

DANIA
BEACH

Golden Hour

explore

G R E A T E R F O R T L A U D E R D A L E



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WELCOME TO Dania Beach

Discover the charm of Old South Florida alive and well in Dania Beach.

Within city limits, discerning visitors can enjoy elite experiences, including yachting on the intracoastal and browsing haute décor at the Design Center of the Americas. History and culture buffs can get their fill at the Holocaust Museum, Art and Antique District, and Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts, while those in search of retail therapy and gastronomic indulgences can find options for shopping and dining to their heart's content at the sprawling new Dania Pointe multipurpose complex.

Sweet-toothed foodies can finish a variety of local cuisine options with nationally acclaimed favorite, Jaxson's Ice Cream. All bets are on at The Casino @ Dania Beach, featuring slots, Jai-Alai and other live entertainment. And the outdoorsy can enjoy cost effective activities from kayaking to camping at the many spots for nature lovers and the Dania Beach Pier.

In these pages, we'll introduce you to favorite nooks and crannies, providing an inside look at the places that make Dania Beach truly special. Whether you're a Broward native looking to reconnect with your community, or a first-time visitor searching for memorable experiences, discover the fascinating features and the unique attractions in Dania Beach that you should add to your itinerary.





THE Rundown

Visitors to the coastal city of Dania Beach arrive expecting breathtaking ocean vistas and maybe a good time at the slots, but there are so many lesser-known tidbits that may surprise and delight.

The sunny city traces its origins to the 1890s, when 12 migrant families from Denmark moved to the settlement planned by developer W. C. Valentine. Then known as Modello, residents rechristened their town Dania as an ode to their Danish roots, following its incorporation in 1904 when it became the first city in Broward County.

Dania soon blossomed into a major farming hub. By the turn of the century, robust agricultural output earned it the title of "Tomato Capital of the World." The Roaring Twenties brought interest in developing seaside attractions, so in 1927 the town purchased a strip of coastline from the neighboring city of Hollywood for only \$10.

The purchase yielded major returns for the city, which officially renamed itself Dania Beach in 1998 to honor its coastal treasures.

▲ A view to the shore where sand meets azure Atlantic waters from the Dania Beach Pier.

Today, the city wraps around the southside of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and to the east, on the coast, it is bounded by several parks, a lake prime for kayaking and miles of certified clean, healthy beaches. It is a true boater's paradise with serene interior waterways and several marinas. There are ideal spots for fishing, with some of the region's best birding spots on the water.

Dania Beach is the home of prominent companies like Chewy and Chiquita Brands International, as well as Florida Atlantic University's SeaTech Research Center – the base of America's first undergraduate ocean engineering program – and Nova Southeastern University's Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center.

No matter where the future takes Broward's oldest city, Dania Beach will surely retain the eclectic soul that makes it so beloved by locals and visitors alike.

▼ *The Patch is a sustainable urban farm that offers much more than tomatoes to Dania residents.*

► *A Courtney Mattison sculpture inspired by coral reefs graces the lobby of the NSU Guy Harvey Oceanographic Center.*



ESSENTIAL

ATTRACTIONS

When Danes from Wisconsin founded Dania Beach, the first city in Broward County, the small town was an agricultural empire on the coastal rail line. Later generations transformed the beachside community into a destination for people hunting antiques, vacationers chasing the sun, and families seeking a sense of small-town life tucked between the big cities of Fort Lauderdale and Miami. Members of the Seminole Tribe no longer wrestle gators for entertainment and the beer-drinking pig at The Rustic Inn Crabhouse has long since passed, but the town remains a lively destination. Still, because this is Florida after all, Dania Beach has its share of quirky sights, art destinations and outdoor adventures.



DANIA BEACH THE CASINO @ DANIA BEACH

WIENER MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS

▶ The world-class museum features four centuries of fired-art pieces. Local resident Arthur Wiener and his family opened the non-profit museum in 2014 to share his collection of international ceramic and hot glass art, as well as to highlight the works of South Florida artists. Wiener's appreciation started in college when a Royal Doulton character jug of Merlin with his owl Toby captured his attention in London. The museum's collections range from the 18th century British pottery of Josiah Wedgwood to a modern glass forest by American Dale Chihuly and collaborative contemporary Ardmore ceramics from South Africa to the Art Nouveau and Art Deco glass vessels of Frenchman René Lalique. The large collection and informative tours earned the museum a 2020 Traveler's Choice Award from Tripadvisor. Although art historians have called the collections superb, many of the bright and whimsical designs make it an appropriate stop for families with kids, too.

▶ 481 S. Federal Highway 2nd Floor | wmoda.com



THE CASINO @ DANIA BEACH AND STAGE 954

◀ Another more recent addition to the town is The Casino @ Dania Beach and its entertainment venue, Stage 954. (There's a Jai-Alai arena, too, but more on that later.) The owner established the complex with the goal of offering a complete entertainment package, a "whole-day experience" from the hotel to the casino to the restaurants to the stage. In addition to the more than 750 slot machines and other games, the concert hall has become a regular stop on the tour circuit for classic rock bands from Jefferson Airplane to Foreigner. A second smaller stage offers free music on Fridays and Saturdays, typically from local bands but sometimes from bigger acts like pop rock stars Smash Mouth. The casino also books comedians, such as Gabriel Iglesias, for its main stage.

▶ 301 E. Dania Beach Blvd. | casinodaniabeach.com



THE DESIGN CENTER OF THE AMERICAS (DCOTA)

▲ The center was built in 1985 as one of three world-class destinations for high-end designers, architects, decorators and dealers. If you're planning to renovate or redecorate your home (or yacht), the Design Center of The Americas has you covered with more than 40 showrooms featuring pieces from more than 1,000 manufacturers. (Note: Some showrooms only sell to qualified designers and professionals, but the center offers a referral program to connect you with one ahead of your visit.) The building itself features clean, modern architecture and fanciful art installations that are worth seeing. The center also hosts events needing an elegant setting, rents office space, and includes a hotel with minimalist rooms that feature floor-to-ceiling windows perfect for taking in the sunset.

