AMERICANCENTER

Miami, Florida: Discover Diversity and Delight of "Magic City"

U.S. Cities

Tropical paradise by day and urban playground by night, Miami is a city that knows how to have a good time. While many flock to Miami for its sparkling beaches and sizzling nightlife, it is the culture, couture and culinary delights that keep them coming back.

Whether rollerblading past the fabulous Art Deco hotels on Collins Avenue or biting into a fresh Cubano sandwich on Calle Ocho in Little Havana, you are sure to be swept away by the intoxicating delights of the "Magic City."

Then and Now

Miami has been home to sun-loving people for more than 10,000 years. Before Pedro Menéndez de Avilés claimed the area for Spain in 1565, the Native American tribe Tequestas inhabited the land. The city was officially incorporated in 1896, though its population at the time was only around 300.

The Roaring '20s saw growth in Miami, though a destructive 1926 hurricane followed by the Great Depression significantly slowed the city's progress. Miami experienced population booms following World War II and after 1959, when Fidel Castro's rise to power led many Cubans to immigrate to the United States.

Other benchmarks in Miami's history include:

• 1513 – Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León becomes the first European to set eyes on the area now known as Miami-Dade County when he lands in Biscayne Bay. He dubs the area *Chequescha*.
• 1821 – After controlling the Miami area for nearly 250 years, Spain sells Florida — Miami and all — to the United States for the equivalent of $5 million.
• 1891 – Julia Tuttle purchases land along Biscayne Bay to become Fort Dallas in what is now downtown Miami. According to historian Paul S. George, Tuttle proclaimed in a moment of foresight that a great city would someday arise in the area and would become a center of trade with the Americas.
• 1972 – Florida International University is founded in western Miami-Dade County, asserting Miami's place in the field of higher education in the United States.
• 1979 – Everglades National Park, an hour's drive from Miami, is named a World Heritage Site.
• 2003 – Miami hosts negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Fortunately, getting to Miami is as easy as a walk on the beach, with Miami International Airport — the largest U.S. gateway for Latin America and the Caribbean — offering flights from destinations all over the world. Once you've landed, you can get around town in a flash using DecoBike, one of the bike-sharing programs that are becoming popular in the United States.

The Arts to the Everglades

From sunning and surfing to dinner and dancing, Miami has something to keep you entertained.

While away the day on the beachfront watching the beautiful people parade down Miami's pastel-colored Ocean Drive. When you're ready for some shade, check out latest trends in fashion and art in the chic streets of South Beach. For an evening of sophisticated entertainment, head downtown where you can catch the Miami City Ballet, the Florida Grand Opera and the New World Symphony, all in the Arsht Center for Performing Arts.

Need to stretch your legs? Miami's environs offer some of the most fabulous

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The American Center
C-49, G Block, B. K. C., Bandra East Mumbai – 400051 Tel: 022-2672-4024
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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

H O L I D A Y S

July 4 - Independence Day

AMERICAN CENTER
Mumbai

Mumbai Mondays

Theme of the month: Travel & Tourism

By Richard Zelinsky

Tourism today is one of the most dynamic and exciting sectors of the service economy. Creating a positive and unique experience for tourists is a challenge that demands creativity and research. Join the U.S. Consulate for a candid and engaging discussion on some of the biggest trends affecting the industry today.

Richard Zielinski has been a member of the Foreign Service since 2013. Since 2006 he has owned a tour company that now operates in six East Coast U.S. cities. He has worked with many tour companies to improve customer experience. Richard is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of East Anglia.

Venue:

U.S. Consulate General,
C-49, G Block, Near Trident Hotel,
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051

Free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mobile phones and laptops are permitted for this event, but Bluetooth technology must be disabled. Cameras, memory storage devices, and other electronic equipment are not allowed. Photography and video recording in and around the Consulate compound is strictly prohibited.

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… continued from page 1

national parks and reserves in the country. You can go boating and scuba diving at Biscayne National Park, search for the elusive Florida panther in Big Cypress National Preserve, go island-hopping in Dry Tortugas National Park, or canoe through subtropical wilderness in Everglades National Park.

No matter what you are seeking, you are bound to find it in Miami: a diverse melting pot of people, cultures and character where the possibilities are as limitless as the imagination.

