

# FORT LAUDERDALE



Fort Lauderdale is a true paradise for boaters. Bordered on one side by the Atlantic Ocean and on the other by the Intracoastal Waterway, it is even nicknamed the “Venice of America” for its many artificial and natural waterways. Moreover, it is the second largest cruise port in the world after Miami. It receives more than 10 million visitors annually, who enjoy strolling on its beaches, attending its events, shopping on Las Olas Boulevard and eating in its restaurants. It is the perfect place to take a break and enjoy some “farniente”!

“VENICE OF AMERICA”



# WHAT TO DO

## ARTS AND SCIENCE DISTRICT

Located along the New River, this neighborhood has been revitalized since the 1980s and is home to many of the city's main attractions such as **Las Olas Boulevard**, the **Riverwalk**, the **NSU Art Museum**, **Stranahan House** and the **Museum of Discovery and Science**.

### LAS OLAS BOULEVARD

This **major artery** in the **heart of Fort Lauderdale** has always represented the soul of the city. In the early 1900's, it was just a dirt road leading to Las Olas beach, whereas nowadays it is an **important cultural and tourist center**. You can find everything here: cafes, restaurants, bars, art galleries and stores.

BETWEEN ANDREWS AVENUE AND  
A1A STATE ROAD  
954-258-8382  
WWW.LASOLASBOULEVARD.COM

### RIVERWALK

It is said that the **original settlement** in Fort Lauderdale was here along the New River, named by the Seminole who used it to get to the ocean to fish. The New River was also important to the early settlers, who would travel up it from the Everglades to reach the Stranahan trading post. Today, the Riverwalk is a **large, lush riverside park** with **lovely winding walkways connecting museums, shops and restaurants** for about 1.6 km, including **Stranahan House**, the **NSU Art Museum** and the **Museum of Discovery and Science**. Along the Riverwalk you will find picnic areas, kiosks, temporary exhibits and more, depending on the season.

WWW.GORIVERWALK.COM

## BEACHES...

With more than twenty kilometers of sandy shores, you are sure to find the perfect beach for you! Here are the beaches that are **closest to downtown**:

- **Fort Lauderdale Beach:** This **world-class beach** once had a much less glamorous reputation as a party spot for rowdy college students. After undergoing **extensive redevelopment** it regained its former glory and is now considered a good **family beach** offering many activities for all ages. It is lined with hotels and beachfront restaurants.
- **Las Olas Beach:** Located at the end of Las Olas Boulevard, this **small beach** is frequented by people of all ages who love its sand and clear waters. Fewer activities are available here than elsewhere, but **water sports equipment can be rented**. There are also bars, restaurants and stores nearby.
- **Dania Beach:** One of the area's least crowded beaches, Dania Beach is a **jewel** of a beach that is appreciated for its **tranquility**, its **family atmosphere** and its **impressive fishing wharf** where you can enjoy fabulous freshly caught seafood.
- **Hollywood Beach:** You will enjoy the **Hollywood Beach Broadwalk**, a **lively oceanfront promenade** that stretches nearly 4 km along the Atlantic, bordered on one side by the ocean and on the other by a multitude of restaurants, cafés, hotels and shops. Why not **rent a bicycle** (The Bike Shack, 101 North Ocean Drive, Hollywood / 954-925-2453) and get some exercise while taking in the salty air?

These **other beaches** are a little further away, but are definitely worth exploring: **Hallandale Beach**, **Deerfield Beach**, **Hillsboro Beach**, **Pompano Beach** and **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Beach**.



LAS OLAS BOULEVARD

© iStock-464952032, Torresigner



A NIGHT IN RIVERWALK

© iStock-481128944, Traveler\_Pics

## MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE ★★

The mission of this superb museum is to **educate and entertain** through **educational programs and immersive and interactive science exhibits**.

It features **119 square feet of indoor space**, an **IMAX theatre**, a **large open-air atrium** and the **52-metre-high Great Gravity Clock**. The themes of the 18 permanent exhibits include the Discovery Center, Everglades Airboat Adventure, Florida Ecoscapes, Florida Water Story, Go Green, Otters at Play (real otters in an indoor habitat!), Prehistoric Florida, and Storm Center. The museum also houses **temporary exhibits, a café and a gift shop**.

