FOUR PERFECT DAYS WITH THE FAMILY AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON, SOUTH BEACH

“He carved a great city out of a jungle.”
—Inscription on monument dedicated to Carl Fischer, the founder of Miami Beach

Day 1

Begin your Miami vacation with a visit to Everglades National Park. There is no better way to experience this unique environment than with an airboat ride to journey deep into the wilderness. Available at Everglades Safari Park, you also have the opportunity to see an alligator show or pet an actual alligator, the official ‘king of the everglades.’

After an adventurous day of exploring South Florida’s unique landscape, return to The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach for some relaxation by the pool or at the beach. If the kids still have energy to burn, take a walk along South Beach to discover the beach’s unique lifeguard stands. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew destroyed many of the city’s lifeguard stands and Architect William Lane was commissioned for the colorful, futuristic replacements. Make sure to grab a family photo at your favorite!

Day 2

Dedicate your second day in paradise to relaxation, South Beach style. Lounge by the pool and beach, or have lunch at Dilido Beach Club. Next, head to South Pointe Park, the exact spot where the Atlantic Ocean meets Biscayne Bay. Surrounded by water on three sides, the park offers vast lawns for games, a playground, mini waterpark and observation deck. Return to the resort via Ocean Drive (arguably Miami’s most famous street) to take in the colorful buildings of the Art Deco Historic District, a must-see on any Miami visit.

If your visit falls between October and May, don’t miss Joe’s Stone Crab for an excellent dinner and a great taste of Miami history. Joe Weiss arrived to Miami in 1913 and opened a friendly lunch counter at the beach. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Joe’s was the only restaurant on the beach. When they began serving the previously untouched stone crabs found in the bay, anyone well known who came to Miami Beach would stop at Joe’s (famous diners include Al Capone, will Rogers, Amelia Earhart, British royalty and J. Edgar Hoover, to name a few.) Plan your visit on the early side-reservations are not accepted. Even if your visit falls in the off season, Joe’s Takeaway can still give you a taste of the Miami Beach legend that is Joe’s Stone Crab.
Day 3
Following breakfast, head to downtown Miami to take in a bit of the vibrant museum scene. Kids of all ages will love the Philip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science. Opportunities for learning and entertainment are endless, but don’t miss the three-level aquarium and the 250-seat planetarium for a glimpse into outer space in one of the country’s most advanced planetariums. If visiting on a Friday, take in the laser light show under the 67-foot dome! Before leaving the museum, stop and enjoy the panoramic views of Biscayne Bay from outside.

Next, head to lunch in Brickell to get a glimpse at one of Miami’s hottest new neighborhoods. Stroll the luxury shops at the alfresco Brickell City Centre, then stop for lunch at one of many hip and colorful restaurants. For families, we like Tacology, a vibrant-Mexican style market, or American Harvest for fantastic healthy and vegetarian options.

Following lunch, take the short drive to Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, a magnificent waterfront Renaissance-style villa whose history is as deep as its beauty. A great example of extravagance in Miami’s early years (it cost the modern-day equivalent of between $388 million and $8.7 billion dollars to build,) Vizcaya was the personal home of James Deering, a retired millionaire, beginning in 1916. Take a quick tour of the house, then let the kids burn some energy in the labyrinth and maze. Don’t miss the limestone breakwater that sits right in the bay, shaped like an oversized Venetian barge and perfect for a sunset family photo!

Day 4
Take half the day for yourself. Sign the kids up for a half day Ritz Kids program and hit The Ritz-Carlton Spa, South Beach for some true relaxation with a massage, facial or body treatment.

After lunch, drive or take a taxi to the Wynwood Walls, a free outdoor museum with large scale street art in one of the city’s many burgeoning neighborhoods. Little aspiring artists will love the color, creativity and capturing the perfect photo in front of one of the larger-than-life backdrops. For a sweet treat, stop at the Salty Donut, an acclaimed artisan donut shop offering everything from traditional glazed buttermilk to maple and bacon and white chocolate tres leches.

For another dose of culture that the kids will love, immerse yourself in the Cuban culture that is so integral in the city’s cultural fabric with a visit to Calle Ocho in Miami’s Little Havana. Wander the streets, then catch some live music and peruse the vintage concert posters at Ball & Chain. Next, head next door to Azucar Ice Cream Company, widely known as some of Miami’s best, offering the authentic flavors of Cuba in frozen form. Try the café con leche, platano Maduro (sweet plantain) or the famous Abuela María, a vanilla-based take on Cuba’s favorite afternoon snack, with guava paste, cream cheese and tea biscuits.

If your kids are younger or prefer an adventure, head to Miami’s Jungle Island, an eco-adventure park where they can meet and interact with some of nature’s most amazing creatures. From animal shows to zip lining, the opportunities for fun are endless.
REFERENCES

Everglades National Park | Website

Everglades Safari Park | Website
26700 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33194; 305-226-6923

South Pointe Park | Website
1 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Art Deco Historic District | Website
1001 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139 (Welcome Center); 305.531.3484

Joe’s Stone Crab | Website
11 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139; 305-673-0365

Patricia & Philip Frost Museum of Science | Website
1101 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33132; 305-434-9600

Brickell City Centre | Website
701 S Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33131; 305-350-9922

Tacology | Website
4th Brickell City Centre, 701 S Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33131; 786-347-5368

American Harvest | Website
Brickell City Centre, 701 S Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33131; 786-814-6968

Vizcaya Museum & Gardens | Website
3251 S Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129; 305-250-9133

The Wynwood Walls | Website
2520 NW Second Avenue, Miami, FL 33127

Ball & Chain | Website
1513 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33135; 305-643-7820

Azuca Ice Cream Company | Website
1503 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33135; 305-381-0369

Jungle Island | Website
1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami, FL 33132; 305-400-7000