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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Fort Lauderdale
FLORIDA, U.S.A.

GENERAL INFORMATION Fort Lauderdale has a well deserved image as one of America's premier playgrounds. Over 10 million visitors a year prove it. The main attraction of Fort Lauderdale is water, lots of water. In Fort Lauderdale, in one way or another it's all about the water. The blue Atlantic, the Intracoastal Waterway and the New River combine with so many miles of man-made canals even Venice Italy calls itself the Ft. Lauderdale of Europe.

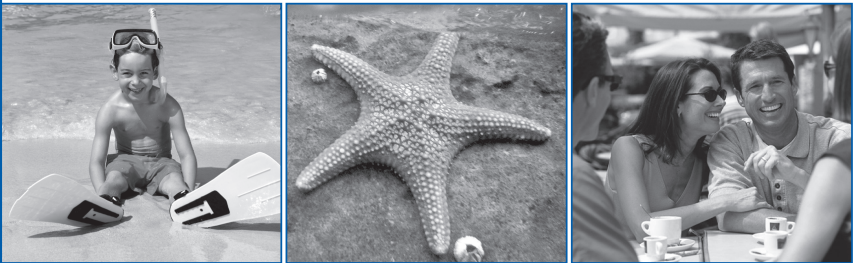
With so much navigable water throughout the city, Ft. Lauderdale has grown into America's yachting capital. A massive boating and marine support industry provides tens of thousands jobs and port and marina facilities to countless boats big and small. The city's nautical highlight takes place at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. The world's largest; the show annually draws many thousands from around the globe.

Today, on the banks of the New River between the everglades and the Atlantic, the city which began as an insignificant outpost has grown into one of the most beautiful and dynamic communities in the nation.

HISTORY Long before Spanish conquistadors, collegiate spring breakers and tourists from around the world arrived on the scene, a Native American Indian tribe known as the Tequesta hunted the forests, gathered edible fruits and nuts and fished the coastal and inland waters. Numbering only a few thousand, they lived in small villages along Florida's Southeast Atlantic coast and Keys.

In the early 1500's Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon stepped ashore near the site of modern day Miami. As so often happened when the early Europeans first came in contact with Indians throughout the Caribbean and the Americas, disease against which the tribes had no resistance decimated the population. The Tequesta were no exception. Though the region had been discovered three centuries earlier; except for a very small number of farmers, shipwreck salvagers and traders, even as late as the 1830s there were few colonists around what was then called the New River Settlement.

During a little known part of American history referred to as the Seminole Wars, in early March 1837 a chain of crude defensive garrisons were established on South Florida's Atlantic coast around the mouth of the New River. The man in charge of building the forts and in command of the Tennessee Battalion of Volunteers was a distinguished soldier, Major William Lauderdale. A year later the Tennessee Battalion and Major William Lauderdale were prepared to attend their long anticipated discharge ceremonies and be allowed to return to their homes, farms and families. On the very evening prior to his unit's discharge, after years of hardship and fighting in his young nation's military, Major Lauderdale passed away having never made it back home to his farm and family. By order of Commanding General Thomas Jessup, the garrison on the New River had just been named Fort Lauderdale. Closed down at the end of the Seminole Wars in 1842 it would be over fifty years before the



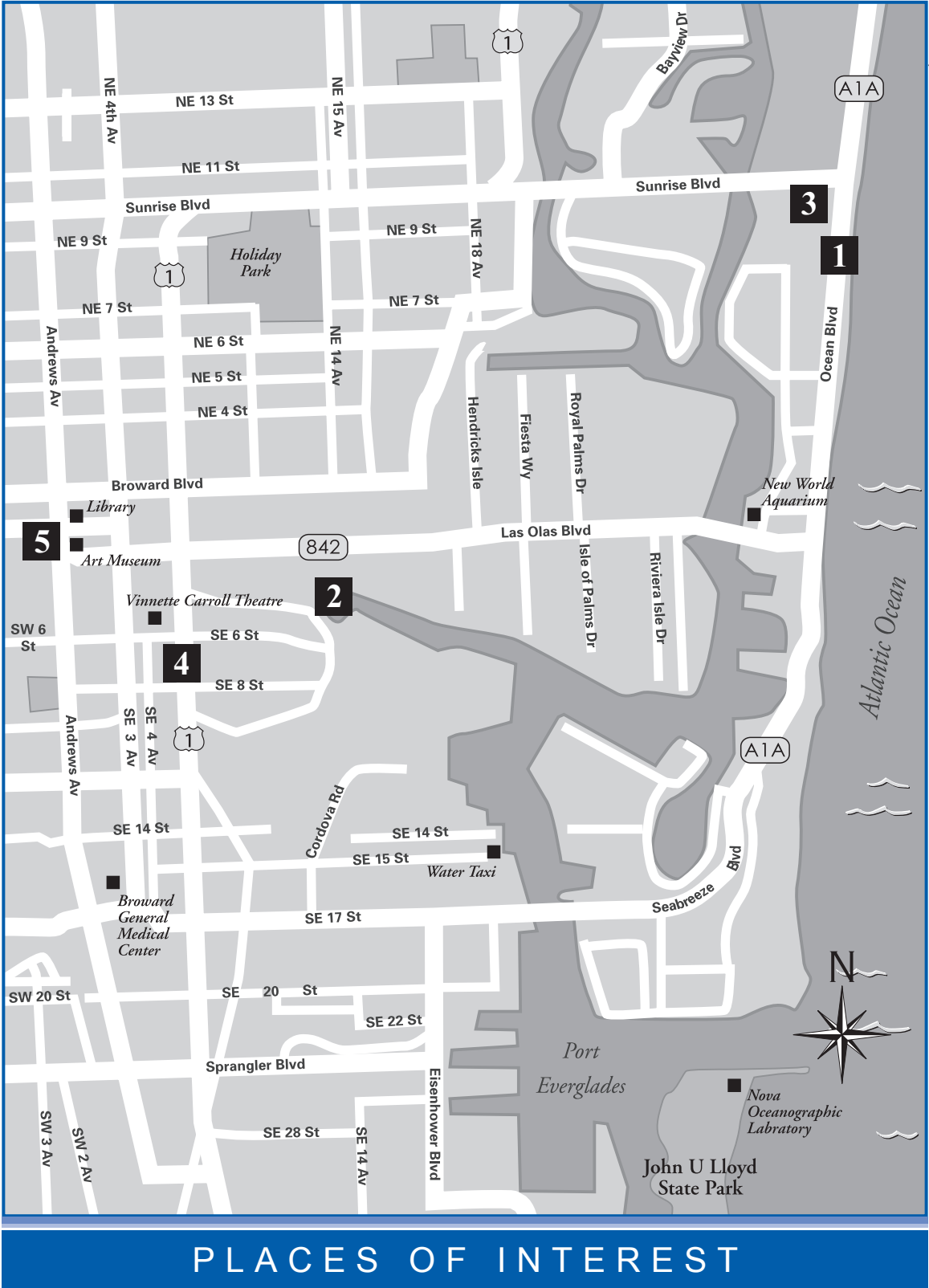
rebirth of a permanent settlement at Fort Lauderdale.