The People

Miami boasts the largest Latin American population outside of Latin America, with nearly 65 percent of its 400,000 residents claiming Latin American heritage. As you stroll through the streets of Miami's great neighborhoods, you can expect to hear Spanish, French, Portuguese and Haitian Creole, as well as English.

The Land

Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Florida Everglades on the west, Miami glitters from beach to boardroom, with even greater treasures to be discovered just outside the city limits. The Miami metropolitan area is long but narrow, running 180 kilometers from north to south but never more than 32 kilometers east to west.

The Climate

Due to its proximity to the equator, Miami enjoys a semitropical climate with average temperatures rarely dipping below 60 degrees Fahrenheit (16 Celsius) or exceeding 90 degrees (32). No matter where you live, chances are the weather is better in Miami.

Read more: http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/pamphlet/2012/09/20120921136397.html#ixzz2XDgsHPeW

WORD FROM THE CENTER

The Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Canyon, Golden Gate Bridge – how many of these iconic American sites have you seen? Even I am missing some, and sooner rather than later I must visit – and so should you!

Travel and tourism to the U.S. is an important way for India and the U.S. to expand both our cultural and commercial ties. In 2011, the U.S. welcomed over 660,000 visitors from India. From January to November 2012, we welcomed 677,868 visitors from India – a record. India is now poised to leap into the top 10 and cross 1 million visitors by 2015. Visitors from India and beyond enjoy all that America has to offer. Our cities, national parks, and museums are among the finest. Our cultural diversity, the vibrancy and openness of Americans, and our entrepreneurial spirit remain an inspiration for people around the world. The United States is a premier travel destination, and we hope more Indians will choose the U.S. for their holidays.

Not sure where to visit? Check out our American Library, where we are busily acquiring new books and materials on travel and tourism in the U.S. to help you plan your time there. Also check out our visa process: our new consulate building allows us to better serve visa applicants. With 40 visa interview windows, we are proud to note that most applicants spend under an hour at the Consulate. We have launched the Interview Waiver Program, which allows certain qualified applicants to renew their visas without coming in for an interview. The wait time for a visa appointment is only a few days, and the processing time for 95 percent of approved applicants is two days. We also now allow applicants to schedule an appointment six months in advance. There has never been a better time to check out the U.S.A.!

On a personal note, this is my final Word from the Center – my three years have just flown by! As many of you know, this was my second tour in Mumbai, with a collective eight years now spent in the Maximum City. There is an old folk saying "Never two without three," and I hope that proves true and I will someday be back in Mumbai once again. My next adventure is two years of Mandarin training (one in Washington, one in Beijing) followed by a posting as the Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Please look me up if you find yourself in my neck of the woods!

All the best,

Anne Grimes

Public Affairs Officer

AMERICANCENTER
MUMBAI

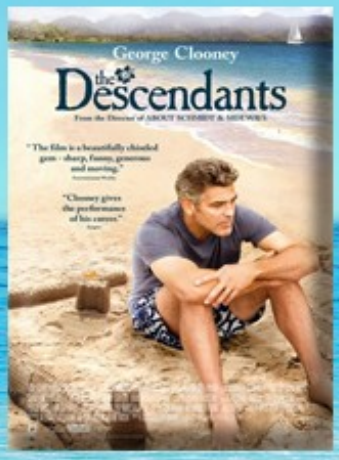
Saturday Film Screenings

Theme of the month-Travel and Tourism

July 20

The Descendants

(115 min, 2011)



A land baron tries to re-connect with his two daughters after his wife is seriously injured in a boating accident.

July 27

Moonrise Kingdom

(94 min, 2012)

A pair of young lovers flee their New England town, which causes a local search party to fan out and find them.

Screening will start at 2:00 pm

U.S. Consulate General,

C-49, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra-East, Mumbai-51

Free and open to the public, on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Mobile phones and laptops are permitted for this event, but Bluetooth technology must be disabled. Cameras, memory storage devices, and other electronic equipment are not allowed. Photography and video recording in and around the Consulate compound is strictly prohibited."

