Some of the fascinating experiences in Greater Fort Lauderdale lie tucked away in the suburbs. The lively western cities of Sunrise, Davie and Plantation are proof positive that treasures await those willing to wander beyond the glitz of the downtown area.

From industrious corporate life to pulse-racing rock concerts, Sunrise offers the perfect balance of work and play. The city has evolved into one of Florida’s popular tourist spots, thanks to big-ticket attractions like the BB&T Center, home to the NHL’s Florida Panthers, and Sawgrass Mills, the 11th largest shopping mall in America.

Meanwhile, cowboy swagger is alive and well in the college town of Davie. Dotted with parks and natural trails, visitors can discover the city’s distinctive Western persona, watching masterful horse wrangling at Bergeron Rodeo Grounds or shopping for Stetson hats at Grif’s Western, billed as the largest genuine Western supply store in South Florida.

Nearby, Plantation sets contemporary living within abundant natural environs. Enjoy the outdoors while practicing your putt at Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club, or discover unique tropical fauna at the Plantation Arboretum & Botanical Garden. Then shop your heart out in style on the University Drive corridor at Westfield Broward Mall or The Fountains.

In these pages, we’ll introduce you to every corner of these communities, giving insider insight on the people and places that make these areas truly special.
You’ll find more than just big name entertainment spots and tourist-friendly activities in Greater Fort Lauderdale’s west-central communities. The spirited residents who live, work and play in these suburbs enjoy amenities that visitors might also appreciate, once they know where to look.

**SUNRISE**

An area once made famous by the Upside-Down House where visitors could stroll on the ceiling and touch furniture bolted above their heads, Sunrise has grown quite a bit since its incorporation in 1961. Today, the city is bordered by three major thoroughfares: I-595, I-75 and the Sawgrass Expressway. To the east, Fort Lauderdale’s pristine beaches are only a 15-minute drive away, and to the west, is the Everglades Conservation Area.

For new residents or visitors who like to shop around, there are multiple car dealerships at the west end of Sunrise Boulevard, as well as Broward’s only IKEA store. Sunrise is also home to the largest corporate office park in South Florida, the 612-acre Sawgrass International Corporate Park, where major companies have located their regional headquarters. And Sunrise residents are exceptionally proud of their internationally recognized chess initiative. There’s a reason Sunrise was once named Chess City USA.
PLANTATION

- The City of Plantation was incorporated on April 30, 1953, with an original population of fewer than 500. The developer of this area, which was once covered in Everglades wetlands, envisioned large lots with fruit trees and custom-built homes. Over half a century later, that roomy, flora-rich aesthetic remains, with safe neighborhoods and often opulent houses among the lush trees and red brick facades. Plantation is now a bustling city with the amenities of a faster-paced downtown, and is home to businesses like Florida Power & Light Company and Kaplan University. The Renaissance Fort Lauderdale-Plantation Hotel is a hub for corporate activity and private events.

  In recent years, Plantation has received designations such as “City of the Future” and “Tree City.” It was also named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in 2008 by America’s Promise Alliance. During the 100th anniversary of the Olympic games in 1996, the Olympic flame passed through Plantation, another mark in its developing history.

DAVIE

- A sprawling city immediately south of I-595, Davie feels like a slice of old-school country in the middle of the modern world. Founded in the area originally called Zona, Davie was a patch of swamp drained for farmland by its namesake developer Robert Parsell Davie. Davie’s original schoolhouse still exists as a museum, and its legacy based in education continues to thrive.

  A bona fide college town, you can find many leading institutions of higher education in Davie, including Nova Southeastern University, Broward College and McFatter Technical Center.

  If nature is what you’d prefer to learn about, you can on the grounds of Flamingo Gardens.
Ordered by two major highways, Sunrise is central to all of South Florida’s most sought-after amenities. And though its most famous landmarks are Sawgrass Mills mall and the BB&T Center, there are lots of other things to see and do, including skeet shooting, water sports, golf and cultural arts activities.

Once part of the Everglades wetlands, Plantation continues to maintain lots of outdoor greenspace. The city has a lifestyle suited for both athletes and artists, where you can bounce your way to fitness, learn about diverse communities or mozy along an open trail on horseback.

The college town of Davie is home to very modern amenities for sports fans and thrill-seekers, but it also hangs on to an unusual pioneer lifestyle. Residents and visitors can spend a day at the rodeo, an evening with the arts or an afternoon browsing relics of local history.
MARKHAM PARK AND TARGET RANGE

Visitors will find a 669-acre park with a nine-hole disc golf course, 88 campground sites, a dog park, remote-controlled airplane field, mountain bike trails from novice to pro, playgrounds and tennis-racquetball courts at Markham Park, near the intersection of Everglades Parkway and the Sawgrass Expressway. The facility boasts a 26-acre lake and a marina stocked with boats available for hourly rental. And you can gain access to the Everglades by boat.

Campsites are full-hookup, and have a picnic table, fire ring or barbecue grill and access to two restrooms with shower facilities. Primitive camp sites are also available for non-profit scouting groups.

The jewel of Markham Park is the target range. Sportspeople can enjoy the skeet and trap venue, pistol and rifle range, and a sporting clays course.

16001 W. State Road 84
markhampark.com

SUNRISE CIVIC CENTER THEATRE AND ART GALLERY

Opened as part of The Sunrise Civic Center in 1998, the Theatre and Art Gallery includes a 300-seat theatre with mezzanine, full production stage that hosts a variety of performing arts, an outdoor amphitheater and traveling art exhibits, including the work of local artists.

Constantly changing, the Art Gallery plays host to multiple exhibitions annually. Admission is free, and visitors have the opportunity to meet the featured artists.