The Florida East Coast Railroad did not reach the area until almost the beginning of the 20th century consequently the growth of Fort Lauderdale was very slow. Though there were real estate bubbles in the early 1900s, hurricanes and the Great Depression made the times difficult. Everything changed when the United States entered World War II.

Almost over night Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale was established for the training of thousands of young men from around the nation

who would eventually become carrier based naval aviators, radar operators and ground crews. As the war continued many of the men then engaged in a life and death struggle must have thought fondly of their training days, the swaying palms, white sands and blue waters of Fort Lauderdale. When the war ended thousands of men decided to return and make Fort Lauderdale home, start businesses and raise families.

Major William Lauderdale would, of course, never recognize the place but there is little doubt he and his family would love to vacation in the city which bears his name.



FORT LAUDERDALE PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Fort Lauderdale Beach was discovered in 1960 by college students looking for sun and fun during their Spring holiday. The city has long shed its rowdy “Spring Break” image and has developed into one of the premiere family resort locations in the country. Fort Lauderdale takes great care of and pride in its beach. The results are wonderfully self evident.

2 The Paddle Wheeler “**Carrie B**” takes visitors along the famous Intracoastal Waterway and the New River. Passing amazing private yachts and stately homes, this is a great way to see the city whose life revolves around the water.

3 The **Bonnet House Museum and Gardens** is the result of a love story between two early pioneers in Fort Lauderdale, Frederic and Evelyn Bartlett. This dignified yet inviting home with its wonderful gardens is one of the most beautiful sites in South Florida. The estate dates from the early 1900s and is included in the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

4 The **Stranahan House** is one of the earliest permanent buildings constructed in Ft. Lauderdale. Constructed on the banks of the New River in 1901, the house served many functions, both private and public. Now on the National Registry of Historic Places, the house has been beautifully restored and serves as a museum dedicated to the early days of Ft. Lauderdale.

5 The **Museum of Discovery and Science** is home to hundreds of interesting exhibits and displays. There are living coral reefs as well as animals and reptiles from the Everglades. From rocks to rockets the museum has a great collection of interactive presentations. Combined with an IMAX movie theater, the museum is a very popular attraction.

Beyond Fort Lauderdale

The **Everglades** is an amazing “sea of grass” and one of the most uniquely beautiful eco-environments in the United States. Visitors have the opportunity to explore the vast array of plant and animal life which combines to make this one of Florida’s protected treasures.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Fort Lauderdale and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Prices in restaurants and retail stores are usually fixed.

Tipping: A tip of 15% or more is appropriate in restaurants.

Local Cuisine: Fort Lauderdale is a very young city with no specific style of cuisine to call its own. People have moved here from all over the world and thankfully brought their recipes with them. Consequently visitors and locals have a wide variety of restaurants from which to choose; from the States to the Argentine pampas, Korean or Kosher its here. Select BBQ, bratwurst or big Belgian waffles, steaming baguettes in a très chic café or hot Chinese noodles and a cold Cuba Libre. Choose Indian curry or pasta fazool, a piping hot pizza and or Irish pub stool; Japan to Jamaica, from sushi to snail, its fresh and deli-

cious in Fort Lauderdale.

SHOPPING Las Olas Boulevard and Las Olas Riverfront are among Fort Lauderdale’s most popular shopping areas. Visitors will find many wonderful galleries, cafes and boutiques. Specially noted for its antique stores is the Historic Antique Shopping District of Dania. In addition there are numerous malls, outlet malls and flea markets in the Greater Fort Lauderdale area. So, whatever it may be, from Pierre Cardin to ubiquitous plastic pink flamingos, it can be found in or around Ft. Lauderdale.

LOCAL CURRENCY The United States dollar (USD) is the official currency. ATM’s are widely available.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE There is a local post office just off 17th street near the port. It is located in the same plaza as the Bimini Boat Yard restaurant and the Renaissance Hotel. The Main post office is located at 1900 West Oakland Park Boulevard.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.225.5288

MCI: 1.800.888.8000

TOURIST INFORMATION Local tourist information can be found at 100 E. Broward Blvd. just a few blocks off Federal Highway, in the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis and car rentals are widely available. Fort Lauderdale also has Water Taxis which are great for getting around while providing a wonderful view of the city. Information for the water taxi: (954) 467-6677

LANGUAGE English and Spanish are the predominant languages in South Florida