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Alumni Highlights

Empowering the Next Generation of Skilled Young Workers

PAS Mumbai hosted a two-day alumni workshop on Career Orientation and Job Interviewing Skills for young alumni and potential future alumni of various USG exchange programs, including CCI, YES, ACCESS, SUSI, and NEASA. Workshop trainer Sanjay Upendram guided 20 participants on how to prepare effective resumes and strong cover-letters and how to present themselves for interviews and presentations. PAS Mumbai tapped into senior alumni from IVLP programs to perform mock interviews with recorded feedback for the attendees in order to prepare them for the real world.

SOP and CCIP Alumni share their experiences at Pre-Departure Orientation

The Seeds of Peace (SOP) program brings youth from areas of conflict to its international camp in the state of Maine in the U.S. This year 12 students from 6 schools in Mumbai were selected for the program. The pre-departure orientation for the students was held on June 5 at the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai. Two SOP alumni, Neel Kapse and Priyanka Kamat shared their experiences with the selected candidates. .

The Community College Initiative (CCI) program provides a quality academic program at U.S. community colleges. The program also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement activities. This year 10 students from Mumbai, Aurangabad and Raipur were selected for the program. The pre-departure orientation for the students was held on June 24 at the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai. Two CCI alumni, Sarrah Dungerpurwala and Najmuddin Jaorawala shared their experiences with the selected candidates.

Alumni Highlight: Radio Talk Show for Farmers in Gujarat

IVLP alumnus and Ashoka Fellow, Biplab Paul has come up with a cost-effective and affordable solution to water scarcity that provides a reliable system of irrigation in Gujarat. Biplab's approach improves the lives of the rural poor through a unique participatory irrigation system based on rainwater harvesting. He was selected by the Gujarat government to give a talk as a solo speaker on a radio talk show program for farmers in May. On the talk show, Biplab spoke about their irrigation technology and process. The talk was a success with Biplab receiving telephone calls and queries from farmers and media houses. The Gujarat government has requested Biplab to expand the knowledge in other states.

Education USA
Supported by the U.S. Department of State

USIEF

Are you going to study in the US this Fall?

Attend a USIEF Pre-Departure Orientation

at World Trade Center, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400005
Friday, July 12th 2013, 9am-5pm
Saturday, July 20th, 2013 9am-5pm
(register for either of the two PDOs)

At the interactive USIEF pre-departure orientation, students who have been admitted to U.S. universities will learn:

- Make the most of the last month in India
    - Medical Insurance
    - How to make travel arrangements
- Visa / Traveling to the US / Port of entry
- US geography / climate / time-zones
- The first week on campus
    - How to use the International Student Office
- Cultural Differences in the US and How to Adapt to them
- Understanding academic life in the US
- Practical & useful information for living in the US Housing, managing your finances
- Safety and Security Measures Required in the US
- Quick Guides that You May Need in the US

At this event, you can also:

- Meet, interact and share conversations with other students going to the US
- Engage in discussions and special sessions on academic and social life in the US
- Participate in a cultural quiz and win gifts
- Receive information booklets, handouts and other materials
- Share a delicious lunch with other students in a stimulating and learning environment

Registration: Between May 1 and July 6, 2013. (9:30 am to 4:00 pm Mon to Sat) Documents required for registration: Copy of passport and I-20

For more information and registration, contact:
USIEF • 2nd Floor Maker Bhavan 1 Churchgate(East) Mumbai 400020
Tel: 022-2262 4603
Email: usiefmumbai@usief.org.in
www.Facebook.com/EducationUSAMumbai

EducationUSA.state.gov

Alumni Highlights

Are you an Alum of a USG sponsored program?

If so, register on the State Alumni website www.alumni.state.gov.

Once signed in, you can access content from State Alumni including:
1. Alumni Updates
2. Events
3. Grants database

If you are already registered, I would encourage you to log in, and post your own stories and events to these pages to share your accomplishments with other alumni, and network with them.

You may also share your stories with our Alumni Coordinator at AvariBK@state.gov / MumbaiPublicAffairs@state.gov

If you are an alumnus of a United States exchange program and have received special recognition, please send a write-up with 2-3 photos to mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov. You could be featured in future e-bulletins!

facebook | join our group

Alumni Group on Facebook

"The International Exchange Alumni - Western India" group has been created on Facebook. The group is for U.S. Government funded program alumni living in Western India. (The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai covers the following states in Western India: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Goa)
You may request to join the group: http://www.facebook.com/groups/170264503133421/

Memories of America Project:

Would you like to share your U.S. experience with others?

