

SERVING ATLANTA'S STYLISH NORTHSIDE SINCE 2000

POINTS NORTH

WWW.PTSNORTH.COM | MARCH 2010

INTO THE WEST

A Wild Ride
Through the
Booth Western
Art Museum

I'LL TOAST TO THAT

Sipping Burgundy
Wines & Atlanta's
Famed Mixologists

READY FOR SUNSHINE?

Traveling From Miami
to Key West and Beyond

10
POINTS NORTH

t

TRAVEL
Miami to Key West

Party Hopping

Cruising the Scenic Drive from Miami Beach to Key West

[WRITTEN BY JULIE HOSTETTER]

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS MOST EXCITED about when we landed in Miami. Was it the chic, South Beach vibe I was about to immerse myself into or was it the thrill of hopping into a blue convertible to later journey to Key West? Either way, there is just something about these two Florida locales that feel as though you are discovering a new world. Miami rocks to a Cuban beat while women dressed to kill and men topped with fedoras stroll the scene and Key West pulses with a laid-back party tune made famous by the man from Margaritaville. There was one thing for sure; we were headed for a wild ride.

Sizzling in Miami

My husband and I enjoy having some fun, but we equally enjoy savoring our vacations with a bit of R & R. I know, it's hard to imagine a relaxing time in the hotbed of Miami's sizzling nightclub district; however, we found an oasis at The Betsy hotel. This boutique luxury hotel rests at the very end of Ocean Drive, offering a dreamily quiet stay in the trendy Art Deco district within an easy stroll to happening nightclubs and outdoor restaurants.

The grand white façade of this historic building glimmers like a pearl in the sand, and harks back to the



glory days of old Miami without losing its modern-day fashion sense, for which this area is so well known. It is the last surviving structure of Florida Georgian architecture left on Ocean Drive, and was recently renovated to return it to its former glory. Step inside and understated luxury and a lush tropical interior greet you like a cool, tall glass of water spritzed with lemon. A private courtyard pool offers a retreat from the fiery heat, and if that isn't refreshing enough, just wait until you enter one of the 63 rooms. Crisp white bedding and walls are punctuated by vibrant colors such as burnt orange, calming green, soft lavender or blissful blue, while raffia from Madagascar dresses the ceiling with earthy warmth. The marble bathroom includes a television embedded



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BETSY HOTEL

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE HOFSTEIN

in the mirror so you can watch weather or sports broadcasts while getting ready for the day. But I enjoyed their literary program that supplies an array of fascinating books from history and business to best-selling novels right on your bed stand.

As for utter relaxation, the brand new spa and wellness garden located on the rooftop offers sweeping views of the ocean and provides a wide variety of spa treatments, therapies and even yoga. This is a can't-miss sojourn during your stay as you unwind in comfort at this Zen-like sanctuary surrounded by palms, flowers, bamboo and cabanas as well as a stunning panoramic view.

While restaurants and bars are aplenty in Miami, you would be remiss to not savor the delicacies that

await at the hotel's BLT Steak restaurant, which dishes out a fabulous bread basket that puts most restaurants to shame, a flavorful meat selection — their specialty — as well as creative side dishes such as barbecue corn and Brussels sprouts glazed in maple syrup. Trust me, even the pickiest eater won't fuss about eating Brussels

Top: *The Betsy Hotel in Miami Beach; Above:* *The Art Deco District on Ocean Drive*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BETHSY



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE REEDSON RESORT



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASA CASUARINA

Clockwise from left: *The Betsy's marble bathroom; Key West's Reach Resort; The Versace pool at Casa Casuarina*

sprouts at this restaurant, as they are deliciously unique. Also, be sure to check out the small but trendy hideaway bar that is only accessible for hotel guests. It feels like a quaint speakeasy hidden in the back recesses of the hotel. As you enjoy a martini, look up. Thanks to clever design, mirrors were placed above, giving the space a dramatic high ceiling effect; however, if you reach up you might just be able to touch the mirror and discover your eyes, not the wine, are playing tricks on you.