The theatre also boasts myriad performance genres. The calendar offers everything from children’s productions to dance ensembles to plays and concerts. Its intimate setting offers audience members the opportunity to see the productions up close and personal. With more than double the theatre’s capacity, the outdoor amphitheatre seats 750 people and is home of the popular "Sunrise at Sunset" seasonal concert series.

10610 W. Oakland Park Blvd.

More to see:
Fox Observatory
Congas Nightclub and Melodias Taberna
The Bridges at Springtree Golf Club
OLD DAVIE SCHOOL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

In 1917, the dream of Davie settlers was realized as construction of the Davie School was approved. Designed by August Geiger, a prominent architect in Florida, Davie School was the first permanent building in the settlers’ reclaimed lands of the Everglades.

After a full restoration, the Old Davie School was brought back to its original splendor in the form of a museum. The lower level showcases a restored 1920s classroom and exhibits documenting settlers’ movement into the Everglades. Also onsite are a historically-accurate 1909 Pioneer Home, as well as two homes built in 1912 and relocated to the campus.

Visitors to the museum can expect a slice of South Florida’s agricultural past. Through historical artifacts, photographs, articles and maps, visitors experience the pioneering spirit that made Davie what it is today.

IFLY - FORT LAUDERDALE

Adrenaline junkies and anybody who ever dreamed of flying as their superpower must try indoor skydiving. The experience at iFLY mimics plane-based skydiving. Those who complete the mandatory training and meet age, height and health requirements step into a vertical wind tunnel to fly for 64 minutes at a time. Staff members take photos so you and your spectators can focus on enjoying the flight. With constantly evolving technology, the venue continues to innovate its sophisticated and eco-friendly wind tunnels.

Skydiving at iFLY is a popular activity for families and groups. Advanced reservations are encouraged to ensure a spot.

6650 Griffin Road | olddavieschool.org

11690 W. State Road 84 | iflyworld.com/fort-lauderdale/
MINIACI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT NSU

The 500-seat theatre at the Nova Southeastern University is equipped with state-of-the-art lighting and sound. Beyond the campus, a wider audience can enjoy productions via satellite downlink. The Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center, where the theatre is housed, provides cultural and academic programming for students, faculty and the surrounding community.

ROUND UP NIGHTCLUB

Looking for a little country and western entertainment? Brought a 10-gallon hat you need to try on? Hankering for a taste of Texas in South Florida? Round Up has it all. Founded in 2001 and located in the back of a strip mall off I-595, Round Up Country Western Nightclub dishes out free dance lessons in all the styles: two step, line dancing, cha cha, and East and West coast swings.

They host a variety of special events. There are “famous camo nights,” “lingerie parties,” “Comic-Con parties,” and the kick-off of the South Florida Firefighters Calendar. Live entertainment, a restaurant with a full dinner menu, and killer specials on Wednesday and Friday for Ladies’ Night make Round Up a popular stop.

You don’t need spurs and fringe for a good time at Round Up, but it might not hurt.

More to see:
Buehler Planetarium and Observatory
Davie Golf Club

9020 W. State Road 84
roundupnightclub.com
**OFF THE WALL**

Off the Wall offers fun, family-friendly activities fit for all ages. Enjoy wall-to-wall trampolines, extreme dodgeball, trapeze, trampoline slam dunk basketball, virtual reality games and a state-of-the-art laser tag arena. Arcade games of the past and present give players the chance to win endless e-tickets and redeem them for prizes. Off the Wall is also home to The Rec Room, an on-site dining experience complete with offerings to satisfy adults and children alike.

The ultimate destination for year-round, indoor entertainment, Off the Wall has prices just as nice as the experience. Visit their website for activity costs, weekly specials, birthday parties or other event bookings.

9130 W. State Road 84 | otwusa.com/davie
PLANTATION PRESERVE GOLF COURSE AND CLUB

With manicured grounds, cutting-edge practice facilities, and a fully equipped clubhouse, Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club is one of South Florida’s premier public golf hubs. This impressive 18-hole course was designed by renowned architects von Hagge, Smelek & Baril to accommodate every player from beginner to pro. The extensive facilities, which include a pro shop, linear park and multi-use trail, are all open for public use. Memberships include premium benefits such as discounts on golf cart rental fees, restaurant prices and guest rates. Members can also reserve tee time in advance and access personalized service.

After playing on the fairway, stroll over to the clubhouse to relax and indulge in cocktails or a meal at the luxurious dining room. Look out for one of Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club’s famous sunsets at the end of the day.

7050 W. Broward Blvd. | plantationpreservegolfcourseclub.com

PLANTATION EQUESTRIAN CENTER

What would a city with horse lovers be without a place to gather, compete and play? Plantation Equestrian Center fits the bill. Since opening in April 2005, the center has hosted horse shows and exhibitions every weekend, drawing legions of visitors to the area. The facility features two large stables with 96 individual stalls, three show rings with an additional two practice rings, grassy paddock areas, seating for 300, and a building that houses restrooms and a concession stand. This is set against the backdrop of 85 acres of nature trails, bridle paths through the wetlands, auditory sculptures that react to environmental elements and playgrounds for the kids. Respect for the horse-rider relationship is evident in the abundant opportunities for education, observation of the natural environment and programming available at Plantation Equestrian Center.

