

# TRAVEL TIPS

By MIKE COHEN

**MIAMI'S SOUTH BEACH:** Have you ever been to South Beach? This area was the first section of Miami Beach to be developed, starting in the 1910s, thanks to the development efforts of Carl G. Fisher, the Lummus Brothers, John S. Collins, and others. The area has gone through

numerous man-made and natural changes over the years, including a booming regional economy, increased tourism, and the 1926 hurricane, which destroyed much of the area. In both daytime and at nightfall, South Beach is a major entertainment destination with hundreds

of nightclubs, restaurants, boutiques and hotels. Washington Avenue is one of the best-known streets in South Beach. Running parallel with Ocean and Collins. Washington is notorious for having some of the world's largest and most popular nightclubs

**JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA:** If you're vacationing in South Florida anytime soon and it begins to rain, here is a great indoor activity. The Jewish Museum of Florida chronicles the little-known nearly 250-year history of Jewish life in Florida as an example of the immigrant acculturation process of all people in Florida - and in America. The Jewish Museum of Florida opened in April 1995 when a group of visionary Floridians rescued an abandoned art deco historic synagogue on South Beach from demolition. The Museum received accreditation by the American Association of Museums in 2002, an honor granted to only three percent of the nation's museums. It is located at 301 Washington Avenue. For more information call 305-672-5044 or log on to [www.jewishmuseum.com](http://www.jewishmuseum.com). It is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Mondays and civil and Jewish holidays.

**CHINA GRILL EXPERIENCE:** Tea For Two South is just one of the South Beach restaurants offering kosher food. Located at 1205 17th Street, this trendy bistro allows you to sample some great dishes that are closely supervised to ensure their adherence to strict dietary standards. Another great option is the

Gourmet Carrot at 95 West Avenue. But for a real treat we strongly recommend prominent Jewish American restaurateur Jeffrey Chodorow's China Grill at 404 Washington Avenue. Chodorow's China Grill Management and its affiliates operate 26 restaurants in the US, UK and Mexico. The Miami establishment opened to rave reviews in 1995 and was instantly anointed the place to "see and be seen."

My family and I made our first visit to the China Grill South Beach location and I must tell you it was an experience to remember.

In an area known already for its architecture and design, China Grill stands out. Spectacular from the outside, breathtaking on the inside, the restaurant captures the

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pulse and energy of Miami. The landmark glass, onyx and limestone building encompasses three separate dining and drinking areas. A 250-seat main dining room pulsates at the center. Interiors designed by noted architect Jeffrey Beers include passages from Marco Polo's travel diaries emblazoned in marble mosaics that run the length of the restaurant's imported Egyptian limestone floors. One of the most striking features of the restaurant is Beers' signature -- almost ethereal custom light fixtures that hang from the restaurant's soaring ceilings like clouds.

One of Florida's most highly acclaimed restaurants, China Grill has twice received from the *Miami Herald* their highest rating, EXCEPTIONAL. The restaurant was featured as one of the region's "hot new restaurants" in the March 1996 issue of *Esquire* and hit the cover of *New York Magazine's* February 12, 1996 edition, accompanied by a story that tracked the migration of the chic from

New York to Miami Beach. The April 6, 1997 issue of *The New York Times'* travel section, praised China Grill for its invigorating

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light and inventive food. The October 1997 issue of *Travel & Leisure* deemed the restaurant's Shanghai lobster a "to-die-for" dish. China Grill was also voted one of Miami's most popular (top 40s) restaurants by the ZAGAT Survey.

Be sure to check out the menu in advance at [www.chinagrillmgt.com](http://www.chinagrillmgt.com) and make reservations at (305)

534-2211. China Grill is located at 404 Washington Avenue, with easy access directly off the MacArthur Causeway from I-95.

Mike Cohen's email address is [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). See his travel adventures at [www.sandboxworld.com/travel](http://www.sandboxworld.com/travel) and visit him at [www.mikecohen.ca](http://www.mikecohen.ca).