

FT. LAUDERDALE

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Fort Lauderdale is one of the fastest growing cities in Florida and the nation. Definitely a "city to watch," you can explore and appreciate the ever-changing faces of Fort Lauderdale visit after visit.

1 MINUTE

Riverside Hotel

620 E. Las Olas Blvd. • 954-467-0671

Feel what Florida was like in 1936. The entranceway is marked by big white pillars, and its original six-story structure still exists...as does its charm and warm Southern hospitality. Stop in one of two restaurants, Indigo and the Grill Room, or sip afternoon tea, which is served daily.

Stranahan House

335 S.E. 6th Ave. • 954-524-4736

It's the oldest house in the city, built in 1901 by Frank Stranahan, the first white male settler here. Even though it's been renovated, its furnishings are Victorian, so you can get a feel for what that time was like. Enjoy it for a moment, or take a guided tour.

1 HOUR

Butterfly World

3600 W. Sample Rd., Tradewinds Park, Coconut Creek • 954-977-4400

The largest butterfly park in the world, this spectacular facility features 10 acres of aviaries, botanical gardens, a butterfly farm and a research facility. Visit the country's largest free-flight hummingbird sanctuary or stop by the lorikeet exhibit, where you can purchase a cup of nectar and watch the birds eat right out of your hand. But the real gem here is the Tropical Rain Forest Aviary, where you can stroll through a lush, man-made rainforest while thousands of butterflies from five continents flit about you.

Water Bus

801 Seabreeze Blvd., Bahia Mar Marina • 954-467-6677

These bright yellow boats shuttle between 63 spots up and down the New and Middle Rivers and the Intracoastal Waterway. A great way to discover hotels, restaurants, nightclubs and the Museum of Discovery and Science, the Water Bus also offers a tour of Millionaire's Row or a trip to Las Olas Boulevard for sun or shopping.

Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum

300 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach • 954-922-4212

Big fun, even if you're not a big-time fisherman. You'll find everything from life-sized mounts of world-record sport fish to a Catch Gallery, where 5 interactive fishing simulators give you the chance to snag a marlin, sailfish, bass or trout without getting wet. Be sure to pop next door to the Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World, a haven for anglers the world over.

1 HOUR (CON'T)

Sawgrass Recreation Park

1005 N. Highway 27 • 888-424-7262

Explore Florida's most remarkable treasure—the Everglades—with a visit to this 17-1/2-acre park. Enjoy a 30-minute airboat tour to skim the "River of Grass" and see this rare subtropical ecosystem up close or take a walk on the wild side and visit the reptile exhibit, where you'll spend time with turtles, iguanas and alligators. Private guided fishing tours are available for the amateur angler, but you'll need to book in advance.

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

3019 E. Sunrise Blvd. • 954-564-4521

Located on a barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Inland Waterway, this 180-acre park offers tranquil beaches, swimming, salt water fishing and surfing on the north shore. The park also boasts canoe rentals, an exercise course, picnic areas and a nature walk, where if you're lucky you'll glimpse a gopher tortoise, grey fox, white ibis or pileated woodpecker.

1 DAY

Hollywood

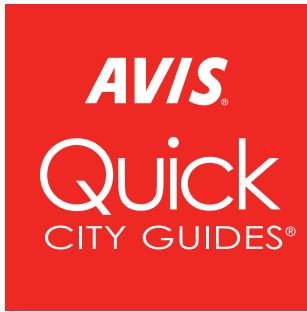
hollywood.org

Galleries and showrooms display eclectic works, while boutiques and shops offer up everything under the sun. Also, there's Hollywood North Beach Park, where sea turtles like to hang out, and the Broadwalk (not to be confused with boardwalk) where you can walk or bike its 2-1/2 mile path before heading to one of many outdoor cafés.

Coral Gables

305-446-6800 • coralgables.com

With its Mediterranean architecture, the "City Beautiful," as it's known, offers up expansive parks, world-class golf courses, elegant restaurants and an array of specialty stores along Miracle Mile. You can relax in the lush, 83-acre Fairchild Tropical Garden or check out the famed 820,000-gallon Venetian Pool, with its waterfalls and hidden caves.



