



Why should we visit your town?

Coral Gables is only a hop, skip, and a jump away from Miami, yet when you enter the city, you feel as if you've been transported into another time and another world. Developed in the early 1920s for aesthetics, Coral Gables isn't called the "City Beautiful" in vain. The elaborate houses, storefronts, and even the decorative bus stops are not your run-of-the-mill landmarks, as many feature [native oolitic limestone](#) and ornate details. Every corner was planned around a Mediterranean Revival theme: The city is punctuated with decorative entrances, fountains, and plazas. Though Coral Gables is young compared to other cities in the country, historic preservation takes priority.

What should we see?

For something truly unique, the [Venetian Pool](#) is a rock quarry and natural aquifer. Not only does the site recall the architectural design of the Venetian lagoon, but it is also the largest freshwater pool in America. A very family-oriented spot, tucked into a residential area, here one can enjoy a picturesque swim among a waterfall and grottos. To continue enjoying the sunshine, drive over to [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#). This 83-acre property—which includes two acres of rainforest (the only one in the U.S.)—houses rare palms, orchids, and other tropical plants. If your visit coincides with their mango or chocolate festival, it will definitely be a sweet experience!

[Books & Books](#), with its open-air central courtyard, is a great place to grab a glass of wine and peruse hand-selected titles, find works by local authors, and maybe even come across a best-selling writer at one of their many events. The artistically-inclined may enjoy the [Coral Gables Museum](#), featuring local history and art, or the [Lowe Art Museum](#) at the University of Miami, which in addition to its modern exhibitions, has a collection of Renaissance and Baroque art.