

**FORT LAUDERDALE**

# FORT LAUDERDALE

Pity the Fort. It's dismissed as a family-friendly Miami, a more sedate South Beach, less culturally advanced and more yuppie-oriented, blah blah blah. And there's a grain – a *grain* – of truth to this. But hey: we're comparing it with Miami. *Any* town's gonna look sedate set next to the Magic City. Put Fort Lauderdale anywhere else in the country – say, in Pennsylvania – and folks would be calling it party town USA.

Actually, they did, back in the heady 1980s, when Fort Lauderdale was Spring Break central. But being the frat-boy Riviera never stuck too well in this town's craw, and Lauderdale worked hard to overcome its public perception as host of the world's biggest wet T-shirt contest.

Well, it succeeded. Today Fort Lauderdale has an excellent arts scene (thank you very much), a pretty riverwalk, a beach that's arguably better than anything in Miami, a layout interlaced with beautiful canals (hence the nickname Venice of America) and, yes, great nightlife. Come 40 minutes north of Miami, knock some sea stories out of the yachties (see the boxed text, p235) who congregate here, and recognize that Fort folks are justified for feeling a little resentful of their southern sister's long shadow.

Fort Lauderdale has three distinct sections: the beach, east of the Intracoastal Waterway; downtown; and Port Everglades, the cruise port south of the city. US Hwy 1 (also called Federal Hwy) cuts through downtown, while Hwy A1A runs by the ocean; it's also called Atlantic Blvd and Ocean Blvd, depending if you're north or south of Sunrise Blvd. The main arteries between downtown and the beach are Sunrise Blvd to the north, Las Olas Blvd in the center and 17th St to the south.

## INFORMATION

**Broward General Medical Center** (☎ 954-355-4400; 1600 S Andrews Ave, Port Everglades)

**Broward Main Library & Cultural Information Center** (☎ 954-356-7444; 100 South Andrews Ave; 🕒 9am–9pm Mon–Thu, till 5pm Fri–Sat, 12–5:30pm Sun) Visit for info on upcoming shows and art exhibitions, or just to read and pick up wi-fi.

**Clark's Out of Town News** (☎ 954-467-1543; 303 S Andrews Ave) Gather both local and foreign newspapers at Clark's.

**Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau** (☎ 954-765-4466; www.sunny.org; 1850 Eller Dr, Port Everglades; 🕒 8:30am–5pm Mon–Fri) Has an excellent array of visitor information.

**Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Chamber of Commerce** (☎ 954-776-1000; 4201 Ocean Dr)

**Main post office** (☎ 800-275-8777; 1900 W Oakland Park Blvd)

## top picks

### FORT LAUDERDALE

- Taking a **water taxi** (p238) through Fort Lauderdale's gleaming waterways
- Wandering along **Fort Lauderdale Beach Promenade** (opposite)
- Dancing all night at **Coliseum** (p237)
- Munching on 3am omelettes at **Lester's** (p236)
- Chatting up 'yachties' at **Waxy's** (p236)

**New Millennium Internet Café** (☎ 954-566-2111; 3337 NE 33rd St)

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

### Museum of Art

This **museum** (☎ 954-525-5500; www.moaf.org; 1 E Las Olas Blvd; adult/student & child over 12 yrs \$10/7; 🕒 11am–7pm Fri–Wed) is simply one of Florida's best. The permanent collection includes works by Picasso, Matisse, Dalí and Warhol, while rotating galleries showcase local talent and regional artwork. Make sure to check out the 'Indigo Room,' an amazing installation by a Haitian-American artist that captures, in soft, wine-dark sea shades, the pain and hope of both immigrant movement and Haitian history.

### Museum of Discovery & Science

If you don't take the kids here, you're a mean parent. From the 52ft Great Gravity Clock,