➡ **1855 Griffin Road | dcota.com**

THE BANYAN HOUSE

▼ Multimodal holistic therapist and life coach Claudia V. opened The Banyan House in 2015 to give people space to free their minds and heal their hearts. Services include guided meditation, crystal and sound healing, aromatherapy, reiki, shakti dancing, yoga, body facials and massage. The founder also offers her own exclusive integrated healing sessions, called alchemy immersion, that "restructure cellular memory" to provide "emotional and spiritual release of blocks and challenges." Walking into the shop and studio, you'll notice crystals and sacred stones fill a gap at each threshold, designed to balance your chakras. The store offers incense, chimes, healing stones, sage bundles, essence oils, statues, books and jewelry all chosen to aid your healing or relaxation.

➡ **236 N. Federal Highway Suite 102 | thebanyanhouse.com**



OCEAN PARK BEACH FISHING PIER & MARINA

▶ The fishing pier at Dania Beach Ocean Park stretches more than 800 feet from the sand into the clear waters of the Atlantic. It's a popular spot to cast a line for tarpon or to sit and muse over the blue sky where it greets the turquoise sea at the horizon. Fishing tackle can be rented and snacks purchased on site. Although the beach closes after dark, the pier remains lighted and open until midnight for fishing and stargazing. Locals often gather with friends and family on the white sand beach to surf, swim or grill. A splash pad at the park caters to kids. Tiki huts lining the beach offer a retreat from the sun. If you have a boat or kayak, the park ramp offers quick access to Whiskey Creek and Stranahan River. A nearby state park offers full-moon kayak tours each month, a great option for couples seeking a quieter adventure.

▶ 100 N. Beach Road



TIGERTAIL LAKE RECREATIONAL CENTER

◀ Whether it's a day trip, corporate team building retreat, private party or school field trip, you'll find outdoor adventure at Tigertail Lake Recreation Center. The complex owned by Broward College, but open to the public, features affordable water sport rentals like kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, windsurf boards and sailboats, as well as courses to master them. Certified instructors also provide training in scuba diving, first aid and lifeguarding. On a weekend Adventure Trip, attendees can head off-site to enjoy Greater Fort Lauderdale's natural environs with activities like kayaking in the Everglades National Park or diving through area historical sites. Groups of any age can learn collaboration and problem solving skills as they splash, climb and slide along the ropes challenge course or play on the new Aqua Challenge water course.

▶ 580 Gulf Stream Way | tigertaillake.com



DANIA POINTE

▲ If you're looking for a day out with the family, or you want some time alone, Dania Pointe is your one-stop shop. It's a multipurpose complex with condos, an outdoor mall and retail plaza, packed with more than 100 acres of shopping, eating and entertainment options. After enjoying paella at Padrino's Cuban Cuisine or hand-pulled noodles with tonkatsu at InRamen, laugh it up at the Improv Comedy Club, have your nails done at one of the salons, or shop at the dozens of chain and boutique stores. No one can walk into Sugarboo & Co. without smiling. The whimsical store features art and home décor that will bring sunshine into any home, whether it's a linen pillow painted with an elephant clutching flowers or a canvas print of a joyful blue dog. If you never want to leave Dania Pointe, you could just move into one of the new luxury condos or office suites.

▶ 139 S. Compass Way | daniapointe.com

DR. VON D. MIZELL-EULA JOHNSON STATE PARK

▶ On the other side of the city pier is this state park named to honor two Florida civil rights activists whose organized "wade-ins" in the '50s and '60s led to the desegregation of the county's beaches. Even though it's tucked against the airport and coastal condos, signs of the city beyond the shrubs, coastal hammocks and secluded beaches are hard to spot. Miles of trails and pavilions stocked with grills make it popular for quiet hikes, picnics and bike rides.

Visitors can rent kayaks, canoes or paddleboards to explore the mangrove hammocks for endangered manatees. Scuba divers can sometimes be seen among the off-shore reefs. Fishermen often reel in red snapper, Florida grouper and Spanish mackerel.

The park is a premier spot for birdwatching, especially in the fall during annual migrations. The complete coastal ecosystem supports shoreline species like sanderlings and tuddy turnstones while warblers and doves dart through the tropical hardwoods and egrets and storks fish the tidal creek.

▶ 6503 N. Ocean Drive | floridastateparks.org/mizell



WHISKEY CREEK HIDEOUT

◀ While visiting Mizell-Johnson State Park, don't miss Whiskey Creek Hideout. The concessionaire rents stand-up paddleboards and canoes to explore the waterways framed by mangroves where numerous bird species flit and glide. Learn about local history and park fauna during guided ecotours, sunset kayak tours, and glow stick-lighted full moon kayak tours that end with gooey s'mores around the campfire. After working up an appetite, relax with friends at the waterfront bar and eatery. Start the meal with locally smoked wahoo dip, devour a tender pulled pork sandwich and finish with a round of sangrias. The restaurant also offers a kids menu and small list of breakfast offerings.

▶ 6503 N. Ocean Drive | whiskeycreekhideout.com

More to see:

Dania Jai-Alai (page 21)
Art & Antique District (page 22)
Holocaust Museum (page 26)

Live Like a Local



Kim
BUTLER

Stats: I'm a young-at-heart empty nester with a passion for socializing, exploring and just having fun.

To connect with nature: I go to Whiskey Creek at Mizell-Johnson State Park. It's tucked away in a lagoon-like setting. You can rent or bring your own kayak and explore the mangroves and wildlife. Head in the opposite direction and find yourself in the waters of Port Everglades. It's amazing, the different experiences you can have just by deciding to go left or right.

Where to chill: I love to pamper myself at the Tippy Salonbar, or get my "steps" in as I do some window shopping around Dania Pointe.

