficult times, a number of organizations and individuals have stepped up to support front-line and health care workers as they save lives across the country. In some cases, entire cities have joined forces toward this goal.

Florida [has been one of the states](#) hit the hardest by the coronavirus, and local hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and National Guard members have been working hard around the clock to serve their communities.

In Miami, these front-line workers are enjoying free pizza, donuts and coffee as well as deeply discounted meals and wireless services from Miami hotels, restaurants and retailers. The initiative, called Miami Salutes, is helmed by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), which compiles and maintains a comprehensive list of special offers [on the GMCVB's website](#).

**Related:** [Our favorite ways travel companies are giving back during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

Businesses participating in Miami Salutes include national brands such as Krispy Kreme, Starbucks and Crocs as well as local names such as Bulla Gastrobar, Divino Ceviche and Pollo Tropical. A Google Sheets spreadsheet lists more than 120 hotels in the greater Miami area which are offering [deeply discounted nightly rates](#) for medical professionals who need safe places to stay. Crocs is offering a free pair of shoes for any healthcare professional who requests them.

Front-line and first responders are encouraged to bring a valid ID to any of the dozens of Miami Salutes participating locations to score everything from free glazed donuts to up to 50% off on take-out and delivery orders. Sweetgreen is delivering free salads to local hospitals for their workers.

“Our front-line and first responders are working tirelessly to help and protect all of us, and their efforts are likely to escalate in the coming days and weeks,” said GMCVB President and CEO William D. Talbert, III. “We are proud to bring together Greater Miami’s hospitality industry to support these public servants and show our appreciation in any way possible.”

*Featured photo by Shutterstock.*

[Katherine Fan](#) covers points, miles, travel and credit card news for The Points Guy. She spent a decade working in the tech industry before joining TPG in 2015.



# The Best Scenic Drives in the Miami Area

Enjoy Miami vistas while staying safe.

By [Chris Malone](#) Published on 4/7/2020 at 12:01 AM



Ocean Drive | FRANCISCO ANZOLA/FLICKR

In case you're unaware, Miami has a reputation for being the sun and fun capital of the world. That makes it one of the most frustrating places to live during the coronavirus pandemic, when residents are obeying self-isolation orders and remaining at home as much as possible. Non-essential businesses are shuttered across Miami-Dade County, beaches are closed to the public, and world-famous events like [Ultra Music Festival](#) and the [Miami Open](#) have scrapped their plans for 2020, leaving locals with little to do and even less to see.

But besides being a place for outdoor fun, the 305 is also known for something else: its overwhelming car culture, which used to be evident every day with traffic jams on I-95 and beyond. Locals love their wheels, and luckily, Miami is still a beautiful city, with many beautiful areas that can still be seen from behind the tinted glass of a car window. There's more time and more reasons than ever to go for a scenic drive, and if you're in Miami, you've got some of the best options in the country available at your fingertips.

## **Rickenbacker Causeway**

### *Key Biscayne*

There's a reason why runners and cyclists flock to the seaside trail of the Rickenbacker Causeway: surrounded on both sides by crystal blue waters, white sands, and waving palm trees, the five-mile stretch connecting Miami and the nearby islands of [Key Biscayne](#) and [Virginia Key](#) has become synonymous with everything that locals love about living in Miami. The William H. Powell Bridge -- jokingly (yet truthfully) referred to as "the biggest hill in Miami" -- provides spectacular views of Miami's downtown skyline and the waves of Biscayne Bay as drivers climb nearly 100 feet above sea level to its peak. It's easy to get distracted by the sights on every side, so you're probably better off having a friend or Uber driver behind the wheel while you snap pictures.

## **Ocean Drive**

### *Miami Beach*

South Beach has gained worldwide fame for its [Art Deco](#) architecture, and Ocean Drive is the epicenter of it all. The pastel-colored hotels and bars on Ocean Drive's west side act as the perfect complement to the trees and sand of the beach and [Lummus Park](#) across the street, providing the ideal backdrop for pretending you're in a music video while driving down this picturesque seaside road in the safety of your car. Public beaches, bars, and restaurants are all closed per Miami Beach city ordinance, but that doesn't mean you can't look at hotspots like [the Clevelander](#), [Palace](#), and [Wet Willie's](#) or the opulent mansion once owned by [Gianni Versace](#) from a distance.



Old Cutler Road | COURTESY OF CHRIS MALONE

## **Old Cutler Road**

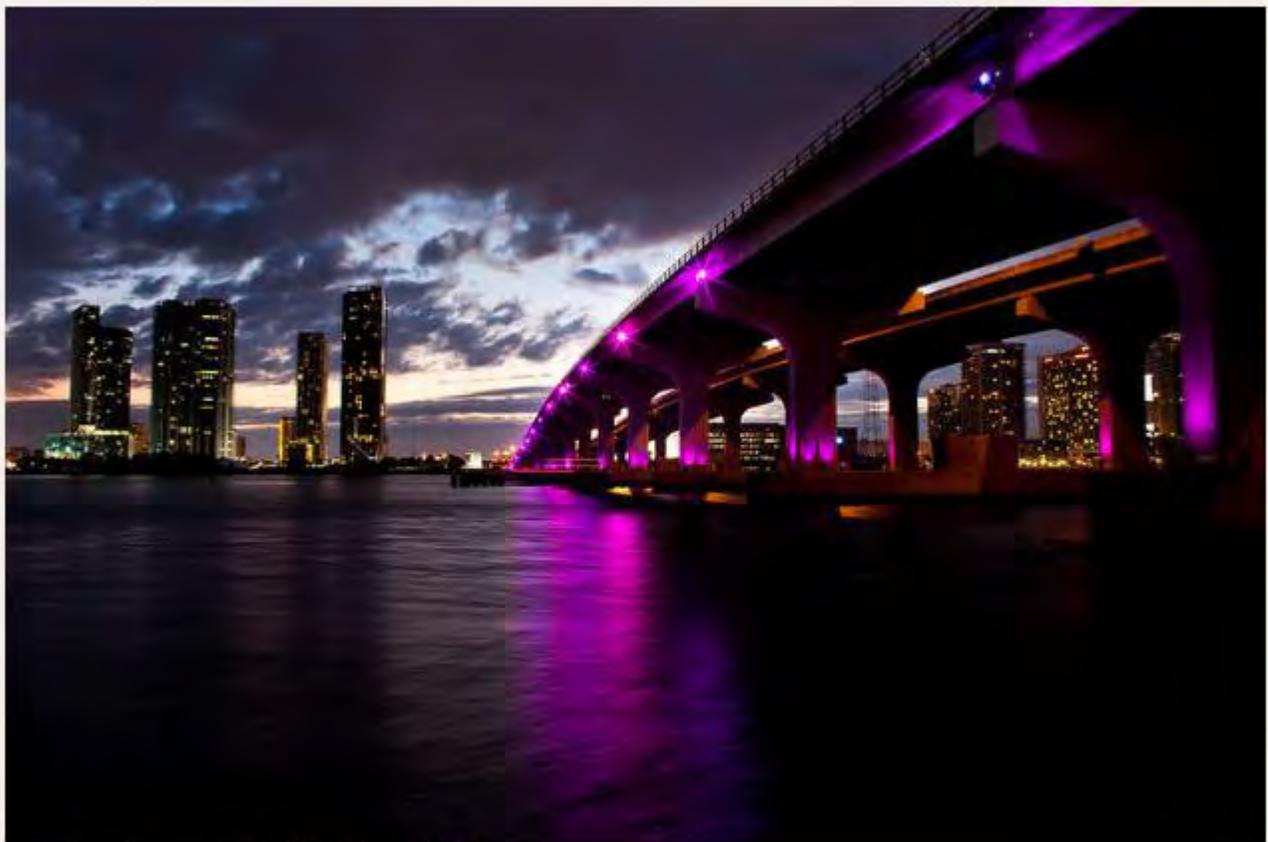
### *Coral Gables*

The tree tunnels of Old Cutler Road make it one of the most popular spots in Miami for scenic Sunday drives. Stretching nearly 15 miles from the ritzy gated community of Cocoplum in Coral Gables to the suburban village of Cutler Bay, the road acts as a main artery for many of the upscale communities that are situated along the way. The route has attracted even more visitors -- be they on four wheels, two wheels, or two feet -- searching for a place to take in some of the beauty of living in South Florida. [Matheson Hammock Park](#), located about a mile-and-a-half south of Old Cutler's northern end, is home to one of the county's quietest beaches and provides another scenic (yet shorter) drive, but remains closed until further notice.

## Julia Tuttle Causeway

### *Miami Beach*

As one of the three main highways connecting Miami Beach with mainland Miami, the Julia Tuttle Causeway is home to some of the most sweeping views of Biscayne Bay visible from a car. The highway's two bridges clock in at just a few feet shorter than the Rickenbacker Causeway's bridge, offering the same bird's-eye view of the bay below and downtown skyline in the distance, albeit from a different angle. On the beach side, the Julia Tuttle ends at the iconic "Welcome to Miami Beach" sign that greets visitors as they enter the beach at 41st street; on the mainland side, the causeway spits you out in the heart of midtown Miami, just minutes away from the street art of Wynwood.



MacArthur Causeway | THOMAS HAWK/FLICKR

## MacArthur Causeway

### *Miami Beach*

Perhaps the drive that out-of-towners will recognize the most, the MacArthur Causeway connects the city of Miami on the mainland and the barrier island of Miami Beach, and has become iconic for its proximity to many of the things for which the area is known. On one side, the multi-million dollar homes on [Star Island](#) will make you dream about having neighbors like P. Diddy and Gloria and Emilio Estefan. On the other, the monstrous cruise ships docked at [Port Miami](#) will have you planning your next ocean getaway.

## Venetian Causeway

### *Miami Beach*

Like the MacArthur and Julia Tuttle, the Venetian Causeway bridges Miami Beach with downtown Miami. What makes the Venetian unique is the actual bridge. The causeway runs entirely at sea level, so it feels as if you're driving on the water; specially-designed white barriers border the road on either side to prevent drivers from *actually* driving over the water. It takes you through the posh neighborhoods of Miami's Venetian Islands and past hotels like [The Standard](#) and rentable luxury homes like the [Villa Venetian](#), so driving through is not only the most scenic option, but also the most cost-effective.

## Main Highway

### *Coconut Grove*

Despite its name implying high traffic and high activity, Main Highway in Coconut Grove is one of the quietest major thoroughfares in the city, with plenty of low-hanging trees and colorful flowers to provide some ideal driving scenery. Don't be surprised if you have to stop and wait for a peacock to cross the road: they're some of Coconut Grove's most famous residents, and have called the area home for decades. At just about a mile, Main Highway is a mostly residential street, but at its northern end, it's home to popular attractions like the [CocoWalk](#) mall (currently under [renovation](#)) and food spots like [Lulu](#) and [GreenStreet Café](#).

[Sign up here](#) for our daily Miami email and be the first to get all the food/drink/fun in town.

[Chris Malone](#) is a native of Miami, where he spends much of his time as an arts and entertainment reporter for the Miami New Times. Follow him on [Twitter](#).



iHeartRadio 

**Thrillist's Best**

Why You Should Definitely Learn Your Grandma's Recipes

# Hit the World's Best Beaches With These 360-Degree Virtual Experiences

Now every day can be beach day.

By [Kristen Adaway](#) Published on 4/17/2020 at 5:37 PM



EMILY CARPENTER/THRILLIST

Let's kick beach season off early this year, shall we? Maybe you can't physically sprawl out on the sand -- access to many beaches remains severely limited due to the current health crisis -- but with Wi-Fi and a little imagination, you can virtually globe-trot to some of the [world's most stunning coasts](#).

From the lively sands of Florida to the islands in the Great Barrier Reef, you can visit these sandy shores right now using your phone or computer. Most of these digital tours offer fully immersive 360-degree views that, if you don't have VR gear or watch from your bathtub, offer up a completely transformative experience. So put on the Jimmy Buffett and order up some delivery mai tais: This season, the beach is coming to you.



Miami Beach

## South Beach

*Miami, Florida*

Spring break got cancelled this year, but that doesn't mean you can't fantasize about it via a digital trip to one of America's most popular beaches. Situated right below Bayshore, Miami's South Beach is the beating, sunburned heart of Miami, and this 360-degree walkalong of South Beach takes you on a waterfront stroll through a packed beach full of sunbathers, frisbee-tossing bros, and swimmers. If you're starved for human interaction and a little virtual sunshine, you can use the 360 functionality to play *Where's Waldo* with South Beach archetypes: we're pretty sure you'll spot Pitbull out there if you squint hard enough.

**MORE:** And if you're in Miami now, pair that virtual walk with excellent delivery food

# Tour These 7 Beautiful Southern Gardens Virtually — Pollen Not Included

Celebrate spring.

BY PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG / SOUTHERNLIVING.COM | MARCH 20, 2020

## 5. Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, Florida

Immerse yourself in a Gilded Age estate on Biscayne Bay surrounded by ten acres of formal gardens, a mangrove shoreline, and a tropical hardwood forest. A National Historic Landmark, the virtual feed lets you scope out the orchidarium, secret garden, fountain garden, and more.

*Take a virtual tour [here](#).*



# Greater Miami CVB Launches Program to Support Front-Line Responders

DESTINATION & TOURISM | MACKENZIE CULLEN | APRIL 03, 2020



*PHOTO: Peaceful promenade in Miami's Bayfront Park. (photo via CHUYN/iStock/Getty Images Plus)*

To thank the front-line and first responders for all their hard work and risking their own health to help patients infected with [coronavirus](#), the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is launching the *Miami Salutes* program. The program calls upon local hotels, restaurants and retailers to support hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and National Guard by providing them with special offers to makes their days a little easier.

The program includes local restaurants such as Bulla Gastrobar, Divino Ceviche, and Pollo Tropical, which have been offering 50 percent off to all front-line and first responders. National brands like Krispy Kreme are offering free donuts while local Starbucks' are offering free coffee. Sweetgreen has been delivering free salads to local hospitals and Crocs has donated a free pair of shoes to healthcare workers. *Miami Salutes* provides a compiled, updated list of special offers on the GMCVB's [website](#).

“Our community is indebted to the heroic medical professionals, police officers, firefighters, military personnel and essential workers fighting to keep our communities

safe from COVID-19,” says Miami-Dade County Commissioner and Chair of Miami-Dade County’s Military Affairs Board Jose “Pepe” Diaz. “It is wonderful to see businesses show their appreciation to these workers for their service and loyal dedication, even though many may be going through their own difficult times right now. This program is a testament to the spirit of Miami-Dade County’s community, which will help us all get through this.”

*Miami Salutes* is just one of several programs that the GMCVB has launched in response to the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. *Miami Eats* was created to support local restaurants by promoting delivery and take-out options for locals. *Hotels for Essential Lodgers*, meanwhile, was created to keep the hospitality industry afloat by providing accommodations for essential workers who did not want to risk potentially spreading the virus to family or roommates. The GMCVB also set up the *Help for Tourism* webpage to provide the industry a look at how to secure assistance.

Additionally, the GMCVB has partnered with United Way of Miami-Dade, Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation to create a fund to support hospitality workers and their families with emergency needs including food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and micro-grants.



# 'Miami Shines' Campaign Prepares for Recovery Efforts

DESTINATION & TOURISM | MACKENZIE CULLEN | APRIL 30, 2020

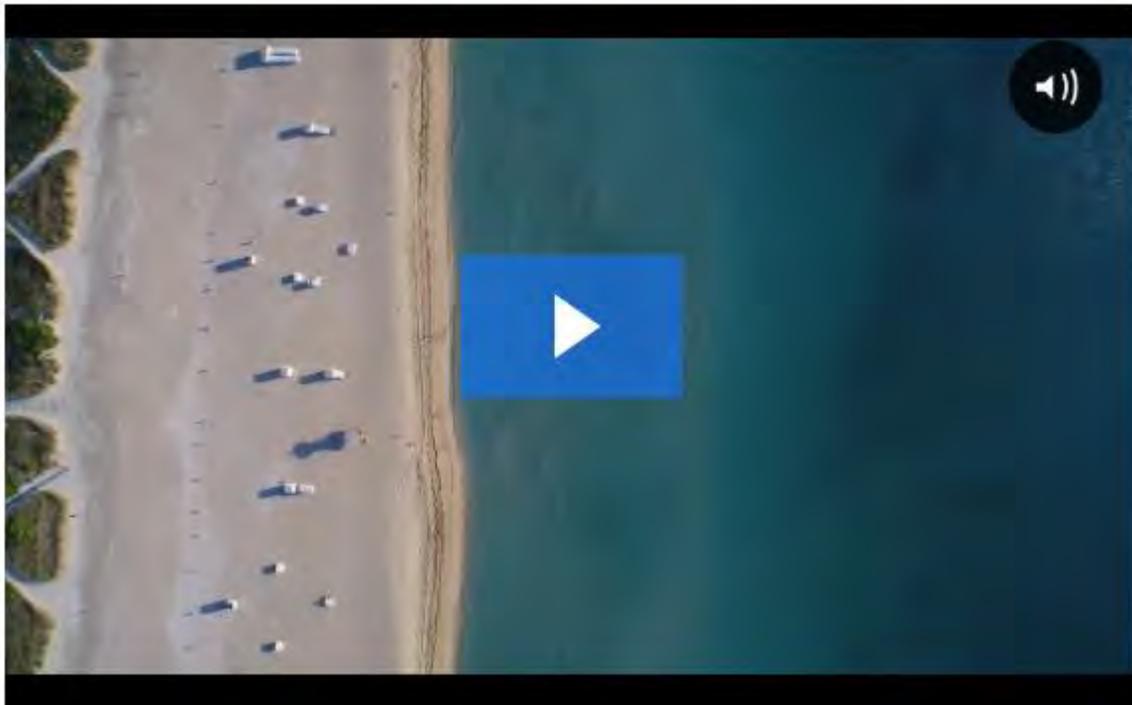


*PHOTO: Skyline in Miami, Florida. (Photo via iStock/Getty Images Plus/espigle)*

In the latest effort to aid in Miami's recovery once the [coronavirus pandemic](#) ends, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) has launched the [Miami Shines](#) campaign. This new campaign was designed to advertise the city in order to help drive business back to hotels, restaurants, museums and attractions.

Miami Shines began when GMCVB posted a video to its [website](#) in English, Spanish and Creole to garner interest from future business and leisure travelers. GMCVB also called upon Miami locals for their support through the [Miami Shines Toolkit](#), which encourages residents to show their pride by sharing their own [#MiamiShines](#) moments on social media.