1451 N.W. 118th Ave

More to see:
Plantation Historical Museum
Signature Stables
Live Like a Local

Isdelm "Ike" ACOSTA
Davie
Stats: I am a 39-year-old mother of two, a title agency owner and realtor who loves the outdoors and art.
Where to chill: Davie is known for its agriculture and horses. A favorite spot of ours is Marando Farms & Ranch, which carries fresh produce, local honey, handmade jewelry, a petting farm with pigs, goats, chickens and horses, and, periodically, outdoor yoga on Sundays.
Nature walks: One of the locations we enjoy going to is Tree Tops Park. It has trails so you can go horse riding, and they also offer pony rides for the little ones. The trails lead you to a mangrove area that has a wooden deck where you can feed the fish, enjoy bird watching or look at the beautiful moss-covered trees. We had our daughters’ baby showers at one of their pavilions, surrounded by a garden full of flowers.
Homestyle cooking: Flashback Diner off Davie Boulevard is great. It is laid back and relaxing with a lot of outdoor open seating and big outdoor fans for warm weather.

Mayor Mike RYAN
Sunrise
Stats: At 56, I am very fortunate to work with a city team and commission who share a passion for our community and making it the best place to live, work and play. My opportunity to team up with residents and businesses invigorates me each day.
Where to chill: Sunrise is known as "Your Business and Entertainment Destination." You can spend the day surrounded by amazing retail options, explore a variety of parks, find amazing dining and then take in a world-class concert, show or NHL game. We have it all!
Checkmate: Not everyone knows this, but in 2015 Sunrise was named Chess City of the Year by the United States Chess Federation. We’re proud of this honor, and of the robust chess initiative we’ve built. Stop by one of our open-play chess sessions and you’ll be hooked.
Where to refuel: My favorite days usually include a bike ride — which means I work up an appetite. Our Sunset Strip bike path covers a large part of the city, so I can stop at any number of fantastic cultural spots for a meal. It’s a great way to experience Caribbean, Peruvian, Colombian or good old-fashioned homestyle cooking.
Fred
MCLENDON
Plantation

Stats: I’m a 59-year-old bike rider with a passion for helping inner-city kids.

On a ride: In Plantation, riding your bike is a beautiful thing. You see 50 people at a time riding their bikes together. The traffic isn’t bad, and people respect you on the road. There are lots of sights to see with nice trees and beautiful houses. I live in a beautiful cul-de-sac, but I still like riding through Plantation Acres. That’s a passion of mine.

Where to chill: I love going to any flower shop or anywhere they sell plants. And I’m a farmer’s market type. On Saturday mornings there’s a really good farmer’s market at Volunteer Park right off Sunrise. People have a great time there.

Mangia!: I go to so many restaurants, but I probably eat at Jacaranda Italian Restaurant at least once a week. They have the best pizza around. I get the mushroom, spinach and onion pizza, pasta with white clam sauce, or the zuppa di pesce — a pasta dish with clams, shrimp and squid.

Bonus Share: Not only is Plantation quiet, but the police force is also very good. They are always respectful, so we respect them for what they do and how they treat people. I give an A+ to the Plantation police force.

Kesi
MONCREIFFE
Sunrise

Stats: I’m a family-oriented lover of life and love. I’m 42 and most passionate about art and design.

Where to chill: A must do activity in Sunrise is Sawgrass Mills mall, the one place I can go to get everything I need. With so much to do and see, it’s sure to keep you busy and entertained for several days. Head over to the Art of Illusion for great photo ops that will make your friends and family think you are on-set somewhere.

Outdoor enthusiasts: I love to travel with my family, and we always find adventures off the beaten path. In Sunrise, I still want to get that sense of being on vacation and adventure without going too far, and Markham Park hits the mark. It offers campgrounds, nature trails, mountain bike trails, a target range, a butterfly garden and so much more. And if you forget something, Sawgrass Mills Mall is a hop skip and jump up the road.

Favorite local eats: Toa Toa Chinese Restaurant has always been a hit for amazing dim sum. It is off the beaten path, tucked away in a quiet plaza, but is known to the locals for its amazing authentic cuisine. This restaurant is a must try.

Bonus share: Sunrise offers the right mix of everything — from restaurants, shopping or excursions in the Everglades to one of the best tennis facilities around. If you have kids, then Gameroom will be a hit.
Sawgrass Mills Mall promises a stylish setting to pass the day away. The location 15 minutes from Fort Lauderdale International Airport and 30 minutes from Miami International Airport makes it a great stop for an extra travel day, as much as it is a treat for those who live in the area. With more than 350 stores spread across its sprawling campus, Sawgrass Mills Mall is the largest outlet shopping location in the country. You might need more than a day to explore every corner of it.

LUXURY

Within Sawgrass Mills is a specialty collection of luxury brand stores grouped into one convenient location, the Colonnade Outlets. It would be no problem to spend a full day exploring, window shopping and splurging on amazing luxury goods in this section without ever getting to the rest of the mall. For stunning modern clothes with vintage twists, head to Sandro, a Paris-based luxury brand. For the signature shoes and accessories that have dominated the fashion world for decades, stop at Dolce & Gabbana. Or, pick up some trendy patterned looks from Italian brand Etro. Then grab lunch at one of seven eateries within the Colonnade Outlets.

📍 12801 W. Sunrise Blvd.
simon.com/mall/sawgrass-mills
TRENDY

For less luxurious price tags, Sawgrass Mills offers countless options. Rag & Bone is known for incredible fashion statements, including an amazing selection of outerwear and shoes. Ralph Lauren has a time-honored reputation for simple, fashion-forward pieces. Scotch & Soda is a couture brand from Amsterdam with plenty of colorful statement looks amid simple, classic pieces. 7 for All Mankind is a brand particularly known for fantastic, quality denim, among a catalog of many other clothing items. And Lululemon is a popular stop for their high-quality leggings and workout clothes.

