

Belgravia & Knightsbridge

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Community awards
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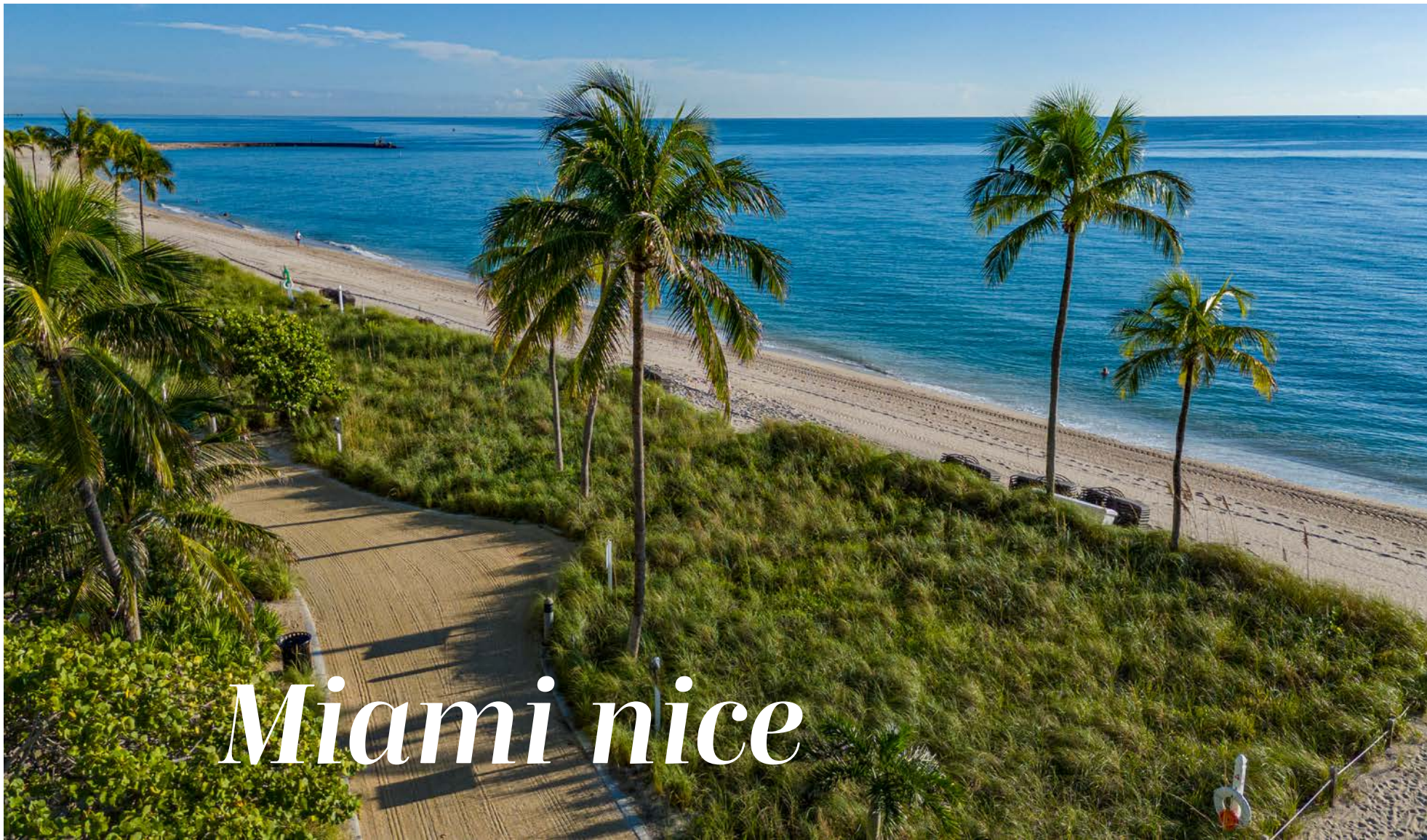


THE BEATLES

The resident
who rocketed the
Fab Four to fame

BAL HARBOUR

- MIAMI -



THE SHORE AND CYCLE ROUTE AT BAL HARBOUR



TRAVEL

If the St Regis is Bal Harbour's anchor, then the Bal Harbour Shops across the road provides a hypnotic pull for those in love with luxury retail.

It's a mall that doesn't feel like one – an open-air complex featuring sculptures, swaying palms and koi ponds, with tropical planting that provides respite from the retail.

It's a roll-call of fashion's most recognisable names: Chanel, Gucci, Hermès, Prada, Bulgari and Tiffany are all here, alongside anchor tenants such as US star stores Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus.

If you are a visitor who likes to shop as well as sunbathe, Bal Harbour Shops can combine personal styling appointments with lunch on a shaded terrace. Forget the South Beach vibe – this is the Miami of couture-clad collectors and connoisseurs.

