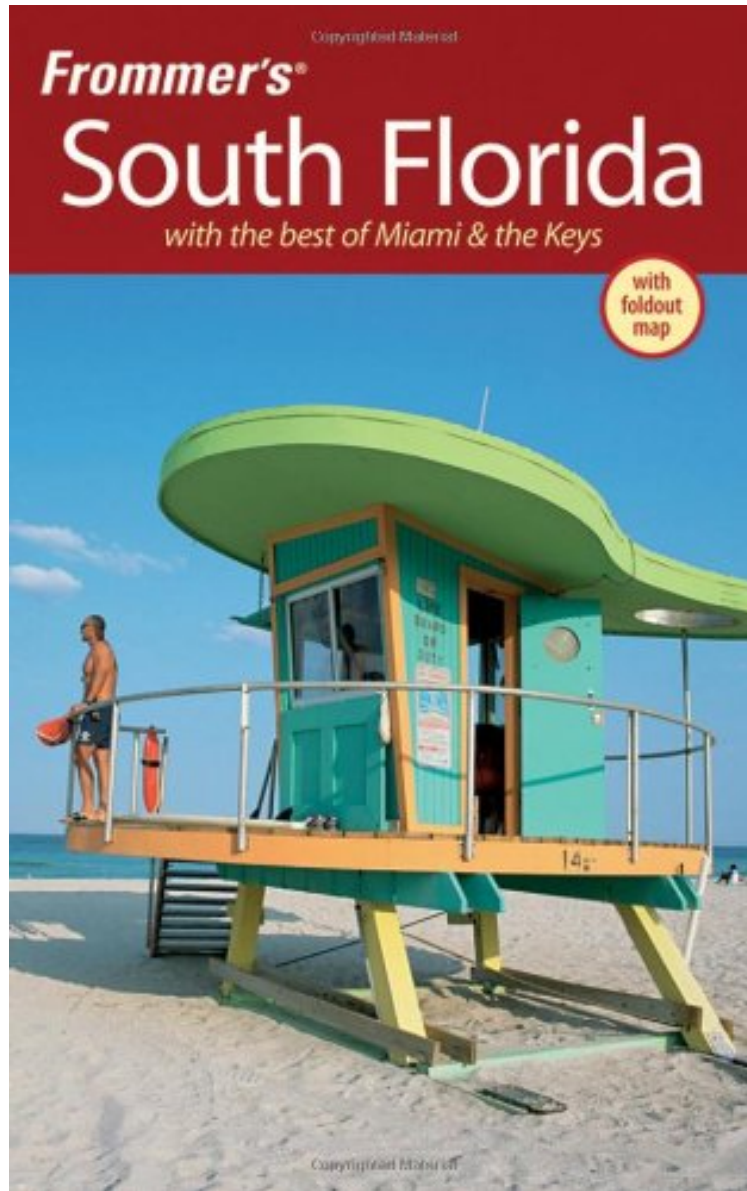


Frommer's South Florida: With the Best of Miami the Keys (Frommer's Complete Guides)

Lesley Abravanel

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15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Clear and Enjoyable writing style sets this guide apart.
By fdoamerica Tourism generates over {\$\$\$\$} billion annually for the Florida economy, which is more than twice the entire GNP for Cuba. That is why there is a fierce fight for the Florida travel guide market. Frommer's is one of the best guides available. This South Florida guide is somewhat more expanded than "Frommer's Florida" Guide (see my review). If you are going to visit just MIAMI, the EVERGLADES, PALM BEACH, FT. LAUDERDALE or the KEYS, then you will find this guide more compact, lighter and a bit cheaper. The same great writing style that is in the Frommer's state guide is found in this more compact companion. The accommodation and dining recommendations are reliable and on the money. This guide lists the best restaurants that South Florida has to offer. A lodging and restaurant index would be a definite plus for this guide. As it stands now, if you have a restaurant you want to look up, you have to go through all the listings in the city you are in until you stumble across the name you seek or miss seeing it completely. The rating system is labored and difficult to understand. The explanation of the "new star rating system" is buried in the book and not indexed. It was by quirk that I found it. Strange. The Internet web site addresses provided for hotels could be more comprehensive considering that this is a 2003 guide. In today's world of "connectivity" you can visit the hotel sites and see the accommodations and rates prior to making reservations. And, website/email addresses are restricted to the lodging listings even though many of the restaurants now have their own websites with photos and menus and email to make reservations. However, there are two significant areas in this guide that could use improvement: maps and hotels/restaurants. Regarding the maps: the maps in the guide are lackluster. More and better maps would greatly help the user. What put this guide on top of the competing guides is the clear and enjoyable writing style of the review. The introductions of the regional areas are the best of the guides I reviewed. You will do well if you have to choose just one South Florida guide and you select Frommer's.

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From the Back Cover
Frommer's. The best trips start here. Experience a place the way the locals do. Enjoy the best it has to offer. The lowdown on the best of South Florida, from the best snorkeling spots in the Keys to V.I.P. bars and lounges in Miami to the pristine beaches along the Gold Coast and much more. Outspoken opinions on what's worth your time and what's not. Exact prices, so you can plan the perfect trip whatever your budget. Off-the-beaten-path experiences and undiscovered gems, plus new takes on top attractions. Find great deals and book your trip at Frommers.com
About the Author
Lesley Abravanel is a freelance journalist and a graduate of the University of Miami

School of Communication. When she isn't combing South Florida for the latest hotels, restaurants, and attractions, she is on the lookout for vacationing celebrities and covers them in her weekly nightlife and gossip column, Velvet Underground, in the Miami Herald. She is a contributor to Business Traveler, Time Out, all three illustrious supermarket tabloids, and is the author of Florida For Dummies, Frommers Florida, and Frommers Portable Miami.