The goal is to ultimately bring back tourism as quickly as possible by showcasing Miami's diverse community, people, places, neighborhoods, experiences and gorgeous weather.



“The GMCVB is focused on creating programming aimed at helping businesses and workers who depend on tourism for their livelihood. We see this as an integral part of what we do to support the local economy,” says William D. Talbert III, CDME, President & CEO of the GMCVB. “As a destination marketing organization, the GMCVB has helped Greater Miami’s community navigate challenging crises in the past, including the Gulf Oil Spill, 9/11, Zika and countless hurricanes. We are resilient, and with the support of our community partners we will soon shine brighter than ever.”

Miami Shines is just the latest recovery initiative by the GMCVB, which has launched programs including [Miami Eats](#), [Miami Salutes](#), Virtual Miami and Open Hotels for Essential Lodgers in the past couple of months.

Additionally, GMCVB has launched a [website](#) that lists all of the resources and charitable opportunities available for the travel and hospitality industry and opened the [Miami Pandemic Response Fund](#) for struggling families.

# TRAVEL WEEKLY

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY'S TRUSTED VOICE

## Destination marketers feel squeeze as funding dries up

By Jeri Clausing | Apr 28, 2020



The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority slashed its budget by \$79 million, laying off 80 full-time workers. Photo Credit: Checubus/Shutterstock

For the travel industry, one key to recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown will lie in smart, sensitive and well-timed marketing campaigns, according to marketing experts.

Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau president and CEO Bill Talbert said 10% of his staff has been furloughed and the rest have taken pay cuts.

# TRAVEL WEEKLY

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY'S TRUSTED VOICE

## Miami tourism interests step up to salute health care workers

By Tom Stieghorst   | Apr 13, 2020

 | A+ A-

The tourism and culinary sectors in Miami is honoring the city's health care workers. In a program dubbed Miami Salutes, hotels, restaurants and retailers will be offering free pizza, doughnuts, coffee, meals and other goodies to hospital workers, paramedics, medical professionals and others on the front lines of battling the coronavirus.

Local restaurants such as Bulla Castrobar, Divino Ceviche and Polo Tropical are offering 50% off meals to first responders and other qualified personnel.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau is publishing a complete list of offers on its [website](#).

Travel • Perspective

# How travel destinations are staying visible (and tidying up) during the pandemic



Cities such as Monte Carlo, pictured, are eager to welcome visitors back. “We’re making sure to keep Monaco in the minds and dreams of people currently confined in their home,” says the country’s tourism head, Guy Antognelli. (iStock)



By **Christopher Elliott**

Columnist

April 22, 2020 at 4:58 p.m. EDT

Tourism officials want you to dream of a vacation during your [coronavirus](#) confinement. They’re using everything from bingo to live webcams to keep you engaged. And they’re renovating and reaching out to prospective visitors during the pandemic as they prepare for your

return.

But it may take more than that. The [World Tourism Organization](#) had projected that international tourism arrivals would grow 3 to 4 percent this year. It now estimates that arrivals could plummet by 20 to 30 percent because of the coronavirus. That's a loss of \$30 billion to \$50 billion in spending.

Many attractions have made their virtual tours more elaborate. Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, a Gilded Age (late 19th-century) estate on Biscayne Bay near Miami, is promoting a [360-degree tour](#) that allows viewers to see and hear more than they would in person. Click on the displays and you can listen to the rustling leaves and the flowing water of the mangrove-covered shoreline. A room fills with organ music, and users can zoom in on the tiniest detail of the Italian furniture.



## Escape the House with these Beach Webcams from Around the World



*When you feel your walls closing in on you, escape to the beach with these live beach webcams.*



Who knew staying home would be so hard? As the weather warms up, I am longing to dig my toes in the sand, take a long stroll along the water's edge, and listen to the pounding of the waves that quiets my soul. With beaches closed, that isn't an option. But that doesn't mean that I can't get my beach fix through live beach webcams.

From the rocky shores of California to the wide beaches of Florida, from the chic coasts of the Mediterranean to the surfer's paradise in Australia, here is where you can find your daily escape. Pick a destination, maximize your screen, turn up the volume, and breath. I hope that these live beach cameras bring you some peace during challenging times.

You may even discover a new beach you want to explore in person when we are all traveling again.



## Beach Webcams in the United States

### Miami, Florida

Just because the beach is closed, doesn't mean you can't enjoy some of Greater Miami and the Beaches' unique experiences. Along with [virtual tours](#) and live webcams of Miami's world class museums, national parks, and neighborhoods, you can take in the splendor of Miami's South Beach without the crowds from a [live beach cam](#).

# The Wanderlist: Best virtual tours to explore the world

*Staying home doesn't mean cancelling our sense of adventure – get up close-ish to some of the world's most remarkable sites and attractions with these virtual tours.*



BY MEREDITH HARDIE



PUBLISHED: TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2020

THE WANDERLIST



**I F YOU'VE FINISHED** Netflix and are looking for something to do other than an infinite Instagram scroll, the World Wide Web has a plethora of ways to get wonderfully lost.

We may not be able to physically go to places on our bucket list, but that doesn't mean we have to torch the list and forget it ever existed like a bad breakup. We can still have a relationship with the world, it's just going to be long distance for a while.

In a weird 2020 plot twist, virtual reality has become our new reality. It's not the same as the real thing, but there's no crowds or long lines to push through, so little victories, right? Here's a list of some virtual tours and activities you can do without having to put on pants. Sit back, relax and always stay curious.

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Remember this place? It hasn't gone anywhere, we're just on a little break from each other. In the meantime, experiment with new places or re-visit an old flame you can't stop thinking about. Either way, these views will get your heart beating, no cardio required.



Colorado

1 of 3

Take a hike through **Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park** where you'll find snow covered peaks and clear alpine lakes.

Fall for Niagara Falls with this **live cam** that captures 75,750 gallons of water flowing over the roaring (yet soothing) waterfall every second.

Attend wine o'clock in **Sonoma County**, the birthplace of California's commercial wine industry. Every Sunday at 5 p.m. PST, **Belden Barns Winery** hosts a **free virtual wine tasting** with a pre-set schedule so you can plan ahead and BYOW (bring your own wine) to the party.

Go on a guided tour with your own personal park ranger through some of mother nature's most spectacular **Hidden Worlds of National Parks**.

Escape Toronto's spring/winter (and crack a cold one) at sunny **Hampton Beach** in New Hampshire, **Miami's South Beach** and **Pebbles Beach** in Barbados.

## MUSEUMS

There's no need to keep quiet or watch out for umbrella-poking guides on one of these tours. Follow along at your own pace, get up close and personal with exhibits and, if it feels right, take a piece of art home.



The British Museum

1 of 3

Get artsy with **the Google Arts & Culture app**, which curates multiple tours of some of the most prestigious museums and historic sites around the world. From a journey through the **world's oldest art gallery** to contemporary collections at **the Museum of Modern Art**.

Also, snapping selfies and touching the art is heavily encouraged in these **fun features**.

Be moved by the birthplace of the street art movement in **Puerto Rico** and feast your eyes on the abandoned spaces of **Los Muros Hablan** rescued by artists.

Connect the dots of antiquity and transcend time with over 2 million years of history at the **British Museum** in London.

Squint your eyes on a tour through a **neon graveyard** where famous signs of Sin City go to rest.

Have a blinking competition with the **Mona Lisa** or get face to face with a **pharaoh** on a virtual hike (it big) through the **Louvre**.

The first of its kind, the **U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum** is set to open in **Colorado Springs** later this year. In the meantime, check out their **online exhibits** like the history of Olympic torches and their **StoryCorps** series of interviews with Olympians, Paralympians, their families and coaches.

## ATTRACTIONS

The best part about this whole thing is having space (literally, outer space) all to yourself. Be your own astronaut, leading role or zoologist – choose your own adventure.

Forget about physical distancing with close-up views of four-legged friends at the **San Diego Zoo**.

Catch feelings for cuddly **sea otters** or get mesmerized by **jellyfish** dancing across your screen at the **Vancouver Aquarium**.

Score the best seats in the house at the **Stratford Festival**, North America's greatest classical theatre company, from Shakespeare's greatest hits to contemporary works more dramatic than high school.

Watch the sunrise (**East view**) and sunset (**West view**) from the top of Toronto with the **CN Tower's** live cams.

Get lost in space at NASA's International Space Station with an out of this world, live stream **space cam**.

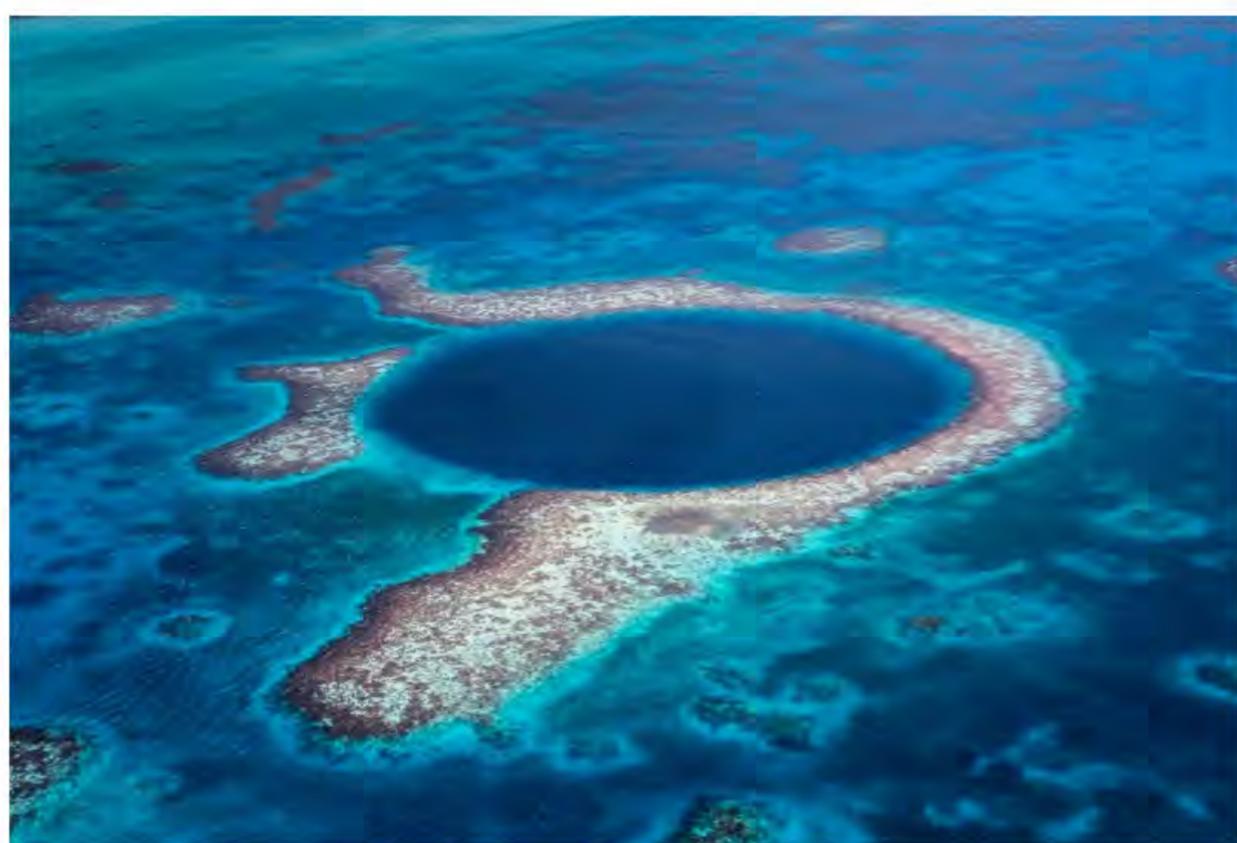
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Sandra Thomas / Vancouver Courier

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## Florida

[panoramas](#) through Google Maps in all their parks. Various YouTubers also have ride videos available including [Frozen Ever After](#), [Pirates of the Caribbean](#), and [It's a Small World](#).

- **Miami Beach webcams:** [Live webcams of beaches](#) that span South Beach at Hilton Bentley to Little Havana.
- **Biltmore Hotel Virtual 360 tour:** [Wander through the historic Biltmore Hotel](#) in Miami including its main lobby ballrooms, Palme D'Or Restaurant, the Fontana Courtyard, and its iconic pool.
- **Concerts from BB&T center:** The BB&T center is a concert venue in Sunrise, Florida and they've put together an [incredible line up of concerts](#) that are available online.
- **Dali Museum:** A 360-degree tour of the [Dali Museum](#) in St. Petersburg. You'll also find online-online exhibits, and various tours, lessons, lectures, art classes and other stimulating activities for all ages.
- **Florida Aquarium SEA-SPAN:** Every day at 10AM they do Facebook live videos that covers insight into feedings, cleanings, and tours. All of these are organized on [this page](#).
- **Busch Gardens:** See and interact love with animals, rides and other favorite exhibits and areas from a new vantage point with their [Facebook live feeds](#).
- **Florida Orchestra concerts:** This is a special treat for classical music fans. They're posting their [radio broadcasts](#) of concerts 45 days after they air (typically Thursdays at 7PM).
- **Orlando Virtual Tours:** [Visit Orlando](#) is offering collections of virtual experiences that covers places such as Walt Disney World Resort, SeaWorld, Universal, LEGOLAND, and more!
- **Catty Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary:** Have you watched Netflix's *Tiger King* series? Well, this big cat sanctuary has been running [Facebook Live virtual night feedings](#) Fridays and Saturdays at 7PM. They also have an educational program Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4PM.
- **Ripley's Believe It or Not – Outside the Odditorium:** Ripley's is running a special virtual series to learn all about the strange and unusual. [This page](#) lists all the live events.
- **National Naval Aviation Museum:** The Pensacola museum's 350,000 square feet of exhibit space includes 150 restored aircraft representing the Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy. Partnered with Google, there are [360 degree views](#) of the museum's Hanger Bay.

## Louisiana

- **Stories of the French Quarter ★:** Explore the oldest neighborhood in New Orleans from the comfort of your own home. The greatest storytellers in the city have crafted a collection of the best stories and images to share with you in an [online storytelling session](#).
- **Stories of the Garden District ★:** Explore the lush and elegant [Garden District of New Orleans online](#) with a great storytelling guide. Join an online storytelling session to see the mansions, gardens, restaurants, and tombs while you hear the great stories behind them.

## Washington D.C.

- **Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History:** They literally have [360 degree views](#) of every single exhibit in the museum.

## Washington

- **Seattle Symphony:** Check out their upcoming performances and [live streams on Thursdays and Saturdays](#).

## Ohio

- **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden:** The zoo hosts [Home Safari Facebook Lives](#) daily at 3PM EDT. They also posts their videos to [YouTube](#) afterwards.

## Illinois

- **Art Institute of Chicago:** Zoom into Monet's Water Lilies and Grand Wood's American Gothic with the [museum's Multimedia section](#).

## Texas:

- **Virtual puzzles:** The Sixth Floor Museum is offering [virtual jigsaw puzzles](#) that you can try to assemble.
- **Get your work out on:** [Ballet Austin Dance and Fitness](#) is livestreaming free classes via their Instagram and Facebook channels, ranging from cardio hip hop, Pilates, ballet or cardio funk classes, to help you work up a sweat from the comfort of your own home for free.

## Hawaii

- **Banzai Pipeline:** This is for the surfers at home. The Pipeline on the north shore of Oahu at Ehukai Beach has a live cam and you can watch it [here](#). There might not be surfers out there but the sounds of the crashing waves sure is soothing.

## Alaska

- **Kenai Fjords National Park:** Talk a [guided tour](#) on, in, and around this national park.

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## Mexico

- **Mayan artifacts:** Explore the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City with these [23 exhibit rooms](#).

[BACK TO THE TOP](#)

## Global

- **YouTube and Tribeca free global film festival:** Details are limited right now but the [We Are One: A Global Film Festival](#) is a virtual festival and it will run from May 29th to June 7th.
- **Club Quarantine:** DJ Derrick Jones (D-Nice) has been running the hottest dance parties through [IG Live](#).
- **National Theatre:** They have created "National Theatre at Home" where anyone around the world can [stream their productions on YouTube](#). There's a new full-length play every Thursday.
- **Broadway Shows:** The channel, [The Show Must Go On](#) is sharing full-length Broadway shows every Friday at 7PM and keeps them up for 48 hours.
- **Scavenger hunt + escape room:** If you're looking for an interactive virtual group game show, check out [Connectivity Game](#). You'll need WhatsApp to play.
- **Classical concert:** Concert halls from Amsterdam to Athens are [streaming classical music](#) to your Facebook feed every day at 8PM CET. Different concert halls will be publishing videos so make sure to check their schedule.
- **Tinggly box of free experiences:** The travel gift box company is giving away their list of the [best free virtual experiences around the world](#).
- **TIFF Stay-At-Home Cinema:** The Toronto International Film Festival is running a specials series of movies on YouTube as part of [Stay-At-Home Cinema](#).
- **GAdventures Small Group Tour:** The [first live virtual tours of their kind](#) that get people as close as possible to a G Adventures trip without opening their passports. G Adventures' chief experience officers (CEOs) take 16 'travellers' on a cross-country experience introducing them to different locations in just under an hour. The participants 'meet' in a live Zoom room, and can interact with their CEO in real time.
- **Cirque Du Soleil:** This Friday, May 1 at 3pm ET, the [CirqueConnect 60-minute special](#) will be something truly spectacular! This week's special will showcase some stellar acts from One Night for One Drop shows and surprise celebrity guests! They also have a new VR experience that currently features their *Alegria* show.

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## Outer Space

Because, why not?!

- **Go to Mars:** Journey across the red planet on the Curiosity Rover with this [virtual experience](#).