For casual or formal dining: Tropical Acres is an original Dania Beach family-owned establishment that captures the essence of old Florida with incredible service and a high-quality menu. My favorite meal there is an exquisitely prepared filet mignon with a glass of Cabernet.



▲ United House of Prayer west of the train tracks in Dania Beach.

Emmanuel
GEORGE



Stats: I'm 32 years old, very laid back with a deep passion for local Black history.

To connect with Black History:

Most of the historical landmarks have been redeveloped, but you can still visit C.W. Thomas Park (formerly Modello Park), where the Dania Red Birds played. They were a semi-pro negro league baseball team.

Where to chill: Dania Beach is very lowkey and laid back at night. There aren't too many people and the pier gives you some of the best views you can imagine.

Try the Haitian food: My personal fav is Lubin's bakery. It's a small Haitian restaurant on West Dixie Highway with some of the best Haitian patties, kremas and sos pois.

Bonus share: Dania Beach across the tracks is the first incorporated Black community in Broward County. It's a must-do to see what has been preserved.



▲ Outdoor shopping at Dania Pointe.



Sandy DICTOR

Stats: I'm 60 years young, an active bike rider, yoga stretcher, kayaker, fisherperson, and artisan jewelry maker who grew up in

Hollywood and Dania Beach. I'm an avid traveler with a passion for the outdoors, music, dance and good food!

To stay active: I love riding down to Dania Beach and fishing from the Dania Beach pier, weekend yoga on the beach and at Banyan House.

Where to chill: I love sitting outside at Quarterdeck overlooking the ocean.

Fancy food and drinks: Cooper's Hawk has consistently great food and service. Best stuffed blue cheese olive martinis, love the scallops, and just try the Brussel sprouts app (even if you don't like Brussel sprouts). Honorable mention: Firebirds. My favorites are the lobster dip, peppercorn steak, port mushroom side, and pineapple martinis made with 23-day, in-house, pineapple-infused vodka.

Bonus share: Try local restaurants like Antonio's or Paolo's for Italian, or Joe's Fish Grill for fresh fish and bait hour all day. And the beach, the beach, the beach! With all our faithful local eateries, the beach, and now Dania Pointe, there is no reason to ever leave Dania... for anything.



▲ The splash pad at Dania Pointe.

Tamara JAMES



Stats: I'm 36, a passionate, extremely competitive former WNBA player in my second term as Dania Beach Mayor, and I'm proud mother to young prince Dion.

To enjoy the family friendly outdoors: I often take my son to Tigertail Lake Rec Center where you can enjoy water sports, and even a dog lake. My son's favorite – the Aqua Challenge – is an inflatable obstacle course entertaining for both kids and adults. It's fun, and you get a great workout. For grownups, Whiskey Creek Hideout, with its restaurant and bar, offers paddle boarding, canoeing and kayaking all on the intercoastal. You can walk over the dunes and sand to go relax on the beach.

Where to chill: I like to go to Dania Pointe with friends to try all the restaurants. I've taken my son to the bowling alley and let him play on the green space. The splash pad is popular for younger children. And I can't wait for the upcoming nightlife activities to take shape.

Food the American Way: Joe's Wood Grill is a BBQ place that offers EXCELLENT chicken wings, smoked chicken, pork, brisket and scrumptious desserts. When I visit, I make sure to have the salmon with mac and cheese. It's simply irresistible!

Bonus share: Coming in the near future, we have an approved "1,000 Mermaids" project that will place artificial reefs along the shore and facilitate underwater selfies.



▲ The Quarterdeck building is the anchor connecting the iconic Dania Beach Pier to the sandy shoreline.

YACHT LIFE

Greater Fort Lauderdale is the self-proclaimed "Venice of America," drawing gleaming yachts to about 300 miles of inner waterways and canals year round.

Although you could explore the region for days without ever setting foot on dry land, certain ports of call beckon, showcasing luxury marinas with slips and docks that can comfortably accommodate many of the superyachts cruising the area. With almost any amenity and every necessity, Dania Beach, in particular, offers a premium destination spot whether the plan is to drop anchor for a day, a week, a month or an entire season.

▲ A series of watercraft docked at Dania Beach Marina.

WHERE TO DOCK

While a major allure of yacht life is the open sea, another is the flexibility that mobile luxury affords while traveling from one destination to another. Disembarking and exploring can be a one-off adventure, but for some the goal is finding the perfect central location for a holiday in southern climes without foregoing one ounce of comfort and service.

Along with a thriving cultural, culinary and entertainment scene, Dania Beach boasts several high-end marina options for a variety of vessels. The Royale Palm is a family-owned enterprise that has been catering to the boating elite since 1966. The facility can accommodate watercraft up to 80 feet long, provides in-water services for vessels as long as 145 feet and lifts up to 75 tons for premium refinishing work done in the full-service boatyard. Conveniently located two miles from Port Everglades with no fixed bridges, allowing for quick and easy access between

them and the ocean, Royale Palm is also only a short stroll away from the city's amusements.

Another exceptional offering in Dania Beach, a mere three miles from the Atlantic Ocean and devoid of fixed bridges, is the opulent Harbour Towne Marina. This multiple-award-winning facility boasts 243 wet slips that can accommodate vessels as long as 200 feet and more than 600 dry storage spaces for those shorter than 50 feet. With 24-hour security and some of South Florida's largest yacht brokerages located on the property, it is easy to see why it has received such accolades as "Marina of The Year."

Nearby, Dania Beach Marina is conveniently located for locals and visitors alike. The 92-slip municipal facility offers a Captain's Lounge, pump-out station at each slip, and is now home to SeaTech, the Institute for Ocean and Systems Engineering College of Florida Atlantic University.



