

COOPER CITY | PEMBROKE PINES | MIRAMAR | SOUTHWEST RANCHES | WESTON

explore

GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE



CONTENTS

- 1** Welcome
- 2** The Rundown
- 4** Attractions
- 11** Spa Experiences
- 12** Live Like a Local
- 14** The Arts Scene
- 16** Photo Journal:
A Trek Through The
Everglades
- 20** Hit the Links
- 22** Restaurants
- 28** Riding the Trails
- 29** Family Matters
- 30** On the Marquee
- 31** The Great Outdoors
- 32** Resources

VISIT LAUDERDALE

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▼ Miramar Town Center
is home to the new city hall.



WELCOME TO *Cooper City, Pembroke Pines, Miramar, Southwest Ranches and Weston*

Nature, art, business,
pleasure, adrenaline rush
or rest and relaxation —
all are possible in
Greater Fort Lauderdale's
western cities and towns.

These suburban neighborhoods, bordering the natural wonders of the Florida Everglades, embody Florida's unique mix of nature, luxury and culture.

Spend your days in the great outdoors on horseback at A&A Adventure Horse Trails, relaxing at the Bonaventure Spa, enjoying retail therapy in the Shops at Pembroke Pines or strolling through a contemporary art exhibit at the Frank or Ansin Art Gallery. Foodies will find plenty to explore in the delicious local restaurant scene that celebrates the area's rich cultural diversity. Go for Cuban at Havana 1957 in Pembroke Pines or prime cuts at La Rural: Argentine Steakhouse in Weston. Then wind down with an evening on the town enjoying a live concert or theater production at the Charles F. Dodge City Center or Miramar Cultural Center.

In these pages, we'll explore the people and places that make these communities truly special.

Whether you are a first-time visitor searching for something unexpected, or a Broward County native looking for adventures in your backyard, there's always something new to discover.

THE Rundown

Beyond the beach, there's a lively oasis of nature, art, culture and adventure off the beaten path.

▲ Peace Mound Park in Weston

WESTON

▲ Bordered by the Everglades on two sides, Weston feels enveloped in lush landscape. In this spirit, the affluent city embraces outdoor living with 14 parks including Peace Mound Park, created to protect a historic Tequesta burial mound. The city is fondly dubbed "Weston-zuela" by locals, thanks to the large Venezuelan and Hispanic community making up over 50% of its population. The vibrant restaurant scene offers eats from Peruvian ceviche to Venezuelan arepas. Weston also has a serious side, and is a significant tech hub with startups and major firms like Ultimate Software.

MIRAMAR

Founded in 1955 as a bedroom community serving nearby Fort Lauderdale, Miramar has now blossomed into a thriving city. Along expansive boulevards lined with Florida royal palms lies a culturally diverse area built for work and play. Modern townhomes and single-family developments stand among scenic lakes and greenspaces. And the Miramar Park of Commerce has become a diverse business hub, home to the corporate headquarters for Spirit Airlines and other national brands. Away from the office, you can fulfill your American Ninja Warrior dreams at Ninja Street Obstacle Academy or birdwatch in the beautiful wetlands of Snake Warrior's Island Natural Area. Residents can also discover their green thumbs at the Miramar Community Garden, a micro urban farm growing organic produce.

COOPER CITY

Cooper City offers picturesque neighborhoods with peaceful streets and verdant plant life. Yet this particularly quiet suburb has some pleasant surprises. The Brian Piccolo Sports Park, for example, features a velodrome for high-speed cycle racing. It's the only facility of its kind in Florida, and one of three in the southeastern U.S. The park is also a key spot for birdwatchers, as one of the best sites in the state to see Florida's iconic burrowing owls.

PEMBROKE PINES

► Ranked as one of the best places to both raise a family and retire, Pembroke Pines offers small-town soul with metropolitan amenities. New home developments have made room for a growing, diverse population. There are miles of mall to shop, among them Pembroke Lakes Mall with movie theaters, restaurants and even a charming, old-fashioned carousel. And retirees, including those at the vast Century Village complex, can enjoy a packed calendar of cultural events like free jazz concerts and art festivals.

SOUTHWEST RANCHES

▼ Somewhere between the scenic horse trails and farmer's market, life seems to slow down in the town of Southwest Ranches. The unique blend of suburban living with ranch life presents a down-home vibe that belies rich cultural discoveries. On the culinary side, Southwest Ranches has the only American location for the cult favorite Japanese ramen chain, Shimuja, where you must try the new local invention – key lime ramen. The idyllic neighborhood is also home to the beautiful South Florida Hindu Temple and Shiva Vishnu Temple of South Florida.



▲ Fully functioning carousel at Pembroke Lakes Mall



▲ The Shiva Vishnu Temple of South Florida stands tall in Southwest Ranches, offering a peaceful Hindu temple of worship

ESSENTIAL

ATTRACTIONS

Arts, entertainment, sports, outdoor and retail activities collide in the vibrant cities of Miramar, Pembroke Pines, Weston, Cooper City and Southwest Ranches.



▲ Guests gather for an event at Miramar Cultural Center.



MIRAMAR TOWN CENTER, CULTURAL CENTER, ARTSPARK

▲ Pedestrian-friendly streets and Mediterranean-style architecture are key features at the Miramar Town Center mixed-use downtown complex. Adjacent to City Hall, Miramar Cultural Center | ArtsPark includes an 800-seat theater, art gallery, botanical garden and public water feature designed by artist Alison Sky titled "Vanishing View." The Cultural Center also has banquet facilities, rehearsal halls and a full-service kitchen.

There is an onsite dance studio and multipurpose classrooms to facilitate their educational programming, performing arts camps and art enrichment initiatives like Miramar Community Theatre and Cultural Connections.

This facility is also an exceptional venue for weddings, celebrations and social events with its indoor and outdoor areas and professional catering staff. A cutting-edge police headquarters was added to the complex for the safety of residents and visitors in 2016.

➡ **2400 Civic Center Place**
miramarculturalcenter.org

MIRAMAR REGIONAL PARK AND AMPHITHEATER

▼ Live outdoor entertainment has never been more comfortable. The Miramar Regional Park Amphitheater's open-air setting features seating for 3,000 people under a state-of-the-art canopy with an additional 2,000 lawn seats on the outskirts. An elevated stage makes for great sightlines, and indoor bathrooms nearby are air-conditioned.

Surrounding the amphitheater is Miramar Regional Park, where you can find acres of lawn, five pavilions, a fitness station, two basketball courts, playgrounds, facilities for cricket, baseball and volleyball and an aquatic center as well. For the furry family members, there is a bark park. All pavilions are available to rent for special occasions, and four of them have barbecue facilities.

