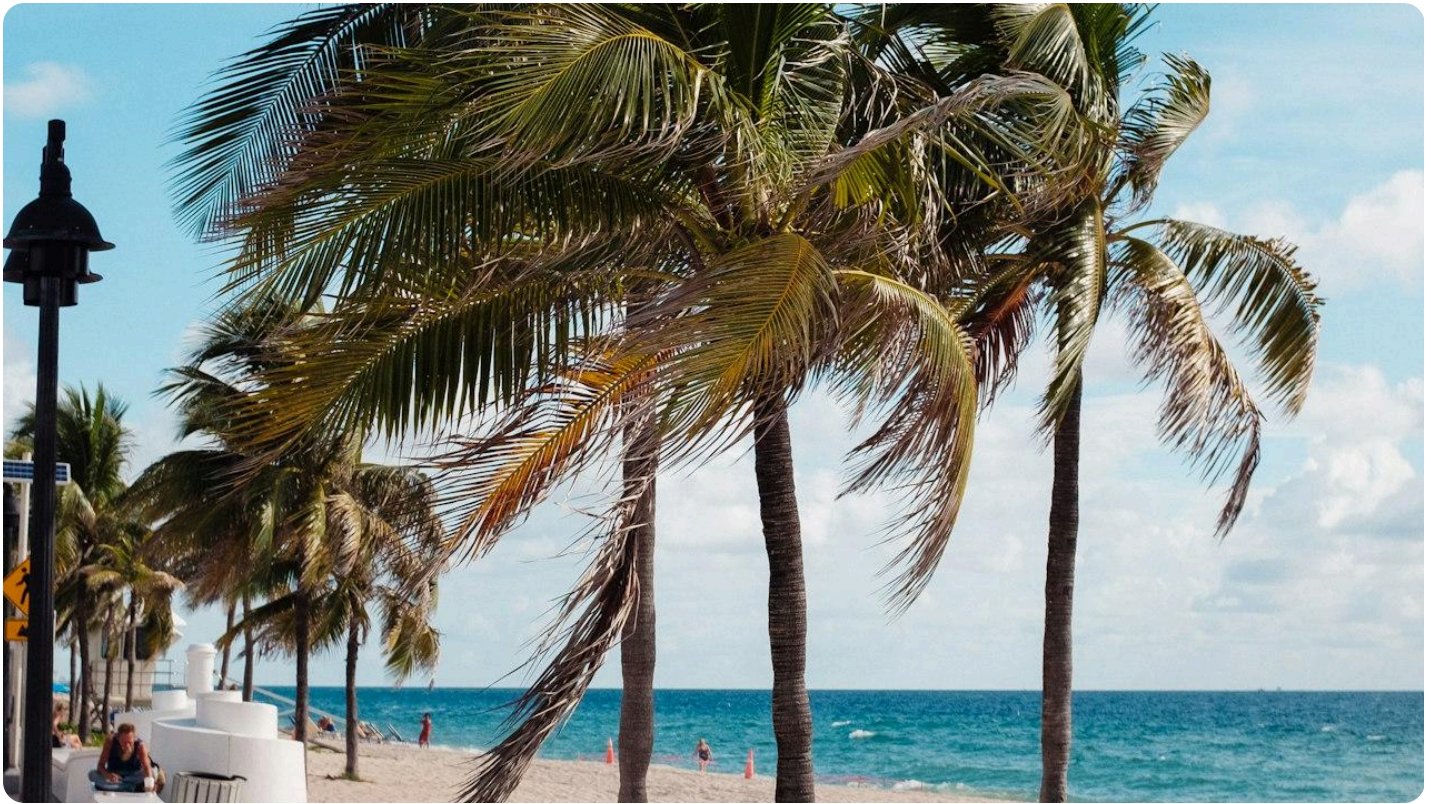


PRIDE TRAVELERS



CONTINENTAL U.S.

Gay Fort Lauderdale Travel Guide: Beaches, Wilton Manors and the Best LGBTQ+ Stays

Plan a gay Fort Lauderdale trip the smart way. Sebastian Street Beach, Wilton Manors nightlife, all-male guesthouses, Pride of the Americas, and when to visit.

Prepared by Terrance Bortell · April 29, 2026

IMPORTANT

This guide is current as of 2026. Bar lineups, hotel ownership, and event dates evolve, especially in a destination this active. When you are ready to book, Pride Travelers will confirm the moving pieces and tailor the trip to your group.

