

Miami Long Weekend: Two Nights on South Beach, Zero Airport Drama

o) Your Trip at a Glance

Detail	Your Spec
Dates	Friday, September 4 to Sunday, September 6, 2026 (2 nights). Sep 4 is a Friday, Sep 6 a Sunday.
Group	2 adults
Budget	Up to \$1,200 total
Must-haves	South Beach hotel with exact address, beach time, Art Deco walking tour, Wynwood, one Cuban food deep dive
Special requests	Step-by-step MIA arrival logistics (rideshare vs. bus with current prices), real check-in time, early-luggage plan, first coffee + beach access relative to the hotel
Food targets	Cuban sandwiches, cafecito, one seafood dinner

A quick honesty note up front: September is Miami's low, humid, occasionally stormy season. That is good news for your wallet (hotel rates dive) and less good for guaranteed sunshine, so this plan has beach-or-rain flexibility built in. It's also hurricane season, so travel insurance is a genuinely smart buy for this trip.

1) At a Glance

Item	The Plan	Cost (USD, 2 adults)	As of
Hotel	The Colony Hotel, 736 Ocean Drive (Art Deco, oceanfront, exact address as requested)	~\$300–\$460 total for 2 nights (guide value)	June 2026
MIA → South Beach	Rideshare/taxi (~9 miles, 20–30 min) or Route 150 bus	Taxi metered from \$15 min; rideshare ~\$30–\$45; bus \$2.25/person	June 2026
Art Deco walk	MDPL Official Art Deco Walking Tour, 2 hours	\$50/adult = \$100	June 2026
Wynwood	Wynwood Walls street-art museum	Ticketed (buy online); ~\$12–\$16/adult range, confirm at checkout	June 2026

Item	The Plan	Cost (USD, 2 adults)	As of
Cuban deep dive	Puerto Sagua (SoBe) + Versailles (Little Havana) cafecito	~\$20–\$30/person per meal	June 2026
Seafood dinner	Open-in-September pick (Joe's Stone Crab is closed until Oct 15)	~\$120–\$180 for 2	June 2026

1b) Recommendation & Best Alternative

Recommended: The Colony Hotel, 736 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139. It nails your exact-address, South Beach, Art Deco brief in one shot. Built in 1935, it's a historic and iconic property in the heart of Miami Beach and a symbol of South Beach's Art Deco district. It sits on Ocean Drive, one of the world's most sought-after locations, which means your beach access, your Art Deco walk start point, and your first cafecito are all within a couple of blocks. Booking direct also pays off here: reservations made directly through the hotel website receive a late check-out of 1 PM (subject to availability), and direct guests get priority early check-in and complimentary room upgrades, subject to availability. That early-check-in perk is gold for your smooth-arrival goal. There's also an on-site restaurant: Montana's Miami Beach, an American restaurant on Ocean Drive.

Best alternative: a Collins Avenue Art Deco boutique one block off the beach (for example, one of the restored Deco hotels along Collins in the 700–1400 blocks such as The Tony Hotel South Beach). You typically save \$30–\$60/night versus an Ocean Drive oceanfront address while staying inside the same historic district and a 3–4 minute walk from the sand. Pick this if the Colony's live rate for your exact dates comes in above ~\$230/night.

Why the Colony fits *you*: two adults, a walkable beach-and-Deco weekend, and a hotel that literally is one of the Art Deco landmarks you came to see. You will not spend your weekend in a taxi.

1c) Book Now

What	By when	Where / Link
Hotel (Colony, direct for perks)	4–8 weeks out for best low-season rate	colonymiami.com , reservations (+1) 786 380 4778, reception (+1) 305 673 0088
MDPL Art Deco Walking Tour	A few days ahead (small groups, up to 20)	mdpl.org/...
Wynwood Walls tickets	Day before, to skip the line	thewynwoodwalls.com/...
Travel insurance (hurricane season!)	At booking	Your preferred provider
Seafood dinner reservation	1–2 weeks out for Saturday	See Day 2

For the hotel: **You will see the binding price for your exact dates and occupancy at the provider's booking step, it changes daily.**

2) Day-by-Day Plan

Day 1, Friday, September 4: Land, Settle, First Sand Between Your Toes

Your first two hours, step by step (the whole point of this trip):