KID-FRIENDLY

For those shopping with or for little ones, there is no shortage of choices. For clothing, visit The Children’s Place, Gymboree or OshKosh B’Gosh for a wide range of adorable and affordable outfits for all youth ages. For a more upscale kids look, Polo Ralph Lauren has a children’s factory store in the outlets. For the youngest of shoppers, babycottons is an ultra-sweet shop packed with perfectly soft and cute infant clothes. And after a successful shopping day, reward the patient youngsters with a stop at the interactive LEGO store.

SPORTS

At Sawgrass Mills, options for sports equipment and athletic apparel hit it out of the park. You can stock up on brand-name, high performance athletic shoes at places like Nike Factory Store, New Balance Factory Store and adidas Outlet Store, all massive locations packed with every imaginable style. For more shoe options, Foot Locker has two locations in Sawgrass Mills and its family store, Champs Sports, also has a location with plenty of great sportswear and equipment offerings. For sunglasses, sport goggles and specialty sports lenses, stop by Oakley, one of the leading performance brands in the world. And for those who prefer water sports over land games, O’Neill is the destination for surf gear.

TECH

If you’re not out to shop for clothes, tech browsing may be more up your alley. You can pick up all sorts of gaming supplies at one of two Gamestop locations, best known for video games and consoles though they also offer collectibles, fandom clothing, and other electronics. Then swing by Bose, masters of sound and style, to check out the highest-tech audio supplies like speakers and headphones. Or, if you don’t quite know what you’re looking for, BrandsMart USA is a perfect option for hours of browsing electronics, appliances and home goods.
Not only is it home to the National Hockey League’s Florida Panthers, but the massive arena also hosts some of the largest events in Florida from sold-out superstar concerts to family performances and award shows. In past years, the center has played host to the likes of Billy Joel, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Lady Gaga, Beyoncé and a host of other mega-stars. It’s also held immensely popular events like Disney On Ice, Cirque du Soleil and Jurassic Quest.

The arena boasts a fully cashless operating system and, according to Panthers Chief Operating Officer Sean McCaffrey, the BB&T Center was “the first NHL building and the first sports arena in Florida” to meet health and safety benchmarks developed by the International WELL Building Institute.

Shortly after the Panthers won their first conference championship, the team moved from Miami to BB&T Center in 1998. The NHL team draws massive crowds of Floridian hockey fans to the Sunrise area. The Panthers are known most notably as the southernmost team in the league and for several former players who have been inducted in the Hockey Hall of Fame, such as Pavel "The Russian Rocket" Bure.

“Our franchise means family," McCaffrey said. "From our players, coaches and staff to our fans, we’re proud to call BB&T Center and the South Florida region our home."
Davie residents are known for their deep love for all things equestrian—a significant portion of the population own horses and hundreds once rode to a town council meeting to protest a plan to tear down the rodeo arena.

The Bergeron Rodeo Grounds stands at the heart of Davie. After the arena was saved by the 1978 horseback protest, the Davie Rodeo Association was formed as part of an effort spearheaded by rodeo star Troy Weekley and Ron Bergeron Sr., a former rodeo champ who also is the subject of Tanya Tucker’s song, “Alligator Man.”

The Town of Davie named the arena Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in honor of the family’s contributions to the sport and town itself. Bergeron’s father, Percy, founded the local grocery and was among the area leaders who brought rodeo to the small town with big spirit. Bergeron, 77, hung up his ropes in 2018 but the tradition continues with his six children, who he introduced to the sport as they drove across the country for rodeos.

Today rodeo is still the heart of Davie, drawing thousands of people for weekly regional exhibitions, Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) events every other month, and the PRCA Southeastern Circuit Finals each November. The Davie Arena at Bergeron Rodeo Grounds, which is available to rent, boasts 72,000 square feet of indoor-outdoor space with seating for 5,000 people. But there is a lot more than just horsing around going on. The complex hosts a number of town-sponsored events, such as the Davie Jazz Festival and the Taste of Davie. Visitors can also enjoy the occasional concert or monster truck show.

Recent proposals for commercial and residential development keep Davie’s Western style at the center of architecture and atmosphere. The walkable downtown will feature frontier-styled wood railings, vintage lanterns and buildings painted earth-tone colors to honor the look of what was past while incorporating modern convenience and ingenuity.
Tucked away in Plantation, in the stretch between Broward Boulevard and I-595, is the charming Plantation Shopping Corridor. Spanning less than two miles, it houses two separate shopping malls, among them dozens of community-loved staple stores and classic restaurants. Future expansions will add amazing new options.

Covering your full shopping list is quick work here. At the northern end of the corridor just off of Broward Boulevard, sits the spacious and well-appointed Westfield Broward mall. The entrance, decked out in a welcoming water feature, greets guests with pure South Florida style. Inside, the mall is well-lit and inviting, stocked wall to wall with familiar shops and dining options. Among over sixty shopping choices are three department store staples: JCPenney, Dillard’s and Macy’s. Interspersed between these familiar retail giants are smaller stores offering everything from high-fashion footwear and affordable clothing to gifts and tech supplies.

Better yet, Westfield Broward is packed with food options, both for snacking and full, hearty meals. While you’re enjoying the day, stop by Brio for a fresh Tuscan meal or Cajun Boil for lunch with a little more spice. And if neither of those selections is for you, don’t worry. There are more than a dozen other food choices in the mall itself. If shopping tires you out, you can
even check out a movie at Westfield’s on-site theater, lending appeal to guests of all ages.

Opposite the neighborhood Barnes & Noble, on the south end of the corridor, you can continue your peaceful day out at The Fountains, another shopping center. Though smaller than Westfield Broward, it offers excellent big-name retailers amid cozier boutique stores, providing great mainstream appeal for all ages. Among other great choices, a stop into JOANN, Dick’s, Kohl’s or Marshalls might be in order. And a meal at one of many classic fast-casual eateries is also on the table, though you can opt to grab frozen yogurt, wine, chocolates or cheese from specialty retailers and take it to go.