Now, as intoxicating as The Betsy is, you are in Miami, so it's time to hit the town. Thankfully, the hotel is in an ideal location to enjoy the glorious beach just across the street, where the hotel provides complimentary beach chairs, umbrellas and towels, and also the Art Deco district, the architectural highlight of this South Florida town. The pastel-hued buildings provide an excellent walking tour on your own, but you may appreciate a more detailed tour with the Miami Design Preservation League. The best places to tour are on three streets — Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue and Washington Avenue — from 6th to 23rd streets. Here you will find not only fabulous shopping and nightlife options, but also some of the most prized Cuban restaurants. A local

recommended we check out Puerto Sagua restaurant on Collins Avenue, and we relished this wonderful heaping of local flavor. The restaurant vibrates with activity, is inexpensive and friendly, and serves up some fabulous Cuban sandwiches and delectable flan. One note: If you want to order the famous paella, make sure you have the time to wait the 45 minutes it takes to prepare it.

I also suggest you take a moment to slip into the former Versace Mansion located on Ocean Drive. The iconic mansion has been remodeled into a hotel, but don't be intimidated by the burly man in sunglasses guarding the front gate at Casa Casuarina. Just tell him you would like to have a drink at the bar or would like to eat at the restaurant, and he should let you stroll on in like you're a celebrity. My husband and I had a drink poolside, but as we peeked into the charming private dining area, we wished we had time to make a reservation for dinner.

We also greatly enjoyed our trek into the city to tour Miami's Design District, a virtual mecca for interior designers. This mile-long stretch of boutiques, galleries and design shops offers a wide variety of home décor options and many of the stores offer wholesale prices

so that even tourists like us could reap the benefits. Our particular favorite store was Hibiscus Island Home, which offered an eclectic selection of furniture and accessories at impressive discounts.

After we stuffed our convertible with the shopping bags accrued from our excursions, it was time to hit the road to the southernmost point of the United States — Key West.

Welcome to the Original Margaritaville

The drive to Key West from Miami is about three hours long, and is quite scenic as you pass through key after key and over the bridges that connect them. It's a two-lane road most of the way, so it's important to be aware of your surroundings during the drive, which is best tackled during the day for both scenic and safety reasons.

We arrived in Key West just before sunset, and as you may know, the sunsets here are legendary. Each sunset becomes an event in itself as people flood the boardwalks and restaurants just off the popular Duval Street. I was a bit worried we would struggle for a picture-perfect spot, but we were lucky to snag a table at the Hot Tin Roof restaurant in the Ocean Key Resort and Spa that overlooks the Key West harbor. The sunset paired perfectly with a glass of wine and a good meal, and it was a warm welcome to this delightful island. Even a pod of dolphins put on a show by passing through the harbor as the sun slowly dipped into the sea.

Duval Street is the place to party in Key West, with popular restaurants and bars sporting live music such as Hog's Breath Saloon, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville café and the historic and internationally known Sloppy Joe's Bar, which opened in 1933. Sloppy Joes is a must see during your stay, and this year marks their 30th annual Papa Look-Alike Contest on July 22 – 24. Here a legion of Ernest Hemingway look-alikes will descend on the city, which was once the home and artistic muse of the famous writer himself. It's quite a

