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CEO, The Creative Class Group & Author, Upgrade

Visitors Guide to Miami Beyond Art Basel

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[Beaches](#), [Art Basel](#), [Herzog De Muron](#), [Wynwood Walls](#), [Art Deco](#), [Design District](#), [Lincoln Road](#), [Miami](#), [Ocean Drive](#), [Photo Galleries](#), [South Pointe Park](#), [The Standard](#), [Vespa](#), [Arts News](#)

World-renowned artists, 250 galleries, museum curators and directors, celebrities, highbrow and deep-pocketed collectors, celebrities, and more than 50,000 other lovers of modern and contemporary art will gather in Miami Beach during the first week of Miami for the 12th annual [Miami Art Basel](#). A private reception called the vernisage kicks off the opening on the evening of the 4th; the festival proper runs from December 5th through the 8th, transforming the entire city of Miami Beach and much of downtown Miami into an Alice in Wonderland art mecca. As the [event guide](#) shows, the Miami area has been abuzz with anticipation since early November.

With its miles of sandy beaches, warm blue water, classic [Art Deco](#) architecture, world-class [art museums](#), [cultural offerings](#), and its glittering nightlife, Miami Beach provides the perfect setting for this international gathering.

The art isn't confined to the walls of the [convention center](#); both Miami Beach and downtown Miami will be oozing with cultural events and art exhibits, including a number of [satellite fairs](#) and installations that will open in parking lots and sandy beaches. Whether you are taking a morning jog on the beach or going out for some nightlife, you will be bound to run into art.

But when visitors have taken in all the art they can, what else is there to do in Miami Beach during Art Basel? Here are my favorites.

Beach Time



It's December and you're in Miami where the average high is 77 and sunny. Go to the beach! You can rent beach chairs and umbrellas on almost any stretch of the beach from Bal Harbor to South Pointe Park.

New World Symphony



Dedicated to the artistic, personal, and professional development of outstanding graduates of music programs, the New World Symphony, under the artistic directorship of Michael Tilson Thomas, performs traditional and modern repertoire and features renowned soloists and guest conductors. Bring a blanket and a picnic basket and enjoy a free concert under the palms on the 7,000-square-foot projection wall.

(Photo Credit: Morris Moreno)

Lincoln Road



A lively pedestrian walkway, designed in 1960 by Morris Lapidus, that runs between Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean in South Beach. It is filled with outdoor restaurants, bustling cafes, shops and bookstores. The newest stretch of Lincoln Road is at Alton Road and Lincoln, where the world renowned architects Herzog de Mueron designed a magnificent parking garage. Great retail on the street level and breathtaking views of the city from the top floor.

Vespa Architecture Tour



You can rent scooters, bikes and segways from [VIP Scooter Rentals](#). Check out the art deco buildings along Ocean Drive, the Spanish style mansions on North Bay Road, the Venetian Islands, the boardwalk along the beach, the shops on Washington Ave. and the famous hotels along Collins Avenue between the Soho House and South Pointe Park.

The Design District



The Design District, in the Buena Vista section of midtown Miami was transformed from a disused neighborhood of warehouses to a vibrant destination, replete with 130 art galleries, showrooms, architecture firms, antiques dealers, lively restaurants, and bars.

Sunset



Stop to watch the beautiful sunset on the bay over cocktails at the Mondrian or the Standard Spa Hotel. The sky is illuminated with breathtaking colors. Each night is a magnificent and unique display, not to be missed.

South Pointe Park



17 acres of beach and park, right where the bay meets the ocean, offering panoramic views of Fisher Island, downtown Miami, Biscayne Bay, and the Atlantic ocean—and great people-watching too.

Wynwood Walls



Conceived by the renowned placemaker Tony Goldman in 2009 and co-curated by Jeffrey Deitch (now director of the MOCA Los Angeles), the Wynwood Walls turned a dreary warehouse district into a spectacular canvas for graffiti art. Featuring work by artists from all over the globe, including Os Gemeos, Kenny Scharf, Shepard Fairey, Aiko, and FUTURA 2000, the Wynwood Walls is truly a museum of the streets.

Dining



So many restaurants too little time! For decor and views, try [Juvia](#), [Cecconis](#) on the Beach, the [Setai Grill](#), or a garden table at [Casa Tua](#). Local favorites include [Yardbird Southern Table and Bar](#), [The Forge](#), [Michael's Genuine Food and Drink](#) and [The Dutch](#).

Paddle Boarding at the Standard Spa



[The Standard spa hotel](#) offers gorgeous views of the bay, great food, massage, bodywork, hydrotherapy, and more. For \$40 you can have a one-hour lesson paddle boarding on Biscayne Bay.

Let's Go Heat!



Take in a Miami Heat game. LeBron James, Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade are the triple threat league champions. You can see them at American Airlines Stadium, where the energy in the arena is on fire!

The Shops at Bal Harbour



[Bal Harbour](#) is site of the busiest luxury shopping center in North America, where you can find more than 100 top brands, an open air mall, and koi ponds and water gardens.

Get Wet!



Jet skis, boggie boards, boats and almost any other type of water-sport is available for rent on the beach. No reservations required, just look for the beach shack and put on a life jacket.