HISTORY

Fort Lauderdale, once known as one of America's Spring Break capitals, has done a lot in the past ten years to foster more sophisticated recreation opportunities.

The first occupants of Fort Lauderdale were Native Americans of the Seminole tribe. The Seminoles arrived here in the 1700s and 1800s. During the Seminole War, in which American soldiers and the Native Americans of Florida warred, the city's namesake, Major William Lauderdale, raised a fort on the site of what is now Fort Lauderdale. Almost a half century later, Frank Stranahan began operating a ferry in the area, became the first postmaster, opened a bank, built the area's first trading post and established a fledgling local government.

The city of Fort Lauderdale was incorporated in 1911. Fort Lauderdale was initially populated by a mainly agrarian population. The town was filled with dairy farms and orange groves. The population ebbed and flowed throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Florida's warm climate and abundance of unoccupied land was perfect for the military, which was in need of space for new bases in the 1930s. There was a huge boom in military establishments in Florida throughout the decade. After America entered World War II in 1941, people flocked to South Florida to prepare for the war. The population swelled even more after the war.

Fort Lauderdale was featured in trendy "teeny bopper" beach movies in the 1960s, establishing it as a premiere beach destination. The beach-themed movies continued throughout the 1970s and 1980s, and Fort Lauderdale's reputation as a wild Spring Break party town grew.

In the 1990s, the local government began a campaign to enhance the city's image. Today, the Spring Break-type celebrations can still be found, but only in select bars. The nightlife tends towards the more mature, with excellent restaurants, lounges featuring amazing cocktails and gorgeous people, and some of the country's cleanest and nicest beaches.

Ft. Lauderdale

CAPITAL
The capital of Florida is Tallahassee.

LOCATION
Fort Lauderdale is located in the east-central portion of Broward County, Florida approximately 23 miles north of Miami and 42 miles south of Palm Beach.

POPULATION
Approximately 1,800,000 people live in Fort Lauderdale.

SIZE
Fort Lauderdale encompasses more than 33 square miles. Ft. Lauderdale is the seventh largest city in Florida.

LANGUAGE
English is the primary language of Fort Lauderdale.

CURRENCY
The official unit of currency is the United States dollar. Travelers checks and major credit cards are widely accepted.

TIME ZONE
Fort Lauderdale is on Eastern Standard Time. The ship may not always follow local time. Please adhere to the ship's time while in port.

FAST FACTS

DOCKING/TENDERING
Cruise ships dock at Port Everglades, which is about three miles southeast of downtown Fort Lauderdale.

SHORE EXCURSIONS
Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location of your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

TRANSPORTATION
Frequent Broward County Transit (BCT) buses run between downtown and the beach, Port Everglades and surrounding towns and beaches, leaving from Broward Central Terminal, right in the heart of town. BCT's free Downtown Trolley loops through downtown, while the Wave Trolley Company's trolley service travels between downtown, Port Everglades and the beach.

HOW TO GET TO TOWN
You can take water taxis around town through waterways that link residential neighborhoods to sights, restaurants, shops and Port Everglades.

SHOPPING
Downtown Ft. Lauderdale is made up of high-rise buildings, sidewalk cafes and shops, and the Arts and Science District, anchored by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Take a stroll on Downtown Ft. Lauderdale's Riverwalk. It's the center for shopping, dining, arts festivals of all kinds, and a lively nightlife. You can also enjoy relaxed shopping and people-watching at Las Olas Boulevard in the heart of downtown Ft. Lauderdale. The street is lined with boutiques, bars and a shaded walkway for strolling.

STORE HOURS
Stores are open from Monday to Saturday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm; and Sundays usually from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

BANK HOURS
Banks are open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

POST OFFICE HOURS
The post office is open Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

EMERGENCY
In case of an emergency, dial 911.

PLACES TO SEE

LAS OLAS BOULEVARD
On this chic boulevard in the heart of Fort Lauderdale, you will find boutiques, narrow alleyways, brick walkways, tiny white lights rimming windows and dozens of trendy restaurants. Among more than a hundred shopping and dining options, you will find homemade ice cream at a dessert cafe and a live jazz bar that is always packed. You'll also find hot Tommy Bahamas tropical clothing shop with an antique bicycle parked at the door, a shop specializing in stained glass lamps and another in needlework, stylish hairdressers, unique gift shops and a variety of art galleries.

WATER TAXI
It is an adventure to travel by water taxi and arrive at waterside destinations, including dozens of restaurants and shops and a surprising number of offices, as well. Piloted by licensed captains, the taxis scoot around from downtown along the canals, Intracoastal Waterways and rivers. Fares are $7.50 per person one-way, $14 round-trip, $16 for an All-Day Pass and $10 for a Super Floater Super Saver Pass that includes 20 one-way or 10 round-trips. Schedules vary, call for details

JUNGLE QUEEN RIVERBOAT
Tours sail past estates while an entertaining monologue by the captain points out the homes of the famous and the infamous. On three-hour day tours or four-hour dinner voyages you can sail to an island where you will dine amid tropical foliage. Evening cruises feature a dinner of barbecued ribs and shrimp, with a variety revue and sing-a-long cruising back. Tickets are adults/children: $10 (under 12). Dinner cruises are $24 per person, and day sailings are adults/children: Under $11)

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE
This enjoyable museum for children of all ages is known for its interactive, hands-on displays, which change frequently. The Special Exhibits Gallery features some of the best science exhibits in the United States. The museum also allows its guests to touch live animals that are native to Florida and to view the world's largest captive Atlantic coral reef. The Blockbuster IMAX 3D theater is also on-site. Admission: $6 for adults, $5 for senior citizens and children ages 3-12, free for children age two and under.

SELDOM SEEN GALLERY
This gallery features one-of-a-kind crafts and furniture, all made in the United States. It carries handcrafted jewelry, ceramics, blown glass and wooden items by some of America's finest manufacturers and designers. The diversity of the items on display makes this an interesting place just to visit.

Ft. Lauderdale

7th St.

To Beach (A1A)

S.E. 18th St.

S.E. 20th St.

Miami Rd.

NORTHPORT

State Road 84

Entrance Channel

PORT EVERGLADES

1

S.E. 14th Ave.

MIDPORT

S.E. 1 9th Ave

S.E. 10th Ave

I-595

Eller Dr.

I-95, I-75 & Turnpike

Intracoastal Waterway

John U. Lloyd State Recreation Area

Atlantic Ocean

Turning Notch

SOUTHPORT

N W E S