

**GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE (BROWARD COUNTY) FLORIDA
FACT SHEET**

**LOCATION &
MILES:**

Broward County encompasses 1,197 square miles (766,016 acres), with 23 miles of Atlantic Ocean beach, stretching between Palm Beach County on the northern perimeter and Dade County on the southern. It has a resident population of almost 1.9 million, with nearly 168,800 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."

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, Lauderhill, 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 to LGBT+ visitors. It is located at 2300 NE Seventh Ave in Wilton Manors.

CLIMATE:

Broward'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

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 and historic estate with tropical gardens and an art museum

BUTTERFLY WORLD at TRADEWINDS PARK -- a three-acre park with a screened habitat to showcase live butterflies and hummingbirds from five different continents

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 on the last Saturday of each month

FLAMINGO GARDENS -- offers free flight aviary museums, tram tours of orange groves, nature walks and gift shops

FORT LAUDERDALE ANTIQUE CAR MUSEUM -- permanent displays of pre-war Packard Motorcars and memorabilia

GOODYEAR BLIMP BASE -- one of only four bases in the world

HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT STATION -- historic lighthouse marks the northern limit of the Florida Reef

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

IFLY – indoor skydiving

INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION (IGFA) FISHING HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM -- features galleries, marina and conservation center

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 -- 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 discount, outlet mall featuring more than 350 specialty stores and the Colonnade Outlets, an outdoor, high-end shopping district

SAWGRASS RECREATION PARK -- offers airboat rides, Indian village, live alligator, reptile and birds of prey exhibit plus camping, boating and fishing

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

STONEWALL MUSEUM LIBRARY & 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

STONEWALL MUSEUM WILTON MANORS GALLERY – the gallery presents exhibitions, author readings, discussions, movies and events all year long

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 -- offers seasonal sightseeing cruises

BALEARIA BAHAMAS EXPRESS -- sails to Grand Bahama Island from Port Everglades

GONDOLA WEST -- cruise through the heart of the "Venice of America"

JUNGLE QUEEN RIVERBOAT -- offers old-time sightseeing cruise along the canals with dinner and entertainment

RIVERFRONT CRUISES -- offers sightseeing cruises aboard a 55-foot catamaran

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

**NATURAL
ATTRACTIONS:**

In addition to Blue Wave 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

BB&T CENTER -- features top named stars

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 5,500-seat indoor arena 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

PARKER PLAYHOUSE -- 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

**MAJOR ANNUAL
EVENTS:**

Orange Bowl (Dec/Jan)

Las Olas Art Festival (Jan/Mar/Oct)

Hollywood CanadaFest (Jan)

Art Fort Lauderdale (Jan)

Live Racing at Gulfstream Park (Jan-Apr)

A1A Marathon (Feb)

Pride Fort Lauderdale (Feb)

South Beach Wine & Food Festival's CRAVE Greater Fort Lauderdale (Feb)

Sistrunk Parade & Street Festival (Feb)

Florida Renaissance Festival (Feb-Mar)

Dania Beach Arts & Seafood Festival (March)

Big Cypress Shootout (Mar)

Jazz in the Gardens (Mar)

Florida Derby (Mar)
 Wine and Culinary Celebration (Apr)
 Las Olas Wine & Food Festival (Apr)
 Pompano Beach Seafood Festival (Apr)
 Tortuga Music Festival (April)
 Taste The Islands Experience (April)
 Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo (May)
 Fort Lauderdale Air Show (May)
 Sea turtle Walks (June-July)
 Summer Savings: 2-for-1 (May-Sept)
 Vacation Like a VIP (May-Sept)
 Fort Lauderdale Family Fun Beachfront Celebration (July 4)
 Hollywood 4th of July Celebration (July 4)
 Hollywood Beach Latin Festival (Aug)
 Spatember (Sept)
 Crave GFL Restaurant Month (Sept)
 Florida Panthers Hockey Season (Oct-Apr)
 Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (Oct/Nov)
 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (Nov)
 Exotics on Las Olas (Nov)
 Broward County Fair (Nov)
 Riptide Music Festival (Nov)
 Christmas on Las Olas (Dec)
 Hollywood Beach Candy Cane Parade (Dec)
 Pompano Beach Holiday Boat Parade (Dec)
 Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade (Dec)

SHOPPING:

Sawgrass Mills, the world's largest discount mall, features the high-end Colonnade Outlets. Other shopping destinations include Festival Flea Market Mall and Fort Lauderdale Swap Shop, the largest indoor/outdoor flea market in the South. The Galleria at Fort Lauderdale, an upscale shopping mall with stores such as Neiman-Marcus and Michael Kors, is complemented by traditional Florida shopping avenues such as Las Olas Boulevard, Dania Beach Antique Row and beach boutiques.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT:

More than 4,000 wining and dining establishments and 132 nightclubs are located in Broward County. The culinary scene has several with rising star chefs, exciting restaurants, breweries and pubs, coffee houses and scenic dock-and-dine and many great hotel restaurants. Explore Greater Fort Lauderdale's Ale Trail featuring 32 craft brew pubs and 18 local nano-and microbreweries.