➡ **16801 Miramar Parkway | miramaramp.com**



ANSIN SPORTS COMPLEX

► Home to an IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) certified track, Ansin Sports Complex is 24 acres of sporting nirvana. In 2011, it was host to the Pan American Junior Athletics Championships. With a seating capacity of over 5,000, the stadium seating is shaded by a custom awning to keep the sun at bay for those enjoying track and field events. Lanes are marked in both national and international increments.

In addition to the wide array of track and field amenities like the discus and hammer throw area and high jump lane, the facility also boasts basketball courts, cricket batting cages, an expansive covered playground, locker rooms and a concession stand.

► 10801 Miramar Blvd.



MONSTER MINI GOLF

► Monster Mini Golf offers 18 holes of glow-in-the-dark fun. On the course, the walls come alive and you are surrounded by a custom-programmed music experience and a virtual canvas of whimsical, pop-culture art that reflects Miramar. Add in animated monsters at each twist and turn and you have a typical Monster Mini Golf experience.

For those interested in more than clubs, there is an expansive arcade featuring classics like Skee-Ball as well as new games like Jurassic Park and Down-a-Clown. If escapism is your jam, the virtual reality attractions transport players into otherworldly, interactive landscapes.

► 14435 Miramar Parkway
monsterminigolf.com/miramar



PEMBROKE PINES

CHARLES F. DODGE CITY CENTER AND THE FRANK GALLERY

► The Charles F. Dodge City Center is a multi-use, state-of-the-art facility hosting everything from large-scale conventions and trade shows to local events promoting community pride. It is 45,000 square feet of striking modern architecture with flexible meeting and event space. Skating events, galas, music concerts and even gun shows take place inside the Great Hall. A level up, there's a mezzanine for smaller events or to extend the retractable arena-style seating for maximum attendance capacity. Full catering is available as well.

Across the courtyard is the lovingly nicknamed art gallery, The Frank. The 11,000 square foot contemporary art space is the namesake of Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank C. Ortis, a strong supporter of the arts. Its two stories are spacious and unique in setup – each floor showcases rotating works of art from regional, national and international artists.

► **601 City Center Way | thefrankgallery.org**



THE SHOPS AT PEMBROKE GARDENS

◀ Along the strip of trendy brand names at The Shops at Pembroke Gardens, there is a variety of retail stores for wardrobe, home and beauty needs offering great style and modern ambiance. Find Z Gallerie, White House | Black Market, Bath & Body Works or DSW along the main outdoor walkway. And you won't get hungry, with offerings from eateries like The Cheese Course, Brimstone WoodFire Grill and Brio Tuscan Grille a few steps away. Then, grab a cupcake from Misha's or a scoop of your favorite Häagen-Daz flavor.

Building community is the siren song at Pembroke Gardens. Their Coins for a Cause program donates all coins tossed in the fountain to the YMCA. Meandering through the center you will find public art – from decorated benches to painted trash cans – by local artists. The weekly farmers market, monthly car show, wellness events, family fun day activities and many other activities cater to the community.

Pembroke Gardens is pet-friendly, and has car and phone charging stations, shuttle services and lots of parking. If it is your first visit, swing by the visitor's center for a complimentary welcome package.

► **527 S.W. 145th Terrace | pembrokegardens.com**



PEMBROKE LAKES GOLF AND RACQUET CLUB

◀ In 1969, Pembroke Lakes Golf and Racquet Club opened its doors to the public. The facility would go on to get a \$7 million facelift in 2007.

The 18-hole, John Sanford-designed golf course boasts Paspalum Supreme Grass fairways, E-Z-GO golf carts with GPS onboard and six sets of tees. Onsite, there are amenities such as a practice area with chipping green, a practice bunker, a grass driving range tee and an oversized putting green. The Pro Shop is stocked with top brands, and tee times must be secured four days in advance.

The club also features five clay tennis courts, nine lighted hard tennis courts and a large pool that offers water aerobics and swim lessons.

All of this comes in an affordable package with reduced rates for residents. Pembroke Pines Golf and Racquet Club is a great option for outdoor fun on a budget.

▶ 10500 Taft St.

BREEZE HELICOPTERS

▶ There is no better way to sightsee than from high above in the cockpit of a helicopter. With Breeze Helicopters, you get pilots with years of experience in the industry and the option to book private or shared excursions. All ages are welcome and they offer easy online booking.

Their offerings include a Hard Rock Hotel tour ride, cruising up the coast of Downtown Fort Lauderdale and a selection of other panoramic South Florida aerial tours. Breeze Helicopters also offers various celebration packages to make your excursion even more memorable. All tours depart from North Perry Airport.

▶ 200 S.W. 77th Way | breezehelicopters.com



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF BREEZE HELICOPTERS



WESTON TOWN CENTER

▲ Weston Town Center is more than an open-air plaza with specialty boutiques, salons, jewelers and eateries. Experience a relaxing afternoon at the spa after you shop for the perfect evening dress and then dine at one of the unique restaurants offering every type of cuisine from Latin fusion to burgers. Cap it off with a cigar and handmade chocolate.

The Center is home to lively entertainment as well. The artisan market presents an opportunity to stroll through tent-covered walkways filled with handmade, one-of-a-kind products from local craftsmen. The movie nights afford visitors the opportunity to experience a movie under the stars, live music fills the air every Friday and the annual Food and Wine Festival celebrates the diverse palates of the community.

➡ **1675 Market St. | westontowncenter.net**

SAWGRASS RECREATION PARK

Originally a small fishing camp, Sawgrass Recreation Park was established in the 1970s. A substantial 2005 expansion included the addition of multiple airboats for tours, habitat areas for rescued animals and a slate of exciting activities. The family-friendly park is now home to native wildlife including a 1,000 pound resident Florida Alligator named Cannibal and baby gators that visitors can interact with.

While at the park, skim by airboat through the Everglades wetlands in a private or group outing, try your hand at fishing or pitch a tent and camp out overnight. Meet alligators, turtles and snakes at the Reptile Exhibit, learn about conservation at the Glades Exhibit and try your hand at mining gems at Sawgrass Mining Co. You can also visit with the peacocks, iguanas and African Spur Thigh Tortoises that reside there. Annual passes and other attractive packages are available online.

➡ **1006 US-27 | evergladestours.com**

COOPER CITY

COOPER CITY ANTIQUE MALL

- ▶ The Antique Mall in Cooper City embraces all the Rs: rescue, repair, reuse, repurpose, recycle, reduce and reinvent.

