

WHAT'S NEW IN 2022

In Miami, a Pandemic-Fueled Boom

A Michelin-starred Korean steakhouse, new public art installations and native-plant gardens under the Metrorail: Here is what's new in the Magic City.



The 266-room Good Time Hotel in South Beach, featuring a 30,000-square-foot pool club, is only one of many attractions and accommodations that has opened in Miami during the pandemic. Scott Baker for The New York Times

By Amy Tara Koch

July 7, 2022, 5:00 a.m. ET

Unlike many cities, Miami has boomed over the course of the pandemic. Thousands relocated to South Florida where restaurants, attractions and retail shops remained open, with Miami's tropical sparkle seemingly a panacea for life in lockdown.

"The pandemic caused Miami's stock value to go up," said Craig Robins, a real estate developer who has helped reinvigorate South Beach and other parts of the city in recent years. "In the Design District alone, there are eight new restaurants and two hotels under construction. This growth is happening throughout the city."

The number of visitors are booming too: For the week ending May 21, the number of air passengers transiting at Miami International Airport was 1,010,657, an increase of 20 percent from 841,892 recorded for the same period in 2019, according to STR, the hospitality benchmarking analysts. For the same week, hotel occupancy (or rooms sold) clocked in 345,091, a 14-percent rise from 301,648 booked in 2019.



The "Fly's Eye Dome," by R. Buckminster Fuller, can be seen in the Design District. Scott Baker for The New York Times

New art, shopping and urban greenery

Throughout the pandemic, the Design District neighborhood proved to be as much a cultural hub as a shopping destination. Locals and visitors flocked to the boutique-lined, 18-block area to view public art by Zaha Hadid, John Baldessari, Marc Newson and Buckminster Fuller. Beyond new shops, there are newly commissioned artworks to visit, including a window installation by the Argentine photographer Lucía Fainzilber, and two murals, "Interdimensional Portal," by the Afro-Brazilian muralist Criola, and "[Baltimore's finest: Mr. GirlYouCrazy and Dev, 2021-2022](#)," by Amani Lewis.



Ten miles of barren lands beneath the Metrorail system are being transformed into native-plant gardens.
Scott Baker for The New York Times

[The Underline](#), a civic project in Downtown Miami, is in the process of transforming 10 miles of barren lands beneath the Metrorail system into native-plant gardens. You can stroll from Miami River to S.W. 13th Avenue, taking in the cityscape and functional artworks like Cara Despain's terrazzo-topped Ping-Pong tables, which speak to rising sea levels.