SPORTS:

Water Sports: There are more than 23 miles of beaches in Broward County 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 County, 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 as well as supplies.

Baseball: The Miami Marlins play at Marlins Park.

Fishing: This is one of the few areas in the world where both freshwater and salt water fishing are within 20 minutes of the angler. In addition to more than 200 freshwater species that can be caught in the county's lakes, there are deep water fishing fleets located in each of the seven cities that line the Atlantic coast, plus four municipal piers.

Football: The Miami Dolphins play at Hard Rock Stadium.

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

Hockey: The BB&T Center, home of the NHL Florida Panthers, located in Sunrise, Florida.

Tennis: There are more than 550 public and private tennis courts throughout Broward County.

Racing: Greyhound racing at The Big Easy Casino; harness racing at the Isle Casino Racing Pompano Park; Jai-Alai at Dania Jai-Alai and thoroughbred racing at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach.

Gaming: Broward hosts three Seminole Indian casinos, including the Hard Rock Casino. Located on tribal grounds in Hollywood and Coconut Creek, the halls are open seven days a week with games including blackjack, slots and poker beginning at noon and jackpots worth more than \$100,000. In addition, three area pari-mutuels (Isle Casino Racing Pompano Park, The Big Easy Casino and Gulfstream Park) offer slots and poker as well as racing.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Broward offers more than 560 lodging establishments, with more than 34,000 hotel rooms, ranging from luxurious high-rises to smaller motels (many included in the **SUPERIOR SMALL LODGING** program, which sets standards of quality for properties of less than 50 rooms). The diverse mix of Greater Fort Lauderdale accommodations encompasses oceanfront and inland properties, specialized spa resorts, business, meeting, and convention facilities.

CONVENTION CENTER:

The 600,000-square-foot **LEED Gold Certified GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE/ CENTER: BROWARD COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER**, at Port Everglades, is located on the destination's famed Intracoastal Waterway with a view of the Atlantic Ocean. Greater Fort Lauderdale has begun the expansion of the convention center and is adding an 800-room headquarters hotel. When completed, the expanded Convention Center will boast more than 1,200,000 square feet, including 350,000 square feet of contiguous exhibition space, a new 65,000-square-foot waterfront ballroom, the latest in new technology, new dining concepts, enhanced water taxi access, and an iconic waterfront plaza with public access. The project will be completed by in 2023.

ACCESSIBILITY:

International Airport: Broward County is served by the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The airport offers nonstop service to over 100 U.S. and international cities. Airlines include: Air Canada, Air Sunshine, Air Transat, AirTran, Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Airlines, American Airlines, Avianca, Azul, Bahamasair, British Airways, Caribbean Airlines, Copa Airlines, Delta Airlines, Frontier, IBC Airways, JetBlue, LAN, Silver Airways, SkyBahamas, Southwest, Spirit, Swoop, Sunwing, TAME, United Airlines, and WestJet.

Cruise Ships: With annual passenger counts of nearly 4 million, Port Everglades is the third busiest cruise port in the world. Nearly 40 cruise ships including *Celebrity Edge*, *ms Nieuw Statendam*, and *Allure of the Seas* depart from nine ultra-modern terminals, including: Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Costa Cruises, Crystal Cruises, Cunard, Holland America Line, Pearl Seas Cruises, Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, and Silversea Cruises.

BALEARIA BAHAMAS EXPRESS: offers day cruises to the Bahamas.

Train: Amtrak

Bus: Greyhound

Rental Cars: Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood International Airport's Rental Car Centre has brought 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 and restaurants. The Sun Trolley operates a total of seven routes, including the free Riverwalk Water Trolley. Every route, except for the Beach Link and Las Olas Link, is free. Along each of the routes, you will find transfer points to connect to one or more of the other routes, as well as direct connections to Tri-Rail, Broward County Transit, as well as the Brightline Fort Lauderdale Station.

Brightline is a high-speed train service connecting downtown Fort Lauderdale to downtown Miami and downtown Palm Beach.

**FURTHER
INFORMATION:**

Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau

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