Inside the 10,000-square-foot space is a treasure trove of antique furniture and decorative accessories dating back to the 18th century, including jewelry, glassware, textiles, medical antiques, vintage cameras, garden accessories and more.

Each "shop" is curated by different dealers who are avid collectors in their own right, have a deep knowledge of antiques and offer pieces across varied time periods. New inventory is added daily. Whether you are a casual treasure hunter, interior designer or set director on the lookout for the perfect piece to complete the scene you are shooting, Cooper City Antique Mall satisfies.

9800 Griffin Road | coopercityantiquemall.com



SOUTHWEST RANCHES

SOUTHWEST RANCHES FARMERS MARKET

- ▶ There is something about buying food at a market where you can look at the farmer, talk to him and know that your purchase has been lovingly cared for. Southwest Ranches Farmers Market understands this and has been delivering fresh, local food to its neighbors since 2009.

They offer goat and cow raw dairy products, organic Colombian coffee, hormone and antibiotic-free local meats, homemade baked goods, honey and preserves and organic produce from their garden. Offerings are dependent upon season and availability.

Currently, they are open Wednesday through Sunday and offer a stocked natural foods store on site.

5150 S. Flamingo Road | swrfmarket.com





For those looking to unwind or practice self-care with a massage, facial, soak, scrub or all of the above, a spa experience is a must.

Book your next spa outing on your own, with a group of friends, or on a romantic escape with your partner. When you're ready, the Weston area has several incredibly luxurious options offering a range of services and amazing ambience.

Tucked within a tranquil resort that feels like stepping into the Caribbean, Bonaventure Resort & Spa is rich in comfort, amenities and high-end services. The facility is perfect for any occasion, and is particularly popular for pre-wedding pampering and bridal parties. Service options run the gamut from hair

and makeup to indulgent full-body massages. Before getting glammed up, take a rejuvenating dip in the private pool. Their specialty three-part package features an exfoliation scrub, souffle mask and full-body massage, all packed with nourishing ingredients from local flora.

Aveda Applewoods is another amazing spot that prides itself on affordable luxury. The interior of this spa is chic and upscale, while their services follow suit, ranging from classic anti-stress massage treatments and specialty facials like Moroccan Rose, to more specific results-focused offerings

like cupping, prenatal massages, oxynergy facials or microneedling. Book a single service or get the best bang for your buck with a signature package.

Whether you're scheduling regular therapies or treating yourself to something special, the team of experienced specialists at Spa Elements is ready to preen and pamper. Using natural products, they'll perfect your look with hair extension placement, eyebrow tinting or mani-pedis, other grooming services like waxing and facials, and a variety of massages and body treatments.

Live Like a Local



Francie
NOVO

Pembroke Pines

Stats: I am 55 years old and I truly love Pembroke Pines. My passion is to make days eventful and live life to the fullest.

Culinary quests: I bought my first home when the city was still expanding, so finding a new place to eat was an adventure. I find myself thrilled each time a new place opens. Once we had places to choose from, that's when the quest to find new eateries became a passion.

Where to Chill: Charles F. Dodge City Center is now the heart of the city. You can enjoy a concert, seminar or special event surrounded by new places to shop and eat. I hop over to Cooper's Hawk, pamper myself at Lume Lash and Paradise Nails 2, and of course can't make it by Hobby Lobby without getting porch decorations or something festive. I then take a short trip to Pembroke Gardens where I shop for something cute to wear or dance at Havana 1957.

Homestyle cooking: You must visit the Mayor's Café for breakfast. There's a family setting where the waitress knows you by name and the mayor is serving you. My other favorite is Cebiche-Bar for Peruvian. It's a small place but the food is large in taste.



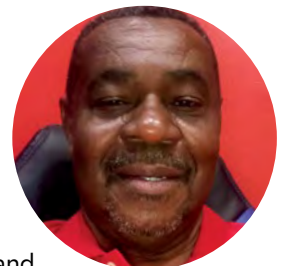
▲ Music and entertainment abound at Charles F. Dodge City Center



▲ Horseback riding is a popular activity in Southwest Ranches

Hugh
BRYAN

Southwest Ranches



Stats: I am 63 years old, a business owner and operator, and a community type of guy involved with a lot. One of my passions is cars.

Laid back living: I like to go to some of the annual festivals here in Southwest Ranches. I enjoy the outdoors and there are some nice parks with walking trails here as well. I also like to go cycling, if I'm up for it. I really just like the rural, laid back lifestyle.

Where to chill: I used to take my kids horseback riding when they were younger, but now that they are older, it's just fun to see the cowboys ride their horses right past my house.

Here's the beef: We've got Outback Steakhouse right here in Southwest Ranches. I always get the T-bone steak.

Bonus share: Southwest Ranches is really safe and a great place to raise kids. There are a lot of great parks and outdoor activities.



Melissa ZELNIKER- PRESSER

Weston

Stats: I am a lively 43 year old wife, mother of three and attorney, passionate about my faith, family and exercise routines. We moved to Weston because of its reputation for being a city that values families.

Finding fitness: A must-do in Weston is to walk, run or bike around the city. It's filled with amazing parks, walking paths and bike lanes. I love running or walking early in the morning and seeing all the smiles and nods as I pass by.

Where to chill: I love grabbing coffee or frozen yogurt in the Lakes Plaza because it's always filled with lots of kids and I almost always see someone that I know. This is what's so great about Weston – a wonderful, localized sense of community.

Domo arigato: My favorite restaurant in Weston is Moon Thai and Japanese Restaurant. It has a South Beach feel and lively music, but it's also kid-friendly. Moon Thai has both a Japanese and Thai menu, so while you might want sushi, the kids can get pad thai. I personally love their Florida roll, Miami Hurricanes roll (go Canes!) and vegetable dumplings.

Bonus share: Weston is a wonderfully diverse place to live and raise a family. There is something for everyone. You never have to look for a babysitter here, bring those kids and let them enjoy life with you!



▲ Enjoy a morning walk at Peace Mound Park.



▲ Live performances at Miramar Amphitheater.

Alexandra DAVIS

Miramar



Stats: At 58, you tend to live your life unapologetically. I'd describe myself as very resourceful and ambitious, and my passions include public service. Being a Commissioner in Miramar allows me to fulfill my goals of helping my entire community.

A walk in the park: A must-do activity in Miramar is to visit one of the 40 beautiful parks. Miramar Regional Park is one of my favorite parks because I host one of the biggest Black history events in South Florida, the Afro-Carib Festival, there. I am also a dog mom which led me to initiate the creation of the Miramar Regional Dog Park.

Where to chill: One of my favorite spots is the Miramar Cultural Center – home of our 800-seat theatre, banquet hall and botanical garden. I've hosted many events there, such as my annual Haitian and Hispanic Heritage Celebration events.

Caribbean flavor: Most mornings I enjoy grabbing ackee and saltfish with fried dumplings or festivals at D&G Caribbean Restaurant. At Tropix Lounge, I enjoy steamed snapper stuffed with okra, corn and other fixings. For the sweet tooth in me, I indulge in Cleveland's Ice Cream for rum & raisin and my newest guilty pleasure, the bun & cheese ice cream.

Bonus share: As a little-known fact, our Ansin Sports Complex is state of the art and features a running track identical to the 2008 Olympic track in Beijing, bringing world-class sports events to our city.



THE Arts SCENE

The culture-rich
communities of southwest
Greater Fort Lauderdale
celebrate art in all forms.



◀ A concert event at the Charles F. Dodge City Center.

THE SHOW GOES ON

Just beyond a newly developed retail and restaurant district in Pembroke Pines, the Charles F. Dodge City Center looms large. With 175,000 square feet of space, the City Center hosts theater productions, concerts, conventions and trade shows, as well as community festivals and small private meetings.

Pembroke Pines Theatre of Performing Arts traces its roots back to a Broadway producer and his daughter. Their productions often feature professional actors who volunteer their time to appear in high-quality, but low-cost shows. And the theater uses a live orchestra, not recordings.

A little farther south, Miramar Cultural Center features an art gallery, botanical garden, dance studio, 800-seat theater and banquet facilities, supported by a full-service kitchen. Programming includes a Cocktails and Convos speaking series, Sankofa acting classes for kids and teens, youth cooking competitions and seasonal art festivals.

VISUAL ELEMENTS

At Studio 18 in the Pines, the city of Pembroke Pines offers a variety of indoor and outdoor studio spaces for emerging and mid-career artists. The painters, woodworkers, sculptors, welders and other creators showcase their work in rotating exhibitions and teach craft classes to the public.

Adjacent to the Charles F. Dodge City Center building, The Frank includes a first floor with spacious galleries displaying contemporary art, from regional to international. The second floor is appointed with another gallery and a sun-warmed classroom.



▼ The Ansin Family Art Gallery at the Miramar Cultural Center.

PHOTO JOURNAL

A Trek Through the Everglades



▲ It's not uncommon to see an alligator lazily floating past your airboat

For an experience unlike any other, head off the beaten path and take in the exotic wonders of the Florida Everglades.

Wildlife abounds within the grassy marl prairies and marshes that define these wetlands. Take a tour of the Everglades' shallow waters by airboat at either Sawgrass Recreation Park or Everglades Holiday Park and survey the natural beauty of emergent plants while gliding along the River of Grass. Coral snake, turtle, peacock and occasional Florida panther sightings are common, but the real treat is an encounter with the American alligator that

roams these mangrove swamps. Over 200,000 alligators call this untouched land their home, so don't be surprised to see these majestic beasts paddling by your boat or sunbathing along the shore during your ride.

The Everglades ecosystem on the west side of Greater Fort Lauderdale also provides a sanctuary for many tropical and rare species of wading birds like the roseate spoonbill, snowy egret, blue heron and wood stork. Visitors can look forward to bird watching from the airboat and catching a glimpse of some of these unique fowl soaring across the skyline.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ANTHONY J. RAYBURN

Due to Florida's geographic location, the Everglades is home to flora from both cooler temperate and warmer tropical climates, resulting in lush growth of diverse vegetation below the pond cypress and bald cypress canopies. Visitors will find that although often distinguished by grasses and wetlands, the Everglades is also home to beautiful flowering plants like orchids, colorful bromeliads and even the endangered goatsfoot passionflower. Self-proclaimed botanists could spend hours admiring the different blooms this national treasure has to offer.



PHOTOGRAPHY: SAWGRASS RECREATION PARK

▲ A young alligator presenting its already impressive set of teeth.



▲ A cluster of roseate spoonbills waded in the shallow waters.



▲ The Everglades is the largest remaining subtropical wilderness in the United States.



▲ A hazy sunset on the marsh.



▲ A lone alligator swims along the banks of the River of Grass.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANTHONY J. RAYBURN





Hit The Links

The area that includes Miramar, Pembroke Pines, Weston, Southwest Ranches, and Cooper City is a haven for those who love to golf. The year-round sun and warm weather of Greater Fort Lauderdale are the perfect setting for an array of sprawling, perfectly manicured courses.

▲ Perfect your swing at Grand Palms Spa and Golf Resort.



▲ Gently undulating mounds and a few tricky sand traps at The Club at Weston Hills.

PEMBROKE PINES

▲ Open since 1985, Flamingo Lakes Golf & Country Club is a hidden gem. This sprawling course presents a challenge for seasoned golfers while providing plenty of opportunity for novices to pick up new skills amid beautiful water elements and rolling hills. Nearby, Pembroke Lakes Golf and Racquet Club, offers a pristine course with features like a large practice area complete with oversized putting green, bunker and chipping green. Groups are welcome, and members can enjoy a top-class restaurant plus tennis courts and a pool. Just down the road, the Grand Palms Spa and Golf Resort is a perfect pick for visiting golf aficionados. And while locals can pop by their amazing course for a regular day on the green, stay-cationers enjoy an enhanced experience staying overnight to relish the resort's other amenities.

WESTON AND COOPER CITY

In nearby Weston, more first-rate courses await. Try Bonaventure Golf Club for a course that combines fun, challenge and natural beauty with a location alongside the Everglades. They're especially known for the stunning signature waterfall that stretches across the third hole. For an extra test of your skills, hit up The Club at Weston Hills. Its two state-of-the-art, 18-hole courses have hosted several major golf tournaments over the years. The Club also provides event space, athletic facilities, social areas and dining options so you really can make a day of it. In nearby Cooper City, find Cooper Colony Country Club, an executive 18-hole course complete with a practice facility that offers late-night access. Their extensive driving range also makes this a must-stop spot.

WESTON, PEMBROKE PINES, SOUTHWEST RANCHES, MIRAMAR & COOPER CITY

RESTAURANTS

The incredible range of dining choices available to you in Weston, Southwest Ranches, Miramar, Cooper City and Pembroke Pines serve up the ultimate culinary adventure. Argentinian flank steak, Cuban ropa vieja, spicy Japanese sushi, artisan gelato, gourmet Italian and fondue feasts, along with endless Prosecco, raw oysters and more await.

PEMBROKE PINES



HAVANA 1957

► Ever dreamed about dancing the night away in the glory days of 1950s Havana? Whether it's your birthday or simply happy hour, drinks flow and the joint stays jumping. Traditional Cuban cuisine satisfies the appetite you're sure to work up. Enjoy *tostones rellenos* (stuffed green plantains), *ropa vieja* (braised and shredded flank steak stewed in criolla sauce), *la orquesta Cubana* (a fantastic house sampler platter), or a famous Cuban sandwich. Kids and lunch menus mean you can take the whole family back to historical Havana on your visit.

► **14571 S.W. 5th St.**
havana1957.com/pembroke-pines

THE VILLAGE TAVERN

► Like others in this chain, the Village Tavern offers an incredible variety of dishes, presenting delicious and affordable choices. Twists on staples like their truffle shoestring fries, Thai chicken nachos and pimiento cheese bacon burger with their signature applewood-smoked bacon make even the simplest of orders extraordinary. However, make sure you ask for the specials to give yourself a surprise treat. The extensive beverage selection assures a fun happy hour.

► **14555 S.W. 2nd St. | villagetavern.com**



RA SUSHI

► Poke, sashimi and nigiri complement the sushi platters, perfect for sharing with friends or indulging in all by yourself. The menu has a special shareable section featuring items like *shishito* peppers, battered seafood tempura, *gyoza*, skewers, lobster spring rolls, pineapple cheese wontons and flavored wings, which all nicely pair with an evening out for drinks with friends. For a full dinner, the Hibachi offerings cater to seafood and meat lovers alike with filet mignon and colossal shrimp, while teriyaki, yakisoba, chicken katsu and udon dishes satisfy other Japanese cuisine cravings. Tofu and vegetables abound, ensuring a delightful dining experience for vegetarians.

► **201 S.W. 145th Terrace**
rasushi.com/locations/pembroke-pines



MEZES GREEK TAVERNA

▼ Start with hummus and warm pita bread, finish with the most heavenly baklava, and without even touching an entree, you'll agree that Mezes is a great choice for an easy and affordable meal. On seeing the generous helping of the Greek surf and turf, an award winning shrimp *saganaki* dish accompanied by tender lamb chops, lemon potatoes and grilled peppers, or the traditional *moussaka* with layers of eggplant, potato and seasoned ground beef topped with béchamel and parmesan cheese, you'll be glad you arrived hungry. Pastas, platters and pitas are part of an assortment of delicious choices for any appetite.

► **10040 Pines Blvd. | mezestaverna.com**



UNIT B EATERY + SPIRITS

Nowadays, it seems everyone wants to partake in charcuterie and drinks with friends. This is the spot to do just that. Cured meat, local cheese, seasoned pickles and grilled sourdough complement a selection of cocktails, including the dealer's choice — an off-menu specialty craft cocktail made upon request. Enjoy \$1 oysters on Tuesday nights; they'll keep them coming as long as they're available. Brunch includes two-hour "endless" Prosecco or cocktail pairings for \$20 and \$25 respectively, while dinner showcases decadent indulgences like raw oysters and the sinfully delicious smoked Kurobuta pork chop.

► **610 S.W. 145th Terrace**
unitbeateryandspirits.com

CAPRICCIO

Gourmet entrees and simple pasta dishes make Capriccio's the ideal meeting point between treating yourself to an extravagant meal and indulging in that comfort food feeling. Music accompanies your repast as you dine on dishes like veal capriccio (veal sautéed and flambéed in cognac with wild mushrooms in a cream sauce) or the pollo porcini (chicken breast stuffed with sautéed spinach, pine nuts and Gorgonzola cheese, served in a porcini brandy cream sauce). Creating a memorable dining event for you is a specialty, whether at the restaurant or your home, including curated menu catering options delivered right to your door.

► **2424 N. University Drive**
capriccios.net



PHOTOGRAPHY: BELLINI ITALIAN BISTRO

BELLINI ITALIAN BISTRO

▲ Authentic Italian cuisine is what draws so many to Bellini. Order panini or pizza from the wood-fired oven for pick up or revel in a multi-course fine dining restaurant experience. You are spoiled for choice right from the appetizer portion of the meal with items like succulent grilled octopus and seafood *carpaccio*. Remember, however, to save ample room for the entrees, as lamb shank with *risotto*, *osso bucco*, *linguini nero* and fall off the bone tender short ribs with *gnocchi*, followed by decadent desserts like the ricotta cheese and pear ravioli in walnut sauce, are worth the indulgence.

➡ 2780 Weston Road | belliniweston.com



LA RURAL: ARGENTINE STEAKHOUSE

◀ A true Argentinian culinary experience is what you will discover at this restaurant. It boasts prime cuts of Angus beef prepared in the authentic Argentinian way as well as other traditional cultural gourmet grilled specials from seabass to lobster to chicken. Beef *carpaccio*, sweetbreads served in green onion sauce and empanada appetizers start you off nicely before you delve into the main entrees for a true Argentine dining experience. Rack of lamb, delicious short ribs, lobster ravioli and various *milanesas* are equally as tempting. Weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. are the perfect times to indulge at only \$16 per meal.

➡ 2346 Weston Road
laruralgroup.com

PRIMETIME RESTAURANT AND BAR

The dinner menu here boasts succulent cuts of steak, tender chicken and seafood entrees like mahi mahi and salmon, accompanied by sides like creamy mashed potatoes and rice. Salads also feature a variety of toppings, and healthy fare like grilled asparagus complements the meal. Best of all, from noon to 3 p.m. on weekday afternoons, you can pop in and enjoy some of these dishes for under \$10, including one fountain drink. Their nightly happy hour is also the perfect excuse for get-togethers with friends.

➡ 1744 Main St.
primetimeweston.com

LA PERLA SEAFOOD BAR AND GRILL

You'll dive into a full Peruvian cuisine experience at La Perla regardless of whether you decide to dine in their well-spaced outdoor setting or if you order in and indulge from the comfort of your couch. The menu is filled with traditional tasty dishes from Peru. Try the *ceviche del chef*, with three different types of seafood. Here, the rice can stand on its own, whether you go with *arroz con mariscos* or their famous *arroz chaufa*. Steak, chicken and pork are also served up in classical dishes, and always remember to ask for the deliciously addictive green sauce.

➡ 1396 S.W. 160th Ave.
laperlaweston.com



SUSHIATO

◀ Sushiato offers far more than its name implies. Featuring a "latin fusion" element, tropical flavors are mixed with original Japanese cuisine and recipes. These delectable dishes are meant to be enjoyed while taking in the art gallery. Even if you aren't a fan of sushi, items like their fried chicken and the beef *tataki* (thin slices of filet mignon with garlic *ponzu*) are some options for other tastes. People come here for the sushi, however, and like many others, you'll probably be back for signature items like the Miami, adam and carpe diem rolls among others.

➡ 4483 Weston Road | sushi-ato.com



GELATO GOURMET

▲ This family business provides a way to indulge without any guilt. Their one-of-a-kind artisanal gelato has no additives, uses no preservatives and contains 60% less fat than regular ice cream. For those looking to watch their sugar intake, these natural treats also use alternatives such as honey, agave, fructose and stevia. The ever growing menu of gelato flavors, cakes and popsicles is served with a menu of specialty coffees, crepes and waffles all made to order, including for catered affairs. No need for an event though, you can simply get gelato delivered directly to your door by the tray or pint.

➡ 143 Weston Road | gelatosgourmet.com

SOUTHWEST RANCHES

BLUE GINGER

One of the delights of dining at Blue Ginger is sitting at the bar as a conveyor belt of small wooden boats cruise past, full of sushi, edamame, and other delicious bites for you to choose from. However, there are also tables and booths for those wanting to sit together and chat. Everything on the menu is available online. And while the yaki udon noodles, katsu, teriyaki and tempura

entrees are all appetizing, you should make sure to save room for the addictive edamame with garlic ginger sauce, signature happiness roll and the mochi ice cream.

➡ 15791 Sheridan St.
bluegingersw ranchesfl.com

MIRAMAR



PHOTOGRAPHY: BO'S BBQ & BOKAMPER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL

BOKAMPER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL

▲ If you can't be at the game, then being at Bokamper's is probably the next best thing. The view over the water outside is ideal for dining, and inside, TVs line the walls and fans cheer as the game unfolds. Pitcher and bucket specials and a range of drinks complement the crispy calamari, loaded nachos and Buffalo wings as people cheer for their teams. Large and light meals are available for sit down events and family gatherings, from epic burgers and beer-battered fish and chips to salads, with the kids' menu proffering yummy dishes from quesadillas to grilled chicken.

► 15500 S.W. 29th St. | bokampers.com/miramar

LA CARRETA

This well-known chain of Cuban restaurants has been around since 1976, and it's a staple of the Floridian food scene. Known for serving food "abuela style" (the way your grandmother would cook), the meals live up to the claim. Hearty servings of traditional items like *vaca frita*, *ropa vieja*, *chicharrones* and *tamales* together with comfort food add-ons like *yuca* fries and *croquettes*, and *fufú con masitas* satisfy any hunger. A must-have here is the braised oxtail. Once you taste it, you'll understand why La Carreta has such a long-lived, excellent reputation.

► 14791 Miramar Parkway | lacarreta.com

LA FAMIGLIA

► What started as a family pizza place back in 1972 has become a favorite family Italian restaurant just as the name suggests. Still run by family, it's a perfect place to gather with your own relatives and friends for a hearty, authentic staple meal from the old country. Be it baked manicotti, ziti, spaghetti, fettuccine, linguine or whatever your favorite pasta dish may be, the servings here are going to deliver exactly what you've been craving. Favorites like the lasagna, meatball parmigiana and veal parmigiana hit the spot just as much as the pizza still does decades later.

► 11655 Red Road
lafamigliamiramar.com



COOPER CITY



THE MELTING POT

◀ Enjoy a private romantic feast for two or a catered group event — a meal at The Melting Pot is an exploration of the senses and an ideal choice for special occasions. The fondue bowls offer a variety of cheeses and other dipping options such as *coq au vin*, a vegetable bouillon, bourguignonne and Caribbean mojo. Also enjoy tabletop grilling for the prime steak, salmon, shrimp and other entree meats and vegetarian options prepared at your table. For dessert, a variety of chocolate swirls await, with sweet treats and fresh fruit ready to dip and savor.

➡ **5834 S. Flamingo Road**
meltingpot.com/cooper-city-fl

LEAF HOUSE

▶ If you're a bubble tea aficionado, this is the place to go on a hot day. If you've never tried this Taiwanese foodie craze, also known as boba tea, which recently exploded on the global culinary scene, now's your chance. The chilled drink menu choices include, among others, creamy taro, jasmine, black and oolong milk teas, plus matcha and cheese foam teas in flavors like strawberry. If you're just in the mood for a more traditional cool drink, infused sodas, fruit teas, smoothies and virgin mojitos are also available, along with Asian hot teas.

➡ **12389 Sheridan St.**
leaf-house.com

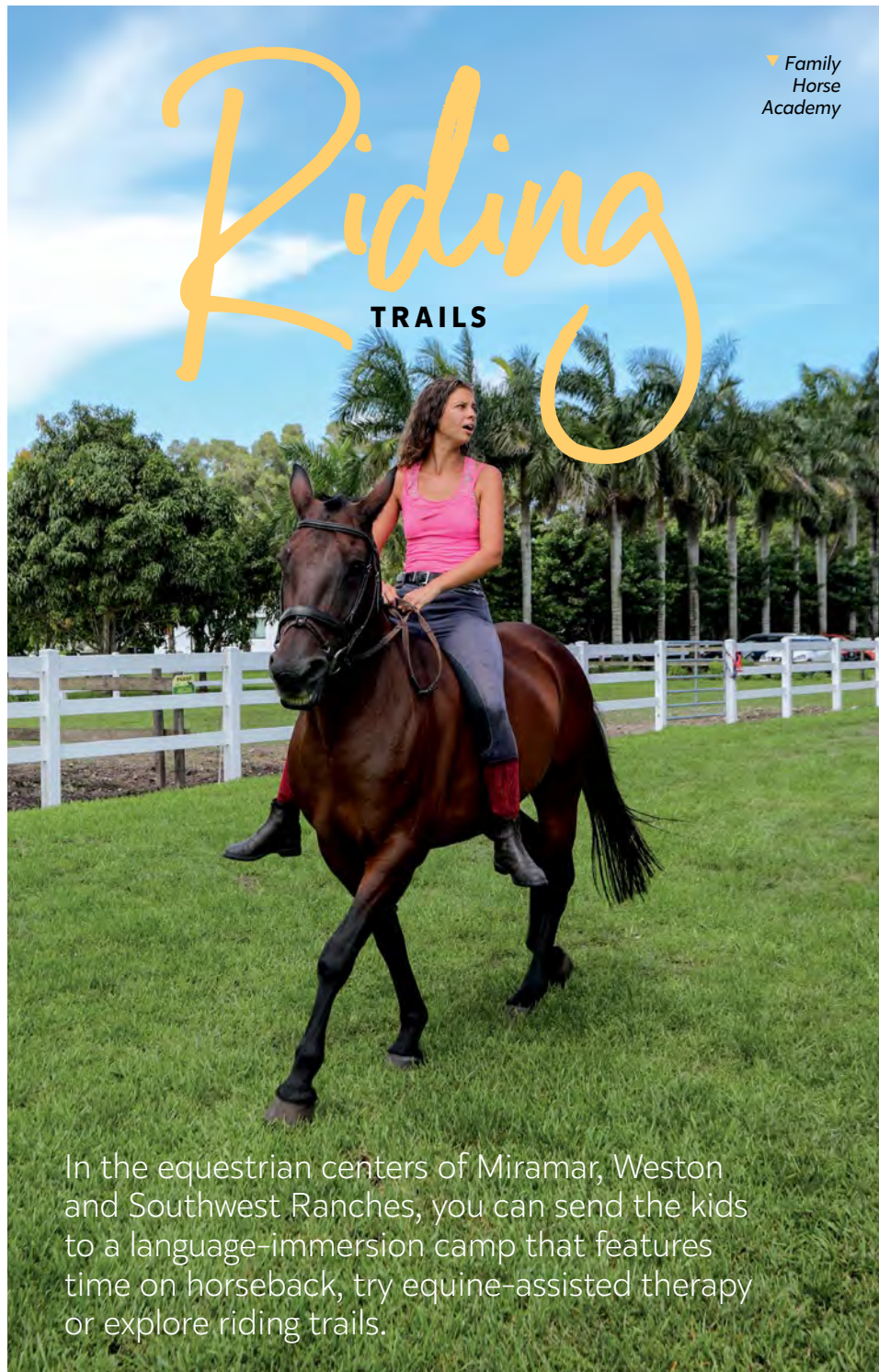


PHOTOGRAPHY: LEAF HOUSE

BROCCOLINI CAFÉ

Fresh, homemade pasta, delicious *risotto*, an extensive menu and generous portions are the reasons people rave about this hidden gem. They offer traditional Italian flavors, from the appetizers like their famous bone broth soup to entrees like *frutti di mare* on black linguine and traditional chicken parmesan as well as their divine desserts. Their prix fixe menu, which includes wine, allows for an amazing meal on a set budget. And substantial portions mean you'll definitely have leftovers to savor at home. You can also simply get it delivered and enjoy it at home from the start.

➡ **2535 N. Hiatus Road**
broccolinicafe.com



In the equestrian centers of Miramar, Weston and Southwest Ranches, you can send the kids to a language-immersion camp that features time on horseback, try equine-assisted therapy or explore riding trails.

FAMILY HORSE ACADEMY

▲ As a family-owned ranch, Family Horse Academy strives to provide a welcoming environment for people of all ages who want to learn to ride or take care of horses. The facility offers riding for children and adults, trail rides and day camps, and hosts a variety of private events for birthday parties or special occasions. There is even a petting zoo on site with bunnies, chicks and goats.

➡ **6311 Melaleuca Road, Southwest Ranches**
facebook.com/familyhorseacademy

A&A ADVENTURE HORSE TRAILS

Manager Andre Pickett and his colleagues lead shady trail rides, providing snacks — or a full barbecue — for individuals, families or private events. His team works with horses trained to accommodate any rider, noting a recent adventurer was 106 years old and others have been blind or live with spina bifida.

➡ **2764 S.W. 83rd Ave., Miramar**
aaadventurehorsetrails.com

CAMP LINGUA

This unique camp program — available year-round in a variety of different time and length formats — is one of the many offerings at Lingua Ranch. Here, they combine learning with the sensory experience of horse riding and other fun, outdoor activities to enhance memory retention for language instruction which includes Spanish, Italian and French.

➡ **4700 Dykes Road, Southwest Ranches**
camplingua.com

BRITISH BARN

The owners of this full-service equestrian facility live on the property, guaranteeing the best, loving care for horses boarded here. They offer riding lessons from beginner to competitive, horse boarding and a summer camp program for kids.

➡ **17640 S.W. 52nd Court, Southwest Ranches**
thebritishbarn.com



ROCKET WORLD

Pembroke Pines

For fans of Buzz Aldrin – or even Buzz Lightyear – with sights set on exploration, look no further than Rocket World. This space-themed indoor playground combines a learning environment with intergalactic activity and adventure. Kids can face off in a high-tech laser tag duel, travel through tunnels in a multi-level playground or escape into virtual reality games. Plus there's an on-site concession stand serving up American classics.

Rocket World is open Wednesday to Sunday afternoons. Visit their website for tickets, memberships or to book your next birthday party.

➡ **20911 Johnson St., Suite 112**
rocketworldusa.com

PLAYTOWN MUSEUM

Weston

At Playtown Museum, creativity runs wild as kids solve problems and have fun using their imagination. Children can role-play in model settings like an animal hospital, ice cream truck and beauty boutique. Schedule parties for your child and a small group of their friends with kid-friendly offerings like face painting, balloon twisting and pizza.

Because the museum is open only to children six years old and under, parents or guardians must accompany their young ones at all times.

➡ **153 Weston Road**
playtownmuseum.com

Family

MATTERS

PARADISE COVE WATER PARK AT CB SMITH PARK

Pembroke Pines

Tucked away inside of C.B. Smith Park is Greater Fort Lauderdale's largest water park, Paradise Cove. The facility boasts four unique areas of play. Sharky's Lagoon is a popular hangout spot with waterslides, water sprayers and interactive elements. Meanwhile, Parrot's Point has a water playground for kiddies, and Crazy Creek is perfect for a relaxing float. But the main attraction is Paradise Pipeline, featuring five-story-tall corkscrew waterslides all emptying into a deep plunge pool.

Paradise Cove also hosts swimming lessons and is a popular destination for summer camp field trips. Find admission fees, operating hours and rules and regulations on the Broward Parks website.

➡ **900 N. Flamingo Road | broward.org/parks**



▼ Get your bellyful at the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival.

ON THE Marquee

Year-round events that showcase and celebrate local culture are put on by and for the Miramar community.

ROTARY RUN FOR TOMORROW

Weston

Each December, the Rotary Run for Tomorrow comes to the city of Weston. Sponsored by Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, this health and fitness event features half marathons, half marathon relays, and 5k and 10k runs. Proceeds benefit the Weston Rotary Club's local and international charitable projects including programs that support seniors and veterans, addiction recovery programs and family services. The event also includes fitness competitions, obstacle courses and a dunk tank!

