



## Greater Fort Lauderdale Fact Sheet

### LOCATION & MILES:

**Broward County** encompasses 1,197 square miles (766,016 acres), with 24 miles of Atlantic Ocean beach, stretching between Palm Beach County on the northern perimeter and Miami-Dade County on the southern. It has a resident population of over 1.95 million, with over 180,000 residing in Fort Lauderdale, the largest municipality and the seat of county government. Broward County is bounded on the west by 505,600 acres of Everglades (occupying about 2/3 of the county). With 300+ miles of navigable inland waterways within Broward County, it has earned the nickname "Venice of America." An extensive Water Taxi service provides fun and efficient transportation for visitors and residents between hotels, restaurants, beaches, bars and attractions. The area is also known as the "Yachting Capital of the World," supporting a thriving multimillion dollar marine industry and home to the annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show – the world's largest in-water boat show.

### 31 MUNICIPALITIES:

**Oceanside:** Dania Beach, Deerfield Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Hallandale Beach, Hillsboro Beach, Hollywood, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Lighthouse Point, Pompano Beach, Sea Ranch Lakes.

**Inland:** Coconut Creek, Cooper City, Coral Springs, Davie, Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderdale Hill, Lazy Lakes, Margate, Miramar, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Parkland, Pembroke Park, Pembroke Pines, Plantation, Southwest Ranches, Sunrise, Tamarac, West Park, Weston and Wilton Manors.

### LGBT+ VISITOR CENTER:

The Visitor Center, opened in June 2018, showcases attractions of interest LGBT+ visitors. It is located at 2300 NE Seventh Ave in Wilton Manors.

### CLIMATE:

Greater Fort Lauderdale's climate is tropical with an average year-round temperature of 76°F / 25°C and 3,000 hours of sunshine. Winter temperatures average a mean of 66° F / 19° C; summer, a mean of 84° F / 29° C. January is the coolest month of the year and August is the warmest. The heaviest rainfalls occur during August and September.

### ATTRACTIONS:

**ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER** -- a 1,430-acre wetland and habitat for native wildlife; climb (or ride the elevator up) the five-level observation tower, explore boardwalks and trails

**B-CYCLE** -- bike sharing program

**BEACH PLACE** -- a 100,000 square foot entertainment, retail and dining complex on A1A, near the ocean

**BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS** -- one of the few remaining ocean-

front estates, this historic estate includes tropical gardens and an extensive artwork collection

**BUTTERFLY WORLD at TRADEWINDS PARK** -- this three-acre park with a screened habitat to showcase live butterflies and hummingbirds from five different continents is the world's largest butterfly sanctuary

**DOWNTOWN HOLLYWOOD MURAL PROJECT** – a collection of curated outdoor murals by local, national, and internationally-recognized artists. Free guided tour third Saturday of each month.

**EVERGLADES HOLIDAY PARK** -- gateway to 750,000 acres of unspoiled Everglades; airboat rides, tours and fishing

**FATVILLAGE** -- located in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale, FATVillage (Flagler, Arts and Technology Village) acts as the hub for local creative businesses and artists and hosts an ArtWalk along with the adjoining MASS District on the last Saturday of each month

**FLAMINGO GARDENS** -- offers free flight aviary museums, a flock of flamingos, free range peacocks, native Florida wildlife sanctuary including Florida panther, tram tours of orange groves, nature walks and gift shops

**GOODYEAR BLIMP BASE** – located at Pompano Air Park, it is one of only four bases in the world

**HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT STATION** -- historic lighthouse marks the northern limit of the Florida Reef; accessible only by boat - tours offered once per month

**HOLLYWOOD OCEANFRONT BROADWALK** -- 2.2-mile oceanfront pedestrian promenade which parallels the beach

**IFLY** – indoor skydiving

**LAS OLAS BOULEVARD** -- bustles with energy day and night and is home to chic boutiques, galleries and eateries, also known as Greater Fort Lauderdale's 'Style Mile'

**MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE/3D IMAX** – a museum that inspires science, MODS features guided tours, exhibits, IMAX movies and hosted family-friendly activities and camps for children

**NSU ART MUSEUM FORT LAUDERDALE**-- the 83,000 square-foot building contains 25,000 square feet of exhibition space, a 256-seat auditorium, Museum Store and Cafe. Its acclaimed 11,000 square-foot studio school, the AutoNation Academy of Art + Design, offers art instruction for children, teens and adults year-round

**SAWGRASS MILLS** -- world's largest single-story discount outlet mall featuring more than 350 specialty stores and the Colonnade Outlets, an outdoor, high-end shopping district

**SAWGRASS RECREATION PARK** -- offers Everglades airboat rides, Indian village, live alligator, reptile and birds of prey exhibit plus camping, boating and fishing; offers special night tours to spot alligators

