

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.



Deerfield Beach

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. A sampling (more at sunny.org/nature):



Anne Kolb Nature Center/West Lake Park
courtesy of Alan Maltz

Climb (or 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. **Central Broward Regional Park**, in Lauderdale, is the only certified US Cricket stadium, free on weekdays, with soccer/football fields, netball, tennis, basketball and water playground. **Fern Forest Nature Center**, in Coconut Creek, offers a serene setting with picnic shelter, amphitheater, and Royal Fern Hall. **Snake Warrior's Island**, Miramar, is a 53.3-acre nature preserve along the Great Florida Birding Trail. Stroll downtown Fort Lauderdale's **Riverwalk** along the New River to attractions, restaurants and shops. Talk through the "whispering dishes," or tell time with the gravity clock at the Museum of Discovery & Science.

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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 Live 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.



Music: [SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch](#), Riverwalk in downtown Fort Lauderdale. First Sunday of every month; Free concerts and dancing under the stars, Mon-Wed and Sat, [Hollywood Beach Theater](#), Hollywood Broadwalk; [Broadwalk Friday Fest](#), Hollywood Broadwalk.

ArtWalks: Multiple communities come together to celebrate local creativity with food, drink and live music. Street performances, interactive exhibitions and more. [Las Olas Boulevard](#), the third Thursday monthly from 6-10pm; [East Village Uncorked/Pompano Beach](#), first Friday monthly from 6-9pm; [Island City/Wilton Manors](#), third Friday monthly from 7-10pm, November through April; [North Beach](#), first Saturday monthly, 7-10pm, on 33rd Streets, 32nd Streets and A1A; [Downtown Hollywood](#), third Saturday of each month from 7-10pm; [FAT Village](#), last Saturday monthly from 6-10pm.

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

Markets: [Josh's Organic Garden Green Market](#), Sundays, Harrison St at the Broadwalk, [visithollywood.org](#); [Las Olas Gourmet Farmers Market](#), Sundays, Las Olas Blvd at 12th St.; [Yellow Green Farmer's Market](#), weekends, 1940 N 30th Rd, Hollywood, [ygfarmersmarket.com](#)

Free Festivals & Events: [Live mermaid swims](#), Wreck Bar, Fridays, 6:30pm, B Ocean Fort Lauderdale; [Las Olas Art Fair](#), Jan, Mar, Oct, downtown Fort Lauderdale, [artfestival.com](#); [Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Craft Fair](#), Nov and Mar, [artfestival.com](#); [Stonewall Pride](#), June, Wilton Manors, [stonewallwiltonmanors.com](#); [Manors Masquerade](#), Halloween weekend, Wilton Manors, [manorsmasquerade.com](#); [Christmas on Las Olas](#), [Las Olas Boulevard](#), last Tues night in 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](#)

riverwalk water trolley

Get your free ride across the New River in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The Riverwalk Water Trolley stops at eight different points along the south and north banks of the river, providing convenient access to restaurants, entertainment venues and shops. It is just like waiting for a bus. Just wait at one of the eight designated stops and the Water Trolley will be by to pick you up shortly and take you to your destination. Daily 11am to 2pm and 4pm to 11pm. 954-761-3543, [sunrolley.com/water-trolley](#)