The ambiance in the Plantation Shopping Corridor is ceaselessly laid-back and relaxed, a respite from the worries of life. The variety of stores and dining options means a diverse clientele, welcoming those of all backgrounds and ages to enjoy a day out, shopping — or just window shopping, enjoying the sun and having a bite to eat in charming settings close to home.
PHOTO JOURNAL

A Walk Through Flamingo Gardens
Home to some of the last natural jungle growth in South Florida, Flamingo Gardens is a lush tropical paradise. Sixty acres of property include breathtaking botanical gardens brimming with more than 3,000 tropical, subtropical and native plants.

The onsite Everglades Wildlife Sanctuary features a variety of rescued fauna, including black bears, panthers, bobcats, alligators, peacocks and, of course, flamingos. The sanctuary is Florida’s largest collection of native wildlife with over 85 species and a team that provides a safe haven for injured birds and animals unable to re-enter the wild.
Nature lovers are welcome to stroll along meandering pathways in the main arboretum, cool under the shade of some of Florida’s largest trees, including the largest single-trunk tree in the state. Bromeliads, crotons, butterflies and hummingbirds have distinct places of their own in the specialty gardens nestled along the way. Take the guided tram tour through the property then stop at the flamingo pond and feed these gentle, wading birds.

Surrounded by a sweeping hammock of two-century-old live oaks blanketed in orchids, ferns and air plants is the historic Wray Home Museum. Built in the early 1930s, this recently restored building offers a window to the past with valued heirlooms on display. History and nature happily coexist here, in the heart of Flamingo Gardens.

3750 S. Flamingo Road
flamingogardens.org
Mixed-Use Contemporary

Once a hub of agricultural activity, today Plantation, Davie and Sunrise boast modern condominiums, high-end retail and a bustling restaurant scene in the midst of increasingly walkable neighborhoods.

Sunrise

METROPICA

A mammoth contemporary mixed-use development, Metropica blends city living with lush tropical landscaping and views of the Everglades. The 65-acre master-planned community just west of Sawgrass Mills Mall will interwork about 2,000 residential units, 650,000 square feet of Class A office space and a hotel into greenways and some retail development. The first of eight residential towers opened in 2020. Residents of the 28-story condo building enjoy amenities including tennis courts, a movie theater, children’s playroom, bike share, lounge, faux beach, saltwater pool, fitness center and spa.
Other communities to explore:

Built in 2009, Tao Sawgrass set the bar for luxury living in Sunrise with amenities that include a putting green, sauna and waterfront pool. Portico Apartments is an upscale, five-story community built with dogs in mind. Enjoy bark park, agility course, lakeside walking path, and “yappy hour” events. At AMLI Sawgrass Village, enjoy all the amenities of resort life – pool house bar, expansive fitness center, pet spa, lily pond, and a 1 GB fiber network—for a rent that’s reasonable given the proximity to dining and entertainment.

Plantation

ONE PLANTATION APARTMENTS

The whole family will love One Plantation, which provides both pet- and eco-friendly luxury living. The apartments and clubhouse were designed with energy efficiency top of mind. And green vehicles, whether low-emitting or fuel efficient, receive priority parking spaces. The units themselves feature floor-to-ceiling windows, private balconies and modern epicurean kitchens. After work, residents can play a pickup game of basketball on a rooftop terrace, slide into the hot tub, sip a drink at the social lounge or play with Fido at the bark park.

Davie

ZONA VILLAGE

With upscale interior details and a location near two college campuses, Zona Village offers youthful, modern features like an open-floor plan and enhanced sound proofing. Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate the farmhouse sink, waterfall granite island, and white subway tile backslash. Residents also enjoy a resort-style pool and jacuzzi, pet spa, laundry service, cross fit health club, community center, electric car charging stations and dedicated bike storage. Because retail anchors the ground floor of Zona Village, you’ll barely leave home to shop and eat.

Other communities to explore:

Nestled amid several college campuses, this 9.5 acre University Pointe complex is practically a mini town, complete with apartments, shopping and outdoor living amenities like a pool, cabanas, outdoor shower and green spaces. Many communities in the area offer high-end finishes, paw spas and a resort-style pool, but PARC3400 stands out for the additional flex office space and multiple fitness rooms – from yoga and spinning to cross fit, TRX and weights. And despite the luxe apartment homes of the Avenue Apartments, residents are drawn to the “indulgent details” beyond their doors: private herb gardens, dog agility course, shuffleboard courts, walking trails and a three-story clubhouse, among other amenities.
Three Florida towns perfectly situated between the wild Everglades and the glitz of Fort Lauderdale – Plantation, Davie and Sunrise – offer just-right dining options for locals and travelers alike. Historic buildings and ranches anchor the young towns, which also offer relaxed living, year-round sunshine and diverse culinary choices.

PLANTATION

VIGNETOS ITALIAN GRILL

Ideal for casual family dining or a new date night spot, Vignetos, established in 2003, has easily become a go-to for authentic Italian favorites and fresh seafood. Indulge in a robust entree of veal, seafood, poultry or pizza, and a wine pairing from their extensive list. For your main course, try Joe’s pesto pasta layered with creamy spinach and chicken or the Asiago gnocchi with vodka sauce. There are options for vegans and vegetarians too, like their handcrafted margherita pizza, signature salads and eggplant stacks. Welcoming guests for lunch and dinner starting at 4 p.m. daily, Vignetos offers generous portions.