**SEA EXPERIENCE GLASS BOTTOM BOAT** -- offers scuba diving, snorkeling

**STONEWALL NATIONAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**– the largest LGBTQ library circulating in the US, holding over 270,000 books and DVDs; the archives contain more than 30,000 items, documenting a century of LGBTQ cultural and social history; the museum presents exhibitions and events

**STRANAHAN HOUSE** -- Broward's oldest existing structure, now a historic house museum listed on the National Register of Historic Places

**SWAP SHOP** -- largest indoor/outdoor flea market in the South

**TIGERTAIL LAKE AQUA CHALLENGE** -- water obstacle course and playground

**XTREME ACTION PARK** -- the largest indoor entertainment venue in Florida, featuring go kart racing, escape rooms, bowling lanes, indoor ropes course  
**WORLD AIDS MUSEUM** -- the world's first AIDS museum

**SIGHTSEEING TOURS:** **CARRIE B SIGHTSEEING CRUISES** -- Sightseeing cruises through downtown Fort Lauderdale waterways on double decker paddlewheel boat  
**BALEARIA CARIBBEAN**—Passenger and cargo ferry service to Grand Bahama Island and Bimini from Port Everglades  
**LAS OLAS GONDOLA** -- cruise through the heart of the “Venice of America” on an authentic Venetian gondola  
**JUNGLE QUEEN RIVERBOAT** -- offers old-time sightseeing cruise along the canals with dinner and entertainment  
**SEGWAY FORT LAUDERDALE** -- offers sightseeing tours on Segway in Fort Lauderdale and on the Hollywood Broadwalk  
**TROPICAL SAILING** -- 2-hour ocean sightseeing and snorkeling cruises on a catamaran  
**WATER TAXI** -- the perfect way to tour the Intracoastal or take a "Historic Cruise" of the New River through Fort Lauderdale

**NATURAL ATTRACTIONS:** In addition to beautiful beaches and waterways, Broward County has 288 parks, 69 miles of live coral reef in a three-tier natural reef system, and the Everglades. Its 100+ artificial reefs and 18 major shipwrecks provide divers with a unique mix of tropical underwater experiences.

**PERFORMING ARTS:** **Theater** --  
**ASHANTI CULTURAL ARTS** -- this historic theater (renovated circa-1932 building) has housed great artists including Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday  
**BAILEY HALL** -- features concerts and ballets  
**AMERANT BANK ARENA** -- features top named stars and NHL hockey with the Florida Panthers  
**BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** -- state-of-the-art complex featuring two theatres  
**CORAL SPRINGS CENTER FOR THE ARTS** -- features music, dance and concerts  
**CINEMA PARADISO** -- home to the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival  
**FORT LAUDERDALE CHILDREN'S THEATRE** -- features classes and performances for youth and adults  
**HARD ROCK LIVE** -- the 7,000-seat indoor arena at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood regularly hosts top musical guests and major sporting events  
**HOLLYWOOD BEACH THEATER** -- Hollywood's beachside theater hosts free performances  
**HOLLYWOOD CENTRAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER** -- this venue hosts family- Friendly performances  
**MIRAMAR CULTURAL CENTER** -- hosts community dance, music, and cultural arts performances  
**THE PARKER** -- pre-and post-Broadway productions  
**POMPANO BEACH AMPHITHEATER** -- hosts a variety of cultural performances from free movie nights to symphonies

**THEATRE UNDER THE STARS** -- open-air bandshell in Hollywood; additionally, there are a number of neighborhood theaters located in Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach

**ANNUAL MAJOR EVENTS:**

Visit Lauderdale Wine & Food Festival (Jan)  
A1A Marathon (Feb)  
Davie Pro Rodeo (Feb)  
Sistrunk Parade & Street Festival (Feb)  
Florida Renaissance Festival (Feb-Mar)  
St. Patrick's Parade & Festival (March)  
Tortuga Music Festival (April)  
Pompano Beach Seafood Festival (April)  
Fort Lauderdale Air Show (May)  
Fort Lauderdale Family Fun Beachfront Celebration (July)  
Dine Out Lauderdale (Aug- Sept)  
Hollywood Beach Latin Festival (Aug)  
Florida Panthers Hockey Season (Oct-Apr)  
Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (Nov)  
Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (Oct/Nov)  
Broward County Fair (Nov)  
Christmas on Las Olas (Dec)  
Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade (Dec)

**SHOPPING:**

Sawgrass Mills, the world's largest single-story discount mall, features the high-end Colonnade Outlets. Find more discount shopping at Festival Flea Market Mall and Swap Shop, the largest indoor/outdoor flea market in the South. The Galleria at Fort Lauderdale, an upscale shopping mall with stores including Dillard's and Michael Kors, is complemented by traditional Florida shopping avenues such as Las Olas Boulevard and Dania Beach's Antique Row and beach boutiques. Other shopping stops include the new Dania Pointe, the Village at Gulfstream Park and independent boutiques such as the Wander Shop apparel and accessories in Oakland Park and Montce Swim in Flagler Village.

**DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT:**

More than 4,000 wining and dining establishments and 132 nightclubs are located in Greater Fort Lauderdale. The culinary scene is filled with rising star chefs, exciting restaurants, breweries and pubs, coffee houses and scenic dock-and-dine eateries along with many great hotel restaurants. Explore Greater Fort Lauderdale's Ale Trail featuring more than 60 nanobreweries, industrial microbreweries, beer gardens and brewpubs, as well as a growing number of spirits distilleries.

**SPORTS:**

**Water Sports:** There are 24 miles of beaches in Greater Fort Lauderdale that are perfect for sailing, swimming, kite surfing, windsurfing, water skiing, boating, deep-sea fishing, parasailing, paddle boarding, kayaking, wakeboarding, snorkeling and scuba diving.

**Boating:** The Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway, along with more than 300 miles of canals and waterways throughout the area are perfect for any kind of boating. There are several sailing schools throughout Broward plus 148 marinas and 35 boat repair yards that provide boat fuel, services and supplies.

**Fishing:** This is one of the few areas in the world where both freshwater and saltwater fishing is within 20 minutes of the angler. In addition to numerous freshwater species including peacock and largemouth bass that can be caught in the Everglades as well as area lakes and canals, there are deep water fishing fleets located in each of the cities that line the Atlantic coast, along with four municipal piers stretching out into the Atlantic Ocean.

**Cricket:** Central Broward Regional Park and Stadium hosted the international ICC T20 Men's Cricket World Cup.

**Hockey:** The NHL Florida Panthers play at the Amerant Arena in Sunrise, just west of downtown Fort Lauderdale. The Florida Panthers are the 2024 Stanley cup winners.

**Major League Soccer:** Inter Miami CF trains and plays at Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale (pending construction of a new Miami stadium in 2+ years).

**Golf:** There are more than 56 courses in Greater Fort Lauderdale ranging from the exclusive Grande Oaks Club to a par 3.

**Biking:** Get in shape or just cruise on Greater Fort Lauderdale's many bike routes including State Road A1A along Fort Lauderdale Beach, the Hollywood Broadwalk, along El Mar Drive in Lauderdale-By-The Sea and streets in neighborhoods like Rio Vista and Coral Ridge. Go fast around the track at Brian Piccolo Park & Velodrome or cruise the paved, two-mile loop at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Find mountain bike trails at Markham Park and Quiet Waters Park.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Close to 600 lodging establishments with more than 38,000 hotel rooms range from luxurious high-rises to many charming small boutique hotels and motels. The diverse mix of Greater Fort Lauderdale accommodations encompasses oceanfront and inland properties, specialized spa resorts, business, meeting and convention facilities.

**CONVENTION CENTER:**

A \$1.3 billion expansion of the Greater Fort Lauderdale/ Broward County Convention Center is currently underway. Phase one opened in October 2021 with a total of 800,000 square feet and 350,000 square feet of expanded exhibit space. Upon full completion this sensational waterfront venue will be even bigger and better at 1.2 million sq. ft. with 350,000 sq. ft. of contiguous exhibit space and a 65,000 sq. ft. waterfront ballroom, an 800-room headquarters hotel, plus original dining concepts, enhanced Water Taxi access and a new, expansive, open-air waterfront plaza.

**ACCESSIBILITY:**

**International Airport:** Broward County is served by the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). The airport offers nonstop service to over 100 U.S. and international cities.

**Rental Cars:** Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood International Airport's Rental Car Center brings most of the major rental car companies under one roof. At more than 4 million square feet, the nine-level structure is the largest consolidated rental car facility in the United States and one of the largest parking garages in Florida. Levels 1 through 4 are the new home of Advantage Rent A Car, Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, E-Z Rent A Car, Hertz, National, Payless, Royal and Thrifty. Levels 5 through 9 are public parking.

**Local Transportation** -- The Broward County Mass Transit bus system connects all municipalities and interconnects with Palm Beach and Dade Counties. Discounted weekly visitor passes for unlimited transportation are available. Taxis and limousine companies operate throughout the county. The Water Taxi system provides transportation to shops, attractions, hotels, Fort Lauderdale beach and restaurants. The City of Fort Lauderdale's LauderGO! transportation system includes the free Fort Lauderdale Community Shuttle (formerly known as Sun Trolley) with five routes, including the Beach Link providing free transportation up and down Fort Lauderdale's famous beach; the free Water Trolley on the downtown section of the New River; and the Seabreeze Tram, providing convenient transportation between the Las Olas Parking Garage and Las Olas Oceanside Park and the beach. South Florida's Tri-Rail provides railway transportation throughout Broward County including from downtown Fort Lauderdale to the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, as well as routes to Miami and Palm Beach. Additionally, the Brightline is a high-speed train service connecting downtown Fort Lauderdale to downtown Miami and downtown West Palm Beach.

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