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Sandra Thomas / Vancouver Courier

APRIL 22, 2020 07:00 AM

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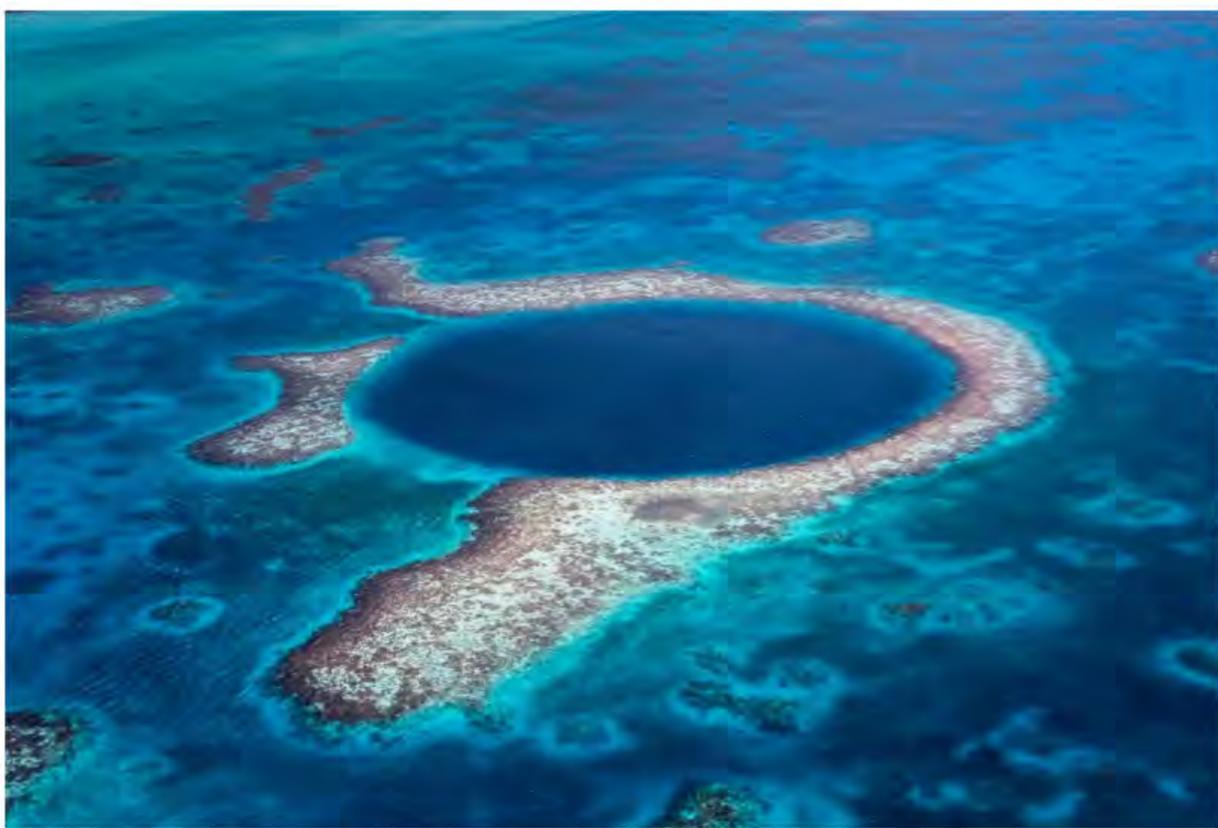
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APRIL 22, 2020 06:00 AM

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Belize is striving to protect and preserve its vast biodiversity and distinctive ecosystems, including its many reefs. Photo Getty Images



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writersblock5@hotmail.com

@stthomas10



# Earth Day is a good time to virtually explore destinations investing in the environment

While COVID-19 might have us locked down at home, these virtual tours can help us plan for future travel with sustainability in mind

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# 15 Top-Rated Beaches in Miami, FL

Written by Shandley McMurray  
Apr 30, 2020

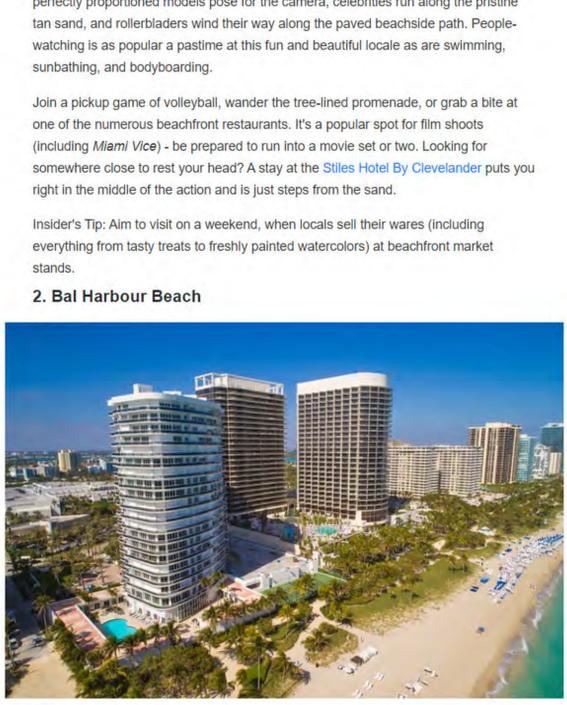
Miami is one of Florida's top tourist destinations. While its Art Deco glam, high-end shopping, and buzzing nightlife are major draws, most visitors flock to this holiday hot spot for its beaches.

Everyone's heard of Miami Beach. Home to bikini-clad models, toned skateboarders, wealthy shoppers, and eccentric artists, this is the place to see and be seen. It's the spot where you can walk the boardwalk, play a pickup game of beach volleyball, or flex your wallet at luxurious oceanfront shops.

While this may be the most famous beach in Miami, it isn't the only (or best) strand on offer. In fact, this bustling South Florida city boasts a slew of diverse strands offering soft sand, translucent water, and a charm all their own.

Whether you enjoy people-watching, windsurfing, or laying quietly on a secluded stretch of sand, Miami offers the perfect place to enjoy your vacation. Choose the best spot to lay down your towel with our list of the best beaches in Miami.

## 1. Lummus Park



Lummus Park

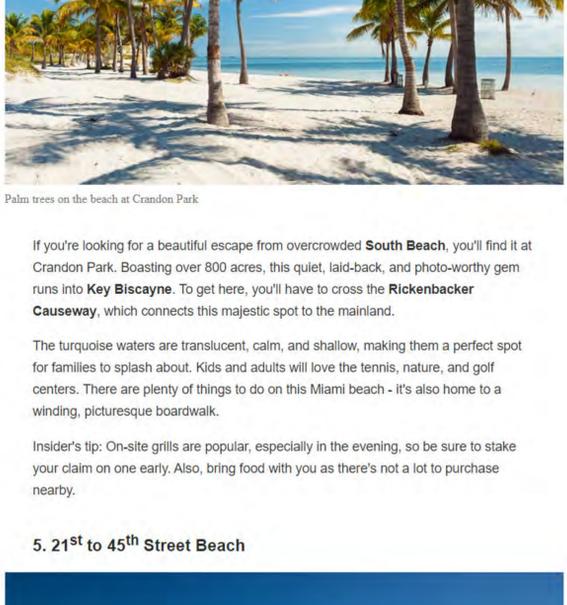
A picture-perfect strand, Lummus Park is located in Miami's South Beach, within the city's vibrant Art Deco District. Nestled along Ocean Drive, it's here that you'll find the most postcard-worthy vistas.

This is also the place to find the stereotypes most often associated with this area - perfectly proportioned models pose for the camera, celebrities run along the pristine tan sand, and rollerbladers wind their way along the paved beachside path. People-watching is as popular a pastime at this fun and beautiful locale as are swimming, sunbathing, and bodyboarding.

Join a pickup game of volleyball, wander the tree-lined promenade, or grab a bite at one of the numerous beachfront restaurants. It's a popular spot for film shoots (including *Miami Vice*) - be prepared to run into a movie set or two. Looking for somewhere close to rest your head? A stay at the [Stiles Hotel By Clevelander](#) puts you right in the middle of the action and is just steps from the sand.

Insider's Tip: Aim to visit on a weekend, when locals sell their wares (including everything from tasty treats to freshly painted watercolors) at beachfront market stands.

## 2. Bal Harbour Beach



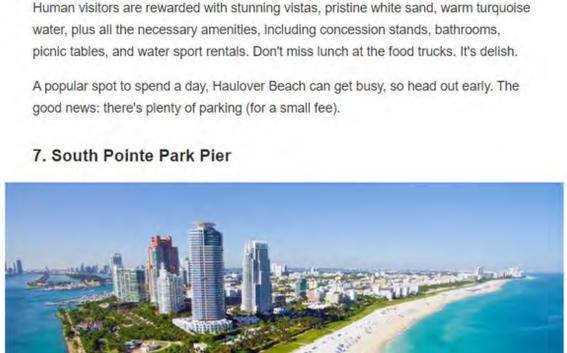
Aerial photo of Bal Harbour Beach

Want to rub elbows with the uber rich? Head to Bal Harbour beach. Sandwiched between **Sunny Isles Beach** (to the north) and **Surfside** (to the south), Bal Harbour is a small stretch of strand backed by the most luxurious beachfront hotels in Miami ([The Ritz-Carlton](#) and [The St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort](#)) and high-end residences.

Want to feel poor? Head to **Bal Harbor Village**. It's here that you'll find top restaurants and a bevy of chic and pricey shops known conveniently as **Bal Harbour Shops**. Luckily you don't need a gold card to window shop. You will need to wear shoes and cover up your bathing suit, however.

The beach itself, which is roughly three miles north of **North Beach**, is as luxurious as you'd expect from such an exclusive neighborhood. Plus, it boasts the softest, whitest sand.

## 3. South Beach



Colorful lifeguard tower on South Beach

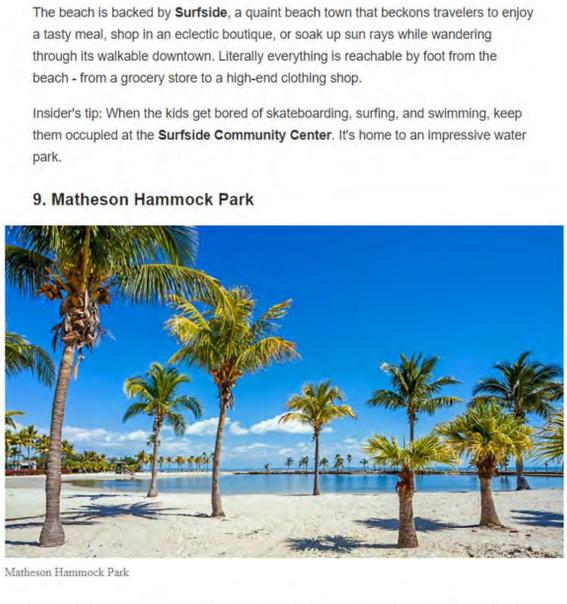
You can't visit Miami without spending time at South Beach. Known by locals as SoBe, this iconic strand is the place to see and be seen. It's the spot where Art Deco architecture meets high-end modern design. It's the site of some of the city's best restaurants, coolest galleries, and most vibrant nightlife.

More importantly, South Beach is the beach that all other Miami strands are compared to. After all, it's the most famous beach in Miami. Offering miles of plush sand, a happening boardwalk, and plenty of things to do (like swim, shop, sunbathe, dine, and play volleyball), it's not hard to see why South Beach is so popular.

Looking for a sliver of peace and tranquility? You won't find it here. If you're hoping to don rollerblades while clad in a bathing suit, dodging the city's fittest folks, however, this is the place for you.

Accommodation: [Where to Stay in Miami Beach: Best Areas & Hotels](#)

## 4. Crandon Park



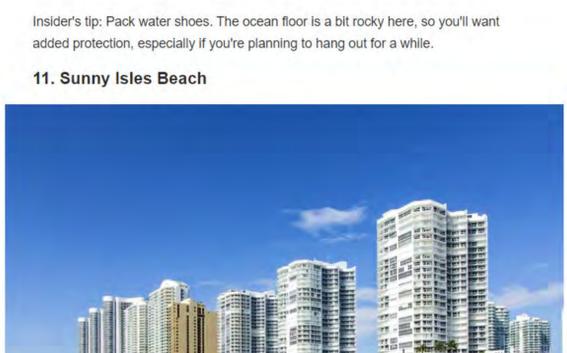
Palm trees on the beach at Crandon Park

If you're looking for a beautiful escape from overcrowded **South Beach**, you'll find it at Crandon Park. Boasting over 800 acres, this quiet, laid-back, and photo-worthy gem runs into **Key Biscayne**. To get here, you'll have to cross the **Rickenbacker Causeway**, which connects this majestic spot to the mainland.

The turquoise waters are translucent, calm, and shallow, making them a perfect spot for families to splash about. Kids and adults will love the tennis, nature, and golf centers. There are plenty of things to do on this Miami beach - it's also home to a winding, picturesque boardwalk.

Insider's tip: On-site grills are popular, especially in the evening, so be sure to stake your claim on one early. Also, bring food with you as there's not a lot to purchase nearby.

## 5. 21st to 45th Street Beach

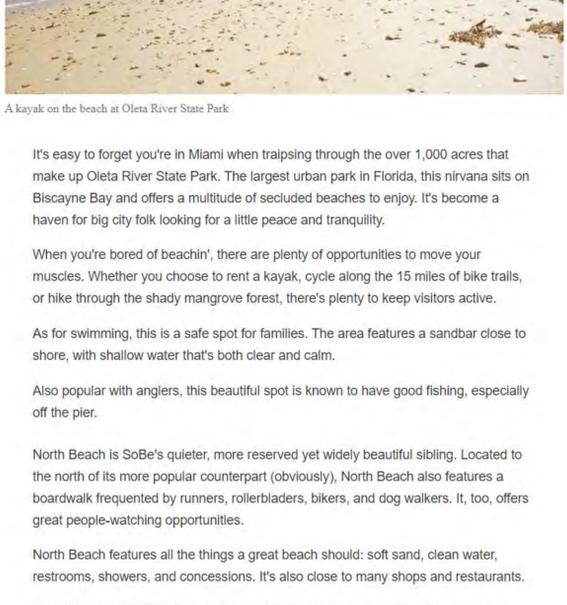


At first glance, the 21<sup>st</sup> to 45<sup>th</sup> Street Beach isn't all that impressive. Yes, it has clean, soft sand. Yes, it's fronted by translucent azure water. And yes, it boasts a sweet fishing pier, but you won't find the snack shops, concession stands, or lifeguard huts that pepper South Beach.

What you will find at this chilled-out beauty is jog-worthy sand, calm water, and luxurious oceanfront hotels and beach clubs. This lengthy beach also features a long section of the Miami Beach boardwalk, a perfect place to take a walk and partake in one of the most popular things to do in Miami beaches - people-watch.

Speaking of people-watching, this is the place to be for those hoping to see a celebrity. Celebs the likes of Beyonce, Jay-Z, John Legend, and Leonardo DiCaprio have all been spotted sunning themselves on this strand.

## 6. Haulover Beach Park



Haulover Beach Park

Dog lovers and families abound at this famous beach in Miami. Backed by picturesque rolling dunes, Haulover Beach Park lies between Sunny Isles and Bal Harbour. It's sandwiched between the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway.

In addition to its dog-friendly section, situated between lifeguard towers two and three, the area also boasts **Bark Park**, a sweet playground that's perfect for your four-legged companions.

Human visitors are rewarded with stunning vistas, pristine white sand, warm turquoise water, plus all the necessary amenities, including concession stands, bathrooms, picnic tables, and water sport rentals. Don't miss lunch at the food trucks. It's delish.

A popular spot to spend a day, Haulover Beach can get busy, so head out early. The good news: there's plenty of parking (for a small fee).

## 7. South Pointe Park Pier



South Pointe Park

Visiting South Pointe Park Pier is one of the best things to do in Miami beach. Perhaps the greenest of the area's strands, this lush spot boasts 17 acres of a natural wonderland begging to be explored.

South Pointe features the requisite white, sandy beach you've been dreaming of. It's the well-tended walking trails and stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean, though, that make this strand stand out from the others.

Renovated in 2014, the 450-foot-long pier is a haven for anglers. It comes complete with special stations for cutting bait and washing fish. Traveling with kids? They'll love the fun playground, refreshing water features, and dog park.

Insider's tip: Sick of crunching sand while eating a picnic lunch? Settle in on one of the park's many grassy knolls for a sand-free place to eat.

## 8. Surfside Beach



Aerial view of Surfside Beach

A mile-long stretch of sand greets visitors to this tempting refuge just north of North Beach. One of its best features is the paved walking and bike path, which separates the sand from the nearby roads and buildings.

Locals flock to this area, which they refer to as Miami's "uptown beach town." If the locals choose to spend their time here, you know it must be good!

The beach is backed by **Surfside**, a quaint beach town that beckons travelers to enjoy a tasty meal, shop in an eclectic boutique, or soak up sun rays while wandering through its walkable downtown. Literally everything is reachable by foot from the beach - from a grocery store to a high-end clothing shop.

Insider's tip: When the kids get bored of skateboarding, surfing, and swimming, keep them occupied at the **Surfside Community Center**. It's home to an impressive water park.

## 9. Matheson Hammock Park



Matheson Hammock Park

Bet you've never seen a round beach before! Matheson Hammock Park boasts just that. Golden sand surrounds a man-made atoll pool. Similar to a sandbar, the pool is surrounded by a ring-shaped coral reef, which allows the water from **Biscayne Bay** to enter and exit with the tide.

Talk about a dreamy place to swim. There's no need to fear a shark invasion or giant, kid-topping waves. This calm and beautiful spot is perfect for those traveling with kids.

Matheson Hammock Park is a palatable size, with all the facilities you'd hope for, including picnic areas, lifeguards, and a tree-lined walking trail. Plus, it boasts an impressive view of the Miami skyline.

Insider's tip: Flotation devices are banned from this beach, so if you're hoping to boogie board or lounge on a pool float, you'll have to head elsewhere.

## 10. Virginia Key Beach Park



Virginia Key Beach Park

This mile-long, palm-tree-lined oasis sits just off the Rickenbacker Causeway, south of Lummus Park. Housed on its own island, Virginia Key Beach Park is a breath of fresh air compared to other, more popular Miami beaches. It's also one of the most beautiful beaches in Miami.

It's hard not to fall in love with this region's old-lime charm. An antique carousel and miniature train (which you can ride around the area) harken back to days when we spent more time admiring the incredible vistas than the screens of our phones. The beach also boasts two big playgrounds to help keep the littles entertained.

Insider's tip: Pack water shoes. The ocean floor is a bit rocky here, so you'll want added protection, especially if you're planning to hang out for a while.

## 11. Sunny Isles Beach



Sunny Isles Beach

Who wouldn't want to visit a beach named Sunny Isles? It's clean; the water is the most inviting shade of turquoise; and its long, beautiful pier (**The Newport Fishing Pier**) is a wonderful spot to cast a line.

