

Miami's Skyline: Third Tallest in U.S.



Except for New York City and Chicago, Miami, Florida has the third tallest skyline in the United States. As of 2020, there are 10 Miami projects in the planning stage to build buildings over 800 feet. <therealdeal.com>

Architecturally speaking, "nothing quite compares to the art and ingenuity of designing supertall buildings." During the 1920s, "advances in technology made it possible for the rapid rise of building heights. These included the elevator, cage and skeleton construction, fireproof protection for columns and beams, isolated footings and



caisson foundations." Montgomery Schuyler (1843-1914) wrote about the seven phases of skyscraper history and designs that included: building essentials developed between 1849 and 1879; composition phase of necessary ingredients; flat roofing technique development; classic column, base, shaft and capital phase during 1880s; various tower forms with revised zoning codes since 1916; revisions of zoning codes; and finally using attributes of limited space, park-like settings and using multi-blocks. "The "first skyscraper" goes to the Equitable Life Assurance Company Building raised in New York during 1868-70 by Gilman & Kendall and George B. Post. The reasons: The Equitable was the first business building in which the possibilities of the elevator were realized. It rose to a height of 130 feet, which made it twice as tall as the average five-story commercial building." <visual-arts-cork.com>

Miami has the tallest residential buildings in America and of the ten tallest buildings in Florida, Miami has nine. Miami's first high-rise was Burdine's Department Store, a six-story building built in 1912. Between mid-1990s and late 2000 Miami had a skyscraper building boom. <en.wikipedia.com>

The height of most buildings in the United States is usually set by a local ordinance that come under building codes set under various approved practices from international, national, and even state regulations. They are set for safety reasons and many require public hearings before approval or rejection. In certain parts of the country, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) also sets maximum height of buildings. FAA's prime objective is to promote air safety and the efficient use of the navigable airspace. This is accomplished by performing aeronautical studies to create an obstruction evaluation regarding the construction of buildings, chimneys, antenna towers, cooling towers, storage tanks, supporting structures of overhead wires and other potential dangers to airspace. <oeaaa.faa.gov>



Miami's mixed-use development project called One Bayfront Plaza, in the preconstruction phase as of June 2020, has an FAA maximum height approval at 1,049 feet and 95 floors when completed. <buzzbuzzhome.com>

Bayfront Park came about after the City of Miami fought the Florida East Coast Railway in court. The Florida Supreme Court decided in favor of the city and it was able to purchase the land in 1922. More land was acquired in 1924 and the bay front park opened in 1925. Since then the park has experienced a hurricane and rebuilding of both the harbor, garden, and buildings. Bayfrontpark.com has a detailed history of the park's development from 1920 into the 1980s. <bayfrontparkmiami.com>

This photo program shares some of the skyline sites in Miami and Miami Beach.

The city of Miami had its beginnings when Henry M. Flagler (1830-1913) and his Florida East Coast Railway came to Florida in April 1896. That arrival and its incorporation took place three months after Flagler and others populated the area with over 700 people. The railroad was responsible for the first park, hotel, and green space for community gatherings. Other venues included athletic events, political and cultural gatherings, and even religious events. The growth of the city followed, and by 1920, the population grew to 20,000. The bayfront area at that time was buildings associated with Flagler interests. <en.wikipedia.org>



Railway was built by Flagler as a project of Standard Oil. Currently operating in the state of Florida and owned by Grupo Mexico, largest mining corporation in Mexico. <en.wikipedia.org>







"The Miami News/Freedom Tower was built in 1925, the building housed *The Miami News*, the city's first newspaper, for more than 32 years. Designed by Shultze and Weaver, a New York firm, the building, with its magnificent Giralda tower, is patterned after the great Medieval cathedral in Seville, Spain. From 1962 to 1974, nearly 300,000 Cuban refugees received a wide variety of federal assistance and stayed in this building thereby providing the structure with an additional name—the Freedom Tower. Owned today by Miami Dade College, the building has recently undergone a stunning restoration. Today it hosts art exhibitions and star-studded events, while its magnificent façade is illuminated nightly."

<miamiandbeaches.com>



Sources: <https://therealdeal.com/miami/2019/05/28/here-are-the-tallest-projects-proposed-in-miami/>, <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp>, https://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=23795, https://library.municode.com/fl/miami_-_dade_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOR_CH33ZO_ARTIIIEBU, <https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/20-architecturally-buildings-downtown>, <https://www.bdcnetwork.com/tallest-tower-miami-begin-construction-january-2019>, <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/architecture/skyscraper.htm>, <https://www.buzzbuzzhome.com/us/one-bayfront-plaza1>, <http://www.bayfrontparkmiami.com/ParkHistory.html>, and <https://www.miamiandbeaches.com/plan-your-trip/see-miami-webcams>.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Miami Skyline: Third Largest in U.S.