

# CORAL GABLES



## Community Profile

The City of Coral Gables, known for top-rated municipal services, fine residential areas, historic landmarks, and high quality of life, has also emerged as the Corporate Capital of the Americas, with more than 175 multinational corporations positioning Coral Gables as their Latin American headquarters.

### GOVERNMENT

The City of Coral Gables is a Municipality located within Miami-Dade County.

Type of Government: City Commission/Manager

Mayor: Don Slesnick, II

Vice-Mayor: William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioners: Maria Anderson  
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.  
Wayne E. "Chip" Withers

City Manager: Patrick G. Salerno

City Attorney: Elizabeth M. Hernandez

City Clerk: Walter J. Foeman

Year Incorporated: 1925

2008-2009 Fiscal City Budget: \$143,021,970

- **Comments Regarding Local Government:** Coral Gables provides excellent municipal services, having achieved the highest national standards in almost every field. Less than five percent of the land area contributes 46 percent of the tax base. Coral Gables also boasts an accredited police department, a distinction shared by only 3 percent of local and state police departments in the United States, and is one of only three cities to have both a Class 1 and an accredited Fire Department. In addition, Coral Gables has been named a Tree City USA for 24 consecutive years by the National Arbor Foundation. It was also the first municipality ever to receive the National Emergency Management Award, in 1993.
- **Consulates, Foreign Trade and Tourism Offices located in Coral Gables:** 23  
The following countries have official representation in Coral Gables: Aruba, Barbados, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Senegal, St. Kitts & Nevis, Spain, Thailand, Togo, and Uruguay.
- **2008 Local Property Taxes:**
  - Municipal Millage Rate: 5.2500
  - Total Millage Rate: 19.6318 (twelfth lowest combined tax rate in Miami-Dade County\*)
  - Total assessed value for all commercial and residential property within Coral Gables: \$13.5 billion

## EDUCATION

- **Attainment Level:** Over 50% of Coral Gables' residents 25 and older have a college degree; 25% have a graduate or professional degree.
- **University of Miami:** Largest private research university in the southeastern U.S.; 260-acre main campus; approximately 15,000 students; 125 undergraduate programs and 160 graduate programs. U.M.'s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science ranks among the world's top institutes for marine research and graduate training; U.M. School of Medicine is the State's oldest and largest, and no other medical school in the country has a public hospital as its primary teaching facility. U.M. is in the top 3% of colleges and universities in terms of federal commitments. A \$400 million expansion program is currently under way. The University of Miami has an economic impact of more than \$1 billion for the Coral Gables economy.
- **Special Programs (i.e., International, High Tech, Bio-Tech):** International Baccalaureate Program at Coral Gables Senior High (a 3-time Top Merit School) and also at Gulliver Preparatory School. Coral Gables Elementary School was awarded the Elementary Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award by the US Department of Education. It has a home-based gifted program and was the recipient of the Little Red Schoolhouse Award sponsored by the Florida Elementary School Principals Association (it is on the National Register of Historic Places).

See Development Department's "Coral Gables Public and Private Schools" for full listing of schools and curricula.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Air

- Miami International Airport: 86 airlines serve over 115 cities throughout the world. In 2007, MIA handled over 33.5 million passengers and over 2.1 million tons of domestic and international cargo, becoming the nation's third busiest international passenger airport and the busiest international cargo airport. Downtown Coral Gables is located only 4 miles from MIA.

### Ocean

- Port of Miami, 6 miles from downtown Coral Gables and recognized as the "Cruise Capital of the World," is home to 18 cruise ships and handled over 3.7 million cruise passengers and over 7.8 million tons of cargo in 2007.

### Public Transportation Services

- Coral Gables Trolley – free, vintage-style trolley running weekdays as an internal circulator on Ponce de Leon Boulevard from the Douglas Road Metrorail station to S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. (305-460-5070).
- Metro-Dade Transit Agency buses (305-770-3131, Option 6) serve the Miami district, including Coral Gables.
- Two Metrorail stations (305-770-3131, Option 6) serve Coral Gables: the Douglas Station and the University Station. Also, there is a Tri-Rail commuter train (1-800-874-7245) that runs a 67-mile track from Miami International Airport to West Palm Beach, which is connected to the Metrorail system.

### Highways Serving City

- Interstate: Near I-95, SR-826 and SR-836 (1 mile to nearest interstate)
- Federal: US-1 (South Dixie Highway)
- State: Red Road (S.W. 57 Ave.), Coral Way (S.W. 24 St.) , LeJeune Road (S.W. 42 Ave.), Bird Road (S.W. 40 St.)

For a one-page listing, see the Development Department's "Multinational Companies Located in Coral Gables, Florida."

## MEDICAL/HEALTH SERVICES

	No. within City	No. of Beds
Hospitals	3	Approx. 773
Doctors	304	
Dentists	118	

## RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

Coral Gables offers a wide range of housing choices including rental units, condominiums, and single-family homes in a stable residential real estate market. Over the years, homes in the City have appreciated at a rate significantly greater than many of the surrounding areas. The median house value, estimated at \$760,000, is five times greater than in 1980. Strict zoning laws, a favorable property tax rate and responsive municipal services, together with beautiful residential areas, make Coral Gables a highly sought-after address.