► Yachts on display at InterMarine Boats Dania Waterfront Showroom

FUN ON THE WATER

Hidden gems abound in the Dania Beach area, including sailing events, boat races and regattas, scuba shops and snorkeling. Locals love Griffin Marine Park, which is free to visit and wheelchair accessible. This launch ramp is perfectly suited to a smaller boat and a great choice for the avid fisherman looking for a day on the water.

Dania Beach is a premium location for off-shore and sport fishing. Opportunities to rent a vessel abound, from trolling in a fishing boat to speeding in a light craft to test driving your future superyacht. Companies like

Dusky Marine, specializing in custom fishing boats since 1967, are based in Dania Beach, as is Nautical Ventures which offers every possible seafaring service: yacht brokerage, a full-service marina, and supplies like engines, kayaks and stand up paddleboards. Since 1947, Cozy Cove Marina has been the go-to source for a brand new boat. Meanwhile, InterMarine Dania Beach and its waterfront showroom are not only an informative source with vast inventory, but also they incorporate the spirit of the boating community with international escapades and events throughout the year.

PHOTO JOURNAL

The Waterways of Dania Beach



Dania Beach is home to some of the most scenic waterways and world-class marinas that South Florida has to offer. The quixotic explorer on a paddleboard or the wanderer who enjoys a day on the yacht will discover Dania Beach is a nautical haven with something for every water-lover.

There's so much to discover. Largemouth bass, common snook and bluefish abound at Dania Cut-Off Canal, which leads into Fort Lauderdale's Stranahan River, making it a popular spot for fishing. The warm, year-round Florida sunshine allows boaters to experience the good life, floating along the scenic banks of Dania Beach's intracoastal waterways all flowing to the expansive sea.



▲ From Old Griffin Road, a view of Dania Cut-Off Canal, which runs from Hollywood to the sea.

Then there's West Lake, where you'll share the gleaming waters with gentle manatees and pensive great blue herons in an environmentalist's oasis that provides some of South Florida's best bird watching under gorgeous cerulean skies. The meandering waterways of Dania Beach are ideal routes to your restored mind, body and soul.



▲ View of West Lake from Dania Beach Blvd.



▲ Dania Beach Pier at sunrise.



▲ A small boat chugs north along the Stranahan River, just off Ocean Drive.



▲ Just east of State Road A1A, beside Cozy Cove Marina, personal vessels like these dock alongside Dania Beach homes.

DANIA BEACH

RESTAURANTS

Once known as the Tomato Capital of the World, you'll find the agricultural roots of Dania Beach reflected on menus offering fresh local produce and, of course, seafood. The culinary scene includes both nostalgic classics and modern dishes drawn from diverse, global inspirations: from Cuban fine dining to seaside pubs and Italian steakhouses to eclectic international bistros. Whatever you're craving, Dania Beach serves it up.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS

JAXSON'S ICE CREAM PARLOUR AND RESTAURANT

▲ Food Network named Jaxson's to its list of "25 Most Outrageous Ice Cream Treats" for The Kitchen Sink: a 36-scoop sundae served in a sink-shaped bowl with all the toppings and sizzling sparklers. Daunting, yes, but even the massive party dish is still not big enough to contain all 50 flavors of homemade ice cream offered each day. The café – decorated with memorabilia such as a working carousel and fortune telling machine – also offers American staples like burgers, hot dogs, salads and New York deli sandwiches.

➔ 128 S. Federal Highway | jaxsonicecream.com

TROPICAL ACRES STEAKHOUSE

The steaks char-broiled in an open pit were so popular when Tropical Acres opened in 1949 that owner Gene Harvey changed the name and menu at his other supper club in Westchester County, New York to match. Three generations later, his family still runs the Gold Coast institution lauded for its affordable, top-quality, meat from the land and sea. One example of their commitment to value: When in season, diners can buy two, 1-pound Maine lobsters with sides for less than \$30. The business expanded to include a butcher shop that sells custom cuts and ready-to-cook restaurant favorites like the tender mozzarella-stuffed meatballs.

➔ 2500 Griffin Road
tropicalacres.com



QUARTERDECK RESTAURANT

▲ The only thing better than an ocean view at dinner is fresh local cuisine served in a hip hangout like Quarterdeck on North Beach Road. The small regional chain aims to be the neighborhood bar where people meet for good eats and good times. In addition to the expected BBQ, tacos and burgers, Quarterdeck also offers "sushi boats" with dozens of fresh, modern rolls and regional dishes like crispy conch fritters and creamy stone crab chowder. The expansive selection at budget-friendly prices helped earn Quarterdeck a 2020 Traveler's Choice Award from Tripadvisor.

➡ 300 N. Beach Road | quarterdeckrestaurants.com

HISTORIC DOCKERS

Since 1947, bar and café Historic Dockers has been tucked into Cozy Cove Marina. The half-pound burgers are local favorites, especially at only \$5 on Monday nights. Most of the 18 taps offer Florida craft beers and the cocktail menu features affordable options. Guests enjoy daily specials and weekday happy hours.

➡ 318 N. Federal Highway | historicdockers.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS

THE FIELD IRISH PUB & EATERY

◀ The Field is all about Celtic rock. Yes, there are wood walls, cozy tables, a fireplace, pub menu staples, good beer and live music. But this Florida favorite offers something unique: a chance to cook your own steak or seafood on a 700-degree lava rock brought to your table. The nod to centuries-old Celtic cooking techniques is an exciting way to enjoy a top cut of meat. Or, visit for brunch to load up on a traditional Irish breakfast: bacon, sausage, eggs, grilled tomato, crisp potatoes, toast, and soft, salty meat-and-oatmeal puddings. A pint of Guinness is recommended, but not required.

➡ 3281 Griffin Road | thefieldfl.com



ZEN MYSTERY

▲ The spiritual boutique sells incense, candles, whimsical home goods and darned good vegan meals. House blends of tea, a variety of kombuchas, and organic beers and wine mean you can indulge guilt-free. The generous plate of Live Pad Thai features a silky almond butter sauce and al-dente-like kelp noodles. Or, if you're just craving a treat while listening to live music or a community lecture, try the creamy (vegan, of course) cheesecake or the banana soft serve "ice cream" topped with walnuts.

