



BIG CITIES, TRAVEL

by KELSEY GLENNON | AUGUST 1, 2023

# A Botanical Miami Garden Getaway

*Find us sipping something cold in the shady oasis of Florida's best garden patios and botanic gardens.*

As far as travel destinations go, many people think that Miami shouldn't be touched in the heat of summer, but think again. There's delight to be found in the Magic City and it relies on a plant-focused approach—one that celebrates the city's tropical gardens, herbal-inspired spas, juice cafes and foliage-filled patios.

If you're looking for a quick summer trip, don't dismiss this southernmost metropolis. But, forgo the towering high rises, glamorous beach boardwalks, or sunny shores of South Beach. Discover the joy of Florida's tropics and find pleasure in slowing down with a good book and cold juice beneath a lush canopy of cool.

Here's where to stay, eat, play and relax for a botanical Miami getaway that makes the most of long summer days and light summer nights.

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## PLAY

Hidden within Miami's high rises are secret gardens blooming with tropical flora. Don your moisture-wicking attire, pack a water bottle, and head out on a jungle exploration of this see-it-to-believe-it manicured garden oasis.

## Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens

Regularly featured on “World’s Best” lists of gardens, the **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens** is 83 acres of manicured tropical plants that immerse visitors in the cool mist of cloud forests, the color of butterfly sanctuaries, and the shaded curves of sunken gardens. Arrive when the doors open at 10 a.m, and head straight for “Wings of the Tropics,” an enclosed greenhouse with exotic butterflies fluttering around your head. Through September 4, experience the Dragoneer exhibit with the kids. The installation features large-scale dragons hiding throughout the gardens. Treat the family to Miami’s most creative way to cool off—the **Dragonee’s WaterQuest**, which outfits garden visitors with a water blaster and water-inspired challenges as you explore the grounds.



Fairchild Botanic Gardens. Image by Kelsey Glennon.

## Kampong National Tropical Botanic Gardens

A smaller tropical garden that often gets overlooked for its big brother, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, **Kampong Gardens** in Coconut Grove is still an iconic spot. The former estate of botanical explorer Dr. David Fairchild himself, the conservation enclave offers self-guided or guided tours. Book ahead online and prepare to learn about rare tropical plants being cared for and studied on the grounds.