FT. LAUDERDALE

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

Casablanca Cafe

There are ocean views from the outside patio or upstairs balcony, yet the inside Mediterranean/Moroccan-inspired dining room is just as delightful. The menu spans the globe with varied chicken, seafood and meat dishes.

3049 Alhambra St. • 954-764-3500

Mark's Las Olas

The setting is modern with an open kitchen, where you'll see locally renowned chef Mark Militello whipping up his signature Maine lobster brûlée, a crispy 2-lb. yellowtail snapper and a roasted garlic-stuffed tenderloin of beef.

1032 E. Las Olas Blvd. • 954-463-1000

Jackson's Steakhouse

With brass, marble, mahogany wood and high ceilings—it even has private cigar and wine lockers—it's the quintessential sophisticated steakhouse. Carnivores come here for the array of USDA prime chops and steaks, including a 28-oz. porterhouse. You can find seafood, too, like a Maine lobster that starts at three pounds and a daily fresh catch.

450 E. Las Olas Blvd. • 954-522-4450

Darrel & Oliver's Cafe Maxx

Heralded by *Zagat*, *Gourmet* and *Bon Appetit*, Café Maxx stands out from the pack with oceanfront views and eclectic, high-end cuisine. The tenderloin tartare or scallop, artichoke and tomato tart start off a meal in style, only to be outdone by entrées like the porcini-dusted tuna mignon or a rack of lamb. Reservations are highly recommended, and though meals come with a hefty pricetag, the impeccable food and exquisite views make it worth every penny.

2601 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach • 954-782-0606

Johnny V

Soft neutrals, white tablecloths and brick red accents make a sophisticated setting for bold New American cuisine. You'll find corn-crusting yellowtail snapper with smoked pepper relish, chimichurri lamb accompanied by a spinach and goat cheese empanada and ancho cinnamon pork tenderloin with sweet potato hash. Reservations are strongly recommended.

625 E. Las Olas Blvd. • 954-761-7920

LOCAL FAVORITES

15th Street Fisheries

A landmark since 1979, it's two restaurants in one. The upstairs is formal with an upscale menu including exotic fare like alligator tail. Downstairs, it's casual and relaxed, with a menu of peel-n'-eat shrimp, fish sandwiches and burgers.

1900 S.E. 15th St. • 954-763-2777

Sunfish Grill

Considered an undiscovered gem by locals, this seafood house features ochre walls, white tablecloths and funky accents. Starters include a homemade soup of the day or braised littlenecks with garlic, tomatoes and capers; among the entrées you'll find seared tuna Bourguignonne or grouper with grilled asparagus, broccoli rabe and black truffle vinaigrette. Reservations recommended.

2761 E. Oakland Park • 954-788-2434

Creolina's

A great no-frills lunch option, you'll find authentic Cajun-Creole delights at this small but popular spot on the Riverwalk. Expect Louisiana home-cooking at its most unpretentious: jambalaya, crayfish étouffé, gumbo, catfish, rice and beans and even a warm bread pudding with bourbon sauce for dessert.

209 S.W. 2nd St. • 954-524-2003

Seasons 52

No dish here has more than 475 calories, but the fresh ingredients and natural cooking methods will make you believe you're indulging. You'll find pizza-style flatbreads, duck salad with greens, jicama and sesame dressing and caramelized sea scallops with roasted asparagus and pearl pasta. There's a full wine list, and you'll have plenty of room left for their Mini Indulgences: guiltlessly small portions of tempters like strawberry mango cheesecake or Key lime pie.

2428 E. Sunrise Blvd., Galleria Mall • 954-537-1052

Lester's Diner

Complete with Formica counters, stainless steel galleys and a revolving display case of cake and cream pies, Lester's is the real deal. For nearly 40 years, this campy Ft. Lauderdale fixture has drawn crowds for its breakfast platters, burgers, meatloaf, down-to-earth prices and a 14-oz. cup of coffee.

250 State Rd. 84 • 954-525-5641