➡ 56 N. Federal Highway | zenmystery.com

MIDDLE EASTERN RESTAURANTS

► We just couldn't agree on which restaurant to highlight, so we decided to tell you about a stretch of Stirling Road near I-95 where several places have earned 4.5-star ratings on Yelp. Pita Plus makes their falafel balls to order and sources top-notch beef for their shish kebabs and shawarma. The freshly made chicken gyro at Pita Xpress Mediterranean Grill puts to shame all those Americanized wraps with stiff pita. At The Hummus Factory, we recommend ordering one of the bowls, which features traditional dishes served on top of their organic hummus. The hummus shakshuka marries their creamy garlic hummus with a rich tomato sauce, fragrant herbs and a decadent poached egg.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS

3 SONS BREWING CO.

▼ Two years ago, the owner and head brewer, Corey Artanis, was named the world's best new brewer by RateBeer.com. He specializes in inventive, rich dessert beers like Summation – a bourbon-barrel aged imperial stout – and Ridin' Dirty – an imperial milkshake IPA with strawberry and vanilla. The food on the menu tries to match his creativity: roasted duck banh mi, buttery and garlicky umami wings, and charred chili-glazed octopus served with lima bean hummus and hazelnut romanesco. But the go-to choice of locals is a Neopolitan pizza, fired in a wood stove fueled by Florida oak.

➡ 236 N. Federal Highway #104 | 3sonsbrewingco.com



TARKS OF DANIA BEACH

Tarks started in 1966 as a simple stand, serving clams, wings and beer. These days, it's a hole-in-the-wall with a sit-in counter top and massive menu. Bring friends and split a cold or steamed combo of clams, oyster, shrimp, crab or conch. For a refreshing side, choose the house-made coleslaw. For an indulgent one, pick the curly fries, served in a hot heap of crispy golden loops. It's not unusual to find a line out the door, but the fresh seafood served without pretension is worth the wait.

➡ 1317 S. Federal Highway
tarks.business.site



Athletes move with the grace of dancers as the hard rubber ball, called a pelota, flies around at speeds commonly clocked at 150 miles per hour. Catching and serving in one move with the 2.5-foot long cesta, or basket, players of Jai-Alai pitch the pelota at three walls, angling its bounce to land between marked lines on the court. The unique adrenaline rush Jai-Alai – pronounced HIGH-lie – provides players and spectators alike comes from both the thrill of the game and the prospect of wagering on the centuries-old sport.

Jai-Alai, hailing from the Basque Country at the border of Spain and France, came to the United States in 1904 with the first court, or fronton, opening in Florida in 1924. Today, the sport still thrives in the state in partnership with the casino industry. Visitors to The Casino @ Dania Beach get to experience not only the energy of the casino floor – fine dining, events and shows – but also the thrill and action on the fronton. In fact, Jai-Alai is known as the fastest game in the world. In 2017, a new world record pelota speed was recorded in Dania Beach: a mind-boggling 189.9 miles per hour.

In its heyday, Jai-Alai was played for audiences of 15,000 people, plus those gathered outside listening in on the action. Benny Bueno, a former professional player and player manager, says the game has appeal for a modern audience – if only they knew more about it. "It's about educating the public and giving them access."

Aside from live matches, Bueno promotes online streaming so more fans can watch and bet remotely. The Casino @ Dania Beach CEO Arnaldo Suarez supports digital expansion. "Offering customers the option to enjoy Jai-Alai and wager remotely is essential," he says. "Nowadays, it's rare when we don't access something online for daily life."

The casino website hosts the live streams and simulcasts as well as a link for the popular dual-purpose option, watchandwager.com.

Translated, the words Jai-Alai mean "Merry Festival," which The Casino @ Dania Beach certainly guarantees, offering an exhilarating, unique experience that may just become your new sporting and betting passion.

➡ **301 E. Dania Beach Blvd. | casinodaniabeach.com**

DANIA'S

Historic Art & Antique District

Broward County's first city, Dania Beach, has evolved into the "Antique Capital of the South." A bevy of restored historical buildings now house art galleries and antique shops full of hidden, unique treasures. USA Today's 10Best calls Antique Row a "one-of-a-kind experience in South Florida... [that] you should set aside a full day to enjoy."



Visitors will treasure hunt through unique shops housed in century-old buildings. The architecture alone is worth the trip, with examples of Greek, Mission and Mediterranean Revival, as well as Art Deco influence. Whether you are looking for a nostalgic perusal of antique jewelry and glassware, a peek at one-of-a-kind forensically-restored vintage automobiles, or seek that iconic piece of art to finish your redecorating project, Dania Beach has it. Only a mile south of Hollywood International Airport, it is a convenient day trip with lots of exploring possibilities and price points to match any budget.

Visitors arriving at Antique Row's collection of galleries and shops should be aware of mercurial operating hours. Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. is the best window to ensure open shops. Find ample street parking along the blocks of US-1 surrounding the shops. Bring your walking shoes and curiosity.

Dania Beach Historic Art and Antique District transports visitors back in time to a place where architecture is charming, and shop owners are present.

◀ *Treasure Chest Antiques has been a part of the Dania Beach antique district for over 30 years.*

➡ **27 N. Federal Highway**



AKIBA ANTIQUES

Akiba Antiques set up shop in the United States in 1995, but their story did not start there. Founded by Charles and Franceska Akiba in Paris in the 1980s, Akiba Antiques married the tastes of the couple, French furniture from Napoleonic to Belle Epoque eras, Art Nouveau and Art Deco, with Renaissance to Modern paintings.

Today the store is split into two sections: an auction gallery and, next door, a retail antique mall, offering a mix of vintage and modern decorative items. Auctions are conducted twice a month and feature a large smattering of fine art, collectibles and jewelry.