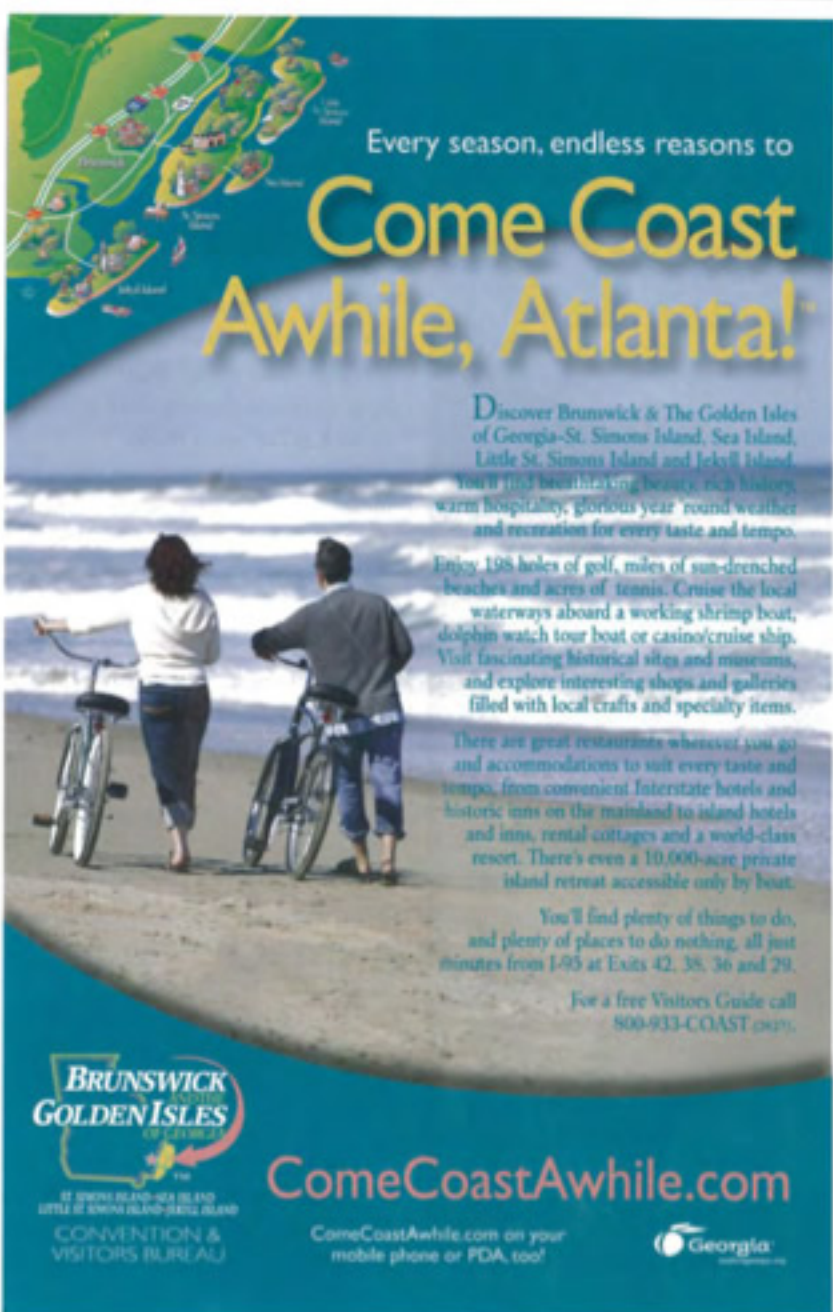
sight to behold and an excellent photo opp with all those look-alikes!

Duval Street is quite wild and busy late at night, and clearly people go there to have a good time and often have too good of a time, as is evident in a few street-side tumbles and brazen antics. But overall it's a very safe, albeit, uninhibited town, so if you're touring with small children, you might want to be off Duval before 9 p.m.

when the revelers reach a fever pitch.

Wild is fun for a spell, but for couples looking for a bit of romance or families looking for some peace and quiet away from the main drag, I heartily recommend the Casa Marina Resort or its sister resort The Reach.

Called the "house by the sea," the Casa Marina is the largest resort in all of the Florida Keys and is also listed on the



Every season, endless reasons to

Come Coast Awhile, Atlanta!


Discover Brunswick & The Golden Isles of Georgia—St. Simons Island, Sea Island, Little St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island. You'll find breathtaking beauty, rich history, warm hospitality, glorious year-round weather and recreation for every taste and tempo.

Enjoy 198 holes of golf, miles of sun-drenched beaches and acres of tennis. Cruise the local waterways aboard a working shrimp boat, dolphin watch tour boat or casino/cruise ship. Visit fascinating historical sites and museums, and explore interesting shops and galleries filled with local crafts and specialty items.

There are great restaurants wherever you go and accommodations to suit every taste and tempo, from convenient Interstate hotels and historic inns on the mainland to island hotels and inns, rental cottages and a world-class resort. There's even a 10,000-acre private island retreat accessible only by boat.

You'll find plenty of things to do, and plenty of places to do nothing, all just minutes from I-95 at Exits 42, 38, 36 and 29.

For a free Visitors Guide call 800-933-COAST (2627).




BRUNSWICK
and the
GOLDEN ISLES
of Georgia

OF SEASIDE ISLAND—SEA ISLAND
LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND—JEKYL ISLAND

CONVENTION &
VISITORS BUREAU

ComeCoastAwhile.com

ComeCoastAwhile.com on your mobile phone or PDA, too!



Georgia



IZZY
maternity

"passion for fashion"

Alpharetta

North Point Village
7300 North Point Pkwy.
Alpharetta, GA 30022
770.753.0204

Buckhead

Peachtree Battle Promenade
2385 Peachtree Rd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30305
404.949.0222

Shop online at
www.izzymaternityclothes.com

TRAVEL | MIAMI TO KEY WEST



National Register of Historic Places. The hotel has been welcoming business tycoons and artists since the 1920s, and has recently been renovated to make this historic hotel as fresh as the ocean breeze.