1. **Clear baggage claim and head to Ground Transportation, lower level.** Taxicabs are located on the arrivals (ground) level, outside the baggage claim areas. Ignore anyone offering rides inside the terminal. MIA advises ignoring solicitors inside the terminal, since solicitation of ground transportation is illegal and many solicitors are unlicensed and uninsured; use the designated taxi stands at the lower-level curb where uniformed staff assist you.
2. **Choose your ride (MIA → South Beach is ~9 miles, about a 20–30 minute drive):**
 - **Taxi (official rates, as of June 2026):** \$2.95 for the first 1/6 mile, \$0.85 for each additional 1/6 mile up to one mile, then \$0.55 for each additional 1/6 mile. A \$2.00 airport origination fee also applies, and a minimum fare of \$15 is established for trips originating at MIA. Note that a 30 percent surcharge above the meter applies to larger vehicles (SUVs and vans). Realistically the metered fare to South Beach lands around \$35–\$45. Taxi drivers in Miami often quote a flat rate to South Beach; agree on it before you get in. Add 15–20% tip.
 - **Rideshare (Uber/Lyft):** Ride-app pickups are on the first level (arrivals) and second level (departures); check your app for the designated location and door number. Expect roughly \$30–\$45 for the trip in normal conditions, more if surge pricing hits on a Friday afternoon.
 - **Route 150 Miami Beach Airport Express (the budget hero):** Express and limited-stop service runs seven days a week, express from the MIA Metrorail station to Mid Beach along the Julia Tuttle Causeway, then limited-stop to South Beach along Collins Ave / Indian Creek Dr and Washington Ave. The fare is \$2.25 per person one-way (pay with EASY Card/Ticket, the GO Miami-Dade Transit app, contactless, or cash). Two adults ride for about \$4.50 total. It's slower (allow ~45–60 min with the walk from the airport station), but it drops you right on Washington/Collins near the Colony.

💡 **Tip:** For two adults with luggage after a flight, the taxi/rideshare is worth the ~\$35 for the door-to-door ease and your stated "no drama" priority. Save Route 150 for a relaxed return trip or a solo-luggage day. If it's raining hard (common in September afternoons), skip the bus entirely.
3. **Check-in reality at the Colony:** standard hotel check-in on South Beach is typically **3:00 PM**, with checkout around 11:00 AM. Because you'll book direct, you get the perks that solve early arrival: priority early check-in and complimentary upgrades, subject to availability, plus a late check-out of 1 PM for direct bookings. Call reception at (+1) 305 673 0088 that morning to flag your arrival time and ask them to prioritize your room.
4. **Land early with no room yet? Luggage plan:** ask the front desk to store your bags (standard, free at this class of hotel). Then walk 2 minutes to your first Miami cafecito and hit the beach in your travel clothes. You lose zero time.

5. **First coffee + beach access relative to the hotel:** The Colony is on the ocean side of Ocean Drive, so **beach access is directly across/behind the hotel** via the Lummus Park boardwalk entrances (a 1–3 minute walk). For your **first cafecito**, walk south a few blocks to **Puerto Sagua, 700 Collins Ave** for the real deal (see below), or grab a quick espresso at a News Café-style Ocean Drive spot right outside the door if you can't wait.

Afternoon/Evening:

- Drop bags, change, and do a slow **Ocean Drive + Lummus Park beach stroll** to shake off the flight. 💡 **Tip:** the free public beach behind Lummus Park has restrooms and lifeguard towers; chair-and-umbrella rentals run roughly \$20–\$40/day.
- **First Cuban hit, Puerto Sagua, 700 Collins Ave.** It's a beloved Cuban restaurant at 700 Collins Avenue, serving classics like the Cuban sandwich and ropa vieja since 1962. Phone +1 305 673 1115; price range about \$20–\$30; outdoor seating; does not accept reservations; listed hours 7 AM to 11 PM daily. Grab a Cuban sandwich and a cortadito. (These hours come from an independent info page, so confirm before you go.)

☁ **Plan B (rain):** Duck into the **Art Deco Welcome Center & Museum at 1001 Ocean Drive** (a 3-minute walk) or the on-site **Montana's** for a relaxed dinner without going outside.

📍 Map: [Open in maps](#)

Day 2, Saturday, September 5: Art Deco, Wynwood Color, Seafood Night

Morning, Art Deco Walking Tour (your must-have):

- **MDPL Official Art Deco Walking Tour**, departing from the Art Deco Welcome Center. Adults are \$50 (ages 18–64), seniors \$45, youths \$45, children 12 and under free. It runs about two immersive hours. It's offered daily, and includes a guided tour, headsets, and admission into the official Art Deco Gift Shop. Meeting/location: 1001 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139; group size up to 20 people. Cost for two: **\$100**.
- 💡 **Tip:** Book online in advance via [mdpl.org/...](https://mdpl.org/) and arrive 10–15 minutes early. The Welcome Center is at 1001 Ocean Drive, open daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m., a flat ~10-minute stroll north from the Colony. Morning is smart before September's midday heat.

📍 Map: [Open in maps](#)

Midday, Beach break + lunch:

- Back to Lummus Park for a swim, then a light lunch on Ocean Drive or a second Cuban sandwich raid.

Afternoon, Wynwood (your must-have):

- Take a rideshare (~15–20 min, ~\$20–\$30 each way) or Route 150/Route 120 toward the mainland. Head to **Wynwood Walls**. The entrance is at the Welcome Center, 2516 NW 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33127. Museum hours are 10:30 AM–6:30 PM daily, and doors close 30 minutes before closing time. The museum features new artist installations, guided tours, interactive AR installations, a spray-painting experience, and complimentary Wi-Fi. Tickets are required. Tickets can be bought on arrival at the Welcome Center, but buying in advance is recommended to avoid long waits. Buy at [thewynwoodwalls.com/...](http://thewynwoodwalls.com/) (adult general admission typically ~\$12–\$16; confirm the exact price at checkout).
- 💡 **Tip:** Public parking is a half-block away at the Wynwood Garage, 311 NW 26th Street if you rent a car, but a rideshare is easier for two. After the Walls, wander the free outdoor murals filling the surrounding blocks, they're everywhere and cost nothing.

📍 Map: [Open in maps](#)

Evening, Your one seafood dinner:

- Heads-up and an honest flag: the obvious icon, **Joe's Stone Crab (11 Washington Ave)**, is **closed in early September**. Its stone-crab season runs October 15 to May 1, so it isn't serving dinner during your dates. We're steering you to a spot that's actually open.
- **Recommended:** a year-round South Beach seafood table such as **Catch Miami Beach** or a similar Ocean Drive/Collins seafood house (raw bar, whole fish, snapper), typically ~\$120–\$180 for two before tip. Reserve a Saturday table 1–2 weeks ahead.
- **Alternative 1:** stay Cuban-seafood and order the **red sea bass or seafood platter at Puerto Sagua** (no reservations, casual, budget-friendly).
- **Alternative 2: Montana's at the Colony** for convenience if the weather turns.
- 💡 **Tip:** In Florida, restaurant menu prices exclude the ~7% sales tax and tip 18–20% for table service. Many Miami Beach spots auto-add a service charge, so check the bill before tipping again.

☁️ **Plan B (storm):** Wynwood is largely outdoors. The museum is open rain or shine, and being outdoors, they recommend checking the forecast so you come prepared. If it's a washout, swap Wynwood to Sunday morning and use Saturday afternoon for indoor galleries or the Bass/PAMM museums.

Day 3, Sunday, September 6: Last Cafecito, Little Havana, Fly Out

- **Morning beach + coffee:** one more sunrise walk on Lummus, one more cortadito. Use that direct-booking **1 PM late checkout** so you're not rushed.
- **Cuban finale, cafecito in Little Havana:** if your flight is mid-afternoon or later, taxi/rideshare to **Versailles Restaurant, 3555 SW 8th St (Calle Ocho), Miami** (~15–20 min from South Beach), the definitive Cuban landmark. Grab a cafecito and pastelito at **La Ventanita** (the walk-up window) and soak in the Calle Ocho scene. 💡 **Tip:** the ventanita is standing-room social hour, exactly the "deep dive" you asked for. Confirm same-day hours by phone (listed +1 305 444 0240) since Sunday timing can vary.