Jonathan Akiba – Charles and Franceska’s son – and his childhood friend Alexander Anapolsky lead the next generation of antique enthusiasts, ushering the business into the online auction community. Anapolsky also comes from a family that appreciated fine art and antiques with a grandmother who was an academic artist and parents who collected vintage pieces.

"As a group of young individuals all in our mid 30s, we bring a fresh, new take on what people consider an antique store," the pair says. "We like to say we have something for everybody."

➡ 3 N. Federal Highway | akibaantiques.com

JONATHAN DANIELS ANTIQUES

It is all in the family at Jonathan Daniels Antiques, located in the Akiba Antique Center. Going strong since 1978, they specialize in furniture, transportation models and decorative items. The owner and store namesake says he curates pieces that will entice him to go to work every day.

"At this stage of my career, I want to be surrounded by interesting high-quality pieces," Daniels says. "There is an architect’s desk from 1780, two beautiful grandfather clocks that play music, a 1907 floor-standing slot machine made in Detroit (one of only five in the world), and four live steam locomotives which will pull passengers."

➡ 3 N. Federal Highway
rubylane.com/shop/jonathan-daniels-antiques



LONE RANGER ANTIQUES

Lone Ranger Antiques was established in 1986. Owner Jeffree Turney travels to Sweden five months each year to locate the most unusual Scandinavian antiques and Mora clocks.

The catch is that all of this beauty is housed in four warehouses in Dania Beach. Turney sells his wares through his website and at antique shows, like the popular Brimfield Antique Flea Market, showcased on Flea Market Flip, or seasonal shows in Round Top, Texas.

Lone Ranger Antiques can also be found on Instagram, and yes, everything posted is for sale. But, if you are looking for something specific, Turney suggests sending an email and he will work to locate it.

➡ 408 S.W. 3rd St. | lonerangerantiques.com



CANDLELITE ANTIQUES SHOPPE

If you plan your television viewing around Antiques Roadshow on PBS or American Pickers on The History Channel, you may recognize Candlelite Antiques Shoppe; it has been featured on both. Known for his hands-on service, Marty Hanna has been helping treasure hunters find that one-of-a-kind-piece since 1998.

Hanna's shop is open seven days a week and boasts a large array of chandeliers, old farm tools, Americana memorabilia and eclectic furniture. The shop is staged to provide decorating inspiration, and it changes constantly as inventory rotates. If you are having trouble finding that perfect item, Hanna is happy to lend a hand. Just ask.

➡ 11 N. Federal Highway | candleliteantiques.com

THE CREATIVE WORKSHOP

There is no other way to describe The Creative Workshop than a car lover's paradise. The shop is run by a collection of passionate automotive aficionados who take great pride in their unique, nationally-recognized approach to restoration of one-of-a-kind vehicles with a historically-accurate, craftsman touch.

What goes on inside is special, but so is the building they occupy, a 100-year-old barn renovated into a 10,000 square foot Concours Classic restoration and custom coachbuilding workshop. Walking in transports visitors to another era, much like their vintage vehicle restoration projects.

"You could equate what we do with craftsmen who work on vintage art, like a Picasso painting,"

Owner Jason Wenig says. "They ship it to a specialist at the Smithsonian where they have a basement full of people using special varnishes and treatments to remove the layers of grime and restore it to its original splendor. ... That's what we do here with cars."

At The Creative Workshop, you can marvel at the unique automobiles, join special events like Cars and Coffee Saturday, or support one of their charity functions to bolster the neighborhood. Everything is posted on their social media with full details and links to RSVP if it is a private event. "We are down to earth car people that love what we do," Wenig says. "And when people come in, whether they're a car person or not, a guy or gal, you can't deny the art form of the automobile."

➔ 118 Hill St. | thecreativeworkshop.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY THE CREATIVE WORKSHOP



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY THE CREATIVE WORKSHOP



▲ Walls of history in the Education Center.

HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

Preserving Voices of the Past

The number of the living who suffered through the systematic genocide during World War II, known simply as the Holocaust, is dwindling, and the race is on to capture their stories in their own words.

Over 40 years ago, the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center was established in Dania Beach, a fitting location since South Florida is home to the second largest Holocaust survivor population in the world. Along with caring for more than 2,500 recorded testimonies of survivors, liberators and rescuers, the center's programs aim to be a "living memorial" that provide visitors with a personal, direct connection to history.

"Educating people about the evils and dangers of what hatred can do is key," says HDEC President Rositta Kenigsberg. "Especially with what is going on today."

Visitors can sit and chat with Holocaust survivors, many of whom were children at the time. Curators describe those conversations as having changed hearts. At other times, friendships were sparked across generations and cultures through the simple human act of sharing stories. Now, the center offers these opportunities virtually, too.



The center's museum also includes more than 6,000 artifacts and photographs, including the only identified Holocaust Railcar in the world and a U.S. Army Sherman tank involved in liberating concentration camps.

Once fundraising goals have been met, the center plans to open a redesigned and expanded museum that will feature innovative interactive exhibits and be the first Holocaust center in North America to offer its story in both English and Spanish. Renowned museum designer Peter Gallagher, of Gallagher & Associates, described being drawn to the project because of the opportunity to "keep the story alive, from a personal, inside view, as nothing is more powerful than the first person testimonial."

➡ 303 N. Federal Highway
hdec.org



▲ Holocaust rail car brought from Germany.



DEVELOPMENTS

A City's Rejuvenation

Public and private investors took notice as Broward's oldest city began looking its age. And so, those forward thinkers came together to assess what the city already had and what was needed to remain a time-tested South Florida destination. Investments over \$630 million prove that Dania Beach is a city equally devoted to its past and future.

