

CORAL GABLES



Coral Gables: An International City from the Start

As Coral Gables City Founder George Merrick formulated the initial elements of his dream city in the 1920's, he identified spacious park and open space locations, selected the public landscaping, established the zoning and regulatory codes, approved all public and private buildings planned, and created the social organizations necessary for a city of lasting importance. Merrick wanted his city to be not only attractive to the eye but also to the intellect, so he convinced university planners to locate the main campus of the University of Miami in Coral Gables. In 1926, Merrick wrote "the university will have far reaching influence on our whole nation and even upon the Latin countries with whom our business and intellectual destinies by wise Providence are plainly linked."

Merrick knew the university and his City were destined to serve as International Gateways by virtue of geography and strategy, and he fostered that concept through architecture (although 14 were planned, he constructed 7 international thematic villages), cultural exchanges, foreign government presence, and international outreach.

Merrick's legacy of a great international city, small in size but boundless in enterprise, continues today through corporate investment, university programs, and cultural exchanges. Today, the University of Miami and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management's Executive MBA program attracts students from more than 100 countries. Through corporate enterprise, the city is home to more than 175 multinational companies that have selected Coral Gables as their gateway to either the U.S., Latin America, or the world. In addition to U.S.-based companies, the City has regional offices of international companies, from Italy, England, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, France, Canada, Spain, Bermuda, and The Netherlands. The popular "Flags on Ponce" program, a boulevard of international flags, proudly announces the more than 90 different countries that do business with Coral Gables companies. International cuisine is also a signature of Coral Gables with award-winning cuisine from around the world including Vietnam, India, Thailand, France, Italy, Spain, and the Caribbean. As for foreign government presence, Coral Gables continues to be the location of choice for official consular offices and residences.

Coral Gables is proud to be the office address for more than 25 consulates and cultural or trade offices. In recognition of this international presence, the U.S. Department of State has located its Office of Foreign Missions in Coral Gables and the World Olympians Association has selected Coral Gables as one of only three worldwide offices.

One important aspect of international outreach is the Sister City program. Started almost fifty years ago, through a twinning with Cartagena, Colombia in 1957, Coral Gables currently has six Sister Cities. These cities are Cartagena, Colombia (1957); Quito, Ecuador (1975); Granada, Spain (1989); La Antigua, Guatemala (1993); Aix-en-Provence, France (1997); and the Province of Pisa, Italy (2003). Assisted by the Commission-appointed International Affairs Coordinating Council, the City recently hosted delegations from Pisa, Aix, and Cartagena. The City, in turn, has sent delegations to Aix, Pisa, La Antigua, and Granada. In addition to its Sister City responsibilities, the Council, which was created in 1995, also advises the City Commission on other international outreach efforts, including coordinating the visits of international dignitaries, fostering mutually beneficial relationships with the Consular Corps community, and facilitating international cultural exchanges.

Foreign Government Offices

ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY

2631 Ponce de Leon Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-445-9619; fax 305-445-2801

CENTRO CULTURAL DE ESPAÑA

800 Douglas Road, Suite 170
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-448-9677; fax 305-448-9676

COLOMBIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

250 Catalonia Avenue, Suite 407
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-446-2542; fax 305-446-2038

CONSULATE GENERAL OF BARBADOS

150 Alhambra Circle, Suite 1000
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-442-1994/442-7471; fax 305-567-2844

CONSULATE GENERAL OF COLOMBIA

280 Aragon Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-448-5558; fax 305-448-9537

CONSULATE GENERAL OF EL SALVADOR

2600 Douglas Road, Suite 104
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-774-0840 & 888-301-1130; fax 305-774-0850

CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITALY

4000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 590
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-374-6322; fax 305-374-7945

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SPAIN

2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 203
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-446-5511; fax 305-446-0585

CONSULATE GENERAL OF URUGUAY

1077 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite B
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-443-9764; fax 305-443-7802

EXTENDA - AGENCIA ANDALUZA DE PROMOCIÓN EXTERIOR (SPAIN)

1500 S. Douglas Road, Suite 230, 670
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
305-444-4647; fax 305-856-7474

*HONORARY CONSULATE OF FINLAND

3399 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 200
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-444-0444; Fax 305-444-9057

*HONORARY CONSULATE OF HUNGARY

1550 Madruga Avenue, Suite 201
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-448-2131; fax 305-448-3184

*HONORARY CONSULATE OF SENEGAL &

*HONORARY CONSULATE OF TOGO
4000 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Suite 700
Coral Gables, Florida 33146
305-371-4286; fax 305-371-4288

*HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF PORTUGAL

1901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-444-6311; fax 305-444-7641

*HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF ST. KITTS & NEVIS

6855 Red Road, Suite 600
Coral Gables, Florida 33143
305-273-2333

*HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF THAILAND

2199 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 301
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-444-7577; fax 305-444-0487

*HONORARY CONSULATE OF EI SALVADORE

806 Douglas Road, Suite 580
Coral Gables, Florida
305-445-1110; fax 305-445-2450

ITALIAN TRADE COMMISSION
4000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 590
Coral Gables, Florida 33146
305-461-3896; fax 305-374-7945

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
CANARY ISLANDS / EU SPAIN (PROEXA MIAMI)
2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 1016
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-446-2087; fax 305-446-2088

OFFICE OF EDUCATION OF SPAIN
2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 1000
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-448-2146; fax 305-445-0508

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
Regional Office
95 Merrick Way, Suite 505
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-442-4943; fax 305-442-4973

TAIPEI ECONOMIC & CULTURAL OFFICE IN
MIAMI
2333 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 610
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-461-3420; fax 305-461-3221

TRADE COMMISSION OF SPAIN
2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 1114
Coral Gables, FL 33134

WORLD OLYMPIANS ASSOCIATION
The Biltmore Hotel – Executive Center
1200 Anastasia Avenue, Suite 140
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-446-6440; fax 305-446-4523

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