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International Visitors Connect to the Cultural History and Heritage of Miami

The Biltmore Hotel continues to elevate the guest experience with their unique and fascinating Experimental Travel Programs

Coral Gables, Florida (July 2017) – Miami is touted as the city of the future because practically every race, culture, nationality, faith and religion are represented here. The cultural and heritage diversity of Miami’s residents continues to lure millions of visitors every year to the Magic City. The legendary Biltmore Hotel and Dragonfly Expeditions have designed – exclusively for hotel guests – Experimental Travel Programs that will place guests in the center of Miami’s cultural melting pot.

“Our partnership offers guests one-of-a-kind experiential tours and activities that highlight the beauty, culture, art, ecology, history and architecture of Miami,” said Matthias Kammerer, Managing Director at The Biltmore Hotel. “Our programs are guided by Dragonfly Expeditions, South Florida’s oldest and most prestigious corporate tour operator which provide a meaningful experience into Miami’s heart and soul. Among the tours and activities offered is a deep experience into the cultural/heritage of this city, specifically Miami’s Cuban, Haitian and Miccosukee’s community.”

By striving to provide each guest with an exceptional notable experience such as The Cultural History and Heritage Miami program, The Biltmore Hotel further distinguishes itself as one of the finest luxury resorts in South Florida.

The Cuban Heritage Tour

The Castro revolution in Cuba in 1959 changed Miami forever. Wave after wave of Cuban refugees transformed Miami into the Capital of the Americas: a fast-paced, internationally-connected, commercial and entertainment hub with a racy Latin image. From the food to the accents on the street to the fashion scene and artist’s studio, Miami pulses to the beat of an original blended culture.

This journey will take The Biltmore guests through the story of Miami’s Cuban community. Experience the passion and vision that these motivated exiles brought to their new home. Vacationers will visit a well-loved marketplace, great Cuban food spots, moving monuments, lively street scenes and a place of spiritual reflection and longing. Guests will take in the smells, sights, sounds and colors of a street that launched the dramatic transformation of Miami over five decades ago. The Cuban Heritage Tour (starting at \$218 per person)

The Haiti-in-Exile Tour

Visitors to Miami and hotel guests will make their way through Little Haiti where their imaginations will be captured by the colorful and distinctive, hand-painted signs splashed across storefronts, touting the merchandise within. Their senses will absorb the aroma of Creole cooking, and the rhythm of Haitian music, expect to be charmed by the tone of the Creole dialect which warmly greets residents and

visitors alike. They will listen to a recounting of Haiti's often tumultuous history through the centuries and learn how and why its diaspora built this industrious community on a distant shore. Then, they will make a stop at a community gallery which embraces much of the flavor of the world-famous Haitian primitive art, rich with the colors of the Caribbean. In addition, guests are off to a legendary bookstore and cultural center which has helped anchor the central Little Haiti downtown district over the years. For the final exploration, participants will delve into the mysterious world of Voodoo for a better understanding of age old beliefs in spirits and saints as we visit a local "botanica". Haiti in Exile Tour (starting at \$141 per person)

The Miccosukee Indian Heritage Airboat Tour

Only accessible by airboat, The Biltmore Hotel guests will travel miles into the Everglades to experience two historic Miccosukee island camps. They will walk the islands that the Miccosukee's once called home to hear how families for generations learned to live in harmony with what many considered an unlivable landscape. The tour guide will seek out the family of wild gators that live near the big camp. If they care to show themselves, the guide will demonstrate his ability to "speak gator." To the frequent amazement of visitors, the gators often respond.

In addition, guests will visit the Clyde Butcher Gallery and enjoy a tour through the black and white gallery of world-renowned photographer Clyde Butcher. Known for his stunning images of natural beauty, his special fondness for South Florida is apparent and must be seen to be appreciated. Finally, dinner at the Pit Bar BQ will be the last stop on the tour. This unique location in the Everglades serves good old-fashioned BBQ with a little Latin Flavor and of course their Famous Smoked GatorRibs

Aside from the *Cultural History and Heritage Miami* tour which highlights the intriguing melting pot which is Miami, The Experiential Travel Program partnership with Dragonfly Expeditions also include additional activities and tours that are categorized into three other offerings – Exploring the Everglades, Miami's Specialty Architectural Experience, and the Biltmore Curators Program. The program is solely available to guests of The Biltmore Hotel. The program includes luxury accommodations, a curated menu of activities, as well as exclusive dining experiences. The suite of packages offer flexibility for room selection and allow guests to select the tours of their choice.

For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Dragonfly Expeditions info@dragonflyexpeditions.com or visit www.biltmorehotel.com.