DANIA POINTE

At more than 100 acres of residential, commercial and entertainment options, Dania Pointe is nearly a city of its own, located off Interstate 95 at Stirling Road. Colored lights within high fountain sprays pronounce the formal entrance to this exceptionally modern retail center. Ulta Beauty, TJ Maxx and Hobby Lobby were the first major retailers to join the development, followed by top-name restaurants like Lime Fresh Mexican Grill, Firebirds Wood Fired Grill and Rodizio Brazilian Steakhouse. For relaxation, a handful of high-caliber resort hotels like Marriott and Hyatt are also found within a shell's throw of Dania Pointe. The steady transformation was further solidified for long-term residents when JetBlue Airlines opened a travel subsidiary here in 2019. More daily workers meant more housing options would follow.

▼ Avery
Dania Pointe



AVERY DANIA POINTE

The Avery Dania Pointe offers beautifully designed one-, two- and three-bedroom residences surrounded by a vibrant courtyard.

The property features a sleek, three-story clubhouse and resort-style pool. To maintain its sophisticated social style, the Avery Dania

Pointe includes a rooftop lounge, fitness center, movie theater and game room. Sleek and crisp structural edges define the private residences and public buildings.

➡ averydaniapointe.com

THE FIRST AT DANIA BEACH

The First at Dania Beach, a mixed-use community set to open in 2022, wants to be the place to celebrate the South Florida lifestyle in a locale "almost metropolitan." To start, the development will feature a new city hall, library and Chamber of Commerce, which will anchor a year-round event venue perfect for art fairs, farmers' markets, and concerts. It also will include coworking spaces for entrepreneurs, commercial offices and, by 2025, apartments. More office, retail and a luxury hotel will follow within two years. Already, The First is slated as a new destination for the greater Fort Lauderdale market.

➡ palma.global/projects/the-first-at-dania-beach

SOLESTE CITYLINE

Soleste Cityline, an 8-story, 340-unit project, will sit where Dania Beach Boulevard and US1 intersect. The future community will offer living spaces ranging from 600-square-foot studios to 1,200-square foot three-bedroom units. Residents will enjoy a pool deck, fitness center, outdoor grilling stations, clubroom and private event space. Just a scant half mile east of Dania Pointe, its location allows drivers to bypass traffic congestion along Interstate 95. Its developers intend to add commercial and office space.

➡ eigfl.com/soleste-cityline

OASIS POINTE

Oasis Pointe, a 301-unit apartment building, will be built at the northeast corner of Stirling Road and South Bryan Road. The canal-front location means residents can launch their fun on the water at a 19-slip boat club on the property. In addition to a fitness center, Oasis Pointe will offer residents online Zoom lounges, a waterfront boardwalk, lap pool and butterfly garden. For healthy living, the buildings feature fresh-air intake, sterilization and purification systems.

Monthly rents in the eight-story building will start at \$1,400. Oasis Pointe is expected to open in spring 2022.

➡ cymbaldevelopment.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH

ON THE Marquee

Throughout the year, events put on by the community for the community celebrate diverse cultures and all are welcome to enjoy the festivities.

THE BAREFOOT MAILMAN CLASSIC

The Barefoot Mailman Classic celebrates a unique piece of Florida history. From 1885 to 1892, at a time when no road stretched the 68 miles between Palm Beach and Miami, mail was delivered by contracted delivery men. The mailman that completed this route was known as the "Barefoot Mailman" because he had to walk barefoot on the sand for most of the distance, a journey that took six days. It was dangerous work, and in 1886 Ed Hamilton went missing on the job. The Barefoot Mailman Classic 5k and 10k races at Mizell-Johnson State Park each December are a remembrance of the difficult journey. Medals, shirts, and post-race breakfast are traditional perks for racers, and awards are given to top finishers.

➡ barefootmailmanclassic.com

DANIA BEACH VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Late January brings the Dania Beach Vintage Motorcycle Show, the biggest vintage motorcycle show in South Florida. For more than 15 years, visitors have been invited to listen to live music, try delicious food, and peruse vendor booths as they wind through Frost Park. Bike aficionados and families alike enjoy this event, which is free to spectators and includes dealer exhibits, a bike parts swap meet, a vintage bicycles exhibit, motorcycle field games, and more. There is a small fee to enter bikes into the show, with proceeds benefiting K9s For Warriors, Southeastern Guide Dogs and Dania Beach Lions Club.

➡ daniabeachvintagebikeshow.com

DANIA BEACH ARTS AND SEAFOOD CELEBRATION

Each spring, the Dania Beach Arts and Seafood Celebration comes to Frost Park. This two-day event features daily live music from a lineup of local bands, an assortment of fresh seafood options from local restaurants, live performance art, and more. For the adults, a beer and wine garden teeming with crisp drinks plentifully flows. Meanwhile, younger visitors can play to their hearts' content on rides, games, and other family activities. Check out the Fine Arts Treasure Cove and Crafters Island where local artists' work is on display, or brush up on your culinary skills with a Chef Showcase.

➡ daniabeachartsandseafoodcelebration.com

THE GREAT

Outdoors

Boaters Park

A 6.5-acre well-maintained site where families can fish and grill. Accessible only by boats, with dockage for up to 40.
4491 Ravenswood Road

Chester Byrd Park

Neighborhood park with two playgrounds (one shade-covered), a walk / run path, benches, covered areas, outdoor exercise equipment, and a basketball court.
1021 S.W. 12th Ave.

C W Thomas Park

Offers activities for young people and seniors with a community pool, two tennis courts, football field, three basketball courts, rental facility covered playground and fitness center.
100 N.W. 8th Ave.

Dania Cove Park

Sits on a historic Native American site and features serene waterfront elements, a scenic mangrove cove, fishing dock, picnic pavilions and exercise path.
4480 N.E. 25th Ave.

Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park

Beachside haven popular for swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, cycling and cookouts. Pets must be on a hand-held, six foot leash at all times. Check for admission fees.
6503 N. Ocean Drive

Frank C. 'Tootie' Adler Park

BBQ next to the ocean in one of seven tiki huts while kids enjoy the beach and playground.
Dania Beach Access Road

Frost Park

Features include baseball field, tennis courts, skateboarding area and playground.
300 N.E. 2nd St.