Fort Lauderdale is the rare gay destination where the beach is at the center of the experience, not the side dish. The Atlantic stretches along the eastern edge of the city, and Sebastian Street Beach, the unofficial gay beach, sits right in the middle of it. Add a dense, walkable gay neighborhood in nearby Wilton Manors and a calendar packed with circuit weekends, and you have one of the most concentrated LGBTQ+ travel experiences in the United States.

What sets gay Fort Lauderdale apart from competing Florida destinations is the layered nature of the scene. South Beach is a single strip; Key West is a single island. Fort Lauderdale spreads out across an oceanfront resort district, a residential gay village two miles inland, and a cluster of clothing-optional gay guesthouses tucked into Victoria Park and the surrounding neighborhoods. You can build very different trips here: a beach-and-pool week, a Wilton Drive bar crawl, or a circuit-event weekend that hits all of it.

This gay Fort Lauderdale travel guide covers where to stay, where to drink, where to swim, and which weeks of the year deliver the experience you actually want.

At a Glance

WEATHER

BEST TIME

November to April

AVG HIGH

82F

AVG LOW

68F

RAINY SEASON

June to October

MAP · NOT INCLUDED IN PDF

An interactive map appears here in the online guide.

Why LGBTQ+ Travelers Love Fort Lauderdale

Few American cities have leaned into being a gay destination as fully as Fort Lauderdale. The combination of climate, infrastructure, and a long-established community makes it feel less like a place that welcomes you and more like a place that expects you.

- **Sebastian Street Beach:** The gay beach sits squarely on the main oceanfront, not hidden away on a side stretch. You can walk from a beachfront hotel, drop a towel, and be in the middle of it within minutes.

- **Wilton Manors as a gay village:** A residential city inside the metro area where the main drag is openly, comfortably, year-round gay. Bars, restaurants, gyms, coffee shops, all within a few walkable blocks of Wilton Drive.
- **Resort and guesthouse depth:** From clothing-optional all-male guesthouses with private pools to large mainstream beach resorts, the city offers a hotel mix that almost no competing US destination can match.
- **Year-round warm weather:** Fort Lauderdale rarely dips uncomfortably cold, and the high season runs longer than most beach competitors, with November to April reliably warm.
- **A signature event calendar:** Pride of the Americas, Stonewall Pride in nearby Wilton Manors, and a steady stream of circuit and bear weekends keep the city busy almost every month.
- **Easy access:** Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport is a short ride from the beach and Wilton Manors, with direct flights from most major North American hubs.

ADVISOR TIP

First trip? Split your stay. Two or three nights at a beach hotel near Sebastian, then move inland to Wilton Manors for the back half. You will feel both sides of the city without spending the week in cabs.

The Three Gay Hubs

Gay Fort Lauderdale is not concentrated in a single neighborhood. It is a triangle, and understanding the three corners is the key to choosing where to stay.

The Beach

A1A and the surrounding blocks. Resort hotels, Sebastian Street Beach, sunrise jogs, and easy ocean access. The right base if your priority is sand, sun, and a daytime social scene with the bars a short rideshare away.

Best for: beach-first trips, couples, mainstream resort travelers.

Wilton Manors

Two miles inland and the heart of the gay village. Wilton Drive runs the length of the bar and restaurant strip. Mostly residential, walkable in the gay zone, and home to the highest concentration of gay-owned businesses in the metro.

Best for: nightlife trips, repeat visitors, longer stays.

Victoria Park and Guesthouse Row

A leafy neighborhood between the beach and downtown that is home to the cluster of all-male, clothing-optional gay guesthouses. Quiet by day, social by pool, and a rideshare from both Wilton Drive and the beach.

Best for: guesthouse experience seekers, friend groups, social solo travelers.

Where to Stay

Fort Lauderdale offers a deeper bench of gay-specific lodging than almost any US city, with most of the standout properties clustered in the guesthouse zone.

The Pineapple Point Resort

The flagship of gay Fort Lauderdale guesthouses. A multi-building, all-male, clothing-optional resort tucked into Victoria Park, with several pools, lush tropical landscaping, and a famously social happy hour. Best for first-time guesthouse guests who want the full experience without sacrificing polish or service.

The Worthington Resort

A long-running all-male, clothing-optional property steps from the beach. Two adjacent buildings, multiple pools and hot tubs, and an easygoing crowd that skews social. The closest guesthouse experience to ocean access in the city.