➡ Vista Park Blvd. | westonrotaryrun.com

GRACE JAMAICAN JERK FESTIVAL

Miramar

As one of the largest Caribbean food festivals in the U.S., the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival is a great way to get a taste of Caribbean cuisine without booking a trip to the islands. Experience delicious tropical flavors, culinary demonstrations and live music at this signature November event, which is open from noon to 10 p.m. The cover charge gets you access to the venue and performance stages, but bring your wallet for the food and crafts. This is a family-friendly event with activities like a fun zone for kids, cultural presentations and celebrity cook-offs.

➡ Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Parkway
jerkfestival.com

BURGER & BREW FEST

Miramar

Every August, craft beer junkies flock to discover new brews and local favorites at this annual Miramar event. Entry is free, but a \$50 ticket gets you access to the VIP experience, which includes exclusive access to select food and drink offerings and a swag bag. While ID is required for the beer tastings, anyone under 21 can still enjoy gourmet burgers, local novelty vendors, and live music!

➡ Town Center Plaza, 2300 Civic Center Place

THE GREAT

Outdoors

MIRAMAR

Miramar Pineland Park

Ecological site, park and nature center with picnic area, splash pad and playground.
3600 S. University Drive

Miramar Regional Park

Over 170 acres of recreational space, athletic fields, walking trails, water park and picnic areas, as well as pavilions available for rent. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
16801 Miramar Parkway

Monarch Lakes Park

Small neighborhood park, perfect for families with children.
2150 S.W. 136th Ave.

River Run Park

Waterfront with a walking trail, fishing area, tennis court, playground and pavilions open for rental. Open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
9400 Miramar Blvd.

PEMBROKE PINES

C.B. Smith Park

Nearly 300 acres of walking and jogging trails, biking, fishing, and tennis and racquetball courts, with a water park and playground. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
900 N. Flamingo Road

Chapel Trail Park Nature Preserve

450 acre nature preserve with boardwalks, pavilions and wetlands. Open dusk to dawn with canoe rentals on Saturdays.
19800 Sheridan St.

West Pines Soccer Park and Nature Preserve

Well-lit basketball court, playground and 6 soccer fields.
350 S.W. 196 Ave.



▲ C.B. Smith Park

Pembroke Pines Craig Rupp K-9 Dog Park

Renovated and fenced in for dogs of varying sizes to play off leash. Open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk.
9751 Johnson St.

Central Trail (FPL R.O.W.)

Unique 2.2 mile trail for walking or biking. Free parking available at Pembroke Pines Dog Park.

Soccer Town

Soccer complex for rentals, clubs and leagues, and fitness classes.
1381 N.W. 129th Ave.

WESTON

Peace Mound Park

Eight-acre park with walking paths, playground and dock.
1300 Three Village Road

Library Park

Dog friendly, five-acre public park and greenspace with bike station, gazebos, lighted paths and open play area. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
4499 Bonaventure Blvd.

Indian Trace Park

Baseball fields, basketball courts, fitness stations and multi-purpose fields
17998 Saddle Club Road

COOPER CITY

Brian Piccolo Sports Park and Velodrome

175-acre sports park with the only velodrome in Florida, open for walking, jogging, biking, picnicking and athletic fields.
9501 Sheridan St.

Cooper City Pool and Tennis Center Park

5.5-acre fenced and covered playground and open play area. No dogs allowed.
11600 Stonebridge Parkway

SOUTHWEST RANCHES

Steven L. Josias Dog and Equestrian Park

Size-separated dog park with fenced-in play areas. Open Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to dusk and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
5836 S.W. 193rd Way

Sheridan Oaks Stables

Equestrian facility with horseback riding and stables.
13321 Old Sheridan St.

Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park

Ten acres of horse trails, farm-themed playground, dog walking and scenic wetlands with nature trails.
5840 S.W. 148th Ave.

Resources

MARKETS

Bravo Supermarkets

Neighborhood grocery.
6819 Miramar Parkway,
Miramar
bravosupermarkets.com

Bravo Supermarkets

Neighborhood grocery.
12141 Pembroke Road,
Pembroke Pines
bravosupermarkets.com

Publix Supermarket

Groceries, deli and bakery.
11000 Pembroke Road,
Miramar
publix.com

Publix Supermarket

Groceries, deli and bakery.
18341 Pines Blvd.,
Pembroke Pines
publix.com

Sprouts Farmers Market

Healthy food store.
12216 Miramar Parkway,
Miramar
sprouts.com

The Fresh Market

Upscale grocery chain.
2200 N. Flamingo Road,
Suite 14A,
Pembroke Pines
thefreshmarket.com

Whole Foods Market

Natural and organic
grocery items.
14956 Pines Blvd.,
Pembroke Pines
wholefoodsmarket.com

FITNESS

24 Hour Fitness

National gym chain with
fitness classes.
11645 Red Road Space H1,
Miramar
954-744-1836
24hourfitness.com



CrossFit Siege

Intense fitness training.
17051 Miramar Parkway
Space B-19, Miramar
954-441-0041
crossfitsiege.com

Crunch Fitness

Gym with specialized and
online classes available.
10121 Pines Blvd.,
Pembroke Pines
954-374-8604
crunch.com

LA Fitness

Fitness club with personal
and group fitness classes.
1900 N. Flamingo Road,
Pembroke Pines
954-447-3840
lafitness.com

LYFE Athletics

Fitness center with
personal trainers.
12330 S.W. 53rd St. Suite
707-708, Cooper City
305-812-3153
lyfeathletes.com

Orangetheory Fitness

Specialized gym with
group fitness classes.
12316 Miramar Parkway,
Miramar
954-908-3636
orangetheory.com

ATM BANKS

ATM

6337 Miramar Parkway,
Miramar

ATM

7030 Pembroke Road,
Miramar

ATM (Shell)

6924 Miramar Parkway,
Miramar

ATM (Suntrust Bank)

4725 S Flamingo Road,
Cooper City

Bank of America ATM

12300 Miramar Parkway,
Miramar

Bank of

America ATM

9400 Griffin Road,
Cooper City

Chase

Bank ATM

11100 Pembroke
Road, Miramar

City National

Bank ATM

6890 Miramar
Parkway, Miramar

TD Bank ATM

14836 Pines Blvd.,
Pembroke Pines

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Miramar

Pembroke Pines Regional Chamber of Commerce

Promoting the continuous
improvement of the
common good through
the pursuit of new
business.
9001-B Pembroke
Road, Pembroke
Pines
954-432-9808
mirampembrokepines.org

Weston Florida Chamber of Commerce

Protecting and
promoting the local
business community
through networking,
leadership and growth
opportunities.
9001-B Pembroke
Road, Pembroke
Pines, FL 33025
954-432-9808
westonflchamber.com



▲ Beyond these weathered gates lies a secret paradise in Pembroke Pines.

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