Similarly, the restaurants are a class act: diverse and upmarket offerings include fresh Japanese at Makoto, classic American at Hillstone or Carpaccio, a buzzy Italian restaurant where the movers and shakers of Miami can often be seen.

Beyond the beach and boutiques sits a thoughtful cultural initiative known as Unscripted Bal Harbour, a programme that brings contemporary art into public spaces and collaborates with institutions across South Florida.

Perhaps the most compelling element is the Unscripted Art Access Card, offered to residents and hotel guests. It provides complimentary or priority entry to a selection of museums and cultural venues – a benefit that resonates with travellers who crave intellectual stimulation alongside sand and sun.

Bal Harbour's charm can be felt in the things it doesn't shout about: its calm streets, its manicured beachfront, its security and its reverence for craftsmanship offering a different experience of Miami.

Visitor numbers are dramatically lower than South Beach and the demographic is more international, more design-oriented and possibly more attuned to privacy rather than spectacle.



ONE OF THE DINING SPACES AT ST REGIS BAL HARBOUR

The elegant enclave of Bal Harbour is a haven amid the hordes

WORDS: ADRIAN DAY

Miami's shoreline has no shortage of glamorous addresses, yet few places distil the city's love affair with sun and style quite as elegantly as Bal Harbour. The enclave is set at the northern end of the barrier island that includes Miami Beach, but it feels calm in comparison to South Beach.

At the centre of Bal Harbour's stretch of splendid sand stands the St Regis Bal Harbour Resort. It houses a collection of ocean-facing rooms and suites (including a stunning Presidential suite) and has terraces that connect to the beach. Dining options include steakhouse, French and Mediterranean offerings.

The hotel provides a base where you can move seamlessly between spa and beach, terrace breakfast or even a personal shopping appointment.

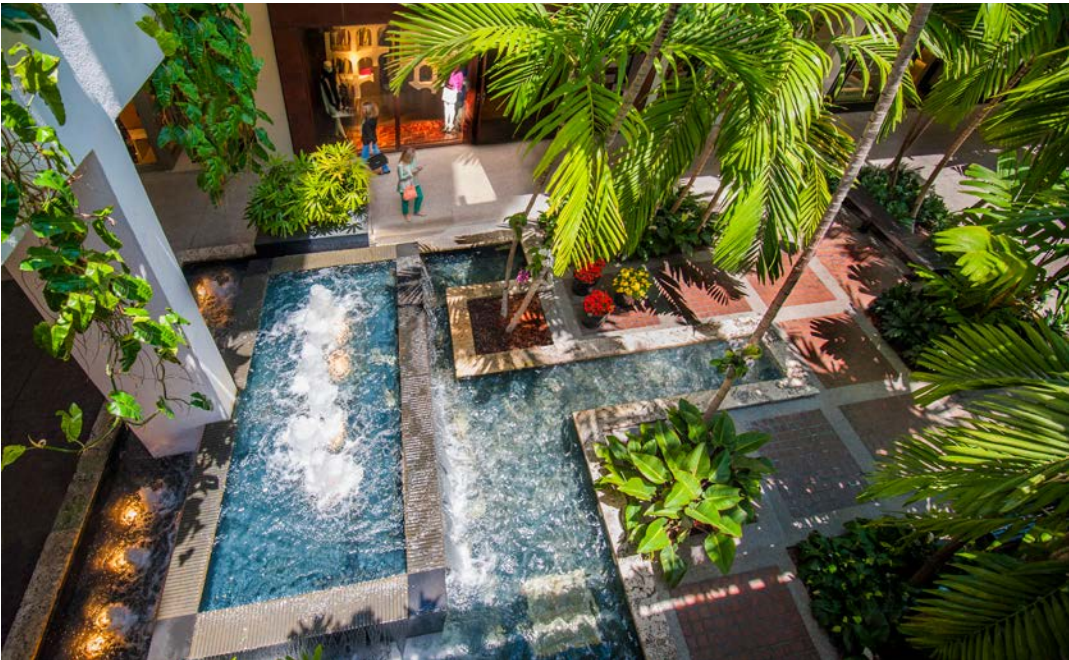
Bal Harbour's beach is public, though you could be forgiven for thinking otherwise. While the sand is the

same shade of fine coral as the rest of Miami Beach, the atmosphere is markedly calmer. The area maintains lovely, landscaped paths, shaded and punctuated with benches.

A super experience is to grab one of the hire bikes from the hotel terrace and take a scenic and serene spin along the shore – there are other first-rate hotels just a few pedal pushes away, such as the The Ritz-Carlton, which share access to the shore.

For those concerned with security issues, the shoreline is patrolled in an unobtrusive and discreet manner by a dedicated police force, supplemented by private security teams and specialist retail patrols attached to the nearby shopping district.

The absence of large clubs and bars gives the area the feel of a private coastal enclave. The preponderance of joggers and hotel guests rather than crowds is a welcome contrast to the experience of South Beach.



BAL HARBOUR SHOPS: MUCH MORE THAN JUST A MALL