The Cabanas Guesthouse and Spa

A more intimate, design-forward all-male property with a strong wellness angle. Smaller pool scene than Pineapple Point or Worthington, with more emphasis on quiet luxury. A good fit for couples and travelers who want the guesthouse vibe without a constant party.

Granada Inn

A boutique all-male guesthouse in Victoria Park known for its mid-century pool deck and an unpretentious, friendly crowd. Mid-range pricing makes it a strong value pick for travelers who want the gay guesthouse experience without the top-tier price tag.

Inn Leather Resort

A specialty all-male, clothing-optional guesthouse with a leather and fetish-friendly crowd, known for themed weekends and a uniquely playful pool scene. The right pick for travelers who want a more adventurous version of the guesthouse experience.

Royal Palms Resort and Spa

An adults-only, all-male resort that has been part of the Fort Lauderdale fabric for years. Two pools, hot tubs, daily happy hour, and a steady rotation of regulars. Easy to settle into, easy to come back to.

ADVISOR TIP

Most all-male guesthouses host complimentary daily happy hours by the pool. They are the single best way to meet people on day one of your trip. Show up.

Wilton Drive and the Bar Scene

PARTNER WIDGET · NOT INCLUDED IN PDF

This embed is interactive and is not included in the printed version.

If you want gay nightlife in Fort Lauderdale, you point a rideshare at Wilton Drive. The strip runs along NE 26th Street in Wilton Manors and packs the bulk of the bars into a few walkable blocks.

Hunters

The biggest dance club on the strip and the closest thing to a circuit venue in the area. Multiple rooms, a covered outdoor lounge, and a packed weekend program with go-go dancers and themed nights.

Bill's Filling Station

A bear-leaning bar with strong food, an outdoor patio, and a friendly cross-section crowd. A reliable starting point for the night and a comfortable landing pad for travelers who do not want a club scene.

The Boardwalk

A long-running male revue and dance bar that has anchored Wilton Drive for decades. Performances run nightly, and the energy ramps up late.

Rumors Bar and Grill

A neighborhood bar with patio seating, a karaoke and drag-friendly schedule, and a less-touristy local crowd. Worth a stop on a weeknight.

Beach Side Bars

The beach itself does not have a dense gay bar strip, but Sebastian Street Beach delivers the daytime social scene. Most travelers head to Wilton Drive after dinner; rideshares from beach hotels run about 10 to 15 minutes.

Beach Days and Beyond

Fort Lauderdale rewards travelers who plan around the water and the calendar, not just the bars.

Sebastian Street Beach

The gay section of Fort Lauderdale Beach, marked by rainbow flags and a steady mix of locals and visitors. Beach attendants rent chairs and umbrellas, and a handful of bars and cafes line A1A across the street. The single must-do daytime activity in the city.

Las Olas Boulevard

The walkable downtown corridor connecting the beach to the city. Restaurants, galleries, and boutiques. A reliable evening before a Wilton Drive night out.

Water Taxi and the Intracoastal

Fort Lauderdale calls itself the Venice of America for a reason. The water taxi loops the Intracoastal and is one of the most pleasant ways to spend a low-energy afternoon, with stops at restaurants and bars along the way.

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

A green strip squeezed between A1A and the Intracoastal. Quiet trails, picnic spots, and beach access without the resort crowd. A good morning move before the heat hits.

Day Trip South to Miami or North to Palm Beach

Fort Lauderdale is a 40-minute drive from South Beach and an hour from West Palm. Worth a half-day if you want to add a different flavor of Florida to the trip.

ADVISOR TIP

Build the schedule around the daytime as much as the nightlife. Sebastian in the morning, a long lunch, a pool nap at the guesthouse, then Wilton Drive at night. That is the rhythm that makes Fort Lauderdale work.

When to Visit

Fort Lauderdale runs hot in summer and reliably warm the rest of the year, with the LGBTQ+ event calendar shaping the busiest weeks.

Peak Season

December to March.

Dry, warm days in the high 70s and low 80s. The most expensive and most crowded stretch, with the best weather of the year.

Event Shoulder

April to June.

Stonewall Pride in Wilton Manors lands in mid-June and rates jump that weekend. Otherwise, warm and increasingly humid with manageable crowds.

Off Season

July to October.

Hot, very humid, and active hurricane season. Lowest prices of the year, but plan around the weather and the calendar.