A barrier island located halfway between Miami and **Fort Lauderdale**, this beautiful getaway boasts two miles of luxuriously soft sand. There's no shortage of things to do in this lovely spot. From swimming to sunbathing to diving to kitesurfing to playing tennis, it's impossible to get bored.

Did we mention that Sunny Isles beach is uber close to luxury hotels, award-winning restaurants, impeccable golf courses, and eclectic museums? It's also home to a bunch of impressive stores. Told you there's a ton to do!

Insider's tip: Hit the sand for an early morning yoga session. It's free on Wednesdays by **Samson Oceanfront Park**.

## 12. Oleta River State Park



A kayak on the beach at Oleta River State Park

It's easy to forget you're in Miami when traipsing through the over 1,000 acres that make up Oleta River State Park. The largest urban park in Florida, this nirvana sits on Biscayne Bay and offers a multitude of secluded beaches to enjoy. It's become a haven for big city folk looking for a little peace and tranquility.

When you're bored of beachin', there are plenty of opportunities to move your muscles. Whether you choose to rent a kayak, cycle along the 15 miles of bike trails, or hike through the shady mangrove forest, there's plenty to keep visitors active.

As for swimming, this is a safe spot for families. The area features a sandbar close to shore, with shallow water that's both clear and calm.

Also popular with anglers, this beautiful spot is known to have good fishing, especially off the pier.

North Beach is SoBe's quieter, more reserved yet widely beautiful sibling. Located to the north of its more popular counterpart (obviously), North Beach also features a boardwalk frequented by runners, rollerbladers, bikers, and dog walkers. It, too, offers great people-watching opportunities.

North Beach features all the things a great beach should: soft sand, clean water, restrooms, showers, and concessions. It's also close to many shops and restaurants.

Plus, it's home to **North Beach OceanSide Park**, which consists of 28 acres lying between 78<sup>th</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup> streets. Peppered with tall trees and pavilions, this is a fun place to hide from the sun's hot rays and enjoy a BBQ (there are grills on hand) or let kids run around the playground.

Insider's tip: As is the case on most Florida beaches, seaweed can pile up at certain times, so be prepared to step (and swim) around it.

Dog lovers unite! Hobie Beach is one of the best dog-friendly beaches in Miami. It's also a hot spot for water sports enthusiasts. From surfing to jet-skiing to boating to windsurfing, there's a bevy of sports on offer at this exciting locale. You can even rent a catamaran and schedule a lesson to learn how to sail it.

The water (which is often murky) is quite shallow, which makes it ideal for those traveling with kids - including the four-legged kind. While out on the water, whether you're in a kayak or a windsurfer, take time to appreciate the impressive views, ranging from Miami's looming skyscrapers to the natural mangrove estuaries.

Insider's tip: The beach is quite rocky here. If you're hoping to spend the day lazing about on soft sand, you may want to choose another beach.

## 15. Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park



Cape Florida Lighthouse at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

Technically located just outside Miami, Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park sits on the southern edge of Key Biscayne and is one of the most popular beaches near Miami. Getting here is easy: it's only a few minutes' drive from downtown, across the **Key Biscayne Bridge**.

A popular destination for those looking for a more low-key beach experience, this rustic beauty proffers visitors a welcome respite from the excitement found at Miami's bigger beaches. This tranquility helps boost the area's ranking as one of the best beaches in Miami for families. Don't worry, that doesn't mean you'll be bored. There are plenty of activities on offer, from cycling to windsurfing to kayaking to fishing.

Feeling peckish? Grab a bite at the adorable **Lighthouse Café**, which offers sweeping vistas only made better by the delicious fare.

Insider's tip: **No Name Harbor** boasts boat launches and allows guests to drop anchor and camp in their boats overnight (for a small fee of \$20).

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# Suburban Tourist

GIFT GUIDES

## What Moms Really Want For Mother's Day: New 2020 Pandemic Edition

29.04.2020 - NO COMMENTS



The big question this year is – what moms really want for Mother’s Day, especially since it’s been a crazy few months. It’s not easy being a mom during a lockdown. It’s also not easy to gift mom for Mother’s Day during a lockdown!

I’m lucky that my husband and son know how they can make this Mother’s Day special (because I’ve given them my wish list!).

It’s not as easy to run out and get a gift for mom this year with lockdowns in place for the Covid-19 pandemic.

Taking mom out to a restaurant isn’t feasible too.

Budgets might be also tighter if you’ve been laid off.

So, how can you celebrate your wonderful mom with a thoughtful gift?

I have some ideas on what you can do, and with the help of some fellow mom bloggers, I’ve got a whole list of things that you might consider gifting your awesome mom with this year. After all, **moms do an amazing job and deserve the recognition!**

***DISCLOSURE:*** This post includes affiliate links to products that I use and highly recommend. If you decide to purchase anything from these links, I may receive a commission at no extra cost to you. For more information read my ***Disclaimer***.

## What Moms Really Want For Mother's Day – Pandemic Version

I did a quick survey on one of my Facebook groups as to what moms would love to receive this year. There are some very interesting thoughts.

There are some common themes of extra rest, **me-time**... and a few others that are worthwhile considering!

### Moms Who Just Want To Chill Out For A Bit

“ I would love to have the day or just a few hours to myself. I love spending time with my family, but I'm feeling quite overworked and exhausted these days. It would be great to have some self-care time to relax and rejuvenate. I know I'll be a better mom and wife because of it too.

- Jacqueline Gilchrist – [Mom Money Map](#)

“ A day to relax and PLAY with the family. NOT to cook OR clean.

- Leah Custer – [Saving Mama's Sanity](#)

“ A night of undisturbed sleep – like I don't have to think about if my son is sweating in the middle of the night or calling me because they need something.

- Glenda Ros – [Minty Sunday](#)

“ I would be over the moon if I woke up to breakfast in bed. Then we'd go for a family walk followed by a cake made for me. Top that off with a bubble bath made by my family and I'd be over the moon!!”

- Yolanda Ridley – [Put The Kettle On](#)



*Sometimes quiet alone time, enjoying breakfast in bed is a perfect gift*

## **Moms Who Want To Have Fun With The Family**

“ This year has been well, kind of wild. It has definitely impacted what I want for Mother’s Day this year. We have been going on a ton of family walks together as well as visiting our state park some since practicing social distancing. I would love a new pair of walking shoes! I don’t foresee any Mother’s Day brunch out at a nice restaurant but I could go for a picnic in the state park.

- Audrey Wood - [Two Pink Peonies](#)

“ I'd like a few special pictures with me and my kids. We'll dress up and head to the park where my hubby can grab some playful and fun pictures of the three of us. To capture this moment in time. Oh! And a mimosa. I'd really like a mimosa.

- Kristal Schirmer - [The Happy Healthy Family](#)

## Moms With Great Ideas For Gifts

“ The past few months have been extremely challenging for our family. Work for both my husband and I has been incredibly crazy. He still has to go into work every day and quarantines from us when he gets home to keep us safe. My 16-month-old doesn't understand what is going on and why Momma is always on her computer. I would like to postpone mother's day until we can spend it without being distracted. I would love to celebrate on a beach where we can come back together as a family. Possibly with our own mothers and extended family. If it is at a resort with great food and a spa even better.

- Christina Viera - [Showcase the World](#)

“ Given the circumstances this year, more than ever, I would love for my family to support small businesses. Shopping local for gifts and eating local foods to support our community through this challenging time.

- Kinzy Frizzle - [Coffee With Kinzy](#)

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## Mother's Day Gift Ideas: 2020 Pandemic Version

Now that you know what moms really want for Mother's Day this year, I've got many more gift ideas.

Depending on what kind of mom you have – if she’s a homebody, adventurous or creative type – I’ve broken down the types of gifts for each type of mom.

Some of these items on the list are **things YOU have to do**. It’s not so much buying things for mom. It’s more of thinking of ways to make her life so much nicer on her special day.

As for **new moms**, there’s always a gift that they will love to receive.

## **Moms Who Love To Do Things Around The Home**

She loves pattering around the house, doing things. This is me these days! Some of my favourite things moms really want for Mother’s Day are truly simple things!

- Order her **favourite meal** from a local family-owned restaurant (give them some love) and have it delivered. There are so many restaurants that are featuring take-out or delivery services. Feed the whole family without her having to cook. Set up the dining table as if it was a restaurant, with you as the server. BONUS: Print out a menu to make it realistic and make her a signature cocktail or “cocktail”. Mimosa’s for brunch!

- Help her **set up her garden** – ask her what she would like to have done outside. Perhaps she would like new beds created for an outdoor garden.
- Finish something on the “**honey-do**” list that she really wanted you to do (that’s feasible!)
- Give her a **day off of kitchen duties** – do all the cooking, serving, and clean-up. During the time she doesn’t do any of her kitchen work, let her catch up on her favourite shows with a nice cup of tea or coffee.
- Set up the bathroom for a “**spa day**” – a glass of wine, a plate of chocolate, essential oil (just a few drops!), her favourite bubble bath, and everything she needs to feel relaxed. Have a fresh pile of towels ready. BONUS: clean up the bathroom before you set it up so it feels fresh and clean.
- Mom decides on the **entertainment for the day**: let her choose her favourite shows for a TV marathon or movies she enjoys. Give up the remote control for the day!



*Consider a picnic in your own backyard.*

- If it's a nice day, **do a picnic in your backyard**. Pretend you're in a park. Spread out a blanket, have all the plates and food ready for an outdoor feast.
- Get her a **gift basket** with delicious treats or items that will delight her.
- Consider **connecting her up with a local hairstylist** that's providing virtual advice on haircuts and styling. Many are doing this!
- If she loves coffee, make an **at-home coffee bar** she'll enjoy every day!

## For Adventurous, Active Moms

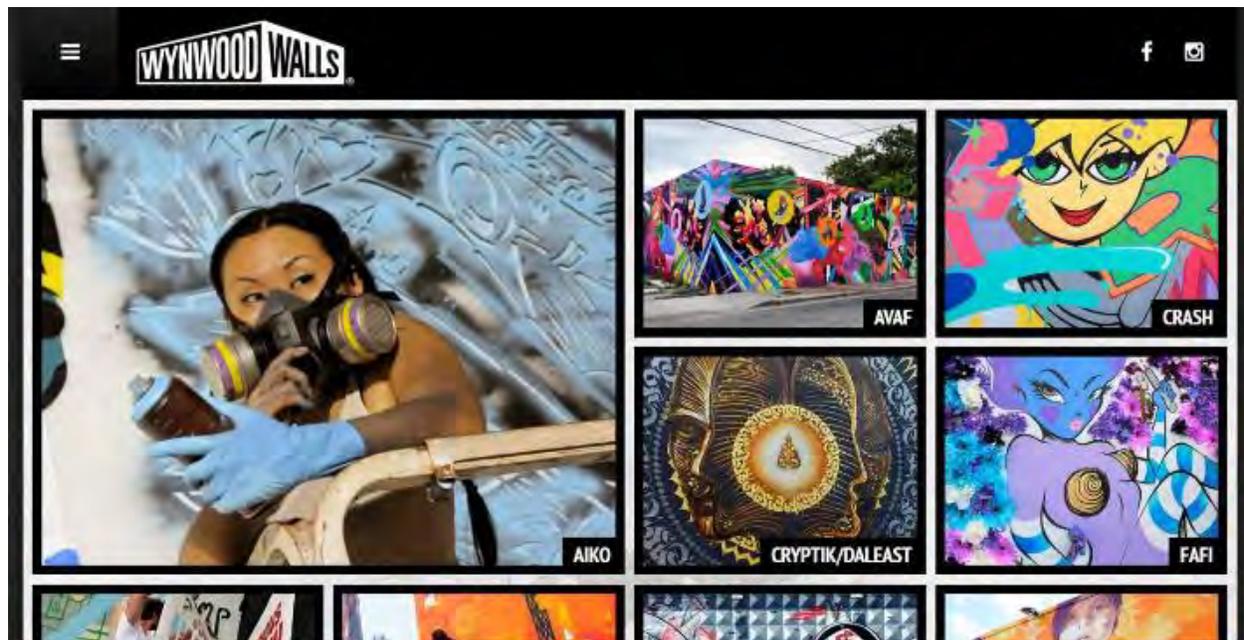
Some of the things that adventurous, active moms really want for Mother's Day is a chance to explore and escape. Here are a few of the best gifts for moms, so that they enjoy a bit of an adventure!

- **Go for a walk** in the neighbourhood for family exercise. Give her a taste of the world outside of the home. If parks and conservation areas are open in your area, go for a walk. However, consider an early morning one as many others might want to do the same, making social distancing impossible later in the day.
- Do a **family dance party** with her ultimate playlist! Make it a wild, crazy time, celebrating her with her favourite tunes. It's also a fun **thing to do with kids when stuck indoors**.
- Consider a **short car trip if feasible** in your area – even a drive in the countryside with nature scenes can relieve stress.
- If she works from home and uses Zoom, consider setting up her **background images with views of Belize** (pretty cool!).
- **Give her a trip!** How? Set her up with a fantastic meal and drink (for example a **Mount Gay rum cocktail** to make her think she's in Barbados) in her favourite spot at home to peruse stuff online. Then provide her with a document with links to all the cool virtual art and museum galleries so that she can escape for a few hours. Check out

**Wynwood Walls virtual tour in Miami** or **Newport Beach (California)**

**Virtual Vacation.** They are some of the many virtual tours out there.

Choose a whole bunch of destinations on her travel bucket list and add virtual tours to the list.



*Have mom do a virtual tour of the Wynwood walls art online... armchair travel at it's best!*

## For Moms Who Need A Creative Outlet

There are some moms who have a great need to create! What moms really want for Mother's Day that help them unleash their creative sides can be something as simple as giving them a voice... like this blog.

- Set them up with **their own blog**! If she's an expert in a niche or love to write and use social media... and has been considering starting a blog, this is the perfect time to do so. Get her started right with a self-hosted blog (**Bluehost** is great for new bloggers!),

- Set up a crafting/art/**coloring** nook in your home.
- Provide her with time to learn the art of taking photos. If you have a DSLR that's been getting dusty lately thanks to you taking so many phone photos, it's a great time to get back into it. **Nikon Canada** has an excellent video series. If she gets really good at taking and editing photos, it makes for an awesome side hustle!

## **Other Fantastic Mother's Day Ideas**

From around the 'net, I've pulled together some more great ideas from other mom bloggers on things that moms really want for Mother's Day

**Mother's Day Gift Box Ideas** – From Everyday Thrifty blog

**The Mommy Pendant** – It is the perfect way to capture the sentimental embrace between Mother & Child(ren). You can personalize it to fit your family, by choosing the number of birthstones, type of metal, and type of chain. Use code MBCMD for 15% OFF your order!

**Motherhood Uncensored: What Moms Really Want For Mother's Day** – More general ideas on gifts from Cenzerely Yours blog.

## **Celebrate Mom... Because It's Tough To Be A Mom During A Pandemic**

Parents in general have a tough time. Whether they are moms or dads, it doesn't matter.

Moms usually are the comforters, the cleaners, cooks, shoppers, runny nose wipers, and a whole lot more roles in the home.

Add in a pandemic that throws every routine out of sync and you've got **one stressed out momma.**



So take care of your moms!

We'll be giving my mom and mother-in-law some much-needed joy by surprising them with a delivered gift.

Although we can't give them the hugs we so crave, we can make them smile and feel appreciated for all they do. Even if it's to be a sympathetic ear on the phone or FaceTime/Skype to talk things through.

**To all my fellow moms out there, I wish you a peaceful, happy day, doing what you love to do and enjoying it with your families.**

**Happy Mother's Day!**

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**QUESTION: If you're a mom I'd love to hear your thoughts on what moms really want for Mother's Day this year.**

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While COVID-19 might have us locked down at home, these virtual tours can help us plan for future travel with sustainability in mind

Sandra Thomas / Vancouver Courier

APRIL 22, 2020 07:00 AM

Sandra Thomas Travel



Belize is striving to protect and preserve its vast biodiversity and distinctive ecosystems, including its many reefs. Photo Getty Images



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Here are just a few examples of destinations making the effort to further sustainability initiatives and inspire future travel that you can feel good about:

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∨ *article continues below* ∨

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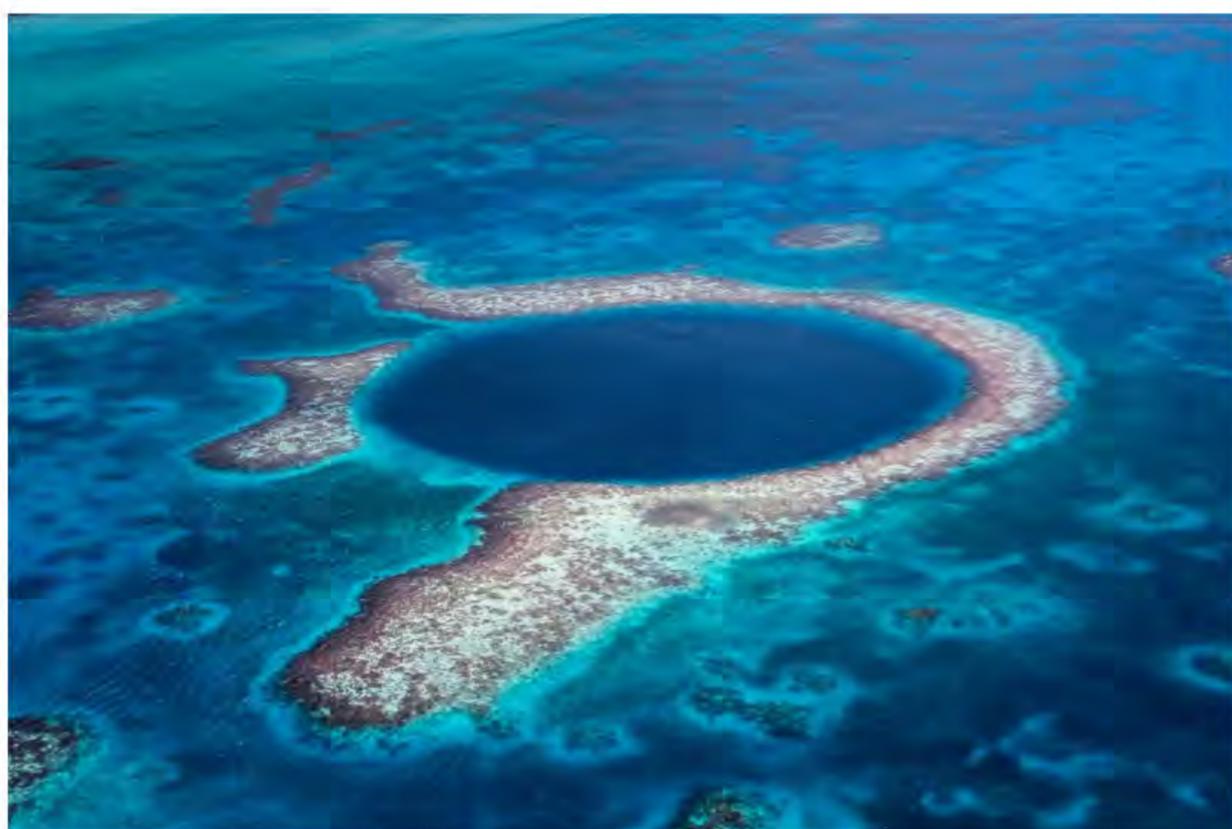
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Sandra Thomas / Vancouver Courier

