

# Meet the Bay

**B**iscayne Bay is a subtropical marine estuary located on the southeast Florida coast. It gets its salt water from the Atlantic Ocean and its fresh water from three major rivers: the Miami River, the Little River, and the Oleta River; the Biscayne Aquifer; and numerous manmade canals.

It is bordered on the west by Miami-Dade County and on the east side by 2 islands (Miami Beach and Fisher Island), 5 major keys (Virginia, Biscayne, Sands, Elliot, Old Rhodes) and an assortment of lesser keys.

The Bay is 35 miles long and 1 to 8 miles wide.

The Bay covers 221 square miles and its surface temperature ranges from 60 degrees F. in the winter to 90 degrees F. and higher in the summer.

The average depth of the Bay is a very shallow 5.9 feet (1.8 meters) with a maximum natural depth of 13.1 feet (14 meters). Most Miami Heat players could comfortably stand in the Bay and still breathe.