401, SW SECOND STREET,  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
954-467-6637  
WWW.MODS.ORG

## NSU ART MUSEUM ★

The NSU Art Museum has been the meeting place for Fort Lauderdale art lovers since 1958. The 25,000 square foot facility features a variety of programs and exhibits covering many facets of civilization and history. The superb permanent collection contains some 7,000 works, including a vast collection of post-World War II art, the largest collection of 19th century drawings and paintings by American painter William Glackens, collections of great Cuban and Latin American artists, African and Oceanic tribal art, art of the Americas, and expressionist works by CoBrA artists (painters from Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam). Several temporary exhibitions are presented annually, as well as exclusive events. Don't hesitate to visit the store or take a break in the museum café.

ONE EAST LAS OLAS BOULEVARD,  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
954-525-5500  
WWW.NSUARTMUSEUM.ORG

## WATER TAXI AND GONDOLA...

With its **many kilometres of canals**, it's no wonder that transportation services such as the «Water Taxi» have sprung up in Fort Lauderdale. They operate usually every day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., **serving three different routes with about twenty stops** where you can get on or off as you please. The great thing about water taxis is that in addition to get you where you need to go, they provide **information and anecdotes** about the city and its secrets. Visit [watertaxi.com](http://watertaxi.com) or call **954-467-6677** for more information.

If you are looking for a more **romantic experience**, take an **authentic Italian gondola ride** on the canals. These 75-minute tours will show you some of the most luxurious homes and gardens of Fort Lauderdale. Several companies offer tours such as **Las Olas Gondola** (see [www.lasolasgondola.com](http://www.lasolasgondola.com)), which boasts of being the only one with real Venetian gondolas.



WATER TAXI

## HISTORIC STRANAHAN HOUSE MUSEUM ★

This historic house, **built on the banks of the New River in 1901** by Frank Stranahan, is **one of the oldest in the county**. Ohio native Frank Stranahan came to the area now known as Fort Lauderdale in January 1893 at the age of 27, hired on to manage his cousin's camp and ferry. He quickly established



MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE



a **thriving trading business with the Seminole Indians**. In 1894, Frank acquired ten acres for his own commercial interests, and moved the trading post farther west along the river. This building served as **trading house, the area's first schoolhouse (his wife was the teacher), community centre, bank and general store**, and Stranahan lived there with his wife from 1906.

Admission to the Historic Stranahan House Museum is by **guided tour only**, led by experienced docents and lasting 45-60 minutes. Tickets can be purchased **on site on a first come, first served basis** or **online** on the website. You will have a tour of the house, completely restored **as it was in 1913**, and learn about the history of the house, the founding family, and the City of Fort Lauderdale. It may be a good idea to call ahead to make sure there will be space.

335, SOUTHEAST 6TH AVENUE,  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
954-524-4736 STRANAHANHOUSE.ORG

### BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM AND GARDENS ★

The Bonnet House, another **iconic historic house**, was the home of artist **Frederic Clay Bartlett**. The 35-acre oceanfront property was given as a wedding gift to Bartlett and his second wife, Helen Louise Birch, by Helen's father, Hugh Taylor Birch. The house was **built in the 1920s** based on designs by Bartlett, who was inspired by Caribbean-style plantation house architecture. Tragedy struck in 1925 when Helen died from breast cancer. Frederic's visits to Bonnet House then became sporadic until 1931 when he married Evelyn Fortune Lilly and they began using the home as a winter residence until his death in 1953. Together Frederic and Evelyn embellished Bonnet House with the **decorative**

**elements** that delight visitors to this day. Evelyn continued to spend winters at Bonnet House until 1995. She died in 1997 at the age of 109.

During your visit to the main house and studio, you will see **paintings and murals** by Frederic Clay Bartlett who, in addition to creating art, was an avid art collector. He and his wife Helen amassed a **priceless collection of paintings**. One of the house galleries also displays **works by his second wife, Evelyn Fortune Bartlett**, who began painting in 1933 with much encouragement from her husband.

Following your tour of the house, head for the **sumptuous gardens** which feature natural vegetation, a tropical garden and arid plantations. **Five south Florida ecosystems** can be found on the 14-hectare property, which is a real paradise for migratory birds. You may even see manatees

near the canal and small monkeys in the trees. There is also a hibiscus garden and many orchids, of which Evelyn Bartlett was a passionate collector. Note that picnics are welcome on the grounds with paid admission: a great opportunity to enjoy a snack in a lovely setting! You can register online for the guided tour of the house. Different tour options are also possible. Hours may vary during high season. Visit the website. 900, NORTH BIRCH ROAD, FORT LAUDERDALE 954-563-5393 WWW.BONNETHOUSE.ORG