APRIL 22, 2020 07:00 AM

Sandra Thomas Travel



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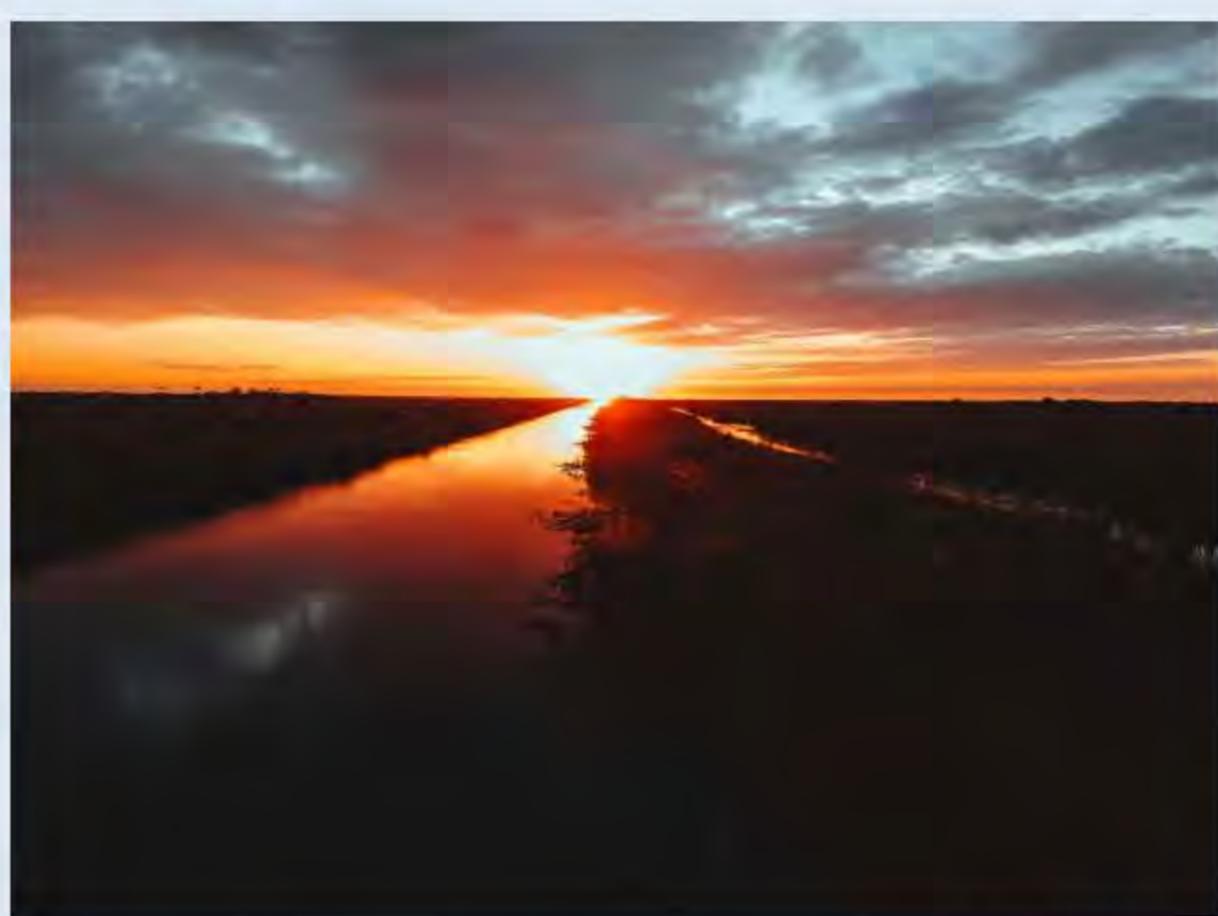
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Home &gt; #WHEREONEXT &gt; Celebrating Earth Day during COVID-19 around the world

#WHEREONEXT

## Celebrating Earth Day during COVID-19 around the world

*Photo by Marco Perretta*

While we stay put as a global community due to COVID-19, sustainability efforts are in the spotlight more than ever. As we embark on virtual travels, this Earth Day will be an unforgettable memory to share with future generations. The traveler can not only experience some of the most unforgettable adventures and retreats **virtually** but take ease in knowing that these destinations have helped reduce our carbon footprint. Here is what the following destinations have already been doing to further sustainability initiatives, and will inspire future travel that you can feel good about:

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Sandra Thomas / Vancouver Courier

APRIL 22, 2020 08:00 AM

Sandra Thomas Travel



Belize is striving to protect and preserve its vast biodiversity and distinctive ecosystems, including its many reefs. Photo Getty Images



The fact that very few people are travelling this Earth Day due to COVID-19 means that some destinations investing in environmental initiatives are getting an extra boost as Mother Nature gets a bit of a breather.

Due to the fact we've all been asked to stay put, virtual tours have become a great way to see the world and maybe inspire us to start planning for future travel, though how that's going to look exactly is anyone's guess.

These armchair tours mean Canadian traveller can not only experience some of the most unforgettable adventures and retreats virtually, but also be inspired by the fact these destinations have helped reduce our carbon footprint.

To find out just what some of those initiatives are, I turned to the travel experts at the Toronto office of Development Counsellors International.

Here are just a few examples of destinations making the effort to further sustainability initiatives and inspire future travel that you can feel good about:

**Barbados:** Not only do the white sand beaches and warm temperatures tempt visitors, but the wildlife refuge and sanctuaries offer a unique experience in this paradisiacal destination.

The Caribbean Sea's Carlisle Bay and Folkestone Marine Park are two of **Barbados' marine sanctuaries** that strive to preserve the island's ocean life and natural beauty.

On land, the **Barbados Wildlife Reserve** is where animals are protected and free to roam within their preserved natural habitats. Check out this [link](#) for a virtual tour of the reserve.

**Belize:** This country proudly strives to protect and preserve its vast biodiversity and distinctive ecosystems. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the **Belize Barrier Reef** is one great example of this sustainability effort, with 500-plus species of fish and nearly 300 kilometres of coral reef.

Belize encourages responsible travel by asking visitors to explore all that the reef has to offer with respect — choosing reef-safe sunscreen, avoiding contact with the reef, etc.

The destination strives to protect and sustain its biodiversity through natural reserves, such as **Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve**, which is comprised of 300,000 acres of protected pine forest and home to the sublime **Big Rock Falls**.

**Miami, FL:** From green building codes to sustainable restaurants, Miami is a city with sustainability at heart. This year, the destination launched a state-of-the-art theme park experience called **MIAMILAND** that highlights Miami as a top eco-destination.

Visitors now have more access to enjoy Miami's outdoors beyond the outdoor bars. For example, the Everglades is a unique ecosystem spread across 1.5 million acres, and is the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles live together.

Miami's goal to reduce car fuel emissions has paved the way for increased **cycling** within the city. Visitors and locals are encouraged to explore with public bikes with the recent major expansion of cycling trails throughout the destination. For travel inspiration, visit Miami's earthy nature virtually [here](#).

**Newport Beach, CA:** In addition to the laid-back luxury of Newport Beach, this Orange County city is rich in ecological reserves. The **Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve** and Ecological Preserve, for example, spans 1,000 acres and protects six endangered and rare species. The preserve encourages visitors to join in on the sustainability fun by planting and restoring native plant life on monthly restoration days.

**Crystal Cove State Park** is another example of how Newport Beach works to preserve several kilometres of Southern California coastline. Celebrate Earth Day by taking a sunny virtual **tour** of the SoCal town.

**Tahiti:** Visiting the Islands of Tahiti offers a plethora of ways to engage in eco-tourism and sustainability initiatives. Visitors with a mind for purposefulness and luxury can revel at **Le Meridien Bora Bora**, where the Ecological Center project strives to restore coral reef while the Turtle Center project rehabilitates sea turtles with intent to return to the wild.

Take in the beauty of this iconic Tahitian experience through the resort's 360-degree **virtual tour**. Visitors can take part in more sea turtle preservation on the captivating island of Moorea at the **Sea Turtle Care Center** InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa, where 400 sea turtles have been sheltered and 190 have been successfully released to back into the wild. The Islands of Tahiti is also home to the largest shark sanctuary in the world.

**Toulumne County, CA:** With Yosemite National Park, amongst other natural marvels, in Tuolumne County's backyard, it's no wonder that they're making major strides in sustainable tourism practices. In the Yosemite area, tours booked with **Echo Adventure Cooperative** are 99.8 per cent free of single-use plastics and tour guides proudly educate visitors on Leave No Trace principles.

Straddling three distinct regions — Gold Country, Yosemite and High Sierra — Tuolumne County is an outdoor haven with much to explore, from mountain ranges to gold rush rivers.

Take a **virtual adventure** this Earth Day and explore the natural bounty of Tuolumne County.

writersblock5@hotmail.com

@sthomas10



**LOCAL &  
CORPORATE  
COMMUNICATIONS**

### PRESS RECAP

Following, please find a brief summary of relevant articles that have run due to our outreach and coordination. These are a result of communications initiatives that Kivvit has managed for the GMCVB for April.

# Miami Herald

4/20/2020

Print Circulation: 133,328

## Neighbors

AVENTURA  
LIBERTY CITY  
MIAMI GARDENS  
MIAMI SHORES

MIAMI BEACH & THE BEACHES  
NORTH MIAMI  
NORTH MIAMI BEACH  
WYNWOOD



Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau

Miami Salutes, a program of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, arranged food donations to doctors and nurses of the ER Department at Coral Gables Hospital. The program offers an array of discounts for healthcare workers and first responders.

### A heartfelt touch of gratitude

By donating meals, coffee, doughnuts, pizzas and even Crocs shoes, local organizations and businesses are showing their appreciation for hospital workers, firefighters, paramedics and law enforcement officers as they work to protect residents from COVID-19, 8

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020 • MIAMI HERALD

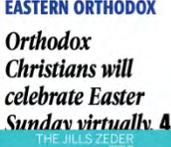
MIAMIHERALD.COM/COMMUNITY



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*Remembering a beloved priest and my childhood friend, 13*



**FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS**  
*BackroomLive sets up fund to help out-of-work musicians, 15*



**EASTERN ORTHODOX**  
*Orthodox Christians will celebrate Easter Sunday virtually, 4*



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# Doughnut donations. Free pizzas. Home-cooked meals. First responders being rewarded for their hard work during pandemic

BY CHRISTINA MAYO  
christinamay@gmail.com

Through donations of meals, coffee, donuts, pizzas and even Crocs shoes, local organizations and businesses are showing their appreciation for hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics and law enforcement officers as they work to protect residents from COVID-19.

Billy Karasik, Sasha Poline, Jenia Huldisch, Karina Isunts, owners of The Guest Restaurant in North Miami Beach, are regularly bringing food to healthcare workers at hospitals and policemen at local precincts.

The restaurant staff fed 35 doctors and nurses on April 10 at the Aventura Hospital intensive care unit.

"They're working 14 hours a day," Karasik said.

"Our executive chef and baker have been working extremely hard to make the delicious comfort food our heroes deserve. After all, our front liners should be recognized in this difficult time."

"We would like other vendors to help us by donating food and supplies to continue with our efforts," he said. They have a GoFundMe campaign called "Feed the Superheroes" on the @TheGuestMiami Facebook page.

The Salty Donut in Wynwood launched a Donut Donation campaign to share gratitude for everything that healthcare professionals and first responders are doing for the community, said Kelly Penton, spokesperson for the Wynwood Business Improvement District.

"On The Salty's website, customers can place an order for a set pack of donuts to be delivered to those individuals working tirelessly on the front lines at different hospitals/locations throughout Miami." You can leave your own message of gratitude too.

The Salty is matching every donation by sending customers who donate donuts an eGift card in addition to sending a gift card to the healthcare workers and first responders with their donut delivery. More details are at [www.saltydonut.com](http://www.saltydonut.com).

So far donations deliveries have been sent to South Miami Hospital, Jackson Memorial



Photo provided by The Guest

The Guest in North Miami Beach provides meals to doctors and nurses at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. The restaurant has donated meals to first responders at Aventura Hospital, the Intercoastal District Station of the Miami-Dade Police Department, and the North Miami Police Department.



City of North Miami Beach

Chef Ivan of Ivan's Cookhouse, a Caribbean-Asian fusion restaurant in North Miami Beach, unloads meals for the medical staff at Jackson North Medical Center.

Hospital, Doctors Hospital, Miami Fire Rescue and Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

Celebrity Chef Ivan Dorvil and the City of North Miami Beach are providing meals for the healthcare heroes at Jackson North Medical Center.

Dorvil, a Haitian-born chef, said the Jackson North Medical Center team has a special place in his heart for the care its medical staff gave to his family members in the past. He is delivering to the medical facility some of his most popular dishes of braised okra turkey, smoked collard greens and rice djon-djon.

Chef Ivan starred in two Food Network hit series - "Chopped," where he was the winner in season 11, and "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives." He owns Ivan's Cookhouse, a Caribbean-Asian fusion restaurant in Miami.

Miami-based Presidente Supermarkets has delivered fresh meals to healthcare heroes working at UHealth Jackson Urgent Care Centers and Clinics in Greater Miami for three days in a row.

"We feel it is our duty for Presidente Supermarkets to support our community and those who dedicate themselves to the health and well-being of all of its residents," said Leticia Rodriguez, an executive with Presidente Supermarkets.

"During this pandemic, there is no one that stands out more for their hard work and life-saving commitment than our healthcare heroes."

Nine life-saving facilities throughout Greater Miami have received about 140 meals. City of Doral Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez and Major League Baseball star Yasiel Puig joined Presidente Supermarkets to deliver the meals to UHealth Jackson Urgent Care Center Doral, the last stop of the day.

As hospitals and public health departments ramp up their efforts to treat COVID-19 patients and keep residents safe, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau has launched an initiative to show support.

Called "Miami Salutes," the program is calling on the hospitality industry to share their deals for front-line responders and is listing dozens of those specials on one site, making it easy for workers to learn about what is available to them.

"We know that our front-line and first responders are working tirelessly to help and protect all of us, and their efforts are likely to escalate in the coming days and weeks," said William D. Talbert, III, C.D.M.E., President and CEO of the GMCVB. "We are proud to bring together Greater Miami's hospitality industry to support these public servants and show our appreciation in any way possible."

Learn more about this effort at <https://www.GMCVB.com/MiamiSalutes> where first responders can receive free pizza, Krispy Kreme doughnuts and Starbucks coffee, and deep discounts on meals from Pollo Tropical, Bulla Gastrobar, Divino Ceviche, discounts on wireless services. Crocs is donating a free pair of shoes to all healthcare workers.

The Miami Pandemic Response Fund, a partnership among the GMCVB, United Way of Miami-Dade, Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation, has been created to

fund support for hospitality workers and their families with emergency needs. Go to <https://www.GMCVB.com>.

Attorneys from Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen are donating meals to first responders across South Florida, including the South Miami Hospital Emergency Room, Bal Harbour Police Department and Hialeah Fire.

The food was provided "to help keep each city's first responders fueled and ready to save lives as they continue working around the clock during the coronavirus outbreak." Donations also support local restaurants.

The firm will continue to give food and supplies to about 30 different police departments, fire stations and ER departments throughout Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties.

Members of the Kiwanis of Little Havana teamed up with Versailles Restaurant to provide meals to Jackson Memorial Hospital health workers battling COVID-19.

More than 250 doctors and nurses received the complimentary lunches on Thursday thanks to the volunteers of the club and its foundation.



Photo provided by Presidente Supermarkets

Presidente Supermarkets delivers meals to UHealth Jackson Urgent Care Center Doral staff. Left to right: Presidente executives Ariel Martinez and Odalys Hernández, Doral Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, MLB player Yasiel Puig and Osvaldo Pérez of Presidente Supermarkets.

"This is just a small token of our appreciation to these heroes, who in the wake of this unfortunate pandemic, are saving lives while risking their own," said Tony Lorenzo, chairman of the Kiwanis of Little Havana Foundation.

"If other organizations such as ours and private sector groups join this initiative, we will not only help these front-line professionals, but we will also support local hospitality businesses with the purchase of food."

Cleveland Clinic Florida has created a philanthropic program to benefit first responders in South Florida and the Treasure Coast who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photo provided by Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen

Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen law firm provides meals to first responders at the South Miami Hospital Emergency Room, Bal Harbour Police Department and Hialeah Fire Station.

Called the Cleveland Clinic First Responder Hardship Program, it is funded by donations the group has received from the South Florida community. You can help by making a donation at 954-659-6720 or <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/florida/giving/campaign>

The fund will help provide financial support to first responders who are experiencing a temporary financial hardship due to COVID-19.

"During this unprecedented time, the healthcare community needs to stick together—and we can't do this without our first responders," said Wael Barsoum, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic Florida.

Those who qualify include law enforcement, emergency medical services, emergency management officials, and firefighters, among other first responders.

While many receive insurance through their employers, the Cleveland Clinic fund covers out-of-pocket expenses that are not covered, said spokeswoman Natalie Alatraste. It also covers losses from theft or if a spouse is laid off from work.

The fund is open to all first responders in South Florida, not just Cleveland Clinic caregivers, Alatraste said.

Another Broward initiative is a program set up by Westfield Broward in Plantation.

Westfield Broward will provide monetary donations on an ongoing basis to Broward Pantry to help provide meals and supplies to families who are affected by COVID-19.

