

# FREE THINGS TO DO in Greater Fort Lauderdale

## 8 beaches, so many ways to play

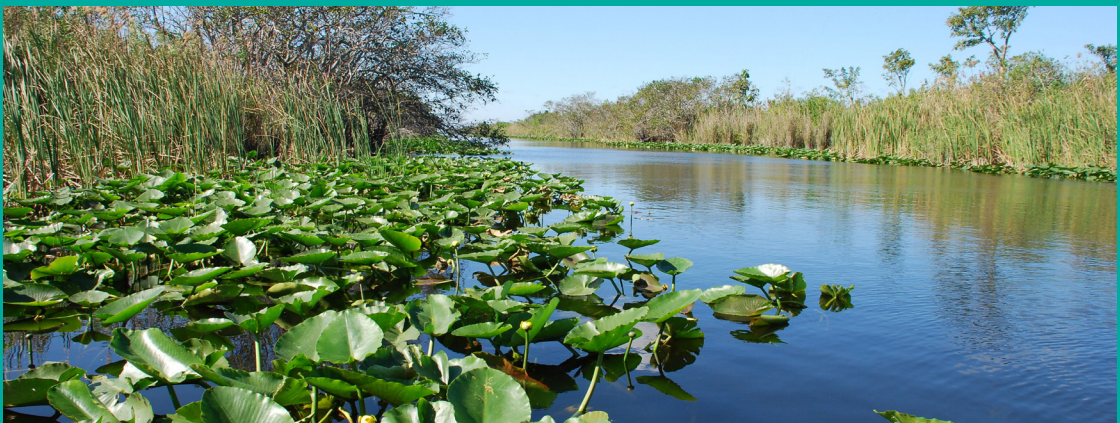
Enjoy a day of fun in the sun at eight distinct beaches in Greater Fort Lauderdale, spanning 23 miles of Blue Wave certified beaches.



Meditate as you watch the sunrise on beautiful **Deerfield Beach**, Broward County's cove-like beach with fishing pier, volleyball and surf lessons. **Hillsboro Beach** boasts the brightest lighthouse on the East Coast with monthly tours through the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society. Heading south, enjoy **Pompano Beach**, a favorite spot for families with playgrounds, fishing pier, dive shops and boat charters. Catch the Old Florida "beach village" vibe of **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea's** half-mile hamlet and snorkel (no boat needed) from shore along three-tiered reefs. Stroll, jog or bike along the **Fort Lauderdale** beachfront promenade, a charming cosmopolitan spot. **Dania Beach** is home to some of the least crowded stretches of shoreline, and a favorite for kayaking, swimming and picnicking. **Hollywood** is retro-cool and laid-back with a 2 1/2-mile Broadwalk that is ideal for walking, cycling (try a fun-cycle) and jogging. **Hallandale Beach** is a great spot for watersports along a beautiful stretch of beach.

## natural wonders: parks and nature centers

Greater Fort Lauderdale is a gateway to the Everglades and more. Enjoy some of Mother Earth's most amazing wonders. Here's a sampling and find more at [sunny.org/nature](http://sunny.org/nature):



Climb (or take the elevator) to the observation tower or follow the boardwalk at **Anne Kolb Nature Center** at West Lake Park in Hollywood, a mangrove estuary and habitat for wading birds and other native wildlife. **Snake Warrior's Island**, in Miramar, is a 53.3-acre nature preserve along the Great Florida Birding Trail. **Fern Forest Nature Center**, in Coconut Creek, offers a serene setting with picnic shelter, amphitheater and Royal Fern Hall. **Deerfield Island Park**, accessible only by boat, is a 53.3-acre nature-oriented park offering outdoor recreational activities and is open only on the weekends with free boat shuttle to the island. **Central Broward Regional Park** in Lauderhill, is the only certified U.S. Cricket stadium and is free on weekdays with soccer/football fields, netball, tennis, basketball and water playground.

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## all for fun, fun for all

Day or night, there's always something sunny going on. From concerts at [BB&T Center](#) and [Hard Rock Event Center](#) to arts and cultural festivals year-round, plus sporting events, watersports, nightlife and underground scene. Your Greater Fort Lauderdale experience can be as busy as you wish! Save time (and room in your suitcase) for a great find at a local boutique, upscale department store or designer outlet.



Hollywood Beach Theatre on Hollywood Broadwalk

**Music:** [JM Lexus Sunday Jazz Brunch](#), first Sunday monthly at Riverwalk in downtown Fort Lauderdale. [Dancing Under the Stars](#) with free concerts at Hollywood Beach Theatre on the Hollywood Broadwalk, Wed-Sun. [Music in the Park](#) at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Tues, Sat, Sun and Family Fun Fridays. [Friday Night Sound Waves](#), live music every Friday night (Mar-Nov) on Fort Lauderdale beach. [Friday Night Music](#) 6:30-10:30pm (May-Nov) El Mar Dr & Commerical Blvd in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.

**Art Walks:** Multiple communities come together to celebrate local creativity with food, drink and live music. Street performances, interactive exhibitions and more. [FATVillage](#), last Saturday of the month (except December), 6-11pm; [Dania After Dark](#), street festival, second Saturday monthly, 5-10pm, Dania Beach; [Downtown Hollywood Artwalk](#), third Saturday monthly, 5-10pm with a walking tour of the mural project, a collection of curated outdoor murals by local, national and international recognized artists.

**Sports:** Cheer on the runners at [A1A marathon](#) in February along the beach, [a1amarathon.com](#); [Dolphins Football Training Camp](#), July-August, Davie, [miamidolphins.com](#); [Free surfing lessons](#) Saturday mornings from Island Water Sports, Deerfield Beach, [islandwatersports.com](#); [Florida Panthers NHL Practice sessions](#), (Oct-Apr), Florida Panthers IceDen, [panthersiceden.com](#).

**Markets:** [Yellow Green Farmer's Market](#), weekends, Hollywood, [ygfarmersmarket.com](#); [Green Market Pompano Beach](#), Saturday (Oct-Apr), [pompanobeachgreenmarket.com](#); [Marando Farms](#), daily, Fort Lauderdale & Davie locations, [marandoranch.com](#); [Fort Lauderdale Swap Shop](#), flea market, daily, [floridaswapshop.com](#).

**Free Festivals & Events:** [Las Olas Art Fair](#), Jan, Mar, Oct, downtown Fort Lauderdale, [artfestival.com](#); [Live mermaid shows](#), Wreck Bar at the B Ocean Fort Lauderdale, Friday & Saturday, 6:30pm, underwater burlesque show, 9:30pm; [Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Craft Fair](#), Mar and Nov, [artfestival.com](#); [Lauderdale Air Show](#), May, Fort Lauderdale beach, [fortlauderdaleairshow.com](#); [Stonewall Pride](#), June, Wilton Manors, [wiltonmanorsstonewall.com](#); [Wicked Manors](#), Halloween, Wilton Manors, [wickedmanors.org](#); [Christmas on Las Olas](#), Las Olas Blvd, Nov, [lasolasboulevard.com](#); [Annual Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade](#), second Sat in Dec, along the Intracoastal, [winterfestparade.com](#); [Annual Pompano Beach Holiday Boat Parade](#), second Sun in Dec; [pompanobeachchamber.com](#); [Hollywood Beach Candy Cane Parade](#), [hollywoodfl.org](#); [Old Town Untapped](#), craft brew & arts festival, first Friday monthly, Pompano Beach.

## sun trolley

[Sun Trolley](#) in Fort Lauderdale provides rides to shopping, dining and entertainment. Just flag down the red & yellow trolley along any of the seven routes. Most routes are free: [suntrolley.com](#). You can also get a free ride across the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale on the [Riverwalk Water Trolley](#). There are eight different points along the south and north banks of the river, providing convenient access to shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. It is just like waiting for a bus. Daily 11am-2pm & 4-11pm.

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