MUSTARD SEED BISTRO

Nearly a decade ago, acclaimed Florida chef Timothy Boyd and his wife Lara launched this New American bistro with longtime employee chef Ernesto Rado. Don’t be fooled by the strip mall location. Dinner plates sometimes exceed $30 and are worth every penny – especially the crispy duck glazed with a bracing Bing cherry gastrique. The fresh, muted interior and high-back booths feel particularly romantic when the lights are dimmed for evening service. In the day, it’s bright and a favorite destination for friends looking to split modestly priced appetizers like bacon-wrapped dates and parmesan Brussel sprouts. Did we mention that the cupcakes were named the state’s best by The Florida Palate?

PLANTATION, DAVIE, SUNRISE

RESTAURANTS
**RIVERSIDE MARKET**

It’s easy to understand why Riverside Market is ranked as one of the nation’s best beer bars. They offer more than 500 craft brews, including many from self-serve taps, as well as wines, gourmet sodas and other mostly organic beverages. Stellar drink selection aside, the restaurant serves up solid renditions of modern bar foods: from jalapeño poppers and black-and-blue burgers to the "healthalicious" tuna salad and BBQ chicken pizza. Whatever you order, enjoy it while lounging at a patio table, in a wingback chair or on a couch crowded with friends. Your choice. (Bonus: They’re dog friendly.)

6900 Cypress Road | theriversidemarket.com

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**PARLOUR VEGAN BAKERY**

From Colombia to Israel, this restaurant offers bold, allergen-and-planet conscious delights. If you want lunch before dessert, dip the mojo "pork" and yuca empanada in a red pepper aioli, spice it up with a Jamaican "beef" patty, or order vegan tamales to take home. But the real highlight is the sweets. Young (or just young-at-heart) foodies will enjoy the butterbeer donut inspired by the Harry Potter series and the unicorn cookie drenched in rainbow sprinkles. Our favorites include the cheese-and-guava pastelito, a Cuban classic, and the white chocolate macadamia cookie sandwiches filled with zingy lemon frosting and curd. While you’re at it, sip an iced tea or hot coffee from local producers.

1487 S. University Drive #3 | parlourcurb.com

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**OVLO EATS**

If you’re a foodie in a rush but still would like an Instagram-worthy plate, this eatery is the place to go or order out. Their clean-eating menu means you can indulge guilt free on upscaled sandwiches, salads and bowls. For a crunchy, fresh option, we recommend the herbaceous and slightly salty farro, watermelon and feta salad with grilled chicken breast in an oregano vinaigrette. Because you can pair any entrée with any side, go ahead and satisfy all cravings at once, even if the pairing is unusual. Add smashed and twice-fried fingerling potatoes to an order for lemongrass grilled shrimp with carrot ginger sauce.

7626 Peters Road | ovloeats.com
DAVIE

VIENNA WINE BAR

For 20 years, the Vienna Wine Bar has been a local favorite for fine dining and special occasions. You’ll almost feel bad eating brunch, lunch or dinner because each meal is plated with artful precision, like the criss crossed bones of glazed Australian lamb chops resting on a neat triangle of au gratin potatoes. We recommend trying European classics like wiener schnitzel and potato-crusted salmon with a glass of wine recommended by your server. The bar offers more than 120 bottles, as well as by-the-glass and sample flight options.

9100 W. State Road 84 | viennawinebar.com

KRISTOF’S KAFE

Local boy Kris Kristof ran fine dining kitchens before returning home to open Kristof’s Kafe, which focuses on breakfast and lunch. Even on weekdays people crowd the entry to wait for hefty plates of American diner classics and playful variations. The rotating weekend specials tempt regulars to break from their usual orders, items like pumpkin waffles served with cream cheese and pecan butter, lemon ricotta pancakes bursting with fresh blueberries, or a bacon-and-pecan waffle topped with fried chicken and served with a side of hot sauce syrup. I’ll say it again: hot sauce syrup.

8912 W. State Road 84 | kristofskafe.com

CINQUE TERRE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Chef-Owner Aldo Marcon started his culinary career in his grandma’s Italian kitchen, declaring himself the "Amaretto Cookie Chef." Later, he worked in top restaurants from Manhattan to New Orleans. At Cinque Terre, Marcon serves traditional Italian dishes that often are amped up by borrowing flavors from other Mediterranean cuisines. The stellar food is not just for special occasions. Affordable prices and generous weekday drink discounts make it a lovely place for a casual "wine down" with friends or family.

7750 Nova Drive | cinqueterrerestaurant.com

VISITLAUDERDALE.COM | @VISITLAUDERDALE
ALLY’S COMFORT CAFÉ

At first sight, the menu seems to offer standard diner fare: plate-sized cinnamon rolls, massive omelets and toasted sandwiches cut into neat triangles before being delivered to your booth. Don’t be fooled. The café has been voted best breakfast in Broward County because they don’t skimp on the comfort in comfort food. Adventurous diners will appreciate their daily specials, like a grilled cheese sandwich packed with pancetta, jalapeño, guava and oozing buffalo mozzarella.

13674 W. State Road 84
allyscomfortcafe.net

CEVICHE 595

This seafood grill specializing in Peruvian fare earned a five-star rating and Traveler’s Choice Award from Trip Advisor by executing classic dishes perfectly on plates as colorful as the fresh produce and sauces coating them. If you’re lucky, you’ll visit when the special is a red snapper – yes, the whole thing – deep fried and cradling a mound of fried yuca and sweet potatoes. For an energizing, bright taste of Florida seafood, order the leche de tigre mixta. The “tiger’s milk” sauce of lime, chiles, ginger, onion, fish stock and salt tenderly cures shrimp and other seafood in this reviving dish.