For more and to donate, visit <https://www.thepantryofbroward.org/donate/>. Check out more ways to help at #WestfieldCares.

Miami Herald Staff Writer Howard Cohen contributed to this report.



5/01/2020

Unique Daily Visitors: 344,301

[Link to Article](#)

## 'Shine Of Our People, Places & Neighborhoods': Tourism Officials Start Campaign To Get People Excited About Vacation In Miami

By Frances Wang April 30, 2020 at 11:18 pm Filed Under: Coronavirus, Frances Wang, Local TV, Miami Beach, Miami News, Tourism



MIAMI (CBSMiami) – South Florida’s beaches remain off limits, with no time-table for re-opening them amid the [coronavirus](#) crisis. Of course they are a huge part of our tourism draw, which is why a lot of work continues to jump-start that huge part of our economy when the time is right.

With Miami being one of the most popular global destinations, tourism officials are already launching the #MiamiShines campaign to get people excited about vacation in the Magic City.

“Not necessarily sunshine above us, which is amazing most of the year. The shine of our people. Shine of our places. Shine of our neighborhoods,” said Rolando Aedo, the chief operating officer of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, or GMCVB.

Aedo estimates hotels will not be open until June.

“As soon as we get the green light, we’ll work backwards to launch the campaign,” said Aedo. “Advertising, marketing, social media about two weeks prior to re-opening.”

As hotels and restaurants open slowly with limited capacity, Aedo said they’ll first target locals and those who are within driving distance.

“Focus on local, regional, drive market, then key national markets,” explained Aedo. “Easiest customer is our closest. People like you and me, folks in Kendall, downtown... nice to get away especially with what’s been going on the last couple of weeks.”

If you’re a fan of Miami Spice or spa deals, get ready.

“Ask hotels to put their best foot forward, best deals on the table for residents, locals, staycation, family, friends, people from those drive markets,” Aedo said, “enjoying some of the best values ever in one of the best destinations ever.”

Aedo said events like 9/11 helped them prepare for a crisis like this, although this ranks at the top.

“That’s why we feel well prepared to come out of this in a very positive fashion,” said Aedo, pointing out that Miami Spice started post 9/11.

With international travel restrictions being some of the stricter, Aedo said that may also play a part.

“Miami does have a lot of international tourism. US citizens looking to travel to international destinations but won’t be doing that for the foreseeable future... come to Miami. Drive to Miami and visit the world,” said Aedo. “Miami is blessed with such a multi-cultural experience.”

A recent [Miami Herald article](#) showed the latest numbers from industry data firm STR. U.S. hotel gross operating profit per available room fell 101.7% during March 2020 and 81.5% in the Miami market. [Another report](#) on Thursday afternoon details the layoffs of 458 workers from the Eden Roc Hotel on Miami Beach, while the Kimpton Hotels said they have only furloughed their employees. Eric Jellson, the director of marketing strategy, is ready to put his team back to work.

“I think everything we’ve read, heard, seen from people are they wanna go out. They’re eager to travel again, to go out and dine again,” he said. “Owner and operators are also smart enough to know before they can jump in this, they need to make sure everyone is safe and secure. What would be worst to open and have to close.”

Jellson, who has been in the industry for more than 30 years, said he got into the business for the human connection. He believes genuine care and genuine service will help revive his hotels.

“Go back to its roots, while distribution will be different, technology driven,” said Jellson. “But the actual human connection will be just that. It’ll be staying human, it’ll be keeping people real. I think the beauty of our business has always been people wanting to help serve people.”

Jellson believes social media will be a huge force in getting people out to hotels and on vacation.

“This is where social media is going to be so engaging. As people are going out on adventures, hopefully they’re having great experiences and feeling safe. They’re going to post about that and talk to their friends,” said Jellson.

Incentives like free parking for those who are driving down from other states or pets staying free, which is usually offered in Kimpton hotels, are all part of Jellson’s strategy as well.

“Make it easier for families to get away this summer,” said Jellson.

While the tourism industry has definitely been hit hard by pandemic closures, Aedo feels hopeful to come back even stronger.

“This industry is the most resilient. [Our] community one of most resilient,” he said. “Very confident that we will regain market or [expand] in the very near future.”

Aedo points out that people coming out of the pandemic may have saved money or if they were negatively impacted financially, they may be looking for deals.

“People who want to invest the money into local hospitality,” said Aedo. “On the flip side, a lot of folk have been furloughed [and may be] looking for better deals than ever.”

In addition to the Miami Shines campaign, the GMCVB also have programs including Miami Eats, Miami Salutes, Virtual Miami, and a Miami Pandemic Response Fund. For more on these programs, visit [GMCVB.com/COVID19](https://GMCVB.com/COVID19).

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Syndicated Local – CBS Miami 15 hrs ago

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© Provided by CBS Miami

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## Miami Herald

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4/21/2020

Unique Daily Visitors: 79,684

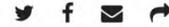
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[Link to Article](#)

## Free doughnuts, pizzas and even Crocs. Many showering first responders with gratitude.

BY CHRISTINA MAYO

APRIL 17, 2020 05:40 PM, UPDATED APRIL 17, 2020 06:05 PM



The Kiwanis of Little Havana volunteer members provide meals from Versailles Restaurant to Jackson Memorial Hospital health workers amid the Coronavirus crisis. More than 250 doctors and nurses received complimentary lunches April 16.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY KIWANIS OF LITTLE HAVANA

Through donations of meals, coffee, donuts, pizzas and even Crocs shoes, local organizations are showing their appreciation for hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics and law enforcement officers as they work to protect residents from COVID-19.

Billy Karasik, Sasha Poline, Jenia Huldish, Karina Isunts, owners of The Guest Restaurant in North Miami Beach, are regularly bringing food to healthcare workers at local hospitals and policemen at local precincts.

The restaurant staff fed 35 doctors and nurses April 10 at the Aventura Hospital intensive care unit.

“They’re working 14 hours a day,” Karasik said.

“Our executive chef and baker have been working extremely hard to make the delicious comfort food our heroes deserve. After all, our front liners should be recognized in this difficult time.”

“We would like other vendors to help us by donating food and supplies to continue with our efforts,” he said. They have a GoFundMe campaign called “Feed the Superheroes” on the @TheGuestMiami Facebook page.

“On April 7, we fed 45 police officers and are trying to feed people every day. We have invested our money and supplies to feed the heroes and want to continue doing so as they risk their lives working all day every day to protect us,” he said.

The Salty Donut in Wynwood launched a Donut Donation campaign to share gratitude for everything that healthcare professionals and first responders are doing for the community, said Kelly Penton, spokesperson for the Wynwood Business Improvement District.

“On The Salty’s website, customers can place an order for a set pack of donuts to be delivered to those individuals working tirelessly on the front lines at different hospitals/locations throughout Miami.” You can leave your own message of gratitude too.

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So far donations deliveries have been sent to Baptist Hospital in South Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Baptist Doctors Hospital, City of Miami Fire Rescue, and Nicklaus Children’s Hospital.

Celebrity Chef Ivan Dorvil and the City of North Miami Beach worked together to provide meals and gratitude for the healthcare heroes at Jackson North Medical Center.



Chef Ivan of Ivan’s Cookhouse, a Caribbean-Asian fusion restaurant in North Miami Beach, unloads meals for the medical staff at Jackson North Medical Center. *CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH*

Dorvil, a Haitian-born chef, said the Jackson North Medical Center team has a special place in his heart for the care its medical staffers gave to his family members in the past. He wanted to extend his thanks by delivering some of his most popular dishes of braised okra turkey, smoked collard greens and rice djon-djon.

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Additional initiatives include delivery and/or take-out menus at local restaurants, Hotels for Essential Lodgers, a list of hotels open for Essential Lodgers during the crisis, and Help for Tourism, a web page providing the industry and other GMCVB partners a look at how to secure assistance.

The [Miami Pandemic Response Fund](#), a partnership among the GMCVB, United Way of Miami-Dade, Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation, has been created to fund support for hospitality workers and their families with emergency needs. Go to <https://www.GMCVB.com>.

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*GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU*



Hialeah Fire Department members are thankful for the meals provided by the Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen law firm. The firm provided meals to first responders at the South Miami Hospital Emergency Room, Bal Harbour Police Department and Hialeah Fire Station. *GROSSMAN ROTH YAFFA COHEN*

The firm will continue to give food and supplies to about 30 different police departments, fire stations and ER departments throughout Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties.

Members of the Kiwanis of Little Havana teamed up with Versailles Restaurant to provide meals to Jackson Memorial Hospital health workers battling COVID-19.

More than 250 doctors and nurses received the complimentary lunches on Thursday thanks to the volunteers of the club and its foundation.

“This is just a small token of our appreciation to these heroes, who in the wake of this unfortunate pandemic, are saving lives while risking their own,” said Tony Lorenzo, chairman of the Kiwanis of Little Havana Foundation.

“If other organizations such as ours and private sector groups join this initiative, we will not only help these front-line professionals, but we will also support local hospitality businesses with the purchase of food. Together we can overcome this emergency.”

Cleveland Clinic Florida has created a philanthropic program to benefit first responders in South Florida and the Treasure Coast who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Called the Cleveland Clinic First Responder Hardship Program, it is funded by donations the group has received from the South Florida community. You can help by making a donation at 954-659-6720 or <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/florida/giving/campaign>

The fund will help provide financial support to first responders who are experiencing a temporary financial hardship due to COVID-19.

“During this unprecedented time, the healthcare community needs to stick together — and we can’t do this without our first responders,” said Wael Barsoum, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic Florida.

Those who qualify include law enforcement, emergency medical services, emergency management officials, and firefighters, among other first responders.

While many receive insurance through their employers, the Cleveland Clinic fund covers out-of-pocket expenses that are not covered, said spokeswoman Natalie Alatraste. It also covers losses from theft or if a spouse is laid off from work.

The fund is open to all first responders in South Florida, not just Cleveland Clinic caregivers, Alatraste said.

Another effort to create awareness and drive additional donations for non-profits that serve those experiencing homelessness, economically disadvantaged families, seniors, and children is the program set up by Westfield Broward in Plantation.

Broward Pantry Donations| Westfield Broward will provide monetary donations on an ongoing basis to Broward Pantry to help provide meals and supplies to families who are affected by COVID-19.

For more and to donate, visit <https://www.thepantryofbroward.org/donate/>. Check out more ways to help at #WestfieldCares.

*Miami Herald Staff Writer Howard Cohen contributed to this report.*



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4/13/2020

Viewership: 3,918

[Link to Segment](#)



4/9/2020

Viewership: 29,941

[Link to Segment](#)

NBC 6 South Florida News at 5pm



[Link to article](#)

The Miami Herald

## Here's where hospitality workers can get some relief during the coronavirus crisis

By Michelle Kaufman, The Miami Herald

3/27/2020



Hospitality workers have been slammed as hotels and restaurants throughout the region have shuttered their doors amid the coronavirus outbreak. But more than 100 hotels are open in a program that's a win for both hospitality professionals and workers in essential jobs.

To support hotels that are open and help people who meet the "Essential Lodger" criteria find places to stay, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) created the Hotels for Essential Lodgers Program, which provides an online, up-to-date list of hotels that are keeping their doors open. "Essential Lodgers" are defined as first responders, healthcare workers, patients' families, airline crew members, domestic violence victims, and out-of-town journalists.

The list ([www.miamiandbeaches.com/miami-essential-lodging](http://www.miamiandbeaches.com/miami-essential-lodging)) includes properties in the airport area, Aventura, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Doral, downtown, midtown, Homestead, Kendall, Little Havana, Miami Lakes, Miami Springs, Overtown, Sunny Isles Beach, Surfside, and Wynwood.

"The City of Miami Beach closed all its hotels, while Miami-Dade County has closed for new business to minimize non-essential lodgers, but there are various exemptions," said Rolando Aedo, the chief operating officer of the GMCVB. "We made this database to help people in those categories and are looking for lodging. There were a lot of guests in Miami Beach on Monday who were displaced and can't get home, so this helped them move to the mainland."

For the tens of thousands of hospitality workers who have lost their jobs, the Miami Pandemic Response Fund may help. The \$500,000 initiative is co-sponsored by the GMCVB, United Way, Miami Herald/el Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation. It is earmarked for struggling families with emergency needs including food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance. Those wishing to apply or donate to the fund may do so online at <https://portal.unitedwaymiami.org/COVID19> or by calling 1-800-226-3320.

In response to increasing need, the GMCVB launched a “Help for Tourism” webpage ([www.GMCVB.com/help](http://www.GMCVB.com/help)) listing all the resources and charitable opportunities available for workers in the travel and hospitality industry. Among the relief efforts it includes are the SOBEWFF & FIU Chaplin School Hospitality Industry Relief Fund, United States Bartenders Guild relief campaign, Restaurant Worker Relief Fund, Restaurant Workers Community Foundation, and Feeding South Florida’s COVID-19 Response Fund.

The page includes a list of companies that are hiring such as Dollar General, Domino’s, Walmart, Amazon, Pepsi, Walgreens, Grubhub, UberEats, DoorDash, Postmates, Zoom, Slack, Publix, Target, Dollar Tree, Papa John’s, CVS, Trader Joe’s and Lowe’s.

“There are so many great organizations doing fundraising, and our website can serve as a clearing house for hospitality-centric relief efforts and resources,” Aedo said. “We also can help unemployed folks with a list of companies that are hiring and community efforts like the Salute to the Front Line Responders, asking local businesses to give special offers to medical workers, paramedics and law enforcement.”

To boost the restaurant business, the bureau established the Miami Eats program, which promotes delivery and/or take-out menus to encourage residents to support local restaurants struggling to stay open. The full list of dining options is found at [www.GMCVB.com/MiamiEats](http://www.GMCVB.com/MiamiEats) and will be updated daily. As of Friday, 472 restaurants were on the list.

“We took the same team that produces Miami Spice, brought them together and launched the Miami Eats program,” said Aedo. “Restaurants we work so closely with all year, we felt we could make a quick difference there by activating this program. It’s not a panacea, we know

that, but if there's anything we can do to keep some trickle of business going in and if that saves even one job, it's worth the effort."

Several of Miami's museums and tourist attractions are offering virtual programming on their websites during their closures. The GMCVB also provides links to promote those organizations.

## Miami Herald

4/29/2020

Unique Daily Visitors: 79,684

[Link to Article](#)

TOURISM & CRUISES

### "Miami Shines" effort aims to whet wanderlust for the time when hotels reopen

BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN

APRIL 29, 2020 12:27 PM, UPDATED 2 HOURS 23 MINUTES AGO



The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau is launching the "Miami Shines" campaign in an effort to revive tourism lost during the coronavirus crisis. BY GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

“We’re building this as we did after 9/11, after oil spills, after significant hurricanes and Zika,” Aedo said. “Fortunately, or unfortunately, we have a lot of experience developing post-crisis programs. The tone and voice of the campaign is very important. We have to strike a balance between keeping Miami top of mind, but also doing it in a sensitive way because we are going through a very tough period. There’s a lot of anxiety and tragedy.”

Aedo said the bureau’s goal is to “turn back on our tourism faucet, which for the most part has been turned off. It’s barely a trickle.” Of the county’s more than 475 hotels, only [about 125 are open](#) — and only for essential lodgers.

The latest data from industry data firm STR, released Wednesday, bear him out. U.S. hotel gross operating profit per available room fell 101.7% during March 2020. In the Miami/Hialeah market it fell 81.5%.

The name “Miami Shines” is not just about the city’s sunshine, but about the shine of the area’s diverse population, places and neighborhoods. The campaign is being launched in English, Spanish and Creole with video and social media content.

The strategy is to first target South Floridians to patronize local hotels, restaurants, museums and tourist attractions when they open. The bureau will then radiate messaging to the rest of Florida and drive markets — perhaps further away than usual, Aedo said, as people may still be nervous about flying. After that, tourism officials will try to lure back their main U.S. and Canadian feeder markets.

Overseas travel will likely take the longest to resume. But Aedo feels that may put Miami at an advantage over other U.S. travel destinations because domestic tourists looking for a cosmopolitan destination will find it in South Florida.

“We will miss some of that international travel in the short term because everyone agrees that’s the market that will lag the most,” Aedo said. “On the flip side, I’d argue that we are such a global city, we have that flavor, that feel, those cultures.... One way we shine is not just our beaches but our cafes, art and culture.”

The bureau expects pent-up demand for travel will benefit the area once things open up. Two major medical conventions are scheduled to be held in South Florida in September, and Aedo said he remains in weekly contact with those groups and that they are “bullish on Miami” as their destination.

The “Miami Shines” initiative offers local businesses promotional tips such as making their marketing “feel optimistic and hopeful, yet sensitive to the current situation.” The message: “Do not oversell Miami. The goal is not to get people to travel to Miami now, it is to invoke positive emotions about Miami through the imagery and copy.”

On the bureau website, Miami is being described as “a place where sunrise and sunsets are equally radiant, where cafecito hour brightens our afternoons, and where luminous, moonlit skies light up the night.

That’s how we shine, every single day of the year. And that bright, beautiful, sun-drenched attitude permeates everything, every place, and everyone in our destination.

Beaches and most hotels are still closed. Cruise ships are docked. Nevertheless, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau wants to “keep Miami top of mind as a travel destination” and “provide a sense of relief to those craving travel experiences while anxious and confined at home” during the coronavirus pandemic.

To that end, the bureau this week started rolling out a trilingual “Miami Shines” recovery campaign. The full program won’t be deployed until hotels are reopened for tourists, which the bureau anticipates will be sometime in June, according to Rolando Aedo, chief operating officer of the GMCVB.

In the meantime, through imagery and words, the message is that Miami’s natural beauty and global vibe are still here, awaiting the return of visitors when the time is right.

And it will await you. Ready for you to explore, discover and enjoy.

We stand by you, as you stand by.”

#### RELATED STORIES FROM MIAMI HERALD

TOURISM-CRUISES

More than 120 hotels remain open in Miami-Dade. Here’s who is allowed to stay there

APRIL 29, 2020 6:00 AM



MIAMI  
*shines*  
GREATER MIAMI AND THE BEACHES

[Link to article](#)

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted the city of Miami tourism industry to such a drastic degree, basic hotel operations have been halted. Some owners seek to revitalize business by keeping their doors open to essential workers like first responders who are frontline defenders during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

To support local business owners, the Greater Miami Convention & Business Bureau conceptualized and launched the ‘Hotels for Essential Lodgers Program,’ following the restriction on hotel stays. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez issued the order March 21.