## FACILITIES/CULTURAL AMENITIES

- Hotels/Motels: 10 (total rooms: 1,300+)
- Shopping: Downtown street setting. \$1.1 billion in downtown retail sales yearly, exclusive of gasoline and automobile sales.
- In Coral Gables: One public library, five museums, and numerous private art galleries.
- Restaurant capital of South Florida, with more than 120 restaurants. Almost \$115 million dollars was spent in food and beverage sales in 2007. Coral Gables restaurants have consistently garnered national acclaim from Gourmet, Travel & Leisure, New York Times, DIRONA, and others.
- Theaters: Actors' Playhouse Productions opened its initial season in November 1995 at the company's new home in the Miracle Theatre performing arts center on Miracle Mile. In addition, the City is home to New Theatre, GableStage, and the Jerry Herman Ring Theatre on the University of Miami campus. Coral Gables has the highest concentration of live theater in Miami-Dade County.
- Art Cinemas: 1 A second one set to open downtown Coral Gables in late 2009.
- Additional Cultural Amenities: The University of Miami offers outstanding cultural programs such as live performances at Gusman Concert Hall, international exhibits at the Lowe Art Museum, and an annual music festival. The Tropical Baroque Festival and the Beaux Arts Festival are also annual events of national acclaim. Others include the Chopin Festival, concerts at Coral Gables Congregational Church, the Miami Jewish Film Festival, and abundant programs at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

## RECREATION

- Number of Parks: 22 (7 active playgrounds, 10 passive parks, 5 open space green areas)
- Number of Tennis Courts: 33 (public)
- Number of Golf Courses: 2 public; 2 private. (The Biltmore Golf Course is a Donald Ross, 18 hole, par 71 public course and the Granada is a 9 hole public course, which is the oldest operating course in Florida.)
- Other Recreational Amenities: Bike paths, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (largest tropical botanical garden in the continental US), Matheson Hammock Park and Marina (walking trails, bike paths, beach, and picnic shelters), and the treasured Venetian Pool.

## HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

The City's Historical Resources Department administers the historic preservation program to preserve structures, sites, objects and districts within the City which reflect architectural, historical and/or cultural significance. A Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted in 1973 in response to the community's growing concern for protecting its irreplaceable historic resources. Recently the Biltmore Hotel became a National Historic Landmark, joining only two others in Dade County—Vizcaya and the Magellan Railroad Car used by F.D.R. The following is a partial listing of properties which are included on the National Register of Historic Places; 600 properties are also on the Coral Gables Register of Historic Places, receiving important local designation and benefits:

- Coral Gables City Hall, 1928 (405 Biltmore Way)
- Coral Gables Congregational Church, 1923 — First church to be built in Coral Gables (3010 De Soto Boulevard)
- Venetian Pool, 1923 — Originally a rock quarry, later converted into a pool which conveys the old world charm of Venice (2701 De Soto Boulevard)
- Miami-Biltmore Hotel and Country Club, 1925-26 — Premier hotel resort in Miami during late 1920s, recently renovated (1200 Anastasia Avenue)
- Seven thematic residential villages, built 1925-27, designed to add diversity to the City's predominantly Mediterranean character
- Coral Gables/Merrick House, 1906 — Boyhood home of Coral Gables founder George Merrick (907 Coral Way)

- Coral Gables Elementary School, 1923-26 – First grammar school to be built in Coral Gables (105 Minorca Ave)
- Coral Gables Woman’s Club, 1936-37 – The first WPA project in Coral Gables (1001 E. Ponce de Leon Boulevard)
- Douglas Entrance, 1925-27 – The first main entrance into Coral Gables (Douglas Road and Tamiami Trail)

## MEDITERRANEAN DESIGN

A Mediterranean Architectural Ordinance adopted in 1986 and updated in 2005, provides incentives to developers building or renovating in Mediterranean style. To offset the higher costs of building in Mediterranean style, the City grants development bonuses and special allowances with reference to maximum building height, parking, square footage, etc. Most commercial buildings constructed in the City since the adoption of the ordinance have taken advantage of the ordinance, resulting in several Mediterranean-style projects.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

In 1989, the City Commission formed the Development Department to foster and enhance sound economic growth compatible with the adopted policies and quality of life in the City of Coral Gables. The department has a business development plan to assist realtors, building owners, and organizations in attracting domestic and international prospects by utilizing direct contacts, follow-up visits, brochures, and audiovisual material. A special focus is placed on multinational recruitment and retail development. The department also emphasizes the need for developing a better relationship with the existing business community to help improve the retention and expansion of these businesses. In addition, the department is responsible for providing specialized economic development data, including demographics, property availability and development trends.

The Development Department also distributes informational material such as City maps, cultural information, visitor's guides, etc. upon request. Call (305) 460-5311, or write to the City of Coral Gables, Development Department, P.O. Box 141549, Coral Gables, FL 33114-1549. You can also visit our web site at [www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)