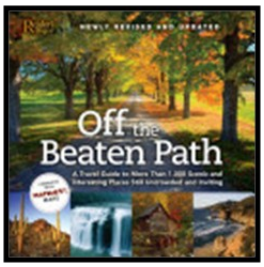
Many of you have wonderful memories of your exchange program in the United States. Here's your opportunity to share it widely in our "Memories of America" project!

An Alumni Flickr group has been created for U.S. exchange program participation. It is by-invite only so you must click on the link and request to join the group. Thereafter, upload 2-3 photographs with caption that best sum up your experience in the U.S. on your exchange program. Photographs that "show" America are preferred. The photographs will only be seen by alumni till July 4. On July 4 (American Independence Day), the Alumni Flickr album will be open for public view and the link to the same will be shared on the U.S. Consulate, Mumbai's Facebook page and promoted in our e-bulletin. .

Please post photos on: www.flickr.com/groups/memoriesofamerica/

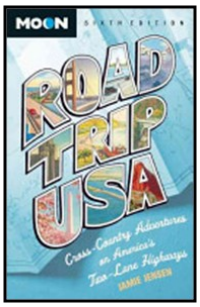
NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Recently added books on Travel & Tourism



Off the Beaten Path: a Travel Guide to More than 1,000 Scenic and Interesting Places Still Uncrowded and Inviting. Readers Digest Association, 2009.

Off the Beaten Path discovers America's hidden treasures with more than 1,000 of America's overlooked and unspoiled travel destinations. Packed with innovative ideas for quick day trips and memorable vacations for travelers of every temperament, penchant, and budget, *Off the Beaten Path* highlights natural marvels, historic homes and villages, wildlife preserves, ghost towns, and many more attractions that most travelers simply



Road Trip USA: Cross-Country Adventures on America's Two-Lane Highways by Jamie Jensen. Avalon Travel Publication, 2012

This book provides a comprehensive travel guide to the highways that crisscross America, and contains practical information and advice on accommodation, restaurants and attractions. A flexible network of route combinations, extensively cross-referenced to allow for hundreds of possible itineraries.

To read these and many more visit the

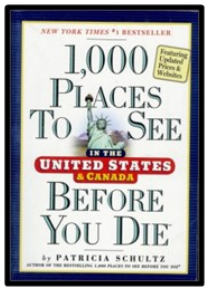
The American Library

Monday to Saturday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

022 - 26724231/ 4024

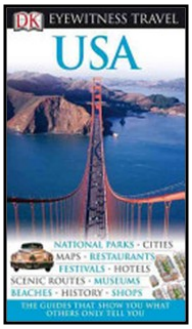
libref@state.gov

1,000 Places to See in the United States and Canada Before You Die *by Patricia Schultz. Workman Publishing, 2007.*



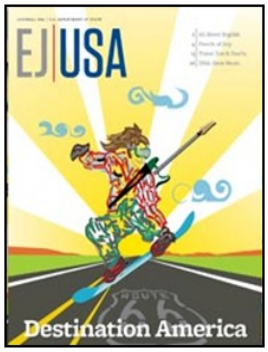
This book covers 1000 spectacular, compelling, essential, offbeat, utterly unforgettable places around the U.S.A and Canada. It gives continent – by – continent listing of places with addresses, phone numbers, websites, best time to visit and subject specific indexes.

USA by Jackie Finch et al. DK Publication, 2010.



The book USA gives you at a glance an overview of some of the main attractions and a brief history of the country. It provides tips on practical considerations while travelling to USA.

Electronic Journal USA (EJ|USA) **- Destination America**



This ejournal explores an America most people don't find until their second, or even third, visits. Plus sections on Leisure, Communities, Peace & Security, Education, Arts, Science, Marketplace and a Last Word.

EJ|USA are published every month by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs and examine major issues facing the United States and the international community, as well as U.S. society, values, thought, and institutions.

You may access the complete ejournal at the following URL

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/1307_EJ_Destination_America_English_Digital.pdf

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