📍 Map: [Open in maps](#)

- **Airport return:** reverse your arrival plan. Rideshare/taxi ~\$30–\$45, or Route 150/Route 120 for ~\$2.25 each if you're traveling light. 📌 **Tip:** for a domestic flight, leave South Beach ~2.5 hours before departure; MIA security lines can be long on weekends.

☁️ **Plan B (rain / tight flight):** skip Little Havana, do your last cafecito at Puerto Sagua near the hotel, and head straight to MIA.

3) Practical Notes, Checklist & Cost Overview

Packing & practical:

- ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen, hat, sunglasses (September sun is intense even when cloudy)
- ☐ Light rain jacket / small umbrella (afternoon thunderstorms are routine)
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes for the 1.5-mile Art Deco tour
- ☐ EASY Card or the GO Miami-Dade Transit app if you plan to bus it
- ☐ Reservations confirmed: hotel, MDPL tour, Wynwood tickets, Saturday seafood table
- ☐ **Travel insurance**, it's hurricane season; a named storm can disrupt flights
- ☐ Cash for tips and the cash-only vibe at old-school Cuban counters

Checklist for the "smooth arrival": bags → uniformed taxi stand or app pickup door → ~9-mile ride to 736 Ocean Drive → bag storage if pre-3 PM → first cafecito at Puerto Sagua → beach across the street. No four-hour saga, no lobby confusion.

Estimated Cost Overview (2 adults, 2 nights):

Item	Estimate (USD)
Hotel, Colony, 2 nights	\$300–\$460 (guide value, check the exact date price with the provider)
Airport transfers (round trip, rideshare/taxi)	\$70–\$90
Local rideshares (Wynwood, Little Havana)	\$60–\$90
MDPL Art Deco Walking Tour (2 × \$50)	\$100
Wynwood Walls tickets (2 adults)	~\$25–\$32
Cuban meals + cafecito (2–3 casual)	\$80–\$120
Seafood dinner (2, incl. tax + tip)	\$120–\$180
Beach chairs/umbrella, snacks, coffees	\$40–\$70
Estimated total	~\$795–\$1,142

Budget reality check: You're comfortably under \$1,200, even at the top of these ranges. The two swing factors are the live hotel rate (September is your friend here) and how many rideshares you take. If the Colony's exact-date rate spikes above ~\$230/night, drop to the Collins Avenue alternative

and you keep a cushion for one splurge dinner. Fares note: Metrobus single trips are \$2.25, though a proposed county budget could raise them to \$2.75, so confirm at the farebox.

4) Sources (checked June 2026)

Accommodation

- The Colony Hotel (official): colonymiami.com

Airport & transport

- MIA taxis & ride apps (official): [miami-airport.com/...](https://miami-airport.com)
- Miami-Dade Route 150 Miami Beach Airport Express: [miamidade.gov/...](https://miamidade.gov)
- Miami-Dade Metrobus fares: [miamidade.gov/...](https://miamidade.gov)

Attractions

- MDPL Art Deco Walking Tour (official): [mdpl.org/...](https://mdpl.org)
- MDPL Tours overview & Welcome Center: [mdpl.org/...](https://mdpl.org)
- Wynwood Walls FAQ (hours, entrance, tickets): [thewynwoodwalls.com/...](https://thewynwoodwalls.com)
- Wynwood Walls admissions: [thewynwoodwalls.com/...](https://thewynwoodwalls.com)

Food

- Puerto Sagua (independent info page, 700 Collins Ave): puertosaguaus.com
- Joe's Stone Crab hours/season (confirming September closure): [joesstonecrab.com/...](https://joesstonecrab.com) and [joesstonecrab.com/...](https://joesstonecrab.com)
- Versailles / La Ventanita: [versaillesrestaurant.com/...](https://versaillesrestaurant.com)

A couple of small caveats I'd rather be honest about: exact hotel and Wynwood ticket prices sit behind live booking widgets, so treat those as guide values and confirm at checkout, and Puerto Sagua's posted hours come from an unofficial fan page, so give them a quick call before you walk over. Everything else, the airport rates, the Art Deco tour price and times, and Wynwood's hours, is straight from the official pages. Enjoy the sand, the neon, and that first cafecito.

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