1910 S. University Drive
ceviche595peruviankitchen.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: HANNAH GULICS
ALL THAT JAZZ

The name sums it up. ALL THAT JAZZ Restaurant caters to diners looking for good tunes with their great eats. Since 2013, the local stalwart has offered an upscale take on homestyle dinners with live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The pastas, puttanesca and meatballs might make you think the food is Italian, but many dishes also draw from international fusions central to New Orleans cuisines and Caribbean flavors, with vegan and gluten free options also available. The best part? Everything is made from scratch.

3491 Hiatus Road | allthatjazzcafe.com

TIN FISH

Long before he became a chef, Joseph Melluso sourced and sliced fish at New York’s famous Fulton’s Fish Market, a foundational experience that eventually led him to open the no-fuss Tin Fish. Whatever seafood you want to eat and however you want it cooked, it’s on the massive menu. Oyster po boy sandwich. Whole Jamaican steamed fish stuffed with scotch bonnets, okra, peppers, broccoli and crackers. Fried gator, sautéed frog legs, or lobster bisque. Prices are driven by market costs but reasonable given the top quality.

10053 Sunset Strip
tinfishsunrise.com

THE BAKED BEAR

This franchise specializing in homemade ice cream cookie sandwiches started in Northern California but found fans in Southern Florida. It’s the latest, scumptious variation of the build-your-own trend. Start by picking the cookies (or brownies) then a cold scoop for your center. Butter brittle cake? Salted caramel fudge? After that, you can have your sandwich drizzled in fudge or rolled in heath bar bits. But you can’t eat without answering one last question: Do you want your cookies hot pressed to maximize the gooey goodness?

2604 Sawgrass Mills Circle #1125 | thebakedbear.com/sawgrass-mills
DAVIE

SIGNATURE GRAND GHoul

The Signature Grand Ghoul is the scariest Halloween party in Davie. Each October, the 100,000-square-foot Signature Grand mansion transforms into a spooky haunted house, ready to welcome the young and young at heart. Don your best costume for the contest and bring your friends to eat and drink the night away at the open bar and luxury buffets. Or, hit the dance floor and enjoy the music. Don’t forget to bid in the night-long silent auction. General admission and VIP tickets are available.

6900 State Road 84
thesignaturegrand.com/signature-grand-ghoul

SUNRISE

BUSINESS EXPOS AT BB&T

Networking has never been easier or more fun than at the South Florida Business Conference and Expo at the BB&T Center. Meet industry professionals, shop and learn at this annual May event. Grow your brand and participate in showcases alongside representatives from industries such as medical services, venture capital, business trade, hospitality, real estate, developers and international business. Enjoy educational seminars, business card exchanges and more. Presale and VIP ticket options are available.

BB&T Center, One Panther Parkway | browardbiz.com

PLANTATION

ART IN THE PARK

All are welcome at Art in the Park, a free showcase of fine art and crafts. Presented by the Plantation Junior Woman’s Club for more than 50 years, this event takes place each fall at Liberty Tree Park. With a children’s corner and food and drink available, Art in the Park is a great way to spend time with family. Walk through the showcase to enjoy the displays and listen to a lineup of live music. This two-day event is free to the public and parking is free.

7421 N.W. 5th St.
artintheparkplantation.com
If acclaimed indoor, high-energy recreation is what you are looking for, Urban Air and Adventure Park has you covered. Want to play a friendly game of dodgeball? They have courts for that. Head to the Warrior Obstacle Course to try out your American Ninja skills. Love to jump? Bounce over to the trampoline park. There is almost too much to experience in one trip. Urban Air and Adventure Park is available for birthday parties, a get together for a few friends or a stress-relieving family diversion. They have the food covered as well at the Urban Cafe, an on-site restaurant featuring fountain drinks, pizza and more. Check out their website to purchase tickets, inquire about a membership, or book an event.

801 S. University Drive, Suite 500
urbanairtrampolinepark.com

Aimed at teaching children to appreciate and celebrate art from a young age, Young at Art is an interactive museum and gallery that allows your children to become the artists.

Located within Westfield Broward mall in Plantation, the facility ignites the imagination of art enthusiasts of all ages with immersive activities relating to current displays. Families can look forward to perusing the gallery filled with interactive exhibits that encourage people to paint, craft and follow color templates from local artists, not to mention sculptures designed to double as a playground. Young at Art also offers the chance to rent their space for birthday parties and art workshops. Check their website for adult and children’s ticket prices.

8000 W. Broward Blvd., Suite 1208
youngatartmuseum.org
Outdoors

PLANTATION

Fig Tree Park
Amid abundant green space and a small pond are playgrounds, basketball courts, baseball fields, pavilion, picnic tables, benches and restroom facilities.
620 S. Fig Tree Lane

Happy Tails Dog Park at Seminole Park
Within the larger Seminole Park, this five-acre dog park is divided into three areas for large dogs, small dogs and an exercise playground.
6600 S.W. 16th St.

Plantation Central Park
Enjoy two Olympic-size pools, a hydro-play area, sports courts, roller hockey rinks, a 10-acre lake for remote control boats and more.
9151 N.W. 2nd St.

Plantation Heritage Park
Bike the nature trail, inspect the tropical fruit grove, enjoy fishing at the marina and play disc golf at this family friendly park.
1100 S. Fig Tree Lane

Seminole Park
Vast open spaces are complemented by a jogging course with exercise stations, sand volleyball, playground, dog park and picnic facilities.
6600 S.W. 16th St.

