

Port Description

Miami, Florida, USA



Docking location:

Crystal Symphony is scheduled to dock in the port of Miami, Terminal J.

Distance to town:

Distance to downtown is approximately a 15 minutes walk from the pier.

Local Crystal Cruises' Port Representative:

Barwil Agencies, 8030 N.W. 77th Court, Suite 7, Medley, Florida 33166
Phone: (305) 883-3829, (305) 586-4803.

Exchange Rate:

The local currency is the U.S. dollar. All major credit cards are widely accepted.

Shopping:

Shopping includes the Miami Arts and Design District and Bayside Marketplace, set along the edge of Biscayne Bay.

Shuttle Bus:

A shuttle bus is not necessary. Downtown is within walking distance from the pier.

Taxis:

Metered taxis are available on the pier.

It has the largest city population in Florida, is the third most visited American city among international travelers and showcases an Art Deco Historic District encompassing one of the largest neighborhoods entered on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. Miami certainly boasts its share of impressive characteristics, even before adding to the list its gorgeous beaches, spirited Cuban population and ritzy enclaves of Coral Gables and Coconut Grove. Miami wasn't always the glamorous and energetic city you see today. Until the late 1800s, it was mostly swamp, disconnected from the rest of the country thanks to its position on the edge of the continent and lack of the essential link of the day: a railroad. All that changed in 1896, when the railroad in northern Florida was extended to the latent tropical paradise of the south.

The rest, as they say, is history, as Miami has since seen recurrent booms fueled by surges of immigration, perennially good weather and an insouciant refusal to do anything halfway. Admire the full glory of Miami Beach with a stroll along South Beach's famous Ocean Boulevard, where splendidly restored art deco buildings compete with fashion models and sun worshipers for attention. For a taste of Cuban cuisine and culture, visit Little Havana on the mainland (Miami Beach is separate both in its municipality and its geography: it sits on a barrier island four miles off the coast, and is reached by a causeway). Also outside mainland Miami are the acres of rare tropical plants nurtured to their fragrant and beautiful best in Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The aforementioned slice of heaven known as Coral Gables lies to the southwest. A gem of 1920s city planning, the city unfurls impressive boulevards and features the alluring Venetian Pool, where waterfalls and underwater caves offer the chance for a uniquely refreshing dip.

Miami Art Museum at the Miami-Dade Cultural Center

The Miami Art Museum (MAM) features an eclectic mix of modern and contemporary works by such artists as Eric Fischl, Max Beckmann, Jim Dine, and Stuart Davis. Rotating exhibitions span the ages and styles, and often focus on Latin American or Caribbean artists. There are also fantastic themed exhibits such as the Andy Warhol exhibit, which featured all-night films by the artist, make-your-own pop art, cocktail hours, and parties with local DJs. The Miami-Dade Cultural Center, where the museum is housed, is a fortress-like complex designed by Phillip Johnson. In addition to the acclaimed Miami Art Museum, the center houses the main branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library, which sometimes features art and cultural exhibits, and the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, which highlights the fascinating history of the area. *Located at 101 West Flagler St. Open: Tuesday to Friday 10am-5pm; third Thursday of each month 10am-9pm; Saturday & Sunday 12noon-5pm. Closed on Mondays.*

Miami Metro Zoo

Miami Metro zoo's beginning can be traced back to a small island off the coast of Miami. The Crandon Park Zoo, located on Key Biscayne, was created in 1948 when three monkeys, one goat and two black bears were purchased for \$270 from a small road show stranded near Miami. The animal collection grew to around 1,200 animals, resulting in the Crandon Park Zoo being ranked among the top 25 zoos in the United States. The zoo received worldwide recognition for the first successful captive birth and rearing of an armadillo in 1967. The zoo received a pair of Asian elephants in 1967. In 1968, the Crandon Park Zoo received a white tiger, only the second of its kind to be brought into the United States. In 1965, Hurricane Betsy put three feet of water over most of the zoo and caused the deaths of 250 animals. After the devastation of Hurricane Betsy in 1965, there was frequent talk of a new zoo for Dade County. However, no serious planning was done until 1970. Recently opened exhibits include the Andean Condor (1999), the Meerkats (2000), the Cuban Crocodiles (2001), Squirrel Monkeys (2001) and an indoor facility, "Dr. Wilde's World," in which traveling zoological exhibits are to be housed. *Located at Zoo Boulevard, 12400 SW, 152 St., Miami. Open daily 9:30am-5:30pm (ticket booth closes at 4pm).*

Shopping

Located across Biscayne Bay from the mainland, shopping here includes the Bal Harbour shops and the trendy Lincoln Road Mall. Downtown Miami shopping includes The Miami Arts and Design District and Bayside Marketplace, set along the edge of Biscayne Bay. If you are in the mood for a little light shopping and sightseeing then Bayside Marketplace is the spot for you. Sandwiched between Biscayne Bay and busy downtown Miami, the Bayside Marketplace is located on 16 waterfront acres and is one of South Florida's top attractions for easy to please tourists. Known for its international flavor, Bayside boasts more than 100 specialty shops, an assortment of dining experiences, live entertainment daily and boat tours around the famous Star Island.

Port Descriptions are provided to our guests compliments of the Crystal Adventures shore excursions staff. Information is intended as a guideline only and cannot be guaranteed by Crystal Cruises in any way.