As we entered the resort lobby, I was blown away as soon as we opened the door. Straight ahead we gazed past the glass doors to a palm tree-lined walkway that passed fountains and pools to a pier that stretched into the turquoise ocean. The hotel offers 311 newly renovated rooms that provide all the latest amenities. I suggest you book an ocean-view room, but a close second is a room that overlooks the pool courtyard as you can typically spy a partial ocean view, too. The nearby Reach Resort offers 150 rooms and a more intimate, subdued vacation in Key West, where most rooms have views of the ocean. However, the hotels are adjoining so guests of either property can enjoy the other's amenities with ease, such as spa, dining, fitness facilities and water activity options.

Now, while most islands offer wonderful beaches, it appears Key West wasn't blessed with this attribute. The beaches are typically rocky with coral and difficult to traverse with bare feet. But both the Casa

Marina and The Reach have created lovely private, sandy beaches that boast the largest and best on the island. In fact, the beaches are so serene, three of our favorite activities were found there — having a couples ocean breeze massage, rocking to sleep on the hammocks with a pina colada in hand, and enjoying the available water activities such as sailing and jet skiing around the entire island. Oh, and make that a fourth — watching the sun set and rise from the comfort of Casa Marina's own pier and sailing tours. It holds the same beauty as the harbor, without the crowds and a bunch more romance. We especially enjoyed combining the sunset with the special "Toes in the Sand" package that provided a full dinner on tables set up on the beach or on the pier.

Truly, it was hard to leave the resort and we spent many relaxing hours soaking up the island lifestyle of this secluded paradise but the smell of Key lime pie on Duval Street eventually pulled us from our repose on the beach.

The resort is a short walk to the Key West Aquarium and the Ernest Hemingway House, but Duval Street is a bit more of a hike, so you may prefer to catch a cab for convenience sake. Key West is known for

its Key lime pie, so you simply must sample it many times during your stay as there is great debate as to who serves up the best in town. Now perhaps you already know of the charms of Key West limes, but what about Key West cookies? Sniff out Mattheessen's Homemade Eats, Treats and Sweets to sample their gargantuan freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. These half-pound cookies measure 6 inches in diameter but I doubt you will want to share it with anyone — they are that good. There are four locations in Key West — three on Duval Street — so just follow the scent of warm chocolate chip cookies and you'll be there in no time.

As for other dining options, I recommend a couple of our personal favorites that are away from the hubbub of Duval Street. Blue Heaven offers the charming whimsical nature of the island's residents and serves up some fabulous food to go with it. The shady outdoor courtyard is a great place to beat the heat, and I promise you will not forget the dining experience at this Key West gem. Also, near the Casa Marina, we discovered a lovely little restaurant with classic ambiance and wonderful ocean view. Louie's Backyard, a local favorite, became a treasured dining experience during our trip and my husband insisted we return more than once so he could savor their scrumptious fish tacos.

It was time to leave, but we were still on Key West time, trying to linger just a little bit longer. Maybe one more cookie for the road would make the bitter parting a little bit sweeter. **PH**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Betsy Hotel
1440 Ocean Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139
866-792-3879
www.thebetsyhotel.com

The Casa Marina Resort
1500 Reynolds St.
Key West, FL 33040
888-303-5717
www.casamarinaresort.com

not ready for plastic surgery? trust the ageless center



for all our services, visit
theagelesscenter.com

Latisse® \$95

The first and only FDA-approved treatment for growing longer, fuller and darker eyelashes

same day service

Botox Cosmetic® \$200
minimizes forehead furlrows between eyes and crow's-feet next to eyes (25 units)

Juvéderm™ \$395
improves appearance under eyes and lips

Radiesse® \$395
minimizes lines from nose to mouth and adds fullness to cheeks

Restylane® \$395
adds a fuller sensual look to lips

Perlane® \$395
treats lines from mouth to chin

Fotofacial™ \$195
treats sun and age spots, rosacea, facial veins, enlarged pores

board certified physicians

The Age-Less Center

since 1993 - Weekdays, Evenings, Saturdays - 2770 Lenox Road, Atlanta - 404.233.5255

The King and Prince



experience.

Here at the ocean's edge, new experiences and inspiring discoveries are celebrated daily. Play our spectacular new King and Prince Golf Course. Relax with a soothing massage at our new Royal Treatment Cottage. Enjoy the simple pleasures of beachcombing and the delights of oceanfront dining. Explore an Island where history lives and smiles await.

To plan your King and Prince experience, call (866) 834-3021.
Or visit kingandprince.com.



5th
The King and Prince
BEACH & GOLF RESORT™
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA