

Greater Fort Lauderdale  
Convention & Visitors Bureau  
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**GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE (BROWARD COUNTY) FLORIDA  
2018 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 1.9 million, with more than 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 Lake, Margate, Miramar, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Parkland, Pembroke Park, Pembroke Pines, Plantation, Southwest Ranches, Sunrise, Tamarac, West Park, Weston and 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.

**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, paddleboarding, 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 Mardi Gras Casino; harness racing at the Isle Casino & Racing at 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, Mardi Gras and Gulfstream) offer slots and poker as well as racing.

#### **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

**BILLIE SWAMP SAFARI** -- lets you experience a Seminole Indian reservation in the Everglades via swamp buggy and airboat

**BASS PRO SHOPS OUTDOOR WORLD** -- mega sporting goods store

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

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

**FESTIVAL FLEA MARKET MALL** -- over 800 shops plus Market Street

**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

**FUNDERDOME** -- indoor, activity-based, family fun center

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

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

**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'

**LAS OLAS RIVERFRONT** -- an entertainment and retail complex on the New River

**MAI-KAI POLYNESIAN RESTAURANT AND REVUE** -- features Polynesian cuisine and exciting dinner show in authentically recreated village

**RIVERWALK ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT** -- a 22-block district along the New River in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale which runs from chic Las Olas Boulevard west to the Broward Center for the Performing Arts

**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

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

**XTREME ACTION PARK** -- the largest indoor entertainment venue in Florida, featuring go kart racing, escape rooms, bowling lanes, indoor ropes course

**SIGHTSEEING TOURS:**

**CARRIE B SIGHTSEEING CRUISES** -- offers seasonal sightseeing cruises

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

**FORT LAUDERDALE TROLLEY TOUR** -- 2-hour narrated, open-air tour

**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** -- segway tours and jet ski rentals

**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.

**CULTURAL  
ACTIVITIES:**

**Museums and Historic Sites**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH LIBRARY/CULTURAL CENTER** -- the third of its kind in the nation to house extensive collections related to African, African-American and Caribbean heritage

**AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM** -- Seminole heritage attraction

**ART & CULTURAL CENTER OF HOLLYWOOD** -- offers contemporary gallery exhibitions, live stage performances and high-quality education programs for adults and children

**BILLIE SWAMP SAFARI** -- Everglades experience with airboat rides

**BONNET HOUSE** -- one of the few remaining ocean-front estates and historic estate with tropical gardens and an art museum

**BROWARD ART GUILD** -- largest non-profit organization of working artists and supporters offering art classes and workshops

**BUEHLER PLANETARIUM AND OBSERVATORY** -- 40-foot dome that allows visitors to view stars at night

**CORAL SPRINGS MUSEUM OF ART** -- focuses on highlighting present day, nationally recognized and Florida artists who create traditional, modern, post-modern and digital art

**FLAMINGO GARDENS** -- 60-acre wildlife sanctuary

**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 host a monthly ArtWalk event

**FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** -- preserves the history of Greater Fort Lauderdale through education, research and historical exhibits

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

**INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING HALL OF FAME** -- promotes the importance of swimming as a key to fitness, good health, quality of life, and the water safety of children through exhibits dedicated to the history, memory, and recognition of the famous swimmers, divers, water polo players, synchronized swimmers, open water swimmers and persons involved in life saving activities and education, throughout the world.

**NSU MUSEUM OF ART 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

**MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE/3D IMAX** -- features guided tours, exhibits, IMAX movies and hosted family-friendly activities and camps for children

**MY JEWISH DISCOVERY PLACE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM** -- provides high quality cultural, educational, recreational, and social programs for children, adults, and seniors

**OLD DILLARD MUSEUM** -- the museum not only serves the African-American community in which it resides, but provides a valuable resource to historians and other visitors interested in Black history

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

**THIRD AVENUE ART DISTRICT** -- a live/work environment of art and technology encompassing several studios for working artists

**YOUNG AT ART MUSEUM** -- hands-on children's museum

**Libraries** -- There are 28 libraries in Broward County including an eight-story, 260,000-square-foot main research and resource center in downtown Fort Lauderdale. It has earned architectural recognition for its unique design and was voted the #1 library in the United States in 1996. A \$14 million, 60,000 square foot *African America Research Library and Cultural Center* opened October 2002.

**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

**FORT LAUDERDALE IMPROV** -- features big names in comedy year-round as well as monthly contests and classes

**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

**STAGE DOOR THEATRE** -- the longest running non-profit theatre in South Florida

**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)

Live Racing at Gulfstream Park (Jan-Apr)

A1A Marathon (Feb)

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

Sistrunk Parade & Street Festival (Feb)

Florida Renaissance Festival (Feb-Mar)

Big Cypress Shootout (Mar)

Jazz in the Gardens (Mar)

Florida Derby (Mar)

Wine and Culinary Celebration (Apr)

Las Olas Wine and Food Festival (Apr)

Pompano Beach Seafood Festival (Apr)

Tortuga Music Festival (April)

Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo (May)

Super Summer Savings (May-Sept)

Vacation Like a VIP (May-Sept)

Turtle Walks (June-July)

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)

Broward County Fair (Nov)

Christmas on Las Olas (Dec)

Riptide Music Festival (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 Seminole Paradise, 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, Michael Kors and Cole Haan, 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.

**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** The 600,000-square-foot **LEED Gold Certified BROWARD COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER**, at Port Everglades, is the centerpiece of a mixed-use retail complex spanning 33 acres.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** **International Airport:** Broward County is served by the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The airport is just three miles from hotels, attractions, the beaches, and the Broward County Convention Center. Airlines include: Air Canada, Air Jamaica, Air Sunshine, Air Transat, AirTran, Allegiant Airlines, American Airlines, Avianca, Azul, Bahamasair, British Airways, CanJet, Caribbean Airlines, Condor, Continental, Continental Connection, Copa Airlines, Delta Airlines, Florida Coastal Airlines, Frontier, Gulfstream International, IBC Airways, JetBlue, LAN, Norwegian Air Shuttle, Silver Airways, SkyBahamas, Southwest, Spirit, Sun Air International, Sunwing, TAME, US Airways, Virgin America, Vision Airlines, Volaris and WestJet.

**Executive Airports:** Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport at the northwest corner of the city, and North Perry Airport, six miles west of Hollywood, and Pompano Beach Airpark, serve private and executive planes.

**Cruise Ships:** Port Everglades is the busiest cruise port in the world serving more five-star cruise ships than any other port in the nation. Nearly 50 cruise ships including the new genesis size ship *Oasis of the Seas* and *Allure of the Seas* depart from twelve ultra-modern terminals, including: Carnival, Celebrity Cruises' X, Cunard, Holland America Line, MSC Italian Cruises, P&O Cruises, Princess Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Royal Caribbean International, Seabourn and Silversea.

**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. 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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