Key LGBTQ+ Events

- **Pride of the Americas:** A multi-day international Pride event hosted in Fort Lauderdale, drawing crowds from across Latin America and beyond. A landmark week with parties across the city.
- **Stonewall Pride Wilton Manors:** Held each June along Wilton Drive, this is the city's signature local Pride. Street parade, block party, and the bars at full tilt.
- **Circuit and bear weekends:** Multiple themed weekends run throughout the year, especially in winter and spring. Pride Travelers can match your trip to or steer you away from a specific event.

Plan and Pack

Pre-trip Checklist

PACKING LIST

- Government-issued ID for domestic flights, passport for international visitors
- Travel insurance for hurricane season trips
- Reef-safe sunscreen for beach days
- Two or more swimsuits for back-to-back pool and beach sessions
- Light layers for cooler evenings December to February
- Going-out outfits for Wilton Drive
- Comfortable shoes for Las Olas walking
- Sunglasses and hat
- Prescription meds in original packaging
- Rideshare app installed and tested

What Beach Resorts Typically Include

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Daily housekeeping
- ✓ Pool and beach access
- ✓ Wi-Fi at most properties
- ✓ Fitness center access

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ Beach chair and umbrella rentals at public beaches
- ✗ Resort fees (always confirm at booking)
- ✗ Daily parking at beach hotels
- ✗ Spa services

Sample 4-Day Itinerary

A balanced first-time itinerary that splits the stay between the beach and the gay village.

1

Arrive at the Beach

Settle in oceanside

Land at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, transfer to a beachfront hotel. Late afternoon at Sebastian Street Beach, dinner along Las Olas Boulevard, easy first-night drinks back near the hotel. Save the Wilton Drive run for tomorrow.

2

Beach Day, Wilton Night

Sand by day, the strip after dark

Full morning at Sebastian. Lunch at a beachfront cafe, afternoon downtime, then a rideshare to Wilton Manors for dinner and a bar crawl. Bill's Filling Station early, Hunters and the Boardwalk later.

3

Move Inland

Switch to a Wilton or guesthouse base

Check out, transfer to a Victoria Park guesthouse or a Wilton Manors hotel. Pool afternoon at the property, complimentary happy hour, dinner on Wilton Drive, and a slower night to recover from yesterday.

Water and Wind Down

See the city by water, then go home

Morning water taxi loop on the Intracoastal, lunch along the route. Final beach run if there is time, last drinks at a Wilton Drive favorite, transfer back to the airport. Stretch to five days if you are timing a Pride or circuit weekend.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I stay at the beach or in Wilton Manors?

If it is your first trip and you want both, split the stay. If you must choose one, the beach gives you better daytime, Wilton Manors gives you better nightlife. Most repeat visitors lean Wilton Manors or a guesthouse near it.

Is Sebastian Street Beach clearly marked?

Yes. It is a defined section of Fort Lauderdale Beach with rainbow flags and a steady gay crowd, particularly on weekends and during high season.

Are the all-male guesthouses really clothing-optional?

Most are, particularly around the pool areas. Each property sets its own tone. Pride Travelers can match your comfort level to the right house.

How do I get from the beach to Wilton Manors?

Rideshare. The trip is roughly 10 to 15 minutes and runs reliably day and night. Driving and parking on Wilton Drive on event nights is generally not worth the hassle.

Is Fort Lauderdale safe for LGBTQ+ travelers?

Yes, particularly in the gay-concentrated areas. Standard urban awareness applies, but the city is broadly comfortable and the gay zones are openly so.

When is the best time of year to visit?

November to April for weather. June for Stonewall Pride. Specific event weeks for circuit travelers. Avoid August and September unless you are budget hunting and watching the storm forecast.

Plan Your Trip with Pride Travelers

Fort Lauderdale rewards travelers who plan deliberately. The right neighborhood, the right hotel for your group, and the right week of the year are the difference between a fine trip and a great one. The beach hotels, the all-male guesthouses, and the Wilton Manors properties all deliver very different experiences, and the calendar shifts the energy of the city week by week.

Pride Travelers specializes in LGBTQ+ travel planning. We will steer you to the right base, the right week, and the right mix of beach, pool, and bar to make the trip land exactly where you want it to.

[Book Your Fort Lauderdale Trip →](#)

Whether you are coming for the beach, the bars, a guesthouse week, or a Pride weekend, we will make sure it is the version of Fort Lauderdale you actually wanted.