More than 100 hotels are offering access to essential lodgers — defined as health care professionals, first responders and patients’ families, among many others.

To help hotel owners field accommodations, the GMCVB program has provided an online, up-to-date list of hotels that are open to service essential lodgers who meet the criteria.

Two, Black-owned hoteliers located in the historic Overtown are among those participating in the innovative launch. The Miami Times spoke to those owners on Monday, March 30.

## **Dunns-Josephine hotel**

Kristin Kitchen, owner and operator of the Dunns-Josephine hotel, a part of Sojourn Heritage Hotels, said her occupancy fallout was precipitated by cancellation of the Miami Gardens Jazz in the Gardens music festival scheduled March 13-15.

“We had 42 cancellations in 24 hours that weekend” Kitchen told The Miami Times. “It was a trainwreck you couldn’t stop.”

By Tuesday, March 24, Kitchen’s hotels was booked to capacity, but she had to release all remaining occupants. She added that the March aftermath has been drastic.

“Even prior to the city closing the hotels, we got slammed when the president cut international travel,” said Kitchen. “Global travel makes up 50% of our clients because we’re positioned in Overtown right by the cruise ports and airport.”

### **The Copper Door B&B**

Jamila Ross and Akino West, co-owners of the The Copper Door B&B, also attest to the pandemic’s ripple effect on the hospitality industry.

Her business began to fluctuate after the city of Miami postponed Ultra Music Festival. The hotel is within walking-distance to the festival's Bayfront Park venue.

The business owners have chosen to remain open to essential lodgers as a community endorsement.

“From a communal perspective, we know how close we are to medical facilities and those in need, so it’s an opportunity to provide what our neighbors are looking for,” said Ross. “We wouldn’t have the opportunity to host anyone and so it seemed like a great way to satisfy a few different needs.”

While both hotels have remained open since the essential lodgers program launched, their service has yet to be utilized. The reason could extend beyond local challenged.

According to Hotel News Now and parent company STR analysts, U.S. hotel revenue per available room dropped 69.5% during the week of March 15-21 — the third-consecutive double-digit weekly RevPAR decline.

Jan Freitag, SVP of Lodging Insights at STR, said on a data webinar Thursday, March 26, the RevPAR decrease was significant for all of the wrong reasons.

Further, ITP members Hilton, IHG, Marriott and NH Hotel Group are among the many hotel companies and hotel associations working with local governments across the world to transform vacant hotel rooms into treatment facilities to support increasing demand on local healthcare systems, according to HNN.

Extra capacity for homeless shelters is beginning to be created by a Hilton hotel in New Orleans that has vowed to provide food and accommodation for the next month. This measure is being explored by other governments around the world including California, Paris and Dublin, HNN reported.

The Copper Door B&B is also a part of Airbnb's new global program to provide free or subsidized housing for healthcare professionals, relief workers, and first responders, typically closer to where they are working.

## **Airbnb**

In a press release dated Thursday, March 26, Airbnb stated they will waive all fees associated with the stays of all frontline medical staff and will also allow Airbnb hosts to opt in to provide homes that follow new cleanliness protocols based on recommendations from medical experts.

“Medical workers and first responders are providing lifesaving support during the coronavirus outbreak and we want to help,” said Airbnb’s co-founder Joe Gebbia. “We’ve heard from countless hosts around the world who want to provide a comforting home to heroic first responders and want to create a “host community”

In response to increasing need, the GMCVB launched a webpage listing all the resources and charitable opportunities available for the travel and hospitality industry. [TheHelpforTourism.com](http://TheHelpforTourism.com) page provides the industry and other GMCVB partners a look at how to secure assistance or even offer help should they be in the position to do so. Visit [www.miamiandbeaches.com/help](http://www.miamiandbeaches.com/help) for more information.

Visit the GMCVB’s essential lodger hotels <https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/lodging>.

[Link to article](#)

SUR DE LA FLORIDA

## Minuto a minuto: MDC crea programas gratuitos tras impacto del COVID-19 a empleos

POR REDACCIÓN/EL NUEVO HERALD

20 DE ABRIL DE 2020 08:01 AM,

ACTUALIZADO 20 DE ABRIL DE 2020 04:22 PM



Estas son las noticias más importantes de última hora sobre la pandemia del COVID-19, la enfermedad causada por el nuevo coronavirus:

### PROGRAMA MIAMI EATS Y LA ORGANIZACIÓN MEALS FOR HEROES MIAMI SE UNEN PARA DAR COMIDA A SOCORRISTAS

**1:30 p.m.-** El popular [‘Miami Eats. Order Out, Help Out’](#) de la Oficina de Convenciones y Visitantes del Gran Miami (GMCVB) se asoció con la organización [‘Meals for Heroes, Miami’](#), a fundada por el filántropo Will Osborne y su hijo Mac Osborne para suministrar alimentos a los socorristas y ayudar a los restaurantes locales.

Diariamente se llevarán de 50 a 500 comidas a los hospitales y centros de pruebas de coronavirus, cumpliendo con todas las medidas de protección requeridas.

THE NEW  
TROPIC

FW: 🍌 Some new ideas on how to help

**From:** The New Tropic <[hello@thenewtropic.com](mailto:hello@thenewtropic.com)>

**Reply-To:** The New Tropic <[hello@thenewtropic.com](mailto:hello@thenewtropic.com)>

**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 6:57 AM

**To:** Raiza Velez <[rvelez@kivvit.com](mailto:rvelez@kivvit.com)>

**Subject:** 🍌 Some new ideas on how to help

## Bulletin Board

🍌 **Support local PPE production.** Under normal circumstances, Moonlighter FabLab is a membership-based digital makers' lab. During the crisis, they've shifted operations to create face shields for the front lines. Here's [how to help](#).

🍌 **Miami Eats is supporting Meals for Heroes.** The Greater Miami CVB has been helping get the message out to support local restaurants from the jump. Now, they're partnering with Meals for Heroes, to help set those same restaurants up to help get clinical staff fed. [More info here](#).

🍌 **Donate face covers for the homeless.** The unsheltered can use our help to prevent the spread. The Homeless Trust is asking for 3,400 masks, and you can [learn how to help out here](#).

🍌 **Donate diapers:** The request for diapers has increased significantly in the past few weeks and our youngest community members could use your support. [Miami Diaper Bank](#) is the best bet to get them to those who need it most.

🍌 **Donate to the Arts:** The [\\$23 million impact to our local arts](#) scene just hurts the soul. There's so much talent down here — let's make sure we show them love right now. Consider donating to the Funding Arts Network COVID relief fund [here](#).



# Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau's 'Miami Eats' Program Partners With 'Meals For Heroes, Miami' To Support Frontline Responders While Aiding In Restaurant Recovery



Miami, FL – April 22, 2020 – The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) creators of the popular “Miami Spice Restaurant Months” program, launched the **‘Miami Eats. Order Out, Help Out’** program to support local restaurants suffering from the downturn in business created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Launched on March 20, 2020, the program now has more than 1000 participating restaurants.

**GMCVB.com/MiamiEats** offers Miamians a convenient location to source Greater Miami and the Beaches’ vast dining options while at home and creates awareness of takeout and delivery offerings. ‘Miami Eats’ has now partnered with **‘Meals for Heroes, Miami’**, a non-profit, donation-based organization, founded by philanthropist and Miami resident Will Osborne and his son, restaurateur Mac Osborne. **‘Meals for Heroes Miami’**, also created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, launched on April 1, 2020. It seeks to meet two complementary objectives; to feed stressed and exhausted first responders risking their lives daily and provide revenue and protect jobs at Miami restaurants. “Miami is a city built on the hospitality industry, which is being crushed by this pandemic. This is a fight that is going to be won by our healthcare frontline workers, in conjunction with our first responders. These three constituencies, hospitality, healthcare, and fire/EMS/police need our support. Purchasing meals to deliver to these stressed professionals is a sign of support from a grateful community” commented Founder Will Osborne.

“The GMCVB is proud to align the ‘Miami Eats’ program with the ‘Meals for Heroes, Miami’ initiative,” said William D. Talbert, III, CDME, President & CEO, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau. “Miami Eats was born from the Bureau’s commitment to drive demand for the hospitality industry. As the heroes of this community, we could think of no better group than first responders to be recipients of Miami’s best take-out and delivery food providers and with the full force of the bureau’s marketing efforts already in place, there is a great opportunity for **‘Meals for Heroes,**

[Miami](#) to utilize the platform of 'Miami Eats' to help drive donations to "[Meals for Heals, Miami](#)" so they can expand their efforts".

## HOW IT WORKS

**'Meals for Heroes, Miami'** reaches out to hospitals and testing centers to determine their needs. In partnership with local restaurants, orders are placed for 50 to 500 meals daily to be delivered to each facility. Restaurant partners take all necessary precautions outlined by the CDC, and working with each facility, ensure a contact-less delivery of the meals. Frontline recipients to date include Mount Sinai Medical Center, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami Baptist Hospital, Miami Baptist Miami Beach, and the Miami Beach Fire Department among others.

In addition to the support of the marketing efforts of the GMCVB through its **'Miami Eats'** program, **'Meals for Heroes, Miami'** will also have the support of the City of Miami Beach, which will promote the initiative to their residents. "As our healthcare workers and first responders work tirelessly to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge the community to consider donating to **'Meals for Heroes, Miami'** — which allows these essential workers to be fed on the frontlines by our local restaurants while keeping workers employed," said Mayor Dan Gelber. "Giving back to others in this way has another much needed consequence: keeping many of our beloved eateries in business and their staff working."

Additional GMCVB initiatives include; **Hotels for Essential Lodgers**, a comprehensive list of hotels open for Essential Lodgers during the crisis; **Miami Salutes**, an initiative calling on restaurants and retailers to extend special offers to heroic frontline and first responders; **Help for Tourism**, a web page providing the industry and other GMCVB partners a look at how to secure assistance; **Virtual Miami**, a web portal dedicated to showcasing local virtual events, webcams, video's showcasing neighborhoods, attractions, museums and experiences that make Greater Miami a world-class destination, as well as unique downloadable backgrounds that capture the beauty and diversity of Greater Miami for remote meetings; and the **Miami Pandemic Response Fund**, a partnership between the GMCVB, United Way of Miami-Dade, Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation to create a \$500,000 fund to support hospitality workers and their families with emergency needs including food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and micro-grants.

For more information about all of the following programs put together by the GMCVB in response to the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 on hospitality and tourism in Greater Miami and the Beaches, visit [www.MiamiandBeaches.com](http://www.MiamiandBeaches.com).

Photo Credit: PC Meals for Heroes Miami & Sam Angelo

# Miami Herald

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4/23/2020

Daily Impressions: 79,684

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[Link to article](#)

# Teachers, students help first responders, healthcare workers through Miami Mask Project

**BY CHRISTINA MAYO**



APRIL 22, 2020 06:11 PM, UPDATED APRIL 22, 2020 06:11 PM



The newest volunteer sewer in the Miami Mask Project is Carrollton School student Emma Filippi, 11, who is in the fifth grade. *COURTESY OF MARIEL WENGER*

## MIAMI EATS LAUNCHED

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, creators of the popular “Miami Spice Restaurant Months” program, has launched the “Miami Eats. Order Out, Help Out” program to support local restaurants suffering from the downturn in business created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program now has more than 1,000 participating restaurants.

Miami Eats has also partnered with “Meals for Heroes, Miami,” a nonprofit, donation-based organization, founded by philanthropist and Miami resident Will Osborne and his son, restaurateur Mac Osborne.

Organizers said [GMCVB.com/MiamiEats](http://GMCVB.com/MiamiEats) “offers Miamians a convenient location to source Greater Miami and the Beaches’ vast dining options while at home and creates awareness of takeout and delivery offerings.”

And “Meals for Heroes, Miami” seeks to meet two objectives: to feed stressed and exhausted first responders risking their lives daily and provide revenue and protect jobs at Miami restaurants.

“Miami is a city built on the hospitality industry, which is being crushed by this pandemic,” Will Osborne said.

“This is a fight that is going to be won by our healthcare front-line workers, in conjunction with our first responders. These three constituencies — hospitality, healthcare and fire/EMS/police — need our support. Purchasing meals to deliver to these stressed professionals is a sign of support from a grateful community.”

*If you have news for this column, write to  
[ChristinaMMayo@gmail.com](mailto:ChristinaMMayo@gmail.com).*

[Link to article](#)

Home > Biscayne Bay Tribune > Salute to Our Front-Line Responders

Biscayne Bay Tribune

# Salute to Our Front-Line Responders

By **Community News** - March 31, 2020



The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is grateful for the hospital workers, medical professionals, fire fighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and military personnel who are putting others before themselves during this critical time. The GMCVB would like to share the amazing things our community is doing to provide support to those on the front lines.

Front-line Responders include healthcare professionals, law enforcements, paramedics and military personnel (i.e. National Guard).

Please contact us to share what your company is able to offer to the Front-line Responder Community. This can include complimentary or discounted products or services.

Offers will be shared via a dedicated Front-line Responders Resource Page on our website and should include:

- > Name of Company including Address and Phone Number
- > Brief Offer Description
- > How to Redeem the Offer
- > Website link to the offer

We are also interested in sharing stories and ways that companies are giving back to our Front-line Responders. Please contact us to share story links to also be included on this resource page.

The following are specific needs especially from our Medical Partners:

- > Personal Protective Equipment (N95 Masks, Gowns, Gloves, Face Shields)
- > Cleaning Supplies/Disinfectant Wipes
- > Donated Rooms in hotels or similar accommodations for front-line Responders can rest between long shifts and not have their families in jeopardy of exposure to COVID-19
- > Shelf Stable Snacks/Food and Packed Meals
- > Donated Transportation (scooters, ride shares, bikes)

Yours in Partnership,

Ali Bibeau

Senior Director, Partnership Development & Events

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Connect To Your Customers & Grow Your Business

## SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL

4/6/2020

Unique Monthly Visitors (UMV): 1,762,380

[Link to article](#)

Travel & Tourism

# South Florida hotels face tough choices as occupancy falls to historic lows



Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa in Manalapan  
JASON NUTTLE

Local governments have put tight restrictions on those allowed to make reservations at South Florida hotels, pushing down occupancy across the region.

Hotel occupancy now sits below 25% for all three counties, according to data from the hotel analytics company STR. As a result, these properties have been forced to choose between closing altogether, or operating with a skeleton crew at a fraction of their normal capacity to cater to a select group of travelers deemed "essential lodgers."

The Eau Palm Beach decided it was better to close completely. General Manager [Tim Nardi](#) told the *Business Journal* that with executive orders getting stricter with travel, hotel management decided it best to close the luxury resort on March 25.

Nardi alerted his staff on March 23 to the hotel's planned closing. Two days later, all remaining guests at the 309-room hotel were checked out, he said. Approximately 600 employees were placed on leave, but the resort will pay 80% of their normal salaries for up to six weeks.

Currently, the Eau Palm Beach is running on a skeleton crew of just engineers and security guards, while some employees, like Nardi himself, work remotely. The engineers will continue to monitor the resort's mechanics to ensure that it will be able to open in a timely manner once restrictions are lifted.

"In Florida, we have to do this fairly often with hurricanes," he said. "This one's just a little different because we don't have a concrete timeframe in mind."

According to a recent report from Marcus and Millichap, resorts across the country are being impacted mostly by international travel restrictions. For the week ended March 21, revenue per available room (RevPAR) fell 73.5% year-over-year at resorts. According to the report, however, resorts could see a swifter bounce-back as Americans who may have had international travel plans may instead opt to travel domestically once restrictions are lifted.

Hotels in urban areas are also struggling.

The same report said hotels in urban areas are most exposed to drastic occupancy and revenue per available room decreases, while those in suburban neighborhoods and small towns could be more resilient.

[Francisco Arocha](#), CEO and managing partner of Miami-based [HES Group](#), operates two hotels in the county – Aloft Coral Gables and Aloft Miami Brickell – both of which are still open. However, he said he's furloughed between 80% and 90% of his staff, and occupancy now sits between 5% and 10% across the two properties.

Miami-Dade County rules for essential lodgers includes healthcare workers, and with both hotels near hospitals, he said doctors and other people in the field have made up a large portion of guests in the last two weeks.

Arocha said room rates are near half of what they would normally be in late-March and early-April, but he wants to continue to keep these hotels open to serve some of these essential lodgers. But the Miami-Dade County executive order isn't clear on what defines an essential lodger as it states essential lodgers are "individuals who, for any reason, are temporarily unable to reside in their home."

[Bill Talbert III](#), CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), said this leaves the door open for many area hotels to continue to provide services to a larger pool of guests than they may originally think.

The bureau [has a database of all hotels](#) in the county still accepting "essential travelers." Currently, there are 124 properties listed.

At the end of the day, Arocha said he and his general managers are using common sense in determining who to accept as guests, and aren't trying to push the limits of the vague guidelines.

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**SOUTH FLORIDA  
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

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4/6/2020

Unique Monthly Visitors (UMV): 1,762,380

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[Link to article](#)

Philanthropy & Nonprofits

**UPDATED: South Florida companies step up to help community with COVID-19 fallout**



By **Mel Meléndez** – Editor-in-Chief, South Florida Business Journal

Mar 27, 2020, 2:54pm EDT **Updated** 36 minutes ago

Those of us who work in South Florida know firsthand of the many winning executives and companies that routinely contribute to the region's nonprofits and charitable organizations.

In fact, philanthropy and community involvement is an important trait considered for many *Business Journal* honors and awards as we believe in the importance of businesses giving back to the communities they serve.

And I'm happy to say that the South Florida business community is known for supporting countless charities and for stepping up to the plate to help individuals, businesses and nonprofits.

This couldn't be more evident today as the Sunshine State – and the world – grapples with battling the spread of the novel coronavirus.

In just a few short weeks, this pandemic has already taken its toll, with many business owners forced to let go of beloved employees to remain afloat and others wondering if their businesses will even make it through this challenging period.

But nary a day goes by without our editorial team learning of tri-county region businesses involved in charitable efforts to help those most impacted by this health scourge.

As journalists, it's rewarding to see how so many businesses are aiding others during this time of great uncertainty. It speaks to our business community's charitable spirit and resiliency.

And while it isn't humanly possible for us to write about all of these efforts, we've created this feature to encourage our readers to share how their companies are helping improve the lives of others during these disconcerting times.