Griffin Marine Park

A free boat ramp and floating dock provide access to the water from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
2987 S.W. 45th St.

Linear Park

Landscaped park with a walking and running path, bench areas and exercise equipment.
476 S.E. 14th St.

Mildred V. Jones Park

Get out in nature. Walk the paths with a gorgeous view of the water, or relax on the grassy banks.
201-249 N.W. 14th Way

Mullikin Park

Small neighborhood park with a basketball court, playground and bench area.
230 S.W. 1st Court

Northside Melaleuca Park

Small park where you can enjoy a game of tennis or the playground and picnic benches.
850 N.W. 10th St.

Patrick J. Meli Park and Aquatic Complex

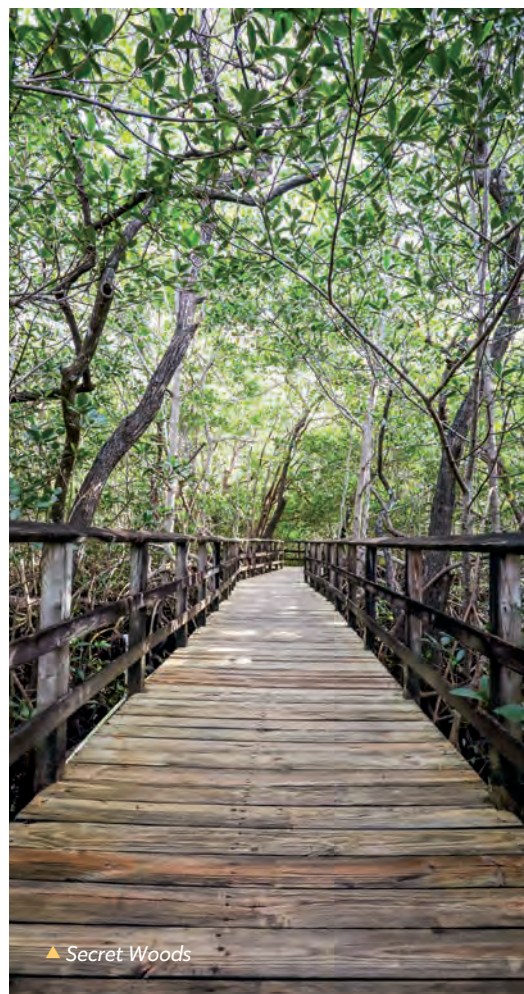
Features a 25x25 yard short course competition pool with 12 lap lanes and 10 diving blocks, children's pool, playground, basketball, handball and tennis courts.
2901 S.W. 52nd St.

Performance Pups Freshwater Dog Beach

Fenced-in freshwater dog lake where dogs can swim and play off-leash. Admission is \$5.20 per dog and dock rental is \$7.50 per dog. Check for opening days and times.
590 Gulfstream Way

Precious Paws Dog Park

1.1-acre dog park with fenced-in areas for unleashed large and small dogs. Free access, open Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends.
2901 S.W. 52nd St.



Secret Woods Nature Center

Small park along the New River – hiking trails, a butterfly garden, nature exhibit hall, and a full schedule of environment-oriented programming.
2701 W. State Road 84

Resources

ATM BANKS

Allpoint ATM at Walgreens
202 S. Federal Highway

ATM (Barrak Group)
1040 S. Federal Highway

ATM (Circle K)
701 S. Federal Highway

ATM (Mobil Mart)
1 S. Federal Highway

ATM (Premier ATM)
5555 Ravenswood Road

ATM (Regions Bank)
499 Sheridan St.

ATM Universal
1414 S. Federal Highway

Bank Of America ATM
402 E. Dania Beach Blvd.

BB&T ATM
372 E. Dania Beach Blvd.

Citibank ATM
205 E. Dania Beach Blvd.

City National Bank ATM
402 E Dania Beach Blvd

LibertyX Bitcoin ATM (2 Quick Food Store)
348 S.W. 13th St.

National Vending Bitcoin ATM
701 S. Federal Highway

Presto! ATM at Publix
402 E. Dania Beach Blvd.

Wells Fargo ATM
356 E. Dania Beach Blvd.

FITNESS

CrossFit Carnage
Custom strength and conditioning programs.
222 N. Federal Highway
Suite 101
954-391-7930
crossfitcarnage.com

Fit 101
Foundational fitness education.
2050 Tigertail Blvd.
954-326-8540
fit101gym.com

Om'echaye Wellness & Fitness Center
For a full healthy lifestyle from the inside out.
116 W. Dania Beach Blvd.
786-449-8999
omechaye.com

Youfit Health Clubs
State of the art facilities.
140 S. Compass Way
954-787-0069
youfit.com

MARKETS

Ideal Food Basket
Groceries, fresh produce and organic products.
Free grocery delivery.
308 E. Dania Beach Blvd.
Idealfoodbaskets.com

Publix Super Market at Beachway Plaza
Groceries, deli & bakery.
In-store shopping, curbside pickup & Delivery
402 E. Dania Beach Blvd.
publix.com

Publix Super Market at Oakbridge
3102 Griffin Road
publix.com



▲ Youfit at Dania Pointe

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Greater Dania Beach Chamber of Commerce
A unified voice and channel for leadership planning, improving business & community.
102 W. Dania Beach Blvd
954-926-2323
daniabeachchamber.org

Jamaica USA Chamber of Commerce
Creating trade opportunities and strengthening commercial relationships between the US and Jamaica.
1825 Griffin Road
424-528-7222
jamaicausachamber.org



The Colonial Revival architectural style is embodied in the historic Nyberg-Swanson House, built circa 1912. It is home to the Greater Dania Beach Chamber of Commerce.

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