STRANAHAN HOUSE





BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM AND GARDEN

© Wiki Commons, Leonard J. DeFrancisci

## NEARBY

### BUTTERFLY WORLD★

Butterfly World is the fulfillment of the dream of **Ronald Boender**, a **butterfly enthusiast from a very young age**. After retiring from a career as an electrical engineer in 1968, Boender decided to actively pursue his interest in butterflies, beginning by raising local butterflies at his home. He then opened a commercial butterfly farm in 1984 and Butterfly World, the **first butterfly house in the United States, in 1988**. Butterfly World is home to **20,000**

**butterflies, aviaries, a butterfly farm, a research centre, lush gardens with waterfalls and multicoloured flowers, an insect exhibit, and lorikeets** (a vibrant small parrot) that you can hand-feed!

3600, W. SAMPLE ROAD,  
COCONUT CREEK  
954-977-4434  
[WWW.BUTTERFLYWORLD.COM](http://WWW.BUTTERFLYWORLD.COM)



© iStock-588357120, Connor Strzelwicz

BUTTERFLY WORLD



# WHERE TO EAT

## JAXSON'S ICE CREAM PARLOR (\$)

Jaxson's has been a Dania Beach landmark since 1956. With its carnival-style exterior, it's impossible to miss! Jaxson's makes its ice cream the old-fashioned way, with 40+ ice cream flavors and toppings made daily at the Dania Beach location. And if you're really hungry, you can try one of their famous jumbo sundaes. There is even one that contains so much ice cream and toppings that it is served in a kitchen sink!!! An all-American experience! The restaurant also has a complete menu featuring salads, hot and cold sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, and a selection of typical American fare. The deliciously kitsch decor alone is worth the detour: the walls are lined with a huge collection of license plates from all over the world and other memorabilia.

128, S. FEDERAL HIGHWAY,  
DANIA BEACH  
954-923-4445  
WWW.JAXSONSICECREAM.COM

## 3711 BEACH SIDE (\$\$)

This slightly out-of-the-way location in the northern part of Fort Lauderdale is known for its bar service and warm atmosphere. The 3711 Beach Side offers a mix of modern European, Mediterranean and American cuisines, specializing in fish and seafood. The menu includes such delicacies as crab cakes, lobster pasta, mussels and fresh mahi-mahi filet in addition to salads, burgers, sandwiches and steak, chicken, pork and



HOLLYWOOD BEACH

ribs. Something for every palate!  
3711, N. OCEAN BOULEVARD,  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
954-563-3400

## LONA COCINA TEQUILERIA (\$\$)

This is a Fort Lauderdale favorite, not just for its outdoor patio and bar with stunning views of the beach and the Atlantic Ocean, but also for the quality of its service, for its chic yet relaxed atmosphere and for the chef's superb, eclectic Mexican cuisine. You will revel in the ceviches, tacos, tostadas, quesadillas, enchiladas, guacamole, and sublime grilled meats. Cocktails are taken seriously here and are hand crafted by an expert. Tequila and mezcal lovers will be delighted with the more than 300 varieties on the menu.

321, N. FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH BLVD,  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
954-245-3069  
WWW.LONARESTAURANT.COM

## SAPIDO (\$\$)

If you're in the mood for a good



DANIA BEACH AT SUNRISE

coffee, a good glass of wine, fresh homemade pasta, gnocchi, pizzas, sandwiches, beautiful salads and classic Italian dishes, SAPIDO is waiting for you with open arms. All this in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

111, SE 8<sup>TH</sup>, FORT LAUDERDALE  
954-488-8000  
WWW.SAPIDOGROUP.COM

## CASA SENSEI (\$\$-\$\$\$)

Ideally located on the banks of the Himmershee Canal, Casa

Sensei serves up fusion cuisine, deliciously blending Asian flavors from Thailand, Japan, China, Korea and Vietnam with the culinary traditions of Latin America. The menu is appealing and varied, a true journey in itself. For the more romantic, you can even dine in a gondola on the canal!

1200, E. LAS OLAS BOULEVARD,  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
954-994-1768  
WWW.CASASENSEI.COM

## FOOD TRUCKS AT ARTS PARK...

If you happen to be strolling around the **Hollywood Beach** area on a Monday, don't miss the weekly **Food Trucks at Arts Park** event that takes place on **Monday nights from 5:30 to 9:30 pm**. Every week, **more than twenty street food trucks** set up shop, giving you the opportunity to enjoy a variety of specialties.  
1, Young Circle, Hollywood / [burgerbeast.com/arts-park](http://burgerbeast.com/arts-park)