SUNRISE

City Park
This 5.5-acre leisure space includes a multipurpose field, an amphitheater, covered pavilions, splash pad, shaded playground and three covered outdoor basketball courts.
6600 Sunset Strip

Cypress Preserve Park
Amenities include a splash pad, nature trail, nine-hole disc golf course, nine exercise stations and three small pavilions.
9020 N.W. 38th St.

Flamingo Park
Three covered basketball courts, baseball fields, batting cages, soccer fields and a walking path with exercise equipment.
12855 N.W. 8th St.

Markham Park and Target Range
669-acres with outdoor rifle and pistol range, sporting clays, skeet and trap, an archery range, extensive mountain bike trails, campgrounds and sports fields.
16001 State Road 84

Oak Hammock Park
Environmental boardwalk, nature trails, the Live Oak Chess Patio and pavilions perfect for family picnics.
9220 N.W. 44th St.

Oscar Wind Park
This park features a baseball field, soccer field, picnic pavilion, playground and walking path.
200 N. New River Circle

Sawgrass Sanctuary
Nature park and learning center with observation platform, fishing pier, 200-foot boardwalk, walking path, pavilions and a concert platform.
237 N. New River Circle

Welleby Park
At nearly 29 acres, this park features picnic pavilions and an extensive children’s play area.
1100 N.W. 44th St.

DAVIE

Bergeron Park
Neighborhood park with shelter for event rental, eight picnic tables and a large grill.
1900 S. Nob Hill Rd.

Berman Park
3.5-acre neighborhood park with playground, large shelter, picnic tables, a grill and horse trailer parking.
5801 S.W. 58th Ave.

Davie Veterans Park
It might only be half an acre, but this neighborhood park includes a picnic area and fishing facilities.
5750 S.W. 39th St.

Shenandoah Park
The park has a shelter with a grill, playground, sports fields, tennis court, roller hockey rink and tree-lined recreational trails.
14601 S.W. 14th St.

Tree Tops Park
23 acres of restored freshwater marsh and nature trails, with equestrian center, fishing, volleyball, picnic areas and rentable wedding space.
3900 S.W. 100th Ave.

Vista View Park
The highest man-made elevation in Broward County, these 271 acres are popular with competitive bicyclists, paragliders and horseback riders.
4001 S.W. 142nd Ave.

Wolf Lake Park
Wrapped around the lake are 50 acres of green space, including an equestrian trail, a large shelter with picnic tables and charcoal grills.
5400 S.W. 76th Ave.
Resources

ATM BANKS

ATM (Cash Systems)
1 Seminole Way, Davie

ATM (Suntrust Bank)
8118 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation

Bank of America ATM (Drive-thru)
9990 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise

Cardtronics ATM
1205 S. Nob Hill Road, Davie

City National Bank - ATM
10155 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise

National Vending Bitcoin ATM
3101 Hallandale Beach Blvd. Suite 100, Hallandale Beach

Presto! ATM at Publix
1181 S. University Drive, Plantation

PriorityONE Credit Union of Florida ATM
3000 N. University Drive, Sunrise

LA Fitness
Sports and fitness club.
3500 N. University Drive, Sunrise
954-572-0158
lafitness.com

New Body Architects
For body transformation and weight loss.
8958 Cleary Blvd., Plantation
954-232-0285
newbodyarchitects.com

Planet Fitness
Machines, cardio and strength training.
8219 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation
954-424-9190
planetfitness.com

Yourfit Health Clubs
State of the art facilities.
2101 N. University Drive, Sunrise
954-289-5773
youfit.com

MARKETS

ALDI
Groceries, meat & dairy.
12190 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation
aldi.us

American Latina Market
Dedicated to Latin American foods.
3700 Davie Road, Davie
american-latina-market.business.site

Food Fair Wholesale Fresh Market
International groceries, meat & dairy.
7139 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation
foodfairfreshmarket.com

Foodtown
Groceries, baked goods & frozen foods, health & beauty products.
6431 Stirling Road, Davie
foodtownflorida.com

The Fresh Market
Local produce, prepared eats, wine & more.
12171 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation
thefreshmarket.com

Jerusalem Market
Specialty Middle Eastern groceries.
1757 N. University Drive, Plantation
jerusalemarket.com

Kosher Kiko’s Market
Specialty kosher grocery.
7818 N.W. 44th St., Sunrise
kosherkikosmarket.com

Neighbors Food Market
Groceries, large selection of caribbean products.
6041 W. Sunrise Blvd., Sunrise
neighborsiga.com

New York Mart
Asian goods, fresh fish, meats & produce.
10065 Sunset Strip, Sunrise
newyorkmart.com

Publix Super Market at Sawgrass Square
Groceries, deli & bakery.
Offers: In-store shopping, Curbside pickup & Delivery.
12500 W. Sunrise Blvd., Sunrise
publix.com

Trader Joe’s
Groceries, signature items, produce, dairy & more.
2296 S. University Drive, Davie
traderjoes.com

Walmart Neighborhood Market
1885 N. Pine Island Road, Plantation
walmart.com

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Davie-Cooper City Chamber of Commerce
Working with business, government, charitable, and educational institutions to identify common areas of interest and build better.
4217 S.W. 64th Ave. #3, Davie
954-581-0790
davie-coopercity.org

Greater Plantation Chamber
Providing opportunities for economic success and a voice for their members.
7401 N.W. 4th St., Plantation
954-587-1410
plantationchamber.org

Haitian American Chamber of Commerce
Business leaders and policy makers dedicated to the success of Haitian businesses.
7775 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise
954-638-8321
haamcc.com

Sunrise Chamber Of Commerce
Dedicated business network supporting the growth of local companies and the city of Sunrise.
6800 Sunset Strip, Sunrise
954-835-2428
sunrisechamber.org