

headquarters here, from Johnson & Johnson to the Gap. The city is also establishing itself as an international banking center – more than 40 international banks call it home. But leading the way today is the business of development, causing investors and builders to jump for joy.

While the growth of the national economy is at its weakest in many years, Miami's economy is booming. And that could mean high prices for the traveler. It's still possible to experience Miami on about \$90 a day – \$60 for a room in a hostel, \$20 on a combo of diner and take-out food with the rest spent on drinks and/or transport – but the reality is that you will be tempted to spend quite a bit more to truly enjoy your time here. Depending on the location and the time of year, a nice hotel room is going to cost you at least \$120, with popular South Beach midrange haunts going for closer to \$170 to \$250. On the high end of the spectrum, expect to pay anywhere from \$400 to \$1000 a night. Then there's food. The preponderance of ethnic cuisines, delis and diners means that it is possible to find dinner for as little as \$10 – but once you throw in ambience and alcohol, you'll find it's \$10 just for your glass of wine and at least \$25 per person for the food. Other costly activities will seduce you as well: nightclubbing, with entrance fees of about \$20 and cocktails that cost about \$10 apiece; bicycling, with rentals averaging \$20 daily; sky's-the-limit shopping; children's attractions such as the Seaquarium (p93); and live entertainment and sporting events, where ticket prices can cost anywhere from \$15 to \$100 or more. Expect to spend about \$200 a week on a rental car – more if it's peak tourist season.

HOW MUCH?

Gallon of gas:	\$3.40
8oz bottle of water:	\$2.50
Martini:	\$11
Bottle of Bud:	\$3–5
Souvenir T-shirt:	\$10
Cuban sandwich:	\$5
Sunscreen:	\$9
Club admission:	\$20
Oceanfront hotel room:	\$300
Car rental: per week	\$200

Bargain seekers, take note: while museums do charge entrance fees, usually around \$5, many have free days or hours, including the Bass Museum of Art (p51; 6pm until 9pm second Thursday of the month), the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (p69; Sunday) and the Miami Art Museum (p70; Sunday).

Expect prices to generally be a bit cheaper in the Keys, especially when it comes to lodging and dining (although top-end restaurants, while not as ubiquitous as they are in Miami, charge much the same rates). Unfortunately, because the Keys are islands, certain staples like water and gasoline can cost a dollar or so more than they do on the mainland.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Miami Herald (www.herald.com) The best stop for local and regional news.

Miami Beach 411 (www.miamibeach411.com) A great guide for Miami Beach visitors, covering just about all concerns.

Miami Today News (www.miamitodaynews.com) An excellent online source for business and other daily updates.

City Search (www.miami.citysearch.com) Particularly useful for finding detailed nightlife and dining reviews, often with photos.

Miami New Times (www.newtimes.com) Alternative coverage with an activist bent.

Sun Post (www.miamisunpost.com) This new newspaper gives in-depth coverage of a lot of stories the mainstream media seems to miss.

Cool Junkie (www.cooljunkie.com/miami) A must for trendies, with info on nightclubs, fashion and more.

Mango & Lime (www.mangoandlime.net) The best local food blog is always ahead of the curve on eating events in the Magic City.

Meatless Miami (www.meatlessmiami.com) Vegetarians in need of an eating guide: look no further.

Miami Nights (www.miaminights.com) Get a good, opinionated down low on Miami's ever-shifting after-dark scene.

Art Circuits (www.artcircuits.com) The best insider info on art events; includes excellent neighborhood-by-neighborhood gallery maps.

Three Guys From Miami (www.3guysfrommiami.com) An amusing, insightful visitor's guide to Miami by, you guessed it, three local guys who offer a good Cuban-American perspective on their hometown.