Listed below are some recent examples of the ways our companies are making a difference. But I'm inviting you to let me know of other charitable efforts as we will be updating this feature daily. Please email me at [mmelendez@bizjournals.com](mailto:mmelendez@bizjournals.com) as you learn of efforts by your company or others. Also consider sending photos of those efforts to share with our readers.

• **The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau** recently launched **Miami Salutes**, an initiative that calls on the hospitality industry to share their deals for frontline responders. Miami Salutes lists all of the restaurants participating in the program (**see attached photos**) and the specials offered to hospital workers, medical professionals, fire fighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and National Guard. [Click here for more details.](#)

## Miami Herald

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4/6/2020

Unique Monthly Visitors (UMV): 2,196,660

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[Link to article](#)

CORONAVIRUS

### Hey, coronavirus first responders, we see you. So do these restaurants giving you deals

**BY MADELEINE MARR**

APRIL 02, 2020 11:37 AM, UPDATED APRIL 03, 2020 12:27 PM





Volusia County's sheriff Mike Chitwood stepped in to deliver pizzas for local restaurants in Deltona, Florida as part of Chitwood's Curbside Delivery initiative, which aims to boost the business of local eateries during the COVID-19 outbreak. BY @SHERIFFCHITWOOD VIA STORYFUL

## DICED

Half off at all Diced locations for medical workers, first responders.

<https://dicedfood.com>.

For more restaurant deals and discounts, check out the [GMVCB's Miami Salutes website](#).

local restaurants are offering discounts. The deals apply to military personnel, law enforcement, city officials, healthcare workers and first responders. Tip: Come in uniform and have your valid work ID handy.



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4/7/2020

Unique Monthly Visitors (UMV): 11,340

[Link to article](#)

## Greater Miami's Travel and Hospitality Industry Unites to support First-responders during COVID-19



### *The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) Launches Miami Salutes Program and Shares Dozens of Special Offers for First and Front-Line Responders*

**MIAMI** – As hospitals and public agencies ramp up their efforts to treat COVID-19 patients and keep residents safe, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is launching an initiative to show support for the heroic work front-line and first responders are undertaking on the community's behalf.

Dubbed **Miami Salutes**, the program has called on hotels, restaurants and retailers to extend special offers to hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and National Guard who are putting others before themselves during this critical time.

From free pizza, doughnuts and coffee, to deep discounts on meals and wireless services, **Miami Salutes** provides a compiled, updated list of special offers on the GMCVB's website at <https://www.GMCVB.com/MiamiSalutes>.

"We know that our front-line and first responders are working tirelessly to help and protect all of us, and their efforts are likely to escalate in the coming days and weeks," says William D. Talbert, III, C.D.M.E., President and CEO of the GMCVB. "We are proud to bring together Greater Miami's hospitality industry to support these public servants and show our appreciation in any way possible."

The **Miami Salutes** site includes numerous local restaurants, including Bulla Gastrobar, Divino Ceviche, and Pollo Tropical—all offering 50% off to front-line and first responders. National brands are featured as well including Krispy Kreme providing free doughnuts, Starbucks offering free coffee, Sweetgreen delivering free salads to local hospitals, and Crocs donating a free pair of shoes to healthcare workers. As more businesses extend offers, the GMCVB will continue to add new deals to the site.

“Our community is indebted to the heroic medical professionals, police officers, firefighters, military personnel and essential workers fighting to keep our communities safe from COVID-19,” says Miami-Dade County Commissioner and Chair of Miami-Dade County’s Military Affairs Board Jose “Pepe” Diaz. “It is wonderful to see businesses show their appreciation to these workers for their service and loyal dedication, even though many may be going through their own difficult times right now. This program is a testament to the spirit of Miami-Dade County’s community, which will help us all get through this.”

**Miami Salutes** adds to the series of programs put together by the GMCVB in response to the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 on hospitality and tourism in Greater Miami and the Beaches. Additional initiatives include: **Miami Eats**, which promotes delivery and/or take-out menus available for Miamians to enjoy at home; **Hotels for Essential Lodgers**, a comprehensive list of hotels open for Essential Lodgers during the crisis; **Help for Tourism**, a web page providing the industry and other GMCVB partners a look at how to secure assistance; and the **Miami Pandemic Response Fund**, a partnership between the GMCVB, United Way of Miami-Dade, Miami Herald/Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation to create a fund to support hospitality workers and their families with emergency needs including food, supplies, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and micro-grants.



4/7/2020

Unique Monthly Visitors (UMV): 667,110

[Link to article](#)

## South Florida developers and brokers give back during coronavirus

*Some firms are donating masks, others providing free meals*

TRD MIAMI / By [Katherine Kallergis](#)

April 06, 2020 06:00 PM



From left: Armando Codina, Ana Codina Barlick, Barry Sternicht, Tony Cho and Jorge Pérez

**UPDATED, April 7, 6 p.m.:** Some South Florida developers are stepping up during the **pandemic** and giving to those less fortunate, through cash donations, medical supplies and food.

Developer **Jorge Pérez** is donating a total of \$350,000. The Related Group founder announced a \$200,000 contribution to the Miami Foundation’s Community Recovery Fund to support local arts and cultural organizations that have been affected by coronavirus. Another \$100,000 is going to the United Way of Miami-Dade’s Miami Pandemic Response Fund, for working families and small businesses. Pérez is

The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, United Way, Miami Herald/el Nuevo Herald, Health Foundation of South Florida and The Miami Foundation created a \$500,000 fund for hospitality workers and their families in need.



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4/7/2020

Unique Monthly Visitors (UMV): 1,961,610

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[Link to article](#)

**Miami gives back: Front-line and health care workers get free salad, coffee and discounted hotel rooms**





[Katherine Fan](#)

Yesterday

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We want to make sure we're writing content you care about.

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted every corner of the globe, with many nations on complete lockdown in an effort to contain or eliminate the spread of the contagious disease. During these difficult times, a number of organizations and individuals have stepped up to support front-line and health care workers as they save lives across the country. In some cases, entire cities have joined forces toward this goal.

Florida [has been one of the states](#) hit the hardest by the coronavirus, and local hospital workers, medical professionals, firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and National Guard members have been working hard around the clock to serve their communities.

In Miami, these front-line workers are enjoying free pizza, donuts and coffee as well as deeply discounted meals and wireless services from Miami hotels, restaurants and retailers. The initiative, called Miami Salutes, is helmed by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB), which compiles and maintains a comprehensive list of special offers [on the GMCVB's website](#).

Businesses participating in Miami Salutes include national brands such as Krispy Kreme, Starbucks and Crocs as well as local names such as Bulla Gastrobar, Divino Ceviche and Pollo Tropical. A Google Sheets spreadsheet lists more than 120 hotels in the greater Miami area which are offering [deeply discounted nightly rates](#) for medical professionals who need safe places to stay. Crocs is offering a free pair of shoes for any healthcare professional who requests them.

Front-line and first responders are encouraged to bring a valid ID to any of the dozens of Miami Salutes participating locations to score everything from free glazed donuts to up to 50% off on take-out and delivery orders. Sweetgreen is delivering free salads to local hospitals for their workers.

“Our front-line and first responders are working tirelessly to help and protect all of us, and their efforts are likely to escalate in the coming days and weeks,” said GMCVB President and CEO William D. Talbert, III. “We are proud to bring together Greater Miami’s hospitality industry to support these public servants and show our appreciation in any way possible.”

*Featured photo by Shutterstock.*

Sign up for our

[Link to article](#)

CORONAVIRUS

## These South Florida entertainers have more to offer you than those ‘Tiger King’ binges

BY HOWARD COHEN



APRIL 14, 2020 03:46 PM, UPDATED 3 HOURS 32 MINUTES AGO

We loved the train wreck “Tiger King” on Netflix and [Pitbull’s rallying new single](#) “I Believe We Will Win (World Anthem)” as much as the next person.

But one also needs a little variety during this period of social distancing at home.

South Florida cultural arts and educational groups were quick to create virtual entertainment and programs we could livestream while sheltering when orders to stay indoors began in March. Some of these offerings can still be streamed.

They haven’t stopped.

Here’s the next wave of virtual entertainment — South Florida style — you can enjoy from home. Like a tour of Wynwood’s arts and culture district. Learning how to act or dance professionally on stage. Sending someone you love a video of a local musicians singing their favorite song — personalized with “love and music.”

### SOUTH FLORIDA NEIGHBORHOODS

▪ **The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau** says “Miami is ready to be explored — virtually, that is.” So the organization is posting [live webcams and virtual tours](#) of Miami’s museums, attractions, national parks, beaches and other offerings on its website.

# FLAPOL

[Link to Article](#)



EMAILS & OPINIONS

## Sunburn — The morning read of what's hot in Florida politics — 4.30.20

Your morning review of the issues and players behind Florida politics.

Gov. **Ron DeSantis** has a plan to reopen the state for business. Wonderful. We look forward to seeing how that works. We're rooting for you.

However, was it really necessary to take swipes at those "**gloom and doom**" (**your words**) media mongrels who had the audacity to call out your initial fumbling, bumbling response to COVID-19's devastating impact on Florida's economy?



*Ron DeSantis announces the 'baby steps' to reopening Florida for business. Image via News4Jax.*

We thought you might be different. It turns out you're just another parrot for the GOP talking points that questions how ANYONE would have the audacity to challenge you. Darn it, Governor, more than **1,200 people have died** in Florida from a virus more than one member of your Republican party **dismissed as a hoax**.

Stop it.

That said, the plan you unveiled Wednesday isn't bad.

You called it "**safe, smart, and step by step**."

Absolutely logical.

Compared to Georgia, you look like **Gandhi**.

In your initial phase, retail stores and restaurants can reopen at 25 percent capacity. Eateries will be allowed to seat people outside. Social distancing will be enforced. Good.

In your initial phase, retail stores and restaurants can reopen at 25 percent capacity. Eateries will be allowed to seat people outside. Social distancing will be enforced. Good.

Schools, bars, gyms, hair salons, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities remain closed. And as much as I'd like an hour or two at my gym, I'm good with that. I'm just glad my father-in-law, who died last year at age 94, isn't alive to question why his daughter and son-in-law aren't coming to visit his assisted living facility.

These are smart moves.

No one ever said you aren't smart.

But if you aspire to sit in Florida's highest governance chair, well, guess what? You're gonna get questions. Not everyone will believe you are right. Deal with it.

## Miami Herald

4/30/2020

Unique Daily Readers: 100,00

### 5-Minute Herald

Good morning from the newsroom. Here are some things you should know.

**Today's weather:** A 60% chance of rain in afternoon; high 89, low 68



CRUISES

#### **'Miami Shines' effort aims to whet wanderlust for the time when hotels reopen**

Beaches and most hotels are still closed. Cruise ships are docked. Nevertheless, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau wants to "keep Miami top of mind as a travel destination" and "provide a sense of relief to those craving travel experiences while anxious and confined at home" during the coronavirus pandemic.

**“Miami Shines’ effort aims to whet wanderlust for the time when hotels reopen”** via Michelle Kaufman of the Miami Herald — Beaches and most hotels are still closed. Cruise ships are docked. Nevertheless, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau wants to “keep Miami top of mind as a travel destination” and “provide a sense of relief to those craving travel experiences while anxious and confined at home.” To that end, the bureau this week started rolling out a trilingual “Miami Shines” recovery campaign. The full program won’t be deployed until hotels are reopened for tourists, which the bureau anticipates will be sometime in June, according to COO **Rolando Aedo**. In the meantime, through imagery and words, the message is that Miami’s natural beauty and global vibe are still here, awaiting the return of visitors when the time is right.



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4/14/2020

Unique Monthly Visitors (UMV): 17,130

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[Link to article](#)

## **Miami Hotels Remain Open for Frontline Workers Against COVID-19**



While Miami-Dade County issued an order restricting hotel stays to help curb the spread of COVID-19, more than 100 Miami hotels remain open for essential lodgers.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau teamed up with hotels around the city for first responders, healthcare professionals, and persons who are on the front lines fighting Coronavirus to use at a discounted price.

“Those essential lodgers was important in our conversation with Mayor Gimenez, to at least have some hotel availability on the mainland for first responders, healthcare professionals, national guard, and important folks in our community,” said Bill Talbert, President & CEO of the GMCVB.

The GMCVB website, [www.miamiandbeaches.com](http://www.miamiandbeaches.com), has a full list of hotels participating in the program. Additionally, the GMCVB kick started Miami Eats, a program that promotes restaurants around the city providing takeout and delivery.

“This is a free service; you do not have to be a member of the bureau to participate. Restaurants can go on the site, type it in, and get right on,” said Talbert.

The GMCVB has [4 more programs](#) currently helping the tourism and hospitality industries in Miami and they're positive Miami will bounce back fast and better than before.

“We've been involved in crisis overtime, obviously we know hurricanes, ZIKA, Gulf oil spill, and 9/11. So, the Convention Bureau has a lot of

experience. When we get out of this, and we will, we're always the first back in the marketplace. We'll be back first in the marketplace for meetings, conventions, and for tourism," said Talbert.

For more information, head on over to <https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/lodging>



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4/22/2020

Impressions: 18,840

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[Link to article](#)



## Service for Two

A pair of Miami-based initiatives come together to benefit first responders and the restaurant industry

🕒 April 22, 2020 👤 by Kevin Kaminski 💬 0 comments

Two Miami-based initiatives, already serving their respective target groups, have joined forces.

In mid-March, the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) launched "Miami Eats: Order Out, Help Out" ([gmcvb.com/MiamiEats](https://gmcvb.com/MiamiEats)), giving locals a place to survey the restaurant takeout scene and thus assist an industry devastated by the pandemic.

On April 1, the nonprofit “Meals for Heroes, Miami” debuted ([mealsforheroesmiami.org](https://mealsforheroesmiami.org)). Founded by local philanthropist Will Osborne and his son, restaurateur Mac Osborne, the initiative sought to feed first responders—and drive much-needed revenue to Miami restaurants. Now, the two entities are working together.

“The GMCVB is proud to align the ‘Miami Eats’ program with the ‘Meals for Heroes, Miami’ initiative,” says William D. Talbert, III, president and CEO of the GMCVB. “Miami Eats was born from the bureau’s commitment to drive demand for the hospitality industry. As heroes of this community, we could think of no better group than first responders to be recipients of Miami’s best takeout and delivery food providers. With the full force of the bureau’s marketing efforts already in place, there is a great opportunity for ‘Meals for Heroes, Miami,’ to utilize the platform of ‘Miami Eats’ to help drive donations.

The joint effort will start with “Meals for Heroes” reaching out to Miami hospitals and testing centers to determine their food needs. Orders will be placed to restaurant partners for 50 to 500 meals daily (per facility), with necessary precautions followed to ensure contact-free delivery of the meals. Among the front-line recipients already participating: Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami Baptist Hospital and Mount Sinai Medical Center.

“Miami is a city built on the hospitality industry, which is being crushed by this pandemic,” Will Osborne says. “This is a fight that is going to be won by our health-care front-line workers, in conjunction with our first responders. These three constituencies, hospitality, health care, and fire/EMS/police need our support. Purchasing meals to deliver to these stressed professionals is a sign of support from a grateful community.”

## **AVENTURA MAGAZINE**

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4/13/2020

Impressions: 5,400

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[Link to article](#)

DEPARTMENTS, SPOTLIGHT

## Wynwood Goes Virtual



Courtesy of the Wynwood Business Improvement District.

As South Florida residents continue to stay home and self-isolate through the COVID-19 pandemic, Miami’s Wynwood neighborhood is rising to the challenge of bringing its vivacious cultural scene to the digital sphere. The [Wynwood Business Improvement District](#) (BID) is launching the *#WynAtHome* virtual series on its [@WynwoodMiami Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) channels to share the area’s art, food, entertainment, and wellness experiences through live videos, stories, and other exclusive content with followers around the world.

“It’s important more than ever to foster a sense of community as we continue self-isolating during these unprecedented times,” said Albert Garcia, Wynwood BID Chairman.

“The *#WynAtHome* virtual series will bring positive, shared experiences that celebrate our beloved Wynwood community to remind us we’re in this together.”

*#WynAtHome* content, like music performances curated by El Patio, performances by artists in-residence at the Miami Light Project, wellness and fitness sessions from Sol Yoga, behind-the-scenes experiences at Veza Sur Brewery, culinary classes with Alter Chef Brad Kilgore, and interviews with renowned street artists in collaboration with the Museum of Graffiti, is being streamed live and posted on Instagram and Facebook [@WynwoodMiami](#).

Those looking for a cultural escape are encouraged to follow [@WynwoodMiami](#) on Instagram and Facebook and use the hashtag *#WynAtHome* to share their own experiences.

### **South Florida’s Digital Experiences Directory:**

- [O Cinema Virtual Theater Project](#) is screening new film releases weekly.
- [Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau \(GMCVB\) Virtual Miami](#) is offering virtual tours, stay-at-home activities, and livestreams of Miami’s museums, attractions, national parks, beaches, and more.

- [Coral City Camera](#) This peaceful experience features an underwater camera streaming a coral reef ecosystem at the northeastern tip of Port Miami.
- [Bal Harbour Shops Virtual Book Club with Books & Books](#): Hosted by Steph Sayfie Aagaard, the April book *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng will be discussed during @BalHarbourShops Instagram Live on Tuesday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. All books can be purchased online supporting cherished local bookstore, Books & Books.
- [Phil Collins & Orianne Collins' Little Dreams Foundation \(LDF\)](#): Viewers can submit a donation via the link in the foundation's Instagram bio (@littledreamsfoundationusa), request a song, and a Little Dreamer will perform the song on Instagram LIVE! This nonprofit helps kids in need pursue their dreams in music, art, and sports.
- [O, Miami Poetry Festival](#) To celebrate National Poetry month, the festival is streaming exclusive live readings.
- [Ultra Virtual Audio Festival-](#) Fans of the music fest can experience Ultra at home with audio of performances by Major Lazer, Afrojack, and more.

#### **National Digital Experiences Directory:**

- [Broadway HD](#) The streaming services allows subscribers to access Broadway's beloved stagings of *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Kinky Boots*, and more.
- [Coachella: 20 Years in the Desert](#): This YouTube Originals documentary gives fans exclusive insight into the world renowned celebration of music.
- [Metropolitan Opera](#) The infamous opera house is streaming free shows every night for viewers to enjoy.
- [Berlin Philharmonic](#) Experience the orchestra through the Digital Concert Hall livestreams and YouTube videos.