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We usually don't allow the words "white sand beach" more than once (if ever) in our stories, but they aren't a cliche in Miami—they're the standard, especially among the best stretches. Here, our 11 favorite places to throw down a towel and enjoy the city's multiple beach personalities, from the siren song of South Beach to private beach clubs on Mid-Beach and on to nature and bike trails along Key Biscayne.



Courtesy Acqualina Beach

Acqualina Beach, Sunny Isles Beach, North Beach

The beauty of Miami's northernmost beach, Sunny Isles Beach, is underscored by the over-the-top beachscape of Acqualina Resort & Spa on the Beach and its surrounding excess. That surplus includes in-progress The Estates at Acqualina, ultra-luxe twin skyscrapers with Karl Lagerfeld-designed lobbies, and The Mansions at Acqualina, one of the swankiest residential towers in all South Florida. With placid, turquoise water, few crowds, and impeccable beach club service, this swathe of Sunny Isles Beach is perfect for the family that wants to be pampered.